

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

After recent celebrations of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus at Easter we now look forward to acknowledging His Glorious Ascension into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father. Unlike the disciples who were with Jesus at that time, who were afraid at being left without their master, we can stand firm in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit came to be with each of us; guiding, directing, and supporting us every day as we strive to achieve the plan and purpose God has given to us.

Having been granted by Ofcom another 5-year extension to our broadcast licence we continue to move forward in faith with the Radio Ministry that the Lord gave us to steward many years ago, sharing the Good News of the Gospel every day on Branch FM. Without your support over these years both financially and in prayer we would not be in the position we are now. We mentioned some time ago we are all called to the 'Great Commission' and without compromise we continue to do so with this radio ministry and your support.

Sponsored Mountain Climb

To try something different this year the team at Branch FM decided to attempt the challenge and climb one of the three peaks 'Pen-y-Gent' in the Yorkshire Dales and on Saturday 15th April a team of 23 set off on a lovely sunny day.

raise over £1,000 towards keeping the station on air. You can still donate through the giving page on the website and for those who have already done so many thanks. We shall keep you informed of the next challenge that the team will be involved with.

After an arduous 4 hours all 23 walkers had climbed some 2,277 feet (694m) conquering the peak, returning to base safely, proud of their achievement ending with a nice hot 'bacon buttie' to finish with. A time of fun and fellowship was had by all along with a few aches and pains! It is hoped that the climb will



Pastor Zygmunt Karel (Insight for Living Ministries Poland) - Ukraine Update

On 24th February 2022, Russian military forces began attacking major cities across Ukraine with millions of people fleeing Ukraine into neighbouring countries including Poland, which has received the most refugees - topping 9 million. Many of these refugees have since moved to other countries, but around 2 million currently remain.



Pastor Zygmunt, his wife Maria, and the team at IFLM Poland has partnered with other churches and organisations to alleviate agonising pain created by the war and to extend

biblical hope and compassion to those who are desperate for comfort and light.

“IFLM Poland has helped sustain more than 350 families”

IFLM Poland helps support more than 70 refugees, mostly women and children, by giving them long-term housing and daily necessities like food and clothing. Furthermore, IFLM Poland has helped sustain more than 350 families by delivering goods across the border into Lutsk. The war is likely, no longer at the forefront of people’s minds outside of Eastern Europe, but it remains an ongoing humanitarian crisis on the doorsteps of many in this part of the world.

Branch FM continues to broadcast Pastor Zygmunt’s daily message in Polish weekdays at 11pm and it has been a real opportunity for our Polish listeners to hear daily the teaching of the Gospel shared by Pastor Zygmunt. Please continue to uphold in your prayers Zygmunt and his team over in Poland.

Studio Move

Due to circumstances beyond our control in January we had to relocate our studio which is on a temporary basis to Eurovision Mission to Europe building based in Dewsbury. We were grateful and blessed by that Ministry who opened their doors to us at short notice providing office space and accommodation to house one of the studios. It is good to be working alongside a super Christian organisation that has been serving and ministering to Eastern Europe for many years. Plans are afoot to build new purpose-built studios for Branch FM and we will keep you updated on our progress.



Featured Interview

Malcolm Ryan

Q: How did you become involved with BFM?

It was back in November 2010 that I contacted Branch FM's station director Steve regarding Words for Life, a daily devotional series I was putting together. Steve responded positively, something he's continued to do ever since. And his ongoing encouragement has led to me developing more programmes for the station, including The Weekend Show, The Country Show, Easy Does It and Just Jazz and Blues. Then I must just add a word of appreciation for Barnabas at Branch FM, who has also been very helpful over the years.

Q: How and when did you become a Christian?

It was during Easter 1981 that I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour, and my wife Clare did the same a few weeks later. To cut a long story short, during the year before, God had worked in the lives of Clare and I in some remarkable ways and had seen to it that our twins Gary and Carol were born safely, despite Clare frequently being subject to epileptic seizures. As for the means that God used to bring us to himself, it was essentially through understanding the gospel as we read two books: Billy Graham's 'Peace with God' and Brother David's 'God's Smuggler to China'.

Q: What is or was your day-to-day job and what did it involve?

At the time of my decision to follow Christ, I worked in operator services at British Telecom.

Q: Away from radio what are some of your favourite past times?

I love getting out into the garden. Having moved last year, we have a large garden that's at present a bit of a blank canvas (mainly grass, paving and shingle!), so Clare and I are enjoying a few visits to the local garden centre to choose some suitable plants. With six lively grandchildren, we also enjoy family get-togethers.

Q: Would you share some of the other Ministry work you have done in the past or are doing now?

For ten years, I was pastor of a Baptist church in Norfolk. That kept me quite busy! Nowadays, well into my 'retirement', I tend to concentrate ministry efforts on providing programmes for Branch FM and another Christian and community radio station based in Liverpool.



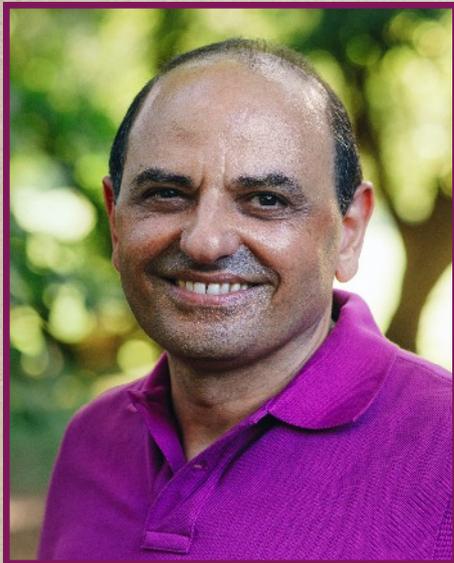
Q: Are there any funny moments when you have been on the radio or in your other Ministry?

I recall one day when I was about to preach at a local church, as I made my way to the lectern, I caught my foot on a step and made quite a spectacle of myself as I flew across the platform, much to everyone's amusement. I guess that's one reason not to take ourselves too seriously, but to maintain a sense of humour. You never know when you're going to need it.

New Ministry Shows in the Schedule

Today with J John is on Saturdays at 6pm.

We also have 2 new Malcolm Ryan shows: Easy Does It on Sundays at 7:30pm and Just Jazz and Blues on Mondays at 8pm



J John



Once again many thanks for your continued stance with us in faith on this mission along with your prayers and financial support.

Lives are being changed and the 'darkness' driven back each and everyday with God's Word broadcast through the airwaves, locally, nationally and worldwide, hallelujah praise the Lord.

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