

Tuesday, September 2, 2003

FESTIVAL: MANCHESTER BRINGS "GOOD NEWS" TO THE UK

ANS NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Craig Chastain - 503-614-1554



MANCHESTER, UK (ANS) – A radical “celebration of faith, hope and life” came to a grand finale Sunday as Festival: Manchester drew a crowd of 30,000+ to enjoy Christian music, extreme sports and family fun in the city’s famed Heaton Park. The event brought to a successful close one of the largest Christian events ever staged in the UK. (Pictured: Sunny skies warmed the thousands attending Festival: Manchester’s massive skate park and main stage).

The U.S. - based Luis Palau Evangelistic Association and Manchester’s Message Trust partnered with over 500 churches, the Manchester and Salford City Councils, Greater Manchester Police, and dozens of corporate and private supporters to produce the event, which combined community service and social action projects with a massive music festival.

Close to 5,000 volunteer/delegates from throughout the UK and Western Europe worked on over 300 service projects in some of the city’s most deprived areas. Over four days, some 75,000 hours of work were contributed to the cleanup, repair and upgrading of public and private facilities in dozens of estates. (Pictured: Over 200 young people made decisions for Christ at the festival skate park).

On the weekend, the volunteers joined an estimated two-day crowd of 55,000+ who came to the park to enjoy major Christian music artists like TobyMac, Tait, The Tribe, and the London Community Gospel Choir along with a variety of festival activities. There was a Kidz Zone play area, vintage and extreme car show, and a custom-built, 10,000 square foot skate park featuring some of the world’s top skateboard and BMX professionals. World evangelist and author Luis Palau shared the message of good news and hope which he has presented in over 70 countries in front of 18 million people.



“This festival showed the city and the region that followers of Jesus are joyful and selfless,” said Palau. “The dedicated service of the volunteers...the cooperation of the churches and local agencies...the lives that were eternally changed...it all came together this week under God in Manchester.” (Pictured: Luis Palau shares the “good news” at Festival: Manchester).

Festival: Manchester will leave a lasting mark on the city, from the over 1,500 new believers who made decisions for Christ during the week to the massive skate park, built by volunteers with donated materials, which will soon be permanently installed at a Manchester recreation facility.

“The full impact of the festival will only be known in heaven,” said Message Director Andy Hawthorne. “We’ve dreamt of a church community that’s not only for the like-minded, but one that gets involved with broken communities that desperately need Jesus. At Festival: Manchester that dream started to become a reality.”

Over 1500 recorded decisions for Christ were made in the streets and in the park during the festival.

** You may republish this story with proper attribution. [Send this story to a friend.](#)

