

the **philotimes**
...a window into the ministry of J. John

spring
2005

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY



THE FIELDS ARE STILL RIPE FOR HARVEST

Dear Friends,

To celebrate 25 years of ministry, various friends have made contributions (see pages six to twelve) and I am lost for words! I feel humbled by God's goodness and grace that has abounded in my life, family and ministry. I am always encouraged that if God can speak through a donkey then he can speak through anyone!

It has been a privilege to do 'the work of an evangelist' and it has been a joy to have ministered in 49 countries on five continents (with a lot of wear and tear!) and seen thousands of lives transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am grateful to my soul-mate Killy who has patiently and prayerfully stood in the shadows, who supported me and who has been and is, the anchor in our family.

Alex Haley, the author of 'Roots', had an unusual picture hanging on his office wall. It was a picture of a turtle on top of a fence post. When asked 'Why is that there?' Alex Haley

answered, 'Every time I write something significant, I look at the turtle on top of the fence post and remember that he didn't get there on his own. He had help.'

I know only too well that our ministry has progressed because of many friends. I thank God for Andy Economides who introduced me to Jesus when we were both students in London in 1974. I thank God for Eric Delve who inspired and encouraged me in my early days. I thank God for our prayer partners who undergird our ministry in prayer. I thank God for all the people who support us financially (we could do with more). I thank God for all my trustees and all my colleagues over the years (especially to all my assistants in the early years who I couldn't pay!).

I thank God for all the leaders around the world for their encouragement, and I thank God for my home church, St. Andrews, and my Pastor, Mark Stibbe, for all their support and encouragement. It is with gratitude to God for all His 'angels' who have helped put us on the 'fence post'. THANK

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YOU to you all for your part in this ministry over the last 25 years.

Well, I don't want to just keep reminiscing and being nostalgic because the 'fields are still ripe for harvest'. I have been reflecting on Jesus' parables in Luke 15. In these parables something of value is lost. In the stories the thing lost, whether a sheep or a coin, has monetary value. Nobody who valued these things would ignore such a loss, rather they would put every effort into finding it and would rejoice when they did.

If this is true about things that are lost, shouldn't it also be for people who are spiritually lost? The term 'lost' refers to those who are not yet Christians. In the story of the prodigal son, Jesus says about the son who has repented and returned home, 'he was lost and is found.'

We need to make it a priority to reach the lost and we need to have compassion to do that.

Jesus had the tax collectors gathering around him. These were lost people who were not running from Jesus but to Jesus. They were not avoiding him, but gathered around 'to hear him'. Why were sinners so willing and eager to listen to Jesus? It certainly wasn't because Jesus had an easy message that tickled people's ears. It wasn't because Jesus compromised on sin and said everything they were doing was acceptable. Why did the 'lost' seek out Jesus rather than run from him? I believe it is because Jesus loved them and had compassion for them. The Bible says that Jesus 'welcomes sinners and eats with them'. Jesus had an attitude that lost people were attracted to. For us as Christians to reach lost people we need to show and have that same love and compassion, both in words and deeds.

One day a woman criticised the evangelist D. L. Moody for his methods of evangelism in attempting to reach lost people. Moody's reply was "Tell me, how do you do it?"

The woman replied, "I don't do it." Moody said, "Then I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."

At a traffic accident there are three groups of people, each with a different response towards those involved in the accident. The first group is the bystanders and onlookers. They are curious and watch to see what happens, but have little active involvement. The second group is the police officers. The police investigate the cause of the accident, assign blame and give out appropriate warnings and punishments. The third group are the paramedics. They are the people most welcomed by those involved in the accident. They don't care whose fault it is and they do not engage in lecturing about bad driving habits. Their response is to help those who are hurt. They free trapped people, bandage wounds and give words of comfort and encouragement.

Which group are you in? When it comes to reaching the lost and hurting, we are going to be in one of these three groups. We will be uninvolved and let others do the work, or we will condemn people for their foolish behaviour and actions, or we will be concentrating on helping those who are lost and hurting.

I have often said that a missionary is not someone who crosses the sea, a missionary is someone who sees the cross. If we have seen the cross of Jesus, then in the words of The Apostle Paul, 'The love of Christ compels us'. May we all during this Easter time encounter the cross of Jesus and the power of his resurrection, so we know that we have been 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven' and allow the love of Christ to compel us to seek and save the lost, while 'the fields are still ripe for harvest'.

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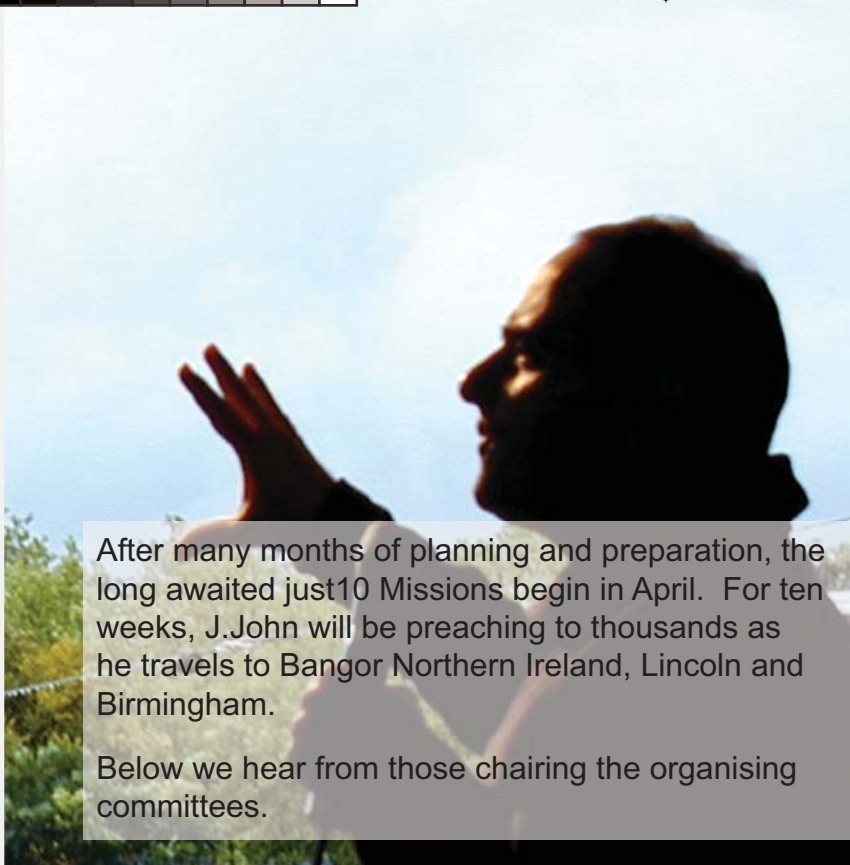
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After many months of planning and preparation, the long awaited just10 Missions begin in April. For ten weeks, J. John will be preaching to thousands as he travels to Bangor Northern Ireland, Lincoln and Birmingham.

Below we hear from those chairing the organising committees.

just10
transform your world

BANGOR LINCOLNSHIRE BIRMINGHAM

just10 BANGOR, NI

On December 7th, over 1600 people gathered at Bangor Elim church to sing carols and hear J. John. Many civic leaders including the Deputy Mayor attended the event. Their response after the service was extremely positive.

J. John's Christmas message was powerful, impacting people in different ways. One girl who brought three friends from work found that one responded by coming to the front on the night and another in becoming a Christian at work the following day. One lady, an avowed non-Christian who came to the Carol Service very reluctantly, said afterwards, "I'm really looking forward to April now. I must hear that man again."

Over 10,000 copies of J. John's evangelistic booklet "More than a Christmas Carol" were distributed through 26 churches across the Bangor area.

More than 1000 people have now completed the Calling Out course which has not only stirred the hearts of many about the potential of just10bangor, but will also make a lasting impact upon our town.

As the vision continues to grow, with many new churches wanting to be involved in just10, we have decided to increase our venue capacity to 3000 by introducing a second just10 event each week of the mission.

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just10bangor - Monday evenings at 7.30pm from 4th April to 6th June at Bangor Elim Church, with reruns at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church every Thursday at 7.30pm from 7th April to 9th June. Contact: 028 9185 9987

For further information visit www.just10bangor.com

Revd John Parkes
just10bangor Chairman

just10 LINCOLNSHIRE

'More Than A Carol Service' at Lincoln Cathedral on December 1st was simply amazing. Because of the sheer volume of people present some who made a response during the evening were not able to move to the front, but the personal stories emerging are wonderful:

A hundred people of all ages made a commitment to follow Christ at the end of the service.

One of my not-yet-Christian friends who I invited along said to me the next day 'I'm not a Christian, but what that man said last night made a lot of sense'.

Our church of 12 stepped out in faith and hired a 53 seater coach free of charge to the passengers. On the night 44 people went – mainly guests.



A lady brought her five year old granddaughter who suffers very poor hearing. She expressed delight that not only did the 5 year old hear J.John, but was laughing her socks off at what he said. Truly a message there for the very young and not so young.

In a small village church, in the lead up to the Carol Service there was great excitement and anticipation of going to hear what J.John had to say about Christmas. We were so encouraged by people's response we took a step of faith and booked a 53 seater coach with the specific intention of filling it with predominantly not-yet-Christians. Within one week that coach was full and we could easily have filled another, 19 Christians took 34 guests. We were further encouraged to hear that a further 11 church members took another 5 guests. The Carol Service has helped create bridges of faith and strengthened relationships with our not-yet-Christian friends, many have asked to come to the just10 Series.

A Reception before the service was attended by the Mayor and Sheriff of Lincoln, the Chairman of the County Council and leaders of education, industry and caring organisations. One Headteacher said the Carol Service with J.John's presentation was 'inspirational ... a really uplifting experience'.

In addition to the impact of the carols event in the Cathedral, 5,000 copies of J.John's 'More than a Christmas Carol' booklet were distributed on the university campus in December and another 25,000 booklets were given away at carol services, in community halls, schools, places of work and shops in towns and villages right across the region, as well as at Lincoln's internationally famous Christmas Market.

In order to reach the whole county with just10, we have added four remote link-venues to our central Lincoln city site. Now almost everyone in Lincolnshire is within 45 minutes by road either to hear J.John 'live' at the Cathedral or to experience a big-screen presentation in Alford, Bourne and Stamford, Boston or Grimsby. At least 150 Partner Churches of all sizes and denominations are now involved in just10lincolnshire 2005. For many this is the first large joint evangelistic mission they have worked towards and you can really feel the excitement amongst Church Leaders and Church Co-ordinators as they meet together for encouragement and prayer. There is a sense that God the Holy Spirit is moving across the face of the land at the present time.

Revd Ian Silk
just10lincolnshire Chairman

just10lincolnshire - Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm from 6th April to 8th June at Lincoln Cathedral. Contact: 01522 789195.

With big screen video links at four venues across the region:

just10 Grimsby Link 7 April then every Thursday to 9 June. Starting at 7.30 pm
Grimsby, Ice House
Christian Centre Contact: 01472 349917

just10 Stamford and Bourne Thursdays 7, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June. Thursdays 21, 28 April, 5, 19, 26 May, 2 June.
Link, Stamford, Corn Exchange.
Bourne, Corn Exchange All starting at 8 pm
Contact: 01780 481800

just10 Boston Link 10 April then every Sunday to 12 June.
Boston, Centenary Methodist Church,
Starting at 7 pm
Contact: 01205 369385

just10 Alford Link 12 April then every Tuesday to 14 June.
Alford, St Wilfrid's Church
Starting at 7 pm
Contact: 01205 369385

For further information visit www.just10lincolnshire.org.uk



The vision for just10birmingham has continued to grow across the city and region, with the Carols for Birmingham event initially planned for an attendance of 4,500 quickly rising to 6,000 and then a staggering 10,250 at the National Indoor Arena, with many requests for tickets still being unmet.

As well as a good response to J.John's Christmas message the wider impact of the carols event is best summed up by one man's experience, 'I have been praying for a friend for many years. Tonight as he left he said to me "That was great. I'd definitely like to come to those ten events next year"'. The Carols for Birmingham event definitely hit the mark in stimulating people to get the just10 mission dates in their diaries for 2005.

We now have 120 Partner Churches from across the denominations signed up and working hard to make the mission effective. Our event site has now been confirmed - a Big Top at Aston Park in Birmingham (just opposite Aston Villa's football stadium) with a capacity of 5,000. Our hope is to see the tent full for the ten weeks with many finding Jesus for themselves for the first time and thousands of others being challenged once again about the relevance of God's Kingdom Values in society today.

Revd Peter Howell Jones
just10birmingham Chairman

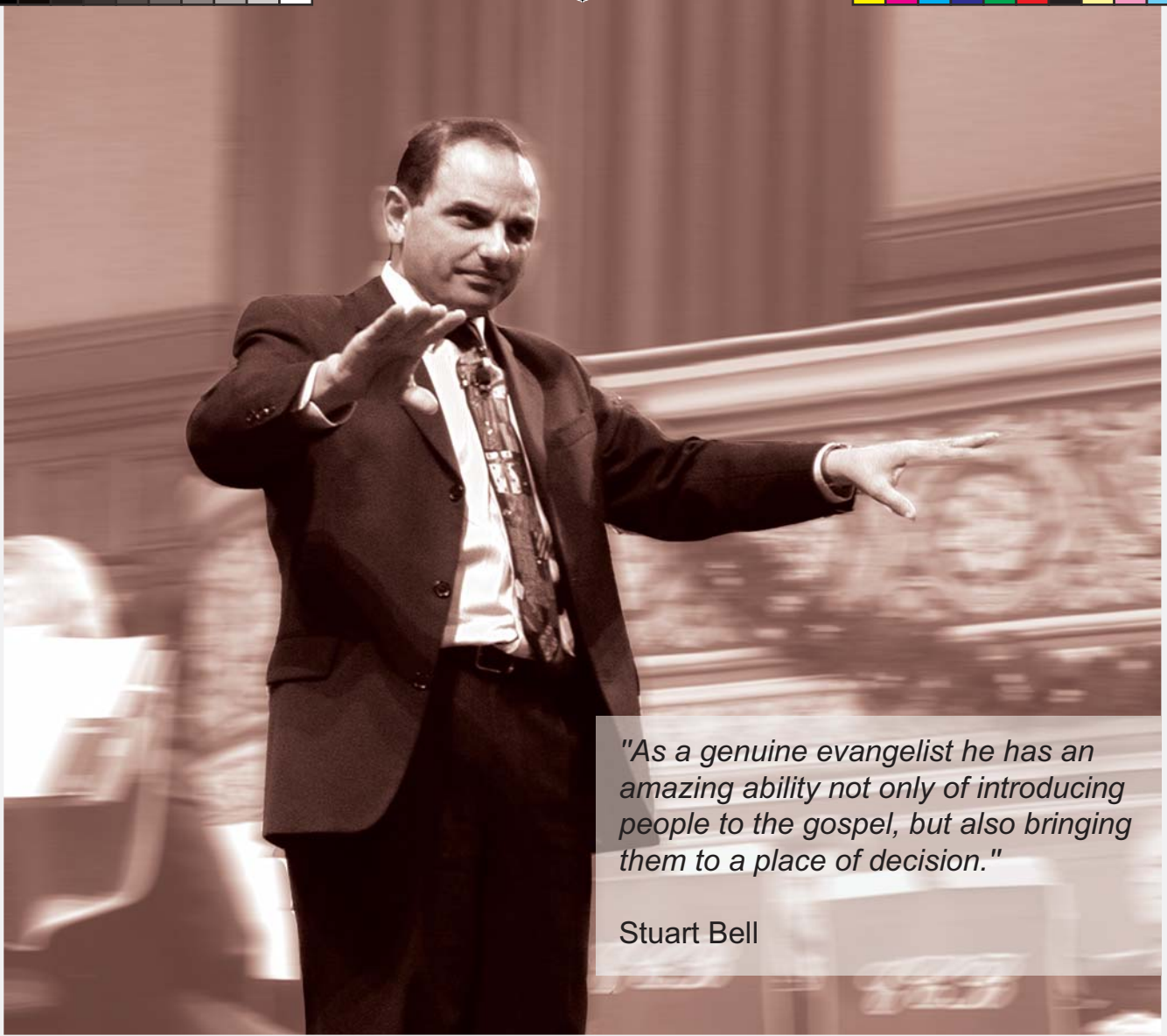
just10birmingham - Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm from 7th April to 9th June at Aston Park. Contact: 0121 426 0424

For further information visit www.just10birmingham.org.uk

For more information about just10 or for a promotional DVD about this series, please contact our office on 01923 772288 email bookshop@philotruster.com or see our website www.philotruster.com

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"As a genuine evangelist he has an amazing ability not only of introducing people to the gospel, but also bringing them to a place of decision."

Stuart Bell

I have had the joy of knowing J.John for 25 years and have seen the journey he's been on during that time. I have watched and prayed as the Lord has 'enlarged the place of his tent' and 'extended his territory', in response to both prayer and prophecy. It has been amazing to see J.John's increasing influence as he has said YES to God's call on his life. What has been even more amazing is to see how J.John has consistently remained a person of real integrity during these changing seasons. He is the same person in private as he is in public. Like Philip in Acts 8, he can impact a whole city with the Good News, and then share the Gospel one-on-one with someone whom God puts in his path. J.John is not just a great friend, he is also a great inspiration. He really is Great Britain's answer to Billy Graham, and I don't doubt that the best is yet to be. J.John is a man of extraordinary fun and fruitfulness.

Rev Dr Mark Stibbe

As the publishers of several of J.John's books we have come to highly appreciate his passion for the Kingdom of God. We, Authentic and STL have been involved in many of J.John's events and to see God work through him touching the lives of many all over the world, both through his meetings and his published works.

On a personal note I have become good friends with J.John, Killy and the family. This has impacted and enriched my own life considerably. Despite the obvious touch of God on his life he remains a humble and gracious man. He is a "genuine article" Christian. Long may the dynamic ministry of J.John and the Philo Trust continue.

Graham Williams

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As soon as I met J. John, his gift for personal evangelism became evident. Later on, I asked him to preach at one of our mission meetings, and he did it brilliantly. Once he was a student who learnt from me, now he is a master whom I honour and from whom I seek to learn. I am enormously grateful for the privilege of having had J. John as part of the Down to Earth team. I am even more grateful to count him as a lifelong friend. He and Killy are something special, and their boys are awesome. J. John, my dear brother, I salute you.

Rev Eric Delve

In 1993 I was leaving a conference for evangelists. I went to say goodbye to a friend and beside him was his friend J. John. I said goodbye to Andy and greeted J. John. This was the first time I had met J. John. Six months later I met J. John again at a mission planning meeting in Bradford. I was staggered when as I approached him, to remind him of our brief encounter, he remembered who I was. I like J. John because in spite of speaking to the masses he is interested in the individual. J. John is not just interested in his own ministry - a task large enough - but he is dedicated to other people's ministries. Thank you for your very valued friendship, advice, support, love and active development of my ministry and personal faith. You are a true friend.

Mark Greenwood

J. John has not only stayed the course as an evangelist, but has continued to think strategically and creatively. I am particularly impressed by his moving from a "hot sell, one shot, close the deal" approach that was so prevalent in the past, to a series of presentations aimed at moving people at a slower pace, yet with a sustained call to commitment. J. John recognizes the need to introduce people to Jesus and to the life-style challenges that have to be faced if one is to become a follower of Jesus. His Ten series was a stroke of genius, or rather evidence that he is tuned in to hear the voice of God. Furthermore, I especially respect an evangelist who is as comfortable proclaiming the good news in the public arena, and not just the sanctuary, and with crowds where believers are the minority. That takes guts as well as passion.

Rev Dr Eddie Gibbs

Greetings to J. John upon the celebration of these past twenty-five years of ministry. Your mission at All Saints' Church in Beverly Hills in 1999 was inspirational, and we continue our evangelistic efforts in this unique spiritual environment. May God richly bless your next twenty-five years of ministry!

Rev Carol Anderson

It is an honour to consider J. John as my friend and co-labourer in Christ. The joy and enthusiasm with which J. John shares the gospel has ignited a desire in people to know Jesus. All over the world lives are being changed forever by his ministry. As he continues for many years to come to run this race of faith with truth and diligence there is no doubt that his reward will be many souls in the kingdom of God.

David L. Meyer

J. John makes the good news of Jesus interesting, exciting, relevant and accessible. As a genuine evangelist he has an amazing ability not only of introducing people to the gospel, but also bringing them to a place of decision.

Stuart Bell

J. John is one of my favourite people. He and I became close friends during the last years of my ministry at Westminster Chapel. We had numerous lunch meetings. He always left me feeling GOOD – few people do that, he always does. He is fun to be around and I feel so privileged to call him my close friend. I would add this word: the best is yet to come. God's hand is on you, my dear friend and to quote an American axiom 'you ain't seen nothing yet' and that is, in my opinion, the absolute truth. You will see greater things in the next ten years that will make the last ten seem nothing by comparison. My verse to you and Killy: 1 Corinthians 2:9. Much love and warmest appreciation,

Dr R T Kendall

seven





The reality is that much of Church is boring. Sermons are often uninspired and drab. Then there is this man called J. John who above all, has put fun back into church. There is nobody probably in the world who can so creatively make the gospel such fun. Everybody who hears him, whether saint or sinner, says the same thing "I could have listened to him for hours". Such an ability is a gift of God, a gift for the nations at such a difficult time as this. What's more, this wonderful man has an immense concern and interest in the broken world in which he is placed. He has travelled with me to some of the most dangerous places of the world and even there he puts a smile on our faces. I count it a privilege to have him as one of my closest friends. May the next 25 years be even greater than the previous. After all, J. John knows that we are not human beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a human experience.

Canon Andrew White

I first met J. John at a youth houseparty where I was a teenager and he was the visiting speaker. His outrageous blend of Greek charisma and evangelistic fervour inspired me deeply. I soon realised he was the same man off the stage as he was on it. Over the years I've been privileged to minister with J. John on many different occasions, and as a tribute to him, his fervour for Christ has not faded over the years. He's that very same mad Greek evangelist he was back then! And I'm sure he will be for many years to come. Lastly, a huge amount of respect to Killy, Michael, Simeon and Ben - whose part in this exciting journey has not gone unnoticed.

Matt Redman

eight





My friend J. John is obviously known as an evangelist and that is what he is. He is also a brilliant Bible teacher. For the first five years of Soul Survivor he led the morning Bible readings for thousands of young people. Years later I still have many of those talks quoted to me by those who were deeply impacted. J. John is an inspiration and a good friend. He is also a great source of sermon material, knowingly for he is one of the most generous people I know, and unknowingly because I am an unashamed plagiarist of much of his material. Well done for staying faithful to your calling, J. John, and here's to the next 25 years.

Mike Pilavachi

I am delighted to send love and greetings to J. John from his many friends in the Diocese of Coventry. A couple of years ago we recognised his amazing contribution to the work of the Gospel by making him an Honorary Canon of our Cathedral. By honouring him in this way we too are honoured - but the glory belongs to God alone. We thank God for J. John and pray for vision and strength for a further 25 years of ministry.

Rt Rev Colin Bennetts

J. John is one of the world's leading evangelists. He has a remarkable ministry. His message is always full of grace, power and humour. He has enabled thousands of people all over the world to find a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that the next twenty-five years will be even more fruitful.

Rev Nicky Gumbel

It was 1988 and my friend said Chris you have to come to hear this funny Greek guy speak at our Christian group on campus at Sydney University, so off I went. I was overwhelmed and amazed. This was a critical point in renewing my faith in God, and giving me a vision for my future. Since then J. John has been a great source of encouragement and inspiration in my life. His passion for the lost and love of people continues to stir me. We appreciate your love and friendship. Congratulations on 25 years of ministry - the best is yet to come!

Chris Caine

J. John is a friend who like excellent wine keeps improving with age! What a communicator, what a networker, what a family man, what a good friend! I am always thrilled to spend time with J. John, am inspired by him and add my thanks to God for giving His church a very precious gift in J. John. I believe the future holds many days of promises fulfilled for J. John, his family and Philo.

Rev David Shearman

It's difficult to know where to start when you're talking about J. John, especially as I've known him since I was thirteen. I think what I love and respect the most, is that what you see is what you get. So whilst he does evangelism wonderfully to the masses, he does it even better to individuals. I'll never forget the time, energy and commitment he showed to one of my non Christian mates. This is authenticity; that what he does up front, he actually does round the back, that when he meets some random person at the end of a meeting and says he'll pray for them that week, he really does, and that he is the most reliable, caring friend you could hope for. And in this day when so much is fake, the genuine article is to be highly treasured.

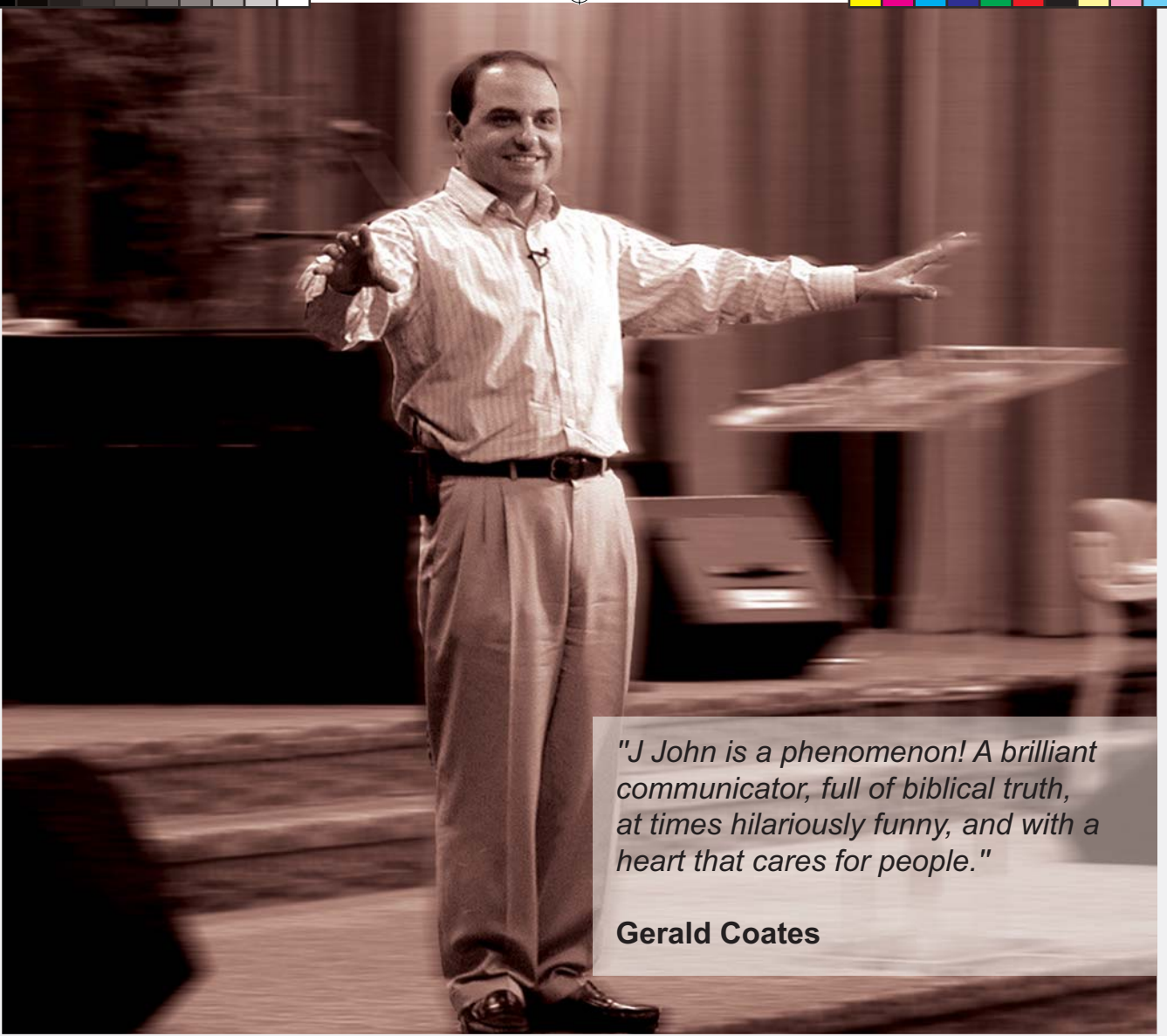
Rev Chris Russell

I first met J. John at a conference at Cornerstone Church in Esher where we were both speaking and his jokes were nearly as good as mine! Since that first encounter J. John has visited us here in Australia on several occasions speaking in Perth and being part of various conferences throughout Australia and New Zealand. In a world of so many uptight, overly legalistic and harried ministers, it is always refreshing to spend time with J. John, we exchange recipes and God Stories as well as the occasional joke. Of course the truth that J. John champions so well is that Christians should be "normal" and relationally intertwined within their community. He makes the mission of sharing Jesus great fun and simply a natural progression of being ourselves with our friends, colleague and families. I trust that all you guys in the UK realise that the gift on J. John's life is not just for England. You can keep the Ashes over there as long as you let us have J. John over here on regular occasions.

Pastor Philip Baker

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"J John is a phenomenon! A brilliant communicator, full of biblical truth, at times hilariously funny, and with a heart that cares for people."

Gerald Coates

J. John is a phenomenon! A brilliant communicator, full of biblical truth, at times hilariously funny, and with a heart that cares for people. I have no doubt that this is why God has opened up Cathedrals, theatres, local church networks and individual lives to this man, his ministry and his colleagues. It has been a privilege for me to know the family as friends, for our Pioneer network to benefit from his ministry by the occasional personal visit, his books and resources. He has my full permission to influence our network for as long as it is possible!

Gerald Coates

J. John and I first met in 1974 during our college days. One day I gave him a Gospel booklet and that very day he opened the door to Christ. We became friends. Immediately he began bringing people to Christ. He can't help it. He is warm-hearted, generous and funny. Right from the start he has always had a great quality of being sincerely interested in others and what they are doing. Today, J. John has a unique and effective ministry in bringing countless people to Christ in partnership with the Church. He has also brought many blessings to the Church in the UK and overseas. If you can partner with this man for the salvation of people, please, do so.

Rev Andy Economides

ten



I'm delighted to greet and congratulate J.John on his remarkable ministry – can't believe it's 25 years, he must have started when he was about nine! I have always been greatly encouraged by J.John's friendship and fellowship and by the fresh way in which he not only presents the gospel but draws together the riches of various Christian traditions in doing so. May God continue to bless and keep him richly in the days to come!

Rt Rev N.T. Wright

I have known J.John for 25 years, over the course of which he has become a friend for whom I have the deepest respect and trust. Both J.John and Killy are selfless, enthusiastic, creative and generous givers of their time, their resources and their contacts. They have constantly encouraged and supported me and the work of the Oasis Trust as it has grown over the years. J.John is the patron of one of our hostels for young people - a role into which he puts huge amounts of energy and commitment and in which he is loved by both staff and residents. But, even more than all this, J.John and Killy have been wonderful friends to Cornelia and me - as well as to our four children. Through the years, they have played a uniquely supportive role in the life of our family. We owe them more than we can say - ours is a huge debt of gratitude.

J.John is, as we all know, a brilliant communicator, whom God has richly blessed and extensively used to make Jesus known, not only in the UK but around the world. But my testimony is this - J.John walks what he talks about and I am proud to say that he is my friend.

Rev Steve Chalke MBE

Over the past 11 years, I have had the privilege of following closely, and at times participating, in his ministry in numerous contexts around the world. I can think of no other British evangelist in these last fifteen years who has had such a notable impact, wide reach or daring boldness in the proclamation of the gospel - not to mention creative thought. Yet in it all, J.John has consistently modelled a Godly humility of life and attitude to others who would aspire to similar heights. In a generation of compromise with biblical truth and clarity, J.John has remained a man of singular commitment to all aspects of the Biblical gospel, no matter how uncomfortable in our post-modern age. His unswerving focus on 'keeping the main thing the main thing' has been a hallmark of his long and fruitful ministry.

On a personal note his faithful friendship, guidance and care for me as an evangelist has been indispensable and irreplaceable. He stands out as one of few leaders today prepared to give of himself with time, finance, prayer and resources for the betterment and blessing of other evangelists. A unique man with a unique ministry.

Rev Joe Boot

Our J.John by Yoma and Michael Rees

Some of the Churches in Cambridge wanted to reach out to the many overseas language course visitors that come to the city each summer. So in 1981 a young evangelist led one of the teams, he was called J.John. During her holidays our daughter, Killy, was running a coffee bar in our Church Hall, called "Henry's". We couldn't help but notice that J.John needed to have quite a number of coffee breaks during his busy time in Cambridge!

Then came their wedding in 1983 at Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge. Naturally J.John completely upstaged his new father-in-law when it came to the speeches, but Michael got over it!

After numerous missions and giving us three wonderful grandsons, Michael was able to arrange for J.John to come for one of his early series on the Ten Commandments in Chester Cathedral. Numbers grew from 600 to 1,200 over the ten weeks, with a number coming to faith for the first time.

As part of the Millennium celebrations the Churches in Cheshire and the surrounding area came together for "Catch the Dream" in Tatton Park in June, 2000, on one of the hottest Sundays in the year. J.John spoke to 28,000 people. It was a wonderful occasion.

We are so thankful to God for our son-in-law, his family, all who prayerfully support him, and above all for the way the Lord continues to use him.

Canon Michael and Yoma Rees





"Twenty-five years, and you are still on top of your game."

Dr Lon Allison

Twenty-five years, and you are still on top of your game, dear brother. I congratulate you and your team for creating and sustaining cutting edge evangelism. Thank you for being an "iron sharpens iron" brother in so many ways. First is your disciplined life of reflection. Second, your deep love for Jesus in your personal life, and prioritisation of it. Third, for your commitment to raise up younger leaders. Fourth, for your example of love for Killy and the boys. Finally, for making my life a part of yours through prayer and encouragement. I love you brother, CARRY ON!

Dr Lon Allison

Loraine, Xana and myself consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have such a wonderful family as close friends. Over the years, J.John, Killy and the boys have been a real blessing to us. We always appreciate their genuine kindness and place much value on their love. J.John continues to be a great source of inspiration to us and the strong anointing upon his life serves to confirm that God is well pleased with everything that he says and does. What makes J.John so unique is his ability to connect and then engage with people of all walks of life, and I believe this is driven by the 'agape' love he has for them. If there was anyone I would gladly hold up as an example it would be J.John - father, husband, friend, evangelist, teacher and Mr Fun Guy (all the time). J.John, "May the next 25 years be filled with the Father's love and driven by the Father's heart, and may He continue to prosper you in all matters of life."

Pastor Chris Demetriou

It has been wonderful to watch J.John's ministry grow over the years and gain the most amazing momentum through "Ten". He is a wonderful role model in faithfulness and tenacity through all the storms and difficulties which are bound to assail anyone who is so much in the front line. May the Lord bless and protect you, J.John, and continue to use you greatly as you serve Him.

Fiona Castle

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Dear Friends,

I hope you have found our Spring Newsletter informative and encouraging. We are humbled by God's Grace and Goodness which has abounded through our ministry over the last 25 years. We have sown and reaped and seen literally hundreds of thousands of lives touched by the Lord. The opportunities ahead of us are numerous and the fields continue to be "ripe for harvest". Please:

Pray

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest, to send our workers into his harvest field". Matthew 9:37-38

John Wesley wrote "All of God's works are done through believing prayer". During the nineteenth century revivals, Charles Finney increasingly stressed the primacy of prayer. He knew no other way. A man of prayer himself, he would take an intercessor with him when he was invited to a city. Prayer is so important that the evangelist D.L. Moody remarked that "every work of God can be traced to some kneeling form."

Please pray for me. Please pray for the ministry of the Philo Trust. Please pray for our protection, for God's provision and for a bountiful season of reaping.

Plant

"Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Ecclesiastes 11:1-4

The Bible talks about sowing and planting seed. But as verse 4 says, "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Please sow financial seed into this ministry. We always appreciate one-off gifts but we depend on partners who give each month, whether £10, £20, £50, £100 or more. Partners help to undergird the ministry and enable us to budget. Please become a monthly partner. I read the following sign at a garden centre, "The best time to plant a tree was 25 years ago. The second best time is today!" Please plant into this ministry today.

Purchase

We meet people frequently who tell us that reading one of our books or listening to one of our tapes brought them to faith in Jesus Christ. We believe our resources are "Classic" and "Contemporary". They are ideal to send as gifts and to give to those who show interest in the Christian faith. This is another way of sowing seed into the lives of others. I am convinced that the cause is worth the cost.

Please pray, please plant, please partner and please purchase resources so the Kingdom of Jesus Christ can be extended.

Yours sincerely,



PLEASE PLANT PURCHASE

thirteen



CAROL EVENTS

'We had been praying for a 'packed' cathedral and thought that meant around 300 business people. On the day, we had 700 with a queue waiting to get in and people standing in the balconies. It was so exciting to see.'

Chris Dinsdale – Chaplaincy Plus.



In addition to the three just10 carol services in Lincoln, Bangor (NI) and Birmingham, J. John spoke at eleven other events across the UK to a wide variety of audiences including Whitehall officials from 22 government departments including the Ministry of Defence, business leaders at the Sony UK head office workforce and students at Oxford University. The impact in each situation was great with many responding either at the event itself or enquiring further. In addition the majority of the organisers gave out one of J. John's Christmas books to everyone as they left, so many thousands will have benefited from a lasting reminder of the message they heard.

- >> Highest ever number of people attending, people packed into the main auditorium, both balconies more or less full
- >> Highest ever number of VIPs
- >> Masses of compliments received, particularly re J. John's talk
- >> Most of J. John's free booklets taken
- >> Spontaneously, the Prime Minister has asked for a tape
- >> Follow-up by fellowships in 22 government departments
Julian Shellard, Whitehall-wide Network

ASSOCIATE PROFILE

Rev Dave McDougall

Evangelist/Church Planter at
St Saviour's Church, Upper Sunbury, Middlesex
www.st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk
info@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk



What a fantastic two year period of ministry it has been. We came with 37 adults and 20 children in October 2002 and now in January 2005 we have 185 adults, 40 children and 18 teenagers who are now committed to our Cell Church Community.

At Christmas the mayor organised a "Carols by the Christmas Tree" event in Sunbury. I was asked to speak at this event and I have to be honest and say that I was not expecting a large or receptive audience. 400 people later I had changed my mind, and it really felt like a Wesley moment in the open air! People of all ages came and were very receptive to the Christmas message and the mulled wine!!

Of the many things we are looking forward to in 2005 here are just a few:

- >> Our first curate Rev Andy Sachs with his wife Vanessa and baby Natalie joining us in June
- >> Our first missions abroad in Uganda in August and Siberia in the autumn
- >> The development of cell church with further multiplication
- >> The launch of a longer term development programme on the church buildings

What a privilege to be involved in the work of God on this small island.

Dave McDougall has been an Associate Evangelist of the Philo Trust for a number of years and it has been a pleasure to see his Ministry grow and flourish. Please pray for him over these coming months. For more information on Dave and our other Associate Evangelists, please visit our website www.philotrust.com

fourteen



OFFICE NEWS

After 10 years at the Philo Trust, Paul Wilson will be leaving on April 8th. Paul started as my assistant and then became our first operations manager overseeing the organisation of our ministry and missions. Paul has been a key member of the Philo Trust team and my right-hand man. Paul has made an enormous contribution towards furthering this ministry, both through expanding the office base and by developing the effectiveness of our mission organisation, preparation and follow-up.

Paul has been a wonderful gift from God to me and Philo. We have travelled and ministered throughout the UK (at least a quarter of a million miles!) and travelled and ministered on five continents (a lot of airmiles!). I have valued Paul's friendship, support, encouragement, wisdom and organisational ability. We have been truly blessed and have seen the Lord work in so many ways.

Paul will be greatly missed by me, my colleagues and the Trustees. Please pray for him as he seeks God's guidance for the next stage in his life and ministry. Pray too for his family – for Ruth, Rachel and Joshua, that they would know God's goodness and grace.



GOODBYE TO PAUL

After ten years at the Philo Trust, Ruth and I believe that God is calling us to move on and into something new.

Working alongside J. John has been a real privilege. To see thousands of lives changed through the many missions and events we have organised has been incredibly rewarding and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow in such a great evangelistic ministry.

While I'm not sure what the next step will be for us yet, I have a real heart and passion to see the wider church move into greater freedom and fullness. Having worked with so many churches, leaders and denominations over recent years, I believe that to become more effective in reaching lost people and in bringing the reality of God's Kingdom to bear on the lives of individuals and communities, we need to see many more Christians living and working as fully fired-up disciples of Jesus Christ. That takes an ongoing commitment to equip, encourage and release individuals to take hold of their identity in God and to grow in their relationship with him, with a clear expectation that it will make a difference. So I'm sure this next step will involve us in some new dynamic of church, possibly through a time of 'tent-making.'

As you can imagine, we would value your thoughts and prayers as we seek God's direction for the future and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have provided for us as a family over so many years.

STAFF VACANCIES

As Philo is entering a new and exciting phase of its ministry, we are looking to fill three positions. Each different role will suit those who sense God's calling to make a real and impacting contribution to the extension of Christ's Kingdom through this ministry.

- >> Assistant to J. John for one year. Principal responsibilities will involve assisting, supporting, travelling and driving with J. John around the UK, and preparing material for a variety of engagements. You will be self-motivated, cheerful, reliable, and will hold a full driving license.
- >> Chief of Operations. This hands-on role incorporates the overseeing and co-ordination of all the ministry of the Philo Trust and J. John, from the initial point of contact exploring Mission invitations through to managing and overseeing each live event. This role also includes meeting leaders to motivate and encourage them for Mission. The successful applicant will be involved in setting up and working alongside local organisers to ensure events and Missions are effective and fruitful.
- >> Chief of Staff and Chief of Finance. This role incorporates the management of the office base and staff at Philo to ensure that objectives are met, with responsibility for the management of the accounts, fundraising strategy, the development and integration of our IT systems, facilities management, and the sales and management of our resources.

For more information about these roles, please contact Karen Minashi on 01923 772288 or karen@philotrust.com

fifteen

easter sunrise

Easter Sunrise, by J. John, is an evangelistic resource which is an ideal gift for reaching those outside of the Church with the true meaning of Easter.

Easter Sunrise explains the truth and significance of Easter. By asking what the cross of Jesus achieves, J. John explains that God acts, God speaks, God enters into personal relationships with people and God enables us to live differently. Easter Sunrise also outlines the history of many of our Easter Traditions, including hot cross buns, eggs and Easter bunnies, as well as Lent, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

With a variety of discounts available for bulk orders, Easter Sunrise is an easily affordable resource to equip Churches and congregations for their outreach to friends and neighbours this coming Easter.

easter sunrise

£1.99 each

For bulk prices see carrier sheet or call our office.

THE PHILO TRUST



A Bundle of laughs

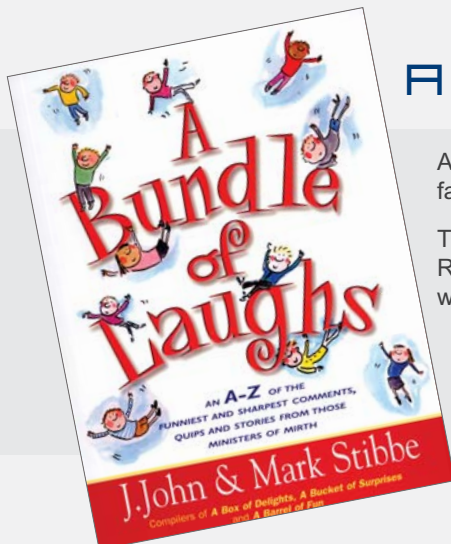
A lively and often hilarious compilation of sayings, stories and one-liners from the famous, the infamous and the completely anonymous.

The material is arranged alphabetically by theme, and embellished with Darren Harvey Regan's wonderful and wacky cartoons. The clever combination of wit and observation will make this a collection to prize - and to give.

A Bundle of laughs

£8.99

MONARCH PUBLISHING ISBN 0-85424-686-0 (UK)



J. John at the Birmingham NEC

This is a live recording of J. John speaking at the Joyce Meyer conference at the NEC. J. John offers principles to motivate, enthuse and encourage Christians in their walk with God.

J. John's appeal transcends age, culture, occupation and gender. He helps people to see the spiritual dimension of life and enables people to find a purpose to their everyday lives.

J. John at the Birmingham NEC

£7.99

Region 2 (UK PAL) ONLY
THE PHILO TRUST



all our resources are available online at www.philotrust.com