
BPC

MAGAZINE

July 2012



Bloomfield

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TO KNOW JESUS AND SHARE HIS LOVE

USEFUL CONTACTS

Minister

Rev. Frank Sellar
19 Castlehill Road
Belfast BT4 3GL
Telephone: 028 9065 3322
email: f.sellar@btinternet.com

Church Office

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church
447 Beersbridge Road
Belfast BT5 5DW
Telephone: 028 9047 1103
<http://www.bloomfieldpresbyterian.org>

If you would like to submit an article for the Bloomfield Magazine please leave a copy in the editor's pigeonhole or contact Colin Adair at:
email: colinadair@mac.com or
Telephone: 028 9182 6127

DEAR FRIENDS

Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character and character hope.

There was somewhere I loved to pass on the way home from school. Sadly it no longer exists. Moore's foundry on Brook Street, Coleraine. The foundry was a dark, fascinating place with a distinctly sooty smell and the crashing sound of clanking metal. If you were lucky enough, you could stand at the open entrance and watch just as the welders made sparks fly, and the millwrights battered the heavy metal with thunderous noise. You watched with a mixture of fascination and awe as rough lumps of metal were brutally battered and smelted and the sights and sounds of this awesome place assaulted your senses.

In parts of the Bible images of the foundry are used to help people make some sense of the sufferings and trauma, which they were experiencing. *"How many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Answer me when I call to you. Give me relief from my distress!"* Right now many people are going through similar troubles in different places; Nigeria

and Sudan, Syria and North Korea. Large numbers coming under intense pressure and pain. Some of our congregation will also be going through terrible times that similarly seem to defy comprehension. Like the metal beams in Moore's foundry they are being hammered and smelted, battered and bruised, but for what purpose?

When I was a kid, none of what went on in the foundry made any sense. All I could observe was the cacophony of noise and the smell of molten metal. Then one day something changed. My father had been invited to make a design for gates on a public building. I had watched him at home crafting the model and now he asked me to come with him and meet the owner of the foundry and to see those plans of clay being translated into the finished product. Great lumps of metal were thrust into the furnace. These were then heated until white hot, then carefully moulded and shaped into something beautiful, attractive and useful. What had

seemed to me previously as random and incomprehensible noise and mayhem now took on a whole new perspective.

I don't understand suffering, but the Apostle Paul writing out of an experience of huge trauma wrote this in his letter to the Romans chapter 5. "Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character and character hope". And the hope he was talking about was the resurrection of Jesus from out of the foundry of suffering, trauma and death. From Christ's sufferings on the cross, something beautiful, attractive and useful emerged:- An eternal perspective, for all who place their faith and hope in Him.

Frank

Rev Frank Sellar

People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered (including me). Love them anyway. If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Honest and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway. The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the littlest people with the littlest ideas. Think big anyway. People favour underdogs, but follow only top dogs. Fight for the underdogs anyway. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway. People need help now, but may attack you if you help them, help them anyway. Give the world the best you have and you may get hit in the teeth. Give the best you have anyway. Anon

Castlerock CSSM – Mark and Gillian Mason, Sarah McClure, Sophie Gordon, Naomi Gibson and Robert Sellar

Benone CSSM - Lucy Keown

SU Boys Camp - Stephen Simpson

Portrush CSSM - Katie Gibson

Ballysally CSSM - James McClure

Loughbrickland SU – James Gordon

PCI Tech Camp - Dave Stothers

Bloomfield Holiday Club

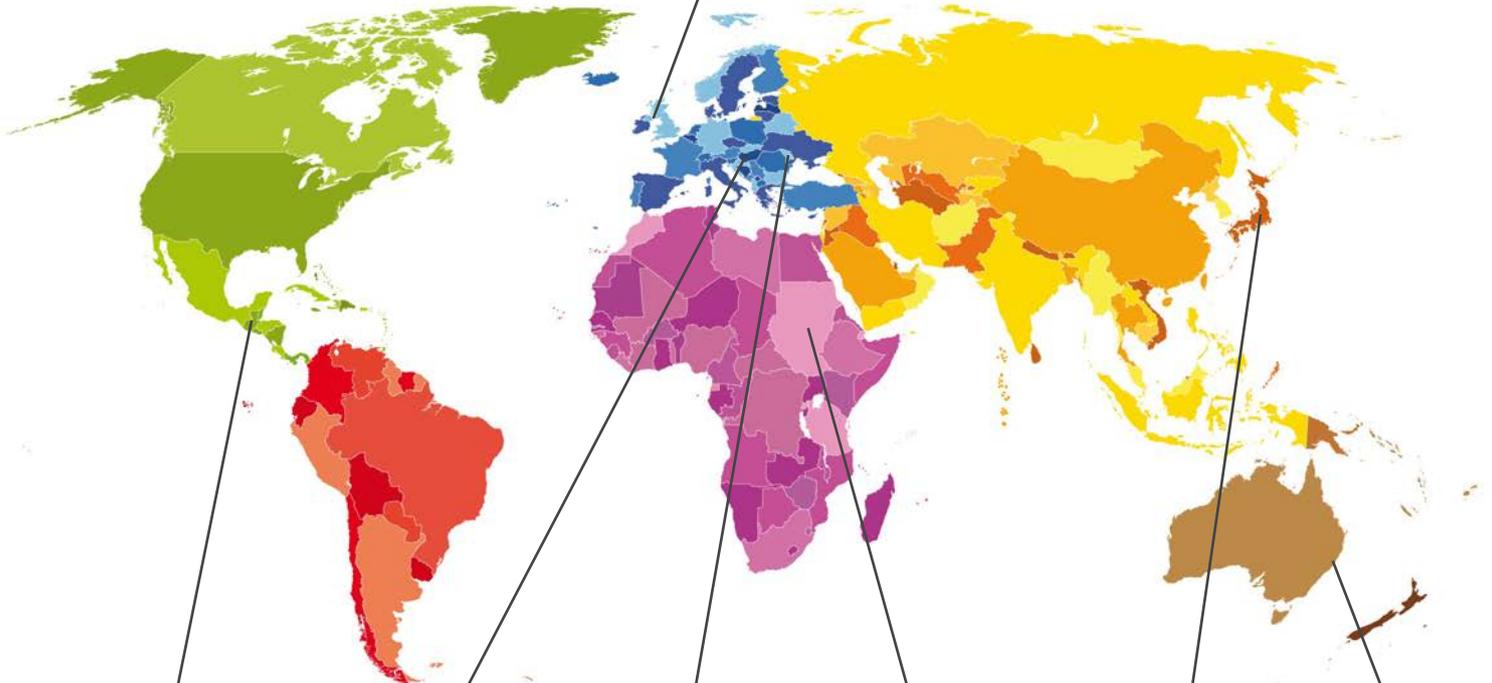
Walkway Holiday and Football Club

Ballycrochan CSSM – Heather Wilson and Claire Maxwell

Crusader Camp - Dublin City Mission - Caleb Keown

PCI Team OC Randalstown - Markets Summer Scheme - Rebekah McDonald

Keswick Convention Kids Camp - Lymingham Camp - Rebecca Sellar



Hungary music camp: Brian McNarry, Claire Maxwell and James McClure

Heather Wilson in Malawi until 15th July

Philip Boyd in Australia until 1st October

Simon Jenkinson in Guatemala with Latin Link until 1 September

Moldova team: John and Heather McKibbin Karen Jardine, Mandy Lee, Ruth Moore, Elizabeth Lewis and Nathan Mladin

Helen is part of a relief team (8-14 July) and co-ordinating a ladies retreat (27 August)

RADIO 4

Following the recent broadcast of the BPC morning service, messages began flooding in from literally all over the world.

“Good morning and welcome to Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. Our congregation is in the heart of East Belfast. If you were to walk two miles from our church towards the centre of the city you would come to the huge cranes known locally as ‘Samson and Goliath,’ which stand tall at Harland and Wolff’s shipyard. Here Titanic was built 100 years ago. If you were to go two miles the other way from our church, you would come to Parliament Buildings at Stormont, which is the headquarters of our devolved government. Turn left from our front door and you come to the street where singer songwriter Van Morrison grew up, and turn right from the church and you find yourself at the very spot where CS Lewis, author and academic was born. We invite you now to join with us in this service of worship, as together we consider those powerful words of Jesus in Luke 19 ‘The Son of Man came in order to seek and to save that which was lost”.

That is how we introduced Morning Service on Sunday 10th June 2012, which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10-8.50am.

The evening before a large number gathered for the recording and Rev Bert Tosh took the singing group, band, speakers and congregation through our paces. We’ve had the privilege of sharing our worship with BBC Radio Ulster, RTE TV, both in the Dublin studio and live at church, but this was going to be the largest listening audience to date. Our chief concern was that the broadcast should not be a performance, but an authentic service of worship where those

listening might also experience an encounter with the Living Lord.

The theme was picked up and developed in the reading from Luke chapter 19 v1-10. Olivia Elwood read about Jesus’s encounter with Zachaeus from ‘The Jesus storybook Bible’, and this was applied during the three short talks, prayers and the choice of songs and hymns.

Ordinarily, the BPC website has 20-30 hits per day. On the day of the broadcast that surged 10-fold and soon messages of appreciation flooded in from literally all over the world (some of these are reproduced at

the end of this article). On the Wednesday following the broadcast I reflected at the Prayer Meeting on what we had received: - three observations and three implications.

Three Observations

1. The overwhelming burden of the messages has been appreciation of the gospel message, the vibrant singing and the presence and participation of children.
2. Delight at the refreshing nature of the service in contrast to many of the regular broadcast services on Radio 4.
3. Appreciation came from people of every denomination; - Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, New Frontiers, Baptist, Salvation Army as well as Presbyterian.

Three Implications

1. Let's not take for granted in Bloomfield what we have each Sunday. Just because we are familiar with sound Bible teaching, vibrant praise and a wide cross section of

ages, doesn't mean that is everybody else's experience. What we feel as 'normal' is extraordinary for many others.

2. Let's be on the look out to welcome new people to church, for there are enquirers and new people who visit us virtually every Sunday.
3. Lets pray that we at Bloomfield Presbyterian Church would be kept Based on the Bible, Passionate about People and Centered on Christ.

It is an enormous privilege to be able to share who we are and what we have with a wider audience ... in this case with over one million people. Thank you to all who participated in any way, and especially our Music Coordinator Brian McNarry, Senior Associate, Bill Addley and reader Olivia Elwood. Pray that in our regular life and witness together as a congregation we might have servant hearts and humble spirits.

Rev Frank Sellar.



*Well I am now listening to the service for a second time through and I can tell you what you already know that the well-crafted service came across very well indeed. Everything tied together so well. God indeed answered prayer. Well done to you and all who worked so hard to put such a God-honouring service together. **Helen Lyttle (Japan)***

*Thank you for an excellent Sunday morning Service on the BBC at 8.10. I appreciated its Bible-based, Evangelical and Gospel simplicity and directness. It was good that it was also child-friendly. I have not heard some of the hymns for many years. Too much on the BBC has recently become blunted! Best wishes and prayers. **Emeritus Canon Professor Anthony C. Thiselton (Nottingham)***

*Thank you. One of the best - if not the best publicly broadcast services. You made the message plain but attractive. You used language that was clear and inclusive. The service was almost entirely free from aspects of church culture that get in the way of others (including organs). It was exemplary. The Lord bless you. **Barry Osborne (Rural Missions)***

*I listened to the service on Sunday morning and was thrilled! It was great and so encouraging, in marked contrast to so many of the services that are broadcast. I was blessed as I'm sure many many were. So thank you Frank and your colleague and the girl who did the reading so well. The Lord was there! **Dr Mary Philip, (Musselburgh, Scotland)***

*Well Frank ... what do I say? That was brilliant this morning. Thank you and your congregation so so so much. It was God honouring, Christ glorifying, life impacting and so clear. It was like a worship tapestry with a real spiritual bite. Thank you! How we need more Sunday morning broadcast services like yours this morning. Be massively encouraged! **Fanta. (Bishop Ken Clarke Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh)***

*I must say how meaningful, helpful and charming I found this morning's service on BBC radio4. I was especially impressed by the excellent reading that Olivia did. As an 82 year old it was great not to miss a word of all the speakers! Thank you everyone involved. **Sister Monica Barudi***

*Greeting in His Precious Name. I have just heard the morning service coming from your Fellowship in Christ. Thank you for the faithful presentation of His Word, which was done with clarity, attractiveness and honesty. May the Lord bless all who took part and I pray that His Word will not return to Him void, but that some will come to know Christ as personal Saviour and many blessed through the hearing of His Word. Warmly in Christ, **Evangeline Creighton***

*The Service was just beautiful – and so clear and honouring to God, and pointing always to Jesus, our Rescuer. Olivia read the Scriptures so beautifully and clearly – we heard every word. Taking the sermon in three parts, was an excellent idea – it gave people time to think over each section, before moving them to their own interaction. God bless you all. Loving prayers. **Dr Helen Roseveare and Dr Pat Morton***

*I am nearly 90 - the radio services mean a lot to me, and today I was initially disappointed when I heard the piano. How wrong I was and I just want to say a big thank you for your fascinating service. The singing was superb and the young girl reading about Zachaeus read it in a way I've never heard before. **Jean (Hampshire)***

*The whole service was so uplifting and positive. I felt truly refreshed in body, mind and spirit. Thank you for your delivery and encouragement. I am 85. Last Sunday was made special by your efforts. I do thank you all and shall long remember it. **Pamela Prior (Spixworth, Norwich)***

*I am an Anglican who is registered blind. Last Sunday's service was the best that has been on radio over the past 20 years. **D Daintree (Lincolnshire)***

*Many thanks for most uplifting worship; sound teaching, and preaching, Alleluia! I am a Roman Catholic Priest just celebrating over 40 years of ministry in Edinburgh. It was so good to hear the background to the Zachaeus Story - it appeals to me, as I too am a small man. Sadly, I had never ever checked on the Hebrew background concerning Zachaeus' obligations and that's terrible after 40 years - but thanks for getting me "on line" to learn - and to join with you in praising the Lord. I also thank you for clear speaking from all who led the Service and Proclaimed God's Word so effectively. **Rev John Robinson (Edinburgh)***

*I just wanted to tell you how supremely encouraged I was by listening to the BBC service you broadcast this morning. It was the most amazingly well constructed service; we loved the introduction with the four directions from the church all picked up within the service, the singing, the wonderful reading of Zacchaeus story, your prayers, which picked up on Zacchaeus so skillfully, and of course, the Zacchaeus sermon - who could not have 'heard' what you were saying? Would that more BBC services reflected the Spirit life in the church. **Richard Meryon***

*Congratulations Olivia for your reading of the Bible passage this morning on Radio 4. What a treat to hear your clear and excellent expression on the Word of God in your lovely Irish lilt. **Maureen Whitehead (W Yorkshire)***

*Just a note to say how grateful to God I was this morning for the service. It was a delight to hear the gospel so clearly proclaimed with the involvement of those of all ages. I trust that you yourselves were encouraged. It was a memorable service and glorifying to God. **Derek Prime (Edinburgh)***

STOREHOUSE

Fighting food poverty from the heart of the city.

Having plenty of food in the cupboards is something we take for granted. But what would happen if your salary stopped?

For many people in Belfast there is no answer. Thousands live close to, or at the edge of, their finances. For many, simply getting by is a struggle. So when personal crisis hits – like redundancy, illness, homelessness, separation – finding the next meal can be virtually impossible.

Storehouse exists, as a charity, to be a real answer for those families and individuals throughout the Greater Belfast area and beyond who have no safety net. Storehouse partners with many different charities and agencies who are working day in day out with families and individuals in difficult situations. Through these partnerships they get connected to those most genuinely in need.

Often through no fault of their own families and individuals find themselves caught in cycles of poverty that seem impossible to break. Storehouse aims to break those cycles by providing emergency food packages for a set period of time.

We, as a church family, decided some time ago that we should be active in helping those in need, and so we were delighted to be able to partner with Storehouse and be involved in this incredible ministry.

Several homegroups have already visited the warehouse in Dunmurry and helped to pack emergency food bags ready for distribution. The most astonishing thing was seeing how quickly the shelves in the warehouse soon became empty. We were reminded of the importance, not to mention necessity, of regular weekly food donations.

Be assured, our full to overflowing shopping trolley, really does make a difference and Storehouse are very thankful for our involvement. Food items that are always welcome (and always running low) are:

**Long Life Milk | Tinned Meat | Tinned Fruit
Tinned Potatoes | Baked Beans | Pasta
Pasta Sauce | Tea Bags**

If you would like more info, please speak to Jill or Mandy or check out the Storehouse website www.storehousebelfast.com.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

The shape of things to come.

As outlined by Malcolm in the May issue of this magazine, Bloomfield has now reached a point where the current suite of halls no longer suffice in meeting the growing, increasingly diverse range of needs within our church family and the wider community.

As also stated, two separate committees – one concerned with the halls’ development, the other fund-raising - have now been established to take forward the project.

Recently, the fund-raising committee held its second meeting to consider a number of ideas for generating income over the short, medium and long-term. In addition, the team discussed various mechanisms for communicating regular, timely and easily accessible updates on recent and planned fund-raising events – and, of course, the income generated!

PLANS AND IDEAS

Currently, it is hoped to launch a significant programme of activities with an announcement in church in coming weeks, including information on a Gift Day scheduled for 23rd September.

This will be followed by our first major event - a formal dinner and dance on Saturday evening, 20th October 2012. You may want to put that date in your diaries now!

Ongoing initiatives will include the collection and sale of old clothes, curtains, bedding etc. under the title of ‘Cash for Clobber’ and a local depot for ‘ebay’ and ‘Gumtree’ for you to deposit your unwanted but still useful stuff to be sold for the project. Speak to Jill Simpson about Cash for Clobber and Karl Malcolm, Kenny Chambers or Barbara Fullerton about the ‘e-markets’.

However, the team are keen to ensure that our fund-raising ‘baton’ – in the spirit of this summer’s Olympics – is something that can be picked up and taken forward by all members of our family and surrounding community. So, events may range from a very straightforward, genteel and sophisticated afternoon tea to a slightly more energetic sponsored abseil - catering for all ages and interests and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to contribute and participate at this significant time in Bloomfield’s practical and spiritual development.

CASTING THE VISION

Over the coming weeks and months we are also very keen to share the wider vision behind the need to redevelop the halls, both from necessity, but also as an evangelical church with the new facilities helping us to build and develop our core values. This to ensure there is clarity and understanding within our own growing congregation, and throughout the wider community, as to why we have taken on an admittedly considerable but truly worthwhile challenge.

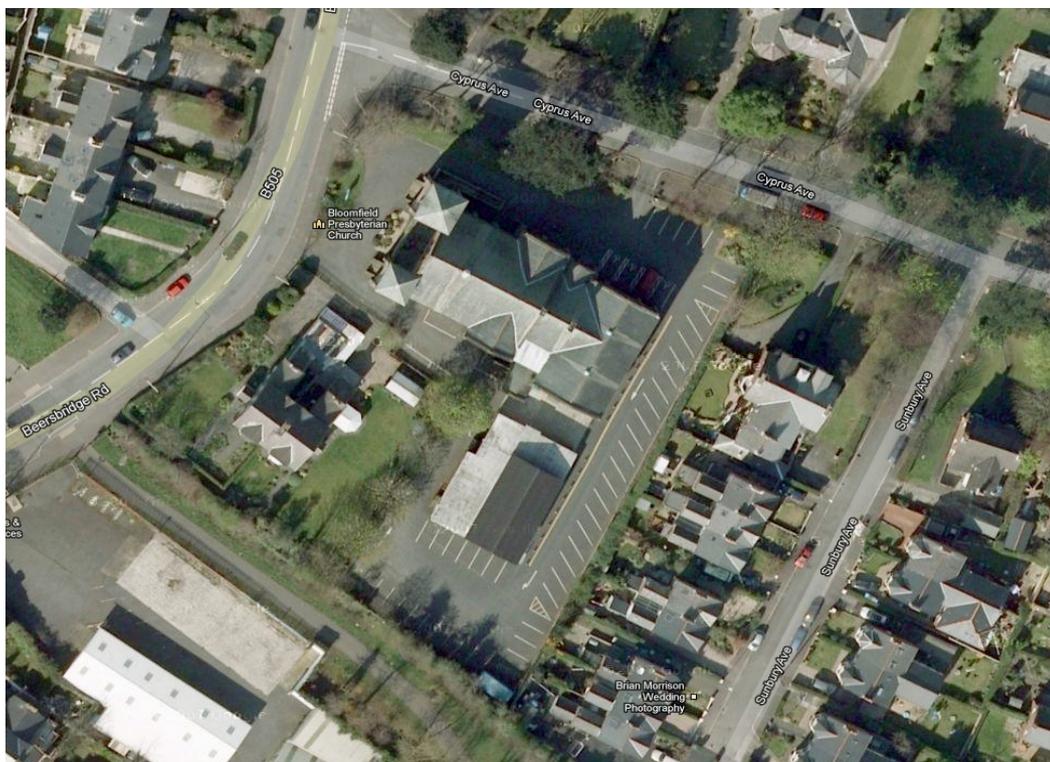
JOINT VENTURE

Finally, we are blessed to live in a developed country and to be able to worship in the beautiful and inspirational surroundings of Bloomfield when so many others throughout the world are not. We are further blessed to have been given this opportunity to invest in our buildings for future generations as previous generations have invested in us. With this in mind, it is proposed that a percentage of funding raised as part of the Bloomfield Halls Development will be donated to a church building initiative in the developing world.

We hope the above update is of use and please don't hesitate to approach any of the committee members with any fund-raising ideas you may have or thoughts on any aspect of the project. We would love to hear from you.

God bless

The Fund-
Raising Team



What do we fill our minds with? Do we need to counteract the influence of TV and newspapers and the internet? Lets look at some books in the church library

Start Here

- Written for teens by teen twins
- Its about how young people should not sell themselves short
- So get stuck in and do what's on your heart
- Well I'm not a teenager and I found it very challenging

BOOK SPOT

Lineage of Grace

- This book by Francine Rivers is about the five women who appear in Jesus' lineage
- Its well worn because it's a good book
- Do judge this book by its cover – its used and so worth reading and re-reading

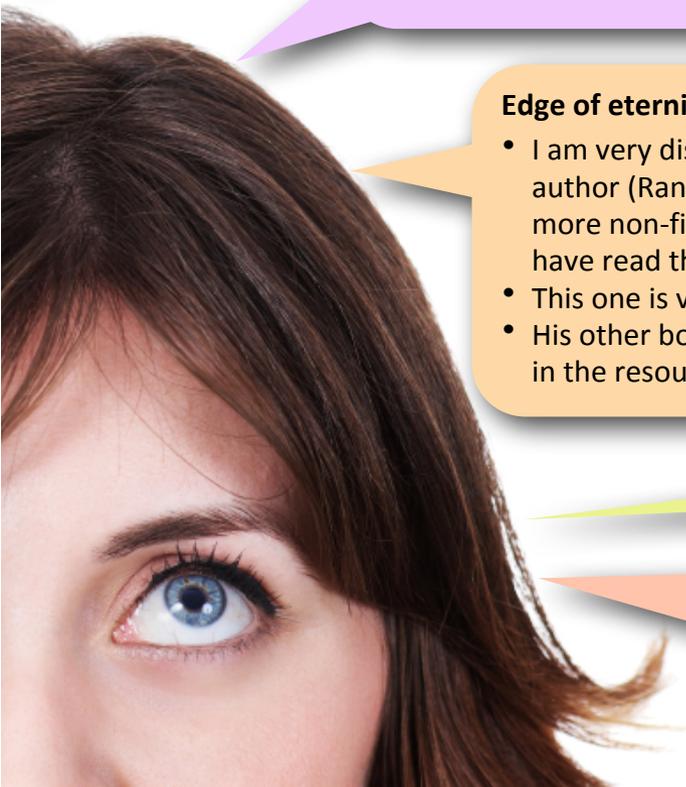
The Big Fisherman

- Read it as a teenager and then again last year - I loved it both times
- This fiction by Lloyd C Douglas is based on the life of Peter
- don't judge a book by its cover
- many books in the library look old and dated – but there is a wealth of treasure to gain from them - give them a go 😊

Battle Christians Face

- This author – Robert Vaughan - is clear and practical and easy to read
- In this book he covers a wide range of key topics and in surprising depth
- I really recommend this author and this wee book is very useful





If you've got a church library book at home please, read it (keep it as long as you need to), or pass it on, or return it. If you've read a good book why not let me know about it.

*Sandra Martin,
BPC librarian*

Stones of Fire

- Its good to read missionary biography – its very good to read missionary biography!
- Isobel Khun's books are readable and challenging
- If you haven't read missionary biographies you should and that's an order!

Edge of eternity

- I am very disappointed that this book's author (Randy Alcorn) has started writing more non-fiction - as I love his fiction and have read them all
- This one is very good
- His other books are in the library – mainly in the resource room

Kindles

- If you've got a kindle let me recommend that you read some classics
- that are copyright free and thus free or very cheap to download
- I particularly recommend all of DL Moody's books
- Even though they are about 150 years old, they are very readable and surprisingly topical
- But don't read them if you don't want to be challenged
- They are hard-hitting sermons and DL Moody does not mince his words.

Kids books

- Speaking of the book case at the back of the resource room
- It contains loads of kids books
- Just take them and don't worry about returning them

TAKE CARE

Our child protection officer, Pauline Simons, reviews some of the forthcoming changes to the vetting procedure for those working with children and young people in BPC.

As I write this I am very thankful for a year's work with our young people in Bloomfield. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who plays such an important role in being alongside our children, whether it is with young babies or adolescents.

The time and effort made by each of our leaders and helpers is very much appreciated and without them our young people would miss out in so many things; fun, friendship and teaching in various skills, subjects and activities. I trust that over the summer period you will be able to have a time of rest and relaxation in preparation for the Autumn session.

As new leaders are often required at various stages throughout the year, I think it is appropriate to outline some changes with our church policy, which will be implemented in September 2012. These changes have been made as we reviewed our child protection church policy and also in keeping with the guidelines from the Taking Care office and Board of Social Witness, PCI.

Some of these main changes are in how a new leader is accepted for their role. On completing the necessary Access NI form and showing the relevant documentation to me, references will need to be presented before the appointment can be approved by either the minister, clerk of session, youth co-ordinator or elder involved with the particular organisation. This means that a person will only be accepted as leader when the whole vetting procedure has taken place and the person has received their Access NI certificate and I have received confirmation of post from PCI. It will therefore be important to complete forms as quickly as possible as it may take six weeks for the process to be completed (getting references can cause quite a delay).

All new leaders and those who have not yet attended training must attend the annual Presbytery training organised by Taking Care. After this initial training our Kirk Session have recommended that we have in-house training every five years unless deemed necessary to have this earlier either by Kirk Session or

those involved with overseeing child Protection within Bloomfield. I am aware that many of our leaders have already through their own sphere of work had Child Protection training but PCI stipulate that their specific training needs to be carried out to complete the leadership application. As this is mandatory I trust that one evening training every 5 years will be acceptable in order to be able to use the gifts that God has given to serve in this way within our congregation.

For organisations working with children, not directly linked to Bloomfield church, a Common Protocol is used and session are informed of the leaders Access approval, insurance status and any other required details and the appropriate forms are signed on an annual basis and kept on record.

The church policy will be readily available for all youth organisations and it is to be read and formally signed by all youth leaders. The policy, as well as the Taking Care manual, are accessible in the Resource Room.

The next annual training on child protection will be held in Tullycarnet Presbyterian church on Tuesday 2nd October 2012.

If there are any other questions or concerns regarding Child Protection please don't hesitate to contact me. (Pauline Simons telephone: 028 9079 0564)

Prayer ministry

In addition to the Prayer Ministry at the close of our Sunday morning and evening services we have provided a little Praise and Prayer book for the use of anyone who would like prayer but feel unable to come to the prayer area after the services.

The prayer ministry folk will use this book regularly on a Sunday evening to pray and give thanks for any situation.

We have been very encouraged with the recent uptake in the opportunity to pray and support those who have come along.

Philippians chapter 4 verse 6

Do not worry or be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the Peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The prayer request book will be kept at the Information desk in the front foyer.

JUST TURN UP

Having been challenged about working in Lesotho while attending a church in Florida, Sandra McVeigh decided to join a team ministering to the people near Maseru.

I first heard of the ministry *Anchor your Life* four years ago at the church I attended while on holiday in Florida. Marji ‘Mike’ Kruger – the founder of the ministry - was teaching a bible study and afterwards, she showed us slides from her recent trip to Lesotho and explained about her vision for her ministry there. Her philosophy is to go narrow and deep, and recognises that we cannot solve all their problems but can give them hope. So her ministry has come alongside a village and school in the outskirts of Maseru, the capital. Her aim is to teach the children there the word of God and show them His love through meeting their basic human needs.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is a small landlocked country in south-eastern Africa, completely surrounded by its only neighbour, the Republic of South Africa. It is only 11,500 square miles in size, about twice the size of Northern Ireland, and has a population of around two million, most of whom live in the rural areas. Over half of the people live below the poverty line, unemployment is 60 % and it is one of the highest areas in the world to

be severely affected by aids. Life expectancy is very low, and there are many many orphans who are taken care of by their older siblings, grandparents or neighbours.

With God’s help, I headed off to Lesotho in September. There were six of us on the trip - Mike, four other Americans and me. We met in Johannesburg, and got to know each other on the five hour drive to Maseru. For most of them, this was not only their first trip to Africa, but also their first trip outside the United States. None of us knew exactly what we would be doing when we got there and prayed that God would guide us – Mike would just say ‘all you need to do is turn up’.

Our first day took us to the primary school – Iteking which means ‘Help Yourself’ – where there are 733 children of which 360 are orphans. It didn’t look anything like the schools we are used to seeing – it consisted mainly of individual breeze-block buildings, with dirt floors, wooden doors that were rotten at the bottom and didn’t close properly, and windows that were either

broken or had no glass at all. The playground was just uneven ground full of boulders and rocks, hard to walk on and a mud bath when wet. There were benches in the classrooms where children sit 6-8 at very old desks. Numbers per class range from 80-100 and supplies are very limited. To do their tables, the children used pebbles from the playground as counters.

When they realised we were there, the children came pouring out of the classrooms cheering and running towards us. We were besieged by smiling black faces and waving arms. They were mainly under-nourished and

under developed, but they were so excited to see us and I understood then just what Mike meant when she said – just turn up! They wanted to touch us, hold our hands and get cuddled. So many smiles, and so many needing to be loved, my heart was bursting! It was over-whelming!

All their heads are shaved for hygiene purposes and it is hard at first to tell the girls from the boys and they were all in uniform which is mandatory if they want to attend school. Many uniforms had been handed down more than once and were tattered and torn, but with most parents unemployed, they



could not be replaced. School is free until the age of 13, high school must be paid for and scholarships to university are very limited.

The teachers are great – very dedicated and often unpaid, yet they look after the children’s well-being as well as teach them. Each child gets lunch from the kitchen with food often supplied by the teachers themselves, as they know that may be the only meal the kids get all day. They were delighted to have us join their classes and watch as the children did their lessons – all in English as that is the language in which they must take their exams. I was invited to talk with the older children who were all anxious to tell me about their favourite football teams. We found that they understood me a little better than they did the Americans – not because of my accent but because I spoke ‘English’ and not ‘American’.

After class, the school choir put on a show for us, singing hymns and the children did sketches imitating their mothers and fathers in their daily activities. They are extremely proud of their choir who have come first and second in National competitions and were competing again that week-end. Their favourite hymn I didn’t recognise but found it very appropriate – ‘The Lord on high will forgive me and keep me safe – who am I to doubt Him? Halleluiah.’

Our first site of the village of Upper Thamae was very depressing, no roads, nothing paved, no amenities – electricity, sewage, or heat, small homes built in a cluster all with their own outhouse, using paraffin for cooking and heating. A lady in the village had decided that the local children’s spiritual lives needed nurturing, so she invited them to her home each weekend for play and Sunday school. Her name is Mae Rose and Anchor Your Life now sponsors her and her daughter so that the children can be fed, clothed and shown God’s love. Initially there were 20 children, now there is almost 90 – good news spreads quickly. Everything is based on need and prioritised, and as she knows all in the village she can identify the most vulnerable children and their needs.

The children came after school and again were so excited to see us. We had brought frisbees, bubbles, balloons, skipping ropes and balls and soon they were all playing with us. It gets dark early in Africa and so we aim to leave the children around 5 o’clock and go back to our hotel. There was a sharp contrast as we drove through the town and saw the bright lights, the stores in the shopping centre, the nice restaurants and then our hotel. We were emotionally torn as it was hard to handle going back to the comfort of our hotel and a nice dinner, thinking of what we had left behind in the village.

Sunday worship is very important to a lot of the people there, they have a passion for God and meet wherever they can – waste ground, tents, or rented rooms in schools. There are many denominations, and a large R.C. cathedral, but we went to church with our driver and were warmly welcomed. The service was held in a rented room at a school, and although it was in their native language – Sesotho – they translated for us and the choir sang in English so that we could join them.

After church we went to the supermarket and picked up 100 pieces of fried chicken and a dozen loaves of bread – it was Sunday school time and there was to be a picnic afterwards! The children gathered around the garden area of Mae Rose’s house and we distributed picture bibles in Sesotho for the younger ones and English bibles for the rest. We all sang choruses – doing the actions just like in Kid’s Zone - then said memory verses and did Bible study. To see all the children engrossed in the Lord’s word, so well behaved, bowing their heads and folding their arms for prayer, was heart-warming.

Lunch was next – lines of children with paper plates on which was a piece of chicken and a slice of bread. Playtime was something to see as they sang and danced – I taught them the Hokey Cokey and everyone joined in. We



played children's games that I remembered from my childhood and I marvelled at how they delighted in such simple pleasures.

There were letters from children in school and church in Florida and these were received with such delight and excitement. Each child was given a pen and paper to reply. The little ones did drawings while the older boys and girls wrote about their school or their daily lives. We took lots of photographs of each child that would be developed and given to them to include with their letter. How they love to see themselves in a photograph.

Afterwards we had lots of clothing to give out – socks and underwear for everyone, and school uniforms, sweaters, trousers, shirts, tunics, shoes and play clothes to those whose needs were greatest. Such smiles, tears, and grateful hugs! They smelled their shoes, held their trousers against them and broke their hearts when you tried to take something from them to change the size. I watched the other children who were not getting anything this time, and wondered at the delight on their faces for their friends, no jealousy or envy, knowing that next visit it might be their turn.

It was a tired group that returned to the hotel that night, our emotions in turmoil, our hearts at one moment bursting with joy and the next

moment squashed and with a hollow feeling in our stomachs as we thought of the children and their surroundings. The next morning after devotions, Mike asked us about our thoughts and feelings after the first few days. We were all emotionally overwhelmed, it was difficult to put our thoughts and feelings into words. Developing relationships and the difficulty of maintaining them long distance; the abuse that so many of them suffer; teenage prostitution as the only means of earning a living; the fear of HIV; the lack of decent male guidance; all so depressing and yet the delight in the children's faces when they saw us, their energy and joy despite the harshness of their surroundings made us want to continue to find ways to help, in whatever way we could.

The rest of the days were a flurry of activity. Lots of shopping, 10kg bags of rice, maize, sugar and salt for distribution in the village, seeds for planting, and more school uniforms and shoes. We met other people who had ministries there and who will also now be supported by Anchor Your Life. One of them, Dr Moeti, has a PhD in agriculture, and the aim of his ministry is to teach self-sufficiency. He works with the young people to encourage them to think about their future, giving them guidance and practical help where necessary. We went to a home in the village where three young orphan girls live



alone, the eldest only 17, supported by their neighbours. With Dr Moeti's help, we prepared a garden for them and showed them how to plant seeds for carrots, peppers, cabbage, spinach etc, to water the ground and cover it with straw. Hopefully they will have a nice market garden in spring which will not only help to feed them, but any surplus can be sold to raise money.

We met another couple from Sri Lanka who worked with Youth for Christ. They have open forums where they encourage young people to talk about anything from HIV to pregnancy. Everything must encompass their spiritual needs and the idea that God can make the impossible possible. They also run a pregnancy crisis centre, as 52% of pregnancies are teenagers. We visited the Lesotho Save the Children centre where the 24-hour child help line gets an average of 10,000 calls per year. They have various projects; supporting children in their own homes, training them to be self-sufficient, and vocational training for young adults, always with the aim to prevent child exploitation.

Soon it was back to the school to distribute Bibles, uniforms and shoes. All the children came to the largest room, and the teachers had a list of the most needy. They lined up as their names were called. We had to get them

to try on the shoes to ensure they would fit, and again we had heartbreak and tears if the size wasn't right and we tried to take anything back. There were over 170 uniforms and countless pairs of shoes, yet everything was done in a very orderly fashion, amazing with so many children there.

And suddenly it was our last day with the children in the village. We had decided to do crafts with the young ones while Mandy (who works for the Child Protection agency in Sarasota, Florida) talked to the older ones about child abuse. It was amazing how they trusted her and were so open about their problems. The little ones made felt crosses with stickers on them and we tied them around their necks. There was still more presents for them, toothbrushes and toothpaste, lollipops, but the highlight for them were the soft toys we had brought. Again, such simple things.

Saying good-bye was so difficult, lots of tears. It was a quiet bunch who headed for the airport – full of thoughts and memories, hope and despair. Leaving the children, hoping we would get to see them again, wondering what the future held for them.

All in all a tremendous trip, one I will never forget, and which I hope, God willing, I will be able to do again.

Jubilee celebrations



NEWS ROUNDUP



Sisters, Susan Lavery (left) with Catherine and Heather Loebnau (right) with Felix, with their husbands Gavin and Jörg

BAPTISMS

- 17 June Felix Edward, son of Jörg and Heather Loebnau
- 17 June Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Gavin and Susan Lavery
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FLOWERS

Each Sunday flowers are placed in the sanctuary by members of the congregation. They are then delivered to those who are ill or house-bound. If you would like to place flowers please contact Maureen Buchanan (Tel. 90760482).

Mrs E Campbell

CRÉCHE

3 June 12	1 July 12	29 July 12	26 August 12
Deborah Sloan Sarah Gilpin Karen Shilliday Angela Dunn Heather Loebnau	Jenny Gregg Judith Cochrane Naomi Gibson Julie Galbraith Helen Malcolm	Kerry Cousley Barbara Frew Stephney McClure Jill Pearson Rosemary Kerr	Melanie Nelson Gillian Mason Jennifer Morrow Carol Sloan Jennifer Simons
10 June 12	8 July 12	5 August 12	2 Sept 12
Kerry Cousley Gillian Mason Jennifer Morrow Carol Sloan Jennifer Simons	Melanie Nelson Ilona Hagen Karen Bowers Helen Thompson Rosemary Orr	Nuala Smyth Jacqueline McDevitt Karl Malcolm Lorraine White Mandy Lee	Rhonda Coles Ruth Kennedy Ruth Dickey Jennifer McNarry Alison Adair
17 June 12	15 July 12	12 August 12	9 Sept 12
Nuala Smyth Ruth Kennedy Ruth Dickey Jennifer McNarry Alison Adair	Rhonda Coles Jacqueline Gregg Amanda Morrow Gloria Crooks Margaret McLeese	Allison Morrison Lorna McFarland Nicola Major Alison Bester Kathy Hill	Deborah Sloan Angela Shilliday Joanne Sloan Susan Taylor Selina Neil
24 June 12	22 July 12	19 August 12	
Allison Morrison Angela Shilliday Joanne Sloan Susan Taylor Selina Neil	Deborah Sloan Kathryn Boyd Gillian Rainey Heather McKibbin Heather Gordon	Jenny Gregg Sarah Gilpin Karen Shilliday Angela Dunn Heather Loebnau	

If these dates are unsuitable, please arrange a swap or let your team leader know

Deborah Sloan (9065 9014), Nuala Smyth (9065 1844), Kerry Cousley (9070 5932), Melanie Nelson (9042 6562), Andrea Harbinson (9042 3953), Catherine Chambers (9046 1260), Jenny Gregg (9058 3544), Allison Morrison (9127 4702)

Crèche set-up is at 10.45am, ready for 10.55am when the children arrive. A new Kidzone group (Blue Group) has started for children of pre-school age (3 - 4 year olds). This group will leave church with the rest of Kidzone and meet in the side room in the outside halls. As the children settle in there may be some movement between crèche and the blue group.

	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012	October 2012	
Reception	Paul Gregg Bill Stevenson Robin McCullough Stephen McDonald Gavin Boyd	Vernon Taylor Ken Groves Jim Reynolds Geoff Grdon Cecil Carson	Neil McDougall Jim Johnston Brian Crooks Brian Corrie Gordon Bowers David Conkey Alan Galbraith Alan McMullan	Billy Manson John Elwood Kirk Shilliday David Thompson Gavin Boyd Lorna Young Philip Boyd Colin Adair	Reception
Galleries	Tom Patterson Gavin Dunn	Glenn Shilliday Robert Baillie			Galleries
Pulpit	Bert Young	John Elwood	Alan McMullan	Colin Adair	Pulpit
Count	Bill Stevenson	Jim Reynolds	Brian Crooks	Kirk Shilliday	Count
Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing	01/07/2012 Uel Hagen Billie Buick XX Stephen McDonald Joyce Manson Stephen McDonald	05/08/2012 Billy Manson Michael Cooper XX John Elwood Jenny McNarry John Elwood	02/09/2012 Alan Galbraith Freddie Foster XX Brian Crooks Sandra Martin Brian Crooks	06/10/2012 Neil McDougall Gavin Dunn Reg Morrow Cecil Carson Joyce Manson John Elwood	Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing
Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing	08/07/2012 Alan Galbraith Andrew Bowden XX Bill Stevenson Geraldine Ruddock Bill Stevenson	12/08/2012 Neil McDougall Billie Buick XX Raymond Frew Jenny McNarry Raymond Frew	09/09/2012 David Baillie Gavin Boyd XX Malcolm McClure Sandra Martin Malcolm McClure	13/10/2012 Uel Hagen Freddie Foster Ken Groves Stephen McDonald Geraldine Ruddock Stephen McDonald	Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing
Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing	15/07/2012 David Baillie Gavin Dunn XX Gordon Bowers Geraldine Ruddock Gordon Bowers	19/08/2012 David Pearson Andrew Bowden XX David Pearson Karen Reid David Pearson	16/09/2012 Tom Reid Michael Cooper XX David Thompson Deirdre Bowden David Thompson	20/10/2012 Alan Galbraith Andrew Bowden Tom Reid Bill Stevenson Geraldine Ruddock Bill Stevenson	Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing
Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing	22/07/2012 Tom Reid Freddie Foster XX Tom Reid Elizabeth Lewis Tom Reid	26/08/2012 Uel Hagen Gavin Dunn XX Geoff Gordon Karen Reid Geoff Gordon	23/09/2012 Ken Groves Billie Buick XX David Pearson Deirdre Bowden David Pearson	27/10/2012 David Baillie Michael Cooper Glenn Shilliday Gordon Bowers Elizabeth Lewis Gordon Bowers	Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing
Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing	29/07/2012 Ken Groves Gavin Boyd XX Ken Groves Elizabeth Lewis Ken Groves		30/09/2012 Billy Manson Andrew Bowden XX Neil McDougall Joyce Manson Neil McDougall		Bus & Security a.m. Security a.m. Security p.m. Security p.m. Supervisor Closing

Please phone Norah Scott (9065 0618) if reception or security dates are unsuitable
Phone David Pearson (9096 2519) if your opening and closing date is unsuitable