

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Dear friends,

The visit in 2011 to Korce, Albania, with my daughter Carla and her friend Rachel, was the most affirming, and the one that clarified the focus and vision behind our work there.

For this report, I've asked Carla, Rachel, Marleen (who heads up the Kennedy Centre's outreach work to all the vulnerable and needy sections of the Korce community) and Caralee Loring to bring their precious reflections, observations and anecdotes.

I hope that their words will help you to understand why these visits are so very important, so appreciated and, most encouragingly, making a real and lasting difference to greatly wounded lives and the perspectives of those who come into contact with them.

As you will read in Rachel's report, the DVD mini 'documentary', should be ready at the end of May, and I'm greatly looking forward to hearing your response to what you will see.

I referred, last year, to the 'partnership' with my school, Three Ways in Bath. It was a delight to take gifts and messages over to Korce, and return with filmed messages from some of our special friends. A significant and exciting development is that we will be bringing Elena over to Three Ways for a week of training and observation. Elena is sponsored by the Korce church to work full time in the House on the Hill, and this visit will be very valuable in terms of her daily work and relationships.

There is also the possibility (in discussion with the school management and Governors) that I would travel to Korce with

a senior member of staff who heads up the 'curriculum access team' at Three Ways. If this came to be, we could start to offer a plan for practical and meaningful changes and developments in the daily running of this very needy place.

It probably goes without saying ... but, yes, I'll be back this summer!

Oh and one final thing ... I'm planning to record a new album this year. I have the material and the motivation is coming back!

With love and Shalom

Adrian



The delight on the children's faces is evident as they pose with their artwork

Rachel writes:

There have been many moments from my visit to Korce that have had a lasting impression, but the one that will always stand out was when Adrian was working in the House on the Hill with individuals with severe and complex needs. I noticed Zamira sitting in a dark corner, making high pitched noises, looking distressed and huddled up in a dark place.

As we began our session with Zamira, she was extremely confused and distressed. Adrian and I worked together to create a calm, peaceful and safe environment and there was an incredible moment of peace. It was so clear in Zamira's eyes – she had found tranquillity, perhaps for the first time in her life. Her face was a picture; she had gone from the point of

fists and teeth clenched, with a look of pain in her eyes, making high pitched distressed noises, to being completely still and at ease. Her hands relaxed, her teeth unclenched, and her smile emerged – genuine and beautiful. It was one of the most beautiful moments I have ever experienced in this work.

By the end of May I plan to complete a 30 minute DVD documentary that tells the Albania story over the last couple of years. I hope I can create something which will help you to understand the importance of what Adrian is doing. Meanwhile a short video overview is available now on vimeo.com/36518696. If you have the facility to view this online please do - it's a taster of things to come!

God bless you all, this project has touched my life in a really huge way.

Caralee writes:

The consistency of your visits has given you an open door into the orphanage and into people's lives, as you are now considered friends and they trust and know you. The difference in the response from the kids at the House on the Hill is amazing, even the staff now want to take part in your sessions as they see the change it brings in the children. Believe me, some of them look forward ALL YEAR to your visit.

For me the highlight was the church service when you enabled Joni, Edi and Beni to perform, and the response from the church said it all. We had never seen a standing ovation like that before! Joni and Edi and Beni will never forget when they performed and had that kind of response – they are still beaming when we speak about it. I still get emotional thinking about it as they've never been applauded in their life like that! I'm sure that the Lord has used this in their souls, to give them even deeper value and meaning that they are someone and can do something, after all the rejection they have endured in their lives.

Thank you and your team that enable you to be here, it is really making a difference. It's also made a difference in how people in the church view and care about our 'special people who live on the hill'.



Marleen writes:

Thank you Adrian, Carla and Rachel for taking the time and the effort to come and serve us and our people.

I cannot tell you how blessed and encouraged I feel every time you are here. I guess a lot of us really have that dream that one day those special needs people will just be accepted and looked on as 'real' people with 'real' value and a place in this society. Every time when you all come it makes that dream a little more 'reality'.

The concert was superb! I was so touched by the response of the young people and Lana's reaction I will never forget. She was so going along with the music and was deeply moved by Carla. I didn't think it was possible.

And for the people themselves. I know they have been blessed. Jonida, Beni and Edi really had the time of their life!

I do believe that the whole impact it made on the staff was positive too. I could feel from their response that they too had tasted something new, something exciting in the children.

I myself am just blessed looking at how the children react to that personal interest they get from you all. And being around Carla and Rachel when they act in their musical, youthful funniness, brings a fresh air in this serious, often difficult world and that is a nice 'medicine' for me!

So, thank you, thank you! It has been wonderful! And I hope that there still will be a follow up!

Carla writes:

The week this year was all about relationships. For example, we spent an afternoon with the five beautiful young girls in the safe house – just 'hanging out' with them, learning about their day to day lives and seeing their amazing home that has been built by the church.

We also decided it would be good to take Beni, Edi and Yonida out of their chaotic world at the House on the Hill to a quiet café and spent time laughing and singing. It was amazing to see them relax and enjoy being part of the 'normal' world.

Another special event in the week was the 'concert with a difference' at the church for the folk in the House on the Hill and a few special needs folk from a nearby day centre. The theme was 'The Forest Never Sleeps', so the church volunteers decorated the room to look like a forest. When the guests arrived it was joy to see their reaction. The idea for the concert was about involving the audience, and so we got everyone playing instruments and singing along. It was so special to be a part of that morning, and to see just how amazing music is and how it can be used to bring people together and create such joy and happiness.

The people we have been working with year on year realise just how much we genuinely care for them; that we love building these relationships; that we want a better quality of life for them and that when we're there for that one week of the year, we just want to do what we can with God's love and the gifts he's given us to share with these people who have become our dear friends.

Thank you to the Coverdale Trust for making this possible!



Paul's report...

Thank you so much for supporting me in my work as an artist. It is wonderful to have your backing. The summer and autumn brought an interesting variety of work. In **Gloucester Diocese**, I led four artists teaching 35 children from five diocesan schools. We made responses to the Beatitudes, which were shown in three churches. At **Kingswood School** in Bath I spoke at two assemblies, and to a group of school chaplains about using art for the gospel. For **High Ongar Parish** I set up a one day show, before speaking on themes of faith, hope and love from my artwork at an evangelistic dinner.



I wrote a detailed proposal for a large exhibition at **Bath Abbey**, which unfortunately came to nothing. It was to commemorate the martyrdom of St. Alphege in 1012. I also focused on contemporary **persecution** to show the relevance of Christ to people today rather than just in the past. Much of my ideas for this, I intend to build into another show in the future.

My **Holy Ground** installation of shoes and stories from Christians still moves its audiences. This autumn it went to Christ Church, Clifton in **Bristol** and Rising Brook Baptist Church in **Stafford**. At Stafford school classes viewed the piece with me and explored workshop material based on the project.

"I was moved beyond words, by the honesty, humility and beauty of the piece and the stories of the many people, who for me, were ever-present companions throughout. I can speak for many teachers and students, when I say that many lives have been touched, spirits blessed and questions encouraged."



Above: *Holy Ground* Installation

Left: An art work session on *The Beatitudes*

Below: Part of the 'Ten Commandments' installation in progress



Abroad, I exhibited some prints at an IFES international conference in **Poland**, and showed 'Three in One' in **Madrid** as part of a Catholic exhibition called Art+Fe, amongst some very able European and American artists. This show is now touring three other Spanish cities. I also had a stand at Duke University in **North Carolina** at their Art and Theology conference.

"Very compassionate work. You make me cry over people's suffering and how God has changed lives."

Do have a look at my **website** www.arthobbs.com which now has a much brighter, fresher look, and gives a comprehensive overview of my work. The Articles page has an excellent piece by Derek Walker on my work; and there are details about hiring me for workshops and shows.

I am currently in the studio working on my new installation about the **Ten Commandments**. This will be shown at the Menier Gallery in London in October.

Paul



'Three in One'

Dave Hopwood

Dave has been working on a couple of books – *Top Stories* – 31 parables retold with humorous and serious comments, and *Film & Faith* – 66 reflections on life and faith and the Bible drawn from various films. He has continued to put out thoughts on the internet via his blogs and his website has just recently been finished and is now live.

Also Dave has been creating video versions of five different parables which he has posted on YouTube.

Email: dave@davehopwood.com

Blogs: <http://davehopwood.blogspot.com/>

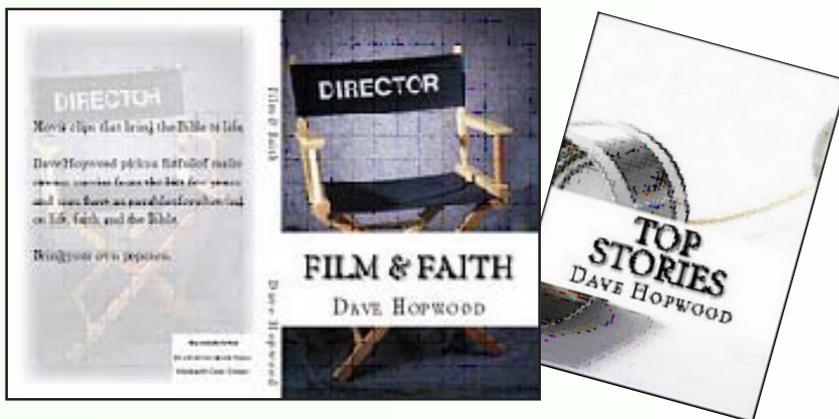
Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/> (to find them search on YouTube site for Dave Hopwood and the name of the video, four of the videos are called *Trouble*, *Persistent Friend*, *Two Sons & One in the Eye*)

Dave has a few speaking engagements coming up –

- 5-9 March: Lee Abbey houseparty with Simeon Wood, stories and music that have shaped us
- Spring Harvest, Minehead: Taking part in a couple of evenings sometime around the start of April
- 6 April: A Film and Faith evening, reflecting on films made about Easter; part of a regular film evening

course held in a home in East Buckland, Devon

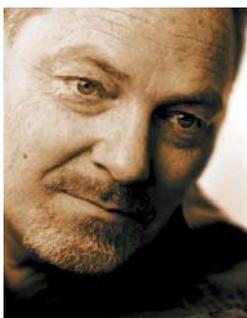
- June 4-8: Scargill House, Yorkshire, speaking at their half-term holiday (Also there 9-13 August)
- 20 May: Chalke Valley Church, near Salisbury, Sunday morning service
- Once a month speak at the local URC church in Lynton



After Eight

Sundays @ 8pm
informal worship • conversation
Christ Church Cathedral Oxford

Beyond Words



25 March Adrian Snell

A special service for the Sunday Times
Oxford Literary Festival

Adrian Snell explores the effect of music therapy on those who cannot use words

After a long and successful international career as a performer and recording artist, and perhaps best-known for his album *The Passion* (recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and premiered on BBC Radio 1), Adrian Snell has focused increasingly on music therapy.

This service draws on his work with children and adults with severe learning disabilities in the UK and Albania.

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Support for Adrian in Albania: August 2012

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

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