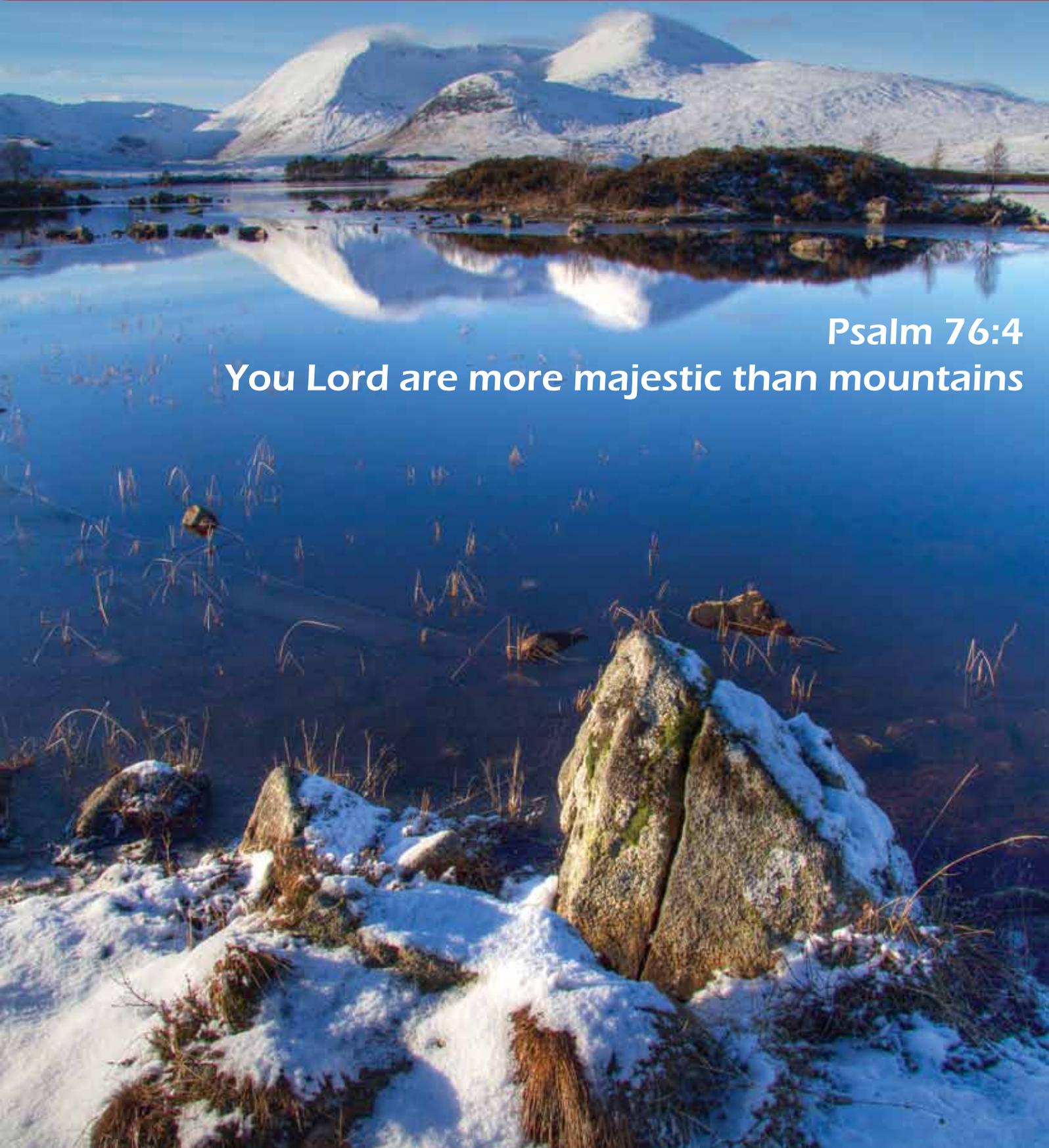




FMtogether

To inform and inspire the
Free Methodist Church in the UK



Psalm 76:4
You Lord are more majestic than mountains

Training for the Future

In July 2012 Becky and I visited John Wesley's New Rooms in Bristol. We felt moved as we considered how this building had been a kind of 'leadership development hot-house,' a place where evangelists gathered to be taught by Wesley and shared their experiences. It was the centre for Methodist DNA to be caught as well as taught. The knowledge being imparted was far more than merely academic; iron was sharpening iron, passion was increasing passion. Biblical teaching was a vitally important aspect of the growth of the Methodist movement, Wesley being a 'man of the book.'

Understanding and applying God's word is of great importance to every believer and of vital importance to those in Christian leadership. Paul exhorted Timothy to study 'in order to be a workman approved by God' who handled the word of God correctly. Study impacts our own lives and then through us it impacts the lives of others. In order to see people saved and churches planted, we must equip and empower as many people as possible to become involved. It is exciting to see a door opening for us to work in partnership with the Nazarene Theological College (NTC) in Manchester. The aim is to set up Regional Learning Centres (RLCs) to bring quality training right to our doorsteps.

The NTC staff are passionate about missional training, ensuring that academic knowledge is applied in true Wesley style – theology

on horseback. Sue Sainsbury and Andrew Ollerton are available to play

West England were well attended and were very inspiring evenings.



Bishop David Roller (right) and Pastor John Townley (left) meet with, Principal Deidre Brower Latz and Dean Peter Rae from the Nazarene Training College in Manchester.

key roles alongside NTC. Sue has lots of experience in teaching and tutoring students. She is a visiting lecturer at Mattersey Hall Christian College. Andrew has experience in fruitful church-based ministry as well as college-based teaching. Some of you will have experienced his excellent teaching first-hand at the recent taster sessions. These sessions in N. Ireland, the North West and South

The vision for a RLC in the South West remains strong, however until the criteria is met, we must be patient for the course to begin there. For those in N. Ireland there will be an open lecture in January with Deidre Brower Latz, the Principal at NTC, which you are welcome to attend. In the North West, fourteen signed up for the accredited course, so we plan to run a pilot module in the North West in 2014. This will count towards the first year of a degree. A promotional day will happen on 25th January at Fulwood FM church from 9.15am - 12.30pm when potential students and supporters can find out more details. Everyone is invited to attend and we look forward to seeing you.

*John Townley
on behalf of the NLT*

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Quality training on your doorstep

North West Regional Event

Venue: Fulwood FM Church

Jan 25th 9.15am-12.30pm followed by lunch

Includes the following presentations: 1) Theology in the 21st Century

2) The vision for Regional Training Centres by NTC leaders followed by question time. Those interested can sign up for the pilot module. 3) North West church news.

Northern Ireland Regional Event

Venue : Belfast Learning Centre (FREE)

Feb 7th 7.30 – 9.30pm and Feb 8th 9.30am – 3.30pm

Teaching on preaching by NTC Principal Deidre Brower Latz

Come and experience the Learning Centre and sign up to become a student

To find out more and to book your place, email: jwood@nazarene.ac.uk

Mike Faun



Hi my name is Mike Faun. I'm glad God loves variety because I'm a Chinese Scouser who supports Spurs! I'm happily married to Jen and we have one beautiful daughter, Chloe and one nutty dog, Jess. My parents are both from Canton, China and came to settle in Liverpool in the 1950's. I was the youngest of seven children, but when I was just six weeks old my parents gave me up to be fostered by a friend of theirs - an English lady who spoke fluent Cantonese.

My foster parent became a Christian and soon afterwards, when I was nine years old, I had an encounter with Jesus. Just after I'd become a Christian, my parents wanted me to live with them again. It was emotionally tough to be removed from my foster parent, and also my parents were not Christians. However, time is a great healer. God healed me from the pain of the separation.

In 2000, I received the calling to pastor God's people. I had sensed this before, but not as strongly. Two years later, God called me into full-time ministry. I've been in ministry for ten and half years and privileged to serve two very different churches, Inglewhite Church, Preston (Congregational) and Liberty

Killyleagh Cross Centre Report

Re-digging an old well in Killyleagh is exciting, though very challenging. We learned that many years ago the Cross Centre was used as an open market place where visiting itinerant preachers came to share the gospel and were faced with fearsome opposition. God's faithful people turned to prayer. They prayed in the muddy ground of the Cross Centre for a movement of the Spirit in the town, soaking the ground with the tears of their prayers. We were thrilled recently to discover that Charles Wesley conducted open air meetings in Killyleagh. He met with great resistance to his preaching and on one occasion he had to flee from a hostile crowd to a nearby farmhouse for safety. From this safe retreat, sitting under a hedge by a brook, he pulled pencil and paper from his pocket, and wrote the timeless hymn 'Jesus Lover of my Soul.' What a heritage we have discovered in this little town.

'Not enough room in the kitchen' was the problem we faced in the summer. So we have undertaken a big refurbishment to enlarge the place of our cooking tent. The coffee shop is open three days a week. Fridays are extremely busy, with people queuing at the door to get in! We are running out of space in the coffee shop area and may have to open upstairs to cater for the overflow. We're building up good, trusting relationships with the local people. We are getting opportunities to pray with some of them.

We had our first baby dedication service recently. About 80 people attended and heard the gospel. Another baby dedication is being planned.

Recently, we had the joy of seeing three people come to the Lord, for which we give God glory and praise. One of the new converts remarked, "We just needed someone to come and love us in Killyleagh. I've never had friends like this before." Now she is a completely changed lady who has met the one friend who will never leave her and who has come to love her perfectly. Surely that's what it's all about!

We thank you all for your prayers into this ministry. We need them!



*By; Pastors Pat Herron (above) and Raul Arana
September 2013*

Christian Centre, Horwich (AOG GB).

I am now the pastor of King's Church, Penwortham and already it feels like a marriage made in heaven. The people in King's church and across the Free Methodist movement have been so warm and welcoming.

We are excited about working together to serve and make a difference in the community and

beyond, and to see people live out their full potential in Jesus. Abundant blessings! Mike Faun.

Genesis 50:19-20

'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is being done, the saving of many lives.'



We have moved our Sunday premises. This is big for us, having previously searched hard and finding nowhere. Now is God's time and a great venue has become available to us – Truro High School (google it) - starting November 2013.

Prophetically this carries the sense of a new beginning, after the 'interesting' journey through the last three and a half years, with the unexpected transition of leadership and church planting, but as I said before, hard is not always wrong; a sharp blade is further sharpened through right contact with a sharpening stone. Abraham wasn't in the wrong when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, because God had more for him.

So we approach this change with a sense of a new day and great excitement. We are looking for God to open up the service He has for us in the city centre. We want more of God!

By Simon Gardner, Pastor of the Truro Light and Life Free Methodist Church.

OK, I'm sure you all want to know the answer to the question, "How do you halve the size of your church?" Answer: you could make Simon Gardner the pastor, or you could release two church plants at the same time - you could do both! Last January, our congregation decreased from roughly 140 to about 70 as we began new works in Falmouth and Pool.

Since then, to say things have not got easier is to state the obvious, but hard is good if it is God's purpose – last time I checked, carrying your cross wasn't easy. Where did all the stewards go? The helpers? The worship leaders? They are never easy to find at the best of times, but

God is with us, and some have come to the fore who wouldn't otherwise have done – new ministries, new avenues of the Spirit's flow, new expressions of body ministry, so thank you Lord.

God Provides through His People

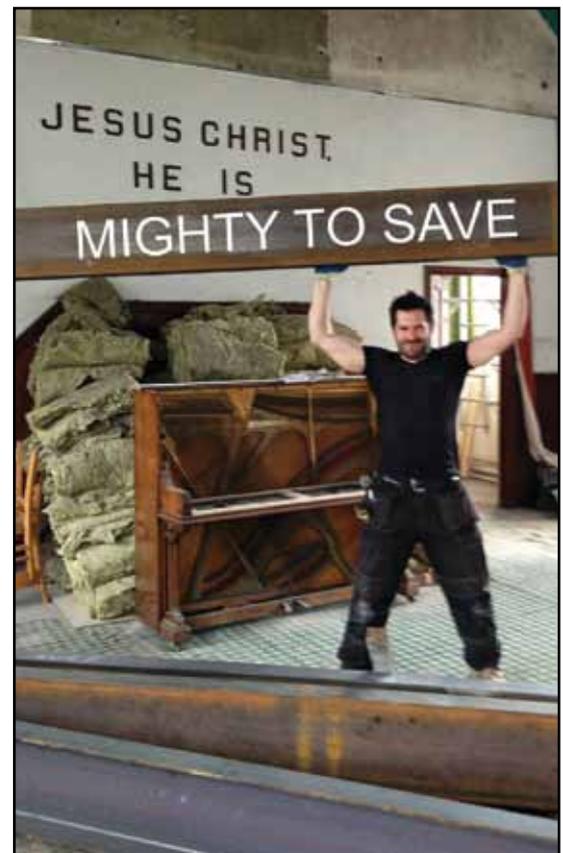
Saturday 30th November was a new chapter in the life of Home Church. After six years of being together, we dedicated our first building with worship, vision, preaching and of course, great food! The Lord has provided what can only be described as a facility far exceeding the financial capabilities of a congregation of under fifty people.

The Gospel Hall had closed down. This was purchased by a couple in Home Church who converted this damp, century old, single-storey building into a modern, comfortable two-floor facility, to run as a registered nursery during the week and Home Church at other times. It includes a permanent office for us. The facilities are fantastic, finished to a high standard, thanks to the hard work of our builder who worked for cost and the Home Church volunteers who gave up weeks of time to paint, insulate and more!

We are so grateful for the generosity of many volunteers from the Free Methodist family and

beyond, who contributed their skill, attitude and time to make the building better than we could afford or dream of. It's been a fantastic experience to see how God has provided through His people and we look forward to filling the place with new disciples and moving on to what He has for us.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Richard Scholes as he undergoes chemotherapy. Pray for God's healing and for Richard, Esther and their family.



SIGNONLINE

FMtogether is a biannual magazine to keep you informed of the wider Free Methodist Church family. What is happening in our churches across the UK? How are we fulfilling our vision and living our values? How can we support one another? Sign up online to receive regular news.

www.freemethodist.org.uk/news/fm-together/

Look up the Free Methodist Church UK website for a PDF copy of this magazine and additional articles.