

Wellington Record



December 2017

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when the Spirit of truth comes,

HE WILL GUIDE YOU

into all the truth

JOHN 16:13



The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to restore the lost soul to intimate fellowship with God through the washing of regeneration. To accomplish this He first reveals Christ to the penitent heart (1 Corinthians 12 v 3). He then goes on to illumine the new-born soul with brighter rays from the face of Christ (John 14 v 26; 16 vs 13-15) and leads the willing heart into depths and heights of divine knowledge and communion. Remember, we know Christ only as the Spirit enables us and we have only as much of Him as the Holy Spirit imparts. God wants worshipers before workers; indeed the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship. It is inconceivable that a sovereign and holy God should be so hard up for workers that He would press into service anyone who had been empowered regardless of his moral qualifications. The very stones would praise Him if the need arose and a thousand legions of angels would leap to do His will. Gifts and power for service the Spirit surely desires to impart; but holiness and spiritual worship come first.

A. W. Tozer Sermon: Worshipers Then Workers

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Welcome to the Winter edition of our church magazine.

Another summer has passed and many are looking forward to spending time with family and friends over Christmas and New Year.

Do you ever pause and look back over the year that has almost gone? Do you wonder if you have made a difference in someone's life? Did you go out of your way to help someone in need? As we journey through life, we can become so caught up with the demands of modern day living that we have little or no time for others. Maybe we should pause, take stock and ask ourselves what is really important to us.

In Micah 6 v 8 we read, **"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."**

You can't fail to be moved by the words of Lauren Agnew as she tells us of IJM's work on pages 12 & 13. To realise that millions in our world live in slavery at the hands of evil and unscrupulous people seems almost unbelievable in the 21st Century! Surely William Wilberforce's efforts led to the abolition of slavery 1833!

What better time of the year to sit down and consider our attitudes to others and how we might develop lives full of justice, mercy and compassion.

This is, after all, what the Lord requires of us!

Mervyn Orr, Editor



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Call to Action

Part 1 of 3

To be continued in future editions

Rev Alistair Bates



Are you under pressure? Do you feel that a war is being waged against you? All you ever wanted to do was follow Jesus, but you never realized how difficult this would be. His love for us was declared and demonstrated on the Cross and we want to love him back. That has never been easy, but it has become exceedingly difficult. Like an unwelcome lover in a marriage, a third party is trying to rip your relationship with Jesus apart. This intruder has come with a poisonous vengeance. His intent is to destroy the beauty which God has formed; to leave his fingerprints of destruction over your life.

However, God loves you enough to make his identity known. In war, an advantage is gained when you discover the plan and tactic of your enemy. Christ has not only defeated Satan, he has exposed him as well. In this study, we are going to examine the subject of spiritual warfare, the armour of God. We will look at various strategies the Devil uses against us and discover how to avoid giving the Enemy a foothold.

Adherence to God's word will disarm the Enemy. While the heat of battle is intense, the joy of victory is secure. Yet, the costs can be high. The battle can feel lonely, and the wounds appear deep. At a personal level, we feel bruised,

battered, and broken, but when we are weary from doing battle, we take refuge in the healing Word of God. If you are in the midst of battle, this book will act as a checklist, as each piece of armour needs to be in place. As you engage in spiritual warfare, I hope you will be encouraged not to give up, but to intensify your war against the Enemy and, with God's grace emerge victorious.

The Source of Our Armour

Before we get to the full armour of God, we must understand its context. All too often we attempt to assemble His armour without adequate preparation. The armour will not protect us if we do not use it properly. We may have it in our possession, but if we cannot lift it, let alone wear it, our weakness and vulnerabilities are exposed and more obvious than ever. An honest evaluation of our lives is required before the task of preparing for battle. Ephesians 6:10 reads, **"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."**

Paul begins by saying, "Finally." Why is this important message his final note? In light of the preceding message of Ephesians, Paul is just now ready to issue a command. This command is clear; let us be strong in the Lord, and trust in His mighty strength and power.

Our Possessions in Christ

In the preceding chapters, Paul focused on our possessions in Christ. He declared that we had been adopted as sons and daughters of God. He proclaims that Christ, through His death on the Cross, has released us from the power of sin. He reminded us of the responsibilities we have toward God and each other when he said, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise - "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Paul's message directs us to consider what Christ has done for us, and how that affects our relationships with each other. What does it mean? Why does he ask us to be strong? In Ephesians 3:16, Paul states. **"I pray that out of His glorious riches; He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in the inner being."** This verse reminds us of the source of our strength; it is "out of His glorious riches", it maintains that 'power' is the provision from those riches, and that deep inside every facet and character of our being His Spirit will be present.

What is actually happening when a church or a Christian becomes active? What happens

when you start to live out your Christian faith? The natural outworking of your love for God is that you want to share it with others. The Enemy hates love, in particular when it is expressed to God and manifested toward others. The desire to recover what was lost, as the woman with her coin, the shepherd with his sheep, and the prodigal son, warms the heart of God and chills the heart of Satan.

In *Crushing the Devil*, author Pedro Okono asserts that "there is a difference between the fact and the truth. The fact is what you may be experiencing at any particular point in time in your life, the day-to-day reality of life, the struggles, the challenges, the issues and the problems that you face on a daily basis. On the other hand, the truth is what God's Word says about the particular situation you are going through or the challenges you currently face... God expects you to confess and proclaim the truth of His Word, not the fact of your daily struggles!" So what happens when you engage in Christian activity? When you begin to encroach on Satan's fallen domain? When your faith affects that of your family, friends, and community? Spiritual inactivity draws no attention from the Enemy. Satan allows your personal brokenness and the corruption of the world to render you ineffective in battle. This lukewarm spirit ultimately works towards the Enemy's plans. However, an active and faithful heart creates a problem, one the Enemy needs to address. Any person living for Christ will, sooner or later, encounter a dark and sinister demonic world. A cesspit of delusion and destructiveness marks its presence. Hell-bent on your annihilation the Enemy has declared war.

Have you ever watched two boxers before a fight? At the weigh

-in, a predictable drama unfolds. After the pre-fight conference, they stand two inches apart and nose-to-nose. With a fixed gaze, they do not avert their eyes from their opponent. Is this an empty ritual? No, it has a profound meaning for every boxer. They glare at each other, hoping to detect fear in their opponent's eyes. It is a well-rehearsed process of intimidation, a calculated attempt to get you to submit to the other even before the fight begins. As each boxer climbs through the ropes, they hope that, at least in the mind, their opponent is defeated before even a single punch is thrown.

When we become active for God, the Devil is upset by our activities. It is precisely because you have begun to upset his plans that the Enemy may seek to go nose-to-nose with you. He wants to sense your fear. He knows that if you are frightened, you've already lost the battle. If he psyches you out, then he has no need to draw the battle lines, and we hand the Enemy an easy victory. The Devil loves to see an intimidated Christian, one too frightened to engage in spiritual warfare. When we fear defeat, we are at a distinct disadvantage. The Enemy is a bully and an intimidator. He uses fear and accusation to disarm his opponents. However, if he is face-to-face with you it may be because you are on the right path towards God. If this is the case, and you are facing spiritual warfare, then take comfort in these words.

In fact, the Devil hates biblical attention. As the light of God's Word shines upon him, he is unmasked as the Father of Lies and a deceiver. His weakness becomes evident, and his motives and intentions open to scrutiny. Once we begin to realize who we are in Christ and become familiar with the weapons of our warfare, then

the Church begins to triumph, and individuals emerge victorious.

References:

Ephesians 6 v 11: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil."

In his book, *Glory: When Heaven Invades Earth*, Evangelical author and teacher Bob Sore describes the manipulation in terms of separating you from God; *"The nature of the enemy's warfare in your life is to cause you to become discouraged and to cast away your confidence. Not that you would necessarily discard your salvation, but you could give up your hope of God's deliverance. The enemy wants to numb you into a coping kind of Christianity that has given up hope of seeing God's resurrection power."* Here, it is clear that the enemy is only ever successful when we fail to identify God as our strength, when we place God too far outside of ourselves.

We cannot ignore Satan as an adversary. He is our accuser before the Judge, an enemy of Christ and man. In Scripture, he is the serpent, the dragon, the deceiver, the father of lies, the ever-tempter, ruler of the fallen world, the prince of the air and pointless winds, the Enemy of humankind

Biblical References: 1 Peter 5 v 8; Matthew 13 v 25; Revelation 12 v 10; Romans 16 v 20; Revelation 20 v 2; Matthew 4 v : 3; 1 John 8 v 44 & 12 v 31; Ephesians 2 v 2.

We also know that the Devil does not act alone (Matthew 25 v 41) but every demon and accomplice of Satan is still ruled by God and limit themselves in their own fallen natures. They condemn themselves to defeat at the hands of God. (Jude 6; Hebrews 2 v 16; 2 Peter 2 v 4; 1 Corinthians 15 vs 24-25).



HARVEST



December 2017



IMAGES





Nikita's 'Cup Overflows with Blessings' teaching in Nepal

"Is there a girl named Nikita in this room?" asked a speaker while I was on a youth trip to Ballycastle in 2009, when I was 13. God had told her to tell me that I will be 'good with children' in my life. While I always had a Christian outlook on life, influenced during my early childhood by my parents and my church, I felt directly spoken to that evening. I committed my life to Jesus and started following His plan for me. I have felt a great sense of peace about being involved in the teaching profession ever since, still remembering this early encouragement when it's a bit of a struggle.

Mum and dad have been a constant source of encouragement and prayer during my endless travel escapades and they've been especially supportive of my new calling to overseas mission. Mum and dad, who recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary, and older brother, Chris, live at home in Ballymena while my younger brother Arran lives and works in England. During my University studies I lived in Belfast for three years and at home for my final year when I undertook a teaching placement at Ballymena Primary School, just a four minute drive from my house!

Even as I began my four year teaching degree, I knew I would move abroad to teach once I graduated. The question was not 'whether' I would go, but 'where' I would go. Our amazing A level Geography teacher, Andy Bleakley, left his job in Cambridge House Grammar School to teach in Kathmandu International Study Centre, Nepal. I recall being intrigued by his departure and wishing I too could go and serve God in a foreign country. I had long forgotten about this until one day in my final year of university I received an email about teaching vacancies in that exact school in Nepal! 'What a coincidence,' I thought' and emailed Andy straight away to find out more... God had planned it all long ago, putting that desire in my heart, and it seemed He had now decided I was ready! Although the decision to go was not tough, I was unsure where the money would come from to live on as it was a voluntary role with no salary. But God intervened and provided all I needed through the generosity of my extended family, friends, Ramble Inn waitressing and my very own church! The next few months unfolded and I was booked on a flight to the mighty country of Nepal! God is so good and has placed me where He wants to use me...

Arriving in Nepal, I started teaching one week later! Life was a whirlwind of activity with an extremely steep learning curve, which still continues! The staff at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) have been wonderful, understanding and beyond helpful! Andy Bleakley had completed his five year stint the summer I started but, before I left, I had a chance to meet him in a Ballymena coffee shop and get many wonderful tips and an insight into his amazing Himalayan experience. Since arriving it has been such a blessing to work among Christians, Nepali and Badeshi (Caucasian) alike. I'm so grateful to learn and grow as a teacher in this place with such valuable guidance at my fingertips.

The school, founded in 1987, provides both Primary and Secondary education for children aged 4-18. The Mission Statement is, 'To provide excellent education, primarily for the Christian mission community and Nepali school communities, based on Biblical values'. We instil values of Love, Community, Grace, Excellence and Justice throughout the school.

There is a high turnover of students due to the large missionary community in Kathmandu and the surrounding

villages . Some come for just a few months while others stay for a few years and there's always lots of hellos and goodbyes at KISC. The children love being here and never want to leave this special community. There's also a high staff turnover as the jobs are voluntary in nature. Many, however, supported by a mission or home church, stay a lot longer and make a bigger impact in the surrounding community. A sister organisation, KISC Equip, helps to train teachers in rural areas of Nepal to develop quality education in these communities.

I live in the school Guesthouse with other teachers and KISC staff who are in Nepal with no other family members. Ten of us share a living room and there's a kitchen and bathroom on each of the 3 floors. We enjoy Bible Study and a home-cooked dinner together each Wednesday evening, some times having a BBQ on the rooftop, which has amazing panoramic views of Kathmandu and, now and then, the mighty Himalayas!

As the Year 2 teacher in KISC (P3 in NI) I have a class of 17 wonderfully diverse children, all aged 6/7. They don't wear school uniform and we have what I can only describe as a 'floaty' life here. I come out of the guesthouse in the morning in floaty sleeveless tops and walk for about 5 minutes on the cobbled street to the school building, my hair floating in the warm breeze. It's just so 'liveable' a place that I barely notice the culture shock that many talk about. I am so content with my environment and I have everything I need, as Psalm 23 reminds me. 'The Lord is my shepherd; He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams; He renews my strength; He guides me along right paths bringing honour to his

name... My cup overflows with blessings.' This Psalm comes to life as I walk down the streets of this spiritually dark yet uniquely beautiful city. KISC's Vision is 'To be living witnesses of Christ's love through excellent education' and I take this upon myself every day as I teach my class. Daily lessons involve Writing, Reading, Phonics and Maths and once or twice a week we have Geography/History/ Science and Religious Education when we read the Bible, apply it to our lives and pray together. Also, in our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) session, we pray together and rehearse earthquake, fire and intruder drills and learn how to be good problem solvers, etc. I really enjoy teaching my class and it's a priority of mine to teach good manners. They must say 'please', 'thank you', 'sorry', 'it's okay', 'you're welcome' etc. and they love it - even sometimes saying, 'Thank you Miss George for teaching us' on their way out! The staff also appreciate what I do and leave small motivational gifts in my pigeon hole from time to time, making life all the more enjoyable. I just love it here - community life is exceptional!

My contract with KISC was for one academic year, meaning I should be leaving my new international family behind and flying home next June. I don't think I will be ready to do that. Will I ever be? Every single person has made a special impact on my life but only God know the plans He has for me. I will go where He leads me. There is a job opening in



Nikita and her group of teacher friends celebrating the festival of light!

the school for a Primary Art Teacher, my specialism during my Primary Education Degree. Perhaps I could switch roles from teaching Year 2 to teaching art and design to all primary pupils? This is, however, still undecided and I would appreciate prayer for wisdom and guidance in my decision making for the future.

Work began to construct a brand new school campus at the beginning of 2017 in a more rural area outside Kathmandu. The current site is too small for the number of students and the new, hastily constructed, school will be ready for occupation in February 2018! Student numbers have grown just 11 in 1987 to some 215 students in 2017! The new campus, at 2.5 acres, is 4 times larger than at present allowing for the provision of currently non-existent sports facilities. Classrooms will also be larger and the building will be earthquake proof. The new school will cost \$1.5million, of which KISC currently has \$1million. They are still fundraising and tapping into international connections to make up the shortfall. All contributions are appreciated and gratefully received and if you feel like you would like to help, please visit:

www.kisc.edu.np/kisc-future-development/

Although Nepal is mainly Hindu, Buddhist monks also live along the Tibetan border in Northern Nepal. Every corner I turn I am confronted with Hindu temples and shrines with Nepali people bowing, praying and humming mantras in front of ancient statues. I feel sorry for them as they believe such prayers will be heard. During the Tihar festival, colourful patterns are painted on the ground in front of their houses with a line drawn from it leading into their home. This is to welcome the 'god of prosperity' into their home. One

evening I visited Swayambhunath, locally and fittingly named the 'Monkey Temple'. As I was walking around/running from the monkeys, I felt the heat from a mass of candles - all the stepped area was full of flames. I asked one of the monks why they were lighting the candles. He took off his mask and spluttered, 'long life'. The way the people live here doesn't necessarily shock me, it's what they believe that shocks me.

I've seen some weird sights in my first few months in this country... memories that will be with me forever. Images of old wrinkly tanned women carrying huge baskets of logs on their back with a leather strap pressed against their forehead to hold the basket in place. Small, dirty houses are cramped on top of each other in spaces that look unfit for human habitation. It is what they seem to believe that truly shocks me. I'm so glad and thankful for God's presence and guidance in my life and I pray the people in the surrounding streets would be impacted by God's love! Nepal really is a spiritually dark place. I've heard first-hand stories of the 2015 earthquake destroying Hindu homes but leaving intact the homes of Christians which stood in between them. That is a testament to how much God needs us here as vessels of His love, impacting this place for His glory. I wonder if God made this the country with the highest mountain in the world

and the world's most spectacular scenery so that people from all over the world might flock here to spread the Good News of Jesus!

I attend Kathmandu International Christian Church (KICC). The pastor speaks for a long time but the messages are often helpful! Recently we've been going through the book of Galatians learning how we should boast in nothing but Christ because without Christ we are nothing. I haven't yet attended a Nepali church because I don't know enough of the language to understand a more complex sentence than 'how are you?' It is rumoured they sit on the floor for longer than two hours! I would like to visit one during my time here but I'm in no rush just yet! I need a few more Nepali lessons. I have met many people through KICC and on Monday evenings often cycle for half an hour to where we play squash together, a workout in itself! It really is amazing to have good Christian friends from all over the world in one place. There's never a shortage of people to meet with or of things to do!

I work in my classroom with Amelia, a girl from India, who's been the best teaching assistant a first-time teacher could ask for! Amelia's just a year older than me and I hang out at weekends and after school with her and some of her Nepali friends. We all go on motorbike trips at the weekends -

it's such a fun friendship group! God is really looking after my needs in Nepal. The other teaching staff are from all walks of life and I've been learning so much about mission, having children, adoption, teaching and living abroad for a lifetime... So much is new and I'm glad to be on this wonderful learning experience! My view of life has become much broader since coming to live in Asia and I have a new-found perspective on life. While I may feel so small compared to the infinitely large mountain ranges around this valley, I am aware that God's power is working through me and the other missionaries and He is doing great things in this country, some of which we may never know. This is such a privilege. The leadership of KISC have told me I was an answer to their prayers as they desperately needed a Year 2 teacher this year, confirming to me that I'm exactly where God wants me to be. As I try to be a living example each day in the classroom for God's glory, I hope and pray that I will make a positive impact on each of these children's young lives, now and in the future, and that they'll all follow Christ from a young age and bring glory to God in this nation and in the nations of their missionary families...

Thanks for reading my story about mission in Nepal.

**God Bless,
Nikita George**

Nikita with Amelia, her teaching assistant and their class



Nikita praying along with her year 2 class



Wellington Record



Charlotte's Mission to the Czech Republic

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

In August I visited the Czech Republic for 10 days with an Exodus Team. Exodus aims to see young people boldly following Jesus and becoming lifelong disciple makers. I was blessed to be chosen to serve God as part of this Ballymena team which had 11 team members and 2 leaders. We met every Thursday night for fellowship and preparation for the trip. The team had to fundraise £3000 and I thank all those who attended and gave so generously at our team Coffee Morning in Cafe Aroma.

I had never been on a mission team before and wanted an opportunity to see God working in children's lives outside Northern Ireland and so I felt called to go on this trip. I hoped it would help me grow as a Christian and challenge me to leave my comfort zone. I had some doubts about the trip, as I am only 15 and hadn't been involved with Exodus before. A verse that gave me strength was Joshua 1 v. 9:

Our team were leaders at a camp for orphans based at Camp Immanuel, some 90 miles from Prague. We were involved with the Hand of Hope Project which aims, during the week long summer camp, to show Czech orphans that they are loved and valued by God. We were worried that the children wouldn't open up to us, especially some of the older ones, as they didn't speak English. But thanks to our translators, and ice breaker games, we were able to know each other. We talked about our highlights of the summer and while our team members said they had been on holidays, the kids had very different experiences with many said their highlight was meeting with their Mum or Dad. I am so thankful to God for my loving home and I realise that we take much in our lives for granted.

One thing I shall never forget was meeting a little girl called Adelka, just 5 years old. Adelka (in the photo top left) clung to me all week and treated me like her older sister, even though we didn't speak a word of each other's language. I realised that we don't need words to show God's love and that we could have a greater impact on these children's lives than we imagine. By the end of the

week Adelka was singing the songs we had taught and it was so sad to say goodbye to her. I am glad she now knows Jesus loves her no matter what and He will never leave her.

Church on Sunday was a day that stood out for me. The Czech Republic is the most atheist country in Europe and church there is very different. Our team took the service and I was involved with the worship. There were only 20 people in the congregation, making me appreciate my own church and showing me how easy it is to be a Christian here at home compared to other countries. Our last day was an opportunity to see Prague but I was unable to take it all in. All I could think about was the kids at the camp and the time we had spent with them.

I would really appreciate prayer for the orphans in the Czech Republic. When they reach the age of 18 they leave care and most have nowhere to go and fall into gangs. The owners of the camp, John and Jill, are working with the kids to supply them with what they need for the future and I would appreciate if you could also pray for their work.

I will not forget my mission in the Czech Republic and I believe my time there has brought me closer to God and helped me to mature in my faith.

Charlotte Gourley





Children from The Well and Totszone received Attendance Awards on 4 June





P6



P6



P7

Crèche on Sunday 4 June (Below)



December 2017

11

ENDING SLAVERY BEGINS WITH OUR CHURCH

FREEDOM | SUNDAY



45 million!

There are 45 million slaves in the world today. *That's more than at any other time in history.*

Gary Haugen, CEO of International Justice Mission once said, "Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern-day slavery. But nothing will ever happen until we are."

The purpose of Freedom Sunday was to make the Church aware of the issue of modern day slavery, and to learn more about the work of International Justice Mission (IJM) in the fight to end it. When Wellington took part in Freedom Sunday, we were part of a global movement. On 24th September 2017 over 2721 churches across 16 countries united with one mission - to end slavery.

That morning we heard about Maarko, the 7 year old boy from the Philippines who loves

superheroes and loves to play tag with his friends. We were also confronted with the reality that Maarko has been a victim of cybersex trafficking. A British man paid Maarko's mother to abuse him online. Thankfully, after a 6 month investigation, Maarko, his 2 year old sister and his cousins were rescued by IJM and the Philippine authorities. They are now safe from abuse and exploitation. *Maarko is free to be a child again.*

IJM have found Maarko, but there are so many more Maarko's out there today. His story demonstrates the horrific reality of cybersex trafficking which exists today - but it also demonstrates hope.

That's one thing that was undeniable during my time working at IJM. There was an undeniable sense of hope.

We have hope because our God - is a God of compassion.

We have hope because our God - is a God of rescue.

We have hope because our God - is a God of justice.

I could tell you countless stories of injustice and oppression, but I could also tell you countless stories of hope and testimonies to God's goodness and faithfulness. I was delighted to be able to share the update about IJM's rescue operations which have taken place in Ghana over this past year. In January IJM and Ghanaian police rescued 24 young boys from slavery within the fishing industry on Lake Volta. More than half of the thousands of children working on Lake Volta are believed to be trafficked. A few months later, IJM, by God's grace, were able to rescue another 31 boys - our largest rescue in Ghana to date.

That's another 31 young boys who are free from slavery. IJM investigators alongside Ghanaian police arrested 11 suspects who had been profiting from forcing children to work long hours in dangerous conditions. IJM's aftercare team welcomed each child and, in the days that followed, the children slept, ate warm meals, played, and shared their stories. They began to understand that they were free from the life of abuse they had known. On their way to the aftercare shelter, one little boy started singing:

*I've got joy, joy down in my heart.
I've got joy, joy down in my heart.*

Soon the rest of the children joined him in singing:
*Look what the Lord has done for me,
Jesus has come to set me free.
I've got joy, joy down in my heart.*

Praise God!

I hope that you have been challenged by what you heard during Freedom Sunday - but most of all I pray that you would be filled with hope, because our God, is a God of justice. I have been so encouraged by the response within Wellington following Freedom Sunday. It has been incredible to see my Church family moved to action - convicted by the reality that there are over 45 million slaves in the world today. Not only is it a privilege for me to be a part of this work of justice, but it's a joy to be on this journey alongside my Church family. To each of you who helped at and attended the coffee morning, and have prayerfully supported both me and the work of IJM, I want to say a sincere thank you. *You are part of the movement to end slavery!*

As God's people, we are uniquely placed in this fight. We are not overcome by the magnitude of slavery. There is so much hope - when God's people act. Ending slavery begins with the Church.

It begins with God's people.

Ending slavery begins with you.

45 million.

There are more slaves today than at any other time in history - yet slavery is more stoppable than ever.



Lauren Agnew, a member of our church, graduated with a Masters in Law last year and spent 4 months as an intern with IJM

in Washington DC. Lauren is delighted to be returning to Washington DC in January 2018 to undertake a year long Legal Fellowship with IJM.

December 2017



"... Maarko is free to be a child again ..."



"... IJM and Ghanaian authorities rescued 24 boys from slavery on Lake Volta ..."



"... Another 31 young boys are free from slavery! ..."



*We had the launch of Alistair's book **Halloween**, together with his short Bible study **Vital Signs**, at the IJM Coffee Morning on 7 October. Lauren Agnew took the opportunity to ask Alistair to tell us a bit more about his books and his motivation for writing.*

Lauren: Why did you decide to start writing books?

Alistair: I started writing books because I felt I wanted to share what God has placed on my heart. It would be wonderful if God could take something I have written and use it to encourage, challenge or equip someone to live closer to God.

Lauren: Can you tell us a bit about your first book?

Alistair: My first book was on the subject of Halloween. It was motivated by a concern that Christians all too readily dismiss the significance of the symbols and rituals embraced during the Halloween season. It is really a challenge to rethink how we engage in these festivities. The second was a little booklet entitled *Vital Signs*. This is really a sample study of a much larger book to be released next year, just before Easter. The book focuses on the last seven sayings of Jesus on the Cross and encourages us to find hope in His dying words.

Lauren: When is your next book going to be released?

Alistair: My next book, *Trading Punches*, is technically due for release before Christmas and I will have some copies by 20th November 2017. However, I have decided to delay the launch until the New Year.

Lauren: Can you tell us a little bit about it?

Alistair: *Trading Punches* considers how we battle against the flesh, the world, and the devil. It traces my personal journey from childhood to Christian ministry. On that journey you will be introduced to many of the characters I have met, and situations I have encountered along the way. It has humour and heartache - but that's the reality of life. It is not what we experience that defines us - but what we do with those experiences. I want the reader to reflect on the grace, forgiveness, purposes and patience of God. To marvel at His providence and His provision for us and to realise that we are in a battle - but it is a battle that we can win. As the back cover declares, God wants fighters not sleepers, and the real winners are those left 'still standing'.

Lauren: Why did you decide to donate towards IJM through the sale of your books?

Alistair: One of the strongest motivations I have is that my writing will help others. That is why I make a donation from each book to International Justice Mission. So far I have been able to put aside £500 and I aim over the next few years to turn that into a few thousand pounds. The joy of believing that some children will be delivered from the evil of slavery is enough motivation for me to write into the small hours of the morning. To write with as much creativity and passion as is humanly possible. To make available to the reader a phrase or a thought that God may use to transform their life.

The perfect book sale would result in a reader being challenged or encouraged and a child being set free. I want every child to experience life as God intended it. However, sometimes children have become the victims of indescribable greed and exploitation. I want that to stop wherever it is found. I want children to find the love of Jesus Christ and if they need to be rescued first in order for that to happen, I want to be involved in financing that. It is my joy and privilege to write for all these reasons and more!

If you have not yet had the chance to purchase one of Alistair's books and would like to, they are available in Faith Mission Bookshops, The Mustard Seed Bookshop in Cullybackey, Amazon or batesbooks.co.uk. 30% of the proceeds of the sale of every book will go towards the work of International Justice Mission.



Enjoying tea, coffee and goodies at the International Justice Mission Coffee Morning during which Alistair launched two books, 'Halloween' and 'Vital Signs'





ASK team (front l-r): Eleanor Drysdale, Paul & Anita Baird, Trevor & Sandra Cooke, (standing) Rhonda Eagleson and Heather Semple. Inset: Victor McAfee

ASK - Additional Special Kids

(Ask: Greek AITEO: "to be adamant in requesting and demanding assistance to meet tangible needs".)

I was asked (or maybe told) to write this article for the magazine on ASK, our new children's ministry, including the background on how and why it came about.

Our story.....

My husband Trevor and I have two boys, Jamie, (soon to be 9) and Charlie who is nearly 5. As the boys were growing up, we began to be aware that perhaps Charlie's speech wasn't progressing as quickly as it should. He attended speech therapy where it was confirmed that he wasn't meeting the verbal milestones for his age. As time passed it became more obvious that he was significantly limited in his communication.

There followed 2 years of specialist speech therapy and constant appointments and assessments with various health professionals to rule out other conditions. We really had no idea what all this actually meant, nor did we know what we should be doing about it. As we didn't know anyone else who had experienced similar issues, we felt very much

alone, not knowing where to turn for help or advice on what to do next. Eventually Charlie was diagnosed with a neurological disorder called Verbal Dyspraxia.

We experienced so many feelings when we received this diagnosis and so many emotions were rushing through our heads. There was relief that we now knew what was preventing Charlie from talking and that we weren't just being over-anxious parents, but also grief, sadness, guilt and concern... along with lots of questions no-one could answer. We felt that no-one understood what we were going through and, although we now knew 'what was wrong' with Charlie, there was no quick fix. All our emotions were still sky high, Charlie was getting more and more frustrated and we felt so helpless.

We didn't talk about Charlie's condition to anyone for a long time. We didn't know what to say to people or if we should say anything? Did we want people to know? What would we actually tell people? We were still coming to

terms with the fact that our son wouldn't have a 'normal' life and knew he would experience many additional challenges growing up that other people would never have to worry about. We also had to start thinking about schools and spent hours researching his condition online and trying to decide what would be the best option about his schooling. Following even more appointments with paediatric doctors, educational physiologists, more speech therapy assessments and a mountain of form-filling, it became apparent that a Speech & Language Unit connected to a local Primary School was the best option. Our main concern was that there was only one place available.

As we began to come to terms with the diagnosis and accept that we were parents of a child with 'Special Educational Needs', we contacted the Church Prayer Team asking them to pray for us and that Charlie would get a place in the Speech Unit.

Although we didn't talk much to friends and family, we spent hours praying through every step of the process and for every appointment. It was encouraging to know that our church family were also upholding us in prayer. However some weeks we felt like not going to Church. We were so scared Charlie would have a tantrum in front of anyone. What would people think? Would they think he was just misbehaving? We understood why Charlie was getting frustrated - as any of us would if we were talking to someone who just couldn't understand what we were saying. Charlie has no visible signs that he has a condition and our concern was that other people, who didn't know him, might judge him, or us as parents, on his behaviour, without understanding the



underlying reasons. Even if someone spoke to him, they may fail to understand why he didn't answer.

Charlie began to use Makaton (type of children's sign language) to help him communicate. We soon became aware that most other people, including organisation leaders, weren't trained in it and still wouldn't be able to understand what Charlie was saying. Charlie's speech may be limited but his understanding is just like any other child and it is important to us that he goes to the various organisations, just like other children, and hears the Bible teaching.

We have also experienced many blessings throughout this experience and recognize the blessing it is to have 2 magnificent boys who bring so much fun and laughter (and a few brotherly quarrels!) into our lives. Apart from his speech, Charlie is just like any other 4 year old boy. He loves drawing, playing with cars, kicking football and he just adores his big brother. We are also aware that Jamie is on this journey too. We try to involve him - he reads to Charlie and loves practicing the speech therapy with him. We also make sure we have some one-to-one time with Jamie as so much time and extra focus is needed for Charlie. It's important that they know that they are both equally important to us.

Charlie received a place in the Speech Unit and it turned out that we know his teacher, speech therapist and classroom assistant. Charlie's GP and Speech Therapist are also both Christians. What an answer to prayer! Although we may have felt so worried and useless on many occasions, it is obvious that God has been with us each step of the way.

It weighed on the hearts of both Trevor and myself that, in a congregation the size of Wellington, there must be others in a similar position with children who have additional or special needs. We knew how lost and helpless we had felt along the way and we felt perhaps we could help ensure that other people in similar situations didn't have to travel their journey alone.

We eventually got the courage to speak to Victor (McAfee) and Eleanor. Both were very supportive of what we were saying. Not only could parents help and support each other, but the Church family at Wellington could help in other ways to not only support families in similar situations, but also make some practical adjustments that may significantly help some other children to more easily attend and be enriched through the various organisations.

This is the background that led to ASK being set up, even though it is still in its early stages. The most important aspect is to remember that, despite their many differences, each and every one of our children is special to God.

What will the ASK team do?

Many different ideas are in the process of being planned, all aimed at helping to ensure that all parents who have children with additional or special needs will have support available, if that's what they want. We are aware that each child is unique and has different needs, frustrations and triggers. Many different levels of support may, therefore, be needed. Some may just need awareness of their child's situation, and we know that the best expert about any child is their own parents. We want to talk to parents in order to find out more

about their child's individual needs and what might help within the Church environment.

Many issues are important to the team and these include:

- **ensuring** all children are included
- **desiring** that all children grow in their relationship with God
- **ensuring** all children are able to take an active part within organisations within the Church, such as Totszone, The Well, GB, BB, Holiday Bible Club etc.
- **wanting** to make it as easy as possible to attend Church regularly
- **ensuring** parents can be comfortable and at ease in Church
- **planning** to attend the *PCI: My Place* event which will explore ways of including children with additional special needs in worship and children's ministry.
- **running** a Makaton course - not just for parents, but for leaders and members of the congregation who would like to attend.
- **arranging** a course for parents of additional and special needs children through the organisation 'Care for the Family'. This will commence on 15 January 2018.

The group wants to:

- **build** friendships with other parents and their children, so we can 'do life' together,
- **support** each other emotionally and practically,
- **meet** for coffee and chat with others who may have similar issues,
- **appreciate** siblings who often so unselfishly support their family.

If you would like further information or even just want to have a chat, please speak to any member of the ASK team.

Sandra Cooke





During the last week of July, I had the fantastic experience of participating in Spark 2017 along with many other young people from both Wellington and other parts of Ballymena. Spark aims to build up young Christians in their faith during a week of daily worship, talks and Bible Study, encouraging them to show God's love through serving in their local community.

I had taken part in Spark during the summers of 2012 and 2014 in other areas of Ballymena. I was asked this year to co-lead the team in the Tullygarley area, including the daily morning

meetings during the week. If I'm honest, my first reaction was, 'Am I the right person for this job?' I thought about the years of experience others had as leaders, co-leaders and area coordinators and as members of the praise band. I just felt totally overwhelmed and under-qualified. Then, a verse came to me:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1v9)

I realised I may have been given a great deal of responsibility, but there was a greater God guiding me. He has called each of us to be brave and, when we put our trust in Him, will give us the strength to pull through. With this in mind, I felt ready to go into Spark and glorify God. I felt excited to see how God would empower other young Christians throughout the week. And what a week it was!

Each morning all the Spark teams gathered together and Lyndsey Simpson (my co-leader) and myself started with an icebreaker game or other banter

filled activity to wake everyone up for the day ahead. Let's just say that some were more awake than others!

Our wonderful praise band then took over followed by the amazing prayer ministry team who encouraged us to pray about what was happening during Spark and beyond. We had speakers during these meetings who talked to the teams about how to read your Bible, how to pray, how to serve God practically and other themes relevant to young Christians in their daily lives.

Each team then went to its own area and our group met in the Tullygarley Community Centre for team-time during which we shared thoughts, prayers and verses. This was a great way to bond with the other team members as we talked openly to each other about our walk with God. By the end of the week we had all become really close. We then had our 'Club-in-the-Afternoon', where children from the local community came and played football, colouring, face painting and have fun! During this time, some of us also visited from



door-to-door in the local community, providing residents the opportunity to give us prayer requests or ask for help with practical work. This provided an opportunity to get to know some of the locals. In the evening, we had our dinner, and I must thank the members of Wellington who made our delicious meals, and then we prepared for our Holiday Bible Club. This included singing, playing memory verse games, watching dramas of parables such as the Prodigal Son put on by the team members (the rehearsals were taken very seriously!) and listening to Bible stories that showed how Jesus unites, includes, loves and forgives everyone and calls us all to do the same.

There were so many highlights during Spark but there were two in particular that stood out for me. One day while Lyndsey and I were doing the door-to-door, we were welcomed into a house by a lady and were able to pray together for her friend who had been hospitalised following a nasty fall. We were both so thankful to God for the opportunity to pray with this lady and felt blessed by the experience. I bumped into the same lady again a couple of weeks later! She remembered me and I was able to find out that her friend

in hospital was recovering well, which was good news.

We then came to a house with a cat sitting on the doorstep. Every time we tried to get close to the door, the cat would pounce and try to scratch us so we had to back away. Lyndsey and I became the 'scaredy cats' while the cat itself didn't seem one bit scared! After many failed attempts to knock on the door, we decided to pray that God would give us the opportunity to meet whoever lived in this house. We prayed, visited a couple more doors on the same street and came back to find that the cat had vanished and we could reach the door - phew! After we knocked, an elderly man came to the door. He asked us to pray for him as he had not been well for years. He spent most of his days resting due to lack of energy. Lyndsey and I also offered to do some gardening for him. He told us he had neither the strength to do it himself nor the money to pay for someone to do it for him. The man was overjoyed that we had offered help. The next day, some of the team members went to his house and mowed the lawn, trimmed hedges etc. The man came outside and was really thankful for our help and told us he was feeling better. We thank

God for the opportunity to be able to help practically and to have been able to pray for this man.

My experience of Spark 2017 was great, not only for the banter among the team members but also for the opportunities to work in the community and for answered prayers. We were able to build relationships with the local community, pray with them and experience God working in their lives. I will never forget these experiences which were only possible through involvement with Spark. Spark provides such a great opportunity to show God's love to others, just as Christ loved us. I would encourage more of our young people to get involved next year!

James Gourley

'Therefore, follow God's example as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God'.

(Ephesians 5 vs 1-2)





A large group of family and friends met in Café Aroma on 23 September to meet with Julie Anne and Glenn Cousley and their 3 children who were home for a few weeks. Glenn updated us on his work with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Cairns, Australia



The Boys' Brigade Old Boys' Association, along with spouses and friends, started the new session off with a meal in the Church Hall on 16 September. After dinner Lee Eagleson brought the epilogue and told of his work reaching out to people on the streets in Belfast.



The Men's Fellowship held their Annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday 16 November in TBF Ministries in Garvagh. After dinner Amy McClelland sang and Steven Lamont, just home from working with Go. Live. Dare. in South Africa, told of his experiences and his plans for the future. (Amy and Steven in photo inset)



A year of celebration for Rev. Wilfred and Mrs Valerie Armstrong.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to both Rev Wilfred and Mrs Valerie Armstrong for reaching two very important milestones during 2017.

Rev Wilfred J A Armstrong was ordained into the Christian Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and installed in the congregations of Aughnacloy and Ballymagrane on 13 June 1957. He moved to Second Broughshane in 1971 where he was installed on 3 September. Wilfred remained in Broughshane until his retirement from active ministry on 4 February 1995. Following retirement Wilfred helped out in Wellington Street for 4 months and for almost 3 years in Ballee. Wilfred and Valerie celebrated the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination on 13 June this year.

In addition the couple celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 27 March, having been married in 1967.

Wilfred and his wife, Valerie, are members of our church and as a church family we wish them God's richest blessing and offer them our thanks for lives dedicated to the service of their Lord and Master.



A year of change for Stephen, Karen and Abigail



Stephen Orr, a former member of our congregation, was ordained and installed as Minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bangor on 31 August this year. Stephen, a former teacher, had most recently served as Assistant Minister in High Kirk in Ballymena.

Stephen is pictured (above left) with his wife Karen and their daughter Abigail outside Trinity Bangor and (above right) with the Commission of the Ards Presbytery prior to his Ordination and Installation.

SMMR FEST 2017

August 14th - 18th

Some of you may have heard of 'SMMR FEST' and some of you may not, but trust me it is so much more than a title that, for some reason, has all the vowels taken out of it. It is something really exciting that began this summer in Ballymena.

In September 2016 I began meeting with 4 other youth leaders in the town to read, pray and encourage each other about ministry. Realising that there was a desire for unity between youth groups within churches, we began to pray, discuss and dream about the possibility of one big united youth event over the summer in Ballymena. As a result SMMR FEST was born.

SMMR FEST is a brand new, exciting, inter-church, 5 day festival, for all young people Year 8 and up from Ballymena and beyond which ran for the first time in August. Full of fun, large on laughter, high in energy, surrounded by colour, grounded in community, SMMR FEST was a week fully focused on providing an opportunity for young people to encounter Jesus and be excited and equipped to follow Him through bible teaching, worship, prayer, fun and community.

Each day was divided into two parts. Every afternoon over 80 young people from various churches across Ballymena came to High Kirk Presbyterian and took part in various fun activities ranging from giant inflatables and Zumba, to just chilling in the café area. For an hour every afternoon those 80+ young people were taught by our very own Steven Lamont. They were not only taught on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, but they were encouraged, motivated and equipped to go share Jesus with their friends and others in their everyday lives.

Each evening there was a main stage event which was an opportunity for young people to continue going deeper in their faith but also to invite their friends

to come to hear about Jesus. Jonny McClelland and band led the worship every evening, and a number of youth leaders spoke on 'Encounter The One'; all focused around encountering Jesus. After every main stage event, we ran activities such as inflatables, water fights, UV parties, and BBQs on the beach, all of which were about laughter, fun and community. One of the most incredible moments was seeing over 100 young people stand on Castlerock Beach in one big circle praying for family, for friends and for each other.

To sum up the first year of SMMR FEST, we had an incredible week full of teaching, equipping, encountering, laughter, fun and we made so many memories. Over 120 young people from across our town had the opportunity to come together in a fun environment and be both encouraged to become a disciple of Jesus and equipped to go make disciples. Young people from various churches came together to worship, pray, learn and go deeper in their faith. We can't wait to see what God has in store for next year!

Please pray for the team as we begin to plan for SMMR FEST 2018.

Peter McClelland



Ben Fry was there!

Summer Fest (or "Smmr Fest" to use the official title because youth are edgy) was a youth week in August, which brought together teens from churches all over Ballymena. It kicked off with an action-packed launch night in High Kirk on Sunday 13 August, which started with an explosion of party-poppers and endless rounds of 'Don't forget the lyrics'. The worship was led by Jonny McClelland and his band from the Vineyard Church in Coleraine, and Andy Lamberton spoke about the core message of the Bible and what it means for us and our non-Christian friends.

For an hour each afternoon our very own Steven Lamont delivered a 'Go. Live. Dare.' series aimed at helping us spread the Gospel in our home, school and social communities. I was particularly encouraged by the sessions on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday, Steven told us to 'Pray. With. Passion.' and highlighted how we need to praise God, repent, intercede and request when we pray. He built on this on Tuesday, and we learned how to pray for our non-Christian friends. Prayer is a massive part of my life and it was

very encouraging to learn how we can use our prayer lives to reach out to those in our lives who don't know Christ.

There were also inspiring talks in the evenings delivered by Peter McClelland, Andrew and Catherine Dickson and Tash Creaney. Unfortunately, I missed some of these talks but I was able to hear the amazing words from Tash Creaney on the Wednesday night. Her message was 'God loves me, God is for me, God has grace for me' and because of this we can have forgiveness and a new life for Him. This was great to hear in an age of trying, and often failing, to impress people through social media and ever more 'social' lives. We can easily forget that there is a God who values us for who we really are, even though we don't deserve it. We, as Christians, have the greatest message at our fingertips and we need to be ready to share it, at every opportunity.

It must be said that **Smmr Fest** also brought plenty of banter. From a bouncy castle bonanza to the neon disco, and every game played and song sung in between, I had the best week with some amazing people I'm so glad to call my friends. I just wish I could forget some of my crazy dancing!



Jesus the Advocate for the poor

Jesus had a special sense of mission to poor and oppressed people. He stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read from the prophet Isaiah as recorded in Luke 4 vs 18-19: *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Jesus repeatedly reached out to the poor, Samaritans, lepers, children, prostitutes and tax collectors. While eager to also accept those who were well-placed, He made it clear that all, regardless of social position, needed to repent. For this reason, in Luke 18 vs 18-30, He invited the rich young man to sell all of his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor.

Jesus commanded, "Love your neighbour" and defined neighbour as anyone who is in need. "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." (Luke 14 v. 13)

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus portrays the day of judgment with people from all nations likened to either "sheep" or "goats." To the "sheep" he said, "Come you blessed of my Father, for I was hungry and you fed me..." In their astonishment they asked, "When did we do that?" He answered, "When you did it to the lowliest of my brothers (and sisters)." To the "goats" he said, "Depart from me ... for I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat ... I was a stranger and you did not invite me in ..."

UCC Justice and Witness Ministries (adapted)



The combined Senior and Junior Children's Choir

Alex Suitters
leading the service



Sarah Jackson
reading from the Bible



Harry Young
leading the congregation in prayer





Children's Day 11th June

**Zack Fleming praying for
the people of Manchester**

**Rachel Graham singing a solo
part in the Senior Choir**

**Aoife Fenton, Ryan Millar and Elsie
McIlvenna sharing favourite Bible verses**



December 2017



Wellington P.W. Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Wellington P.W. celebrated their 75th anniversary on Tuesday 7th November. Almost 70 ladies joined together for a special Anniversary Dinner at the Ross Park Hotel. It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening and we were delighted that Lorna Brown was able to come over from Scotland to join with as our special guest. Lorna had been our previous president for many years before Norman retired and they moved to Scotland.

Following the lovely meal and a time of fellowship together, which included a lot of chatter and laughter, Lorna shared something of their new life in Scotland. She told us about the church they now attend and the involvement she and Norman have with different groups within the church. Lorna also updated us on how well Norman and Russell had settled in to their new home and how great it is to be near their two grandchildren, Joseph and Jessica.

No anniversary celebration would be complete without a cake! We were delighted that Anna Weir, our oldest member present, joined with Lorna and I to cut the cake.

It is my prayer that the P.W., as an organisation for the ladies of Wellington, will continue to grow and continue to support us all as we walk with God and support mission both at home and abroad.

Eileen McClintock



Top: PW Ladies at the Dinner

Above right: Lorna and Eileen are joined by Anna Weir to cut the Anniversary cake

Above left: Members of the present PW Committee with Lorna and Anna

Left: Treasurer Anne Backus, Special Guest Lorna Brown, President Eileen McClintock and Secretary Meta Orr

Right: The cake



WELLINGTON WOMEN COME *Alive* IN BELFAST

More than 30 ladies from Wellington travelled to Assembly Buildings at Church House in Belfast on Saturday 9 September, for the **Alive Women's Conference** where they joined almost 700 women for a morning of fellowship and fun.



Pauline Kennedy

The event was hosted by Wellington's own Pauline Kennedy - PCI Women's Ministry & Presbyterian Women's Development Officer, who encouraged ladies to "*Start the Conversation*" within their own church community.

Guest speaker, Cindy Bennett Brown, re-iterated this message in her keynote address which looked at Paul's letter to the Ephesians, challenging ladies to consider a cosmic, but intimate, relationship with God, highlighting the key message - **our purpose, for which we have been made alive with Christ, is Reconciled Community - that is the Church.**

Cindy reminded the ladies **our aim should be to display God's Glory to the community we serve** as we participate with God in the on-going creation of His church. She concluded by encouraging ladies to **have habits of holiness** as they work out a life balance that is worthy of our calling. This wonderful session concluded with praise, which had been led throughout the morning by Karen Campbell.

Unity - Love - Working for Christ

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
made us Alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions
- it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2 vs 4-5



Part of the large crowd at the Alive Women's Conference



Some of the ladies from Wellington ladies at the Conference

Battles are fought in our minds every day. When we begin to feel the battle is just too difficult and want to give up, we must choose to resist negative thoughts and be determined to rise above our problems. We must decide that we're not going to quit. When we're bombarded with doubts and fears, we must take a stand and say: "I'll never give up! God's on my side. He loves me, and He's helping me! I'm going to make it!"

Joyce Meyer

YOU are making a difference!

**Genesis in South Africa
Gary Millar reports!**



On Sunday 29 October 2017, at the start of morning worship, Gareth Williams presented an update on the Building for God Fund. He urged us, "Please believe, you are making a difference." That phrase struck a chord with me, particularly as I knew I was due to write this article.

Perhaps you have asked yourself, "Will my financial gift in the Mission Support envelope really make a difference?" The answer is a resounding **"Yes!"**

One such place where you are making a difference is in South Africa, and in particular, the lives of the local community in and around Marburg to the south of Port Shepstone and about 90 minutes or so from Durban. The majority of the community live in townships, although some live in informal townships in houses with little, if any, access to running water, electricity or toilets. Lack of employment or low wages mean that people can't necessarily afford good food, or gain access to adequate healthcare. Many have no access to transport, which is why you see so many people walking; even on the motorway.

Unlike Northern Ireland, children won't have a quiet room in which to study or do their

homework, and rarely have they anyone to encourage them in their school work. All of this has a knock-on effect on their education.

So how did we make contact with people living so far away?

Well, in 2010 a team of young people from Wellington (Team Enzani), led by Stephen and Karen Orr, headed out to Marburg, and the Norwegian Settler's Church (NSC) in particular. Karen was first in South Africa for an 8 week final year elective at Murchison Hospital in 2002. She and Stephen then went to the area for a year in 2007 with Karen returning to work at Murchison and Stephen volunteering at NSC. It was here they met Trevor Downham, the fine looking gentleman in the photograph (top right) who is the pastor of NSC (www.nsc.org.za). Trevor peached in Wellington some years ago during a visit to Northern Ireland (that will challenge a few memories!). Team Enzani visited a number of community projects initiated and supported by the Genesis Trust, established by NSC to make a difference in their community.

In a sermon 12 years ago Trevor asked if they, as a church, disappeared overnight, how long would it take the community to

know that they were no longer there. The conclusion the congregation came to shook them to the core. "We had to be honest and say that we didn't think our community would even know that we were gone," continues Trevor in the Genesis Promo Video (available on YouTube or on Trevor's Facebook page.) Surely after 130 years in Marburg they should have made some impact? A challenging question for us all.

Trevor was then deeply impacted by spending time with a young man in the church who had discovered he was HIV positive. A few days after the young man died a letter was delivered to Trevor with a gift of ZAR1200 (about £70). The letter said, "Won't you use this R1200 to help somebody the way you have helped me?" He went on to tell Trevor this was all the money he had, but he wanted Trevor to use it to help others as he had been helped. That relatively small sum was the initial deposit into a bank account called Genesis, seed funding that has led to an organisation that helps thousands.

The diverse range of outreach projects established and supported by the Genesis Trust include the Marburg Youth Centre, Leadership Academy, After School Programme, Music Academy,

Marburg Gym, Murchison Community Centre, Vikings Rugby Academy, Khula Community Centre, YouthWorx, Oribi Bible Camp and Community Gardens.

Visiting the Norwegian Settlers Church complex today you can have the opportunity to visit the Care Centre opened in 2005. It is a step down and palliative care facility nursing 40 patients. It really is the flagship of the Genesis Trust, providing medical, nursing, physical, psycho social, and spiritual care for patients with HIV/AIDS, TB, strokes, cancer and pressure wounds. Rehabilitation programmes, involving different patient therapies, achieve high levels of recovery. Therapeutic activities include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and beadwork.

Space doesn't permit me to tell more about this wonderful facility and the staff who give their all to care for the patients. They even permit the occasional passing Irishman to spend a day with them, visiting patients with the pastor, going on the hospital and weekend food run and even chopping potatoes and veg in the kitchen! Why not sign up to their monthly newsletter and be encouraged, and humbled, by the challenges faced by both the Centre and its patients. Wellington's financial support is not a case of just giving money to people. The Genesis Hope website states, "Each project is aimed at empowering individuals, and igniting within them the burning passion to change their own communities for the better." As you read that again, take in the

difference your financial gifts do and can make.

Allow me to tell you about just two of the projects supported by Genesis Trust:

The Genesis After-school Project aims to develop a lifelong love of literacy and learning in today's youth, while showing them the love of Jesus Christ. They do this by providing a safe place for students to study, to receive help, guidance and have access to resources. Children come to the project after school and study and work in a quiet, supportive and safe atmosphere before they go home. All this aimed at maximising individual educational success.

In the district where Genesis operates, over 66,000 people exist below the minimum living income level and 62% of the population do not have adequate access to water. [Ballymena town had a population of 29,470 in 2011]. Hunger is widespread, a silent, invisible and ongoing challenge. Hunger, poverty and food prices are inextricably linked. Whilst not every poor person is hungry, almost all hungry people are poor.

The Genesis Gardening Programme has the goal of helping people move beyond chronic hunger by developing sustainable food production based on self-reliance, as well as a way of sharing the Good News of Christ with the community. Gardens are run at 5 sites - 3 in under-resourced communities, one at a Rehabilitation Centre and one at the Genesis Care Centre. The role of the project is to train and

encourage the community gardeners and to provide technical expertise and access to resources such as seeds, fertilizers and tools. A key component is the provision of spiritual support to the gardeners. Grow Bags are used at some sites, proving very popular as they require little maintenance, less watering and less space. The project remains firmly committed to fighting hunger by offering low cost, sustainable food production solutions.

Are you starting to believe that your giving is making a difference and that the yearly support Wellington gives to Genesis Trust is impacting lives? That it "empowers individuals" and "ignites within them the burning passion to change their own communities for the better"? I could fill this magazine with details of all the projects initiated and supported by Genesis Trust and their impact, and that of their staff, within the local community.

It is easy not to give because we don't think our giving will make a difference. I hope and pray that this article has convinced you that your giving really will make a difference. That your giving really is making a difference.

[Wellington has supported the work of Genesis over a number of years, donating £5,000 annually to the Genesis Trust. Thank you for helping us make a difference.]

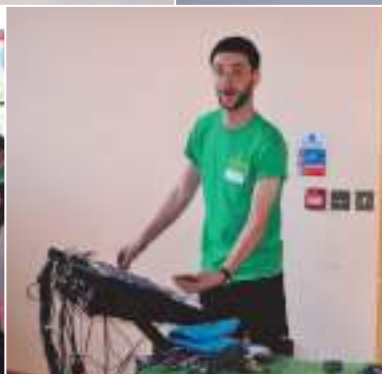
More information? Visit:
www.genesishope.co.za or
www.genesiscarecentre.com





Holiday Bible Club 2017





Activities for the kids on the last evening of Holiday Bible Club





THE REFORMATION 1517

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION. STILL IMPORTANT 500 YEARS LATER?

JIM WINTERS

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation - and Praise the Lord for it.

Arguably, the Reformation was the greatest movement of the Holy Spirit since Pentecost. The greatest revival in the history of the Church. That is quite a claim. Yet, for many believers it remains a bit of a mystery, maybe something from a lesson in school many years ago partially recalled from time to time but rarely discussed or thought about. Which entirely misses the point. In my teaching career I always taught the Reformation, not because I had to but rather I felt so strongly that our modern period could not be fully understood without learning about that time. The significance was, and is, huge for the Church and the world not only 500 years ago but right down to the present day. Quite literally the events of and following 1517, so closely connected with Martin Luther, a German Augustinian monk in a small German town of Wittenberg, changed world history. Rarely can that be said of an individual.

However, much of what occurred was unintentional and was a coming together of many key factors, reminding us that God's plan is often not ours. I would like to retell the story but also focus on what we believe, much later to be known as "the five sola" or "the five alones" which together form the basis of the Reformed, Protestant and Evangelical traditions of today.

The Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.

Let us take a quick look at the practices of the Christian [Catholic] Church in Western Europe in the 16th Century. By the Middle Ages, a multitude of unbiblical traditions were taught by the Catholic Church. You had to keep coming back to the Church for grace, by means of the sacraments. The Church had your salvation in its power. The gospel was basically hidden behind the customs and traditions built up over many centuries. People feared God and death. There was little light or hope. A God of love was obscure. Corruption in the Church was rife. Greed, money, bribery and

scandal, too depraved to even mention in an article such as this, was common place with Rome being a seed bed of immorality. That is, of course, a generalisation. God never leaves us without a witness and there were men and women of faith throughout this dark period.

Martin Luther

Of all the historical characters I would love to meet, Martin Luther is the top of the list. This was truly the right man, in the right place, at the right time. Or should we say God's man. Luther was a key factor in the Reformation with his persistence, character, bravery, faith and determination playing their part. He lectured in Biblical Theology in Wittenberg and was clearly a man of intelligence. He also regularly preached at the town church. Yet Luther's story is one of a troubled conscience that led him to question, study, fast and pray for answers. The Lord heard his prayers and opened his eyes to five great truths of the Christian faith. He wasn't the first to understand these truths but his protest and subsequent events led

more people than ever before to hear the Good News.

Sola Scriptura - The Bible alone.

The first 'sola' is Holy Scripture. The Bible is the inspired Word of God which asserts that Scripture must govern Church practices, traditions and interpretations (see 2nd Timothy 3 v 16). The book that could set people free then, as now, the Bible, was the Latin Vulgate which only the clergy were allowed to interpret. John Wycliffe believed that all Christians should have access to the Bible for themselves. He and his followers translated the Latin Vulgate Bible into English and the first hand copied Bibles were made available in 1380. Despite huge attempts to clamp down on the private reading of the Bible with many persecuted and some executed, believers all over Europe continued to study for themselves. And belief spread. So translating Scripture was an important factor in the coming Reformation.

Another key factor was the invention of the printing press in the mid 15th century by John Guttenberg. That allowed extracts of the scriptures to be cheaply copied and distributed all over Europe as the Latin Vulgate was translated into local languages. It played a key role in Luther's protest, allowing his writings to be read across Europe 70 years later.

Educated people could now study the Bible for themselves and gossip the gospel without any censorship or spin put on it by the Church. As they did so, more people came to discover the untruths of purgatory, confession to a priest, acts of penance and praying to saints. Instead, they discovered the good news of justification for sinners on the basis of Christ's finished work. On a practical level, the Reformers

translated the Scriptures into many languages so people could have the truth in their own language. Schools were founded so that people could learn to read for themselves, which totally contradicted Catholic practice at the time. This formed the basis of our modern education system whereby we believe every person should have an education.

Sola Christus - Christ alone Salvation through Christ alone.

Solus Christus is the teaching that Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other (1 Peter 3 v 18). It sounds straightforward to our modern ears but the Catholic Church taught, and still does, that being part of the Church and partaking in the sacraments were necessary for salvation. Luther's moment of illumination was the discovery that this was not the case. There was no peace in church membership or sacraments, only through faith in Christ.

Sola fide - Faith alone Justification by faith

Sola fide, or "faith alone", asserts that good works are not a means of or essential for salvation. Sola fide is the teaching that justification (interpreted in the Lutheran and Reformed theologies as "being declared just by God") is received by faith alone, without any need for good works on the part of the individual. In classical Lutheran and Reformed theologies, good works are seen as evidence of saving faith, but the good works themselves do not determine salvation.

Luther had no peace with God, struggling in particular with the book of Romans until light shone and he realised that's God's righteousness was a gift of God

given by faith in Christ. He wrote: **"The righteousness of God means the gift of Christ's righteousness with which the merciful God justifies us by faith. Now I felt that I was altogether born again..."**

Thus Luther came to faith. Already a deeply religious man he had, by the grace of God, his life transformed.

Sola gratia - Grace Alone

Sola gratia, or "only grace", specifically excludes the merit done by a person as part of achieving salvation (Ephesians 2 vs 8-9). Sola gratia is the teaching that salvation comes by divine grace or "unmerited favour" only, not as something merited by the sinner (Romans 11 vs 33-35). This means that salvation is an unearned gift from God for Jesus' sake. Such teaching totally conflicted with the Catholic teaching of salvation by merit.

Sola Deo gloria Glory of God Alone

Sola Deo gloria, or "glory to God alone", stands in opposition to the veneration or "cult" of Mary the mother of Jesus, the saints, or angels, perceived by many to be present in the Roman Catholic Church. Soli Deo Gloria teaches that all glory is due to God alone. Salvation is accomplished solely through His will and action. It is the gift of atonement through Jesus' death on the cross and of faith to believe, as applied to our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

The Reformation in brief.

On October 31st 1517 Luther acted and nailed his thesis to the door - basically a protest about the sale of indulgences by the Catholic Church being unbiblical. An indulgence was a certificate sold by the Church. By buying

these your sins would be forgiven. The money raised was being partially used to build the new St Peter's in Rome. Luther's small action got the attention of the authorities and news of his protest and teachings spread. Not intending to split the Catholic Church but reform it, Luther soon faced the full storm of daring to criticise the Church. He was excommunicated by the Pope and condemned by the Holy Roman Emperor. He refused to retract his statements with the infamous statement to the Imperial Parliament:

"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither safe or right. God help me. Amen. Here I stand. I can not do otherwise."

A wanted man, condemned to death yet he was protected and escaped the wrath of the Church. In hiding, in under 11 weeks, he translated the Greek New Testament texts into German and within 11 months he was back in Wittenberg preaching and introducing reforms to Church

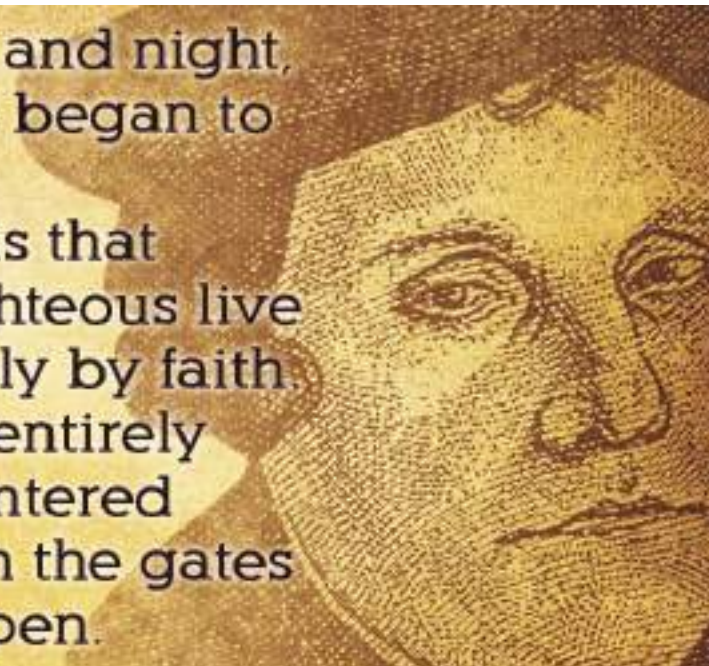
practices. These reforms spread to Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, England, Lithuania and Slovakia, to name a few. His reforms were not only with a Biblical focus but practical too. The priesthood of all believers i.e. the Biblical teaching that once saved we are united in the Church as equals and we live a life of calling in the service of the Master whatever job we do. A calling that was not exclusively for those who were monks, priests or nuns. His love of music, both playing and composing, led to his writing many great hymns of praise and congregational singing. Likewise the practice of celibacy was challenged with Luther proclaiming, based on Scripture, that marriage and family were blessed by God. He married a former nun, Catherine Von Bora, and together they had six children, so acting as a role model for this new age. And he inspired others such as John Calvin from whom we, as Presbyterians, have inherited many of our Reformed beliefs and practices, as have many others. Were he alive today, sadly, one suspects he wouldn't fit in well with the contemporary church, too outspoken and politically incorrect. Some of his views, particularly on anti-Semitism, quite rightly unacceptable now though

common place then. Luther himself would be the first to admit he was only a sinner saved by grace.

Conclusion.

The Reformation, under God, was a revolution. Not only for the Church, now clearly identified as those who believe, but for Society. It's spread throughout Europe and to the ends of the earth is proof positive of the power of the Holy Spirit to empower individuals to act alone or collaboratively in the spread of the truth of the Gospel. However, just like the characters mentioned in Hebrews 11, the Reformers were not perfect, far from it, but without Luther and others we would not have the Bible, the understanding of Scripture and the rich judeo-Christian heritage which is so under attack at the present time. The Reformation impacted the development of the modern state, democracy, education, economics, social welfare, poor relief, the legal system and literacy.

So what should our reaction be? Give thanks to God for this great movement in history, pray for the defence and preservation of our Christian heritage and for freedom of religion.



At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open.



The Collective Weekend!

Hannah Bates Reports on the Fun and Fellowship

The youth weekend returned, starting on 20 October. A year had passed since we were last rounding up the youth in the church carpark to head to Whitepark Bay. So with the young people loaded into two mini buses, we set off on what we hoped would be a weekend of great fun and good food (thanks to John McClintock and Ronne Burns) and a chance for worship God and, together, explore the Bible in more depth.

Unfortunately, the Friday night beach bonfire had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of the young people. Amos Kennedy was most disappointed of all! After awarding himself the title of the best bonfire operator that Wellington has ever seen, after his impressive 2016 efforts, Storm Brian ruined his chance for another record breaking year. But 'Brian' certainly didn't ruin our Friday evening as our speaker, Ethan Clarke, kicked off our series looking at Jonah by introducing us to the context of the story and aspects of it which relate to the world we live in today. After that we had a film night and some general chat. I have no idea how late the last young person stayed up to because I escaped at 01:40am. I learned the hard way in previous years - the last leader standing has to make sure everyone is in their rooms.

As my alarm went off at 8am on Saturday morning, years of leaving every school/Uni assignment to the last minute have prepared me for the total lack of sleep. After breakfast we were all down on the beach for a walk. Some of the young folk chose to play ultimate Frisbee, while others decided that October was a perfect time to paddle in the Atlantic - in their clothes. If they felt happy (and safe) we left them to it! After burning some energy, we were back at the hostel for a time of worship and another talk about the choices Jonah's made.

During the Saturday afternoon we went tenpin bowling and I came a respectable 3rd out 6, even though I was the oldest by about 7 years in my lane. Then everyone's favourite, a trip to Morelli's. After dinner we had another session of worship and further challenging exploration into the story of Jonah. Then it was time for the big Saturday night games night. This year it was left to me and Amos and, let's put it this way, I don't think it will be again. Call it youthful ignorance, but we

thought a shaving foam & popcorn game couldn't end up in utter carnage. It did. Even if your child doesn't remember it, I will certainly remember the state of the dining room for years to come. Big shout out to Gillian, Lynn and Linda for containing the foam explosion with kitchen roll and brushes. The evening moved on to a firm favourite, Big Bucky, which we played to exhaustion. I think, all in all, it was a great night for everyone.

The Sunday morning session began with worship and a testimony from Ethan, which I think really engaged the young people. Reflecting on the talks given by Ethan over the weekend I think the messages of Jonah were taken on board by both leaders and young people, especially as they can be so easily mirrored in our own lives. It outlines the power God has over His creation, but still the stubbornness of our own hearts to obey the will of God and realise we are accountable to him. Yet it also highlights the compassion and forgiveness that God offers to both his followers and those who are far away from him. As leaders we have had the opportunity to share our own experiences with the young people and we started many discussions which we hope to continue throughout this year. Until next year!



The Heritage Passed On!

This is an extract from the book, Root and Branch, that charts the first 150 years of our congregation from 1828 until 1978. It relates to the building of the new church in Wellington Street in Ballymena;

The building which Dr Cooke opened on July 26th, 1829, had been completed in little over a year from the date of signing the contract and in about a year and five months from the presentation of the memorial for its erection. That the dream of the memorialists was realised with such expedition is eloquent testimony to the energy, enterprise, and unwavering purpose of the management committee supported by a generous and committed people; and the heritage they, through their vision and dedication, passed on to posterity is something for which we of this generation must pause and give thanks. It is not possible to calculate the cost in self-sacrifice which the new church entailed, but in terms of money the expenses account for the erection of the meeting-house and the necessary ancillary work as undernoted:-

			£	s.	d.
1828	May 24	By cash paid, one year's rent in advance	6	6	0
	May 21	By cash paid, making ditch		13	4
1829	Aug. 25	By cash paid, amount of Ligget and Ballantine's Estimate (Erection of Building)	905	3	6
	Aug. 25	By cash paid, extra work	87	16	10 ¹ / ₂
1830	Feb. 14	By cash, flags etc.	6	5	0
	Feb. 14	By cash, paid Ballantine laying flags, floor, wall, pillars etc.	11	12	2 ¹ / ₂
	Feb. 14	By cash paid for paints and painting the house	26	6	7 ¹ / ₂
	Feb. 14	By cash paid gates and extra iron work	17	5	10
	Feb. 14	By cash branches and stamp		19	5
	Feb. 14	By cash paid for bond filling, etc.	1	2	0
	Apr. 6	By cash paid at Installation Dinner	6	10	0
			1070	0	9 ¹ / ₂

You may recall the story in the June edition about David Hilditch acquiring an old pitch pine roof truss during the demolition of our old church in Wellington Street that he fashioned into bowls and candle sticks. When offered to members of the congregation, these were quickly snapped up and recipients gave a donation towards our Building Fund. A generous gift rounded the total up £1070 - the cost of our original building.

Thanks to David for his time, energy and skill fashioning these artefacts and all who contributed so generously to the Building Fund.



Junior Fundraisers

Well done to 2 of our under 10s, Tom McCarroll and Caleb Rodgers, who took part in a sponsored abseil down the side of the Fairhill Centre on 10 June to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer.



Tom and Caleb waiting (apprehensively?) for their turn!



Tom on his descent - it's a long way down !



Thumbs up from Caleb back at ground level.

Competition Time

Fill in the missing blanks

_____ your _____ as yourself


Mark 12 verse 31

LOVE EVERYBODY WORDSEARCH

L	E	V	E	R	Y	B	O	D	Y	E	O	E
Y	Y	D	O	B	Y	R	E	V	E	V	L	L
D	Y	O	V	O	E	V	D	D	V	O	V	V
O	E	V	O	L	O	V	E	Y	V	L	O	V
B	V	E	E	L	V	O	V	E	O	E	L	O
Y	E	L	E	V	O	L	E	E	E	V	O	L
R	R	L	O	E	L	O	R	V	E	O	Y	L
E	Y	O	E	V	O	L	Y	E	O	L	O	O
V	B	V	Y	L	E	O	B	R	V	V	O	V
E	O	E	V	O	L	V	O	Y	E	E	V	E
L	D	V	O	V	L	E	D	B	V	V	L	O
O	Y	E	L	E	O	V	Y	O	E	V	O	L
V	E	V	E	R	Y	B	L	D	E	V	O	L

How many times can you
find the word 'LOVE'

How many times can you
find the word 'EVERYBODY'

Throughout the magazine there are 12  symbols hidden elsewhere in this magazine!

List the pages on which they are found:

Primary school children – please leave your completed form in the box at the front entrance before the end of January 2018 – a winner will be selected from those that correctly answer all the questions and their picture will be included in the next magazine. Everyone else – have a go for fun!

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____



Did you notice the front cover?

This year the Junior Section of Wellington Girls' Brigade were given the challenge of designing a front cover for the next three editions of our church magazine.

The P5 group were given a Christmas theme, the P6 group were asked to design the spring cover with an Easter Theme, while the P7 group were given a summer theme. The hall buzzed with excitement each Monday night as many outstanding designs were developed and refined by the girls.

The various categories were assessed by Derek McKinstry and Honor Hall from the Paint Pot. Derek and Honor felt the standard of work was amazing and praised the girls for making their task, as judges, so difficult!

The front cover is the winning entry for this edition drawn by Mya Kennedy and reminds us of that first Christmas when the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The other P5 girls are pictured below with their designs.



Ellie Mae Purcell



Amy Irwin



Grace Davison



Abbie Hill



Sound within the Church

You may be aware that we have been experiencing some problems over the last number of years with the quality of the sound in the main church building. This continues to cause significant frustration and annoyance for members of the congregation, despite the very best efforts of the team in charge of the sound desk.

In order to fully understand the source of the problems and find out how best to rectify them, the church committee appointed an independent company to investigate the issues with the sound system and recommend how the listening experience for members of the congregation might be improved.

Representatives from Peter Mapp Associates, the company appointed, have visited the church on a number of occasions, including during the Sunday services, and have produced a report with recommendations that the church committee has considered. The report focuses on three main areas and gives recommendations for each, namely:

- the acoustics of the building
- the sound system itself, and
- the operation of the sound system

The necessary work to address the recommendations within the report has been approved by the church committee and modifications to enhance the sound system will commence early in the new year.

We would ask for the continued patience of the congregation over the coming months as work takes place to implement the changes and as they 'bed in'. We are confident that the outcome will lead to much improved clarity and quality of sound for all within our church.

David Keys, Church Secretary

THE DEEPER INTO THE HEART OF GOD I GO, THE
MORE THE ENEMY WILL OPPOSE ME, BUT THE
MORE GOD WILL DRAW ME. THE ENEMY MAY BE
STRONG, BUT HIS STRENGTH IS LIMITED,
WHEREAS GOD'S GRACE HAS NO LIMIT.

A.W. TOZER
A MAN OF GOD

The Armour of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6 vs 10-18

Thanks to Jo Graham, Rebecca Macfarlane, Andrea Mitchell and Jayne Dunlop for their assistance with this magazine.

Jo helps identify and gather stories. Rebecca, who continues to work towards her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, is gaining valuable experience taking photographs and assembling them into montages - the photos relating to The Well and Totszone Awards, Children's Day and Holiday Bible Club are all Rebecca's work, as well as some other photos throughout the magazine.

Andrea compiled the Kids' Competition on Page 37 and she and Jayne worked with the GB girls to design the covers for this and the next two magazines. Jayne also provided the article on The Alive Women's Conference



Heather Jackson, one of our members, was delighted to be introduced to Prince Harry on his debut visit to Northern Ireland on 8 September. Prince Harry unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of Ballymena's new Ambulance Station. Heather works as an Emergency Medical Technician with the NI Ambulance Service.

Deaths 2017

29 May	Mollie McClintock	Rose Martha Court,	Interred in 1st Broughshane Pres. Church Burying Ground
17 June	Jack Smith	Toome Road	Interred in Ballee Cemetery
4 July	Alexander John (Alex) Dyball	Old Cullybackey Road	Interred in Ballee Cemetery
17 July	Connie Jane Tweed	Main Street, Cullybackey	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery
9 Aug	Rosemary Bamber	Deerfin Fold	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery
23 Aug	William (Billy) Adger	Galgorm Care Home	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery
26 Aug	Albert Fullerton	Sand Road, Galgorm	Interred in Cullybackey Cemetery
29 Aug	Josephine Gourley	Braefield Car Home	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery
8 Sep	William Neill	Slemish Nursing Home	Interred in Ballee Cemetery
23 Sep	Robert Scott	Old Park Manor	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery
14 Oct	Emily McMullan	Ballymoney Road	Interred in Killymurris Pres. Church Graveyard
3 Nov	Joseph (Joe) McAllister	Toome Road	Private funeral

BAPTISMS



Noah Michael, son of
Michael and Pamela Moore,
Carclinty Road, Cullybackey.
Included are sisters Faith and Eve .
30 July 2017



Penelope Margaret, daughter of
Jamie and Kerry Pedlow,
Dan's Road, Ballymena
5 November 2017

Wellington Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2017

CONNECTIONS
A Christmas multi-media special Sunday 17th Dec 11.00am
The Christmas story is a life changing experience and using drama, singing and visual displays we will explore one of the greatest stories ever told (no church experience required)

The CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 17th Dec 6.30pm
It is good that some things never change. Our traditional candle light service will take you down memory lane as you sing the best songs of the festive season. Why not take a break from the fever pitch of Christmas shopping and rediscover the importance of the festive season.

Christmas MORNING
Monday 25th Dec 10.30am
Everyone is invited to this relaxed, fun filled service. Designed for all age groups we will celebrate the true meaning of Christmas before we all indulge in too much tarty and stuffing.

Marriages

Matthew James Purse

&

Catherine Anne Rosborough

29 June 2017

Matthew Christopher Noel Logan

&

Aimee Margaret Sarah Johnston

14 July 2017

