In conversation with...

Nick Gray
Website Developer & Trust Supporter

Nick Gray has been a supporter of Sovereign World Trust for nearly 20 years since he first came across the ministry and became excited about being able to help pastors worldwide obtain biblical teaching materials. In addition to his website development work, Nick is also a pastor with the Elim churches. We caught up with him recently to find out a little more about his life and mission; and how does he juggle the challenges of two such demanding roles?

Nick lives in South London with his wife, his children having long flown the nest. He spent nine years in the Army during the time of the Northern Ireland 'troubles' and grew in faith during that time. He felt a call into the full-time ministry before he went into the Army and came to a full faith in Jesus and held that calling throughout his Army service. Nick has now been a pastor for about 35 years and has served churches in Scotland, Yorkshire and now London. He has travelled quite widely and is passionate about the church in the "West" supporting Christians in less well-off countries. He is on the board of a mission charity (Focus on Israel - www.foiuk.org) that supports ministries and congregations in Israel.

Nick started his website business around ten years ago with a colleague, also a pastor, to offer website development to churches and charities who could not afford full secular professional costs. Nick and his partner wanted their business to be as much a ministry as a commercial enterprise and always sets high value on building relationships with their clients and offering a personalised service that would be within their clients' budgets.
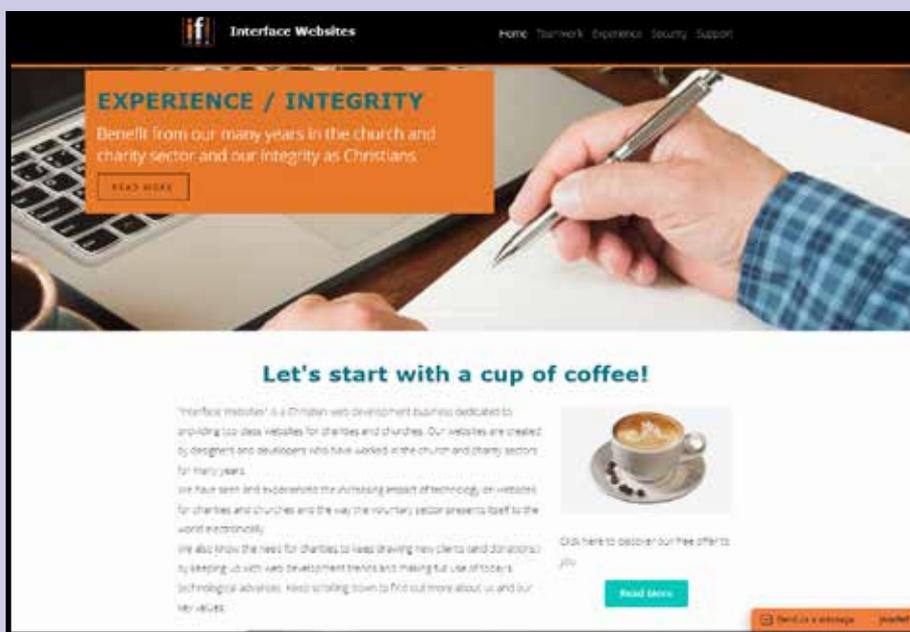
Within the last few years, Nick's partner moved on to other things and he now runs the business as a "sole trader". Fortunately the workload building websites can be managed so it doesn't conflict with or put too much pressure on running a church at the same time. In fact, being a full-time pastor as well enables Nick to understand the needs of churches and the possibilities on the internet to bring their presentation and communications more up to date.

The past year of COVID and lockdowns has led to an upsurge in churches and charities holding conferences and webinars online. This means being able to provide live-streaming pages for churches as well as a standard website, an opportunity to expand skills.

His involvement as a website developer for SWT began when the Trust mentioned a project to publish materials online for pastors who could access them through internet cafés and (latterly) their mobile phones. It took a few years for the project to take off, but in that time Nick completely revamped the

Nick's website can be found at www.interfacewebsites.uk

outdated SWT supporters' website and added to it a second website for overseas pastors to apply for free mailings of books. It has been exciting for the Trust to be able to offer a growing volume of teaching and preaching materials through two separate resource sites - www.slices.org.uk and www.ibtr.org.uk, the updated versions of which only recently became live.

As Nick's involvement (through building four websites for the Trust) has increased, he has become more a part of the team that takes the ministry forward. As Chris Moffett explains:

"Nick has become an integral part of the Trust. He has a knack for problem-solving, and we certainly have presented him with some pretty interesting technical challenges in the last few years. As the Covid pandemic took hold through 2021 and our physical mailings were halted due to cargo restrictions, the Trust has dramatically increased its online presence. Nick has worked tirelessly to support us in our efforts here, understanding our mission and working closely with us in our urgent push to upscale our online presence. With Nick's help we have been able to continue to offer Biblical teaching and preaching resources to many of our recipients worldwide."

And finally, we asked Nick some "Desert Island Discs" questions and found that one of his favourite Christian songs could have been written for web developers. When a client asks for something unusual or tricky on a website, Nick quotes the old Hillsong chorus, "All Things Are Possible"! He also told us that his favourite books at the moment are the timeless classics, *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence (17th century), *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis (15th century) and Jeanne Guyon's *Experiencing the Depths of Christ* (17th century)!

Thanks Nick, for all you do! We really appreciate it!

> "Nick has become an integral part of our team..."
>
> Chris Moffett