



An opportunity to partner in mission

From September 19th – 22nd 2019, our friends in the Northern Baptist Association (NBA) will be engaging in a weekend of mission. NBA is the community of Baptist churches in the North East and each local church is being encouraged to set this weekend aside for a time of intentional outreach. Paul Revill, who is leading this describes it as 'a weekend of sharing the Gospel in word and deed across the North East of England.' It is intended to demonstrate that mission can be fun and exciting, and that everyone has their part to play. With this in mind, NBA is inviting churches from other places to partner with those who are involved.

During that weekend, teams from around the world will be coming to NBA, and, alongside the work being done in local churches, there will be opportunities to come together to celebrate and be inspired by being part of this programme.

As Association teams in the north, we have a long tradition of working together and we want to support our colleagues and friends in NBA as much as we can. We are therefore inviting NWBA churches to partner with an NBA church in this mission. You might do this in one of two ways:

Send a Team: Perhaps a small group from your church could plan to spend the weekend supporting a church in the North East. You may have musicians, youth and children's leaders or others with gifting in outreach and evangelism that could offer their gifts to support brothers and sisters in another part of the UK. Perhaps you could even take a youth, young adults or other group from your church who could rise to the challenge of working together to share the message of Jesus. You may not feel you have much to offer, but even your willingness to draw alongside and get involved in the work of laying on open days, coffee mornings etc. could be a huge encouragement to another church fellowship.

Partner in Prayer: Even if you are unable to travel to physically be with a church that weekend, you can partner with them in prayer. We would like to pair an NWBA church with every NBA church so that in the run up to September you can find out something about them, their context and community and the vision they have to be part of Northern Light. We would ask you to pray for them as they prepare for Northern Light and during your services that weekend. You might also arrange a prayer gathering in your own location to coincide with some of the key events and initiatives they are hosting. Prayer is a vital element in its own right, but it will also be a great encouragement to our friends in the North East to know that Baptists in NWBA are praying for them.

The NWBA team are already in conversation with churches in NBA and we are beginning to identify potential partners. Please think seriously about how you might be part of this exciting initiative. We believe that participation in an event like this not only brings great benefit to those you seek to support, but will have a positive impact in your own church as those who are involved share their experiences and enthusiasm.

I have already set that weekend aside in my own diary, and I hope that others from NWBA will join me in being part of this great mission initiative. If you are interested in being involved further, please email me at phil@nwba.org.uk

Please give serious thought to how your church can be part of this and please don't assume that this is only something that other churches do. Why wouldn't you get involved?

Phil Jump
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