

## expressions: the dvd - 2

### Transcript - chapter 1

*Dialogue and time-codes for chapter 1.*

#### 1: Work, rest and play

01:00:09:09 **Presenter**

Most of us spend the majority of our waking hours not resting, but working and playing. Whereas for centuries the church has only focused on where we live rather than where we spend most of our time. Now things are changing, and Fresh Expressions of church are springing up in all sorts of places.

01:00:42:05 **Pete Owens**

The main thrust of our meetings is discipleship. Within a small group it's so much easier for people to share the things that's closest to the heart. The problems that they may have, the pressures that they have.

01:00:51:14 **Man (praying)**

Father we just pray now that you would just take hold of this meeting.

*'Most of us spend the majority of our waking hours not resting, but working and playing.'*

01:00:55:16 **Pete Owens**

It's amazing to see the growth that we have in people in such a short time. Some people have gone to traditional church for many years but have grown so much more in the last six months than any other time in their life. The first group we started off with as a cell was some strategic leaders of the force. It's been amazing how God's put people in really important places within the police service and we started as a group round about 12 months ago. We have two other groups who work out of St Helen's area who are very independent - they run themselves. And we have one group on the south side of Liverpool and one of the north side of Liverpool and we now have a

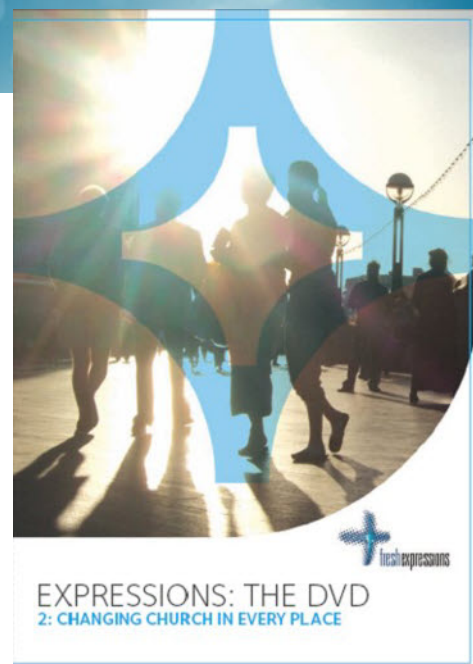
further group that meet at the force headquarters. What we found in the police service now is people work an awful lot of hours, and when you put on top of that that sometimes they travel an hour to work, so they spend so much time at work compared to the time that they do at home. People are busy during the home time, sometimes they don't even find time for traditional church on a Sunday. But what I've found is that some people have either not been going to church for some reason and have in the past, or have just found God for the first time and really want somewhere to come along to where they feel comfortable. So this is the natural place for them to go for their church.

01:02:04:13 **Woman**

The Romanian trip is still going ahead. The young people are still going over there. It's just how many of them, and I think some of them are still wobbling a little bit about whether they feel they can cope with it emotionally.

01:02:14:10 **Pete Owens**

Sometimes we meet just after we finish at work, or sometimes we meet in the lunch time, but it's a very valuable time for these people. Within the cell group we look at a very simple format. We find it very important to look at the presence of God and experience the presence of God at the start of every meeting. Then we look for what pressures we have. People have pressures within the work environment, but also within the home environment. And in the main they feel comfortable sharing within this small group. And then we look at our purpose. We are Christians in the workplace, and we've got an ideal opportunity to talk to people that we work with on a daily basis about the God that we worship. And it's just a fabulous place to be at this time.



01:02:56:02 **Man (Praying)**

And we thank you that you brought us here with a purpose. Lord Jesus...

01:03:00:00 **Man 2**

The cell group's very important to me because obviously people spend a lot of time in the workplace. It's where they spend most of their life really. Also it's a comfortable environment I think to share your faith with non-Christians.

01:03:12:11 **Woman**

As a single parent I have two children that I'm bringing up with a full time working role as well. So it's very important to me to remember to put God first in my life and and sometimes, to meet in a cell group is a helpful prompt and, and gives me that time to to really put God back at the beginning of my life.

01:03:29:24 **Man 3**

It is pressurised a job, and so it's important within the working week to make time to be able to discuss with other people and to pray before God, make time in the workplace. And I value that because it does force you to stop for the hour at least and dwell on

the things of God. Otherwise that opportunity might not be available.

01:03:52:19 **Pete Owens**

It's amazing how God opens doors to enable us to do the things that we've done. Our Chief Constable is aware of the work that is taken within Riverforce - within Merseyside police. And he's wrote a letter to the Bishop actually supporting all the work that we do. We've also become an official staff association so people who are Christians all over the force can come to us and for whatever problems that they may have.

01:04:15:20 **Phil Potter**

What's fascinating about this particular fresh expression is that it started from just one person who really had a passion for their workplace. But because it was a network, a work network, spread very, very naturally and very, very quickly so not only through his own particular workplace but increasingly through the region and now increasingly nationally as well.

01:04:39:11 **Pete Owens**

I think one of the most important things is to get people alongside you who are Christians and explain your vision to them. And what I've found is that very quickly people have caught the vision about fresh expressions. People can see the benefits of it. People want to do it. And once you've got a small group of people, just really pray through that, and get other people outside of your organisation to pray for what you're doing, and just watch the doors open.

01:05:02:15 **Pete Owens**

I would like to see all the forces that now have a Christian Police Association, have a church similar to ours where fresh expressions, small cell groups, groups where people are accountable, I would like to see that right through the country.

01:05:24:23 **Presenter**

Now when you've got time off, do you like to spend it lazing by the sea?

01:05:37:00 **Presenter**

One group of keen surfers based in Cornwall realised that they could be church and have fun at the same time.

01:05:48:21 **Kris Lannen**

Surfing is a unique sport because a wave is never the same, each wave's different. And you have that opportunity to kind of, to ride that wave to put your mark on that wave. And so every wave you surf is different and just the combination where, you know, of the wind, the sunshine, the sand on the beach, you know, how they all kind of combine to create a different shaped wave. I just think it's such an exciting and unique sport and that with the fact that, just all you need is your surfboard and your wetsuit and you can travel anywhere where there's waves and, you know, it's a real adventure.

01:06:29:24 **Henry Cavender**

It's one of those sports that you never really master as well. So it's got that ongoing kind of excitement of improving, and of always constantly feeling that there is more.

01:06:40:22 **Gareth Hill**

Tube Station became a reality really because we noticed that whatever time of the year we were here, there were always people surfing. What we're looking to do is convert this area, make it something that we can really experiment with, possibly a café, possibly a cyber-café. So folk can come off the beach, they can wash themselves down and get out of their wetsuits and check out the coffee.

01:07:09:08 **Kris Lannen**

To get a tube in surfing is like, it's the ultimate experience you could ever

have in surfing, it's what every surfer is hunting after is to get a barrel and to get a tube. It's almost like God said 'Hey this is the name that this church should have' because it's going to help a surfer to understand what it's like to live your life for Christ because to live your life for Jesus is the ultimate way you could ever kind of live life.

01:07:37:03 **Gareth Hill**

So we've got a big space. We've got a lot of chairs, and we've got a lot of hopes for this building really. It's going to be the centre of what we do with Tube Station.

01:07:48:06 **Henry Cavender**

One of the early jobs that we've got to get our heads round is taking what is currently a really beautiful interior of an old, you know, sort of 1930s building and adapting it for modern, you know, contemporary look. It's so rare that you get a church right next to the beach like this. It seemed the right thing to really kind of embrace the beach look and to really bring the beach inside as it were. So we're going to be altering the look and feel of the place, inside, but keeping a lot of the old features.

01:08:24:21 **Gareth Hill**

We have people, literally, all over the world praying for Tube Station and expecting God to do something quite extraordinary here.

01:08:32:22 **Kris Lannen**

The reason we're here is to build the Kingdom of God, to build church and church is about the people. And we can do that way before the building is up and ready. We're excited about just starting to, you know, worship with the people that are already worshipping here. And to start just connecting with people and sharing our faith with people. And hopefully seeing the church grow even before the Tube

Station kind of opens as the Tube Station.

01:09:02:02 **Gareth Hill**

What's really exciting for us is the possibility of something completely unknown, unshaped, totally different from church as we would know it, forming very naturally just out of the relationships between Chris and Henry, the two directors of the project, and the surfers themselves.

01:09:20:14 **Henry Cavender**

God's in charge of this. And he very gently keeps reminding us of that. And that's an amazing thing because this is a huge responsibility that we've taken on here, but actually God's reminding us that it's his responsibility, it's his project and his vision and so we daily look to God for our inspiration and just to keep us on track.

01:09:41:16 **Kris Lannen**

God's kind of doing a new thing and he's telling us just to get out there and do church in different ways.

01:09:47:14 **Henry Cavender**

God needs to use us for our differences in order to engage with people who are also different.

01:09:53:00 **Kris Lannen**

What I would like to see the Tube Station as a project achieve is to really impact the surfing culture of Cornwall. God is creating an opening into that culture at the moment and we're just going to see a massive harvest of guys and girls just discovering God for the first time.

01:10:20:07 **Presenter**

Working for the RAF can be fun as well. But it's also very hectic. And when the chaplains of an Air Force base and college realised that the chapel wasn't as popular as it used to be, they decided to do something about it.

01:10:42:05 **Steve Radley**

When I came to RAF Cranwell, the congregation was quite small. And from that we felt traditional patterns perhaps weren't accessible to everyone who did want to engage and meet with God. Through that idea we came up with Re:Fresh which is a very different way of meeting God, primarily through relationships and through Christian friends that people have on the street.

01:11:13:13 **Peter Lee**

A key element of Re:Fresh is to reach out to the un-churched. And one of the ways in which we do that is by holding Re:Fresh in the community centre so people are used to coming here during the week for teas or coffee, for getting information for various community activities. And church, Re:Fresh-style, is another community activity that takes place at the centre of community life.

01:11:36:23 **Man**

Re:Fresh allows people from different departments, different communities from outside of the service community, and different areas to get to know each other and it strengthens the community itself rather than just building on the congregation. It allows people to meet, to talk, to start doing social things outside of the church community as well.

01:11:59:13 **Steve Radley**

When we first came up with the idea for Re:Fresh, we didn't really know as we started talking what we were looking at. And initially we were looking at doing a traditional pattern of worship which was accessible or reflected both Free Church and Church of England worship. As we discussed that we decided to do something very different which was accessible to a wider community. And people who were perhaps afraid to go through the

church doors for whatever reason. When we started we hadn't got a clue if anyone were to come what the outcome would be. We put a lot of prayer into it and felt it was the right thing to do, but we were prepared to run it for two or three months. Initially we ran it for six months and if it hadn't worked, no-one came, we'd have tried something different. So I'd say if anyone feels this type of event wouldn't work in their situation, perhaps it wouldn't, but be willing to take the risks because, in my experience, God blesses us when we do take risks.

01:12:59:20 **Woman**

Before I actually started going to church, I was frightened of churches. To go into a church like my local church would have been absolutely no-no because it was so formal, I felt I couldn't be myself in a church. But a place like this, you just come in and you sit down and you get your coffee and your doughnut and you just enjoy yourself.

01:13:19:05 **Peter Lee**

Several things go into making Re:Fresh accessible to un-churched people. And firstly we have the advertising, regular posters and we do invites which go to every house on the station, every month, so we we take them round ourselves. The Re:Fresh logo is well known now. The timings are consistent and people come to associate Re:Fresh with church but only in a very informal way because of the neutrality of the community centre where it's held.

01:13:49:24 **Man**

We got married about, well, just over 18 months now, and so we thought, we just had the little baby, so we decided that we wanted to bring her up correctly and everything so we thought 'Well we'll start going back to church and that' cos we haven't been to church for a long while.

01:14:05:12 **Steve Radley**

One thing we do know in life is that God loves us unconditionally.

01:14:09:17 **Man**

It's a lot less formal than like going to a church, more of a family atmosphere. So it's quite good.

01:14:15:11 **Woman**

Coming to Re:Fresh does help build friendships and relationships, so often the people who are coming here are part of the community and they attend things like the 'Mums & Toddlers' groups so the little children are seeing the same faces they see at the other groups anyway. So you're all doing it together.

01:14:31:19 **Steve Radley**

We don't want to be culturally driven in Re:Fresh because we recognise culture, things we do change. But we want to be accessible where people are at. And what we mean by not being culturally driven is we continually review Re:Fresh and ask ourselves 'are we doing the right thing?' And we don't just want to be seen as a trendy and shallow type of worship, but we want people to engage with God. And by being culturally relevant we believe we can. But we don't want to be driven by things which may not be of God.

01:15:04:04 **Peter Lee**

We recognise that many people do go away for the weekends, and we can't wish that that were not the case. There's no point trying to live and work as if we still had a full community of people here on a Saturday and Sunday. So what we do instead is try to ascertain who we do have and seek to target them instead. We also, accompanying that, we seek to do activities that are not just Sunday based. So, for example, a few months ago we ran an Alpha Course as an extension of Re:Fresh. Not primarily as

an extension of the station churches, and Re:Fresh was held on a Tuesday night, again in the community centre. If people are not coming to a traditional pattern of worship, there are two responses. The traditional response where we blame the people, and the other response, which I prefer, is to look at myself and say 'Is what I'm doing, is the way I'm doing it meeting the needs?' And I think if we're honest enough to ask ourselves these hard questions, and face some answers that we might not like, then that puts us well on the way to opening our eyes to broader possibilities and trying new things. The question which we constantly wrestle with ourselves as a team is 'Is Re:Fresh church in and of its own, or is it simply an outreach for the main station churches?' I don't think we have a settled answer on that, and I don't think we ever should. Re:Fresh is an evolving concept. We believe it meets a spiritual need. People are certainly coming. People have come to know Christ through that. People have become church members. And in that sense it is church in its own right and if it stopped meeting those needs, or if it simply becomes a little holy club then perhaps that's the time to look at stopping Re:Fresh and doing something else.

01:16:53:03 **Steve Radley**

I don't know what Re:Fresh will look like in 10 years time, it may well have moved on, it may well not be happening. But my hope is that at RAF Cranwell, there would be expressions of worship in 10 years time which meets people's needs, particularly as we think about second, third generation un-churched people, would enable people to meet with God and to satisfy that spiritual need that we all have.

01:17:33:16 **CUT.**