

Community Of Hope

going on a spiritual journey ... together!



February 2009 - No 5

Office: 30 Leonard Street Bayswater Vic 3153
Phone: 9018 8986 Email: communityofhope@optusnet.com.au

Over 1,000 Seekers Reached In 2008!

During 2008 we were involved in more festivals than in any other year - with more presenters reaching more people in more areas! It is estimated that we have reached over 1,000 people with the gospel of Jesus by having one on one conversations and putting the scriptures into the hands of seekers!

2008 saw the introduction of a new method - Spiritual Illusions - which has been picked up by many presenters, including my 16 year old son. We had two big training nights held at Canterbury Gardens Community Church in Kilsyth during February, demonstrating the methods, discussing outreach and having valuable time to practice the methods and chat about techniques and ideas individual presenters use. This was well attended and gave people the chance to meet from different areas and churches.

Individual prayer for the people we meet has been a higher priority this year, including specific prayer points from seekers going to our always active prayer team.

We also developed our training packs and saw the method training go global on GodTube now called tangle.com

Here are some of the festivals we were involved in:

- MAROONDAH February 2008
- KNOX March 2008
- BERWICK 27 April 2008
- MBS 4-8 June 2008
- ELTHAM 20 July 2008
- MORNINGTON 27 July 2008
- MAROONDAH 14 September 2008
- MALVERN 14 September 2008
- GEELONG 2 November 2008
- WANTIRNA 16 November 2008
- MBS 28-30 November 2008
- COWES 28 December 2008



What's On?

FESTIVALS

COOLAROO

Knox Community Arts Centre
Cnr Mountain Hwy & Scoresby Rd
Bayswater (Melways 64 G3)
SUNDAY 15th February 2009
10.00am to 5.00pm

CROYDON

Maroondah Secondary College
Cnr Maroondah Hwy & Brenthall Rd
Croydon (Melways Ref 50 E3)
Sunday 22nd March 2009
Time 10:00am - 5:00pm

MIND BODY SPIRIT FESTIVAL

Melbourne Exhibition Centre
Fri 5th to Mon 8th June

View a Video go to website below

www.tangle.com/communityofhope

Prayer Points

Let's pray for 2 churches listed below that will be outreaching as a Church on the 28 Feb 2009.

Pray for the organisers
Pray for first time presenters
Pray for the seekers they encounter

Knox Community Baptist Church

Knox Festival
28 February & 1 March 2009
Ferntree Gully Recreation Reserve
Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully

Moe Baptist Church

28th February

"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." [2 Timothy 4:3-5]

Presenter Profile

PAUL & MEL GORMANN

Why did you get involved in The Community of Hope?

Although a committed Christian, I have always had an interest in Spiritual things in the wider sense of the word. A few years ago when Liz and Linley Wilson spoke of the opportunities they had been having at the COH stalls at a number of festivals, I thought 'I might be suited to this ministry!' It seemed that God was telling me to get involved so I did.



What motivates you to remain involved?

It seems that most Christians try to live a good life and will sometimes have a chance to let people know they are a Christian. Occasionally we will get an opportunity to share our faith at a deeper level. However by being involved at a festival I am guaranteed opportunities to speak about Jesus. It seems a natural thing for Christians to be at these 'spiritual supermarkets' so we can tell seekers about The One.

Have you experienced many challenges?

It is wonderful to have meaningful conversations with people about the Christian world view and Jesus. It is a privilege to sometimes have people share their personal details and struggles. What can be frustrating is when people seem to simply accommodate our message in their own world view but fail to grasp the singular importance of cultivating a relationship with Jesus. At a different level it is sometimes difficult to find time to attend festivals given busy family, work and other Christian commitments.

I am becoming increasingly bold in asking people if I can pray with them. Whilst not making this automatic with everyone it is what we can offer to people. Other stalls offer massages and readings, we pray. I would like to see more Christians respond to the opportunities offered in the COH ministry. We are a diverse group and the ministry is dependant on a very small number of committed people who make things happen. If anything happens to them, COH could struggle.

Tell us more about you?

I am a secondary teacher, part time as of this year and live at Boronia. I became a Christian in my early twenties and go to Knox Community Baptist Church where I am involved in Home Group and Sunday School work. The Wilsons are also members at this church so, along with a few others, we are beginning to attend some local festivals. My wife Mel has also been to a few COH activities and we have three adult sons and one grandchild who is very cute.

Moe

Training Day, Moe Baptist Church

In response to a recent request Linley and Elizabeth Wilson travelled to Moe from Melbourne to train what they thought was a small group of people interested in Festival Ministry.

It was a hot Sunday afternoon, and we expected to find four or five waiting for us. Instead there were about 15 or so folk at the church, and by the time we got under way the group had increased to around 25.

What impressed us most was the sincere interest in looking at any method that might more effectively reach their community for Jesus. Everyone listened intently to a short presentation explaining why Community of Hope use these methods, and the concept of helping seekers move up a 'ladder' of steps ranging from no interest to full relationship with Jesus. We also watched one of the clips on our training disc, taken at a working festival, to give a sense of the atmosphere and what it might look like.



We then spent over an hour practicing together at tables in the hall.

Liz and I demonstrated the Love Languages and the Gemstones to watching groups, simulating a festival situation with one of the audience as the 'seeker'. We then coached the onlookers through presentations to each other in different combinations. While some were working hard to remember everything the first time round, others were 'naturals' who sounded like they'd been doing it for years! This group as a whole had a sense of purpose and intentional outreach. They are using borrowed stones and card sets to trial the approach at a small community event on the 28th February, with a view to finding other opportunities as they arise.

Linley Wilson

Some reports from the Mind Body Spirit Festival Nov 2008

Mind Body Spirit festival this year was a wonderful experience. There were many positive conversations. One young woman in her 20's really wanted to know Jesus...so after some questions and attempts to dialogue, she did ask Jesus into her life..a step she wanted to take...she was unusual though and in need of prayer as she either could not, or did not want to communicate more than "yes/no and I want to know Jesus"! I could not ascertain if her English was poor or what the reason was..difficult to communicate with in any depth. She did not want follow up at all...but I trust that Krystal did understand the prayer I prayed with her and that she is now in the family of God. Pray that she will find a church and be disciplined in her faith. That was my first contact for the day, so with tears in my eyes I continued on.... Liz



Although I was only able to be at the MBS Festival for four hours it was uplifting to be able to share my faith in many conversations growing from the gemstones presentation. I felt I was able to empathize with and bring a Christian perspective to conversations with people who had recently been through similar life experiences to me. I was also reminded of the importance of the silent witness of our everyday lives when two sisters who knew nothing of Jesus were able to see the qualities represented by the stones in a Christian friend who was a 'fantastic person who would do anything for you'. My feeling at times was that the MBS is a bit like a spiritual supermarket where people are free to 'pick and mix' their ideas, and it can be hard to communicate that Jesus is the one true God. It was interesting to come across people believing in Scientology, Islam, a Jehovah's Witness and someone from the Australian Church of Antioch!Paul Gormann

On Sat afternoon at the Mind Body Spirit Festival, I was presenting the Love Languages when a man approached me. As he sat down we entered a conversation in which he disclosed a difficult and painful past. Having suffered abuse resulting in mental health issues and suicidal ideation, he was now feeling overwhelmed with the darkness that encompassed his life.



As we discussed his issues, I spoke to him of God's love. This man had previously had a brief relationship with Jesus. However, in dealing with the circumstances of his life at the time, he had wandered off course.

Eager to accept my offer of prayer, Anne and I accompanied him outside where we sat down and prayed together. As we prayed, it was evident that he was experiencing release and healing. He recommitted his life to Jesus.

We returned to the stall where he was given a bible. He stated he would attend a church the following day. Smiling joyfully, he was almost unrecognisable as the man who had approached the stall earlier.

After he left, Anne informed me that at the exact time we had finished praying, she received a text message. It stated that a group had been providing prayer support for us. Another touch of God's grace, providing confirmation and reassurance of His guidance and presence.

Regards, Leigh Woolcock.

Need Resources? Want to know more about the Community of Hope and the methods we use?
Request a FREE Information Pack and DVD! Email: communityofhope@optusnet.com.au

HELP

Looking for Volunteers and help

Community of Hope have normally been funded by a large donation given most years. This has not been able to happen this year and we are grateful for this money in the past which has enable us to go to festivals and give away quality literature. For us to do what we did in 2008 and reach approx. 1000 people with a one on one conversation we need close to \$8000.

Our policy is we don't sell anything and all money donated is given for Cost of Stall Hire - Literature and Bibles-DVDs and training material. If you interested in being involved in this ministry reaching Aussie adults please consider some options below.

**Cheques can be made out to :- Community of Hope
and posted to: 30 Leonard St Bayswater Vic 3153**

Bank Transfer to:- Community of Hope

Bank CBA BSB 063174 Acct 10060853

A receipt will be sent if requested.

We are also looking for volunteers to:

Help as presenters with more stalls being shown this year

People to train interested churches and individuals

Administration / Newsletter

Need more info please contact James Brown Mob 0403 231 209 or

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