



NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

Dear friends,

In some respects, last year's visit to Korce, with my daughter Carla and her best friend and film-maker Rachel, felt like a real 'coming of age' in terms of the work and the variety of opportunities presented to us. As well as the powerful and moving renewal of relationships with folk in the 'House on the Hill', the Kennedy Street children project, the Korce Orphanage, individuals and one of the local villages, it was also immensely challenging and rewarding to explore new openings. These were, in particular, a centre for elderly gentlemen and the local prison.

In addition to the 'one to one' music therapy work, and, of course, the relationship at the core of all this work – that with the Korce church led by Ian and Caralee Loring – this week was just so full, so inspiring and such a powerful reminder that in the end all we do, and all the tools we use, are fundamentally about relationship – and perhaps this visit more than ever confirmed the quality and depth of the



relationships we have been privileged to forge over the years.

One additional and wonderful development has come from my work in the UK which is now primarily as the Music

Therapist and Arts Therapy Consultant for Curriculum Development (love the title!) at Three Ways School in Bath. This is a school for 165 children and young people, aged 4-19, with a great variety of physical, learning, emotional and behavioural needs and difficulties.

To cut a long story short, the school has agreed to become a 'partner' in my work in Albania. This, in effect, means that we will look to find ways of linking the children and young people at Three Ways with people in Korce. We will work towards a project, musically based, that will provide a bridge between us.

I should make clear here that this is not about money. Three Ways is as pushed to the limit as any other state school – but it is, once again, about *relationship* and this kind of association and link can of course open up so much potential in so many different ways.

So, dear friends, as I prepare to return to Korce in August, with Carla and Rachel, we continue to value, beyond words, all you do to enable these visits to take place.

And you can imagine just how encouraged I am personally to see this integration of my work here in Bath and this enormously important work in Korce.

Thank you.

Adrian



Rachel writes ...

Excitement is the word that describes my visit to Korce in 2010. Excited to see the friends I had made the year before, excited to be going with Carla – my best friend, and excited to make a further documentary about the people of Korce.



Above, left and below: Adrian during therapy time with all age groups



These people have made such an impact on me and through the year have remained very much on my heart.

The anticipation of seeing Cindy, Beni, Edi, Yonita, Romi and all the children and adults you will have seen on the DVD sent to you (on the last newsletter mailing*), was certainly building!

We spent the week in a variety of places including the old people's centre and a visit to the 'local' prison. Both of these visits were uplifting and yet somehow, in the same breath, heart wrenching. Each experience, with or without the camera, was seen by me through the eye of a lens – whether it was against the soundtrack of 'Credo' or 'O Signore', the glimpses in the young and the old men's eyes each held a story, and more often than not, a story of sadness. It was very emotional to sit and watch or to stand and partake in the brief musical scenes of joy and yet know the stories of some of these people and the 'cells' they would go back to, whether in or out of prison.



What stood out for me from our very full week was the sadness. I was struck by the deterioration of the adults in the Asili (The House on the Hill), seeing Beni looking so thin, and his sparkling smile of wonder seemingly fading.

But, there was a huge sense of God's hand on the situation, of his people working to spread his spirit, and this was a very beautiful thing to behold.

I am honoured to have visited again and thankful from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to finishing the production of my documentary and being able to share this with you.

Rachel

A panoramic view of Korce



Above: A view of the prison

Left: Some of the visitors to the old people's centre



* Due to postage costs the DVD was only sent to UK and Europe contacts. If you did not receive the DVD and would like a copy please let us know. Contact the Chairman - details on the back page.

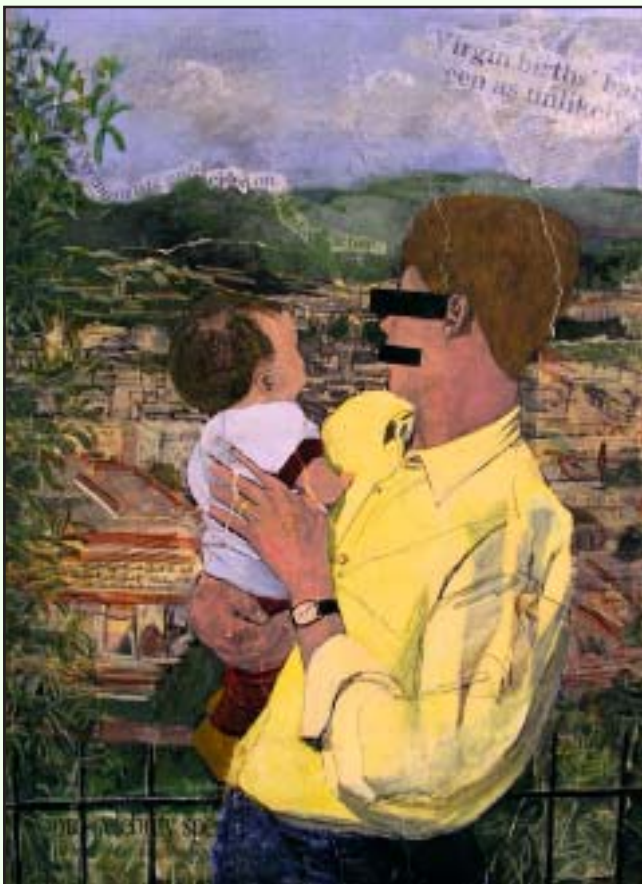
Paul's report ...

This has been a mixed year, with many successful showing opportunities, tempered by the tragic death of my younger brother Andy after a year of severe depression. At this time, as always, it is essential to know that our God sees all things, and shares in both our joy and our grief, and we hold on to St Paul's words that "In all things God works for the good of those who love him."

This year I have held five exhibitions, and participated in two smaller events. There have been many discussions about God, and it has been most gratifying to see each piece of artwork engage and touch people. It is amazing now to reflect on some of the conversations over the year.

Conversations

Many school classes have visited my shows, and frequently asked about the picture on Fatherhood called *Where's Your Daddy Gone?* They have been deeply moved, as some reflect on their own loss. It was good to be able to reassure them that God is passionately on the side of the fatherless, widows and refugees. Many women were particularly touched by this image too. Several spoke as single mothers, abandoned by their husbands/partners. Made in 1995, it is good to know how powerfully this exhibit still speaks today.



Where's Your Daddy Gone?



70"x7"

As an artist it is always helpful to hear feedback from one's peers. One friend from Art College, with a strongly liberal, atheist perspective, said I had: "... successfully walked a narrow path in making the exhibits, by clearly showing Christian faith without being too preachy, and without compromising artistic quality." What especially moved him was the compassion for people and the engagement with the world around, and the rich variety of the images.

Another man who enjoyed the show at Hook Norton, and was moved by the compassion shown in many of the works, nonetheless

expressed his lack of belief in God because there was so much suffering in the world. (I learnt later that his teenage son had died in a cycling accident.) It is notable how many atheistic men come with similar issues, either personal or vicarious. It is for this reason that I made the exhibits and 70"x7" and *Crucifixion of a Soldier*, to show Christ's identification with suffering through his crucifixion, and his sacrificial death for our sins. For the central issue in suffering is human sin, which only Jesus can deal with, and he does it both by sharing our pain, and winning for us eternal life.

Following my most recent exhibition at Pangbourne College the chaplain wrote to say: "I found it an absolutely exhilarating week. It was a real enrichment in the life of the college and in the lives of so many students who were able to come to the exhibition. It made an enormous difference having you at the exhibition engaging with the students as they viewed the show."

Thank you so much for supporting me through prayer and finance to be able to engage people with the gospel in this way.

Paul



An impressive setting for Paul's exhibition in the Falklands Memorial Chapel of Pangbourne College



Crucifixion of a Soldier

Evangelistic Exhibitions have been held in churches: Christ Church, Cambridge; Goring-on-Thames; Hook Norton, Oxon; Muswell Hill, London; and Weston, Bath.

JUBILATE! ENCORE was shown at The Chapel Row Gallery, Bath.

Holy Ground was exhibited at Wimborne Minster and the Grace Festival in Glastonbury.

School Exhibitions

Canford School, Wimborne; Pangbourne College, Reading.

Dave Hopwood

It is with great pleasure that the trustees of the Coverdale Trust announce that we are to support Dave Hopwood in his new freelance creative arts ministry. He will be joining Adrian Snell and Paul Hobbs on the Coverdale Trust team. What a trio!

After nine years of serving Lee Abbey through the creative arts Dave left at the end of February and is hoping to develop his ministry in a wider capacity through writing, speaking, developing a 'chat show' and rethinking spirituality for men and in the following ways:

- creating written and video resources for churches, schools and organisations
- presenting one-man shows - making the Bible accessible to all
- writing material for publication including novels and other books which communicate the Christian faith
- preaching and teaching in church services and at Christian events

Dave is married to Lynn and they have a daughter Amy and although this is an exciting step for them they are going to need a lot of support both financially and prayerfully. If you can help to arrange a booking please either write to the Coverdale Trust or contact Dave on his e-mail address which is hopwooddave1@gmail.com

Geoff Bishop
Chairman

A selection of publications written by Dave



Dave with his wife Lynn and daughter, Amy

Support for Adrian in Albania: August 2011

Adrian's visits to Korce with his daughter Carla and Rachel take on more meaning each year as they bring purpose, joy and laughter to the incredibly needy people they meet in Albania as outlined in Adrian's article. The musical gifts of Carla plus the musical, photographic and filming expertise of Rachel add much to the meaning of the visits.

The Coverdale Trust sees this part of Adrian's work as an important part of its ministry and is happy to add prayerful and financial support which it cannot do without your help too. To pray for the visit is the most important part but if you could help practically that would be such an encouragement.

Thank you.

Geoff Bishop
Chairman



Gift Aid and Standing Orders

If you pay tax and would like to **Gift Aid** your donation, please let Geoff Bishop know. The Trust can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given.

Standing Orders are also a very helpful way of giving regularly so please ask for a form if you are interested.

Donations from overseas can be made direct to the Trust account using the following:

BIC: MIDLGB2102G

BAN: B63MIDL40091911731157

The Coverdale Trust, 8 Fourth Avenue, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 9DR
Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1626 870095 geoff4.bishop4@virgin.net
www.thecoverdaletrust.org