

Mission Week Summary Bures Baptist Church

Running up to the team arriving with us May 9th 2014, our trust in God was stretched a lot. As a church we had prayed together and discerned that it was right for us to host a team from Through Faith Missions for 4 nights, however God seemed to be withholding many of the details!

As the time grew nearer, everyone was busy working away, but we still seemed to be behind. Our publicity wasn't finished, one of our hosts was ill so we weren't sure we even had enough beds available, and tickets for our comedy night were selling well, but it turned out the comedian was unwell and might not be coming! We had booked the school to come to our prayer space, but weren't sure of the time, and weren't entirely sure what would be in the prayer space right up to the day before it opened! We knew lots of toddler parents planned to come to our messy prayer art session, but didn't quite know how we'd fit them in, we'd planned a Darby and Joan visit, but Darby and Joan was cancelled, we'd got our 9-13s club on, but didn't know how to manage them in the prayer space, the healing service on Saturday wasn't planned, and neither was our Sunday morning service, and the Sunday lunch was looking a bit sketchy too! It wasn't for lack of work or prayer, but there just didn't seem to be many details that God HAD supplied in advance!

However when the time came, God was in control of each individual event. I was printing the final publicity as the team arrived, which we finished and they helped us to distribute. Beds became available for the team, and they were ferried about brilliantly by their hosts. The Christian comedian we had booked sent a replacement in his stead, Mark Palmer, who was fantastic. People were elated at the end of the night, asking if another one could be arranged, and we had some important conversations and prayer requests that night.

The school visit went smoothly, in spite of the sketchy details, the children engaged with each of the stations, and wrote beautiful prayer requests on our prayer tree, just as our 9-13s club did. By the end of the week there were over 60 prayers on it written by children.

The team had interactions with various new faces across the week, going door-to-door, into pubs, at our events and round the village. One team member commented that they hadn't interacted with a huge number of people (perhaps compared to a town or city mission), but every interaction had been significant. Services came together and were appreciated. Instead of overcrowded the messy prayer art session was more quiet due to rain, and the resultant atmosphere was calm and lovely as children and adults alike made prayer flags and hung them in the church.

We ate like kings, we prayed together and we reached out and blessed our community. It was a catalyst for making things happen that we had prayed for and discussed for so long as a church, and God moved in the lives of many individuals that week, particularly children. We're so grateful to the team, and moreover we are grateful to God for his faithfulness to us when we (nervously) took him at His word!

Cath Brown

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