

DEPUTATION DAY IN WEST YORKSHIRE



meet Jeff Robinson a retired miner from the former Wheldale pit at Castleford. Jeff had always known about *International Miners Mission* but had never met any staff or officers from the Mission.

Members of Morley Community Church were enthusiastic about this visit. Over lunchtime they took Ian (see below) to meet 'The Morley Miner' – a sculpture of a miner that has pride of place of outside Morley Town Hall.

The wider community also took an interest. The local newspaper published an article and photograph on the visit to Morley.



Morley Community Church secretary, Andy Dalton said:

"This International Miners Mission Deputation Day was a real blessing – we gained a vision for the work and heard Ian open up God's Word to us"

He concluded by saying that the church felt it was important to support small mission organisations like the *International Miners Mission* who rarely get publicity but *faithfully seek to fulfil their calling in work that is not glamorous*. He also said that the Deputation Day had gone extremely well and that it could be repeated by other IMM supporting churches around the country.

Andy Dalton, Secretary,
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In ten hours IMM UK Treasurer, Ian Dring took three services in three different churches of three different denominations in Morley, Yorkshire.

A total of 83 adult worshippers were able to share the vision and hear of the vital work of *International Miners Mission throughout the world*.

The invitation to take part in an *International Miners Mission Deputation Day* came from members of Morley Community Church. This small congregational cause organised a highly successful harvest project last year – *Harvest Out Of The Ground*. They felt they should know more about the work of *International Miners Mission*. They also felt that others should too!

Ian Dring used Powerpoint and overhead projection slides on the mission's work in all three church services during the last Sunday in June. He spoke to a congregation of 21 worshippers at this small mission church in the morning. To his amazement a former member of his home church who moved recently to the town turned up at the special service.

Using his extensive networks, church secretary Andy Dalton arranged for Ian Dring to lead the afternoon service at Newland Methodist Chapel in the town. A service comprising of 32 (and mainly elderly) worshippers heard him speak. They had never heard of *International Miners Mission* even though the town had several pits many years ago.

Ian's second amazement was to hear about a young lady known to chapel members who worked at the Rustenburg Platinum Mine in South Africa which was illustrated in his visual presentation.

With little time to eat, Ian proceeded on to Garforth Evangelical Church (FIEC) for the evening service. A congregation of 30 souls in this outlying village listened intently to his message. His third amazement was to



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SAMBOTIN, ROMANIA the pictures tell the story!

Last autumn several IMM supporters put their hands deep into their pockets and purses in response to our appeal for funds to help build a small church in the coal mining village of Sambotin, not far from Targu Jiu, Romania. Thank you so much!

The three pictures just sent to us show the very first service ever held in Sambotin village. There was a good crowd standing outside the church in sunny weather on a Sunday afternoon in July.

most of them will have heard the Gospel message proclaimed for the very first time in their lives!

Please pray for these dear folk that there may be a rich harvest of souls won for Christ.



What joy there was as Pastor Cornel Hudulin (centre) led the people in prayer and worship.



The local people sat quietly and reverently and heard about the Good News of Jesus Christ, clearly and faithfully proclaimed by Pastor Cornel Hudulin. Probably

The Christian young people of the central Baptist Church in Targu Jiu led the singing, making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Evangelists Viorel Ghita (playing the guitar) and Vasile Bereznicu (choir leader) are both supported by the IMM and are keen to support this outreach and ensure that there is regular discipling of new believers.

It is a real encouragement to see how the Lord's work is moving forward. The church now needs to be completed. Windows, doors and the interior decoration are still outstanding! Please pray that the money may come in to cover the full cost of the work.

David Shillitoe, Hon. Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The International Miners' Mission are planning an International Conference in Targu Jiu, Romania in the period 23rd to 27th September 2010 and you could be there and visit the little church in Sambotin! If you would like further information, please contact David Shillitoe initially on dshillitoe@minersmission.com or at the address on the back of this "Safety Lamp".

'Promoted to Glory' a tribute to John Hodson



Outdoor witness in Wittenheim, Alsace, France – Jean Herrgott (pastor) plays the guitar and mouth organ and John Hodson (to the right of Jean) sings lustily a good old Gospel song about Jesus – in French but with a strong Birmingham accent! David Shillitoe took the photo in 1963!

Many of our older readers will remember John Hodson, who faithfully served the Miners' Mission as an evangelist and pastor in pioneer work in the coal mining towns of North East France for 16 years. David Shillitoe (Hon. Editor) attended a moving service led by Rev. Ted Allright. Here is part of his tribute to John:-

"I esteem it a privilege and an honour to have been asked to conduct this service of thanksgiving for my good friend and colleague, John Hodson. John was born in Birmingham on the 14th of August 1930. He grew up there and did his schooling in that city. His education was interrupted by a long stay in the Woodland Hospital with a serious hip problem. Later he did have two other stints in hospital, the first after an explosion in the home and then because of a motor cycle accident. He managed to be on crutches on his honeymoon! John finished his schooling at Aston Technical College before he went into nursing. He did try one or two other jobs before settling on nursing but found that they were unsuitable and unsatisfying.

He began work at the West Bromwich hospital after he qualified as a State Registered Nurse. But the most significant thing that happened to John in his formative years was that he came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, when he was in his teens.

He attended Hockley Mission and heard for the first time that he was a sinner and needed to be forgiven and changed, and this could only be accomplished by faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ, the Lord. As soon as he gave over the safe keeping of his life to the Lord, he was instantly propelled into the work of telling others; first in

song, then in testimony at the Mission Hall, speaking in the open-air, finally progressing to preaching. The leaders of Hockley Mission believed in putting people to work as soon as they knew Jesus Christ as Saviour. It was at there that John met and fell in love with Mereal. They married on the 27th November 1954 at the Mission, where both first heard the good news about Jesus Christ. The Lord called them to tell others about the love and mercy of the Lord and they readily accepted His plan.

In 1955 they were accepted as workers of the International Miners' Mission (then called the Glynn Vivian Miners' Mission) and went to France to study at the Nogent Bible School. They remained there for 18 months studying French, at the Alliance Francais. (They did come home very briefly, for the birth of their first child, Ruth, in July 1956, but returned very quickly in September.) From Paris they moved to Thurmeries in Northern France where at that time there was no mission work.

They stayed there from 1956 to 1958 before moving to Carvin where the Lord began a work among the miners through their ministry. The family then moved to Courrieres and they remained there from 1966 to 1971, where the work developed, and we are glad to say, is still flourishing to this day.

In 1971 they returned to England to take charge of Aylesham Miners' Mission near Canterbury. There being no stipend attached to the post, John returned to nursing in order to support the family. It was difficult balancing his time between nursing duties and the Mission but nothing was neglected. Sometimes it meant living away part of the week, then returning home at the weekends to carry out his Mission duties. In 1979 they left Aylesham and the family moved to Thanet so John could continue to develop and expand his duties and responsibilities in nursing. I know that John was a great encourager and many have much to thank him for, not only in nursing but in other spheres as well. He was also a JP for many years in Thanet becoming chairman of the J.Ps there.

I had the privilege of knowing John in these latter years of his life. John and I became instant and great friends when he joined us at Eythorne Baptist Church. We shared similar experiences throughout our lives. Mereal and John proved to be a great asset to our Church. They were very welcoming to new people and added real warmth to the fellowship. John loved the Word of God and ministered in the Church and in other churches and chapels in the South East until he felt he could no longer stand for such a long period.

He continued to minister to the Church in Bible study and prayer, and worked alongside me as an elder in the Church until I retired. And of course, who could forget his love of singing!!!! He sang everywhere!! He and I shared a similar sense of humour and we laughed a lot together.

What was it that made John the kind of man that he was? There can be but one answer to that question! His life was completely changed when he came face to face with the challenges of the Lord Jesus Christ upon his life way back in his teenage years.

Jesus died to remove our sin and its penalty. "God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Cor 5 v 21. That is what John heard all those years ago. There and then he confessed his sin, asked the Lord to forgive and cleanse him and come into his life to take control. The cross is the measure of God's love for you and me. I again can hear John singing the old chorus, "There is a way back to God from the dark paths

of sin, there's a door that is open and you may go in. At Calvary's Cross is where you begin when you come as a sinner to Jesus." Because of God's love and mercy, and yielding his life to the Lord's control, made John the man he was.

We don't deserve such love! We don't deserve such mercy! "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) John experienced both the love and mercy of God from the first moment he met the Lord at Hockley. Isn't it wonderful that God continues to offer this same saving love, this same mercy, which changed John some 60 years ago, to you and to me today".
Ted Allright

Ministry Highlights and Challenges

IMM South Africa Chairman Faki Bodibe reports:

Two cell groups now meet for Bible Study on Thursdays in the gold mining complexes of East and West Driefontein. These are led by Faki Bodibe and Phillip Dungulu. The groups are really learning well and getting excited about the ministry. Pray with us as these two groups now meet quarterly for fellowship with other Christians from nearby mines. Elijah Dube preached at the last service. It was good to hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of His children in these difficult days.

Moses H, who was helping Patrick Langa minister in the platinum mines around Rustenburg, had an accident in the mine involving a locomotive and lost his right leg just above the knee. He has had to learn to use an artificial leg which has recently been fitted. Please pray for Moses and ask God to heal his whole body and mind.

We still face real fellowship challenges. How do you respond to someone who comes to share that in their last medical check-up "the machine caught me"? This is an expression that says 'something wrong was found in me'. An older man had gone home but on his return was

checked before he could go underground to resume work in the mine. It was discovered that he has TB. This is common in the mining industry. Pray with us for his healing as he is now asked to work above ground and take treatment. Thank God he will earn something as he is treated in the meantime.

We have had fruitful open-air meetings at the Jabula mine complex. We are now planning to start a group in the miners' hostel. The past week EIGHT PEOPLE GAVE THEIR LIVES TO THE LORD and have been followed up by our team. We are hoping that Andrew Mayathulla's church adopt this hostel and do the follow-up work. This way we will be able to build up solid work and have people who are accountable for monitoring and discipleship of the new believers.

Our country is going through challenging times. One Tuesday the taxi people were striking and did not allow motorists on some roads. This led to the team in Rustenburg not being able to go and minister. I could not get to Driefontein mine near Carletonville one Thursday as I was caught in traffic. Phillip Dungulu was waiting for me but had to return home. Although we have some roads, pray we will have better infrastructure in future because we are paying the price of congestion on the roads these days.

IMM UK TRAVELLING FUND

The IMM Worldwide Conference in Targu Jiu, Romania, will be held, God willing, in the period 23rd to 27th September 2010.

The IMM Committee realise that it will be difficult, if not impossible, for some of our IMM delegates to attend from around the world without financial support for their travel. Will you join us in contributing to our TRAVELLING FUND? We hope to raise £2,000 in order that some of those whom IMM support can join us for sharing and encouragement in their front-line ministries to miners and their families. Thank you.