

# HEALTHCARE SUNDAY

21 October 2001

# Who Cares?

## Prayer and sermon outlines

### GOD CARES

*'But God shows and clearly proves His (own) love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners Christ the Messiah, the Anointed One, died for us.'*

**Romans 5:8 (Amplified Bible)**

*'For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He (even) gave up His only-begotten (unique) son, so that whoever believes in (trusts, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish - come to destruction, be lost - but have eternal (everlasting) life.'*

**John 3:16 (Amplified Bible)**

### WE CARE

*'For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us...'*  
**2 Corinthians 5:14 (Amplified Bible)**

*'Again Jesus said "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."'*

**John 20:21 (NIV)**

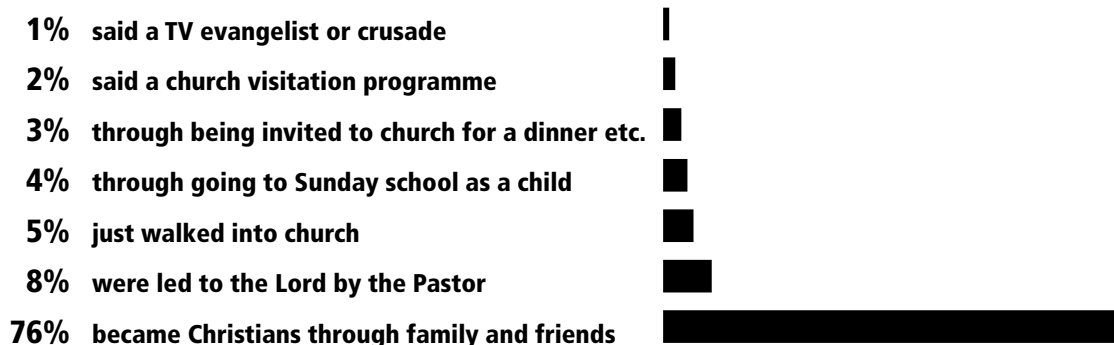
*'And he said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature (of the whole human race).'*

**Mark 16:15 (Amplified Bible)**

## The word missionary means 'one sent on a mission'

If a missionary is one sent on a mission, and Jesus commands each of us to go into the world and share the good news of the Gospel, then each of us is a missionary (Matt 28:19). Where God has placed us, in our families, our work, our community, that is our mission field. We are Christ's missionary in that place. How we live our lives and share our faith has a tremendous influence on those around us.

A study was done in America of eight thousand Christians. They were asked what had influenced them to become a Christian. The results were:



## What others have done

Healthcare Sunday is celebrated in hospitals as well as churches. The Christian healthcare staff in one hospital in Northern Ireland have organised a Healthcare Sunday Service there for the past three years. Healthcare staff throughout the Area Board are invited and as many Christian staff as possible asked to take part in the service. The results have been greater than any of the organisers imagined. It has provided a venue for scattered healthcare staff to meet where they have been blessed and encouraged, but the greatest cause for celebration each year has been those who have accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Not content to remain local, last year the group had the service broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Morning Service.

# Prayer thoughts

**P\_U\_S\_H**



In today's society, PUSH is a very common everyday instruction. It is mostly seen on doors, where it implies that when we PUSH, the door will open, giving easy access. No matter how many doors are encountered or how stiff or heavy they may be, there is no doubt that when this instruction is followed, the door will yield and allow us through.

In the natural realm even the smallest plants show an amazing power to push upwards through the earth, especially those unwanted plants that keep appearing through our tarmac driveways! They need the protection of the earth to develop but when their time to bloom comes, nothing can stop them from bursting out to display their beauty.

## **PUSH — Pray Until Something Happens**

In scripture this is demonstrated by the persistent widow, who because of her constant PUSH for justice eventually received her reward from the uncaring judge. In telling this parable, Jesus makes it clear that we should always pray and not give up, (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus also tells us to 'Keep on asking and it will be given to you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives and he who keeps on seeking finds and to him who keeps on knocking it will be opened'. (Matt 7:7 Amplified Bible).

Every day we PUSH endless doors with confidence knowing that the way forward is sure. Surely as Christians we ought to PUSH with confidence those unseen spiritual doors with the same confidence and assurance as the very physical doors we are entering.

Please use the following information and the *Suggestions for Prayer* sheet as resources for prayer, so that together we can PUSH for our Health Service.

### **Praise God for:-**

- the many benefits of the NHS
- its Christian basis and influence
- the innovations of diagnosis and treatment
- the medical advances that continue to be made and the people whose lives are saved through them
- the dedication, expertise and compassion of staff
- the Christian witness of healthcare professionals of all disciplines
- staff and patients who come to know Jesus
- those in management positions who do a difficult job with limited resources

### **Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father,**

we thank you that you love us and that you showed us just how much when you sent Jesus to die in our place.

Thank you that you care for us each day and that you are interested in the smallest details of our lives.

Thank you that because of your love and care for us, we can show that love and care to others.

Help us to show love and care in what we do each day, so that we make a difference to the lives of those around us.

