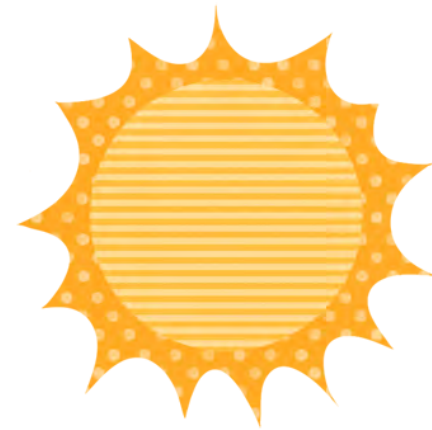


My Summer Ministry, 2004

Robert C. Newman



Teaching Sunday Schools

- Topic "Responding to Objections to Christianity"
- A six-week series for the "People of the World" SS class at Cherrydale Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia
- A five-week series for the "Discover the Word" SS class at McLean Bible Church, Fairfax, Virginia
- Both ran the same Sundays 1½-hour drive apart!

Cherrydale Baptist Church

- Founded (1913) in the house I grew up in
- Has perhaps 500 members
- Seeking to reach out to the unchurched community
- "People of the World" is a SS class for internationals, esp. grad students at GWU



McLean Bible Church

- A seeker-sensitive mega-church, with attendance around 9,000
- "Discover the Word" is an adult SS class that my brother Jim often teaches.



The Series

- Began with sketch of what the Lord wants us to do based on 1 Peter 3:15: "Be always ready to give an answer..."
- Broke up into small groups to assemble ten common or difficult objections to Christianity.
- These were tabulated to form the basis of the course.

Most common at POW

- If God is good, why does He allow evil and suffering? (5/7)
- Why does Jesus/Christianity have to be the only way? (5/7)
- Does God exist? Can we prove this? (4/7)
- Christians are hypocrites, and Christianity has a bad history. (4/7)

Most common at DTW

- Christians are such hypocrites! There are too many hypocrites in the church! (6/7)
- How can Christ be the only way to God? (5/7)
- Why does God allow bad things to happen, especially to good people? (4/7)
- Jesus was just a good man; why should I think he is God? (4/7)
- I'm a good person. (4/7)
- The Bible was written by mere men. (4/7)

Objections Categorized

- Objections about God
- Objections about Scripture
- Objections about Jesus & Salvation
- Objections about Christians
- Objections about Other Religions



Trip to the UK

- A 3 ½ week trip to England, 30 July to 23 August, which also included brief visits to Wales & Scotland
- Main purpose was vacation, to see more of the country
- But also wanted to engage in ministry while there
- A third purpose was to see some places my ancestors allegedly came from

Ministry in the UK

- Spoke twice at Ashford Congregational Church, in the W suburbs of London
- Spoke once at L'Abri Fellowship, in Greatham, Hampshire
- Spoke five times at Hartshill Bible Church, in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
- Spoke once for a picnic of the Blurton Free Baptist Church in the Stoke area
- Spoke once at Leeds Messianic Fellowship
- Spoke once at the International Presbyterian Church of West Ealing, west of London

First Weekend

- Flew from Washington Dulles to London Heathrow Friday July 30
- Stayed at home of Dave and Sue Legg
- Visited British Museum Saturday
- Spoke in their church Sunday morning and evening



Over Nova Scotia



The Leggs

- Dave
- Sue
- Stephen
- Philip
- Harry



British Museum



Ashford Congregational Church



Talks at Ashford

- Morning Service:
"Psalm 90"
- Evening Service:
"Discovering God's
Fingerprints: Why
the Christian Faith
Makes Sense"



Monday-Tuesday 2-3 Aug

- Monday: Travel to British L'Abri
- Gave talk "Doing Science in a Theistic Universe"
- Answered questions
- Tuesday: Traveled to Oxford
- Met my nephew Matt, toured Oxford
- On to Stoke-on-Trent

Travel by Train

- Had a 22-day rail pass that allowed travel anywhere in England, Wales & Scotland
- So most of my travel was by train



British L'Abri

- L'Abri Fellowship was founded by Francis and Edith Schaeffer in 50s in Switzerland.
- Now have fellowships in several countries, including the US, UK and Korea.
- These are study centers for helping people see that Christianity has the answers to our modern problems, both social and personal.

L'Abri

- Located about an hour SW of London
- In the village of Greatham, in Hampshire
- L'Abri Fellowship was given the old Manor House



L'Abri People



Matt Stempler at St. John's College



Oxford, Christ Church College



C. S. Lewis et al

- CS Lewis, JRR Tolkien, and Dorothy Sayers belonged to an informal group called the Inklings.
- They met regularly at this pub to discuss their writing projects.
- The three have had a powerful effect on evangelicalism.



Mid-Week at Stoke

- Arrived Tuesday evening 3 August
- Stayed at home of Phil & Joy Roberts, church planters at Hartshill Bible Church
- Used their place as a base for day-trips and over-night trips in the north
- Spoke five times at their church in various venues over a two-week period

Home of Phil & Joy Roberts



Stoke-on-Trent

- The major pottery center in the UK
- Home of many potteries, including Wedgwood
- This scene is from the Spode Pottery Works



Roberts' Bible Study



Brecon Beacons, South Wales



Evangelical Theological College, Wales

- Equivalent of a seminary in the USA
- Phil's oldest son, Alister, recently graduated from here



2nd Weekend, 6-8 August

- Visit to Chester on Friday
- Visit to North Wales on Saturday
- At Hartshill Bible Church on Sunday



Chester

- An ancient Roman city; name from Latin *Castrum* = fort
- Only English city still having walls all the way around



North Wales

- Train trip to Llandudno, a beach resort
- Dominated by high plateau, Great Orme Head
- Have cable cars and tram railway to ascend from shore to top



Llandudno, Wales



Hartshill Bible Church

- Meets at The Willows School
- Phil preached morning service, on Jesus as our example
- I gave my Power-Point talk that evening "Discovering God's Fingerprints"



Mon-Tues 9-10 August

- Monday to Liverpool
- Monday evening, talks to Phil's Bible Study group
- Tuesday to York
- Tuesday evening to Holme-on-Spalding Moor

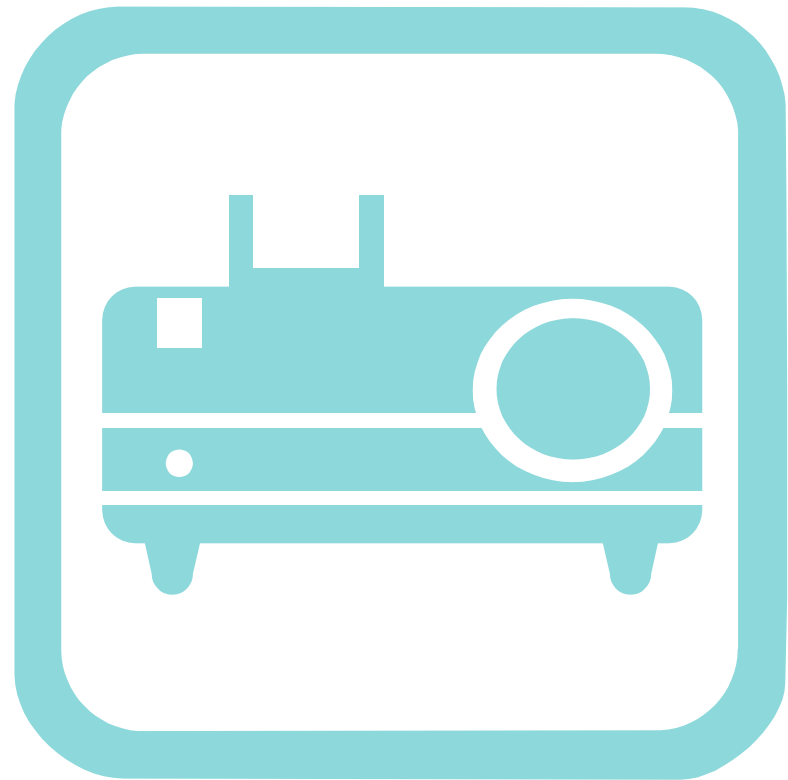


Liverpool



Bible Study Group

- Monday evening group, meeting at Roberts' home
- Gave two talks:
 - "Evidence of God in Cosmos & Conscience"
 - "Scientific Problems for Scientific Creationism"



York

- Inside York Minster
- Tomb of one of the Archbishops of York



Holme-on-Spalding Moor

- A village between York and Hull
- Apparently the birthplace of one of my immigrant ancestors, Thomas Ellithorpe
- He was born about 1600 and came to Massachusetts in the 1630s.



Wed-Thurs 11-12 August

- Wednesday to Hadrian's Wall, which the Romans built as a barrier across England to keep out the Scots
- Thursday to Glasgow, Scotland



Hadrian's Wall



Bagpipers in Glasgow



3rd Weekend, 13-15 August

- Friday to Leeds to speak at Leeds Messianic Fellowship
- Saturday to Stoke to speak at picnic of Blurton Free Baptist Church
- Sunday:
 - Phil preaching on Jesus as savior
 - Lunch at home of Tom & Christine Morrow
 - Evening talk, "Astrology: Is Your Destiny in the Stars?"

Leeds

- By train to Leeds
- Stayed at home of Bunmi and Bukki Ajayi from Nigeria
- Spoke to Messianic Fellowship on "Jesus, the Testimony of Prophecy & History"



Barbeque at Park Hall



Sunday at Morrow Home



Talk at Hartshill Bible Church

- Sunday evening at The Willow School
- Power-Point talk:
- "Astrology: Is Your Destiny in the Stars?"



Mon-Wed, 16-18 August

- Monday visit to Lake District
- Tuesday visit to Lancaster
- Wednesday by car to Peaks District
- Wednesday evening: Last talk at Hartshill Bible Church, "Prophecy: Ancient and Modern"

Lake Windermere

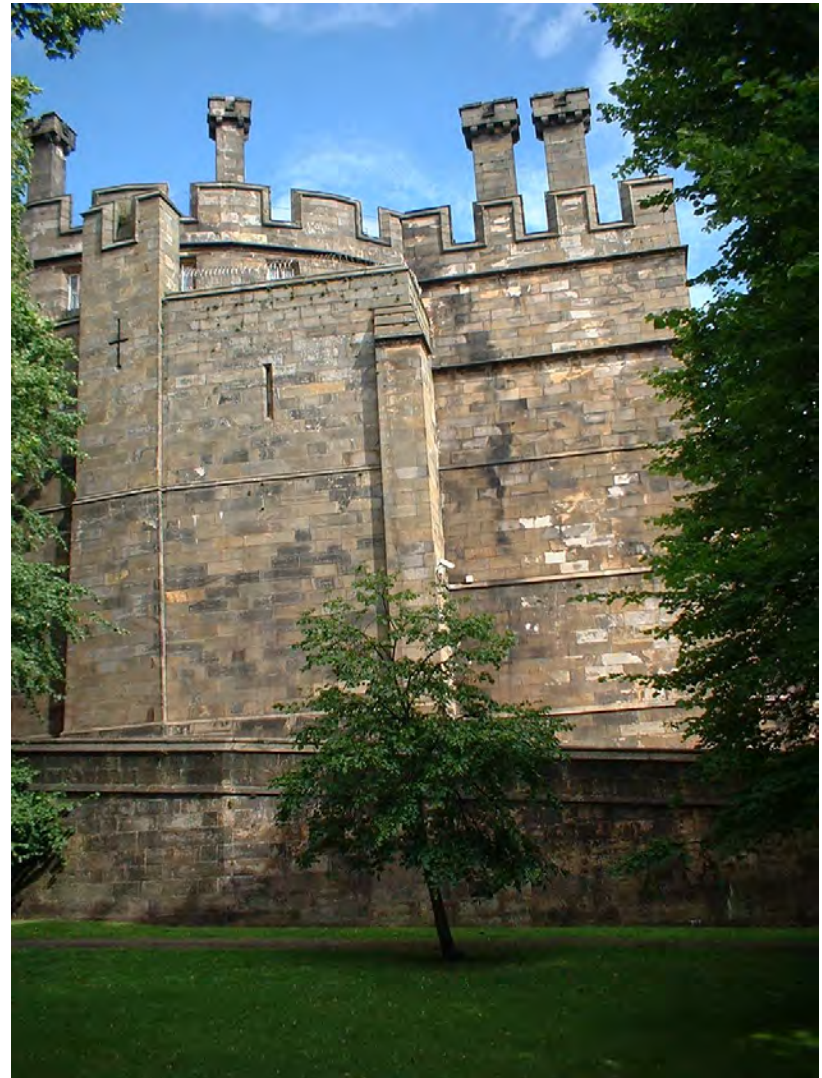


View from Orrest Head



Lancaster

- The Castle at Lancaster
- The ancestral residence of the Dukes of Lancaster
- The current Duke of Lancaster is Queen Elizabeth II !



Lancaster

- Stained glass windows in the Priory of Lancaster, founded 1094, now a parish church
- Ate lunch in the Priory refectory



The Peaks District

- One of the many picturesque valleys in the Peaks District National Park



Last Weekend, 19-23 August

- Thursday, by train to Richmond, west of London
- Friday, some ancestor hunting
- Saturday, to Bath, a Roman bath and 18th century spa
- Sunday, speaking at the International Presbyterian Church, West Ealing
- Monday, fly home!

Richmond

- A small city in the west suburbs of London, on the Thames River
- The location of one of the royal palaces
- This is a retreat center there



Holy Cross Church

- In Greenford, NW of London, built 11th century
- George Gardiner, an immigrant ancestor, was baptized here in 1600



Paul Levy

- Met with pastor of the International Presbyterian Church for lunch Saturday
- His predecessor was Nick Perrin, now on the faculty at Biblical



Bishop's Stortford

- St Michael's Church
- The current building dates from the 1400s
- But there was a church on the site in the 700s
- James Howe was married here 1628



Hatfield Broad Oak

- A small village a few miles east of Bishop's Stortford (NE of London) in Essex
- Here James Howe was born in 1598.
- He died 104 years later in Ipswich, Massachusetts.



Bath

- The only hot springs in England
- Used by the Romans as a bath from 1st century AD
- The same pool (with lead Roman liner) still in use today
- Became a resort town in 1700s



International Presbyterian Church

- Presbyterianism is not common in England, being largely Scots
- This congregation was founded by associates of Francis Schaeffer
- I spoke at the evening service, giving my talk on God's Fingerprints.



Back Home

- Returned to the Washington, DC area on Monday, 23 Aug
- Total trip was 25 days
- Spoke 11 times
- Returned just 2 days before my mother died

