

# Connect

News from the *Newfrontiers* family of churches in the UK

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## ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD



# how do you **EAT** to the **glory** of **GOD?**

**H**ave you ever stopped to ask yourself that? I must confess that I rarely consider my lunchtime a God-glorifying occasion! For that matter, how do you drink to the glory of God? Paul tells us we should. In fact, he says ‘*Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God*’ (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Whatever else this verse may have to teach us, I think it illuminates one simple, yet easily forgotten truth: Everything matters to God.

God is not simply concerned with so-called spiritual things: prayer, prophecy, evangelism, church planting, though He cares very much about each of those. ‘Whatever you do’ covers the broad span of life, from housework to leisure activities, childcare to office work. God wants to, and deserves to, be glorified in *everything*.

From the very beginning of Genesis, our call as people made in the image of God has been to cultivate, protect, take care of and bring order to God’s creation. We have been tasked with bringing out the beauty in all He has made.

This was the theme of our recent *Everything Conference*. Held at two locations, London and Leeds, we gathered over 1,000 people for a day of equipping, building relationships, and teaching on how to be salt and light wherever God has placed us. We had a great time, and I was thrilled by the palpable sense of energy and excitement that characterised the day.

It was great to meet people involved in all areas of society; caring for the needy in their communities, serving God diligently in shops, offices and public services across the nation, striving to glorify Him through the arts, or operating at a high level within the legal and healthcare professions. Each had their own stories of challenges faced, battles won, and work achieved to God’s glory.

This conviction that everything matters to God should mark us out increasingly in the coming

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**newfrontiers**

a worldwide family of churches *together on a mission*



## 'The Earth is the Lord's, London and everything in it'

— Psalm 24:1

Sat 26 March 2011

Queen Elizabeth II  
Conference Centre  
Parliament Square  
London

[everythingconference.org](http://everythingconference.org)

years. It needs to become part of our 'DNA'. As we plant churches and preach the gospel, we must also care for the poor, and equip people to shine in every part of life. We must be as diligent in our raising up of leaders in commerce, as we are church planters. We must invest in our artists as well as our elders. We must hold together what many would seek to pull apart; God has called us to plant churches and be salt and light in the wider world.

It is our hope that the *Everything Conference* will continue to be a great encouragement to many to give themselves to work for the common good, and to develop the best in everything God has created. So, I am delighted to announce that *Everything 2011* will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster opposite Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament on **26 March 2011**. Andy Crouch, author of *Culture Making*, has agreed to join us as our keynote speaker. Andy is an extremely engaging communicator, and his book has been formative for many of us as we've thought through our call to renew culture.

I am excited by the potential of this combination of a deep commitment to church planting and serving our communities and the surrounding culture. This edition of *Connect* explores both aspects of that calling. As you read it, I hope you will be encouraged by the stories of people making a difference wherever God has placed them. I hope you will feel stirred about how you can personally get involved.

David Stroud



[www.everythingconference.org](http://www.everythingconference.org)

# CHURCH PLANTING - IT'S WHO WE ARE



**Jeremy Simpkins**  
leads **Christ Central**  
**Manchester** and also  
supports **David Stroud's**  
**UK Team** by overseeing  
churches in the north UK.

## Our promises in God

God instructed Adam to fill the earth, promised Abraham that all the nations would be blessed through him, and Jesus commanded his followers to go into all the nations preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

As followers of Christ, these promises are our inheritance. And as I take hold of these imperatives I am convinced that they will only be fulfilled as we plant healthy local churches right across the UK and in so doing equip the saints to be salt and light in every community!

I am aware that this is a huge mission and I thank God that we are not alone in this - many other believers across the UK are hearing the same call.

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God has spoken to us prophetically about fulfilling this call to start churches in stages:

Firstly, to climb the 'hill' of 400 churches and then to move to conquer the 'mountain' of a thousand churches. This is not to be our final destination as we continually explore the Himalayas of God's purposes in the UK - only God knows what Everest we will scale in this generation!

## Looking back to propel us forward

Sometimes it's good to stop and see where you've come from:

Almost 20 years ago Ann and I moved to Eastbourne to serve one of only two *Newfrontiers* church plants in the whole of the UK! As the 20th Century drew to a close we were propelled north where one region in the North East was planting two new churches - one in York (with Steve and Ruth Hurd) and one in Teesside which we came to lead.

Now a decade later... and Jubilee Church, Teesside has grown to over 300 and has successfully planted new churches in Hartlepool and Hull. Ann and I have just moved to Manchester to help the re-launch a church, while Steve and Ruth are moving to plant a new church in Huddersfield!

In fact our North UK team is now actively working with 16 new plants - it's amazing the acceleration God has enabled in a few years.

I honestly believe that God has placed church planting in our spiritual genes - it's who we are and it's what we are called to do.

## Planting churches in Northern Ireland

One our most strategic churches is in Belfast; the capital of Northern Ireland. With 65 per cent of the population under 35, this is the youngest and fastest growing population in Europe – but also has some of its most deprived and divided communities.

Redeemer Central was birthed over a year ago when four people started to meet in David and Trish Capener's living room. It now gathers up to 60 on a Sunday!

David Capener reports; 'it has been so exciting to watch as God has gathered people from different walks of life to join together in community and on mission to this great city. We have seen God do remarkable things amongst us – people have connected again with Jesus, experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, found new purpose in life and become better disciples and disciple makers. Our church planting vision is to see multiple expressions of "Redeemer" right across the city and new churches established in each of the major cities and towns of Northern Ireland.'

Part of this vision is to regularly gather with other church leaders from across the nation for worship, prayer and teaching. We have experienced a hunger for new expressions of church right across the land.

Our next major event is the church planting conference Redeem:Cities with speakers including David Stroud (ChristChurch London) and Mark Driscoll (Mars Hill, Seattle).

So why not come and join us in Belfast and experience the exciting journey that we are on!



### REDEEM CITIES

Mark Driscoll  
&  
David Stroud

Tue 16 — Wed 17,  
November, 2010

St Anns Cathedral,  
Belfast

Redeem Cities is a two—day conference, providing an opportunity to gather with leaders, church planters and those interested in hearing more about how the church can transform culture, cities and nations.

Main speakers include Mark Driscoll (Mars Hill Church, Seattle) and David Stroud (ChristChurch London), with Tim Chester (Crowded House Network & author of Total Church) and worship led by Stuart Townsend (Church of Christ the King, Brighton).

Visit [redeemercentral.com](http://redeemercentral.com) for more information & booking details.



# Everything

## CONFERENCE 2010



Matthew Hosier leads Gateway Church, Poole. He is married to Grace and they have four daughters and a menagerie of animals.



**THIS YEAR'S EVERYTHING CONFERENCE, HELD BOTH IN LONDON AND IN LEEDS, WAS AN EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT IN OUR DESIRE TO BECOME MORE CULTURALLY ENGAGED. WE FEEL LIKE WE ARE TAKING BABY STEPS IN THIS, BUT KNOW IT IS HUGEY IMPORTANT.**

Everything connects (did you see what I did there?!) and we want to help people join the dots. Often our churches have been very good at helping followers of Jesus understand what it means to be born again, and we have worked hard at building churches where the gospel is clear and spiritual gifts exercised. However, we have perhaps not been so good at helping church members understand how the gospel connects with their normal, everyday life.

What does it mean to be a Christian in the workplace? And in what ways are believers meant to be involved in culture? We have just come through a hotly contested general election – but in what ways should Christians be engaged politically?

It is these kinds of questions that the *Everything Conference* sought to express and answer. With over a thousand people attending there is clearly a hunger in our churches to gain a larger appreciation of what it means to be a culturally engaged Christian. Whether you are an MP, a graphic designer, or a busy mum, the fact that you are a Christian must have a bearing on how you do your work as an MP, designer or mum. Our hope is that the *Everything Conference* helped people to think about these things with greater clarity, and receive a fresh commission as servants of the Lord, who is Lord of everything, in whatever sphere they have been placed.

Next year the conference is taking place in central London with Andy Crouch, author of the influential book *Culture Making*, as our main speaker. This will help push what we are doing to a deeper level. Meanwhile, the following pages should help you get a snapshot of the topics covered at the conference and a flavour of the things that are making us buzz. In a nation that is increasingly secular, the way in which we live as disciples of Christ becomes increasingly important. Our faith must not simply be one segment of our overstretched lives, but the connecting thread that pulls all the other parts together. If the *Everything Conference* helps us achieve this in some measure, then glory to God!



# THE GOSPEL AND WORK

'ONE OF THE NEXT GREAT MOVES OF GOD WILL COME FROM CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE.'

Billy Graham



Like it or not, we'll spend the majority of our lifetimes at work. No one can escape the stress, sweat and tears that are part and parcel of working life. Rather than enduring it until retirement though, why not ask what could happen if you gave your next few decades to making your work sphere the most God-glorifying it could be?

How would business practices change or news stories be reported? How would marriage be portrayed in film, or education?

The truth is, work is worship. Work, in various forms, is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible. That's more than all the words used to express worship, praise and singing combined!

Jesus chose working men and women, not clergy to change the world, and He's still wanting people to leave their mark on their particular career today; be it government, psychiatry or finance.

Change won't come easily; quick fixes are hard to find – but the future stories of grace, provision and breakthrough will be well worth it, and in the same way that the likes of Wilberforce motivated generations to follow, we might even do that too.



**Andy Tilsley led the Gospel and Work seminar at Everything Conference South. He is married to Joy and he is part of the leadership team at ChristChurch London.**



## TESTIMONY: JEREMY TURNER



**JEREMY SHARED HIS TESTIMONY AT EVERYTHING CONFERENCE NORTH. HE IS PART OF NORTHWEST CHURCH IN LONDON.**

After completing a music degree in 1987 and not really knowing what to do next, I embarked on a PGCE course as a 'back up plan', but then caught God's heart and the real buzz and excitement of 'making a difference in the classroom'. So my journey in education began, and September 2006

saw me taking over the headship of Friern Barnet School in North London - a school that was failing in many respects.

With 110 staff, 800 students (40 per cent with special educational needs, 60 per cent with English as an additional language and a third on free school meals) and only 37 per cent of students achieving five or more good GCSE grades, as well as a £250,000 budget deficit,

there were clearly some major challenges but also so much capacity to improve.

The last four years can only be described as a roller coaster journey – real highs, real lows, loads of prayer and lots of adrenalin!

There is still much to do, but the transformation has been striking. Teaching and learning is at the heart of the school, the curriculum is much more relevant to the students' needs and aspirations, data has been used powerfully to track progress and engage parents in helping all students succeed, the school environment has been improved and children feel safer, happy, are proud of their school and they want to learn. Last year 72 per cent of students achieved five or more A\* - C grades at GCSE.

Staff have made comments such as 'It is like a cloud has been lifted from the place' and 'I can't believe the difference one person can make.' With the King of Kings all things are possible and it has been great to passionately lead and transform a school along Godly principles and as a result to seriously increase the life chances for thousands of students.

# THE GOSPEL AND THE COMMUNITY



Many of our churches have well-developed methods of reaching the communities surrounding our meeting places. We tend to focus on group activities for sections of the community. But what about the communities that we inhabit as individuals?

As we discovered at the *Everything Conference*, we all have many different touch points with widely differing communities. Our working lives bring us into contact with trade unions, staff rooms and social clubs to mention a few.

For others it might be the squash club or golf club or even a motorcycle group. I was fascinated to hear one couple share at the

conference that they have a ministry to disability scooter users!

Many of us have virtual communities - LinkedIn, Friends Reunited, Facebook, Twitter or Bebo. Our challenge here is how we make the gospel relational in virtual communities. But transformation is possible – even vital – in every community that we reach.



**Roger Smith is currently planting Richmond Borough Church with his wife Elizabeth. Roger led the Gospel and the Community seminars at the Everything Conference.**



## TESTIMONY: COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE



During the last recession my husband and I found ourselves in a position where in quick succession we lost a child, our business collapsed and our house sale fell through.

Circumstances far beyond our control left us with huge debts, yet God was able to use this situation to open our eyes to those suffering likewise in our community.

As a result, early in 1997 Burgess Hill Community Church opened a debt advice centre for anyone who needed help, which ranged from form filling through to personal insolvency. Soon demand far outstripped supply and another centre was set up at King's

Church a few miles up the road in Haywards Heath. The vision for this work began to spread, initially through support from *Newfrontiers*, establishing a model to help churches set up money advice centres.

Numbers grew and in 2003 Community Money Advice (CMA), an umbrella charity, was established to provide help, advice and support for both existing centres and those looking to start up.

In 2010 CMA continues to see growing demand for its services. With 95 centres currently across England and Wales it is making a real difference in thousands of individuals' lives which in turn impacts local communities, increasing access to quality face to face money advice across this nation.

**HEATHER KEATES IS A MEMBER OF BARNABAS COMMUNITY CHURCH IN SHREWSBURY. SHE IS MARRIED TO ANDY AND SHE IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ADVISING PARLIAMENT ON POLICY AND CHANGES TO BANKING AND CREDIT REGULATIONS.**

# THE GOSPEL AND THE MIND



**Nick Chatrath is an Elder at Emmanuel Church, Oxford. He is studying for a doctorate in Islamic History at The University of Oxford and is married to Tanja. Nick led the Gospel and the Mind seminar at Everything South.**

Have you ever been made to feel that your Christian faith automatically relegates you to an intellectual slum? Agnostics like John Humphreys recognise this and drive the point home. Yet as Christians we have excellent historical, theological, philosophical and other reasons to say that the mind - in all its rational, moral, and psychological fullness - is authentically our territory.

What would happen if thousands of Christians became songwriters of the calibre of Isaac Watts, novelists like Dostoyevsky, poets like Milton, or scientists like Kepler? One of the important things about these heroes of history is that they used their minds to connect what they were doing with God's great story. You don't need a degree to do all that they did. If you stretch your mind and your gifting you can follow in their footsteps.

I am passionate about the Christian mind. The encouragement to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' (Mark 12:30) refers not to specialists but to all of us. As charismatics who love the Holy Spirit, let us not set up an artificial distinction between the need for spirit and mind. God is both spirit and mind. It is my deep conviction that the mind is vital to Christian discipleship and evangelism.

As Christians we must play a significant role in our nation's intellectual life, be it academia, wider education, politics, business, the arts or elsewhere. Whether you are a sales manager or a teacher, a nurse or a refuse collector, an academic or an administrator, you already use your mind regularly. So consider doing all you can to stretch your mind to the glory of God.



# THE GOSPEL AND THE ARTS



**Matt Hatch is married to Philippa and they have three children. They live in Leeds, where Matt leads Mosaic Church. Matt led the Gospel and the Arts seminars at the Everything Conference.**



From beginning to end, the biblical narrative portrays the ultimate artist, the great creator God making creative people in His image who will join Him in His plans to restore the world.

From the first temple (Eden), to the Tabernacle, and then to Solomon's temple, we see God using the best materials from the best places, with the best artists to bring Him glory and reflect His creative nature. Wonderfully, this mandate and God's creative passion doesn't change in the new, living temple (1 Peter 2:9-12).

But instead of being limited to just the temple or a church building, our lives and our artistry should display to the world how glorious He is.

Each act of creativity has the opportunity to bring God glory and reflect His nature. Every photo, composition, drawing and design can be an act of worship that brings Him glory. Every design studio or architects firm that looks to influence industry and culture is playing its part in God's mandate to renew and restore the earth.

Local churches therefore can value creativity and the arts because God does!



## TESTIMONY: TOM HELYAR CARDWELL

I am a visual artist working in painting and sculpture based in London. I moved here in 2006 to study for an MA in Fine Art, and since I arrived have felt increasingly called by God to pursue a career as an artist who is also a Christian. This is challenging because making any money from art is difficult (I currently make my living through lecturing at an Arts University), and the Art world can be a pretty dark place at times. There is also a pressure as an artist to be very self-focussed and proud.

In response to this, I am trying to live differently, to create work that communicates something of the reality that the universe is founded on Christ as God's creative Word. This doesn't necessarily mean making work with an overt Christian message, but rather setting up foundations for creating righteous culture that is engaged with contemporary debates and is of a high technical standard. That perhaps sums up my working criteria – the pursuit of truth and excellence.



# THE GOSPEL AND GOVERNMENT

Many Christians are 'good Samaritans' and help the victims of injustice and those in need. Some, however, want to improve security on the Jericho Road and reduce the threat of future attacks on unsuspecting travellers. This is politics.

After many decades of disengagement from politics amongst evangelicals there is now a growing conviction that we can and should be involved in the political process. There are many good reasons for this growing conviction – here are two of them.

Firstly, politics can be a means by which we love our neighbours by seeking to improve their lives. Secondly, a democratic political system gives us an opportunity to work for the good of society. Can we really afford to turn our back on this opportunity? Many possibilities exist including prayer, involvement in political parties, becoming elected representatives, supporting pressure groups, befriending MPs. ... The Everything agenda will be seeking to develop these possibilities soon – watch this space!



**Martin Charlesworth leads Barnabas Community Church, Shrewsbury. Martin is married to Jane and they have three daughters.**



## TESTIMONY: REBECCA SMITH

Since graduating, I have had the privilege of working in the European Parliament in Brussels, local government in Plymouth, Conservative Party Campaign Headquarters, and the House of Commons. And have loved it all! Yet when I first did work experience with a local MP after my A-levels and decided I wanted to work in Parliament one day, I couldn't have imagined the opportunities that have since opened up for me.

It would have been easy to assume that only elected politicians have a role to play in politics. However, over the last eight years, I have met

many different people seeking to play their part in the wide arena that is 'politics'. I thank God for the amazing opportunity I have had to influence British politics, working for an MP and helping to shape policy on issues such as youth justice and prison reform.

I am leaving Westminster this year. At this stage I am not sure whether or not I will return in the future. What I do know though is that I will never lose my fascination with politics or my deep-rooted conviction that engaging in politics at all levels is vital if we are to see our nation changed.

# EXPLORING A CALL TO CHURCH PLANTING



**Tony Thompson (Hope Church, Luton) shares the vision behind Base Camp and our goal of a thousand churches in the UK.**

God has encouraged us to ask Him for a thousand churches in the UK and we have an interim goal of 400 churches. We believe God is calling numbers of people to lead church plants. Base Camp helps us identify those whom God is calling as well as supporting and equipping them in their church planting endeavours. How God calls people to church planting varies.

If you are wondering if this is something you may be called to now or in the future I would strongly encourage you to apply to Base Camp as a way of testing the calling.

We attended Base Camp in October 2009 as part of exploring whether God had called us to plant a church. There was a great mix of inspirational and practical teaching over the weekend and we were able to talk to experienced church planters as well as those who were about to plant. This helped to 'debunk' the mysteries and myths about planting churches.

As part of the process, we had a thorough interview and were subsequently asked by our regional leaders to lead an existing church rather than plant a new one, which we believe is right for us, so we are moving to Yeovil this autumn! Base Camp definitely helped to decipher where God was leading us. We may plant in the future, but if not, we can send others to plant. One way or another, we can play a part in planting churches!

*Andy and Sue Baimbridge are currently based at Gateway Church, Poole*

[ukchurchplanting.org/basecamp](http://ukchurchplanting.org/basecamp)