

Spearhead *NEWS*

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*Standing in
the Gateway
to Europe*



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THE MIGHTY MEN'S
CONFERENCE



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Spearhead Blog

If you would like to keep up to date on all our news as it happens you can sign up for our blog by going to our website and clicking on the button like the one on the left then follow the instructions.



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ABOUT SPEARHEAD MINISTRIES

Spearhead is an evangelistic association that seeks to envision, equip and enable churches of all backgrounds to effectively reach their communities for Jesus. It is headed up by Tim & Kim Grant. They have two older children and two grand children. Since becoming Christians in the seventies they have been involved in a number of church plants, one of which Tim pastored for ten years. They have travelled the world extensively ministering and preaching the Good News. They are committed to seeing the church released and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.



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“God will make a way where there is no way” seems to have been our constant confession over the last year and it has increasingly become our reality.

This year has once again stretched our faith to places that it has never been before. At times this has been extremely uncomfortable and at other times totally exhilarating as we have seen God meet our every need.

There have been two main focus areas for ministry this year; the UK and Eastern Europe.

It was a great blessing to be part of the small team that came together to bless the men of our nation through the Mighty Men’s Conference with Angus Buchan. There were no big names in the team, just ordinary men with a vision to bless. To this end we decided that the event should be free of charge enabling anyone who wanted to come in these recessionary times to be there. What a blessing it was to see our big tent fill up with over seventeen hundred men all hungry for more of God. The level of unity amongst the team was amazing and it would have been worth doing the event just to have experienced that on its own. But of course God did so much more, over thirty men gave their lives to the Lord for the first time and the emails telling of everything else that happened just keep coming.

The event cost a huge amount of money, a sum way beyond any of our means individually or as a team. Yet God supplied! The only offering we took up came to tens of thousands of pounds but still left us tens of thousands short. Yet without saying anything to people outside of the team unless directly asked, the Lord reminded us that He is our source of supply by wonderfully meeting our need.

Spearhead also launched a leadership training school for gypsy pastors and those aspiring to ministry. This was much in need as many have no formal training and often their only example is a form of very legalistic pentecostalism. Not being a teacher I was stepping way out of my comfort zone but over fifty turned up at the first weekend and the feed back over the months has been very encouraging.

I am also greatly encouraged by all the people who have come to know the Lord in one of our Big Tops, it has been another amazing year on that score. During 2012 I have met a number of other tent evangelists and have been encouraged by their

testimonies of what’s happening under the canvas of their tents. It seems that God still uses tents to meet with His people as He has done ever since His presence dwelt there in Old Testament times.

Over the last three years I have been challenged by much that has been reported on the news about people’s response to the worldwide economic recession and that we are “in this world but not of this world”. We are encouraged by our Lord to be generous givers and not just in the good times. The Lord laid a phrase on my heart that unlike the world we need to “sow in a time of famine” and sow generously. We had been given a donation which we had set aside to buy a bigger truck but felt that we should give it away. Having done this we almost immediately saw gifts come in that replaced our giving. Once again I thought that we might use this to buy our bigger truck but yet again God encouraged me to give it away, this time to emerging churches in Eastern Europe. The Bible teaches us that if we sow sparingly we will reap sparingly. But if we sow generously we will also reap generously!

The doors in Europe just keep opening and in the next year I will be ministering in three missions schools, one in Bulgaria, one in Macedonia and another in Belarus. We continue to work in Croatia, Serbia and the Ukraine. I will also minister at a number of conferences on evangelism in Europe and we are currently talking with Christian television in Bulgaria about recording a series of programmes. I am involved in the Europe Ablaze Festival in Portugal in early summer.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has supported us again this year whether financially or through your prayers, by words of encouragement or by being part of one of our teams. Without your support we could not do what we are doing. You are all wonderful! My prayer is that God will bless you in everything you put your hand to. I hope you enjoy this copy of Spearhead News and find the contents encouraging.

Tim Grant

Spearhead World Mission Teams

When Jesus commissioned those first disciples to “go into all the world and preach the gospel”, He wasn’t just talking to those few early believers, He intended that all of us should fulfil the Great Commission! Together we can make an even greater impact in this world.

There are many ways you can get involved with Spearhead to help us see our vision fulfilled. You can come on one of our short term mission trips (normally 1 or 2 weeks) as part of a team or, if you like driving big trucks and taking in some wonderful scenery, then you could be on our driving team which transports our tents across Europe or you could do a bit of both!

We also need volunteers to help with planning and logistics here in the UK and are looking for people to be part of our video production team.

For more information email teams@spearhead.org.uk



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Standing In The Gateway To Europe



Late October found me standing in 'The Gateway to Europe' Lagos in the Algarve (Algarve meaning 'gateway') in Portugal meeting with ministries from around Europe and some from even further afield. We came together to pray and discuss "Europe Ablaze" Fusion Festival of Faith which is planned for June 2013.

In response to a prophetic word we had all been invited to come and pray for the nations of Europe and to seek God as to how together we might host an event that would help equip believers and encourage them to live their lives on fire for God and so ignite the people of Europe to once again live with a passion for Christ.

The festival is to be a mixture of worship, praise, teaching, the prophetic and evangelism with all the Ephesians 4 ministries working together to equip the saints to move in the dynamic of the Holy Spirit and any of the gifts they might need for the work God has for them. All this is to take place in the gateway to Europe as a prophetic act in itself. The amphitheatre which is within the old walled town of Lagos which seats two thousand people has already been booked and the local authority has given its use for free.

What a privilege it was to be invited to be a part of this. Individually none of us felt able to fulfil the vision, yet together with God we know nothing is impossible.

My visit coincided with the start of forty days of twenty four hour prayer for the nation of Portugal and the other nations of Europe and there was a real sense of God's presence as we interceded.

On the Sunday I was asked to minister the word to the church and the group of ministers gathered together. During the service there was a tangible sense of God's presence and as I preached I felt a great anointing. After people were ministered to the pastor reported that he felt it had been the best time that they had ever had together and someone else said that they felt God had told them it had been a spiritual watershed moment for the church in Lagos.

That evening the anointing continued to flow amongst the group of us that had gathered together to plan the event next June. One lady was completely set free from the arthritis that had crippled many of her joints which she demonstrated by now dancing around the room. Others were set free from fear and there was a great outbreak of laughter. I believe these were just the first fruits of what God has planned for next June's festival!



1700 MEN ATTEND THE **MIGHTY MEN'S** CONFERENCE



I returned from Pateley Bridge in North Yorkshire where at the end of May some 1700 men had come together for the Mighty Men's Conference with Angus Buchan. It must have been about nine months ago when I was first approached by Ian Gray with a vision to host a men's conference in the Nidderdale Agricultural Show Ground. My response to his request was, "We don't normally do this sort of thing but I will pray about it". Having done so I felt God said to me that it's good to serve other people's visions at times. So for a few months I have travelled to meet with a small group of men from greatly differing

backgrounds and jobs, all of whom God had brought together to see the vision fulfilled. Over those months of planning we have grown together as friends and seen God do many great things.

On the 21st May myself and a small Spearhead team from around the country traveled to Yorkshire to join with sixteen local guys to put up both of our tents; the 3000 seater and the 1500 seater. The larger would form the main meeting venue and the smaller provide cover for the catering and book stall etc. Over the next three days we saw God do many great things and the unity among the team that was on site to prepare for the weekend was phenomenal. Both tents went up without any problems and the lighting, staging and PA were installed efficiently.

On the Friday men started to arrive on site; some were camping while others were staying in local B&B's. The sense of God's presence was incredible. When we started to worship together that evening it was amazing to be one with such a large group of mostly Christian men giving God honour and praise. The worship could be heard in the villages around Pateley Bridge especially as with one accord we declared our "Amens!"

Angus encouraged us over the weekend to take up our responsibilities as Christian men and to be ready





Angus and Tim

to make a difference. At the end of the first evening Angus called men forward who did not have a relationship with the Lord to come and make a commitment and ten guys went forward.

Over the weekend around thirty men came to accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. It was great to watch as fathers and sons, brothers and friends were united in faith. In addition to these eternal changes many others had their lives changed, the testimonies of which are still coming in from all around Britain of all that God did throughout the weekend whether in the meetings or on the campsite or indeed over a meal in the refectory tent.

All too soon the men were leaving again to return home, lives challenged to be the leaven that will bring about a change in their neighbourhoods, work places and families. What a privilege it was to be involved in this life transforming weekend. I have made friends that I feel sure will be life long and wonder for what further adventures of faith God might bring us together again in His Kingdom.

It was fantastic this year when I was given the opportunity to work for God in a practical way with the Spearhead team of guys at the Mighty Men's Conference. Seeing a vision come to life and being an integral part of it was something special in itself and along with spending time with other amazing guys I felt truly blessed! I welcomed the opportunity to learn from them and grow with them.

I count The Mighty Men's Conference as one of my most treasured memories. Seeing that many men come together to worship God still blows my mind and this event has shown me where my passion lies; working with men. Having the opportunity to help run a team of guys, getting to feel how the Holy Spirit was increasing His Presence within the tent as the days spent setting up went by was truly a gift I will not forget.

Spearhead do a fantastic job and I'm so glad that I had yet another chance to work with them and I hope I will again in the future.

Truly can't wait to see what else God's got in store!

Adam Wilson



Bob, Adam, Tim and Slava
The Spearhead Team



GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

Where There Is No Way!



I first met Edik the senior ministry at City Of Life Church in 2010 and we both felt an immediate link in the Spirit. This resulted in me ministering at the church planting school and also to the church itself.

During this visit, in addition to ministering at the conference, Slava and I spent time encouraging Edik and his senior leaders. They shared their plans to plant a new church in a city about 250km from Uzhgorod and asked for our support in this venture. It is such a privilege to be able to assist the emerging church in this ex - Communist country and help them establish strong believers who are seeking to live their lives to please God when corruption is seen by many in the nation to be the only way to survive.

Sadly our return journey was not as smooth as our outward trip! The Hungarian border crossing took four hours in comparison to the twenty minutes on our entry to the Ukraine. It seemed impossible that we would make our flight as the gate was due to close in an hour when we had a drive of nearly two hours to get us from the border to the airport. My confession was that God would make a way. On arrival at the airport we discovered that the gate had closed half an hour earlier. In response to our request to re-open it, a phone call was made and the gate and security staff returned and allowed us to pass through and join the other passengers as they boarded the flight. Our God can always make a way for his children no matter who you are or what your situation is. He's the God of the seemingly impossible!

In late November Slava Nod and I travelled to the Ukraine. I was privileged to be the guest speaker at a joint celebration of the "Church Planters School" graduation and City Of Life Church's eleventh anniversary in Uzhgorod in the west of the Ukraine. The journey there has been made much easier with the opening of Debrecen airport in Hungary by Wizz Air. It is now only a three hour drive to Uzhgorod from there instead of an eighteen hour over night train journey.

The Ukraine is an amazingly big country which has been plagued by corruption since the fall of Communism and the churches have been through really tough times but are still standing and seeking to move on with God and to enter into all He has for them. That is one of the reasons why this graduation is such a significant event. Please pray for the students as they seek the Lord as to where He is leading them now.

A WIDE OPEN DOOR IN THE BALKANS

Early in December I embarked on a trip to Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bulgaria to encourage church leaders, teach in their churches and speak at evangelistic events throughout these Balkan nations. It seems that there is an ever growing number of opportunities for sharing the gospel in this part of Europe. I am reminded of Paul's words in his letter to the Corinthians, "for there is a wide open door for a great work here, and many people are responding. But there are many adversaries" (1 Cor 16:9). This seems so true for this area at this time and I'm sure we need to make the most of this opportunity.

Eighteen months ago I visited Drljan in Serbia on the Hungarian border to help a new church plant which consisted of around thirty believers. On the evening I ministered some seventy people responded for salvation and healing, over doubling the size of the church. My following visit resulted in a further twenty people responding for salvation plus many for healing. This third visit saw fifteen more respond for salvation and about a hundred came forward for ministry for healing. The church now has around a hundred people attending on a regular basis.

With the church in Subotica I am helping to develop an outreach strategy to reach their community. With many of the villagers of Hungarian descent leaving the area for the EU, the demographic of this region is radically changing as they are being replaced by Serbian nationals.

In Croatia I am privileged to be working with a lively, youthful church desperate to move into

all God has for them and this visit saw many moving in the gifts of the Spirit for the first time.

From here I travelled on to Macedonia, a trip which seemed might be impossible due to the heaviest snowfall that they have had in years and many roads were closed. I started my journey with my case on a sledge as we walked through three feet of deep snow, then into a car to the bus station and from there two bus rides on to Skopje. I had been asked to meet with a pastor to talk about evangelism and his desire to run a missions school and host a conference to encourage the evangelistic gift within the churches in Macedonia.

This done, we embarked on a five hour drive over the mountains in thick snow to minister at the leadership training school we are running in Bulgaria. This was a particularly nerve wracking trip as the car we were being driven in hit ice and almost left the road to go over a cliff with a hundred and fifty foot drop. Crash barriers are a novelty in this part of the country!

Yet these trials are small fry in comparison to the adversaries churches experience in this part of Europe. Often churches that are not Orthodox are considered sects and experience considerable persecution for preaching the Good News. Please pray for them.



Mission in Malo Kanare (Bulgaria)

Last June saw Bob Mullins and I drive Spearhead's 7.5 ton truck through Europe down to Bulgaria and the three day trip went without any major problems. The border crossings were slow but much quicker than they have been in previous years ~ only four hour delays rather than the eleven hour delays we have had previously and virtually no queues at all.

We arrived in Bulgaria a whole day before the team primarily from Dursley was due to fly in to Sofia and this enabled us to sort out a few minor details and rest after our long drive.

The next day the team arrived around midday fairly tired from their journey as some of them had left home before midnight the day before to travel to Gatwick for a very early departure. And yet later some turned up to help put the tent up in the relative cool of the evening. Temperatures had been reaching 35°C during the day.

As always in Gypsy areas the excitement of the tent going up in the community was at an amazing level. They are so grateful that anyone should come to their patch.

The next morning we hit the ground running; breakfast was at 7am followed by the team meeting at 8am and down to the tent for 9.30am to prepare for the children's ministry at 10am. Children came from every direction and slowly filled the tent to take part in teaching from the Bible, puppets speaking Bulgarian, action songs, face painting and loads of fun activities for two hours every morning. The kids loved it and the team seemed to love it almost as much!

Due to conditions imposed by the local authority we were not allowed to have any activity in the tent from noon till 4pm. This gave a chance for the team to have some down time and to try out a new pool complex between the village we were working in and the town where we were staying and was greatly enjoyed by all!

4pm saw the team back at the tent to work with the youth for two hours who enjoyed fellowshiping with the team, singing songs and dancing as well as being encouraged in their faith.

6pm saw either women or men from the village and surrounding area arrive for teaching specifically for them. Kim courageously tackled the teaching for the women answering their sometimes forthright questions! Noel Fellowes and I taught the men, again getting into some deep and searching questions.

During the evening different members of the team went out to minister in churches in other towns and villages while the bulk of the team stayed at the tent. Gypsy worship teams had been invited to minister in the tent each night and lead greatly differing times of worship. Members of the team shared their testimonies and the local church put on some drama. All this was followed by Noel or I presenting the gospel.



During the week over a hundred people responded to the Good News and made Jesus Lord of their lives. Praise God! At the end of every evening we prayed for the sick and we estimate that we ministered to over a thousand people during the course of the week. The meeting rarely finished before 10pm which, by the time things were shut down and we were back to the hotel, meant dinner was often after 11pm and to bed by the early hours of the morning.

The mission was once again life changing for both those being ministered to and those who were ministering. The whole of the team has expressed a desire to return this year and in addition many from their home churches are already expressing an interest in joining us.



The Basics is filmed in Bulgaria



For some time I and those who have travelled with me have seen the need to teach believers in the Bulgarian churches the foundational truths of our faith in God so that they might press on to maturity as outlined by Hebrews 6:1-3.

In many gypsy churches there is not much grace in evidence, in fact significant degrees of legalism are common leading to fear which keeps the believers from having the relationship that God really wants with them.

This was brought home to me during a recent trip when a lady who ministers regularly in her home church shared that she sometimes only attended church meetings out of fear of what God might do to her or her family if she did not turn up! To me this revealed something of the way she saw God; not as a loving Father but rather as a vengeful master, a view which would always limit her relationship with Him.

Now I believe that meeting together as the church is important but our motivation is to be one of love for God and for His people and a desire to spend time with both, encouraging each other and worshipping Him. The Bible tells us that 'perfect love casts out fear' 1 John 4:18. God loves us as sons and daughters and we don't need to fear Him or coming into His presence.

So having talked with many of the pastors we work with, we felt that it was right to draw together those in ministry and those emergent ministries and seek to teach them the basic truths of the Christian faith. Our heart is to equip them and see them move on to become mature in their faith and encourage others to do the same. Paul writes to the Colossians in Col 1:28, 'we proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone complete in Christ.'

So in October with much excitement from the fifty or so

attending we came together for a weekend. The delegates represented around eight or nine churches from the Plovdiv area and we set ourselves to study and discuss the Word of God looking specifically at the tenets of our faith. We were also joined by a team from Bulgarian Christian TV who recorded and filmed the weekend so that those attending could review the teaching at a later date and pass it on to members of their churches. Many of the gypsies do not read or write too well so simply giving out notes is of limited use although all materials were translated and we did make notes available for each session along with the audio and video recordings.

Mostly it was a great weekend where we had fun and learned together. Sadly there were a few 'friends of friends' who had come along with a misunderstanding of what the time together was about and as the weekend progressed took their leave. Overall it was a profitable time together and the feed back has been positive so we are continuing to meet on a monthly basis to look at Biblical teaching on various specific topics.

Please pray for us that we will have God's wisdom in this time together as we continue to seek to lay Biblical foundations in the believers' lives.



TIME FOR HARVEST MISSION SCHOOL

BULGARIA AUTUMN 2013

Autumn this year will see the establishment of our first missions school where we will be seeking to train and equip Christians from throughout Europe to effectively share their faith.

Christianity is seeing unprecedented growth throughout much of the world and we have lots to be thankful for. Yet in Europe it seems to be in decline. Not because people are less spiritual but perhaps because they have turned their back on what they perceive to be dead religion. They are looking for spirituality which is relevant to modern life. Clearly we are not getting our message across effectively.

So working in partnership with two other evangelistic ministries we plan to offer a three month course to help train and equip students to fulfil the Great Commission. The course will take place in Sofia in Bulgaria. There will be two months of lectures and practical workshops followed by a month long mission somewhere in Europe. The lectures and workshops will be lead by ministries from throughout Europe and the USA all of whom have years of experience working in a mission field and have a passion to see our Lord's desire fulfilled that 'no one should perish'.

If you are interested in attending the Missions School or would just like more information you should register your interest by emailing admin@spearhead.org.uk and we will contact you as soon as it is available.

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