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Wood's World

Alistair Wood's monthly prayer letter.



IFES is a Registered Charity

Hello and welcome to the April edition of *Wood's World*! Apologies again for not sending a newsletter in the last few months. It's been non-stop since we got back from the Christmas break and I've not been in Oxford for more than a week since the beginning of February! If you would like more frequent news from me then sign up for my more frequent **email** newsletter by sending an email to me at arwood@uk2.net. Please take time to read this - its cram packed with news from

Future Dates

- April 7** – Word Alive (Spring Harvest) at Skegness
- April 17** – God Channel (TV)
- April 27** – Bullington Arms (Oxford)
- May 5** - Chippenham
- May** – Tour of Germany?
- May 30** – Nexus (Coventry)

During January we had 4 gigs in England. Each of them were well attended and we seemed to have a positive impact on both the Christians and non-Christians that we met. Our gig at *Eynsham Youth Centre*, north of Oxford stands out for me as one to remember. We were playing at the youth centre's weekly Friday night event and the place was full of teenagers, nearly all non-Christian. We were able to share our testimonies both during and after the concert with the audience but the highlight of the evening was when we heard that a young girl had made a re-commitment to Christ during one of our songs!!



Ripcord playing an acoustic concert during lunchtime to over 150 students at the Bristol University mission.

Identity Mission (BRISTOL)

During the first week of February Ripcord was involved with Bristol Christian Union's Identity Week Mission. During the week we played a number of concerts including one at the main Student Union venue, the 'Anson Rooms'. While at the university, each member of Ripcord was assigned a university hall fellowship to assist during the mission week. This involved moving into student accommodation and helping with the hall fellowship's evangelistic events. I really enjoyed the week, as I was able to develop friendships with non-Christians and encourage the Christians in their faith and evangelism.

It was really great to see God providing me with plenty of opportunities to talk about my faith during the week. Just hours after moving into the student corridor I had an hour-long chat with one of the students who felt like he was falling away from God. We had a good chat and we are still in touch, so please pray for him. The mission week was an overall success with five people making commitments.



One of Ripcord's new t-shirts! There are also skinny t-shirts, and hooded sweatshirts! To order go to www.ripcord.org.uk.



Ripcord playing at an agricultural university in the town of As outside Oslo, Norway. From left to right: Mark, Kathryn, Katrina & Amy (Tim is sat behind the drums!).

Identity Mission (LANCASTER)

Just one day after finishing our week-long mission at Bristol University we travelled north to Lancaster University to help kick start their mission week. This was a very special time for me, returning to my home university and helping them once again with their mission. There was a good number at the concert and it was great to see so many of my old friends there!!

Tour Of Norway

Between 20th February and 11th March we were on tour in Norway. The tour was organised by NKSS (the Norwegian Christian student movement) and we played concerts in the cities of Bergen, Kristiansand, Ås and Oslo. It was a difficult tour because it felt like we weren't being used to our full potential because our Norwegian contacts didn't really know what to expect from us. This was due to a communication break down somewhere between our management team and the NKSS staff workers. However there were plenty of opportunities to share the gospel and also to encourage the Norwegian students in their evangelism. After playing at a high school in Bergen we were invited by one of the kids to play at his youth group that same night! We agreed, despite the short notice and had a fantastic evening playing music and meeting a really great bunch of young people.

On nights that we didn't have a concert we were invited to give seminars on creative evangelism, and also to help with some of their cell groups. I really enjoyed this part of the tour because I was able to get to know some of the people and learn about the Norwegian culture. We hadn't had this kind of opportunity in the past two tours because we were always rushing from one city to the next, so this was a refreshing change.

The tour of Norway was probably the hardest yet in terms of spiritual attack. A number of things kept going wrong including our truck, which was stationary at the time, being involved in a collision (see picture right) and problems setting up our PA system using the Norwegian power supply. It was a real time of personal growth for me as I learnt to rely on, and trust God for everything at all times. Despite all the problems I am sure that Ripcord made a positive impact in Norway. I really enjoyed myself, especially the beautiful scenery, the SNOW, and the wonderful people!!!



Ripcord members outside a high school that we played at in Norway.



The front of our truck after it's collision!! Don't worry – no one was injured.



Ripcord playing at the Kristiansand University during the weekly 'Jam Session'. Many non-Christians attended!

MY FUTURE

As some of you already know from my emails, I will be finishing with Ripcord at the end of July. My fiancée, Angela has just recently accepted a research post at the University of Cambridge in medical statistics and will start in September. So that is where we will be living after we get married in October. Please pray for us as we start looking for a house in Cambridge and think about moving.

Please pray for me as I consider what to do after Ripcord. I have really enjoyed my year of Christian ministry but feel that for the next three years I should try and get a secular job. I am not sure what kind of job I want to do, whether its management, IT, GIS, or even music, I would value prayer as I decide what to do next, and then start looking for a job!

News Snippets

On April 17th we are going up to Gateshead to record a short slot for the GOD channel! There is also a chance that we may also be on Channel 5's Sunday morning show!! Watch this space for more information.

I have just recently changed my mobile phone number. The new number is:
07866 571 769

We might have the opportunity to play in front of 35,000 young people at a festival taking place in Oxford. Please pray for negotiations as they take place and for the exciting prospect of witnessing to such a large crowd and the other band members back stage.

Prayer Points

Pray that I am able to raise the **financial support** needed to continue with Ripcord. (I still need another £200 a month in order to make ends meet.)

Please pray for me as I think about my future. Pray that I am able to think clearly about what God is calling me to do next year and pray for me as I start to apply for **jobs** in Cambridge.

Please pray that God will give the band **inspiration** when we are writing new songs in the next few months. Pray that God will give us powerful lyrics and melody lines that are both catchy and life changing.

Pray for the people at the universities and schools that we play at. Pray that God will bless them and **their year round work** that Ripcord is only a small part of.

Pray for **Ripcord's next few months** – the concerts, recording, TV appearances, and the possible tour of Germany in May. Pray that God would take us to the places that we would best be used.

Finally, please pray for **Angela and me** as we continue to plan our wedding and

A Personal Message From Me