

NEEDHAM NEWS 2004

Ken & Eva Needham

LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT! THERE'S HEAVEN ABOUT!

We just returned from our latest and most cargo-laden trip at the weekend. The reason for the luggage was that we had to be prepared for sub-zero temperatures in Alaska and tropical ones in Barbados. We also needed formal and informal clothes, boots and walking shoes. Then there were the number of books necessary to get us through five weeks of travel and ministry, plus Christmas gifts deposited, bought and received en route. An immediate praise is that neither of us has back trouble after all that!

I hope the same is true for the postman who delivered five weeks of mail in this pre-Christmas season...three crates of it! This included seventy two news letters which provided us with a feast of reading from friends all over the globe. Every one had something to say about the ways in which God has proved His faithfulness and power in their personal life or service during the past twelve months. He is alive and well, active in every continent and every atom. Heaven surrounds you, so lift your head and open your eyes and give thanks.

So what has God been doing with the Needhams? Eva decided that full time travel is not for her. Having been away with Ken for most of nine months last year, she cut it back to about sixteen weeks this year. She has been kept busy with Quiet Days and also organised a retreat for the leaders of the Ireland Quiet Gardens in October in Dublin. That was a special time with representatives of four of the six gardens present, making twelve people in all. She has also been involved in mentoring and being mentored and is planning to do some further training next year, in order to be a better helper.

Ken's work led to two round-the world trips and fourteen countries. Of these, Greece and Thailand were first ever visits. We were thrilled to preach in a very vibrant international church in Bangkok, and to work with "Helping Hands" in their sacrificial and effective work amongst the refugees of Athens, after which we both led a retreat/conference for their workers on the island of Crete. Eva was asked to facilitate several listening prayer sessions which seemed to be appreciated. We visited Mars Hill where Paul preached to the Athenians. Tourists have turned it into the world's biggest ash tray! The truths he spoke there have brought life in every country in the world and are still going out in power. No amount of cigarette butts can bury it!

A series of talks was given for the first time in Coniston and Bebington (England), Saanichton and Cannington (Canada), Waringstown and Kilkeel (Northern Ireland), Monterrey (California) & Anchorage (Alaska). The one in Kilkeel was in fact in the church we attend when home. It has been a real milestone in our relationships in the church family.

Single talks in new places included The Master's College (Copenhagen), Kenny Lake (Alaska) & Notodden (Norway). I will be returning to the college to teach a full week next October and to Notodden as soon as I can schedule it.

There were also memorable return visits for series teaching in Ashton-under-Hill (England), Reno (Nevada), Denver (Colorado), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Cambridge (New Zealand), Murfreesboro (Tennessee), Redwood City (California) and Houston (Texas). They are memorable for the work that God did in people's lives. Sometimes they do not know how to express what has taken place. In Kenny Lake, one man in his 70s, a life long church-goer said, "That was the best sermon I have ever heard". Of course only God can evaluate sermons but I

am sure that God touched his heart in an unusual way. I find his comment more encouraging than the lady who said, “Your preaching is so refreshing...it is like a drink of cold water to a drowning man”!



On the family front, the Ruby (40th) anniversary was an unqualified success. We had a great family lunch with two of our three children present with their spouses and five of our seven grandchildren. The one who could not make it was Andrew. Paul and family came over from USA, and Andrew did manage to see them in England at Eva’s brother’s home. He and his extended family came too, making a total of 26 for lunch, including babies. Then we had 53 guests - adults only - for dinner at the local inn. They fed us an excellent meal. Son-in-law, Steve and son, Paul prepared a PowerPoint

presentation of all the most embarrassing photos of the past 42 years. Some of these brought howls of laughter from the less respectful elements. The evening ended with the singing of this hymn to the tune “Londonderry Air”.

I cannot tell, why He whom angels worship
Should set His love upon the sons of men
Or why as shepherd He should seek the wanderers
To bring them back they know not how or when....
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture
And myriad, myriad human voices sing
And Earth to heaven and heaven to Earth will answer
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world is king.



After the celebrations Eva and I went to Norway where we stayed with special friends from way back. It was mostly relaxing but there was a little ministry and a connection made for future times. The two of us then had an idyllic few days driving across that very beautiful country, finding excellent and cheap accommodation each day and then a short cruise through some of the spectacular fjords. One highlight of that trip was to visit the small town of Ulvik, where Ken had camped with three friends at the age of fifteen! He had not been back since. When we arrived at Herrons we discovered that Ken had to leave two hours later to catch flights to Singapore - a rather rude awakening to reality for both of us.



Thank you for your prayers this past year. We shall need them even more in 2005. No doubt God will be continuing His wonderful work all over the world. May it be accelerated in our personal lives and in yours too. An itinerary is attached for your continuing prayers.

In the life and love of Jesus

Ken & Eva Needham.

ITINERARY FOR KEN NEEDHAM - 2005

January			
1-2	Newtownards	County Down	Northern Ireland
16	Kilkeel	County Down	Northern Ireland
22-30	Portland	Oregon	USA
30-Feb 5	Cannon Beach	Oregon	USA
February			
5-12	Gibson's Island	British Columbia	Canada
12-19	Spokane	Washington	USA
19-26	Huntsville	Alabama	USA
26-March 4	Birmingham	Alabama	USA
March			
5-8	Auburn	California	USA
9-16	Kailua	Hawaii	USA
19-25	Cambridge	North Island	New Zealand
25-28	Lake Taupo	North Island	New Zealand
29, 30	Auckland	North Island	New Zealand
April.			
2-4	Bangkok		Thailand
5-10	Abu Dhabi		United Arab Emirates
11-May 5	Home	County Down	Northern Ireland
May			
6-14	Addlestone	Surrey	England
15-22	Coniston	Cumbria	England
26-June5	Somerset West	Capetown	South Africa
June			
6-17	Various venues		Ireland
18-30	Various venues		Scotland
July 9,10			
11-22	Mercer Island	Washington	USA
22-29	Buckley	Washington	USA
29-Aug 6	open		
	Barnabas Landing	British Columbia	USA
August			
	Home	County Down	Northern Ireland
September			
2-5	Twin Rocks	Oregon	USA
5-9	Vancouver	Washington	USA
10-17	Portland	Oregon	USA
17-21	Winnipeg	Manitoba	Canada
23-Oct 9	Copenhagen		Denmark
October			
15-21	St Louis	Missouri	USA
22-29	Ravenna	Ohio	USA
29-Nov 4	Wasilla	Alaska	USA
November			
4-11	Tracy	California	USA
11-18	Ripon	California	USA
19-26	Nappanee	Indiana	USA
26-Dec3	North East	Maryland	USA
December			
3-10	Fort Myers	Florida	USA
12-31	Home	County Down	USA.