



Newsletter December 2011

*Eli's sons were wicked men;
they had no regard for the Lord.*
1 Samuel 2:12 (NIV)

That verdict is surely one that any Christian parent dreads above all else when it comes to thinking about their children.

And the strange thing about that verdict is that it is repeated just six chapters later in reference to Samuel's sons. In 1 Samuel 8:3 we are told that *"his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice"*. Two generations of spiritual leadership in Israel and not a single believing child to show for a lifetime of ministry.

Of course, every parent not only needs to do everything that they can to bring their children up in the fear and knowledge of the Lord, they also need to trust in the work of a gracious and sovereign God who may or may not call those children to himself.

And while the primary responsibility of making the Lord known to children rests firmly with parents it is not their responsibility alone. They need to exercise that duty within the context of the community of faith.



The interaction between church and parents and their partnership in this endeavour is well worth thinking about. Ultimately it should impact every aspect of our private and communal life as well as how we see our role as parents, children's and youth workers and church leaders.

We have been spending a great deal of time lately thinking through the implications of this partnership, not only for a parenting workshop that Rory ran in Singapore, but also our week by week ministry in our local church.

Focusing on our partnership with parents is something that needs to be done strategically and intentionally. To that end Rory, together with another father in our church, has begun a fathers' group. 'Deliberately Dad' is a monthly early Saturday morning meeting for men with children under eleven.

It's a great forum where we read a book together, discuss our fears, hopes and dreams for our children as well as the struggles we face as we try to man-up to the challenge of fatherhood. It's also a great time to drink good coffee and pray for one another!

Still Getting REAL

Since the beginning of September our training schedule has been extensive and very widespread. The REAL Ministry programme has been taught to over 430 people in Dagenham, the Cotswolds, Singapore, Dubai, West Sussex, Kent and Bedford.

It was TnT's third consecutive year in Singapore and 140 people came to ministry training on the Saturday and 43 on the Sunday for a parenting workshop.



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After the first session on the Saturday one woman approached Rory and said, "When are you coming again? Everyone in my church needs to hear this!"

Through our connections with Christian Focus Publications Rory managed to stop over in Dubai en-route from Singapore and drew a crowd of just over 100 from a wide variety of different churches. He was well received and encouraged to see the fantastic gospel work being done, mostly by expatriates, in very challenging circumstances.

The training day organised by the West Sussex Gospel Partnership was also a great encouragement, as just over 100 people from 24 different churches converged on Haywards Heath. There was some good discussion in the small groups and the feedback was very positive.



Rory at the West Sussex Gospel Partnership Training Day

The REAL Ministry programme will also run in Northern Ireland on 24 March 2012. Bookings are open on our website www.tntministries.org.uk/conferences and we already have nine people booked in!

We are also in the process of putting our second tour of Scotland together which will probably be in May 2012. This will build on the one in May

Items for prayer

- Give thanks for a very productive time in Singapore and for the wonderful relationships that are now well established. Pray that further partnership in the gospel will be possible and that our material will continue to penetrate the local market.
- Give thanks for the providential opportunity to visit Dubai and for the good number that attended the training evening. Give thanks also for a local book store which is well stocked with TnT materials and pray that those materials make an impact in a very challenging ministry context.
- Give thanks for the ongoing popularity of the REAL Ministry training programme and for the 430 people who have been challenged and encouraged by what they have heard over the past three months. Pray that, as a result of this training, real change will take place where it should for the sake of the Gospel.
- Please pray for the year ahead. Pray that, as the Boards of Trustees and Governors of TnT meet for a day of prayer and strategy in January, they would continue to be single-minded in their desire to see the Bible taught to children and teenagers, faithfully, creatively and effectively. Pray too that Kim and Rory would God willing be able to execute this desire wisely and effectively in the year ahead.

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this year and will hopefully expand to include Aberdeen as well.

See www.tntministries.org.uk/conferences for further details.

Mustard Seeds

We are in the process of launching a range of downloadable resources which we have called *Mustard Seeds*.

We hope to, in time, make some of the material and ad-hoc programmes that we have been running in our local church available as well as a more formal teaching programme for 3-11 year olds. Our desire is to see this resource rolled out in a number of different languages.

Mustard Seeds will also include a number of articles and training papers on various aspects of Children's Ministry.

Our first offering, a Christmas outreach programme called *The Bethlehem Experience*, has already been downloaded 297 times and over 300 people have subscribed to the notification mailing list for Mustard Seeds.

Subscription is free so sign up today:
www.tntministries.org.uk/mustardseeds

Website 'Nip/Tuck'

In preparation for the launch of Mustard Seeds we have also given our website a bit of a face lift. We'd love you to browse around the new site and give us some feedback. As an incentive there are some very good deals on offer with our entire range of printed teaching resources being discounted by up to 30% - take advantage and spread the word!

Church Away Day

We were invited to run the children's programme for the Grace Church Muswell Hill's Away Day in October.

The adults were studying Acts so we taught the same to a group of 20 delightful children.

We based the lessons on the holiday club that we published earlier this year - *Message Unstoppable*.



The children learned how Jesus, the risen and ascended king empowered his followers by his Spirit to call people from every language group throughout the world to repent and believe in Him.

Thank you once again for your ongoing and faithful support. We are excited about the prospects for 2012 and wish you and your family a Christ-filled Christmas and our gracious Heavenly Father's richest blessings for the new year.



Your friends in Christ,

Kim & Rory

If you would like to receive future newsletters by email or to unsubscribe please send your request to rory@tntministries.org.uk

Diary for 2011/2012

10 Dec	Training Day Living Springs Church, Forest Hill
12 Dec	Oak Hill Theological College
17 Dec	Bethlehem Experience Cornerstone Church Kingston-upon-Thames
9 Jan	Oak Hill Theological College
15 Jan	Training Afternoon All Souls Church Langham Place, London
10 Mar	Regional Training Day All Saints Church Fordham & Eight Ash Green
24 Mar	REAL Ministry Conference St. Elizabeth's Church Dundonald, Belfast