

# Wood's World

Alistair Wood's monthly prayer letter.

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January 2001  
 Hello, and welcome to my first ever newsletter. I know its been a long time coming, but thanks for all your patience and prayers for me since I joined Ripcord back in October. The last few months have been very busy and hectic as I've been settling down in Oxford, and touring parts of Europe! I've barely had time to think, but the Christmas holiday was brilliant and very peaceful and I've now got some time to let you know how the last few months have been and provide some prayer points for the coming month.  
  
 Thanks for taking time to read this letter, especially the prayer points! It is really encouraging and important to know that people are praying for me!

**Tour Dates**  
**Jan 16** Radley College (Oxford)  
**Jan 18** Bullington Arms (Oxford)  
**Jan 25** Newman College (Birmingham)  
**Jan 26** Eynsham Youth Centre (Oxford)  
**Jan 27** London Institute CU  
**Feb 3-11** Bristol University Mission  
**Feb 12** Lancaster Uni Mission  
**Feb 17 – Mar 12** Tour of Norway (playing at a variety of venues in Oslo, Kristiansand and Bergen.)

**The story so far...** I moved to Oxford at the beginning of October and within three days I had experienced my first gig in Bristol and a few hours later was in a truck travelling at 60mph across Europe on the way to Bratislava in Slovakia!! We spent two and a half weeks on tour in Slovakia playing mainly at Universities, but also had some opportunity to play at an evangelistic café for school kids, and a conference on evangelism for students. November was spent on tour in Latvia and Lithuania again playing at mainly at universities. During December we had a number of concerts in England, but most of the time was spent finding somewhere to live, trying to fix broken equipment, and designing the new Ripcord website ([www.ripcord.org.uk](http://www.ripcord.org.uk) or [www.innovista.co.uk](http://www.innovista.co.uk)). I have settled in well with the band members and get on fantastically with them! Praise God that we work well as a team and are united in the vision for the band!

## Meet the band!

Tim - Drummer

N.B. We ARE a happy bunch really – this is a moody rock and roll photo!

Katrina - Lead Vocals

Kathryn - Backing Vocals and Keyboards



Mark - Guitars & Backing Vocals

Amy - Bass & Backing Vocals



Al - Sound Engineer

Praise God for this new team – from as far-flung places as America, New Zealand and Chippenham. Pray that we continue to work well as a team and God uses each one of us to our full potential.

## The Tours (Slovakia, Latvia & Lithuania)

Our first tour was of **Slovakia** and involved playing in 7 different cities! It was a great time for me as I got to know the band members and learnt how to use the equipment. It was also brilliant to see students responding to the message of the Gospel preached on the stage from the band. Throughout the tour more than 100 Bibles were taken by interested students during and after our concerts. We also had a number of really good conversations with students who were interested in what was said on stage and wanted to find out more about our faith.

One conversation that sticks out for me was with a medical student called Joseph who went to university in a town called *Martin*. He held the opinion that it didn't matter what he believed as long as he believed something, and explained that he took the "best parts" of different religions, and made them his own. I challenged him on this point and explained to him how there could only be one absolute truth. He seemed very interested and came back to the second event held the following day. Again he spent almost an hour chatting with us and wanting to find out more about the Gospel.

The second tour took place during November in **Latvia** and **Lithuania**. Again the tour was a great success, but it really felt like we were under heavy spiritual attack. Every member of the band was ill at one stage during the tour, and things kept going wrong (like the truck blowing its tyre!). However, we all grouped together, and with a lot of prayer we pulled through.

On one day, we were invited to talk during a 2-hour English lesson at *Daugapills University* in **Latvia**. We introduced ourselves and then asked the class to each think of a question to ask us. It was amazing when more than half of the class asked us questions about our Christian faith. That night at our concert quite a few of them turned up and wanted to speak to us on a one-to-one basis to find out more!!

Another exciting story from **Latvia** is when we were asked to play at the *Latvian National Student Day* celebrations! Each year the students in Latvia have a national holiday where they all congregate in a city called *Jelgava* to enjoy celebrations and organised events throughout the day. We were asked to play at one of four events happening during the evening where over 2000 people attended our concert, and all heard the Gospel - many for the first time!!

Then it was off to **Lithuania**, where we spent a week doing concerts at three universities. One of the biggest encouragements for me (but also a surprise) was how I was able to share the Gospel with many of the venue owners and organisers of the places that we were playing. While the band was warming up, or getting changed for the concert I'd often be left with the people who ran the venues and this gave me a perfect opportunity to share with them what we were doing and why we were doing it! Even my Russian GCSE came in helpful!

The last few months have been really special. I am really enjoying the work that I am doing and feel that I am using many of the gifts that God has given me. I have learnt and experienced many things, too many to share in this newsletter (ring me if you want to know more!!). God has been great and has been with me every step of the way!



Mark & Tim sharing the gospel with some students after a concert in Slovakia.



Ripcord playing at one of our 'acoustic concerts' in Slovakia.



A picture of the 2000+ crowd at the Latvian Student Day celebrations.

## News Snippets

It has just been confirmed that Ripcord will be doing a tour of Norway during February!

During the first week of February we will be helping Bristol University with their mission and then will be playing at Lancaster University during their mission.

It has also just been confirmed that we will be playing at *Spring Harvest World Alive* over Easter. We will be playing in the *After Hours* slot

Angela and I have set October 13 as the date for our wedding, so put it in your diary!!

## Prayer Points

Praise God for his provision and protection for me since I joined Ripcord. Pray that in everything I do I will look to God for continued guidance.

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

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 the Bristol and Lancaster University missions that we are helping with. Pray especially for the Bristol mission where I will be assigned a college to assist in their events.

Pray for the tour of Norway during February and March. Pray that we have maximum impact and that everything runs very smoothly.

Pray for me as I consider what to do after my year with Ripcord. Pray for guidance, as I have to make difficult decisions.

Please cut this out and keep it in your diary!

