

NEW LIFE IN NEWCASTLE

Barriers Broken as “Goth” Teens Turn to Christ

Story by Christmas McGaughey
Photos by Caelen Weber



Pastor Drew Davis of CC Newcastle talks to a teen after Bible study.

Drew and Tammy Davis stared in amazement. There in front of them were literally hundreds of “Goth kids”—young people dressed in black and wearing satanic symbols. The newlyweds were visiting Newcastle upon Tyne, England, for the

first time, and the bus had dropped them off at “The Green”—a grassy park in the center of town. As they prayed for and talked to these kids, the couple realized that the teenagers were open to spiritual ideas and had a desperate need for Christ.

They returned to the States and prayed for three years with CC Saving Grace in Yorba Linda, CA, until they were sent out in June of 2001. Now many of the teens have turned to Christ, and Drew pastors Calvary Chapel Newcastle.

Souls in Torment

Many of the Goth youth in Newcastle are mired in self-destructive sins such as promiscuity, suicide, self-mutilation, and Satan worship. One day Drew was climbing the 88 steps to The Upper Room—their Christian coffee shop outreach—when he found a young man covered in blood from cutting himself. “A lot of them are ‘cutters’—they cut themselves; it’s self harm,” Drew explained. “They do it to cope with their pain or bring on their punishment.”

Drew was shocked that no one had stopped to help him. Sitting on the stairs, the boy was sobbing and crying out, “Nobody loves me; nobody loves me.” Drew knelt down and began cleaning him up, saying, “You don’t have to do this. Jesus loves you; He was pierced for you on the cross.” Drew called an ambulance.

“One of the sad things we see is that they are trying to fill that spiritual hunger with so many temporal things,” Tammy said. “A lot of them claim to be bisexual or gay; they are into alcohol, drugs, self-cutting ... We want so much for them to taste the life of God—not to be depressed or disheartened but to know the love of God.”

Doors Slamming Shut

The ministry began well but came to a screeching halt with an avalanche of inexplicable opposition. When they first arrived, the Davises started visiting The Green, establishing relationships with the kids one-on-one, and sharing the Gospel. Many responded to Drew and Tammy’s caring approach. “They were the outcasts of the city,” Drew recalled.

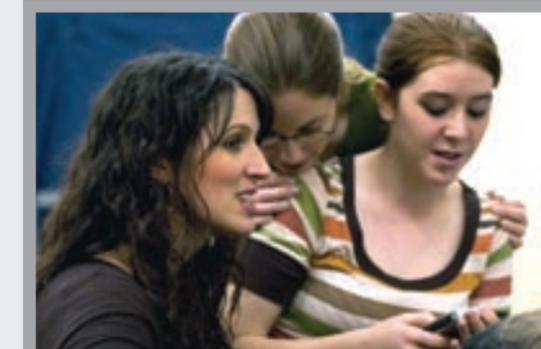
After several months, the couple held a BBQ for the kids. Nearly 40 showed up, but the town police came and said the kids had to leave. Drew explained that the teens had parental permission, and the event was a Gospel outreach. One of the officers said there is no God, and they were not allowed

to share the Gospel with the teens. When Drew asked if he was breaking any law, the policeman simply replied that authorities had “creative ways” of stopping him.

Soon followed a barrage of doors slamming shut in their faces—doors that would stay shut for the next year. The Davises discovered later this opposition was fed by deceit and rumors. Unbeknownst to the couple, one of the teens’ mothers worked with the Child Protection Agency. Disliking Drew and Tammy’s Christian beliefs, the woman spread lies about the couple and filed phony reports. Shortly after the BBQ, Drew received a letter from Child Protection warning him not to meet with the teens anymore. The agency told the local schools that the Davises were a threat, and private and public schools held assemblies to warn students to stay away from the couple.

“We were really disheartened and discouraged; every door was closed,” Drew recalled. “We prayed, ‘God, do You want us to go home?’” For a year they kept reaching out to the kids and seeking God. Three Goth girls from The Green accepted Christ and began attending a midweek Bible study, and the couple formed good relationships with their parents. The Sunday morning fellowship began to grow.

The next January, the Davises went to the CC Missions Conference. During an afterglow service, Drew prayed aloud for



Tammy Davis, left, fellowships with girls.



After Friday night Bible study, Drew, left, talks more in-depth with teens about godly relationships, evolution, Jesus as God and man, and the reliability of Scripture.



Drew and Tammy, seated in chairs, spend time with teens in The Upper Room coffee shop, a Christian refuge for teens in Newcastle.



Drew and Tammy close Sunday service with song and prayer.



Drew teaches with humor, urgency, joy, and animation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Newcastle, England



Tammy, right, embraces a young lady at church during a tearful prayer.

Newcastle. A woman from Africa prophesied that God would do a work with the Goth kids that would impact the city. Just as Chuck and Kay Smith had ministered

to hippies in the 1960s, Drew and Tammy likewise should endure and continue to show love to the kids, and many would eventually turn to Christ.

Pastors Brian Brodersen of CC Costa Mesa and Dave Sylvester of CC York urged many CC fellowships to pray for the Davises' ministry. Finally, at the end of 2002, all of the doors that had slammed shut were miraculously opened in one amazing month.

Enemies Become Allies

At a prayer meeting in England, another woman told Drew the Lord would use all of these things for good through relationships. At another prayer meeting in England, Drew met a man from The Christian Institute—an organization for religious freedom in the UK—who commissioned two top Christian lawyers to contact the police department. A few days later, Drew received a letter of apology from the police chief and full backing for future

evangelistic outreaches. Of the three girls who had gotten saved, one of their fathers was a board member for the Community Center. Soon they were allowed to rent the facility again for church meetings.

Meanwhile, the Child Protection Agency had learned from U.S. police contacts that Calvary Chapel is respected for helping restore many people from substance abuse. The agency discovered the local allegations were false reports started from inside. They dropped their investigation of the Davises. Within a week, some of the school boards met to discuss what to do about Drew and Tammy as a potential harm to the kids. At the meeting, the newly appointed leader walked in—a woman whose daughter had been led to Christ through the Davises. She testified that Drew and Tammy encouraged kids to abstain from sex, alcohol, and drugs, and to honor their parents. When the Child Protection Agency threw out the alleged charges against the Davises, the school board also dropped theirs.

“Within a month, it was all turned around. We now had a positive influence with every governing authority in Newcastle,” Drew recalled. “We were asked to come and share at the university. God opened all these doors for sharing the Gospel. The church started to grow.” Soon, university students, adults, and teenagers were coming.

A Ministry of Restoration

The couple opened a coffee shop, called The Upper Room, near The Green to reach the Goth teens. “It’s a Christian environment for them to get away from the peer pressures of The Green,” Tammy said. Recently, the landlord stipulated that only those who attend the church can come to the coffee shop, so The Upper Room is now used for discipleship and Bible studies with several of the teens who have accepted Christ.

After nearly six years of sowing seeds, loving the Goth kids, and sharing Christ with them, the Davises are seeing fruit. “We

want them to experience the greater reality of God and the life they can have in Christ,” Tammy said. Now 30 teens have turned to Christ, and many have been baptized. Jessy, a young lady who got saved when the Davises first moved to Newcastle, is now attending the CC Bible College in nearby York. Seventy-five people recently attended a church retreat, including several of the Goth teens who accepted Christ.

CC Newcastle has grown to nearly 100 believers, with many involved in weekly Bible classes and home groups. “The older generation in our church just loves the [Goth] kids,” Pastor Drew said. “We have a meal every Sunday after church, and it’s neat seeing them sit together.” They are planning a third, summer “Illum-A-Nation Festival,” featuring Christian bands, to share the Gospel with the community. “With many in our body stepping up to serve, Drew has been able to spend more time focusing on people and pastoring,” Tammy said.

Drew has learned two important things about ministry: to endure and to keep the focus on people, not administration. “I really love these kids, and I’m excited to see what God is going to do in the future through them.” He and Tammy have two children of their own: Caleb, 6; and Joy, 4.



Newcastle upon Tyne, also called Newcastle, is in northeast England.

CC Newcastle
www.calvarychapelnewcastle.com
Abidinginhim@hotmail.com
 011-44-191-241-1515