

# Sounding Out

The newsletter of **Good News Broadcasting Association**

Summer 2020

SMALL

BRIGHT

FLAME

The future  
for GNBA





Hello and welcome!

**I hope that you are well and managing through the lockdown and the various challenges it has produced. You can read on page 6 more about how we are managing at GNBA.**

I have been thinking a lot about the future of GNBA over the last few months. As you may know, the ministry has been blessed in the past by having generous reserves, which has meant that for many years we have been able to sustain our work and even step out in new ventures, even though our income has been far less than our out-goings. But obviously, living off reserves can only last so long and the time has now come for decisive action.

Following our latest independent examination, we now know that if donations remain at the same level they are now, we have around one year left as a charity - unless the Lord intervenes miraculously. But I am not fearful. God has provided for GNBA for over 60 years and we have been through seasons of plenty and seasons of difficulty before.

Also God has not promised that this ministry will continue indefinitely. There is a time for everything and even though I feel as though we have a lot more to do, and I'm passionate to continue serving the Lord with GNBA, I trust Him for the future. God's ways are not our ways, as Isaiah 55 reminds us.

### Small bright flame...

With all this in mind I was editing *Bible Focus* the other day and I noticed that the intro music is called *Small Bright Flame*. I must have seen this hundreds and hundreds of times before but on this occasion it really stood out. These three words describe well what I think this next season needs to look like for GNBA. It needs to be smaller. We need to cut back significantly on costs.

This will likely impact where we focus our broadcasting in the future and also where we are based. The lockdown has made me realise that much of what the

other staff and I do can be done from home. We will be smaller but still a bright flame for the Lord.

### We will be smaller but still a bright flame for the Lord.

We are a ministry that punches above its weight. Our complete yearly outgoings are less than many charities' advertising budget alone. Compared to other radio ministries we have a fraction of their resources and a fraction of their supporters, but we try to be faithful and grateful for what we have. We believe the programmes that we produce are good quality and we know they are a blessing to many believers across the UK and Africa. Soon, Lord willing, they will also be broadcast in the Middle East - more detail in the next issue!

So the ministry will be more focused and targeted in specific regions and we will cut our costs wherever we can. But we also really need your help if we are

going to continue as a charity. I would like to ask you to consider giving financially to GNBA, particularly if you don't already give. We have a database of 1800 people and around 200 of these give regularly to the ministry. I ask this well aware that for many people this lockdown could bring challenges financially. But if you would consider becoming a ministry partner this would help us greatly.

In a strange way I am excited for what this next season will bring. We will have to trust God for His provision in a way we haven't had to over the last decade. Also it will bring a greater focus and clarity to what we do.

### I am excited for what this next season will bring...

Please do pray for me, the board and the staff, and thanks for your interest and involvement with GNBA. I really appreciate it.

Anyone who makes a regular monthly gift to GNBA becomes a *Ministry Partner* and will receive our bi-monthly CD. You can give via CAF, Stewardship or Standing Order through your bank (Good News Broadcasting Association, Unity Trust Bank, Account no: 20081724 Sort Code: 608301). Alternatively, you can use the form on the label that came with your copy of *Sounding Out*, or click the 'Donate' button on our website.



## These are certainly strange days we are living in...

For those who have contracted Covid 19 or cared for someone who has suffered with it this has been a scary and painful time. For the rest of us who have had our lives altered by the lockdown it has been a frustrating, difficult and at points claustrophobic time. For just a few people, like my youngest daughter, it has actually been quite nice. She has absolutely loved having all her family at home and she hopes that the lockdown never ends!

One huge ramification for believers has been the closing of our church buildings and gatherings. I am writing this article the day after Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the earliest followers of Christ and the subsequent birth of the Church. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be there?

I have to admit I get jealous of the twelve apostles sometimes. Not only did they get to hang around with Jesus for three years and witness first hand some incredible miracles and His powerful teaching about the Kingdom of God, but also they were there on day one of the Christian Church - before they were even known as Christians and before it was even called Church! They were there when the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised He would

# Love the Church

send, came and filled them and the world was never to be the same again. But as I read the Pentecost account again over the weekend I found myself even more jealous than usual. This is what Acts 2:1 says:

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

This verse would normally pass me by without a second thought but, with these lockdown Sundays coming and going every week, I find myself longing more than ever before to be together in one place with my brothers and sisters in Christ. It's almost been three months now and although I am so thankful to God for online services, it's not the same and I don't think it should be.

I hope that one of the positive by-products of this lockdown will be a renewed sense of appreciation for the local Church. For all its issues and mess the Church is still God's primary vehicle for taking the gospel to the whole world. The Church is not just a

good idea, it's God's idea and it should be made up of Spirit filled people coming together to be encouraged and equipped to live Spirit filled lives for Christ.

This is the first time in my 37 years that I have not been able to attend a church gathering on Sundays. It's strange, and although my family are getting used to gathering in our living room to sing and listen to the word preached, I don't want this to become the new normal.

The speed at which all our church buildings were closed showed how serious this pandemic is. So, why is God allowing this to happen?

This is a huge question which is beyond the scope of this article and a number of options have already been suggested. Covid 19 could be judgment from God. Covid 19 could be an attack of the devil. Covid 19 could simply be the product of a fallen world. Covid 19 could be a sign of the end times.

Myself and Stuart Reynolds discuss these ideas on two special editions of *Too Hot For Radio*. Visit <https://toohotforradio.libsyn.com/website> to listen. But whichever option (or combination of them) you think is biblical, it's without dispute that God doesn't waste hard times in our lives.

Are we going to allow this lockdown to isolate us from fellow believers, or will we strive to stay connected by phone, online resources and socially distanced outside small gatherings? Will we allow this strange season to distance us from God, or will we draw near to Him and lean on Him like never before? Will this season be defined by prayer and care for our neighbours, or by fear and frustration? Will we be grateful for the many years we have been able to attend churches without even thinking about it, or will we simply be annoyed by the present situation?

This is undoubtedly a difficult season but I trust my God who is faithful and good. We are not alone and He promises in Luke 11:13, *"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

One prayer that God always answers 'yes' to is for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Have you asked Him today?

Send the fire.

by Tom Ward

# Staff News

We were all very disappointed to have to cancel our Teaching Day in March due to coronavirus but we are certain it was the right thing to do.

My family and I are all well and taking each day as it comes. One of my daughters is now back in school and the other two are doing home-schooling. My wife is a keyworker, serving in hospital as a midwife, and I am working mostly from home but visiting the office to record programmes. Our evenings



are often taken up with multiple Zoom meetings for both GNBA and our church, so it's a very busy time. We were glad to be able

to head to the beach last weekend to enjoy some socially-distanced sun!

Tony, Mel, Stuart and Dudley have also been working from home since lockdown began and have each found it a challenge in different ways. The accounting Tony can do at home is very limited, so he is glad to have been able to get back into the office over the last couple of weeks to catch up. Dudley and his family have all suffered from Covid 19. He writes:

*My wife, Karen, spent Friday babysitting our grandchildren in their home. My*

*son, Ryan, on a course with his wife, had been complaining about a dry cough, but thought nothing of it. When he returned that evening, he developed a fever.*

*The following week, Karen and I developed a cough and a persistent fever and soon became extremely ill. Karen is asthmatic so I was concerned when her breathing became laboured.*

*My brother-in-law, Craig, who has cerebral palsy, lives with us. By Wednesday he was showing symptoms and was admitted to hospital for two weeks after becoming increasingly ill.*

*This was probably the worst illness I have endured. Severe headache, raging persistent fever, a debilitating cough and loss of taste and smell. However, the most frightening symptom was the affect on breathing. Every breath seemed void of oxygen.*

*Thank God, after much prayer, we all recovered. However, I still feel the effects of low oxygen consumption when I exercise. Make no bones about it. This is a nasty bug.*

We've been able to produce a number of programmes and podcasts with reference to coronavirus so please visit our website to listen.

Please also use the prayer diary and continue to pray for us as we seek to move the work of GNBA forward in these challenging times.

*Tom*

# Prayer Diary

## JULY

SUNDAY

Please pray for God's guidance for the future of GNBA.

MONDAY

Pray for Tom and the Board as they consider future plans.

TUESDAY

Please pray for God's provision of the finances needed.

WEDNESDAY

Pray for God's help as staff have to find different methods of working.

THURSDAY

Please pray for Tony as he catches up with the accounting work.

FRIDAY

Pray for Tom as he works from home in a busy household.

SATURDAY

Pray for Stuart as he works on Bible Focus.

## AUGUST

Pray that more listeners would become supporters.

Please pray for Mel as she works from home.

Pray that GNBA would be able to broadcast in the Middle East.

Please pray for Dudley in the production of The Reality.

Pray for more people to become Ministry Partners.

Pray for wisdom for Tom and Stuart as they record Too Hot For Radio.

Please pray for Tom as he prepares material for Word Alive.

## SEPT

Pray for opportunities to partner with other organisations.

Pray that Dudley would know God's direction for future ministry.

Pray that Bible Focus would meet the needs of its listeners.

Thank God for opportunities for Tom to be heard on BBC Manchester.

Pray for Henryk and Dina Dedo and their work for Voice Of The Gospel.

Pray that our listeners would continue to be blessed.

Pray for the day to day production of programmes.

## OCTOBER

Pray that more people would discover the Word Alive podcast.

Please pray for the writing and design of Sounding Out this month.

Pray that all the financial needs of GNBA will be met.

Please pray that the Lord would provide future ministry for Stuart.

Pray for the smooth running of Sounding Out 'mailing day' this month.

Pray that God would use our programmes to bless believers in Africa.

Thank God for all that GNBA is able to do in sending out the gospel.

*I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.*

*Psalms 17:6*

# Radio Guide

Tune in! Or listen any time at [www.gnba/listen-now](http://www.gnba/listen-now)

## Premier Christian Radio

Digital radio: DAB Premier  
TV: Freeview 725 or Sky 0123.  
Radio: MW 1305, 1332, 1413, 1566

### Word Alive

Saturday 6.00am & 7.30pm  
Sunday 5.30am

## Trans World Radio

TV: Freeview HD Channel 733, Sky 0138 or Freesat 790

### Word Alive

Saturday 6.00am  
Sunday 6.00pm

### Bible Focus

Weekdays 11.25am, 5.25pm, 11.25pm

## Azimuth Radio

Internet: [www.azimuthradio.com](http://www.azimuthradio.com)

## Gospel 4 Grampian

Internet: [www.g4g.org.uk](http://www.g4g.org.uk)

## Radio Star Country

Radio: MW 981

### Word Alive

Wednesday 5.30pm

## Branch FM

Radio: 101.8 FM

### Word Alive

Sunday 6.00pm

### Bible Focus

Weekdays from 12 noon

### The Reality

Saturday 5.30pm  
Sunday 7.00pm

## Flame CCR

Radio: MW 1521 or Internet DAB

### GNBA Show

Weekdays 10.30am

### The Reality

Sunday 11.00pm

## Hope FM

Radio: 90.1 FM

### Word Alive

Sunday 7.30am

### The Reality

Sunday 11.00am

## Radio North

Radio: 846 AM

### Bible Focus

Weekdays 8.45am

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# Remembering Bill Gibb

Some of our long-time supporters may remember Bill Gibb who, with his wife Thelma, joined the staff of GNBA under the directorship of David Oram. They were responsible for managing the team of area representatives around the country, who went out by invitation to countless churches and meetings in all quarters of the country, including the Channel Islands.

Thelma sadly passed away in 2013 and two years later Bill married Miriam. They were married for five years, serving the Lord together and continuing to tune in and to support the ministry of GNBA both prayerfully and financially.

Sadly, Bill developed brain tumours and lung cancer and passed away at the age of 87 on 12<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday.

Former director Rev Derek Stringer writes:

*Bill's time of departure came over the Easter weekend. This is so fitting for a man who was a true follower of the risen Saviour for so many years and loved to tell people the good news of the Gospel. He built relationships with churches in the UK and annually travelled to them reporting on the ministry of GNBA. He tirelessly started prayer groups and attended conventions where he would daily give hours of his time in conversation, explaining the value of radio in taking the Gospel to places where radio does it best. We thank God with happy memories for a man who never spent time, but invested it in ways that outlast it.*

Miriam Gibb writes:

*Thankfully no more suffering now, but forever with the Lord! One of Bill's favourite parts of the Bible was the Lord's prayer in John 17. Our Lord Jesus is longing for us to be with Him but we remain here for a purpose. Now Bill is already there. Wonderful!*

Bill's funeral, led by David Gay, took place on 27<sup>th</sup> April with only immediate family attending. It is hoped that a memorial service will take place at a later date.