

# PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

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## A 'Miracle' in Liverpool

By Cheri Stutzman

After delays and opposition, many respond to the Gospel.

"There's something you need to do." Those were the last words Delia heard from her mom before she died. And during Franklin Graham's God Loves You Tour stop in Liverpool, England, she finally discovered what that "something" was. Say "yes" to Jesus Christ. The first night of the Tour drew over 3,500 people from around the U.K. to hear the Good News. Hundreds responded to the invitation to receive Christ.

### 'God Has a Plan'

A London native, Delia was on vacation and decided to prolong her holiday by visiting Liverpool. There was no reason for choosing Liverpool, she explained, "Something just kept drawing me here." While walking through the city center, a street evangelist named James caught her eye. He had come from London to promote the event, and as she stood there listening, he handed her a card with the details. So she found herself sitting alone in the back of the venue listening to Franklin's message. It centered around the Prodigal Son—a young man who ran away from home and lost his way, only to hit rock bottom. When he decided to come home, he met his father running to him with open arms. "You see, God made us," Franklin said May 14. "And did you know that God has a plan, a purpose for your life? He wants you to have peace ... He wants you to know you'll be with Him in eternity." Franklin's message touched Delia's heart, and when he urged people to turn from their sins and choose Jesus, she whispered the prayer of salvation after him.

**Legal (and Spiritual) Battles** The Liverpool event marked more than three years of planning—and the answer to many prayers. In 2020, Franklin had an eight-city Tour scheduled for cities across the U.K. However, opposition to his Biblical beliefs pressured contracted venues to cancel, forcing BGEA to take legal action, and then COVID-19 forced the Tour to be postponed. Some venues were willing to discuss BGEA's concerns and find a constructive solution—including the ACC Liverpool Group, which manages the venue where the event would be held. As they said in a statement, their commitment to inclusion includes everyone, and as a result they would allow BGEA to hold the event. Venues in Sheffield and Wales reached similar agreements, and an alternate London venue was added. Other cases are still being resolved. In a way, God opened the doors to the venue in Liverpool so Delia could find that seat in the back of the room.

**A God-Ordained Meeting** Tami was also standing in the back. A long-time volunteer with BGEA, she was there supporting her husband, helping however she could. As the counselors moved to the front, she wondered if she should go forward to help. Then a man walked over to her and gestured to a middle-aged woman sitting alone in the back, her hand raised. Tami walked up to the woman and introduced herself. "Are you from Liverpool?" she asked. "No, I'm not," the woman said. "I don't even know why I'm here." But her coming was a miracle, Tami said—and clearly God-ordained. "I think the Lord really draws [people] to Himself, and I think the Lord's really drawing you," Tami told Delia. "Do you feel that?" "Yes, I do, I really do," Delia said. She told Tami she had repeated the sinner's prayer, repenting of her sin and putting her faith in Jesus Christ, and the two prayed together as the woman confirmed her decision. "I was happy that even though she was alone, now she could have hope," Tami said after the event. "She was searching, and I kept thinking about that. It was almost like God was setting up her heart." He was. Just as He was setting up the hearts of hundreds of others who would choose to follow Jesus, in Liverpool and beyond.



**Sister Act** Ruth and Diana, both event counselors, stood at the front of the room praying for just the right two people to come forward. When sisters Claire and Collette spotted the women, they shared a moment of—*Wait, don't I know you?* All four had ridden the same bus from Chester, a small town some 45 minutes away. And in a crowd of thousands, as the invitation song started playing, they found each other. Claire had let her relationship with God grow cold while Collette had never made a decision to follow Jesus. Both prayed along with Franklin and committed their lives to Jesus. "You have to know," said Ruth, who had been praying for years for this night. "God's timing is never late. He's always right on time." Diana was floored at how God moved inside Liverpool's Exhibition Center. "It was just *wow*," she said of the response to the invitation. "It was amazing this many people came forward. And it was lovely talking to people." Now Diana and Ruth—and hundreds of other believers in Liverpool—are motivated to share the love of Christ with more people than ever before. "It really encouraged us," Ruth said. "And it inspired us."

Cheri Stutzman is a digital content writer for BGEA's Digital Ministry Services department.

## God's Blessings June 5, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$8,461.00
Baptist Men:	\$40.00
Sunday School Attendance	107
Worship Attendance	192

## God's Blessings June 12, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$8,277.50
Baptist Men:	\$40.00
VBS Designated	\$25.00
Sunday School Attendance	94
Worship Attendance	162

## God's Blessings June 19, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$3,273.00
Sunday School Attendance	90
Worship Attendance	128

## God's Blessings June 26, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$7,254.46
Sunday School Attendance	106
Worship Attendance	148

Christmas in July! The Elkin Association Toy Store Team needs your help. We would like to promote this year's toy store in July. We are asking if you would collect toys and monetary donations during the whole month of July. PLEASE SEE THE LIST IN THE VESTIBULE OF WHAT TO PURCHASE AND WHAT NOT TO. There is a box in the vestibule for collection. If you donate a bike, we are asking you to please include a helmet with that bike. *This is for donations only. The volunteer list will be compiled later on.* PRBC will bring the collection to the association office in August.

PRBC VBS was a great success! There was an average of 104 attendees per night and the children raised \$567.48 which will be matched by the Mission Team for a total of \$1,134.96 donated to LifeLine! But more importantly, there were 5 SALVATIONS! Praise The Lord!

### Pastor's Corner

I was listening to one of my favorite pastors one day as he was teaching on the fruit of the Spirit and he made the comment, "Christians do not produce fruit, Christians bear fruit." I found that interesting as we, in Christian circles, talk about the evidence of fruit in a believer's life. The fruit then, is from a source that is not ours. In the case of a Christian the source is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is given to us at the event of salvation. Bearing fruit is evidence of a true salvation. So many times folks will emulate a Christian life and in their struggle to find that place or peace that only comes from the LORD they appear to have fruit, but it is "fake" fruit. It does not and can not sustain, it will not last.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Gal 5:22-23) As Christ is our Savior, and the Holy Spirit has sealed us let us rejoice in the real fruit that we gladly bear!

In - JOY!

Your Friend and Pastor, John Newton

### Tri-C for July: Crackers Donations:

**Ark Meal for July 19:** Jon & Keely Tharp

**Youth Day Trip:** Our Youth have worked hard this school year and it's time for some Summer fun! We will take a day trip to Ace Adventure Resort in Oak Hill, WV on Saturday, July 9th with a potential rain date of the following Saturday, July 16th. Located on 1500 wooded acres adjacent to the New River Gorge National River. Your students will be receiving info in their Youth class but you can also contact Pastor Brandon for additional info. Come join the fun

**2022 Mission Week:** This is an exciting time to be part of Elkin Baptist Association! As our brand new structure begins to work we have seen churches in our area strive together to impact lostness and touch lives with the love of Christ. Please see the bulletin insert to see where you can plug in during the week of July 9-15!

**PRBC at Stone's Throw:** The church will be spending our Wednesday night 7/13 at Stone's Throw sorting food and packing food boxes for distribution from 6:15pm at 103 Fellowship way, State Road. See you then.

**Wedding Shower:** Please join us for a wedding shower honoring Christopher Cason Jr. and Mary-Clair Hooper, Sunday July 17th, 3:00pm-5:00pm, in the fellowship hall. The couple is registered at Amazon.

**Birthday Party:** The family of Billy Gentry invite you to his 90th birthday party. Everyone is invited to attend. August 7 from 2-4 pm in the church fellowship hall. No gifts please. Your attendance is all that is needed.

## PRBC BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JUNE

The average Sunday School attendance for May 2022 was 100. The new class for 2-4 year olds continues to go well. On Sunday, June 5, the Adult 1 and Adult 2 Sunday school classes began meeting separately. A new Sunday school class for college age students has begun meeting downstairs beside the boys restroom. Everyone is encouraged to begin attending Sunday School again if you have not restarted.

The church letter from First Baptist Church in Alta Loma was received on behalf of Pastor John and Cindy Newton.

A workday will be scheduled soon for general yard work around the church. Request from the floor that the lighting under the drive through area at the front of the church be replaced, as several bulbs are no longer burning.

The budget committee will begin work on the budget for the next year soon. If you know of any budget needs or adjustments please let a committee member know.

The bus is currently undergoing repairs to the drivers air conditioning unit. Comment from the floor regarding finding a way to get a larger, safer step on the van. The current step is difficult to step on and there is fear of injury. Several members have been tasked with checking on this.

Letters for all members currently serving in positions are in the process of being distributed. Please return these to a committee member as soon as possible. Current known needs are mission team, budget committee, finance committee, 3-4 year old teachers for Wednesday nights. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, please see a member of the nominating committee.

Plans are in process for InAsMuch and Ridgefest. Both of these events are usually held in the fall. Please be in prayer for how you can serve in these ministries.

The men will be returning to Oceana for the fishing trip in the fall. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule. See Robert Hinson for more information.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make VBS a huge success this year. We had around 45 students each night, and around 60 adult volunteers. There were FIVE children who gave their hearts to Christ! Plans are already in progress for next year!

Our next EmpowHer event will be held on June 26 immediately after the morning service. This event is open to all females who are teenage and older.

On Sunday, June 12, Emmett Davis came forward to publicly acknowledge that he has accepted Christ as his Savior.