

# Invitations Sent to 28,000 Homes

In the News at Let the Bible Speak

## Invitation Cards Distributed in Border Counties

In a commendable effort to increase listener numbers to *Let the Bible Speak* broadcasts on Radio Star Country in Ireland, the Clogher Valley and Kilskeery Free Presbyterian churches arranged the distribution of 28,000 cards advertising the weekly broadcasts. The postcard-size invitations were delivered in South Tyrone and Fermanagh through the Royal Mail and reached areas that are normally unsuitable for door-to-door evangelism.

The benefit of the radio ministry in these districts cannot be overestimated. There is a potential listening audience of many thousands, the majority of which have never attended a gospel service. Rev. Peter McIntyre, who is responsible for the broadcast on Wednesday afternoons, reports a steady and encouraging response to the messages and trusts that by making the broadcasts more widely known, others will be encouraged to tune in. He recently commented on this new venture in evangelism: "I am grateful for the continued opportunity to present the gospel through Radio Star each Wednesday afternoon from Clogher Valley. I have found the personnel at the station extremely helpful and friendly and would request that *LTBS Quarterly* readers pray that the word of God might touch their hearts.

"In order to publicise the *Let the Bible Speak* programmes on Radio Star, the Kilskeery and Clogher Valley congregations paid for a postcard to be

delivered to 28,000 homes. The postcard contained the times of the programmes on one side with a short gospel message on the reverse. I also advertised the testimony of the late Mr. Paul Neilly, a consultant surgeon at Altnagelvin Hospital in Londonderry. Mr. Neilly's booklet "At the Cutting Edge" is a moving account of a believer's faith as he faced death. I was greatly encouraged by those who contacted me by letter and telephone with requests for the booklet. One lady spoke to a member of our congregation asking for the testimony advertised on the radio. It has been unusual, certainly in my case, for listeners to contact me directly, yet there are those who are tuning in and hearing the message of grace. Please pray that amongst this invisible audience there will be those like Lydia whose hearts the Lord will open." (Radio Star Country is a County Monaghan-based radio station which broadcasts on 981MW. It can be received in large parts of Northern Ireland.)

## Closed Door in Dublin

In a previous issue of *LTBS Quarterly*, we reported the possibility of recommencing broadcasts on a Dublin radio station. Initial contacts were very encouraging and it was hoped to commence programmes during the summer months. Sadly, this opportunity has not materialised as we had hoped. The station has informed *LTBS* programme director, Rev. Leslie Curran, that they have sufficient "religious" programmes at present, and therefore it is not possible to include an *LTBS* broadcast. *LTBS* remains very interested in expanding the radio ministry into the Republic of

Ireland, and therefore while this door has not opened at present, we continue to pray that God will make it possible for a Bible-preaching gospel programme to be broadcast in the near future.

## County Donegal Hears the Gospel

County Donegal is the most northern county of the Republic of Ireland. It is renowned for its rugged scenery, Atlantic-washed beaches, and typical Irish way of life. The county is a thinly populated region, and is predominantly Roman Catholic. In the early 1990s a Free Presbyterian church was formed in



Donegal coastline

Convoy, a small village a short distance from the border with Northern Ireland. The congregation meets in its own building and enjoys the ministry of its first ordained minister, Rev. James Porter. Mr. Porter is formerly from Omagh (N.I.) and is now a regular contributor on the *LTBS* programmes that are aired on Radio

North. Radio evangelism is an excellent means of spreading the gospel in the rugged and scattered regions of Donegal. Some listeners have written to programme director Rev. Leslie Curran expressing their appreciation for the messages and have sought to encourage the various contributors. Those who have written are only a small fraction of the actual listening audience.

The signal from Radio North travels almost across the entire county, and Mr. Porter has been in contact with many who regularly tune in to the weekly programmes. These listeners are from numerous religious backgrounds and live



in scattered villages and towns. The benefit and appeal of the radio programmes was highlighted recently during Mr. Porter's outreach work in Donegal. A gentleman who is a regular listener to *LTBS* recognised his voice and asked him regarding the radio ministry. He informed Mr. Porter that he recorded

each programme from the radio and then played the recording in the local Presbyterian church during the midweek service. This elderly gentleman expressed his sincere thanks for the faithful preaching of the gospel and spoke warmly of how the ministry had been a blessing to his own soul. For these tokens for good and for the continual blessing of Almighty God, we give thanks. There is much ground to be possessed for Christ in Donegal, and although this work has had small beginnings, we expect its latter end shall greatly increase.

### **Extension of Radio Ministry in the Isle of Man**

Manx Radio on the Isle of Man was the first radio station to broadcast an *LTBS* programme in April 1973. Since then there have been many changes to our programme schedule, changes which have meant that for many years we were not able to continue on Manx radio. However, during 2003 the door of opportunity was reopened, and *LTBS* recommenced broadcasting on the Isle of Man. Initially a fifteen-minute programme was aired every Lord's Day evening at 7:30.

This is significant given that there is now a fledgling Free Presbyterian work on the island in Port Erin. The small congregation has continued to meet and has benefited from the ministry of various Free Presbyterian ministers and students who have travelled from Northern Ireland, but it is anxious to see the work further established. It is therefore extremely encouraging to report that *LTBS* has renewed the contract with Manx Radio for another year and has been able to extend the programme from fifteen minutes to thirty minutes and have it broadcast at the more suitable time of 9:30 P.M. each Lord's Day. This change in

schedule has been followed up during the summer with a Youth Council outreach team who visited the island for seven days in July. Sixteen young people under the leadership of Rev. Wesley McDowell engaged in an extensive outreach programme that involved visiting hundreds of homes with gospel literature and extending an invitation to the regular church services.

### **Thanks**

Let the Bible Speak wishes to express its sincere thanks to the benefactor who has underwritten the printing of twenty thousand extra copies of this issue and arranged for their distribution by the Post Office in selected areas of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. We really appreciate this generous gesture from a dedicated supporter of our ministry who wishes to remain anonymous.

Reader, if your copy of the magazine has reached you as a result of this venture, we would welcome your comments. Helpful gospel literature will be mailed, without charge or obligation, to those who write to us at *LTBS*, 11 Westland Avenue, Ballymoney BT53 6PE. ■