

Good News Crusade is looking to the future

Dear Friends & Supporters of GNC

It is 54 years ago this year that Good News Crusade was formally established as a charity to provide the framework to support my ministry. In this time we have seen the Gospel preached to hundreds of thousands around the world, tens of thousands have responded for salvation, many thousands of people have testified to being healed and hundreds of churches have been planted.

In recent decades the emphasis changed slightly as the Lord laid on my heart His desire to see our passion and experience released into the world. So, through training schools in UK and Tanzania, GNC trained and sent out scores of men and women to serve the Lord. It has been a great joy to me that since then we have been able to help many of those whom we have had the privilege of 'sending out' and support their developing ministries, even up to this month.

At its peak we had over 60 people working with GNC in various roles; supporting the ministry to take the Gospel to those who hadn't heard and working with churches to equip and support them in evangelism. With your wonderful love gifts we have been able to build schools and orphanages and paid for loads of resources to support folk across the world, as well as providing food and help at times of famine and natural disasters.

It is a heritage I am incredibly proud and honoured to be able to look back on. Throughout this time people across the UK and other nations have faithfully supported us with prayer, donations and encouragement. None of it would have been possible without those of you who have stood with us in tough times, as well as times of blessing.

However, as I am now in my 85th year, it is natural that our thoughts not only look back at what the Lord has enabled us to achieve, but also to the future. The question of what the Lord may wish to see happen with this ministry in the years ahead has been prayerfully considered for a while now.

I have always been clear in my mind that whenever the time came for me to lay down the mantle of leading Good News Crusade, it is totally in the Lord's hands as to whether that would be to pass the baton on to someone else or whether GNC would come to an end.

So, along with those who have supported me closely in recent years - the Trustees and my spiritual advisors and friends in the Lord - I wanted to communicate to you that there has been a sense that God had something in store that would see the legacy continue and be built on for a new generation.

Therefore I am delighted to confirm that in August, Carl Beech joined GNC and will be taking on the key leadership role as Chief Executive.

I have known Carl for the past ten years since meeting him for the first time when the Lord brought him to our Taunton family Camp, at which he has worked with us closely since 2008. Three years ago he took on the main leadership for the camp from my son Stephen and this year took the camp into a new season under a new name of Edgefest.

I firmly believe that Carl has a strong and deep commitment to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, a heart to reach those who are among the poorest and most disadvantaged in our world and a passionate desire to train and equip others to serve God. He has planted churches as well as working with and leading various organisations such as Christian Vision for Men, The Message Trust and Elim.

In the time we have got to know Carl there has been a growing sense that there was a very natural fit between his ministry and vision and the vision that has been at the heart of GNC since its beginnings in the 1960's. As we considered the future it became clear to us all that God had brought us together for His plan for the future.

So, I am delighted to introduce Carl to you and please do read his introductory letter which follows. I know that his heart and vision is something you will feel you can get behind.

Let me make clear that I will continue to minister and serve the Lord for as long as He allows me. I am not planning to stop any time soon! Neither I nor my Team have any sense that it is time for me to wind down at this time of transition, other than the limitations of only travelling around the South West which the Lord told me to do a few years ago. I will continue to preach and minister as often as possible, and for as long as the invitations continue to come in.

It has been made clear to me already that GNC will continue to support our ongoing work with those folk and ministries we have worked with in other nations both practically and spiritually, and will stand fully behind our ongoing desire to build on the great work we have established in places like Africa, South America and the Far East.

I am very excited about what the future will hold under Carl's leadership and what God will do through him and this ministry as we honour the heritage we have in the Lord. I am eager to see how we will now grow and develop to go on to achieve even more both with and for Him in the future.

I will be doing all I can to support, encourage and advise Carl and I would ask you to continue to support us in prayer and financially as we make the changes necessary in the coming months.

Yours in Jesus' wonderful name

Don

Dear Friends & Supporters of GNC

I first encountered GNC after a series of events which could only be described as "orchestrated by God" when Steve Double and I met under extraordinary circumstances in France - a story for another time!

Subsequently, I paid my first visit to the GNC Camp to give a talk some ten years ago now and my close friendship with the Doubles, GNC and many of you, began. It has been a privilege to journey with GNC over the last decade and as we have got closer so we began to wonder if there was more to the apparently chance meeting all those years ago. After much prayer and a personal time of deep reflection about the direction of my life and ministry, I became a GNC evangelist 6 months ago and thanks to the support of GNC have been able to preach the gospel around the UK and even as far away as Australia! Now the next season begins when the Trustees and Director asked me in August to take up the role of CEO and lead the charity into the future. It is a huge privilege, an honour and extremely humbling to be asked to follow in Don's footsteps and build on the incredible Gospel legacy that he has established over many decades. As for me, I can see how everything I have done and experienced over the last 25 years of evangelistic ministry has prepared me for this next season.

You may be wondering what the plan is? Well, alongside my part time role as senior leader of Redeemer King in Chesterfield (a church I planted 4 years ago) and my role as president of Christian Vision for Men, I will be dedicating my time to three distinct areas as the Lord leads.

- 1) Establishing a coalition/network of like-minded gospel churches across the UK. We are going to call this The Edge network. If your church is passionate about reaching the last, least and lost then this network maybe for your church. Our dream is to multiply church planting, gospel proclamation, raise up new leaders, mentor existing leaders and reach as many people as we can!
- 2) Preach the gospel wherever I'm invited to go. The diary is filling up fast! In September alone I'll be the main speaker at a large open air gospel festival in Hertfordshire, giving three Alpha launch preaches at one of the UK's largest churches, and then speaking at two major Christians Against Poverty conferences (CAP) on building churches that can reach the poor and hurting. If you would like to invite me to preach at your church then do let me know.
- 3) Building EdgeFest, our new look camp. This year numbers were up by 50%, we saw salvation and a number of people come for free who would otherwise not have been able to attend. (One of those attendees got saved!) We anticipate that the festival may double in size next year and we're making exciting plans. Do get booked in!

Aside from this, we will be doing all the other necessary jobs that need doing, from redesigning and updating the website to the day to day of running the charity.

Thanks so much for your support. It's an exciting future! Please do stand with us on a monthly basis if at all possible so that we can plan ahead and get out there with confidence, preaching the gospel to as many as possible!

Your brother in Christ,

Carl



Carl at EdgeFest this summer

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