

# @vision

Summer 2025



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# EDITORIAL

by Richard Harknett

**W**elcome to the summer edition of e-vision. Whilst I'm reluctant to begin on a negative tone, I thought it worthwhile to set some of the context for what you'll read in the following pages. In November 2023, the World Health Organisation announced the formation of an international commission to investigate ways of dealing with loneliness and social isolation. They noted that loneliness has an impact on mortality that is comparable to smoking and described it as global public health concern.

There are multiple reasons which lie behind the growth in the problem of loneliness, but as Christians we have something unique to offer in response. Not only does the message of the gospel offer a restored relationship with our Creator but also renewed relationships with others, as every believer becomes part of the global family of the church. There are few better ways of demonstrating this, to both those who

are part of the church and those who are not, than through genuine Christian hospitality.

Hospitality allows us to take what we already have – our possessions, home, resources, time – and use them in a way which can have an impact beyond what we might have imagined possible. It does not require us to prepare restaurant standard food, but it means enabling guests to experience love, warmth and acceptance. Hence this issue of e-vision is entitled 'Open Home, Open Heart.' Not only do we open up our home to others, but our heart attitude allows them to understand something of how God sees them. Effectively, hospitality allows our home to become a projection of the Kingdom of God into our community.

The potential fruit from living in this way can be seen in several of the other articles in this issue. There is huge potential for building relationships, shaping people's lives for the better, and opening doors for the gospel. That might even bear fruit years later as welcoming people into our home

**“Hospitality allows us to take what we already have – our possessions, home, resources, time – and use them in a way which can have an impact”**

and demonstrating practical love shapes their attitudes to faith and to Christians. Regin Guttesen's article on page 6 gives us a fantastic example of what this might look like and how God used one couple's hospitality to facilitate the planting of a church years later in an entirely different town.

Lastly, it's always a pleasure to welcome new people to the GLO Family and on page 9 you will find introductions to those who have joined in recent months. Please be praying for them.

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## LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

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

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# OPEN HOME OPEN HEART

by Richard Harknett

**A**fter we were married, the first place that Pam and I called home was a small, partially furnished, third floor apartment in a suburb of Arequipa, Peru. We had just moved to the country and were at language school, studying Spanish. There was no lift and Arequipa sits at 2,300m altitude (7,600 ft), which means you really notice the thin air when trying to climb multiple flights of stairs. Every afternoon, our brains fried from Spanish grammar, we would drag our bodies, and bags of shopping, to our new home where we would promptly collapse on the sofa. Home was somewhere to rest, recharge and to be ourselves. No home is perfect, but, in theory at least, home should be somewhere that is less stressful than the rest of the world. So, what would it look like to open our home up to others?

John Piper helpfully defines hospitality as: 'the willingness to welcome people into your home ... who don't ordinarily belong there' (<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/strategic-hospitality>). The idea is deeply rooted in biblical teaching, from early in the Old Testament. Leviticus 19:33-34 instructs the nation of Israel on their duty of care for strangers. God had rescued the people from Egypt and would give them a home in the Promised Land. Their behaviour should now show the same kind of generosity to others. Isaiah even included hospitality when writing about true piety: 'Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter?' (Isaiah 58:7)

The Old Testament also offers plenty of examples of what this kind of hospitality looks like in real life. Abraham welcomes three

strangers with lavish generosity in Genesis 18, and there is the couple whose hospitality towards Elisha in 2 Kings 4 extends to the building of a dedicated guest room for him. The New Testament can appear even more densely packed with examples. Jesus sent out his disciples, instructing them not to take gold or silver but to rely on those who open their up homes, (Matthew 10:9-11). Acts frequently mentions those who showed hospitality. We see how much the early Church valued their contributions in that Luke records the names of these people, whereas the members of Paul's mission team often remain anonymous. It's challenging to ask ourselves how a review of the past year in our church might read. Would we think to omit the names of some of the visiting speakers to be able to publicly recognise those who hosted them instead?

The New Testament epistles leave clear instructions to the church on this subject. 'Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling,' writes Peter, (1 Peter 4:9). It's not enough to treat hospitality as a requirement, something we volunteer for only when no-one else is available. For Peter, we are to develop an attitude of hospitality that leads us to seek out opportunities. Paul is even more blunt: 'practise hospitality', (Romans 12:13). That is, hospitality should not be a periodic, special event, but something that forms part of the routine of our lives. This is such an important quality that Paul includes it in the list of qualifications for elders in his letters to both Timothy and Titus, (1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:7-8). And we should remember that this is not the list of qualifications of the spouse or the family of an elder, but of the elder himself who is leading by example.

If hospitality is repeated so frequently in the Bible, both as an instruction and by example, then that begs the question as to why this might be? Clearly, hospitality provides an opportunity for building relationships and for evangelism as we share time with people in a more informal environment. It is also a fundamental way in which the family of the church can be expressed. Jesus assured his disciples that 'no one who has

left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father ... will fail to receive a hundred times as much.' (Mark 10:28-30). Welcoming others into our home is one concrete way in which this can be experienced in practice.

Hospitality also helps us in our growth to maturity. It's not easy to be hospitable if our home is a place of tension and conflict. Opening our home is an act of vulnerability which will challenge us to reflect on our own lives and attitudes, and in doing so can be a stimulus to change. Hospitality will almost certainly be costly, but, as in Leviticus 19, it becomes a way for us to display our gratitude to God for his provision to us. Lastly, hospitality is a means by which we can exercise our gifts and the Christlike qualities which are being developed in us, such as compassion and generosity.

Given the benefits, then why are we frequently so reluctant to engage in hospitality? Aside from the challenges already mentioned, Ajith Fernando pinpoints one further factor when he writes that:

'A key to recovering hospitality in the church's life is to liberate it from the performance trap. When hospitality becomes a performance, it becomes a strain on the host, hinders true fellowship, and makes both the hosts and the guests feel uneasy ... A servant spirit seeks not to perform but to make the guest feel comfortable.' Ajith Fernando, NIV Application Commentary: Acts, p453.

If home is the place where you can be yourself without pretence, then hospitality is welcoming people into your life as you are and as they are – even with the chaos and mess which might come with that.

However, underlying all the specific teaching on hospitality, perhaps the essence of it is simply found in the second commandment: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mark 12:30-31) In the end, being hospitable is simply about showing practical love for your neighbour. And your neighbour is simply the person God places in your path who needs to receive that love.

**“If hospitality is repeated so frequently in the Bible, both as an instruction and by example, then that begs the question as to why this might be?”**





# BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

by Regin Guttesen

**F**or the past 20 years we have been seeking to follow God's heart by reaching the lost in Italy. The need is great, with less than 1% evangelical believers, meaning those that have understood and believed in salvation by grace alone through faith alone. The region that we work in is called Molise, and it is one of the smallest and least known regions in Italy. Long before we even knew that Molise existed, God was preparing the way for the gospel!

Forty years ago, a young priest from Molise moved to another city to attend seminary. A local family befriended the lonely student and invited him over for meals and into their lives. They were a family of evangelical believers! Don Antonio never

forgot the love and care they showed him and to this day he has a tender spot for 'evangelici.'

When we moved to Molise, and into the town where Don Antonio was priest, we were welcomed with open arms. He told the families not to hesitate in sending their children to our children's clubs and camps. He invited us to share who we were from the pulpit in the Catholic church! Hospitality opened the doors for the gospel.

Shortly after the La Fonte church was established, asylum processing centres for men and women were opened in our town. We were a small, young church with very limited resources, but we had to ask ourselves, 'How does God want us to react to these strangers?' As we prayed together, we could not escape God's heart for the vulnerable. Throughout Scripture we see God's call to love and care for widows, orphans, and foreigners (Deut. 10:19; Rom. 12:13).

Although it should have come naturally, it was actually a scary step to take. Our new neighbours came from very different cultures and worldviews. 'What if we are taken advantage of? What if

our needs or safety are compromised by their presence?' However many objections we tried to make, none of the fears validated ignoring our biblical call! So, as a church, we made the choice to seek out our foreign neighbours and offer hospitality.

What did that look like? We knocked on doors and invited them to church. We communicated that they were welcome into our space, into our lives and community! It meant interpreters and changes in programmes and at times chaos. Sometimes it meant helping with immediate needs, opening our homes and the church to house those that fell into hard times. It meant misunderstandings and disillusionments. Loving is not easy, but the blessings have been incredible!

The most beautiful results were lives reached with the gospel! God allowed people to be taken out of their homeland to give them the chance to hear the good news of the gospel. People from countries we could never have imagined reaching have become our brothers and sisters in Christ. Their faith is an ongoing testimony, both locally and globally. But the church's testimony was also strengthened, as our local neighbours saw the gospel lived out in a visible way, bringing glory to God!

An unexpected consequence of hospitality was God's provision. As we obeyed, He provided for the needs of the church! Not only the practical, physical needs, but also the deep spiritual needs. We prayed for years for fellow workers and God provided by sending foreigners: youth workers, teachers, prayer warriors, and servants. At the moment, 13 countries are represented in La Fonte! Each person has a story of God's grace in their lives and each person has God-given gifts which build up the church.

God's heart is for the world and the world has come to our doorstep. As we show Christian hospitality, we are opening doors for the gospel!

**"Loving is not easy, but the blessings have been incredible!"**



# ARE WE TOO BUSY?

by Mayeul Aureille

**I**s it possible that time spent on good things for the church prevent us from focusing on God's great mission for the church?

In other words, do our non-Christian neighbours and friends have enough opportunities to see Jesus in us?

Our lives can be full of church activities: Monday evening: meeting with a couple from the church; Tuesday evening: Bible study; Wednesday evening: meeting to prepare for the upcoming evangelistic camp; Thursday evening: church council meeting; Friday evening: house group; Saturday evening: worship concert at church; Sunday evening: off.

This is what our weeks can look like – so many good things! But does that prevent us from spending time with our non-Christian neighbours and friends? How will they believe in the one they have not heard of? (Romans 10:14)

Yet, God's plan for the church is clear. It is by the love we have for one another that the world will know who Jesus is (John 13:25, John 17:21-23).

We need to rediscover this. This is what we are humbly experiencing here in our family life and in our church life.

## WE ASKED OURSELVES SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

- How can we spend more time with our non-Christian friends?
- How can we allow them to experience the love we have for one another?
- How can we connect our Christian friends and our non-Christian friends?

## AND HERE ARE FOUR ELEMENTS OF OUR RESPONSE:

- By being intentional in lightening our schedules

of good things to make room for God's great mission for us.

- By being intentional in creating opportunities to bring our Christian and non-Christian friends together.
- By integrating this intentionality into simple things of everyday life, without adding events that require meetings and extra organisation.
- By praying that God will act in our midst according to John 13:35 and John 17:21-23.

From there on, the possibilities are numerous. Here are some avenues we are experimenting with:

- In the church programmes in our family programme, we have marked out 'Connect' weeks and days. During these weeks: no prayer meeting, no community Bible study, no organisational meeting. Instead, we create time to meet our non-Christian neighbours and friends, if possible joining them with Christian friends.
- We aim to take simple things that we already

enjoy doing, things that are already in our schedule, and share them with our Christian and non-Christian friends. Things like watching a movie, playing board games, going for a hike, watching a football game, visiting a museum, having a barbecue, etc. These are not evangelistic events, there is no formal moment to proclaim the gospel, but we have many opportunities to share our love for one another and give evidence of the power of the gospel.

- The opening of a community café in the city that allows us to connect with many people by giving them a chance to 'taste' the love we have for each other, whose author is Christ.

This process has not eliminated the good things of church life, but it has pushed us to be wiser and to question certain things that we had been doing for years out of habit. We are beginning to see the fruits and we are eager to participate in God's harvest: this is his great mission for the Church!





“hospitality is one of the best ways to give them the opportunity to open up and share their fears”

by Patrizio & Jennifer Zucchetto



## THE JOY OF SHARING

**W**ould you like to go for coffee? This is probably the very first approach to building friendships long before a contact would ever feel comfortable to sit in our home for a meal.

So, what's the story from the very first coffee and chat to the meal around the table?

We can truly say that there are a lot of one-on-one conversations – chitchat about daily life and then with a few deeper questions or reflections mixed in.

Being hospitable has changed somewhat. Before Covid most of our friends were more than happy to come and visit us at home or vice versa. Now we have had to be more creative.

### HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:

- We seize any opportunity. When we are out and about in town we chat to friends. Often when Jennifer leaves Rebecca off at school she would invite some of the mums for coffee at the nearest coffee shop where they chat and get to know one another better.
- Again, with the same mums they go together to the local library. This happens once a month where the children choose books and the mums talk. Then afterwards as the children play in the local park the mums continue their conversations. It just so happens that Jennifer brings a flask of tea and biscuits, so the time together is more memorable and meaningful.
- Another opportunity that Jennifer uses are play dates or projects that Rebecca's classmates need to do together. So, Jennifer and Rebecca set up the basement with the art supplies or toys or whatever else is needed. This is where the fun and bonding happens. There is no clock on the wall and there is no signal for the

telephone so we are all 'off-line' – the perfect atmosphere to be creative.

- The children feel very special and the mums get to relax and enjoy time together.

On these occasions there is a little token for each child and a nice bookmark with a Bible verse for each mum. Again, it's an opportunity for our friends to feel thought of and special.

Other opportunities occur when Daniel and his friends need a place to practice before their concerts so again the basement is transformed into a music studio. And again, food will be involved. Here the curiosity of having a Northern Irish mum comes into play. Daniel's friends want to taste 'something Irish.' After a few hours of music they spend another few hours of sharing a meal and chatting. More often than not they talk about Daniel's faith.

When it comes to encouraging the believers in our church, hospitality is one of the best ways to give them the opportunity to open up and share about their fears, worries and also joys as they walk with the Lord.

Last month Jennifer made a cake ready for our friends to come over for a visit. Just as well she tasted it first. It was horrible as she forgot to put in the sugar! In the early days of ministry, Jennifer would have panicked and tried to make another cake for her guests. However, this time a voice just calmed her and reminded Jennifer that her guests are coming to spend time with us not just eat cake. That's when Jennifer truly knew that when she opens our front door, she is opening up an opportunity to friends and sometimes strangers to get to know Jesus and His love.

**There is nothing more beautiful than opening up our lives to others and to share with them the very character of God and experience His joy, love and acceptance.**



# WELCOME TO GLO



## BOŠTJAN AND LIDIJA CIFER

**B**ostjan and Lidija have been married for 11 years, and they have a daughter, Fiona, who is 6 years old. They live in Maribor, the second biggest city in Slovenia, where they are pastoring an evangelical Christian church and mentoring university students. As a church they are committed to placing God at the centre of their lives, to help everyone grow in maturity and to enable everyone to develop all of their God given potential.

Their vision is best described in Paul's words from Colossians 1:28, Him we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

This coming June, when Bostjan is stepping down from student ministry, they would like to fully dedicate their lives to the further development of the church, to invest more time to outreach ministry and Bostjan will start mentoring Matej through a two-year apprenticeship programme.

Lidija is involved in leading worship in the church, overseeing the children's ministry and organising creative women's outreach workshops.

We would appreciate your prayers and please come to visit us in Slovenia!



## VIKKI BARLOW

**M**y husband Alex and I have been married since 2016, and we currently live in East Kilbride. We have two little boys, Arthur (5) and Henry (3), and our wee cat, Lily.

I was brought up in East Kilbride, and Alex was brought up in Surrey, England. We moved up to Scotland when we got married. I was saved when I was quite young but really knew I was saved at 13/14, I was then baptised as a believer in 2023, having been baptised as an infant in our previous fellowship.

We are now part of a church plant in Whitlawburn, Cambuslang. I lead the children's ministry there. We have an outreach in the community quarterly, it has been slow growth, but we are really seeing God move there, which is wonderful.

At Tilsley College, I am currently doing administration work, but I hope to be taking over the role of Registrar come July, God willing.



## JOSHUA AND SOPHIE CAYPHAS

**J**oshua and Sophie are originally from Belgium and are the parents of three children: Joy (7), Jade (5) and Elie (4).

Joshua completed his training at the Institut Biblique de Genève. In September, after three years in Aix-en-Provence, France, under the mentorship of Philippe Perrilliat, he returned to Belgium with his family. He works part-time in a pastoral team, where he is developing a new vision in collaboration with the existing team. As part of his dissertation, he is looking at how the church planting vision can help revitalise a church in need.

For the past three years, Joshua has been responsible for CFB Belgium (Cycle de Formation Biblique), a training course for 17-35 year olds aimed at equipping young people to serve the Lord within the local church. For the past year, he has been working with Philippe Perrilliat to create and implement a training programme for church leaders in French-speaking Belgium. Their long-term aim is to develop a specific course for church planters to encourage, support and multiply church planting in Belgium.

Sophie, for her part, is involved in the spiritual accompaniment of women within the church and, since January, has been taking an online counselling course.

We are grateful to see God at work and to have the grace to be his labourers in the service of the Lord of the harvest.





# TILSLEY COLLEGE

by Allan McKinnon

One of the unique aspects of training at Tilsley College is our approach to community and hospitality. This is much more than 'the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or even strangers' which is the Oxford Dictionary definition of hospitality.

Hospitality has become a buzzword in our society. We even have a 'hospitality industry'. But biblical hospitality is not there so that we can profit from it or influence others by it. Neither do we offer 'hospitality' so that others can reciprocate - rather it is an expression of God's unconditional love and mercy towards us. It is offered without requiring something in return.

Biblical community too is right at the heart of God's purpose for his people and draws them into fellowship with him and with one another (1 John 1:3-4). The purpose of Christian community or

fellowship is to have us gather around Jesus Christ and to allow his love to overflow through our lives into the lives of others (2 Cor. 5:14,18).

At Tilsley College we try to model these concepts of community and hospitality. Students and staff interact freely. Refreshments and food not only punctuate our day but provide space for building relationships with one another and with the Lord. We truly gather around the Lord Jesus as his presence is manifest in our thankfulness, in our conversations and in our hearts. We feel like we 'speak with him on the way' and our 'eyes are opened' as we share together in community and hospitality (Luke 24:31-32).

At Tilsley we endeavour to promote an ethos of generosity and excellence in the way that we care for one another by being a hospitable and welcoming community.

Eugene Peterson's paraphrase in The Message of Romans 12:1-2 suggests this idea of a holistic approach to Christian living, learning and transformation. Discipleship happens as we experience the presence of the Lord even in the ordinary day-to-day moments of our lives. This biblical hospitable community can help us discover his purpose and direction for our lives.



"Life in community helps develop relationships on a deeper level and we quickly become like a family."

"So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you and quickly respond to it."

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# OPEN CHURCH, OPEN HOME



## OPEN CHURCH by Lois Cracknell

**W**e often think our churches are welcoming and friendly places. But, if we are honest, we often think we are welcoming because we know the people, we're familiar with the building and understand the format of what is going to happen. However, what if you didn't know these things? Would you still think your church is truly a welcoming place?

Remember the last time you went somewhere for the first time? How did you feel? I recently started singing lessons and was incredibly nervous before the first lesson. I researched where I had to go, looked on Google maps to view the street and identified parking options. On arrival, I gave myself a 'pep talk' before getting out the car and was still shaking walking up the path (just in case, with all my planning, I had gone to the wrong property!) Now imagine walking into church for the first time and how that might feel – scary is an understatement!

We need to cultivate a welcoming attitude that permeates through every aspect of church. As Sim Dendy states:

'Everyone being welcome in Church has to be more than just a slogan. We need to be hospitable and welcoming churches, open and accessible for all. It's not about trying to be slick, but welcoming. It's not about creating a machine but creating a

community.' (Sim Dendy, Simply Church, p49)

### SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?

#### 1. Review what happens before, during and after your church service

Studies have shown that the worst moment in church for a visitor is right before the service starts. Very few members make the effort to greet or speak to new people who are already seated, and even fewer church members sit with guests. We need to be alert to newcomers who are seated and not walk by them like they don't exist.

Churches often perceive themselves as friendly because members are friendly to one another. But often church members only talk to people they know, without acknowledging those they don't know. This can make visitors feel as though they are at a party they were not invited to! Church members can be encouraged to talk to a least one person they don't know each week. Plus, try to learn new people's names as this can make a big difference to making people feel welcome.

Every church has its own pattern and regular attenders know what's going to happen when. Sharing the format and expectations with visitors can help them to feel at ease. Also, be mindful of familiarity – we can often slip into church language that makes sense to insiders but can alienate newcomers.

#### 2. Review the Environment:

Your church environment makes a statement about what you are expecting. We can become blind to

some of the unattractive aspects, but these stick out to visitors! Aim to keep your premises safe, secure and clean as this communicates that you care. Also, ensure you have good church signage, as this shows you are expecting guests.

#### 3. Review Online Content

Research shows that 70% of people will go to a church website as a determining factor as to whether they chose to visit that church. Younger generations are also more likely to turn to social media when looking for information about faith or church. So, welcoming can begin even before someone steps through the church front door by thinking carefully about our online presence.

#### 4. Review Key Roles

A welcome team is a great way to ensure everyone entering your church receives a good welcome. It is important to put welcome team members at strategic locations, including the car park, and ensure visitors are welcomed at every entrance to your church. Welcome team members are more than people who salute you on arrival but aim to engage with every person that enters your church.

If you are interested in finding out more about developing a welcoming culture in your church. Here are some books that may be helpful:

- 'Becoming a Welcoming Church' By Thom Rainer
- 'Extraordinary Hospitality' by Carolyn Lacey
- 'Simply Church' by Sim Dendy



## OPEN HOME by Debbie McQuoid

**O**perating an 'open home' policy is the desire of most Christians when they leave the family home and get their own place. It was part of the message given to my daughter on her wedding day: to have open hands, open hearts and an open home. I suspect that this desire to have an open home stems from growing up in a home where visitors, speakers, family and friends were often invited for coffee or a meal. It certainly was in my case. But for others, it may be because they have grown up in a home that no-one was ever invited to, and you want your own home to be different.

There are dozens of biblical examples of, and teaching on, hospitality – in both Old Testament and New Testament, and directed at both men and women. A couple of examples are found in Matthew 25:34-38. Jesus is separating the sheep from the goats at the end of time, and one of the indicators of being a child of God is having fed the hungry, given a stranger a drink and inviting strangers into your home for dinner. Also, Hebrews 13:2 where we are encouraged to show hospitality to strangers, and you may even invite an angel into your home!

Biblical hospitality is not to be confused with socialising. One implies having friends over for dinner, they bring flowers or chocolates, knowing that next time you will be invited to their house or a coffee shop etc. The Bible paints a very different



picture of hospitality, it's the marginalised, the sick, the poor, those who cannot return your kindness, the visitor to church, the strangers and those just passing through.

I grew up in a house that regularly had speakers for dinner, church friends for supper and family every Sunday but rarely did we have the unchurched or the neighbours or the work colleagues for dinner. Why was that? Well, there is a risk involved in opening your home to people you do not know. What are their beliefs? Do they have good morals? Are they trustworthy? What influences will they

have over my family, etc.? These are valid questions, but biblical hospitality is meant to be risky. We are not designed to live our lives in a Christian bubble. We are designed to be salt and light, knowing that 'He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world' (1 John 4:4). Showing what life is like with Jesus at the centre, even in the simple things such as family life, is a powerful witness.

Stephen and I have been married for nearly 32 years, and we have tried to practice biblical hospitality whenever possible. Over the years we have fed countless visitors, offered a bed to the student who needed to learn English, looked after young folks who were homeless after being kicked out of their family home, provided a bed and a shower to a guy travelling the world on his bicycle, had open house nights for our neighbours where religion is always discussed, provided holidays for a man with learning difficulties and many more.

It is a privilege to have had so many people in my home and my prayer is that God will give us the health and strength to be able to continue in this ministry.

**“Biblical hospitality is meant to be risky. We are not designed to live our lives in a Christian bubble. We are designed to be salt and light”**





# GLO BOOKSHOP

by Alex Barlow

**N**ow that the Bookshop is being led by a new team, we are taking to opportunity to change things round a little. The children's section is being moved into the study section which is being moved into what was the office.

However, rather than just giving a Bookshop update, I want to share a story of one of the most memorable experiences I have had working in the Bookshop. Picture the scene: It is a quiet, uneventful afternoon with one or two customers browsing the shop and a small boy, perhaps four or five years old, browsing the stationery. Suddenly, the tranquillity is shattered by a loud and frustrated proclamation from the small boy,

"I CAN'T FIND ONE WITHOUT JESUS ON IT!", at which point it felt like everyone in the shop seemed to stop and think twice.

This little boy was George (not his real name), and George, along with his mum, loved Jesus but he was aware Daddy did not. George was in the shop with his grandma who was also a Christian, and they were trying to find an eraser to put in his pencil case. However the little boy didn't want to upset his Daddy. George told me that his Daddy would sometimes say to him 'George, Jesus isn't real', and George would retort 'Daddy, look at the sky. Who made that?' George was a wonderful example to me of what faith really looks like. Anyone who has or has had a four- or five-year-

old, as I currently do, will know that George's parents will be his whole life – and to upset his Daddy would be awful.

We looked at the erasers with George and we settled on one that said, 'God is love'. George thought that would be okay. Another customer, a lady who was being served at the other till, bought the eraser and a gift for George, and said thank you to him for sharing his story.

I think about George a lot, and I pray that one day George will get the honour of taking his Daddy to buy his first Bible – and maybe even an eraser with 'Jesus' on it.

At the Bookshop we sell books, media and gifts to raise funds for the work of GLO. But in truth, we are just a group of incredibly blessed bystanders, who get to look through little windows into so many people's lives and see so much of the incredible work that God is doing every single day.

**"I think about George a lot, and I pray that one day George will get the honour of taking his Daddy to buy his first Bible."**



# BOOK REVIEW

## THE GOSPEL COMES WITH A HOUSE KEY

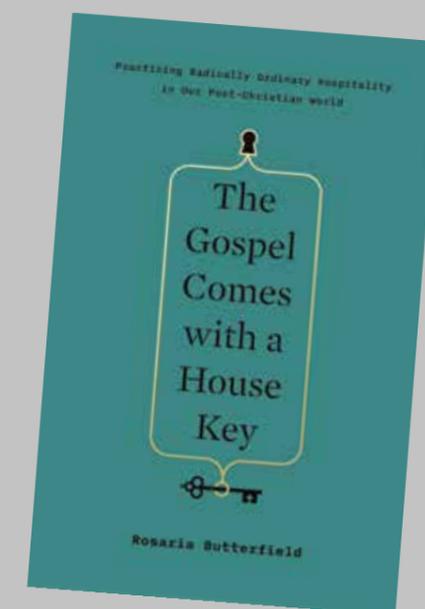
by Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

**T**his is a wonderful book with an intriguing title written by a very interesting person. Rosaria came from a fairly dysfunctional family, lived a lesbian lifestyle, was a professor of English and was hostile towards Christianity, until she herself became a Christian. Her conversion was due to receiving hospitality from a pastor and his wife and that experience has led her to passionately believe in the importance of hospitality.

Now married with children, she and her husband are committed not just to showing hospitality to fellow Christians, but particularly to neighbours who are not Christians. She writes beautifully as she gives a practical and biblical rationale for Christian

hospitality and weaves much of her own fascinating story into the pages of this easy-to-read book. This is not the kind of book I generally read, but it was a joy to do so, and it rekindled my desire to open up my home to people who don't know Jesus.

There are practical and thoughtful lessons on hospitality throughout. Interestingly she has found her spiritual home within a conservative Reformed church and so Calvin gets more than a few mentions. But it is her sheer love for the lost and her warm and generous heart that jumps out of the pages of this book. It is challenging and heart-warming in equal measure and a must read for anyone involved in a community church.



# GLO COFFEE SHOP

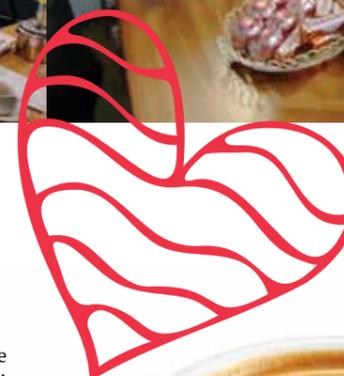
by Stephen McQuoid

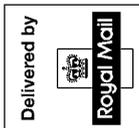
**T**he idea of hospitality pervades every aspect of the work of GLO. Nowhere is this more evident than in the GLO Coffee Shop. This ministry was established decades ago as a meeting place for local people and local Christians. Since those early days it has grown and developed but remains a place of welcome. We often say that it is more than just a coffee shop.

Every day customers come in for food and drink, and often to meet up with friends. We deliberately keep prices low so that no one is excluded, however the staff will often give out a sandwich and a drink to people who come in and are in real need. The atmosphere is relaxed with no one feeling the need to rush away. At times customers ask for prayer and the staff are always willing to oblige and are

willing to offer spiritual support. It is this sense of care that has made the coffee shop a welcoming place. The staff know many of the customers on first name terms and consequently many of our customers have been coming to our coffee shop for many years. It is physically located near the town centre and is certainly at the heart of the local community.

**"the staff will often give out a sandwich and a drink to people who come in and are in real need"**





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Ian Smith

## MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 2025

The following Mission Teams have places available:

Country	Team Location	Team Leader(s)	Dates	Cost
UK	Royal Welsh Show	Phil Davies & Andy Goode	19 - 25 July	£80
Czechia	Prague	Roger Brind & Kevin Baldwin	19 - 26 July	£50
UK	London	Pete Barker & Paula Millard	19 - 27 July	£90
Denmark	Esbjerg	Tom Nygaard & James McKerlie	26 July - 3 August	£90
Romania	Talmaciu	Dani Vasilca & George Sortan	1 - 8 August	£120
UK	Edinburgh	Stephen McQuoid & Karen Macrae	2 - 9 August	£80
UK	Swansea	Phil Davies	2 - 10 August	£0
UK	Belfast	Michael McMillan	11 - 15 August	£365
Slovenia	Maribor	Boštjan Cifer & Bobby Sneddon	23 - 29 October	TBC

For further information contact: [missionteams@glo-europe.org](mailto:missionteams@glo-europe.org)  
Regular Updates: <https://glo-europe.org/glo/mission-trips/>



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