

intouch



Packing a Container for Africa

See Page 14

Over the summer things quieten down at South Parade as people go on holiday and groups stop meeting for a few weeks. This time of refreshment and rejuvenation helps us prepare for a new season of activity in the Autumn, that kicks off in September with the fourth annual Bramley Fun Day organised by Connect. Read more about this event on pages 9 and 33 and consider if you can help make this a really fantastic day for the community. And then at the end of September the church comes together as one for Vision Sunday - make sure the date (28 September) is in your diaries now.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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From the Ministry Team

Watch and Pray

I can't remember what it was that set me thinking about the return of Jesus.

Perhaps it was July's continuing sunshine, or maybe the experience of high-speed dicing with death on Manchester's motorway ring road. The particular thread of thought led me to that amazing declaration that "every eye will see him" (Revelation 1.7). How could that happen? What would make it possible for everyone to see him at the same time?

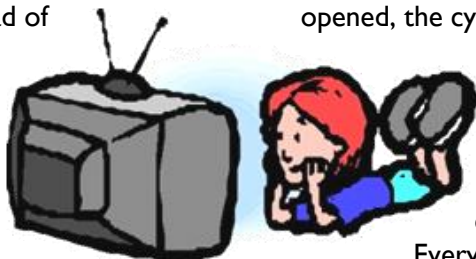
When I was a boy, television was still relatively new. One of our regular preachers sonorously announced that God had pre-ordained the invention of BBC TV so that Revelation 1.7 could be fulfilled. One person worked it out that this meant that Jesus would not return on a Sunday on the basis that no self-respecting Christian would ever switch on such an instrument

of Satan as a television on the Lord's Day, and since his main purpose in coming back was for the Christians... church people can be so silly sometimes!

The other night as the Commonwealth Games were opened, the cyclist Sir Chris

Hoy and actor James McAvoy made an appeal on behalf of the children's charity UNICEF.

Every viewer around the world was invited to text the word "FIRST" to 70333 to trigger a £5 donation. McAvoy said, "This has never been done before – this many people all coming together to make a difference..." Within minutes half a



*We need pioneering
disciples to reach out to
others to call them to faith.
We need people to join
them in strengthening
the work of Christ*

million people had donated £2.5 million between them, an amount that continued to increase over the following days.

In a simplistic way this does offer a possible solution to the question of how there might be a mass viewing of Christ's return – all we need is a blanket distribution of smart phones. But it also presents some problems. On the one hand it raises our hope in the ability of human beings to work together to alleviate poverty and sickness. But it also begs the question as to why, despite worldwide media coverage, we stare helplessly at images of conflict between Hamas and Israel, or Isis and Iraq, or seem powerless to prevent the bloodbath in Syria or ease the tensions between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists. Clearly there's work to be done. Every eye will see Jesus – that's the

promise of Scripture. But that doesn't mean universal repentance. An emotional response to a well-crafted appeal is not the same as a deep and lasting change of heart. We still need pioneering disciples who will reach out to others to call them to faith. We need people who will travel to join them in strengthening the work of Christ. We need settlers who know how to bring stability and who confidently hold the ropes of prayer and support while others push the boundaries of mission.

I don't know how every eye will get to see Jesus. That's not really important. The more important matter is that people are enabled to see him with the eyes of faith. May God's people come together to make a difference so that many may see and believe.

Brian

*Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!*



*And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.*

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

Around the Church

Caroline Brown

Caroline Brown was sent from **South Parade** for ministerial training in **Bristol** three years ago. She recently sent this update on her progress.

*'There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under heaven' (Ecclesiastes 3.1)*

Greetings from Bristol! Another year - the final year- has passed at the Bristol Baptist College and this is a photo of myself (far left) with the rest of the 2014 ministerial leavers... I still don't know where the last three years have gone and I don't think it has sunk in yet that I have actually achieved a degree in theology!



**Caroline (left) with other leavers
from Bristol Bible College**

*It has been challenging
and at times very hard,
but it has also been
joyful and fulfilling with
many, many laughs*

Looking back at my time at college, I can honestly say that it has been the best thing I have ever done...

the learning has been incredible, the reading has been intense (I have never read so much in my life before!), the opportunity to be part of two

churches in Bristol, and visiting others, has been a real privilege, and being ever aware of the Lord's forming hand upon me has been

interesting, exciting and moving - in my opinion, the best part of training.

Yes, it has been challenging and at times very hard, but it has also been joyful and fulfilling with many, many laughs. Throughout my time at college, I have been regularly reminded of what I used to do within the NHS when I received a calling into ministry amongst God's people and reminded particularly of the Lord's help and guidance... I have realised that these past three years have occurred at the right time and have actually built on the opportunities of formation and growth received through my previous career and life experiences, along the wider journey of my Christian discipleship.

Although college life has come to an inevitable end, the learning, reading, serving and forming continues as I wait upon the Lord for his direction of where my next step will be, as I wait upon the One who calls me forward on His path. At present, I am staying in Bristol and I am still in the process of finding a church to settle in for my next stage of pastoral ministry, but, as all time is in God's hands, I am also learning to embrace the present opportunity to be still, quiet, rest and recharge from the busyness that has been.

Your prayers have been, and still are, very much appreciated and when I have any further news of my next step, you can be sure that I will let you know.

God bless you all,

Caroline Brown

Message on a Parachute

Cragg Visit to South Africa

Cragg members Helen Wilson and Duncan Stow are taking a parachute with them this August to Zulu children in South Africa with messages from children at Cragg Baptist Church, Horsforth High School and Ducklings Nursery. They are hoping to twin Ducklings with a Zulu nursery. Each group have written their messages on a particular colour and the Zulu children will in turn write their messages to Horsforth on the parachute.

*Please pray for the
Cragg young people
going to South Africa.*

The photos show Duncan and Helen watching Cragg children writing a greeting, the parachute, and Duncan with messages from some of the children (note



Duncan Stowe (top left) and members of Cragg writing messages to take to South Africa

Duncan's African top). Please pray for the Cragg young people going to South Africa.

John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

Gnanakans say thanks

The Gnanakan family's recent visit to Leeds was appreciated by the whole church. Chris sent his greetings after they had left:

To our dear mission partners at SPBC, “real” warm greetings from Vietnam, I’ve had a fruitful two weeks in Thailand and Laos!

Just a note to say a heartfelt thank you! for your welcome and the awesome opportunity to share our life and ministry with each of our five missional communities! Your love, care and sacrificial giving: first of yourself, service and substance to us as your missionaries moved us and keeps me going with the Gospel to the unreached and persecuted within Asia!

One of the tools I left with you in my series “equipped” was intercessory praying. I’ve been thinking of this in Philippians 1:1-7, how true when you care deeply enough to have someone on your mind (remembrance) and in your heart, you will also have them in your regular prayers! And I may add, care enough to take time, as Paul did for this church, to write to them! So be assured of my



The Gnanakans

prayers for your witness in Leeds, UK. We do know you are praying for the Gnanakans, I feel it as I go into these restricted access countries...

Doing what others “Don’t, Won’t and Can’t!”

Chris Dorothy, Alethea and Charis Gnanakan

Italy News



David and Ann MacFarlane our link missionaries with BMS World Mission in Reggio

Calabria, Italy recently sent news of a mission.



Summer Mission at Reggio

The mission was brilliant. We were on the streets six nights dancing, testifying, singing, puppets sketch board and all. There were at least 35 people from the church every night and we spoke to a good number of people. For the last two Sundays we have had six new people attending.

We will be having two weeks holiday in August and we cannot wait as we feel after home assignment then the mission we have not stopped.

David and Ann MacFarlane

If you would like to support Ann and David by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or

call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet. Speak to Pat Dagleish for more information.

Connect Fun Day HELP NEEDED!

On 6 September Connect is holding its fourth annual Family Fun Day at Hollybush School in Bramley. Previous years' events have been very successful outreach opportunities into the local

Gemma Eastwood at her farewell lunch with the Gnanakans and the Ministry Team in June





We depend on an army of volunteers from within the SPBC family to make the event successful

community and about 450-500 people have attended each year. All activities offered are free and include a BBQ, bouncy castles, face-painting, children's races, a prayer tent, and many other typical "fun" activities.

We depend on an army of volunteers to make the event successful and we have always been blessed by tremendous support from within the SPBC family.

We begin setting-up at 10am and the gates are open from 1-4pm with clearing-up from 4-5pm. If you are free on Saturday 6 September to help with any part of the day we will welcome you with open

arms! A "Connect at Hollybush" T-shirt and lunch will be provided for all volunteers!

Sian Wrangles is co-ordinating volunteers and you can contact her via the church office.

Many thanks

John Pelham
Elder for Connect

...informed...

Share news from your family, your Mission Community, home group or project Around the Church by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk.



BMS World News

Brightening Ugandan homes with gravity

Lighting up lives in western Uganda, without batteries, kerosene or even the flick of a switch.

Gravity has given Ugandans a way to see in the dark.

Our very own alternative energy enthusiast, BMS

World Mission worker

Gareth Shrubsole, found out about a new and innovative lighting solution, from a company called



Deciwatt, and has taken it to rural locations across Kasese District to see if it works.

“If you’ve grown up with electricity all your life then a room with only a gravity light seems pretty dark,” says Gareth. “However if, like much of the world’s population, you live without electricity... then GravityLight is a life changer!”

GravityLight is made up of an adjustable LED light fitted on a motor and two hanging bags of stones attached by a plastic strip. When all were fitted together, Gareth’s recipients were astonished to discover they could create light lasting for up to 25 minutes by lifting the heavy 12kg bag of stones and letting it fall.

And, while the light produced is currently only around 0.1 watt, Gareth thinks that the



potential impact is huge.

“One thing stood out from almost all of the respondents,” says Gareth, “whether collectively in a church, or individually in their houses or workplaces – people used their new free lighting to read their Bibles.

“**G**od blessed mankind with ingenuity and creativity,” Gareth continues, “and that’s why I’m so excited about the potential of gravity lighting technology. These lamps are not yet that impressive, but I have absolute faith that the clever people who made them will very soon make even better ones, and those ones will really change lives here in Kasese, and elsewhere.

“This is a technology I can love.”



Raining miracles in southern France

Prayer has led to a miraculous breakthrough for BMS World Mission workers in France.

Robert is in agony. The pain in his arm is so strong that he can’t sleep at night. Ana* and her husband are seriously stressed over debts they cannot pay. Lucy can’t walk because of severe pain in her kidneys.

*After her second prayer,
Robert felt better
but still had pain
After five prayers, he
was completely healed.*

What do they have in common?

God has miraculously worked in all of their lives thanks to the ongoing prayer of BMS mission workers Claire-Lise and David Judkins.

Robert, the Judkins’ neighbour in Calvisson, experienced the first miracle. When Claire-Lise heard about his pain, she offered to

pray for him. At first nothing happened, so she tried again. After her second prayer, Robert felt better but still had pain. After five prayers, Robert was completely healed.

The next day Ana told Claire-Lise her good news. "God has provided a miracle for me and I am so excited," Ana said. David's prayers for Ana and her husband's dire financial situation had been answered. Their electricity bill of 800 euros was paid for miraculously, and in their bank account they found 4,000 euros of credit. Both where the money came from and how the bill was paid remain unexplained.

A week later, Claire-Lise went to see Lucy from her Alpha course after hearing about her chronic kidney problems. Encouraged by what had happened to Robert and others, Claire-Lise prayed for healing. Lucy felt heat and something moving in her back. The pain disappeared!

David and Claire-Lise are overjoyed that their prayers for Robert, Ana and Lucy were answered. "After months of praying and feeling like we were walking in the desert, it seems like we have stumbled upon an oasis," says Claire-Lise.

*Name changed

...inspired...

*Help continue to bring both physical and spiritual light to those who need it most. Visit **bmsworldmission.org/donate** and give today.*

Pray for Claire-Lise and David as they continue their work in Calvisson.

For more information and inspiring stories go to www.bmsworldmission.org

SOUTH PARADE
TOGETHER

*Sunday 17 August
Sunday 21 September
6.30pm*

Raising the Roof

Help for a Guinea-Bissau Church

On a Saturday evening in July a rousing evening of African music and food at Headingley raised funds for church projects in Guinea-Bissau. Jill Karlik explains where the money will go, and asks for help for further projects.

The funds raised paid for the roofing material, which was nailed on and watertight before the rainy season began in earnest

Grateful thanks to the members of the Headingley congregation who led us in singing and drumming for the African-style worship, as well as the many other helpers who made the

“Evening in Africa” successful. The funds raised were sufficient to complete payment for the galvanised roofing material, which was nailed on and watertight before the rainy season began in earnest. Refitting of the church now continues beneath its shelter.



African Evening at Headingley

One project leads to another. It came to light that the volunteer builders, while having practical skills, did not have enough knowledge of tensions and stresses to design the roof trusses and supports in the most cost-efficient way. I



Roof trusses...

should really like to find someone with knowledge of such principles, a civil engineer or builder, who would be able to go out to Guinea-Bissau to share their know-how in a short-term mission visit. People with other specialist skills to share (eg computer technology, carpentry, car mechanics, tailoring) could join in a group visit or series of visits at around Christmas and New Year, or up to late-March 2015.

That period is the middle of the dry-season and also not quite so hot. Accommodation would be with the pastor's own family. The location is by an estuary with pleasant sea breezes: daily swimming when the tide comes in; a trip by dug-out canoe would be

possible. Personal security in the area feels to me about as good as in Leeds and political stability has improved since the elections in March.

And now a third project: a container to ship out

chairs and many other items to equip the extended church. If you know of a church disposing of items, please alert me. And if you are turning out things to give to charity, anything re-usable could find a space in the crannies of the container as it gets loaded:

- tools of any kind
- educational materials, eg white-



Fisherman at sunrise on the estuary

- boards, blackboards, projectors, computers
- bikes for evangelists
- catering equipment, eg fridges and freezers
- office equipment and stationery
- audio equipment
- solar panels and peripherals
- good books in English, French or Portuguese
- sewing machines and cloth, eg curtains and duvet covers to be made into dresses or suits for sale
- mobile phones
- camping mattresses
- oil lamps and candle-sticks

- regular foam mattresses
- good quality clothing
- clocks
- reading glasses (just magnification)
- toys

If you have something to offer, please let me know. In the case of larger items, I'd be grateful if you could hold them until it's time to load the container, probably mid-September.



Jill Karlik

Adel Mission Community

...involved...

to find out more, speak to Jill or contact her at jillk4444@gmail.com or via the church office



Change a Child's Life Gift Tag

A Wonderful Christmas Gift!

The gift of life-saving healthcare and schooling for disadvantaged children, through CHILD'S LIFE gift tags. Order from the BMS Christmas catalogue or online at bmsworldmission.org/tags



Prayer Focus



August - September 2014

“Come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 70.5 (NIV)

Mission Communities

Remember the five Mission Communities of South Parade in your prayers as we continue in our theme of *Going Deeper*. Pray for your own Community, and remember the others too. Pray for Mission Community Leaders and the leadership teams as they seek God's guidance for the future.

Pray for the Connect Mission Community in Bramley as they organise their Family Fun Day on 6 September. Pray that many people would come and find a warm welcome, and that many new relationships would be formed.

Pray for the Big Welcome Sunday on 21 September and for those people you could invite to these special services. Pray that as the whole church meets for Vision Sunday we would know God's leading and blessing.

Pray for the regular services and meetings, that we would welcome all who come through the doors, that people would find Jesus in our midst. Pray for the neighbourhoods and communities that we're based in, that the church would be a source of light and hope in the world.

- Adel
- Connect
- Cragg
- Headingley
- SENT

Leeds

Pray for the city where God has placed you at this time. Remember those organisations that work with some of the most vulnerable in our society. Pray for other churches in your locality, and for your local Churches Together group. Find out about the work of some of the organisations listed below, and see how you can continue to support them practically, financially and in prayer. Pray for the people who lead the City Council who continue to have difficult decisions to make on spending and priorities. Pray for students as they wait for exam results and return to their homes. Pray for the CUs at Leeds Uni and Leeds Met and in other colleges in the area as they think about welcoming students again next term.

- St George's Crypt
- Christians Against Poverty
- Leeds City Mission
- Caring for Life
- Joanna Project
- Leeds Network
- Leeds Youth Cell Network
- Leeds Faith in Schools

Around the World

Pray for all those from South Parade currently serving with mission organisations around the world, in training or on leave. Pray that they would know God's presence, His love, His guidance and His peace each day. Pray for the countries where they are working, for peace and stability, and the growth of the church.

- Steve and Ismay
- David and Ann Macfarlane
- Becky North
- Jane Waites
- "Jane" in North Africa
- Chris and Dorothy Gnanakan
- Levi Booth
- Tim and Delphine Minard
- Matt and Jude Tindale
- Jayne Godfrey
- Jill and Colin Jones

South Parade

Pray for the work of the church. Pray for work among the **Under 5s**, and the regular Teddy Praise and Play services. Pray for the work with **children and young people** as they take a break over the summer months and prepare for a new term of activities in September.

Pray for the mentoring done by **TLG volunteers** at Little London and Hollybush schools. Pray for the **Junior Church** sessions on Sundays and youth events and cell groups meeting throughout the week.

Pray for the regular Messy Church sessions at **Little London**, and the meetings of the **Cafe Church** in Holt Park. Pray also for the **ABC Coffee Shop** and its volunteers, the **Drop-in** at Cragg and regular events in the **Green House**. Pray for the visitors and volunteers at **Rooted** on Tuesday evenings. Pray for the **Barnabas Bunch** and the **Retired People's Fellowship**. Pray for those who lead and attend the **Arabic Christian Fellowship** on Sunday afternoons in the Green House.

Pray for the work of the **church office** and the volunteers there as they deal with the admin of the church and welcome visitors to the building and deal with other groups who we come into contact with. Pray for Delessa Gugsu and those who care for the church buildings.

Pray for the **CAP centre** at South Parade, and for Andrew Bedingham as he leads this work. Pray for the clients he sees, that he would be able to help them practically and spiritually.

Pray for the **Elders** and **Deacons** and for the responsibilities they have in leading the church and its Mission Communities. Thank God for their willingness to serve the church in this way. Pray for them as they meet and pray and make decisions on the future direction of the church. Pray especially for **Geoff Greer**, the Church Secretary and **Adrian Howe**, the Church Treasurer.

Ministry Team

Pray for the Ministry Team. Pray for each of them as they look to God for guidance and strength. Thank God for their enthusiasm and commitment. Pray for Hannah as she begins her work with the Ministry Team. Pray that they would be refreshed and renewed over the summer break.

- Brian Nicholls
- Paul Rockley
- Nathan Shipley
- Heather McLeen
- Geoff King
- Hannah Preston
- Lawrence Cockrill
- Kate Burkett

International Youth Day 12 August

Creator God, who brings something out of nothing – we thank you for the way that your character, your power and your love are made known amidst weakness, vulnerability, and powerlessness.

On this International Youth Day, we thank you for the gift of young people in our midst, and in our world. We pray that you help us to recognise the authority of the child, the honest insight of the teenager, the wisdom of youth. Open our ears again to the way that your voice falls from the lips of our young people. Open our eyes to the reflection of ourselves that children offer. Open our hearts again to the responsibilities with which they present us.

We think of the plight of young people worldwide. Of the 7.5 million children who will die needlessly this year, because of simple human apathy. We think of those who receive no education, who are forced to flee their homes because of war, who are malnourished, orphaned and stricken with preventable disease.

Show us what it means to listen well to young people, to see the world through their eyes, to hear your voice in theirs. Show us our responsibilities towards the young people entrusted to our care.

Lord God, whose Son was born of a pregnant teenager, who – as a child – taught experts in the temple, and who never reached middle age, show us who we are as we listen to the voice of youth.

Back to School Prayer

God of life and love, we thank you for the new beginning that each day brings. We pray for the young people who will return to school, for those who are moving school, and those who are attending school for the first time. Eclipse anxiety with excitement, that education may be a truly liberating and joyful experience.

We pray for parents who breathe a deep sigh of late summer relief, and for parents who worry on their child's behalf. Awaken in them an awareness of the calling of parenthood, and encourage them through the highs and lows of their privileged ministry.

We pray for young people preparing to leave for university. Equip them with all that is needed on the road to independence. As their parents face a miniature grief, comfort them with the assurance of your presence with them and their children.

We pray for all who long for a new start. Reveal yourself to them as the God whose mercy is new every morning. You who have promised to restore the years the locusts have eaten, restore to us this day a deep love for you, a renewed desire to please you, a passion to receive the future you have planned for us.



© Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

A Week in the Life of...

...CAP Manager Andrew Bedingham

Wednesday

10 am to 12 am in the office catching up with admin. At 12 o'clock a client rings to say that he has no food, so I stop the admin and take him to the Food Bank and collect 4 bags of food, before driving him home. 2pm to 4pm – more admin.

Thursday

CAP first visit to Miss J in Bramley from 10.30 to 12.30. Then lunch before collecting D and taking him to see his doctor. Doctor complains that client is alcohol dependent. I argue that the issue is pain management and not alcohol abuse. Doctor

challenges D to stay off alcohol until Monday morning. We accept the challenge. Then take D to the chemist to collect his prescription before taking him home. Then back to the office in order to send correspondence to CAP and complete admin. At 6pm go home.



**Andrew
Bedingham**

Friday

CAP second visit to Miss J in Woodhouse from 10am to 11.30am. At the end of our visit, we pray for J, before she offers to pray for us. We feel elated to

have had a client pray for us. At 12 o'clock we visit Miss K in Bramley. However the client has only just got up so we arrange to come back in a week's time.

Monday

Return to Alcohol Addiction Unit with D. D is given a breathalyser and produces a reading of zero. Praise the Lord. God does answer prayer. We make an appointment with the doctor to return in a week's time to redo the breathalyser test. Take D to the chemist



for his prescription before taking him home. I keep praying for D.

Wednesday

Arrive at the home of D, in order to take him to the Bank and plead for the Bank to waive Bank fees of £150. However D has already left to go to St James for a dressing on his leg. After waiting for four hours he gives up and returns home. Need to arrange another visit to take him to his bank. Due to sores on his legs he walks with great difficulty. Wednesday evening I take 6 women to the Showcase cinema to see "God's not Dead". Life is so hard for a CAP manager.



1.45pm. In the afternoon, a CAP second visit to Miss J in Bramley from 2.30 to 3.45pm and then admin until 6.15pm before heading home.

Working for CAP is very rewarding and I certainly enjoy it, but the CAP work is in danger of stopping unless I can find

some women who could spare a couple of hours on a Thursday or Friday to accompany me. As a man, I can not visit single ladies on my own. I am visiting 3 new clients every month and so will have visited 36 new clients before Christmas 2014. So although I may be able to take 6 women to the cinema, I cannot take 36 people to church, the doctor, the chemist, the food bank etc all on my own. I urgently need your help! The fields are ripe and ready for harvest. So please contact me and offer to help. If you are aged between 20 and 80, then just two hours of your time is all that it requires!

*At the end of our visit,
we pray for J.
Then she offers to
pray for us!*

Thursday

CAP first visit to Miss P in Horsforth, from 10.30 to 12 o'clock. Back to the office for admin until

Andrew Bedingham

CAP Manager Leeds North West

...involved...

If you can help Andrew visiting his clients, or need help yourself with debt issues, please contact him via the church office on 0113 275 4989

The Sycamore Tree

Prison Outreach

Mike Burkett wrote about his work with Leeds City Mission in police cells in the April edition of *Intouch*. His father (also called Mike) is involved in visiting prisoners at Full Sutton prison in York, and is running a course called The Sycamore Tree Programme, a 6-week Restorative Justice course held in prisons.



It is usually conducted by volunteers who are members of The Prison Fellowship.

The course objective is to focus on the story of Zacchaeus, whose encounter with Jesus completely transformed his life. His response to this experience was to give back to his victims four times as much as he stole from them. He also gave half of his possessions to the poor.

The programme is government recognised and sponsored and is accredited by the Open College Network as a means of illustrating the importance of prisoners facing up to the consequences of their crimes.

I am a member of the team conducting this course in September and I wrote the poem opposite as a means of illustrating the theme.

Mike Burkett

...involved...

To find out more about the course visit the Prison Fellowship website at www.prisonfellowship.org.uk



The Tax Collector

As Zac went into Jericho his victims
walked away
It was Friday morning, once again, and
time for them to pay

Zac was very clever, he “cooked the
books” quite well
Each farmer read his tax bill. Was it wrong, he couldn’t tell.

The community was up in arms, they knew that Zac was bad
But he was backed by Roman law that made them very sad.

When Jesus came to Jericho he went to Zac’s for tea,
Then Zac began to wonder “whatever’s wrong with me?”

“I’m nothing but a thief” he said, “all I do is steal.
I take their taxes *and the rest*, I don’t care how they feel.”

“What about the children who live down on the farm?
I stole their father’s money and brought them untold harm.”

“Give it back, give it back” I heard my conscience say.
“It’s time to take some action, it’s time for *you* to pay”.

Then Zac remembered what he’d learnt when he was just a youth.
He’d read the Bible every day. He knew it was the truth.

“You shall not steal”, the Bible said, “It’s written in the law”.
“Those who break this golden rule, must multiply by four”.

So Zac sat down to count the cash he’d stashed beneath the floor.
For every pound he’d stolen he chose to give back four.

POSTSCRIPT

*The man who climbed the sycamore today is walking tall
The restoration he achieved is recognised by all*



Mike Burkett

Recommended Reads

Who is to Blame? Disasters, Nature, and Acts of God Robert S White

Bob White digs below the unsettling “acts of God” which we variously attribute to bad luck, a malicious deity, or the Fall. He combines scripture and science to show how the God of the Bible can be seen to be sovereign in all circumstances.

Bob White is Professor of Geophysics at Cambridge



University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is also a Fellow of the Geological Society and a member of the American Geophysical Union. He is Director of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at Cambridge University and a devout Christian of long standing. I have known him personally for many years.

John Houghton (FRS and Nobel Peace Prize)

produces an excellent introduction to the book. The question Bob White addresses head-on is how could a loving God allow the occurrence of disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, or tsunamis that bring such large scale suffering to humans in our world?

Bob has spent years thinking about this problem. The result is, as Elaine Storkey (Emeritus President of Tearfund) comments, the

*The book combines
scripture and science to
show how the God of the
Bible can be seen to be
sovereign in all
circumstances*

production of this amazing and significant volume, a wonderful resource for anyone who has ever thought about these issues.

Bob starts by describing the natural phenomena that provide so generously for our well being on Planet Earth. Bob White points out that most of the damage from disasters could be avoided if human

communities made proper provision well before the disasters arrived. Unfortunately very strong scientific evidence is being denied or sidelined by influential people including, for instance, many Christians in the United States.

The latter part of the book examines how God fits into this picture. Bob White concludes that we humans must be prepared to accept most of the blame for suffering and death from the world's disasters. He reminds Christians that we have the ability and the responsibility to mitigate the effects of such disasters.

John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

...inspired...

If you've read a book recently that's inspired you, share it with the whole church by emailing a short review to magazine@spbc.org.uk



Latest News

Don't forget that if you miss the weekly notice sheet you can download the latest one from the church website

www.spbc.org.uk

- click on the
"resources" section



Questions

Daily Fashions?

Recently a speaker at South Parade suggested that to understand the Old Testament, one should start with Job. It seems that academic theology is unable to re-examine concepts formed almost a century ago, even though knowledge and methods of analysis have expanded greatly.

We can illustrate the problem for scholars with attitudes to Genesis. What we have in written form was produced around 600 BC. Archaeology of the Middle East shows people's migration from about 6000 BC and people who built cities 12000 years ago. Records in an archaic form of writing exist for the area since 3000 BC.

Genesis as we have it was written



by Jews in Babylon and approved by the Emperor Darius. It became the authoritative basis of the rebuilt temple cults. It contains frequent passages which reflect the culture that followed King David's imposition of central control in Jerusalem. But is it more than that?

*Can Christians avoid
the challenge between
revelation, the given truth
of God's nature,
and the scientist's duty
to follow the evidence?*

There is a Garden of Eden to the west of Lake Van. There were two peoples who joined before moving east. Marriage was instituted. The Euphrates valley was flooded to a depth of 10 metres. Before that the Black Sea was inundated by the formation of the Bosphorus and peoples were driven to higher ground. Hence the question: is Genesis the repository of 5000 years of divine revelation preserved by people who believed in God the Creator of all things and with an

oral tradition from over 3000 years, but later edited by people with very little understanding? Does Genesis contain evidence of two complementary oral traditions? Genesis speaks in metaphor of a Creator of all things always engaged in and caring for his Creation.

We know less about Job than we do of Genesis. Job may have been written from Judea in the decline of the Persian Empire. At great length it ends with Job recognising that the pot cannot complain of the potter and his wealth is restored. Even as metaphor it has no room for Grace or Redemption. Compare it with the superb words of Habakkuk 3.17-18. Christians with scientific knowledge cannot avoid the challenge between revelation, the given truth of God's nature specifically in Christ Jesus and the scientist's duty to follow the evidence. The Hebrew Old

Testament has words that translate both to "create" and to "make". John Lennox has attempted to shift discussion from design to causation, which Dawkins places as the opposite to randomness in the development of all things.

The evidence is that there was a beginning of time and space that determines our universe, controlled by natural forces. Before that event, we can know or say nothing. There is a reluctance to recognise that everything in the material world is caused by those forces. Augustine in 405 AD knew nothing of these forces and laws, but wrote that "He daily fashions whatever happens in the course of time, from what I call the primordial wrappers". Charles Darwin wrote that there will always be a cause.

Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community

*Though the fig-tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the sheepfold
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.*

Habakkuk 3.17-18 (NIV)

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

August sees us looking at some of the great chapters from the Bible. On successive Sunday mornings we will fix our eyes upon Jesus (Hebrews 12), put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6), shelter in the safety of God's care (Psalm 91), worship Jesus, the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1) and celebrate God's generous love (Psalm 103).

The first two Sunday evening themes look at Romans 5 and John 3 and explore the invitation to Christ and receive eternal life. From 17 August to 23 November evening subjects form a series exploring the

signs and sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel, taking us progressively through his great miracles and "I am" sayings.

*On Vision Sunday on
28 September we will
squeeze everyone into
Headingley for a
celebration of good news
stories from the year*

In September the morning meetings will focus on different aspects of what it means to be generous Kingdom people, culminating in Vision Sunday on 28 September when we will endeavour to squeeze everyone into our Headingley buildings for a celebration of good news stories from the year, together with a big encouragement to step out in faith for the next year. The theme for that day will be "Pioneers, travellers and settlers", each with their part to play in taking forward the Mission of God. Vision Sunday is also a great time to review our commitment to Christ's service. This includes a challenge to become more



involved in one or more of the church's ministries and to re-assess our financial giving as God's generous Kingdom people.

Most Headingley and SENT talks are available on the South Parade website for download at

www.spbc.org.uk – there's a link on the front page of the site. In addition some preachers produce fairly full notes and may be willing to make these available if asked.

Brian Nicholls

Senior Minister

*You who sit down in the High God's presence,
spend the night in Shaddai's shadow,
Say this: "GOD, you're my refuge.
I trust in you and I'm safe!"
That's right - he rescues you from hidden traps,
shields you from deadly hazards.
His huge outstretched arms protect you -
under them you're perfectly safe;
his arms fend off all harm.*

Psalm 91.1-4 (The Message) (17 August)

Church Meeting

At the church meeting in June, **Hannah Preston** was appointed as the new Church Administrator, and has now started work as part of the Ministry Team. Contact her at hannah@spbc.org.uk



Diamond Celebration!



Many congratulations to **John and Pam Nicholson** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding in July. John preached his last sermon (probably) at Headingley on 13 July, and this is now available to download from the church website.

Church Noticeboard



Vision Sunday

"Pioneers, Travellers and Settlers"

28 September 10.30am

Headingley

Big Church Night In

In Huddersfield on Saturday 15 November
with **Rend Collective** and **Phil Wickham**.
Tickets £15. Email Nathan@spbc.org.uk
for more info and tickets.

Prayer Meetings

Tuesdays 11.15am

Saturdays 8 - 11am

In the Green House
at Headingley
All Welcome!

OPENING SOON!



**Our New Community Shop at
10 RAYNEL APPROACH, LS16**

**Good quality pre-loved clothes
and much more**

Volunteers needed

Phone 07952850264 / 0113 2676800



CONNECT WITH OTHERS,
CONNECT WITH GOD

WWW.SPBC.ORG.UK/CONNECT



PART OF
**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Building Community in Christ

CONNECT @ HOLLYBUSH'S FAMILY FUN DAY



Face
Painting!

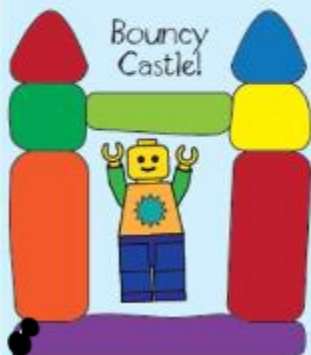
SAT 6TH SEPT 2014

1PM - 4PM



Sumo suits!

HOLLYBUSH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bouncy
Castle!

BBQ!



Games and Races!

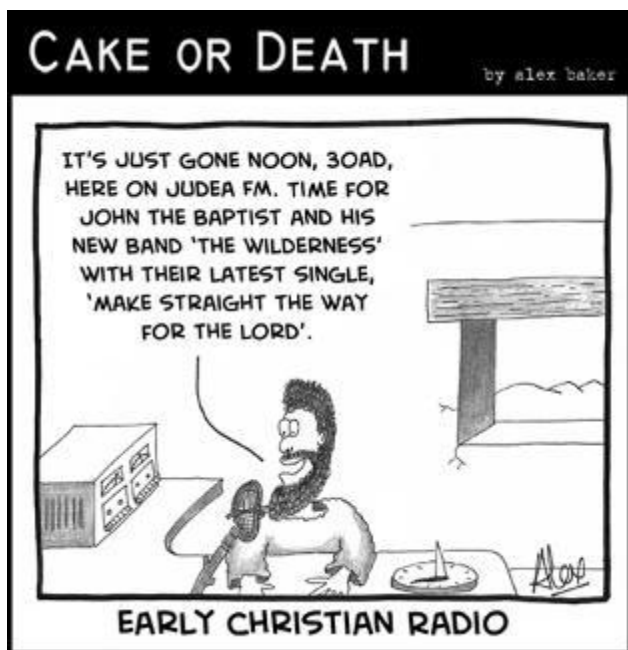


AND MUCH MORE.....!

Summer Brainteaser

Can you unscramble the names of these South Parade personalities? Send as many answers as you can to magazine@spbc.org.uk by 19 September for a chance to win a chocolate-based prize.

1. SIR BLANCH LION
= BRIAN NICHOLLS
2. RE: EGG OFFER
3. MISERY ROTS ARK
4. WINE STEER
5. ARSENAL WINGS
6. POSH HENNA RANT
7. LUCKY ALE PRO
8. HANDMADE WEB GRIN
9. LO! VODKAS
10. A NEW HAIRDO
11. ILL-CHOSEN LIES
12. HA - SHINY PLANET!
13. SEVERE GENT
14. DAWN COUNTS
15. SALAD EGG SUES



For more "Cake or Death" cartoons
by Alex Baker visit:
cakeordeathcartoon.wordpress.com



*South Parade meets as five distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley, Adel and Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **SENT** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets at different locations in the community in Bramley. We also have projects in Little London and Holt Park. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.*

*Together, we have a shared vision to **build community in Christ**. We hope that all who meet us will be helped to **belong** to Christ and his people, will discover what it means to **believe** in him, and will **become** all that he invites them to be in character, lifestyle, witness and service.*

Senior Minister
Minister

Brian Nicholls
Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor for
Youth and Young Adults
Children's Worker
Associate Pastor
Administration Manager
Associate Pastor
Under 5s Co-ordinator

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Hannah Preston
Lawrence Cockrill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham, Judith Briggs,
Adam Clayton, Neil Cowling,
Geoff Greer (Church Secretary),
Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer),
John Pelham, Rosemary Stirk

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