



**MOVING
MOUNTAINS**
8 - 11 MARCH, 2018

Mission Preparation Guide
Part Two – Planning for Moving Mountains



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Introduction:

Dear friends,

Welcome to this second guide booklet which we're making available in preparation for the ***Moving Mountains*** mission 2018.

We are thrilled that hundreds of people attended the launch events and that so many churches have chosen to engage enthusiastically with the mission, not least in the period from March 8 to 11, 2018.

This booklet is aimed at enabling local churches to move forward with the planning process, offering ideas for mission events and providing some key dates and timelines. We hope that you will find it useful.

Thank you for all you are doing to spread the Gospel in the run up to, during and after ***Moving Mountains***.

+ James, Richard, Sarah and Drew

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More information about ***Moving Mountains*** will be available on the God for All website www.godforall.org.uk under the ***Moving Mountains 2018*** tab.

Preparation - Getting Started:

In Part One – ‘The Launch’ we gave recommendations of how your church can pray for Moving Mountains. We hope prayer for mission, through the dedicated prayer bookmarks and the Thy Kingdom Come week (4-11 June), is happening in the life of your church.

Alongside communicating with God through prayer, good communication with people is also an essential part of preparing for Moving Mountains. Please make sure you keep members of the congregation regularly informed of plans and preparations over the coming months. Communicate by a variety of means and never assume other people know something simply because you do!

Work with others to create a plan for your local involvement in the mission. Try to organise a handful of good quality events and don't try to do too much. Consider working in partnership with other churches to organise joint events.

Consider what will help get the church ready for Moving Mountains. Things you may wish to consider are:

- Encouraging people to invest in relationships with people outside the life of the church.
- Forming a local planning team who will help organise events at a local level.
- Using training events to equip people to feel more confident in living out and speaking about their faith. See page 35 for details of training opportunities.
- Encouraging people to invite guests to social events at church before March 2018.
- Starting to organise outreach events now.
- Developing a culture of invitation is very important to our mission preparation. The three ‘mission’ steps are pray, invite, bring. The simplest form of invitation is ‘I’m going, it’s going to be good, would you like to come too?’

Planning a Programme - First Steps:

We suggest that each church or church grouping tries to organise two or three events.

The reality is that most churches are experienced at putting on ‘a bit of a do’ and are able to organise great events already. This is a good foundation in preparing for Moving Mountains.

When thinking about events to organise, you may find it helpful to consider the following questions:

- What are we already doing that could be used as an outreach event? For example men’s meetings, women’s groups, youth and children’s work and existing groups and contacts.
- In our church or group of churches, what type of event would those not connected to the Christian faith be most likely to come to so they can hear the Good News in a clear and relevant way?
- What kind of events would church members find it easier to invite their friends and family to?
- How might we use the Moving Mountains visiting team (see page 5 of the first guideline booklet for more about visiting teams) to present the Christian Faith in a positive, engaging, relaxed, natural and helpful way?

- What kind of venues would suit the events we are planning?

Outreach events work on a number of levels and it's important to clarify for each part of your programme what type of event you are hoping to run.

Level One

These events are mainly social with a very small amount of Christian content. This type of event is ideal for first contact with people.

Level Two

An event that provides more information about the Christian Faith and encourages people to explore further. It might typically include someone giving their testimony.

Level Three

These type of events clearly explain the central message of the Christian Faith, present people with the benefits and costs of choosing to be a committed Christian and offer an invitation to respond to Jesus.

Key points to remember about any events you run:

- Choose a location that is easy to find and makes people feel at ease.
- All guests need to be made to feel welcome.
- Make sure people can find their way into the building, or consider having someone greeting guests at the door as they arrive.
- Events don't need to be big – how about organising some informal discussion groups in people's homes?
- For events with a charge, can the person inviting a friend offer to pay for their ticket?
- Make sure the visiting team are clear on the purpose of the event. Is it a level 1, 2 or 3 event?

The timetable

This summary timetable for the 4 days shows you when you could plan your outreach activities.

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thursday 8 th March	Senior Church Leaders and their teams travel to Cumbria	Commissioning Service in Penrith Auction Mart. Teams welcomed in their location	Community outreach events
Friday 9 th March	Locally organised school and community outreach events	Locally organised school and community outreach events	Locally organised community outreach events
Saturday 10 th March	Locally organised community outreach events	Locally organised community outreach events	Locally organised community outreach events
Sunday 11 March	Morning services (Mothering Sunday)	Possible further events	Travelling home

- **Commissioning service:** During this service the visiting teams will be commissioned and we will also pray for all our churches and the outreach events that have been organised. This service will be open to all local churches as well as the visiting Senior Church Leaders and their teams.
- **Welcome:** It would probably be helpful to organise a simple welcome for the visiting team, take half an hour to brief the visitors on the finalised programme and to pray for it. Following this, team members should have time to get to their accommodation and meet their hosts.
- **Keeping going:** Think about how to mark the conclusion of this chapter of Moving Mountains and to celebrate all that God has done as you look ahead to all that he has in store in the coming years.
- **Space:** In putting together your mission programme it is important to leave space for the team to meet together and to pray at some point in each day.

A simple planning template for organising events is available on the Moving Mountains section of the God for All website. Churches will need to complete a sheet for each event they are proposing to run, keeping a version for their own records and sending a copy to the Champion who is co-ordinating their local group of churches. For details of your local champion contact Mike Talbot.

Mission ideas:

Community Events:

Friday and Saturday provide opportunities to organise community outreach events. Some suggestions are outlined below.

- **Servant evangelism.** There are many forms of this, including things like litter picking, washing cars, shoe cleaning and other events that bless your local community. Please remember: you will need to discuss these kinds of ideas with your visiting team.
- **In the open air.** Are there open spaces in your community (e.g. shops) where many people pass by?
 - Perhaps you could you set up a prayer table and offer to pray for people's needs? You may wish to also offer prayer for healing and wholeness.
 - You may wish to engage people with a short beliefs survey?
 - Perhaps you could set up a sofa with a big sign next to it, saying 'Take a selfie with a Bishop' or 'Free prayer' or 'Happy to listen' and then make the mission team available for conversations.

Open air outreach doesn't have to mean shouting at people! It can be engaging and creative, but it works better in some places than others.

- **Local businesses.** This is a more challenging area. Churches are often very disconnected from local workplaces and can find that there is no real interest (or time) for the businesses to engage with the church. But you might feel that there is a way to offer something for businesses — maybe a lunch event on the Friday, for example. This might work particularly well if someone in your visiting team happens to have a background in business, commerce or public services.
- **Food - Often a winner!** Many of the examples below will feature food. Why? Inviting people to a service may require them to jump a 'cultural hurdle'. An event with food and a speaker simply seems much less 'alien' to people unused to church events. It also models hospitality and community, which are two attractive qualities of church.
- Events for different groups:
 - **Events for men and/or women.** Breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon tea with a team member to speak after the food. Sports-related events are also popular and are not just for men. Craft events or a pamper evening can also be popular mission events. Why not make sure that there is one event each for men and for women in your area? Or you could consider a 'Couples Night' with a talk related to marriage/life together.
 - **Youth event /children's event.** You'll need to check the skills of your visiting team for either event and work with local Network Youth Church and other leaders for continuity. Bringing together youth and their friends from different churches, for example, could really encourage them. They might like to fire questions at a team member, as well as enjoy food and lively activities. You could organise a youth talent night in 'X Factor' style along with a short talk from a team member.

- **Interest based events:** What sorts of interests? To be honest, almost anything! Orienting a mission event around a theme obviously means it will appeal to a more limited group but, with a good mix of events across churches, this isn't a problem.
 - **Sports.** (5-a-side football, rounders, badminton, golf, paintballing); can just be fun or a competition with prizes, presentation and a short talk
 - **Games** (darts, pool, skittles, ten-pin bowling, board games, scalextric even!); some of these allow lots of time to chat as you play and you could have a short talk and buffet at some point.
 - **Arts-based** event. Music, drama, paintings ... or a film night with discussion afterwards.
 - **Fun events**, such as a family fun day or a barn dance (suitable for all ages) and again a brief talk at the break.
 - **Cookery.** Events on a 'Great British Bake Off' theme, perhaps between a locally well-known person and a visitor (or someone from their team or a host church leader) can attract interest.
 - **Wine tasting evenings** or **brewery tours** can also be good mission events.
- **Apologetics:** This simply means 'giving a reason for the hope we have in Jesus' (1 Peter 3:15); meeting some of the challenges put to us by our society.
 - **Grill-a-church leader.** Many people have questions about Christian faith, including those within church. Too often our events do not allow space for questions/debate. You could run an 'Any Questions' event about matters of life and faith. The venue could be church-based or a pub or somewhere like Costa Coffee (they will often open up in an evening for such an event for a nominal fee and the associated custom).
 - **Themed event.** You might want to advertise a specific topic, e.g. one of the big questions such as suffering or other faiths or science and faith. If you are planning to do this, check in advance that you have someone willing to address a specific topic. (NB. Some of the visiting senior leaders will be particularly strong on certain topics). **Extra resources:**

There is a wealth of ideas around. Some valuable websites can be downloaded from

<http://bit.ly/2ot89Om>.

Schools:

We are very fortunate in our county to have strong connections with the world of education and a large family of church and community schools. Moving Mountains presents a marvellous opportunity to build on these links. Do consider how you will use members of the visiting team in local schools as part of your ongoing engagement with them

You will need to contact the schools in early September in order to explore possibilities. If this is a first approach to a particular school, then speak to the head teacher (or possibly the head of RE or ethics in a secondary school).

- **Collective Worship input:** Sending a team into school opens up opportunities for creative input that are not easily reproduced by the regular visit of a minister on their own. You will need to give the visiting team clear information on how much time they have, whether there is any set theme, and a contact person in the school.
- **Lessons.** In primary schools, these are more often with Key Stage 2 classes. In secondary schools they most often take place in RE or Ethics lessons and an 'Any Questions' format may work well — or the school might have a specific ethical or spiritual theme that they'd like to explore with the visiting team (usually a mix of brief input and then questions).
- **Guidelines.** Good practice guidelines for mission work in schools are available at <http://bit.ly/2oY7FDd>. It is very important that mission teams understand what is appropriate in the schools context.

Trying different venues:

- **Pubs.** Pubs, bars and restaurants often make great venues for outreach events. You might wish to contact your local venue to see if they would host your Moving Mountains event. Be aware that Friday and Saturday evenings tend to already be busy/popular but they may have a function room you could use.
- **People's homes.** Churches often forget the simplest sort of event; Christians inviting a number of their friends to meet with one or two of the visiting team. This can either be 'a brew and a biscuit', 'coffee and cake' or over a meal (maybe a travelling supper). The team can either informally chat with people, seeing how conversations develop, or a team member could give a brief talk and then field questions. Or try using Table Talk from www.theuglyducklingcompany.com as a discussion starter. You could easily have 3-4 such events in the area at the same time.
- **Outside/other.** This could include detached youth work (streets, park), soup kitchen, night clubs if you are in an urban area. If you are planning outdoor events, remember the mission will take place in March.

Making the most of Sunday morning services:

11th March 2018 is Mothering Sunday so this could provide an excellent opportunity for outreach during the Sunday services.

- **Invite a friend.** Those of you who have done Back to Church Sunday in the Season of Invitation will know that this is usually at the end of September, but we'd like to suggest that you make Back to Church Sunday 11th March this year. Having the visiting Moving Mountains team provides you with a good opportunity to invite guests.
- **Times and venues.** Clearly the visiting teams can't be everywhere! But if you are planning the mission across a group of churches does your pattern of services allow the team, say, to be at a 9.30am service in one place and 11.00am elsewhere? Secondly, bear in mind that some of the team will be preachers, so use them too!
- **Type of service.** Some churches know that their best attendance or their highest number of newcomers is in, say, the all-age service. It's quite possible that this falls on a different Sunday of the month but, if you give enough notice, would it be worth switching it to make the most of the opportunity? Mothering Sunday provides an excellent mission opportunity.
- **Something different.** Within the services you might find it helpful to also allow space for a team member to share their story of coming to faith in Christ or for other creative input, such as drama.
- **Readings.** If possible aim to have bible readings that are easy for visitors to understand and which can be used as the basis for an evangelistic message. The gospel for Sunday 11 March is John 3: 14–21.
- **Sermon.** The aim of the Moving Mountains is to share the Good News of Jesus with others. The sermon should have a clear outreach focus and encourage people to consider for themselves Jesus' invitation to follow him.
- **Visitor-friendly service.** If you are making a special effort to invite guests, then make sure that the welcome is warm and genuine. This includes making sure that the service itself is accessible; visitors will not automatically know which page to turn to, or when they should sit or stand, etc.

Invitation:

Many outreach events suffer from the phenomenon of 'dozens of nodding heads'. This is not people who are bored and nodding off, but folk nodding in agreement with the message that is being presented because they already believe it!

It is vitally important that we invite people who are not yet connected to the Christian faith to the Moving Mountains events we are organising. Churches often produce large quantities of publicity for distribution. Though this might be helpful, the most effective way of encouraging people to attend is a personal invitation. Most people attend because someone personally invited them rather than because of publicity.

The simplest form of invitation can be

"I'm going, it's going to be good, why don't you don't come too?"

Hosting the Visiting Team:

We envisage that, by the Autumn, the Champion will be able to find out the size of the teams being brought by their visiting Senior Leader. We expect teams will contain 4-5 people. Here are some simple guidelines regarding hospitality.

- **Bed and Breakfast.** We would suggest that you ask people to put up one or possibly two team members for three nights. When you are visiting a new place it is very helpful to have one settled base. If hosts know that they only need to provide breakfast, then this should encourage people to offer.
- **Other meals.** Your programme might well enable you to include food in mission events, which is a very simple way to solve your catering planning. If not, then aim for one 'snack' meal per day and one main meal; teams are generally overfed on missions! The visiting team may wish to have a light lunch together to give them a chance to catch up, plan and pray.
- **Dietary and other needs.** It's important to ask about dietary restrictions (vegetarians, gluten free, etc.) and to communicate these to hosts and those doing any catering. Though less likely, team members might flag up specific issues relating to disability access, etc.
- **Choosing hosts.** In itself this can be part of the mission, e.g. with a more 'fringe' family or someone who is growing in their faith. You might need to help people not to be overawed at the thought of hosting a Senior Church Leader.
- **Logistics.** As not all team members will bring cars, you may need to arrange transport to some events.

Promoting Moving Mountains:

All too often, churches do fantastic work 'under the radar' and that means no one gets to hear about it! We often engage in mission in a similar way, but the more we share what we are doing, the more people will get to know about it, engage with us and, hopefully, hear the Good News along the way!

As there will be hundreds of events taking place across the county from March 8th – 11th you are encouraged to build relationships with your local newspaper and promote local events directly to them.

Publicity:

- **Leaflet/invitations/posters.** Leaflets detailing events in your church or group of churches can be given to church members and can also be used as invitations. Don't forget to use posters on your noticeboards and in shops etc. too. Various customisable invitation and poster templates will be available from early Autumn on the Moving Mountains section of the God for All website, and you are encouraged to use these as they will save you time and be part of sending out a united message across Cumbria.
- **Website and Social Media.** If you have a church website, make sure your events are advertised there. Don't forget to use social media such as Facebook and Twitter #mmcumbria
- **Logo.** Use the Moving Mountains logo, which is available on the website. Having this same logo used across the county will make a powerful impact on local media.
- **Honesty.** If your event will include a message, which is appropriate for nearly all events, invitations should be open about this. Something like 'this will include a short presentation of the Christian message' is helpful at the bottom of an invitation. If the event is a worship service you don't really need to include this because it can be taken for granted.

Communications support:

Some events could be of interest beyond your church or group of churches, so please let us know about them by emailing Dave Roberts. In addition he will be covering a range of Moving Mountains events as well as promoting the whole mission to regional/national media. You are encouraged to promote your own events to your local media. Advice about how to do this can be found on the Moving Mountains pages of the God for All website.

Insurance and finance:

- **Insurance.** Please make sure that your church or group of churches has appropriate public liability insurance in place. If you plan to do any events in the open air or in a town centre please check with the local council to make sure you comply with their the insurance and/or health and safety rules.
- **Finance.** Apart from accommodation and hospitality, visiting teams will cover their own expenses. It's envisaged that church groupings will cover any cost of events they are organising.

Support, training and resources:

- **Support.** Mike Talbot and Colin Ashurst are available to support you through the planning and preparation process. Their contact details can be found on page 2. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with them.
- **Training.** There will be an Evangelism Resource Day at Beaconside Primary School in Penrith on 24 June to equip and prepare people. More details can be found at <http://bit.ly/2oXKHgi>.

Timeline:

An overview of the key events related to Moving Mountains.

When?	What?
Jan/Feb 2017	The planning team began to recruit Moving Mountains Champions
February	5 Moving Mountains Launch events
Mid-April	Initial Moving Mountains programme planning in churches/church groupings
June	Thy Kingdom Come – prayer focus Evangelism Resource Day – 24 June
Early Sept	Begin to explore possibilities with local schools
Sept/Oct	Churches use the opportunities from the season of invitation to practice outreach and evangelism
Oct	Moving Mountains promoted at Clergy Day
Oct/Nov	Where possible, arrange for visiting teams to come to meet their placement churches or groups of churches
Early Dec	Final church/churches programmes ready. Think through arrangements for follow up and in particular for running Enquirers' Courses
Early Jan 2018	Check final arrangements for visiting schools
Jan/Feb	Final checks, prayer and personal invitations
8 – 11 March	Moving Mountains
Spring/Summer	Churches or groups of churches run Enquirers' Courses
2018 - 2020	Churches or Groups of churches run further mission events

And finally:

Thank you!

In years to come, it will be wonderful to think of people who have come to faith through our Moving Mountains mission and who are thankful to God that we cared enough about them to share the Good News of Jesus with them.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation.

(Isaiah 52:7)

The God for All Prayer

God for all, you reached out to the world
in your Son Jesus Christ.

Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all.

God for all, you send your Holy Spirit
to empower and gift your Church.

By your Spirit help us grow in unity,
grow as followers of Jesus Christ,
and grow your kingdom in Cumbria and in this world.

Amen.

