



a **passion** for life

“Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no-one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.” (Ps.145)

We consider the *A Passion for Life* mission initiative in March 2010 to have been a remarkable work of God’s grace among us and want to offer him heartfelt praise and thanks. In particular, we want to thank the Gospel Partnerships, numerous Evangelical para-church agencies and organisations and the wider Evangelical constituency of churches and individuals for their magnificent support since we undertook to co-ordinate this initiative in the summer of 2008.

Throughout March, regional programmes around the country have been running using flagship events with known international and national evangelists (who all seem exhausted but thrilled to have been so fully employed) and a host of smaller events of varying kinds. It seems that the missions were not mainly about converting the fringe members of churches but making contact with unbelievers “off-site” in secular venues. Among other things we believe we can praise the Lord for the following enduring legacy of *A Passion for Life* 2010:

- A renewed love for Jesus among God’s people
- A renewed confidence in personal evangelism
- A renewed commitment to mission-oriented prayer
- A renewed commitment of churches to local mission
- A renewed partnership between a greater variety of faithful churches
- A renewed engagement of evangelical churches with local communities
- A renewed diversity of gifted evangelists to different sectors
- A renewed willingness to try gospel initiatives
- A renewed reverence for God

We think we should do this again because a national initiative clearly gives churches courage and resources to do more together than they could on their own. We think the timing (reinforced by Easter and with time for follow-up after Easter) was right. We think that 2014 is the right year - not so soon as to burden churches, clash with Olympics initiatives or before there is an appetite again - but soon enough to keep it in mind and provide a sense of future purpose and focus.

As the initial stage of the Passion for Life project ended we tender our resignations as Co-Chairs, and ask the gospel partnerships to determine how best to take this initiative forwards. It has been a joy to serve in this small way in the cause of the gospel.

To God alone be all glory for what he has done among us and through us this year and for us in Christ, who remains the glorious expression of His Passion for our eternal Life.

Richard Coekin and John Stevens (April 2010)