

@vision

Winter 2024/25

REFLECTING REFLECTING FORWARD





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This magazine is published twice yearly to report on the work of GLO in Europe and around the world and to promote mission interest. There is no subscription rate but readers are welcome to send gifts towards postage and production.

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Many people have a concern about what the long-term impact of their lives will be on others. As Christians this is a big issue because the Bible encourages us to live our lives in view of eternity. GLO, along with many other Christian organisations, benefits greatly from legacies that people leave behind. It is a way of significantly helping the work of the kingdom by organising your giving after you have gone.

We have produced an information booklet on the use of legacies and if you would like to have one then write to: Stephen McQuoid | GLO Centre | 78 Muir Street | Motherwell ML1 1BN | smcquoid@glo-europe.org



EDITORIAL

by Stephen McQuoid

Welcome to the latest edition of e-vision! This has been a very significant year for us in GLO Europe as we have celebrated our 50th anniversary. We marked the occasion by having several events around the country as we celebrated all that God has done over the past five decades. While we enjoyed reflecting back on God's goodness, and appreciated all those who attended, we are still aware of the great needs that exist.

The Europe of today is a mission field and arguably the needs are even greater than they were back in 1974 when GLO Europe first launched. First, Europe is larger and more diverse than ever before. Also, institutional Christianity is in terminal decline and secularism is endemic. However the deadening impact of these changes is now being challenged by an influx of people from around the world, some of whom have a Christian background but many come from other faith commitments, in particular Islam.

The increasing multiculturalism of Europe as well as its descent into liberalism has prompted culture wars which have become fraught and show no signs of abating. Europe is also politically divided and unsettled and struggles to cope with the challenges of modernity.

All of this means that Europe continues to be a very difficult place to reach for the gospel while at the same time those people who need to hear the life-changing message of Jesus grow more numerous. It is no exaggeration to say that Europe is in a spiritual crisis and if the church does not rise to this challenge then the spiritual future of Europe is gloomy.

All that being said, we are actually very encouraged at GLO Europe with all that God is doing. In many of our mission locations people are being converted and are growing in their faith. Over the years we have witnessed the planting of many churches and this continues as we try to reach out to new areas. Our vision has always been to take the gospel to where it is unknown. Please pray for us as

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this involves going to places that are hard and resistant and also require great personal sacrifice if an impact is to be made.

As you read this edition of e-vision we hope you get a sense that while we are giving thanks for the past, we are actually looking to the future. GLO Europe has now been around for 50 years and we have gained a little bit of experience through the challenges we have faced. Our prayer is that God will use that experience to equip us as we move forward trying to fulfil our calling to reach Europe for Christ. We would ask you to pray for us on this journey and consider whether God is calling you to join us in whatever way you can as we partner together for the sake of the good news of Jesus.

by Richard Harknett

As I write this, we've just finished preparing a video for use at our church quiz. Some of the members were asked what being a Christian meant to them, and this was one response: 'Real things that happened in the past are transforming my life in present and give me an amazing hope for the future.' The power of the cross reshapes our entire lives, and our perspective on what is yet to come. Whilst Christ's death and resurrection is perhaps the greatest example of this, the principle holds true in many other areas. As we reflect on what has happened to us in the past, that can change the way we look ahead to the future. We reflect forwards.

As we in GLO Europe celebrate our 50th anniversary, we are spending time looking back over all that has been achieved and reflecting on God's faithfulness, seen in so many ways. But looking back also provides an opportunity to look forwards. The core purposes of GLO remain unchanged from the beginning: to mobilise Christians, to train and equip them, to send and support them in mission. This will continue over the coming years, but the way in which these aims

are achieved will need to adapt to the changing reality of both GLO Europe, and Europe itself, in the 21st century.

Short-term mission has been central to GLO's strategy throughout the past 50 years, with an estimated 15,000 people mobilised over the decades. Although it will continue to be a key focus, it will also take on more diverse forms in the years to come. A perfect example of that is found later in this issue of e-vision, with the report of the mission trip organised by a church in Marseille, travelling to support a church in Albania (p12-13). The connections built through GLO enabled both sides to benefit from the experience. As we look to the coming years, short-term mission teams can, and should, draw from all across Europe, not just from the UK. The experiences of the participants in the Denmark team this summer (p6-7) are likely to become more common.

This increasing diversification is a feature of much of the work of GLO Europe. In the early years, GLO mission partners were mostly British, leaving the UK to serve in Europe. Now, half are European, serving in their home countries. This

ratio is likely to continue to shift further as we recruit people from all over Europe.

With this change in the composition of GLO Europe, new organisational structures have been required. It remains a UK charity with UK trustees to oversee the legal and financial aspects. However, the newly established Mission Forum draws together key GLO Missionaries from across the continent to reflect on mission strategy and direction. These periodic meetings, rotating between different host countries, offer the chance to share experiences, ideas and opportunities. With future recruitment to both medium and long-term mission also certain to draw from across Europe, rather than just the UK, working together in ways like this will become a common feature of the ministry of GLO.

Training has been at the heart of GLO Europe since the early years of the organisation, and that, once more, has not changed. The original 'Training for Service' course was a 20-week programme which ran from 1974 to 1983. This expanded

to become a full year, with the name Tilsley College adopted in 1995. The College now offers fully accredited training but retains the original practical focus which is designed to equip students for mission.

However, GLO training also now reflects the reality of 2024, with multiple strands interlinking. The one-year certificate programme continues to be the heartbeat of College life. This can be followed up with second year and third year studies. Shorter courses are now on offer, including the ADVANCE programme of 2-4 weeks, designed in partnership with Echoes International and Counties. Further innovation has seen the introduction of 16-week and 14-week courses running in parallel with the certificate course (see p10-11 for more from the College).

One immense difference between 1974 and 2024 is the expansion of modern communication and information technology. Websites for the public only began to emerge in 1994 and what is possible now would have been unimaginable when GLO Europe began. Zoom bridges the distance and has facilitated training in new ways. Classes can be live-streamed, either the Joshua

programme from the College or more bespoke courses designed for the participating churches. Training programmes overseas can be supported by tutors in the UK. Digital resources supplement physical. And what will the coming decades hold as technology develops yet further? God-willing, more incredible advances which are being used in service of the church.

Who we are now is fundamentally shaped by our story and our experiences. That is no less true for organisations as for individuals. When Moses was speaking to the nation prior to the conquest of the Promised Land, he instructed them to: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years.' But this remembering was also to challenge them as they looked towards the future: 'Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God.' (Deut. 8:2, 11). As GLO Europe celebrates 50 years we recognise all that the Lord has done in and through the many people who have been involved. But we don't look back and remain lodged in the past. Instead, as remember, we seek to be inspired, encouraged and envisioned to continue the work into the future.

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REFLECTING FORWARD

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JOIN US IN 2025

The following locations are already **confirmed** for short-term teams in 2025:

Czechia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Tanzania, UK

Details to follow on the GLO website.

SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS

by Stephen McQuoid

Short-term mission teams have been part of the strategy of GLO Europe since the very beginning – we are convinced they are vital to our strategy of reaching Europe for Christ. Over the past 50 years we have mobilised more than 15,000 people for short-term mission teams and have sent them to well over 800 locations across Europe and the UK.

However, short-term mission is not just about numbers, the nature of the teams is equally significant. Our aim is to ensure that each team is used strategically as part of a bigger mission

“If you would like to join a team or send people on a team, please get in touch because we would love to work with you.”

picture. Sometimes this means that a team will be used to pioneer new areas. In this way we can prepare the ground for work that will be done by longer term missionaries. In Naples, for example, we had a full-time resident mission team church planting and strengthening existing churches. This process began with an ambitious campaign to distribute a gospel package to every home in the city using short-term teams. Given the size of Naples this was a formidable task, but it resulted in both contacts and conversions.

Short-term mission teams are also used to help with more established ministries and churches in different locations. A long-term missionary can benefit greatly from the extra help that a short-term mission team can provide. The presence of the team can also provide fellowship for a missionary who may be working on their own, and the cross fertilisation of ideas when teams mix with church members is a great way of building a bridge between the sending country and churches on the mission field.

We also need to remember that short-term teams are a great way of doing discipleship. When

you bring a group of Christians together and put them in the challenging situation of frontline evangelism, it drives them to prayer and reliance on God which accelerates spiritual growth. Every team has a Bible teacher so that part of each day is given to studying the Bible and praying together. The depth of fellowship on these teams can lead to lifelong friendships.

The makeup of teams is also significant. Many of our teams bring people together from different churches and traditions. This has led to an invigorating sharing of ideas and a broadening of perspective among team members. Sometimes a whole team can be comprised of people from one church and this enables church leaders to disciple their church members as a group. We are delighted to cooperate with churches in this way because of the mutual benefits. People who actively engage with short-term mission will also get more involved with ministry in their own church.

These teams do not just involve young people. One team that I took to France had a couple of teenagers on it, but also a lady of 79 years of age and several in between. This mix of ages can also be very beneficial and we have even had summer teams comprised entirely of retired people who bring experience and pastoral wisdom.

While we have long-term missionaries who are planting churches all over Europe, we see short-term mission as a key component of what GLO Europe does. It is a great gateway into greater mission involvement as well as a strategic way of reaching people for Christ.

If you would like to join a team or send people on a team, please get in touch because we would love to work with you. You may also have a burden for a particular area in Europe and if that is the case we would happily partner with you through the whole process of making a team happen. Together we can do something to impact the great continent of Europe for Christ.



DENMARK TEAM 2024

by Gareth Armstrong

Stephen McQuoid and I led a team to Esbjerg in Denmark to help the Frikirken i Mølleparken, a local church in Esbjerg, in their evangelism. We had a fully international team made up of Scottish, Northern Irish, Danish, Faroese, German, French, Ukrainian and Italian members. We all enjoyed a great week of blessing and fellowship together.

A real highlight were the open-air services we held in the town centre and beach front. We praised God, shared testimony, performed gospel sketches and had opportunities to speak to individuals and share with them the good news of Jesus. There were many people who stopped to listen and were happy to stand and talk to us. The church also had an open day in the week which we invited people along to. There were a few who visited the church who had never been before. This was an answer to prayer as we were praying that God would give us good contacts and conversations with Danish people and he did.

The best part of the week for me was the fellowship we enjoyed with the church members in Esbjerg. They are a small church of around 20 people. But they were all active with us throughout the week as part of the team. We shared with them in devotions each morning, we had praise nights singing together and we were active in witnessing together. Our theme for the week was discipleship. There was real mutual encouragement and joy for both the church and the team. We felt together a sense of inspiration and challenge that evangelism is something we can all be involved in. To simply talk to people about Jesus is something that any of us can do, we don't need to be on a GLO team, we can do it the whole year round. It was a blessing to be with the church for the week.

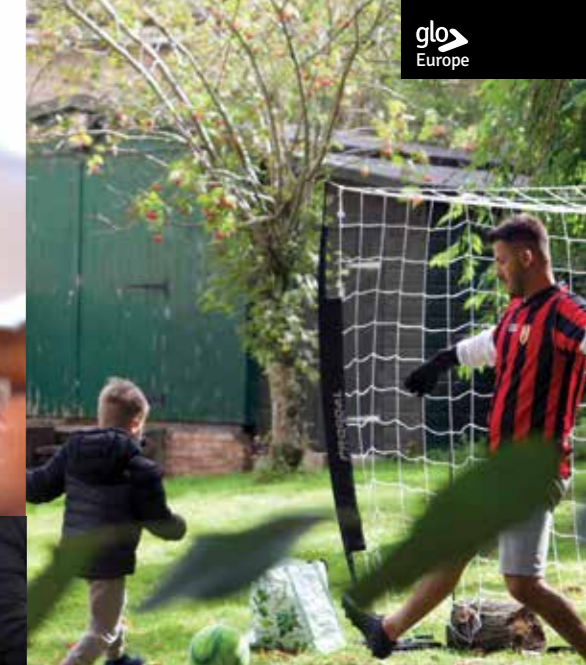
Pray for the church, Frikirken i Mølleparken, in Esbjerg Denmark. Pray that they would be encouraged to keep witnessing for Jesus and that they would see the church grow through people trusting in Jesus. Pray also for the team members, that they would be strengthened in their faith and encouraged to keep on evangelising.



This year was very significant in the life of GLO Europe because it was our 50th anniversary. It was a real joy to hold a series of events around the country where we could catch up with old friends, celebrate all that God has done over the past five decades, and think towards the future. There is something very precious about reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness over all these years of ministry. As we look back to the many ways in which God answered prayer and blessed, it gives us a real sense of confidence but the God who is with us will also lead us into the future.

Of course, many things have changed over the past 50 years! We have grown older and hopefully wiser and we have been able to input some of our learning into what we do now. We are also very aware the job is far from complete because Europe is more needy than ever. Nevertheless, we enjoyed being able to celebrate our history and trust that in doing so will encourage others to join with us in being thankful and also have a confidence in a God who has been an ever present reality over all these years.

GLO EUROPE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN 2024

18 February	Regent Chapel, Newcastle
10 May	GLO Centre Motherwell
23 May	Scrabo Hall Northern Ireland
24 August	Family Fun Day Motherwell
25 August	GLO Centre Motherwell
7 September	Bridgend South Wales (Joint event with Counties)
12 October	GLO Centre Bookshop event for past volunteers

We also participated in Echoes International days in Glasgow, Northern Ireland & Bishops Stortford.



BOOKSHOP FUN DAY

by Alex Barlow

The GLO Centre held a Fun Day on Saturday 24th August to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the GLO Bookshop in Motherwell. The event included a range of free activities as well as a presence from other organisations in the Motherwell area. A large number of families enjoyed the event, which was intended to say thanks to the local community and to share the ongoing mission of GLO Europe. The event was planned and organised by The GLO Bookshop's Assistant Manager Helen Dempsey, and it was great to see so many members of the local community join the celebration. We were blessed that the worst of the rain kept away which meant that lots of activities could be held outside

in the car park. We were also grateful to our neighbours at Dalziel St Andrews Church, who allowed us to use their Hall for the bouncy castles!

Many of those who came were young families and we partnered with MAD Ministries who entertained and shared the Christian message with the children. Given that GLO's purpose is the proclamation of the gospel this even was a great opportunity to share the gospel Jesus Christ through serving the community, and the Fun Day created the perfect opportunity to do just that.

As part of our 50th celebrations we published two books this year. 'The Story of GLO Europe' is an account of the history of the work of GLO and demonstrates God's faithfulness in a variety



of situations. This book is still on offer for £5 and normal postage rates apply.

'Europe at the Spiritual Crossroads' is a deep dive into the history, culture, politics and spiritual need of Europe. It also suggests ways in which Christians can impact this important continent for Christ. This book is on offer for £8 and normal postage rates apply.



HERE ARE SOME OF THIS YEAR'S TILSLEY STUDENTS:
(L to R) William (USA/Serbia), Naomi (France), Daniel (USA), Zoë (Scotland), Keiran (Scotland), Anna (Faroes), Peter (N. Ireland), Cheryl (England) and Samuel (France).



“The new additions to our programme selection options are in the area of short courses or programmes. This is an exciting development that widens student access to training for service. ”

changeable environment of theological education we hope over coming months to secure accreditation as a provider of micro-credentials. This is a response to an increasingly popular development in education – a short programme or a module – are tagged with recognisable labels that assure students and prospective employers that the quality and suitability of the training is up to international standards. This will be an important step as we prepare for the future.

SOME FUTURE CHANGES

Looking ahead as College we have other plans for the future. Some of our staff will be retiring in the present academic year. In December 2024, Jacqui McKinnon will be leaving her post as Student Welfare Manager. We are so thankful for Jacqui’s work in this role over the past five years – she has looked after students by using her gifts in hospitality and care so that they feel very much at home when studying with us.

In June 2025, we expect to say farewell to two other staff members. Our Registrar, Anne Grover, will have served the College as our key administrator for seven years. Anne is an important staff member dealing with all our administrative processes from initial enquiries through to

graduation while supporting the Academic Dean and Principal.

Our Principal, Allan McKinnon, will also be retiring from his role as Principal of the College at the end of the current academic year. Allan will have served in the College for fifteen years – nine as Academic Dean and six as Principal. We have been very grateful for his long service, his teaching and his leadership in the College. With the Tilsley staff team he has helped to build the necessary bridges that connect past experiences with future aspirations for the College.

TILSLEY COLLEGE

Planning the future usually means taking account of the past. We all make plans that we believe will benefit and prosper our lives; plans that will be shaped as we learn from the past or build on the past. Reflecting on the past allows us to structure a better future.

Another year at Tilsley College means we have the joy of welcoming a new cohort of students who are keen to prepare for their future. We recognise in our students that they too have taken stock of the past as they share with us their reasons for coming to Tilsley College. Most students want to grow in their Bible knowledge, deepen their relationship with Jesus and improve in the ways they are gifted to serve. But we also recognise as a College that we too can ‘reflect forward’ as we draw on our long experience of training for service. We too can adapt and change so that the future is brighter.

THE CLASS OF 2025

This year we have students joining us from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, USA, Serbia, France and Faroos. We have some students who are studying residentially including a family with two young children, one day student and one part-time student. Additionally, we have one student in the gap-year programme called FIRSTSERVE and we have a solid cohort of students studying through our online modular evening class called JOSHUA.

While we cherish the opportunity to be a small college which offers good personal contact between students and teachers, we have capacity to cater for more students. Perhaps you, or someone you know, would benefit from joining us in the future!

SOME NEW PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

In this current academic year at Tilsley College have introduced some new short programmes to compliment the range of training options we currently offer. We are still very much centred on our Certificate, Diploma and Baccalaureate programmes which can be completed over one, two or three years respectively. The new additions to our programme selection options are in the area of short courses or programmes. This is an exciting development that widens student access to training for service. Those who are unable to commit to longer study periods have options to study with us for 14–16 weeks on shorter programmes.

Two such short programmes are our new Foundations in Bible and Missions course (16 weeks) and our Growing in Leadership

and Ministry course (14 weeks). We can also offer a Supervised Practical Ministry course arranged through the College (6 weeks).

We see these new additions to the Tilsley portfolio as key developments in the wider environment that we occupy within GLO Europe. The network of churches and missionaries that we serve means international students can also come and study at Tilsley by choosing from these new short programmes. By accruing credits for the various short



programmes of study, future international students can also be fully trained for service alongside those who choose to follow Certificate, Diploma or Baccalaureate streams.

Of course, even these short programmes may seem ‘too long’ for some. We do offer a very short course in Bible and Missions which we usually run twice in the year – in September and March. This short four-week programme is known as ADVANCE – a reminder of the call to ‘go’ and serve the Lord after a period of preparation and training. This programme can also be undertaken in two blocks of two weeks – perhaps that might make it attractive option for your future plans.

As Tilsley responds to the complex and





MISSION TRIP CHURCH TO CHURCH

by Mayeul Aureille

This is what we experienced for 12 days in April and May 2024 in Albania. A few months before, when we were discussing and praying about this trip, we thought we could take around fifteen people. In the end, 51 people aged from 1 to 74 were keen to take part in this adventure from the CEP church in Marseille to Albania.

Our desire was to take the youth group and also families to taste and take part in what God is doing in a context other than our own. Why? To broaden our understanding of God's mission in the world, to experience the action of the Holy Spirit and to live out fraternal communion across borders. The purpose was to encourage participants to better realise their identity in Christ: we are blessed to bless.

In collaboration with Juli, Ermal and the church in Vlore, we were able to take part in outreach activities and to get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ in Albania through various means: daily Franco-Albanian devotional times, outreach

sports events for young people and students, distribution of flyers and prayer in the streets, a French evening, a day for families and children with craft activities, a concert in a prison, games with children on the beach, visits and meals with church families, evangelism in a village, etc. We also had the opportunity to work with The Hiding Place orphanage, the church in Gjirokaster and the Alo Mik mission in Tirana. These were great times!

We saw God at work in and through the participants, which was a defining moment for everyone. Strong friendships were born, as well as a desire to pray for each other and to work together again. We have been inspired and encouraged by the work of our brothers and sisters in Albania. Our young people and families in Marseille came back with a new vision for their own lives: they who are blessed in Christ are ambassadors for him in the world.

We must also mention another interesting aspect of this trip: driving for hours, taking the plane, living together 24 hours a day, being limited

by language, dealing with tiredness, learning to adapt... It was challenging! And it was an extraordinary opportunity in the life of our church to allow ourselves to be transformed and to live out sanctification with one another. Fellowship has grown!

We are now praying to organise a week of evangelism in Marseille and Aubagne with an Albanian team next May... to be continued!

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by Juli Muhameti

When we started talking about this trip at the GLO Conference, our expectation as a church in Vlore was that we would host a team of 10-20 people and make them work for the gospel. To our surprise the number was 51, at first it was scary to know how to host all these people and how to make this trip a blessing and not a burden.

From our church point of view, this mission in Albania of the CEP church was an incredibly moving and humbling experience. Through daily devotional times we as a church felt the Franco-Albanian fellowship deepen as we worshiped together, bridging languages and cultures in a shared faith. The outreach sports events allowed both churches to connect with young people and students in a way that was both dynamic and personal. Seeing

the energy and enthusiasm of the team that came from France was for us a reminder of how faith could be shared, not only through words, but also through genuine connection and joy. We started this adventure by thinking about how to host and care for 51 people, but there were no hosts or guests, just a family together.

In distributing flyers and praying in the streets, and during the French evening, both churches were as one and the people that attended saw Albanians and French believers as one, and the only connection seen was our common faith.

As the mission week drew to a close, it was clear that this journey had transformed both our church and our perspective on fellowship and service. What began as a logistical challenge became a powerful testament to God's provision and unity. Hosting

“As the mission week drew to a close, it was clear that this journey had transformed both our church and our perspective”

a team of 51 was initially daunting, but we soon realised that in Christ, we were not hosts and guests but one family.

Through each moment of outreach, from distributing flyers to organising events for families and children, we saw faith come alive in new and beautiful ways. Observing our Albanian and French brothers and sisters work side by side, the community witnessed a unity that was deeper than nationality – a unity founded on shared faith and love in Christ. We are grateful for the privilege of witnessing the gospel in action and for experiencing the joy that true fellowship brings. This mission was indeed a blessing, reminding us that in God's Kingdom we are one people, united in purpose and love. Looking forward to the next one!



by Heidi Guttesen

MINISTERING WITH THORNS

I have been a full-time Christian worker for over 20 years, and for the past 10 years God has allowed chronic illness to be part of my journey. It's not a path I would have chosen for myself. If I were in control, mine would be a journey along smooth roads with an ocean breeze. But God, in His grace, led me over bumpy mountain paths and into dark valleys.

During the early days of my illness, discouragement hung heavy as I tried to find God's goodness and purpose. My husband and I prayed for a "return to normal" and while we waited we seriously considered leaving our field of service in Italy to return to the Faroe Islands. I could no longer fulfil my role in ministry, or in my family. I remember crying in prayer one day, "What is the point of staying here if I am just lying in bed, if I will always be a burden to my family? If I can't DO anything for You here in Italy, I don't see the point of staying, Lord." And I vividly remember how the Lord answered me. He whispered to my heart, "Heidi, if I call you to serve me in Italy from your bed, are you willing to do it?"

God saw my heart. He knew I wanted to be self-sufficient and depend on Him only when my strength wore out. Self-sufficiency is my go-to. And self-sufficiency is the very heart of sin. What God wants most from me is complete and utter

dependence. I believe that is what Paul was saying to us in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

We tend to boast about our achievements. Maybe we do not say it out loud but it is easy to believe that our value to God and his church depends on what we can or cannot do. God used my illness to remind me that my value rests solely in how much he loves me, a love he proved when he gave his Son for me. God is not disappointed in me because of my limitations. He wants me to admit my desperate need and rely of his provision!

In Christian ministry the needs are endless and the responsibility can feel heavy. Our calling seems to require physical, emotional and spiritual strength. But what if God desires for his grace and his glory to shine out of our lack? What if weakness is our highest calling, the needed ingredient to

"Maybe we do not say it out loud but is easy to believe that our value to God and his church depends on what we can or cannot do."

make us useful to God and the church? What if our greatest strength is actually weakness?

Vaneetha Risner, a woman passionate about helping people find hope in their suffering, says, "Suffering is a strange sort of gift from God. One we reluctantly receive and constantly want to give back. But it has extraordinary power to change us." I pray that whatever you are dealing with today, you will see God's goodness and purpose in your life.



50 YEARS WE HAVE SOLD
800,000 BOOKS INCLUDING
80,000 BIBLES

GLO BOOKSHOP

In October 2024, the GLO Bookshop held a Celebration to mark fifty years of trading. Andrew Lacey was asked to contribute some thoughts about why the Bookshop has survived and thrived over the past fifty years.

"I've often been asked this question over the years, and I am very clear that we owe this primarily to the goodness of God and his keeping power through all the changing seasons of retail over the last half century. The reality is that many bookshops such as ours have succumbed to various pressures and have had to close their doors. The GLO Bookshop in Motherwell is now almost unique in Scotland, if not the UK, with the wide selection of stock and services offered.

A key factor has been the vision, sacrifice and faith of a previous generation, who stepped out

and purchased the GLO Centre building in the 1970s. Because we own the building, we haven't been burdened with spiralling rent costs or the complexities of short-term leases. As a registered Scottish charity, we are able to reduce some costs and have therefore been able to return a contribution to the wider GLO mission work every year since we started trading.

In pure retailing terms, we have tried to keep the shop relevant and interesting to customers. Sales of the Bible are central to our 'offer' and we make a very clear statement of intent when customers come into the shop. A range of Bibles at special prices is the first thing the customer sees when they walk through the door. The prime 'hot spot' next to the counter is well-stocked with a wide variety of Bible translations. We have found that customers now

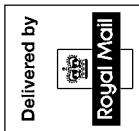
realise that the Bible is a product that they need to see and touch and try- something that can't be done online. We continue to see year on year increases in Bible sales and this is most encouraging. Customers for children's resources also want to be able to review the physical product. Again, we carry a large range of children's Bibles, books, gifts and resources and our children's sales continue to be very buoyant. A number of years ago, we moved our card and gift products towards the front of the shop with the aim of encouraging more folk from the wider Motherwell community to call in. We have been delighted with the response and this gives a great opportunity to engage with our customers as they look for a card or gift that is a bit different from the standard High Street offering. We are constantly looking to bring in new ranges to the shop, while maintaining a core stock of key items.

As we look back on the last fifty years, we gratefully acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff and volunteers. We have remarkably loyal customers and are grateful for the support of local churches. We continue to run events and promotions to inform and engage our customers about different Christian resources. Our key aim is to provide really good customer service! I'm conscious we act as a Christian information exchange for the local church community and we never know what we are going to be asked when a customer walks in the door or calls or emails. I often tell the staff that, if the order is easy, the customer will just go online and buy. When the customer needs help, they come to us and we need to go the extra mile to help them.

It is a real privilege to serve God in this exciting ministry. We encounter daily 'God Moments' when we have the opportunity to share something of the love of Christ in our conversations. We never know what each day will bring and we would ask for prayer that we might continue to be 'salt and light' in our community."



Andrew steps down as Bookshop Manager at the end of 2024. We greatly appreciate his commitment to GLO's ministry over many years. Helen Dempsey will take over as Manager effective from 1st January 2025, with Alex Barlow appointed as Assistant Manager. Andrew Lacey will continue to assist in several areas on a voluntary basis.



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GLO EUROPE VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to grow mission focused churches in Europe.

OUR FOCUS IS TO:

EVANGELISE:

to proclaim the gospel to as many people as possible in Europe using every method available

ESTABLISH:

to ensure believers are established in their faith, strengthen existing local churches and plant new mission focused churches in Europe

TRAIN:

to prepare and equip people for mission, to evangelise and church plant and to serve God and his Kingdom with excellence in a wide variety of vocations

RESOURCE:

to provide resources that support mission activity through finance and literature, strategic input and pastoral care