



NEWS SHEET • MAY 2013

UCB Prayer and Praise Day

In February, UCB held a Prayer and Praise day; a whole day dedicated to praying on air, for listeners' prayer requests and thanking God together, for all that He's doing.

In the weeks leading up to the day, UCB invited listeners to get in touch with their prayer requests and the emails and texts flooded in, in their hundreds. Throughout the day, local and national Christian leaders were in the studios in England and later in Belfast (when the weeknights' show broadcasts from the Commission Broadcast Centre), praying for everyone

who got in touch.

The prayer requests varied hugely; from people needing physical healing, through to employment, restoration of relationships and help with money and mental health issues.

For listeners who wanted a little more anonymity and would rather not be prayed for on air, they had the option of ringing UCB's Prayerline and praying in privacy with a trained volunteer at one of the Prayerline satellite groups across the UK.



Pictured at the Commission Broadcast Centre taking calls at the Prayer & Praise Day are left to right: David Patterson, Thriving Life Church, Newtownards, Grace Wallace and Andy Heron, West Presbyterian Church, Bangor.



More requests come in to Hilary Medhurst, Commissioning Editor, during the Prayer & Praise Day.

Neil Elliott, Director of Broadcasting for UCB said; "These dedicated days are really powerful. For us personally (and the team taking the calls), we're often overwhelmed by the volume of requests we receive and by the huge needs of our listeners, but it's also an extraordinary privilege to be able to pray for them too. We believe prayer works and we know too that our listeners are really encouraged to know our team is praying for them."

Drama

Drama Production has been active over the past few months, despite the inevitable disruption caused by the winter flu viruses which have a nasty habit of laying low important team members on recording nights! One evening we had three casualties on both voice and technical teams. But nevertheless production has continued.

In late autumn 2012 Jennifer Hobson completed a series on "Samuel" which had been written by Hugh Finlay. An earlier 2012 production about Cornelius, the Roman centurion we meet in Acts, allowed us to send 13 radio drama programmes to our partner radio stations worldwide.

Our latest series, "I Caiaphas" tells the

story of the death and resurrection of Jesus from the viewpoint of a person opposed to him – as the writer Colm Flanagan found this an interesting challenge. The series is now finished and will be broadcast later this year. Jennifer is now recording a five part series on "Nehemiah," written by Hugh Finlay, it's due for completion by the early autumn. We have also just recorded some drama style "Just A Moments" for Downtown Radio, a welcome return of Commission to the local radio scene after an absence due to changes at the station.

Branch FM, a Christian run community station in Yorkshire, is using our drama series on their lunchtime show, and has requested more. Bible based radio drama stories, like the book itself, have an enduring appeal!

Going Pink for Amy



Emma Reid and her father Mark being interviewed by Juls Martin for UCB UK

In March the Reid family from Newtownards lost their 20-year-old daughter to cancer. Her parents are active members of The Thriving Life Church in Newtownards and the strength they have shown through the tough times of their daughter's fight has been not only an inspiration to the family circle, the church, but to the community at large. The local charity 'Clic Sargent Northern Ireland' was of great support to Amy and

the family and each year have an appeal during March. In memory of Amy's death the entire family circle dyed their hair pink for the month of March to raise money for the appeal. They also launched a webpage and took part in various media interviews including local papers and radio stations as well as visits to UCB at the Commission Broadcast Centre and UTV. Donations to date stand at over £37,000.



Matt Redman



Tim Hughes

Venue 52

Venue52, produced and hosted by Mark Todd, is a weekly 1-hour music show playing Christian pop/rock music with a mixture of top 40 songs and newer bands we think you need introduced to, with weekly news updates alongside features on artists, bands and organizations that work to make a difference in the world. The show is syndicated and is currently airing on 10 stations across the UK, Ireland, Canada and America, all of which can be listened to online, so you can listen in wherever you are in the world. But if you missed anything a podcast is available for free in the iTunes store each week with the features from the previous week's show. You can also find out more on our websites on tumblr, twitter and facebook where you can listen to all of our interviews including Tim Hughes, Matt Redman, Ben Cantelon, Paper Route and loads more and watch live acoustic videos including The Secret Room who came in to co-host the show, all on the videos section of the Facebook page.

IRN

International Religious News

Each week, a dedicated team meets to produce and record International Religious News at our studios. These two-minute programmes take a topical look at four or five news items, which are making the headlines in the world of religion and ethics. After recording, IRN is uploaded to Audiopot (www.audiopot.org), where it is freely available to radio stations for broadcasting. Currently, six stations throughout the UK and Ireland broadcast IRN each week.

Finance

Thank you to all our 'Friends of Commission' who continue to support us financially. The day-to-day running of the studio and our on-going radio missionary outreach is only made possible by your valuable commitment.

Website

For further information and up to date news about Commission, simply visit our new website at www.commissionradio.org

Studios: Noble House, 6 Ballyoran Lane, Belfast, BT16 1XJ