



INSIDE THE COCOON

*A newsletter for supporters
of Chrysalis Arts Trust*

SUMMER 2007

EASTER PEOPLE

This year there was just one Easter People site in Blackpool and it was not only the 20th anniversary of the event, but also the very last Easter People ever! Friday night was a celebration of the last 20 years and a nostalgic trip down memory lane with various speakers, performers, organisers and team members from past to present contributing their own particular memory. Chrysalis performed the ever popular Millennium Medley, which seemed very appropriate under the circumstances!

On Saturday afternoon the Chrysalis mainteam were asked to provide music for the Easter People Birthday Party Celebration. Many members of the audience came forward with their own testimonies of how they had experienced God working during various Easter People events. The afternoon culminated in a giant birthday cake being wheeled in as 1000's of people in the opera house and the ballroom sang Happy Birthday simultaneously via a live video link— all very rousing and encouraging!

For the Saturday evening we put together a new programme entitled 'Love is a Many Splendoured Thing' with the usual variety of music, drama, comedy and chat. Music included a medley from 'West Side Story', the Carpenters 'Goodbye to Love' (with Andy playing the classic guitar solos at full belt), 'For Good' from the stage show 'Wicked' (Mandy manages to get at least one song from this show in each year!) and a couple of songs from the last Chrysalis album, 'Ecllosion'. The evening was, as ever, designed to take people on a journey culminating in gently communicating the truth of how much God loves us.

Early next day Elaine and Derek were invited to take part in Rob Frost's Radio show live from the foyer of The Winter Gardens! They were able to share the vision of Chrysalis with a far wider audience than those just present at the concerts!

2007 bought the curtain down for Easter People and it was wonderful to be there on the last ever fringe night and to hear the great audience reaction to our performance. As we trundled away from the sea, sand and 'kiss me quick' hats of Blackpool we will indeed have many fond memories of being part of the team

CLASSICAL CHRYSALIS

... will be presenting aspects of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', together with well loved and popular Christmas music, in an entertaining, relaxing and thought provoking concert for Christmas.

If you would like to book this Classical Christmas Concert contact the office

— but hurry to avoid disappointment as there are only a few available dates left!



Blowing Your Cover is an evangelism training package designed to equip and release people to confidently share their faith among their family and friends.

It consists of six training sessions which will take the mystery and guilt out of evangelism & equip Believers to effectively share their faith.

Once we realised what a close synergy there was between BYC and ourselves we arranged to meet the Director Kevin Higham. As a result of that meeting of minds we have agreed to be partners wherever we can. BYC have agreed to put us in touch with 600 like minded Churches. We are excited by the opportunity this partnership will bring to plant many, many more Gospel seeds

www.blowingyourcover.com



Keith Haward
Chairman of the Trustees

A Note from Keith

In our last Newsletter, we heard from our Development Director, Jo Foster, about her first few months with Chrysalis. She certainly achieved a lot in a short space of time. However, as some of you may know, earlier in the year, Jo discovered that she had breast cancer. An operation to remove the lump was successful, but the chemo and radio therapies inevitably took their toll, and Jo had to give up work to rest.

As you can imagine, this made us all stop and think (brought us to our knees, in fact!) as we wondered what God's plan could be. After much prayer, all the Trustees believed God was telling us to put the five and ten year plans on hold for six months. Having made such an encouraging start, this was a difficult decision to take. However, Jo has now completed half the treatment, and can't wait to get back to the office in September.

As always when working with the Lord, there are lessons to be learnt. It made us realise that we should not try and do too much in our own strength, for without God, we can do nothing. We need to pray continually and not just when problems occur. We know God has great plans for Chrysalis so we are looking forward to the autumn and especially to 2008

POLAND MISSION TRIP

On April 18th Clive and Mandy from Chrysalis with Sylane Mack and Lydia Austin from 'Transformed by Grace' joined up with Roman Baronowski from the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association to be part of a week long mission to various cities and towns in Poland.

From prisons to schools to cafes to hotels to churches to radio stations – the venues for the 11 events were very varied. We met a huge variety of people from diverse backgrounds and it was a great experience. Less than 0.1% of Polish people are Christians and so it's not an easy place to be one, but the churches out there are so passionate in their love for Jesus and for their fellow countrymen that it is mind blowing! Practically and spiritually they really get alongside people and share the love of Christ. Distributing food parcels to the homeless twice a week and providing a weekly meal after Sunday services was how one church in the town of Lublin practically shared the love of Christ. A small faithful group of Christians in Lodz regularly visited and led meetings in the prison and had such love in their eyes for the prisoners that spoke volumes.

The events would start with Clive playing background piano as guests arrived – this really created a warm atmosphere and encouraged conversation. Mandy would then perform a few songs with Clive accompanying, Sylane would speak and then we would sing one or two more numbers to round off the event!



It was great to see people genuinely connect with Sylane's real life story of how she was in a living hell and now totally out of it, normal and fully healed all because of the power and grace of God. To see people grasp that there is a way out of whatever painful place they have been in the past through freedom in Christ was always amazing. The statistic that something like one in five people have suffered some form of abuse in the past is quite staggering. Many suffer silently and think there is no way out so when we saw women talk to Sylane afterwards, often in tears, this seemed such a new beginning from what maybe was years of guilt and pain.

So, 11 events, 9 outreach events, 461 total attendees, 112 1st time decisions, and 114 requesting more information and attending the follow up event the following week.

And finally – one particular poignant thing that I will always remember is seeing a huge run-down old building with the roof caving in. When I asked

what it was, I was told that it was a synagogue and had fallen into this state and just left there to decay after the war as there was no-one left to go there. Apparently even to this day, the few Jews now in Poland will sometimes not know they are Jewish until their Father on his deathbed 'admits' the truth of their identity – such is the stigma and shame still associated with being a Jew in Poland.

Your prayers for the ongoing mission work in Poland, for the faithful Christians there, for the new believers and the seeds which were sown during our time would be much appreciated and valued. Thank You



BREAKFAST IN LEIGH ON SEA

What a greeting awaited us - smiling faces, help unloading our gear, hot tea and coffee ~ all at shortly after 8 in the morning at Eastwood Baptist Church, Leigh on Sea.

The Church had been set out for a sumptuous Scandinavian breakfast of cheeses, meats both mild and spicy, croissants, rolls, eggs, pastries, fruit, yoghurt, tea and coffee on tap ~ I'm sure to have forgotten many things from the list due to the vast array that was provided for a hungry church full of people.

After breakfast the cabaret team provided the entertainment with a well received programme taking the audience on a journey through the different types of love we encounter in life, culminating in the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus. We continue to pray for the seeds that were sown during that morning event, and for the church as they seek to reach out to the community in such a heart felt and sincere way.

Some men have an annoying habit of jingling the change in their pockets.

Well now we enclose the perfect remedy - an attractive Chrysalis 'piggy bank'!

Just dropping in the odd bit of change at the end of the day will make a positive contribution to our efforts to drop the seed of the Gospel into people's lives.

Thank you for your partnership with us in this Good News Ministry



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