

# LIFEHOPE LIFELINE

✓ ISSUE 2 - 2013



## Reaching Out

*transforming lives and communities*

Have you ever sat in church on a Sunday, noticed empty seats and wondered "Where are all the people?" The answer, of course, is obvious - if they are not in church they must be somewhere else. If you stepped outside the church door you would easily find large numbers of people - in the street, in the shopping centres, in the park or in their own homes.

OM Lifehope's wider-ranging ministries are based on this simple principle - if the people are not coming in to hear the gospel, then the gospel must be taken out to them, wherever they are. In this edition of 'Lifeline' you can read about those who take the good news of Jesus to thousands of adults and young people on the city streets, in the schools and even on people's front doorsteps. It may be a theatre performance, a piece of Christian literature or just a conversation that God will use to bring his truth into somebody's life.

The words of the gospel are closely linked with the action of 'going out': Jesus 'sent out' the disciples, the sower 'went out' to sow seed. As we follow Jesus' example, we too are going out...



## Next time...

In this year's first issue of Lifeline we looked at some ministries of Lifehope which reach small numbers of people on a very personal level. In this issue you can read about some of our other ministries impacting much larger numbers of people. However, neither style of outreach would be possible without our behind-the-scenes workers. But who are these people? What do they actually do? And how does their work in the background support and enable the frontline ministries you have just been reading about? The next issue will reveal all...

[www.lifehope.om.org](http://www.lifehope.om.org)

ALSO:

- TV MINISTRY
- KIDS 'N' THINGS

- KENNY THE EVANGELIST
- DOUG AND SUE AMBROSE



## Kids 'n' Things

Kees-Jan Koster, from the Netherlands and Tamara Verboom, also from the Netherlands, both came to OM Lifehope to work with the Kids 'n' Things ministry - Kees-Jan in 2011 and Tamara in the autumn of 2012.

The Kids 'n' Things team shares the message of Jesus with children in ways they can easily understand and relate to. Using a variety of creative skills including puppetry, storytelling, mime and music, the Kids 'n' Things team reaches around 10,000 children each year in schools and churches around the UK, and they want to do even more.

"When you see hundreds of kids and you hear them react to the performance..." said Tamara, "You know, some of the kids have a tough home life and so to hear them - it makes me happy. They laugh and shout but then when the Bible story begins it's silent. It's really amazing."

"I love the holiday clubs," said Kees-Jan. "We have less contact with the kids in schools, but with holiday clubs you can connect with kids in a deeper way."

During one holiday club, one of the teenage helpers told the team that she had been coming to these holiday clubs for 16 years. To see her now helping out was very gratifying.

"We plant a seed but we don't always see the results," said Tamara. "You never know how something really small like puppets can be used to touch people's lives."



## TV Ministry



Since 2007, Asif and Cichel, both originally from Pakistan, but now based in the UK with OM Lifehope, have been hosting television shows on Asian television channels. These shows are broadcast live in the Urdu language, with a format that has them debating an issue of apologetics and then taking questions from the audience across Europe in live calls. It is an amazing opportunity for the gospel to get into many homes, and answer some of the questions often raised by those of other faiths.

As well as encouraging many Urdu and Hindi speaking Christians, they have also taken calls from those of other faith backgrounds and seen some of these come to faith in Christ. They have also been blessed to have a chance to disciple some who have come to know the Lord while watching at home.

Yaqoob, a UK based Pakistani Christian, says that the programmes have helped him in his witness, as he tells all his Muslims friends to watch the evangelistic TV show.

A Muslim taxi driver from the South-West of England has regularly phoned-in during the broadcasts to ask questions and later said that he has always found reasonable answers for many of his questions about the Christian faith this way.

M is a medical doctor from Pakistan, who became Christian as a result of this ministry; he now regularly prays for the healing and salvation of his patients.

Asif, who leads the Lifehope TV ministry, says "I am confident that the Lord will provide all that is necessary to continue reaching millions through these apologetics based evangelistic programmes in Urdu/Hindi language."

## Kenny the Evangelist!

Kenny Frost has been working with OM Lifehope for 3 years. He has a passion for sharing his faith and brings that to his role in guiding and mentoring Community Encounter teams in evangelism. "I tell the teams - our main role is to introduce people to Jesus Christ," said Kenny.

With Kenny, the teams learn aspects of street evangelism - book tables, connecting with people through the use of Christian literature (tracts), the value of street performance and going door to door.

"I think door to door is a fantastic way to meet people," said Kenny. "At OM Lifehope we use a survey when we go door to door as a conversation starter. This way, a person with concerns about their ability in English or who is nervous about sharing their faith, can use the framework of the survey to guide them through the conversation."

When you are actively sharing your faith with hundreds of people on the streets each week, it is difficult to track outcomes and to follow up with people.

"I was asking God questions about some of these things and He told me, 'I want you there for that moment,'" said Kenny. "I didn't need to worry about the whole journey - that was in God's hands. After that, I became bolder in sharing the gospel."

At a book table in Bedford, a very big man approached Kenny and started to talk. The man quickly opened up saying that he had sensed that he needed to walk in the direction of the book table, but didn't know why until he met Kenny.

"Our conversation was only about 10 minutes in total," said Kenny. "He had been thinking about walking away from the Lord, but he told me - this is exactly what he needed. He was encouraged to keep walking with God. That's why I do what I do."



## Doug & Sue Ambrose

Since coming to OM Lifehope in 2002, Doug Ambrose has been actively involved in direct street evangelism in a variety of ways. "I came for a 2 year programme in missions training and outreach," said Doug who is originally from Waldorf, Maryland in the United States. "It involved a lot of street evangelism and a lot of creative outreach."

Having received a call to missions as a young man, this appealed very much to Doug. "I remember in my twenties, we were talking about God's will for our lives in a youth meeting one night, and I clearly remember hearing God say, 'Evangelize.'"

At OM Lifehope, Doug has had opportunities to share the gospel with thousands of people through regular participation at book tables and short-term team outreach events, giving out Christian literature and using tools like balloon modelling to connect with people on the streets.

His desire to serve the Lord has taken him into a variety of ministry roles with evangelism at their heart. "Now I'm working in a ministry that I've wanted to since I was nine years old," said Doug. "The Disabled Christian Fellowship (DCF)."

The DCF is a gathering of people of all ages and walks of life with a variety of abilities and disabilities, as well as caregivers. They meet once every two months at Hey Mills Congregational Church in Birmingham. "I'm legally blind," said Doug. "I can relate really well to their experience. I've been told many times that I can't do things because I'm blind. Now I get to share the gospel with this group. What an honour! Even though they have a disability, they are not limited."

Another unexpected gift was meeting Sue. "We were both married before, so we were friends for a long time before things started to progress," said Sue, who hails from Dudley, United Kingdom.

Sue now works as Receptionist at OM Lifehope, as well as with Doug in the DCF ministry. "It's a privilege to be involved with this group," said Sue.

Doug and Sue have two adult children - Luke and Sarah, and are based in the Birmingham area.



## Would you like to be part of a team?

Upcoming OM Lifehope Opportunities

### Short Term

#### Autumn Community Encounter

**Begins:** Sat. 31 Aug 2013 – Fri. 20 Dec 2013

**Deadline:** Fri 19 Jul 2013

\* **Please note: all opportunities are unsalaried. Most people joining OM raise financial support.**

**contact details:**  
**info.life@om.org** OM Lifehope,  
Little Cornbow, Halesowen,  
West Midlands, UK B63 3AJ,  
+44 (0) 121 585 5662

for more information:

**[www.lifehope.om.org](http://www.lifehope.om.org)**

### Long term

#### Head of Training

**Start Date:** September 2013

**Commitment Length:** 2 - 3 years

We are looking for an experienced and gifted leader for this role in our dynamic and multicultural Training Centre, someone who:

- is a committed follower of Jesus with a heart for working with people
- has proven experience in missions and teaching
- with good communication and organisational skills
- has the ability to lead an international team
- able to network with churches and missions

