

Sounding Out

In this issue...



**Time
to grow**



Encouragement for us
all in this strange
passage from Ezekiel



**MEET THE
BOARD**



Time to grow



I hope this newsletter finds you well. I am writing this from our office in Manchester where it is currently very sunny. It doesn't happen here all that often but when it does it's amazing.

This summery weather reminds me of an incredible promise in the Bible that, as powerful, essential and frankly, lovely the sun can be, we know from the book of Isaiah that a day is coming when there will be no longer any need for the sun. *'No longer will you have the sun for light by day... but you will have the LORD for an everlasting light,'* (Isaiah 60:19). Sunny days point us to Jesus Christ who is the light of the world!

Time to grow

The book of Ecclesiastes famously tells us that there is a time and season for everything. The other day I was looking back at the summer 2020 edition of *Sounding Out* where I wrote that the ministry of GNBA would need to become much smaller because of the financial difficulties. Three years on, and after God's miraculous intervention in our finances, we are now at a time where we can begin to grow again.

New producer

The first way in which I'd like to grow GNBA is by taking on a new radio producer/presenter (see next page). This will give us the ability to create some new radio content to offer to stations we already broadcast with, but hopefully many more as well. Please pray that God leads the right person to this position.

New bookkeeper

Since failing to recruit an accountant last year, we have moved our accounts onto a cloud-based system which will make things much easier. Previous board member, Dave McCormick, is very kindly helping keep things up-to-date but in the coming months we plan to recruit a part-time bookkeeper/administrator. With the new software it won't be essential that this person is a trained accountant.

New board members

With Rebecca Kelly stepping down from the board and the sad passing of Stephen Hall, we are looking for some new board members. Wayne Clark will be taking one of the spots (more on that later) but we are looking for people with experience: working in the charity sector; finance;

dealing with pensions; fundraising. If you have experience in one of these areas and would be interested in serving on the GNBA Board please email tom@gnba.net.

I would appreciate your prayers for all of the above as we step out into this season of growth!

Bible Focus

One more small item to note is that we intend to make *Bible Focus* available as a podcast in the coming days. Podcasting is

an extremely cost effective way to make programmes more widely available to the many who listen to audio content on their smartphones. Perhaps those who have never heard of GNBA will discover and benefit from this 10-minute Bible-teaching gem! Please pray for that.

Thank you so much for your continued support as we teach the Bible through media!



JOB VACANCY

Radio Producer / Presenter



**Good News Broadcasting Association
teaches the Bible through media.**

**We are looking for a passionate and articulate
Christian to create inspiring audio content for
broadcast across the UK and beyond.**

Experience in audio/media/editing
preferable but not essential.

Based in Manchester. Full time.

Salary: £22,000 - £25,000 pa.

Closing Date: Monday 31st July 2023.

More details at gnba.net/vacancies

GOOD NEWS
BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

Are you a secret Ministry Partner?

Our Ministry Partners should soon receive in the post a short questionnaire along with a GNBA pen - a small gift of appreciation from us to you. If you could use the pen to complete the questions and post the card back to us it would be greatly appreciated.



It has come to our attention that we have some 'secret' Ministry Partners! If you have set up a Standing Order to GNBA but haven't let us know, please do send us your contact details - we would like to be able to thank you for your donations.

If you are not yet a Ministry Partner but would like to be, just set up a monthly Standing Order of any amount or make a one-off donation of £60 or more.

MEET THE BOARD

Wayne Clarke is the brand new member of GNBA's Board of Directors. Tom asks him to introduce himself...



Tell us a little about yourself.

Hi, I'm Wayne. I'm married to Val and we have two grown-up children. I've lived

in Manchester for over

five years since I was called to be pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Gorton.

Our church is full of families and is very diverse.

Val works at the Oasis Centre; an independent Christian charity which cares for the poorest in our community and has its centre next door to our church building.

I love music - I play lots of musical instruments but none of them very well. I like to read widely and take part in quizzes.

You wrote a book a few years ago. What was it about?

The book is called *A Ready Man*. It's the biography of Hugh Stowell Brown, a nineteenth-century Baptist minister in Liverpool where I used to minister. Stowell Brown was a big-name preacher and social reformer, a friend and mentor

to Spurgeon and he laid the foundation for evangelical mission to the poor in our inner cities.

I loved finding out Brown's story and turning it into a book. I also had a hand in restoring his statue which had been abandoned and is now back in Liverpool city centre.

What radio experience do you have?

I've been involved in radio for most of my life – in student stations, in Britain's first ever RSL at Greenbelt in 1983, in Christian radio and with the BBC.

From 2001 to 2012 I worked for BBC Radio Merseyside as a presenter and producer. I built up the Sunday morning programme to become the most-listened-to religious programme on local radio in the UK. In 2006 I won the Andrew Cross Award as 'Religious Broadcaster of the Year'.

I'm still doing radio in Manchester, and also making podcasts. My latest podcast is *The Christmas Alphabet*, an A-Z of all things Christmas!

Some people think radio is a thing of the past - why are you passionate about it?

Radio is the best way of speaking to someone one-to-one. It's direct and intimate and reaches into people's homes and cars with words of comfort and challenge, hope and truth. It offers us a

gospel opportunity that we need to use with great care and lots of prayer.

How can our supporters pray for you?

Thanks. I'd appreciate your prayers for the gospel ministry in Gorton, Manchester, and for God's grace to carry on.

A reminder of our other current board members...



Neville Patterson (Chair) is married to Helen and they live in Leigh. They have two grown up children. Neville is a quantity surveyor and attends Audacious Church, Manchester. Neville has been on the board for many years and became chairman in 2019.

Simon Leighton is married to Esther and they live with their three children in Adlington. Simon is a professional services CEO and is a member of Poynton Baptist Church. He has been a board member since 2005.



Paul Sanders is married to Emily and they live with their two children in Salford. Paul is CTO of Place Informatics and is a member of Elmwood Church. He has been on the board since 2013.

Tom Ward (Director) is married to Eleanor and they live with their three children in Manchester. Tom is a member of St Clements Church. He became a board member in 2015 when he was appointed Director of GNBA.



DEM BONES

By Tom Ward

Of all the weird and wacky things that the prophet Ezekiel was asked to do, the most seemingly-pointless was when he preached to a graveyard full of scattered bones.

In chapter 37 of the book he penned, Ezekiel speaks the Word of God to *dry bones*. God clearly knew the futility of the situation when He asked the prophet, *'Son of man, can these bones live?'*

It becomes clear later in the chapter that these bones represent the people of Israel. Nothing from the dozens of chapters and multiple years of prophesying before this had given Ezekiel the slightest inkling that, spiritually speaking, reconstruction and resuscitation were possible. But he obeys the Lord and prophesies to the bones anyway:

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life...'

It is an amazing promise of restoration from God who, despite Israel's rebellion, is calling them back into relationship. The wilderness years of exile are coming to an end and new life is springing up. This new life comes through the breath of God. The Hebrew word is *ruah*. It's used over 40 times in the book of Ezekiel and nine times alone in chapter 37. This breath is the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. God did

something similar in Genesis 2:7: *'Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath (ruah) of life, and the man became a living being.'*

The Israelites were in despair. In Ezekiel 37:11 they say, *'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone.'* They needed, not just a word from God, but an intervention. They needed a spiritual resurrection - a powerful move of the Holy Spirit to bring them out of despair.

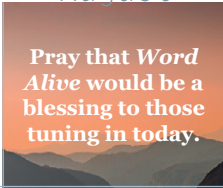
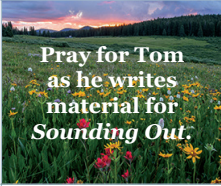
I think we see a glimpse of something similar in John chapter 20. The disciples have been through the despair of Christ's death. Their hope was dried up and gone. But God raised Him to new life. Resurrection. And when Jesus appeared to His disciples He breathed on them and said, *'receive the Holy Spirit'* (John 20:22).

If you are a Christian you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. But God in His mercy and favour continues to breathe His Spirit on His people even today. Do you feel dried up right now? Does your relationship with the Lord seem stale and formulaic? Are you wrestling with doubt or struggling in sin? Are you finding it hard to have hope for your church or a broken relationship? Ask the Lord today to breathe on you His life-giving Spirit.

Lord, breathe life in us we pray!

PRAYER DIARY

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

	July	August	September	October
Sunday	Thank God for His continuing provision for GNBA.	 Pray that <i>Word Alive</i> would be a blessing to those tuning in today.	Give thanks for all GNBA supporters and pray for more to be added.	Pray for Tom, as he ministers God's word today.
Monday	Pray for a good selection of applicants for the Radio Presenter/Producer role.	Pray for wisdom and direction in appointing a new staff member this month.	Please pray for Tom as he decides what new projects to pursue.	Pray for more subscribers to the <i>Word Alive</i> podcast.
Tuesday	Please pray for Tom in the weekly study and preparation for Bible teaching.	Thank God for helping us establish the new accounting software.	Pray for more opportunities to broadcast <i>The Everlasting Way</i> .	 Pray for Tom as he writes material for <i>Sounding Out</i> .
Wednesday	 Pray for wisdom and direction as we seek to expand the staff team.	Pray for Mel in the day to day design and admin work.	Pray for fruit and feedback from the broadcasts in Africa.	Give thanks for Dave, currently overseeing GNBA finances.
Thursday	Pray that God would use the programmes to encourage people this month.	Please pray for <i>Bible Focus</i> to find a wider audience.	Pray for new churches to invite Tom to introduce the ministry of GNBA.	Pray that more listeners would become supporters of this work.
Friday	Please pray for Tom as he prepares teaching for this weekend.	Pray for the Board of Directors that they would wisely guide GNBA.	 Please pray that the <i>Sermonise</i> listenership would continue to increase.	Pray for Mel, designing and mailing <i>Sounding Out</i> this month.
Saturday	Pray that <i>Word Alive</i> would reach new listeners today.	Pray for rest and refreshment for GNBA staff during the summer.	Pray for the ongoing work of <i>Voice of the Gospel</i> in Poland.	Thank God for the many prayers He has answered for GNBA.

RADIO GUIDE

TUNE IN ON YOUR RADIO OR TV OR LISTEN ANY TIME AT GNBA.NET

Premier Christian Radio Digital Radio: DAB Premier TV: Freeview 725 or Sky 0123 Radio: MW 1305, 1332, 1413, 1566 Word Alive: Sunday 6.30am	Trans World Radio TV: Freeview HD Channel 733, Sky 0138 or Freesat 790 Word Alive: Saturday 6.00am Sunday 6.00pm
Radio North Radio: 846 AM Bible Focus: Weekdays 8.45am	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	Hope FM Radio: 90.1 FM Word Alive: Sunday 7.30am
Gospel 4 Grampian Internet: www.g4g.org.uk	Flame CCR Radio: MW 1521 or Internet DAB GNBA Show: Weekdays 10.30am

Save the
date!

GNBA Conference

at The Hayes Centre, Derbyshire,
to celebrate our 70 year anniversary!

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October 2024

With speakers: Derek Stringer, Stephen Thompson, Tom Ward.

More details to follow.



GOOD NEWS
BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

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