

Seattle

be all things to all people

to England

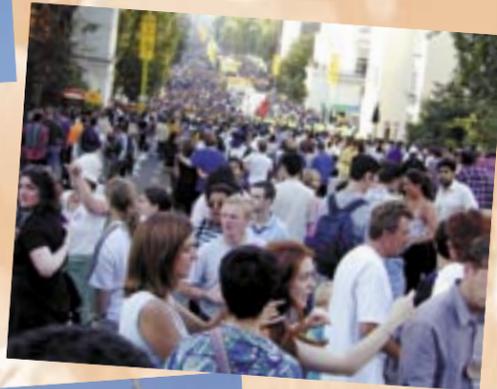
Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing. Acts



...teams took turns playing and preaching...



Seeking to share the Gospel and strengthen the brethren, Calvary Fellowship Seattle's mission team arrived in Britain. They joined with fellowships there to take the Gospel to the streets of London, York and Otley. Like beacons converging, the teams from opposite sides of the Atlantic fortified each other, shining all the brighter as a result.



The outreach team, led by Pastor Wayne Taylor from Calvary Fellowship Seattle, was in Britain just in time to play Christian music and witness to the crowds attending the largest street party in Europe, the Notting Hill Carnival.

"It was as close to hell as I want to get," exclaimed Rob Dingman of Calvary Chapel Westminster. "It was hot, there were surging masses of people everywhere, and huge stacks of loudspeakers pounded out subsonic techno (music) that messed up your heartbeat. We were walking on garbage everywhere."



It was against the backdrop of Notting Hill that Worship Pastor Brett Williams' band, Holy Smoke, hit the streets. They performed "some old blues and country gospel tunes, and a smattering of Beatles, Byrds and Monkees". The Seattle and Westminster teams took turns playing and preaching as 2.5 million people enjoyed music, food, and beer.



Concerns about whether the people would respond to the message or the music faded like mist on a London summer morning. Calvary Westminster's then Senior Pastor Brian Broderson, usually soft-spoken and composed, became quite animated, preaching enthusiastically over the unceasing noise of the crowds. Team members passed out tracts, handed out invitations to church, and shared their faith with those in the crowds.



Told by an official they could not block the sidewalks, the teams requested and received permission to set up in a courtyard where a woman was selling beer out of her kitchen window. Pastor Wayne asked if she minded that they were a Christian



Story by Jan Nelson and Alice Raines Photos by Jan Nelson & Scott Caulfield

band. She answered, "Not if you don't mind that I'm an atheist." She later asked the teams to come back for the Carnival next year.

The ministry of the Seattle team continued in Leicester Square and then in northern England where the team was hosted by Calvary Fellowships in York and Otley. Pastor Dave Sylvester of Calvary Chapel York was glad to see people respond to the combined outreach efforts, and he



was encouraged by the Seattle team's investment of time, money, and energy "in a land that has declined so much from its great Christian heritage."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Peter Aspinall, Calvary Chapel Otley's senior pastor. We were "encouraged to have a visit from our Seattle friends... It was a joy for our church to serve and be served—the value of the one-on-one fellowship can't be estimated."

Peter's son Steve added, "As a young guy growing up around ministry, it is easy to feel isolated in a place like Otley, in a country like England. Encouragement and input from outside is... lacking. I thank the Lord for our time with the Seattle team, not just for the effect it has had on me, but for the encouragement it has been to the people here—such a blessing doesn't come to us too often, but it is one that will be long remembered."



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Brett Williams summed up the trip saying, "We had a lot of good conversations and were able to pray with and for people on the streets. As with any outreach, some were receptive, others were hostile. We pray that the Gospel penetrated their hearts."

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The brethren returning to Seattle were heartened and inspired as well. As Brett Williams put it, "People who step out of their own culture to share the Gospel in other parts of the world invariably come back with the realization that people are the same no matter where you go. We all have the same needs and spiritual hunger. As Paul says in I Corinthians, we, as believers endeavor to be 'all things to all men' so that we might save some. Whether at home or abroad, we are citizens of heaven first."

Please pray for revival in Britain as God's Spirit causes us to "remember the Lord". And pray that our brethren there will be encouraged and strengthened as they continue to be faithful to their call.



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