

## Greenwich to Oxford 21-27th September 2009

One of the most famous comic novels in English is Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men In A Boat*. Set in Victorian England it follows the hilarious adventures of three friends' boating trip down the Thames. Now, more than a hundred years later, three friends are going to walk much of the same journey from London to Oxford in aid of overseas Christian publishers who need training and support.

The 'Three Men in their Boots' are Graham Wilson, Rodney Shepherd and Tony Wales. All three are closely involved with Media Associates International which coordinates training for Christian publishers and writers in the world's hard places. Many in the Christian publishing world will know Rodney and Tony from their many years of publishing experience with Lion Hudson. All three are deeply committed to helping Christian writers and publishers grow their skills and become more effective in their own country and culture.

In particular they are raising funds for a European training forum for Christian publishers and writers to be held at High Leigh Conference Centre in September 2010. This will bring many writers, editors and publishers from situations that are far removed from our own. For example Tony Wales has recently returned from Serbia, a country which is largely overlooked by those of us in the UK and where there is a tiny minority of Christians and just a couple of small Christian publishers who struggle against very difficult political, religious and economic pressures. Tony was able to spend time training and encouraging the publishers there and was enormously moved by their sacrificial lives, dedication to the Gospel and their contribution to the healing of a still fractured nation. Two of their staff had benefited greatly from attending the last European publishers forum held in Austria two years ago.

Tony says: 'The purpose of our sponsored walk is to enable many more to come to the next forum in September 2010.

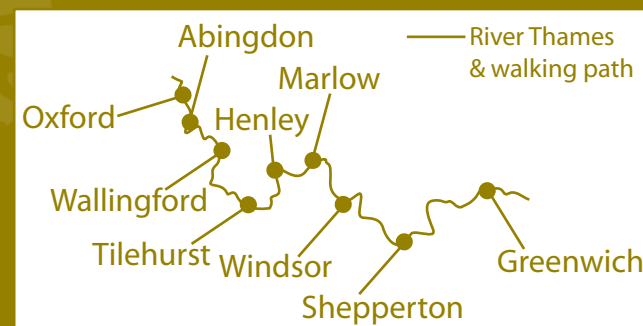
Without such help and training they can become very isolated and struggle to get the right kind of practical and emotional support. To attend such a forum can be a tremendously important encouragement as they meet others facing similar issues and get input from the specialist resource people we will have there.'

Rod Shepherd, who has led publisher training in many countries around the world said: 'In the UK we are blessed with so many resources and with fellowship with many other Christians. What we are trying to achieve at the 2010 MAI forum is to provide practical support and personal encouragement to those who are largely without it.' Graham Wilson, adds: 'If we in the UK find it hard going in the present economic environment, just imagine the strain of writing and publishing the Gospel in countries where they have hardly any resources in the first place! This is why we've been getting in training for this walk. All we need now is people to back us.'

### Start 21st September

Greenwich to Shepperton - 12 miles  
Shepperton to Windsor - 14 miles  
Windsor to Marlow - 14 miles  
Marlow to Henley - 9 miles  
Henley to Tilehurst - 12 miles  
Tilehurst to Wallingford - 15 miles  
Wallingford to Abingdon - 14 miles  
Abingdon to Oxford - 10 miles

### End 27th September



## Response/Gift Aid return slip

I would like to support publishers, writers and authors from Eastern Europe countries to attend the MAI publishing forum at High Leigh Conference Centre in September 2010.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor the walk by £ \_\_\_\_\_ per mile/one off gift (delete as appropriate).

Enclosed is my cheque/cash/charity voucher payable to MAI Europe and send to: G. Wilson, MAI Treasurer, 120 Canesworde Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 3PZ.

**Gift Aid:** YES or NO (Delete as appropriate).

I am a UK taxpayer and I want MAI Europe to treat my donation in this way. Each £1 donated is worth £1.28 to MAI and more if a higher rate tax payer. £25 (plus Gift Aid) will help pay for a delegate for one day and £100 will cover a full delegate fee.

MAI Europe is a British Charity no. 328568 and a member of Global Connections. It exists to support the aims of Media Associates International in providing training and resources for Christian writers, authors and publishers in the world's hard places.

General enquiries:  
c/o Rodney Shepherd, maieurope@toucansurf.com; www.liittworld.org

Please tick  if you do not wish to receive information from us in the future.