

DECEMBER 2017 • ISSUE 3

WBC ACCORD

• A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS •

Grace

THE INCARNATION

Pastor Errol focuses on the mystery of 'God with us'

WHAT IS THE TRUTH

Open-Air Mission give us an inspiring call to evangelism

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Our Pastoral Care Team tell us about their work and how God led them to use their gifts to serve Him

TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. LUKE 2:11 NIV

PERSPECTIVE

A warm welcome to all our readers as we approach a time of year that is very special to Christians, as we remember the birth of Jesus and celebrate God's wonderful plan of salvation.

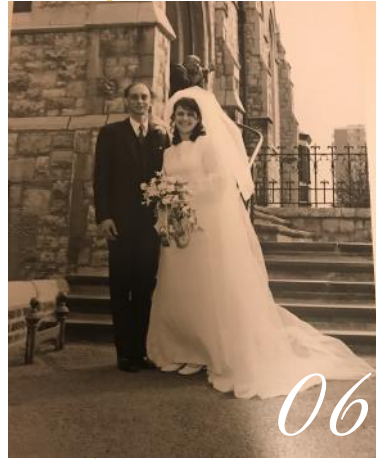
In this, our third issue of HBC Accord, we take a close look at Christ's incarnation as Pastor Errol focuses on the mystery of 'God with us', and we also look ahead to Christmas events to be held in church over the coming weeks and give you our own Christmas treat in the form of a Christmas quiz. We are also really pleased to be able to include updates on the work of our sister churches in Romania and the Chinese church that meets in our own building in Hendon. These emphasize the diverse network of international connections with which HBC is blessed, something we hope to be able to build on in future issues. The work of our own pastoral care team provides another highlight of the church's work and ministry, with a second article on the music and worship group focusing on our talented keyboard player, Seyie. Following on from their involvement in a morning service during October, Open-Air Mission give us an inspiring call to evangelism. Barrie Martin remembers his early days at HBC, Lindsay Jacobs offers guidance on internet safety and Buki Fagbenle tells us about her work as a medical herbalist. We are also pleased to be able to include an article on the questions concerning creation, another hot topic that has been the cause of much discussion between Christians.

We hope very much that you will find something here to inform, stimulate and inspire – please do get in touch with your comments, questions and suggestions. And from all of us on the magazine team, a very happy and blessed Christmas to all our readers!

Jacqui

Jacqui Pearce

LEAD EDITOR



- 02 Perspective
- 03 Pastor's Page
- 06 Memories of Hendon Baptist Church
- 09 The work of the Pastoral Care Team
- 12 Praising God with music
- 14 Christmas quiz
- 15 HBC in the past three months
- 16 Herbalism and why I became a medical herbalist
- 18 The Creation: 'a few thoughts on a hot issue'
- 20 What is Truth?
- 21 Forthcoming Christmas events
- 22 The power of prayer
- 26 Santa Claus – should he be part of a Christian Christmas?
- 28 Lindsay's Top Ten Tips for staying safe online

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Incar... what?!

Are we talking about something in a car!? What are you saying about a nation!?

Theologians, pastors and Bible teachers often use BIG words that mean very little and sometimes nothing to the rest of us. This article has one of those words. It is that time of the year which has divided people for many years. Yes, it is December, when we celebrate Christmas. Believers and followers of Jesus Christ celebrate Christmas, as well as those who have no affiliation, regard or belief in Jesus.

The term for consideration here brings equal amounts of disagreement, disregard and misunderstanding. It is the term 'Incarnation'.

I thought it important and relevant to write about it because - the Incarnation is Christmas, Christmas is the Incarnation.

The Meaning

The word 'incarnation' does not appear in the Bible, but its elements or components ('in' and 'flesh') do. Incarnation means 'the act of being made flesh'. It comes from the Latin version of John 1:14 - Jesus Christ, as the second person of the Trinity, took on Himself humanity. He became flesh, which means he did not possess humanity until the birth. John 1:14 states that: 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' Furthermore, we read in 2 John 4:2: 'This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.'





THE INCARNATION IS CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS IS THE INCARNATION

The Means

The Virgin Birth was the means of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son who would be the Messiah. Mary could not understand because she was a virgin and not married. The angel responded with an affirmation that, in essence, you don't need a husband because God will do this through the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:31-35).

We can also note in the genealogy found in Matthew 1 that Joseph was the husband of Mary: 'And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ' (v. 16). The significance of this verse points to the fact that Jesus was not Joseph's literal offspring. It does, however, establish His claim to the throne of David as Joseph's legal heir. It was by Mary only that Jesus was born. The pronoun 'of whom' in verse 16, is feminine singular, which indicates clearly that Jesus was born of Mary only, and not of Mary and Joseph.

The Purpose

Charles Ryrie highlights certain aspects which are important in understanding the purpose of the incarnation:

1. To reveal God to us

Though God reveals Himself in many ways, it is only through the incarnation that we can see the essence of God, though veiled (John 1:18; 14:7-11)

2. To provide an example for our lives

The earthly life of our Lord is the greatest pattern for our living today, and without the incarnation we would not have that example (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6)

3. To provide an effective sacrifice for sin

There would be no Saviour without the incarnation. Sin requires death for its payment and Jesus paid it all. We must have a God-man Saviour, and we do have one, the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1-10)

4. To destroy the works of the Devil

Satan must be defeated in the arena he dominates, this world. Christ was therefore sent into the world to destroy Satan's work (1 John 3:8)

5. To be able to be a sympathetic High Priest

Jesus Christ as our High Priest can feel all our weaknesses because He was tested as we are (Hebrews 4:14-16)

6. To be able to be a qualified judge

Most people think of God the Father as the Judge before whom all will appear - the truth is that Jesus will be that Judge (John 5:22, 27).

The apostle Paul beautifully summarizes the theology of the incarnation when he says:

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV)

Conclusion

I would like to conclude this article with a paragraph from Wayne Grudem on the Incarnation. He writes:

The doctrine of the incarnation as understood by the church throughout history has indeed been coherent and intelligible, though no one maintains that it provides us with an exhaustive explanation of how Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Our proper response is not to reject the clear and central teaching of Scripture about the incarnation, but simply to recognize that it will remain a paradox, that this is all that God has chosen to reveal to us about it, and that it is true. If we are to submit ourselves to God and to his words in Scripture, then we must believe it.

References:

Grudem, W. (1994), *Systematic Theology: an Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, Nottingham: Inter-Varsity.
Ryrie, C.C. (1999), *Basic Theology*, Chicago: Moody Press.



**SIN
REQUIRES
DEATH FOR
ITS
PAYMENT
AND JESUS
PAID IT ALL.**

MEMORIES OF HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

By Barrie Martin, with Perin Martin

I am uncertain when I first came to Hendon Baptist Church, but it would have been sometime in the early 1960s. By this time I was in my late twenties and had decided I needed to seek another church. I think HBC was the second church that I visited, looking for a new spiritual home. I strongly remember being greeted warmly by an elderly white-haired gentleman, and can therefore witness to the importance of the Welcoming Team.

At that time the minister was the Revd A. H. Duff Stevenson, generally referred to as 'Duffy'. He was an Ulsterman, strong in the evangelical beliefs of the people from whom he came in Northern Ireland.

During my first visit I saw that there was a strong choir, sitting, naturally, in the choir stalls. If you don't know what I'm referring to, there are pews set at right angles to the rest at the front, right-hand side of the sanctuary. I should mention that Perin was there in the choir, as were several others who have moved elsewhere and whom we visit from time to time. The choirmaster and organist was John Rhoslyn Evans.

On a normal Sunday the choir would sing an anthem on their own, joining in with the rest of us for congregational hymn-singing (from hymn books). From time to time a cantata or oratorio, such as Olivet to Calvary (by John Henry Maunder), or Stainer's Crucifixion would be sung by the choir. We had a BBC recording of the morning service for Songs of Praise – Duffy asked the girls to wear hats!

Most importantly, there were a lot of young people at HBC at that time – I am talking of those in their late teens and twenties, and the boys outnumbered the girls! A major feature in their life was the Young People's Fellowship, which met regularly on Sunday evenings, after the service, and which had an active membership in the 16 to 30 age range. Our notice board still hangs in the kitchen. There was also a Youth Club that met on Saturdays. Many attended the GB and BB Bible class held on Sunday evenings. The highlight of our year was the Easter Conference when we were invited to spend a few days from Maundy Thursday to the Monday Bank Holiday at a

Christian guest house, which was most often by the sea. For many years this was in Littlehampton, on the Sussex coast.

After Revd Duff Stevenson moved to another pastorate in Old George Street Baptist Church, Plymouth, Devon, Revd David Nunn became our pastor and remained so for many years. It was during his time, in 1972, that Perin and I were married. Our church secretary, Claude Ray, was an undertaker who was on duty on Sunday mornings, so I, being on the diaconate at the time, would read the notices. This included the announcement of my own marriage the Sunday before to a smiling congregation!

I apologise for any faults in my memory of past times at HBC. I could go on, but perhaps it's better to leave some things for another time. Perin, meanwhile, would like to add a few more thoughts, recalling monthly church parades which involved marching round the local streets, led by the Boys' Brigade band. She also remembers celebrating HBC's 100th anniversary with a pageant, and Grace Curson's 37 years as captain of Girls' Brigade with a 'This is your life' programme. One notable activity was a Youth Club production called 'A night to remember – or you are never alone in a room with 11,000 other people'. This was full of sketches and singing, such as the 'Sea sick song', 'Annie get your gun' and a collapsing piano sketch.

Finally, we have included an old Easter Conference programme, from 1978, to give you something of the flavour of the event and as a fascinating insight into the active life of the church almost 40 years ago. The programme has been reproduced from a scan, and the accompanying letter and information have been re-typed as they are too indistinct to read otherwise.

“ Our church secretary, Claude Ray, was an undertaker who was on duty on Sunday mornings, so I, being on the diaconate at the time, would read the notices. This included the announcement of my own marriage the Sunday before to a smiling congregation! ”



Barrie and Perin's wedding



1978
PROGRAMME
Theme: "EASTER TODAY:- TOMORROW NEVER COMES"

GOOD FRIDAY	SATURDAY	EASTER DAY	MONDAY
7.30 G. Morning!	7.30 G. Morning!	8.00 G. Morning!	7.30 G. Morning!
7.30 Committee FM	7.30 Committee PM	8.00 Committee PM	7.30 Committee PM
7.55 Open Prayer	7.55 Open Prayer	8.25 Open Prayer	7.55 Open Prayer
8.15 Devotions- Debbie	8.15 Devotions- Trevor	8.45 Devotions- Teresa	8.15 Devotions- Dave H
8.30 Breakfast	8.30 Breakfast	9.00 Breakfast	8.30 Breakfast
9.30 First Session: LOVE GOD	9.30 Third Session: LOVE NOT THE WORLD	10.00 Fourth Session: POWER TO WALK	10.00 It's the Flintstones!
11.00 Coffee	11.00 Coffee	12.00 Lunch	2.30 Time to Pack
Free Time	12.00 Lunch	2.00 Afternoon Service at Necton Baptist Church	3.30 Fifth Session: POWER TO FIGHT
1.00 Lunch	1.00 This Little Piggy	5.00 Any Questions ?	5.00 Evening Meal
2.30 Second Session: LOVE OTHERS	6.30 Every Face Tells a Story!	6.30 Evening Meal	6.00 Farewells
4.00 Free Time	9.30 Nightcap	8.00 Let Us Praise His Name	
6.00 Evening Meal	10.30 QT in rooms	9.30 Nightcap	
7.30 Consequences	10.45 Bed	10.15 QT in rooms	
9.30 Nightcap		10.30 Bed	
10.15 QT in rooms			
10.30 Bed			

NB Can we please have quiet between 9.00am and 9.30am (9.30am - 10.00am Sunday)
 --- so that people wishing to have a quiet time can do so without being disturbed.

Easter
Conference
programme
1978



A collage of photos from Easter Conference 1974

HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

Finchley Lane, N.W.4
March 1978

Dear

Welcome to Easter Conference 1978!

It's great to know that you will be with us this year and we hope that you will enjoy yourself as we join together in Christian fellowship for a time of spiritual blessing.

We have great pleasure in welcoming Steve Gaukroger as our speaker this year. Steve is taking as his theme 'Easter Today - Tomorrow Never Comes'; we pray for understanding minds so that we may learn what God has to teach us through His Word.

You will find the programme for the weekend enclosed, together with a note of some things to bring and a few rules we have to abide by.

Please ensure that everything ends up in only one case.

John B. should have been paid all monies.

You should arrive at church by 6.45pm sharp on Thursday 23rd March.

Finally, we do ask you to pray earnestly for our Conference, that God will richly bless all of us attending and help us to grow in grace and love.

Yours in Christ

On behalf of the Easter Conference Committee

We shall be staying at:

Brecklands,
North Pickenham,
Swaffham,
Norfolk
PE37 8LG
Telephone: Holme Hale (076 04) 562 (in emergency only)

THINGS TO BRING:-

Bible	Raincoat
Notebook & Pen	Strong Walking Shoes
Soap & Towel	Warm Clothes
Camera & Film	Slippers/House Shoes
Torch	Fancy Dress Costume

RULES:

The timetable and meal times will be strictly observed.
Everyone must attend all activities on the programme.
No smoking at Brecklands or within the grounds and whilst travelling.
Radios should be used with restraint, 'Think of other people'.
Any damage caused must be paid for by the person(s) causing it.
No responsibility can be taken by the Church for personal injury.
Lights out and quiet by 'Bed' time sharp to 7.00am.

The work of the Pastoral Care Team

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM
BY JACQUI PEARCE

Looking after the many and varied needs of the fellowship – spiritual, emotional and physical – is a vital role in the life of Hendon Baptist Church. It's rather more than one person could reasonably carry out on their own, so we are really blessed to have a small team who are responsible for pastoral care in the church. We talked with each member of the team in order to find out just how they work together and what they do.

The current members of the Pastoral Care Team are Lanie Acorda, Yemi Ademoroti, Norma Campbell, Barrie Martin and Pastor Errol Jacobs. So how do they work – and what is the Pastoral Care Team all about? Lanie sums it up: 'the aim of the Pastoral Care Team is to stand with people through the ups and downs of life, so they may have "life to the full" through walking with Christ (John 10:10), growing in their personal discipleship and corporate involvement in the church'. She adds that their duties, on behalf of the leadership team, are 'to listen, learn of any needs, encourage, pray, read the Bible with people, as appropriate', and to keep the team informed how people are doing, 'so we can pray for them, help and encourage as necessary'.

There is a small core of individuals with particular needs (such as poor health or infirmity), and, as Barrie explains, the team aim to look after their general wellbeing and pay them regular visits at home, ideally at least once a month. Some people are more open about their needs, while others may be reluctant to share. As Yemi says, 'you're not there for yourself, you're there for God and for that individual's needs', and that requires sensitivity and patience.

The team was first brought together by Tim Sutton when he was

Pastor of HBC. Yemi explains that they also operate as an extension of the Welcome Team, keeping an eye open for newcomers to the church, talking to them to find out where they are in their faith and letting them know that if they have problems of any kind the Pastoral Care Team is there to help. 'Our role is quite broad, not restricted in any way', says Yemi. He adds that 'we notice when people aren't in church, and make an effort to find out why they're not there'. As Lanie comments, 'we do contact people we haven't seen in the congregation for a few Sundays, unless we know why'. The team works closely with Pastor Errol and meet every two months to discuss, give feedback on those they've visited and pray about pastoral concerns in the church. They may call also impromptu meetings, in addition to their regular get-togethers, to discuss particular needs as and when these arise.

Norma also gives an account of how she came to be a part of the team:

A group of us were invited by Tim to join a course called 'Preparing to Serve'. This was about 10 weeks long, and before it was completed we were all given forms, one each for people who knew us, and one to fill out for ourselves. After the course finished, some of us were sent a letter inviting us to join the Pastoral Care Team. We were told to pray about this before we accepted. During this time my daily reading was from Every Day with Jesus; the Bible reading for about one week was found in Romans 12:6–8, 12–13 and Colossians 3:17. I realised I was being led in the right way, and accepted the invitation to join the team. I find that I can make a difference in peoples' lives, especially in practical ways. Prayers help a lot when I visit, whether in hospital or in people's own homes. I always feel that with God's help I have been able to make a difference to the lives of those I have visited.



'Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Share with the Lord's
people who are in
need. Practice
hospitality.'

Romans 12:12-13 NIV

'And whatever you
do, whether in word
or deed, do it all in
the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.'

Colossians 3:17 NIV

Above: Norma Campbell Below: Lianie Acorda



Yemi joined the team in response to a sermon by Tim Sutton on discovering your role in church and giving back to God in order to further his work. He had a friend who used to challenge him to think about how he could serve God, and he was struggling to discover his gifts and how he could use them in serving the Lord. When he heard Pastor Tim's message, he knew God was prompting him to go and speak to Tim afterwards, telling him that he felt called to be involved in pastoral care. Tim offered advice on how to help others and suggested a course on counselling would be valuable, although for various reasons, Yemi hasn't had a chance to take this idea further. He is working full-time and it can be a challenge to make time for meetings, although the other members of the team are very good at accommodating his limited availability.

Lianie speaks of how she enjoys what she is doing – 'visiting people and having fellowship with them can uplift the spirit. Sometimes people I visit are so encouraging that, instead of me encouraging them, they encourage me because of the stories they have to tell'. She adds, 'some people need prayer, somebody to talk to, and sometimes they need comfort – if we can't visit them we make a phone call'.

It's less often that people approach members of the Pastoral Care Team with a problem, as opposed to their recognising a need and initiating an approach to individuals. Perhaps there are those who are not really aware that we have a Pastoral Care Team, or how to get in touch with them? There is an overlap with the leadership team, with Pastor Errol and Lianie involved in both of these. If anyone has a concern they would



Right to left: Pastor Errol Jacobs, Yemi Ademoroti and Barrie Martin

like to talk about they can contact any member of the team – there are details in the weekly newsheet and at the back of the church. The team emphasises that anyone can get in touch with them, and that whatever they share will always be held in the strictest confidence.

What kind of things do people want to talk about? Problems with health are a major area of concern, and for those who can't attend as many of the church's meetings and activities as they would like, this is one important way of keeping in contact. Yet the range of concerns that come within the remit of the team is very broad – from theological difficulties and doubts or struggling to understand passages in the Bible, financial problems or finding accommodation to simply being able to pray with someone. There are also a great variety of practical needs, which people are often unwilling to ask about for fear of being a 'burden'.

As Yemi says, 'it's a strength in itself, being able to acknowledge when you need help'. There are so many ways in which practical assistance can be given, from offering lifts, to help with shopping, pet-sitting, applying for benefits and technical help with the many machines with which we share our lives. Barrie comments that depression in one form or another is something that many struggle with, but it can be hard to understand, and some believers are afraid to share with others for fear of being judged. He adds 'If you feel that a visit would be beneficial, please do approach a member of the team'.

There is room for the team to expand; as Lanie says 'I pray that there are some who can join the team, people who have compassion or a gift for pastoral care'. If you do feel a call to pastoral care, please talk to Pastor Errol.

we have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8 NIV

Praising God with music

AN INTERVIEW WITH SEYIEVINUO TSEIKHANUO
BY JACQUI PEARCE

In our first issue, we carried an interview with Ade – the first of a projected series on worship in Hendon Baptist. We turn now to the worship group’s very accomplished pianist, Seyie, and ask her about her home background, how she came to be involved in the church and what music means to her.

Seyie (or Seyievinuo Tseikhanuo, to give her full name) was born and brought up in Nagaland, in north-east India. It’s a very mountainous area, bordering Myanmar to the east and Assam to the north, and although the population is made up of a diverse group of peoples, English is the principal language spoken. The state retains strong British links and is also predominantly Christian in its beliefs. In fact, the largest church in Asia was recently dedicated in Nagaland, in the town of Zunheboto. Sumi Baptist Church occupies nine storeys and seats 8,500, with 27 rooms including the main hall, and its construction was largely funded by donations.

Seyie came to London in 2015 to study for a BA in music at Middlesex University. Her first visit to Hendon Baptist was at Christmas of the same year, and she was made to feel very welcome by Angela and by the worship team – ‘we clicked’, she says! She soon began to get involved in playing keyboard during morning services, and is now (almost) the sole pianist (Pastor Errol can also play, but usually doesn’t!). Before she left Nagaland, Seyie says she was praying that she would be able to play the piano in church once she arrived in England and she is so happy that her prayers have been answered – as indeed are we.

Playing music for worship is rather different from the repertoire Seyie studies at university. She loves classical music, especially by composers writing between the 17th and 19th centuries, and she’s also very fond of Elvis, something she shares with her dad! She’s fortunate to come from a very musical family – her two sisters and brother play the piano, her parents and younger sister sing and everyone in the family except Seyie plays the guitar as well. Having said that, she did spend a year learning to play the cello, but adds ‘I guess the piano is really for me’. The influence of Western music is strong in Nagaland and



Seyie playing the church's main piano

Seyie really enjoys playing as part of an ensemble in church – perhaps more than playing on her own, although she practices for six hours every day. She improvises freely as she plays and also enjoys composing music, something that is required as part of her course at university, recalling how the melody for a song came to her while she



Seyie's home town of Kohima in Nagaland

‘I’m just a small-town girl!’ she says, but ‘I’ve always been told by my family, “dream big and do what you love.”’

was playing in church one morning, which she believes was a gift from God.

Seyie also sings alto in the University choir and sometimes at St Mary’s Church as well, and is currently learning various pieces for piano by Bach and Chopin. She reports ‘I’m really excited about the modules I chose for the new term as I will be learning to write music for films and animation ... we will be collaborating with dancers by composing music and mainly performing with an ensemble for them’. Music from the Renaissance to modern periods will form a major part of this year’s course, although Seyie adds ‘I must admit, I still feel like this school girl who always hated going to schools or anywhere institution-ish!’

As she was growing up in Nagaland, Seyie went to a Baptist church where she was mostly used to singing traditional hymns, more so than we generally include in our worship at Hendon Baptist. Among the hymns that really stand out for her are: What a Friend we have in Jesus, and Jesus, Lover of my Soul. More recent Christian songs that have made an impression include As the Deer Pants for the Water. With Christmas approaching (at least by the time this article appears), I asked her about her favourite seasonal music and Oh Holy Night came to the top of the list.

So how do Seyie and the worship group go about putting together their contribution to Sunday morning services? Each week, April, Cynthia, Ade and Mobi take it in turns to plan which hymns and songs should be included and how they will be arranged and performed. When it comes to Christmas, Ade does most of the planning and usually aims to involve musicians from other churches as well. The group generally practices together one day during the week and on Sunday mornings, before the service. Seyie feels so privileged every time she plays in church, and how blessed she is to be in Hendon – 'I'm just a small-town girl!' she says, but 'I've always been told by my family, "dream big and do what you love.'"

Having now completed the second year of her degree, Seyie has embarked on the third and final year. She feels she would probably like to stay in the UK and perhaps continue with postgraduate studies. We in Hendon Baptist would most certainly be delighted if she did!

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

John 4:23-24

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in pray'r
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in pray'r

Chorus

What a friend we have in Jesus
What a friend we have in Him
For He knows us and He holds us in His hands
And His grace is never failing
And His love without an end
What a friend we have in Jesus
What a friend we have in Him

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in pray'r
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in pray'r

Verse 3

Blessed Saviour You have promised
You will all our burdens bear
May we ever Lord be bringing
All to You in earnest pray'r
Soon in glory bright unclouded
There will be no need for pray'r
Rapture praise and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there

Joseph Medicott Scriven | Pete James
CCLI Song # 6542519
CCLI License # 2602

Name that Christmas Carol!



Two prizes are up for grabs – one for children (under 18) and one for adults. Simply answer these questions and hand your answers in to Lindsay by 31st February. If no one gets all of the questions correct, the submission with the most correct answers wins. If more than one person wins, the names will be drawn from a hat.

Can you work out the name of the Christmas carol from the cryptic clue?

Example: 7pm until 7am without noise = Silent Night



- 1) Gather, everyone who believes
- 2) Original French Christmas
- 3) Trio of monarchs
- 4) At the same time as sheep were being looked at by herdsmen
- 5) Celebrate, godly males
- 6) Gladness upon Earth
- 7) Collectively listen to celestial beings from above
- 8) Not close by in the feeding trough
- 9) Leave to proclaim on a large hill
- 10) Mother of Jesus, were you aware?
- 11) Listen, announcing Cherubim croon
- 12) A dozen 24-hour yule periods.
- 13) With joy, males in the past
- 14) Observe Jesus reclining in hay resting place
- 15) Observed a trio of water vehicles
- 16) Hallowed evening
- 17) Tiny settlement in the middle east
- 18) The ilex and the hedera
- 19) Approach, approach God-with-us
- 20) Yuletide plant



Answers to last issue's quiz:

1. The 12 Disciples
2. The parable of the 10 virgins
3. 40 days and nights or rain
4. 66 books in the Bible
5. The 10 lepers
6. The 4 gospels
7. The 12 tribes of Israel
8. Jesus feeds the 4000
9. Forgive 7 times 70
10. 40 years in the wilderness
11. The 3 friends of Job
12. 3 days and nights in the belly of a fish
13. 39 books in the Old Testament
14. 7 churches in the province of Asia
15. He left the 99 sheep
16. 7 golden lampstands
17. The 8 sons of Jesse
18. 300 drank from cupped hands
19. 7 days of marching around Jericho
20. 27 books in the New Testament



Our week of prayer



Church quiz night



HBC in the past three months



Church cleaning day



Herbalism and why I became a Medical Herbalist

BY BUKI ADEKOYA-FAGBENLE BSC (HONS) HERBAL MEDICINE, MNIMH

Like most people in Africa, I was exposed to herbal medicine from a very young age. I remember the malaria concoction made with local palm wine, the horribly bitter one made with Dogoyaro (Neem leaves), the novelty of the freshly picked chewing stick we used when we returned to our native town of Ijebu Igbo for the New Year – the list goes on. These first-hand experiences have stayed with me throughout my adult life. I never trusted allopathic (orthodox) drugs and would only use multivitamins and supplements, especially the fizzy vitamin C my mother used to dole out, because they were 'sweet'. By the time I was living on my own, I had acquired the reputation of being 'herby' to family and friends alike. I would eat garlic cloves like sweets and would eventually convert my whole family many years later to do the same. I was hesitant about tap water and more so after I had been to a sewage treatment centre and saw what was being removed and recycled as drinking water in England! I have been drinking 'natural mineral/spring water' since the early 1980s and would know if I am offered anything different in an instant.

The mysterious and exciting world of herbs has had me hooked for years. One cannot fail to be astonished by the power of these simple, familiar and often humble plants. They are the primary source of food for every form of life; they were here before the creation of man and are abundantly available in many forms for our food and as our medicine.

Plants absorb minerals from the soil or sea and make them easy for us humans to assimilate – all the tissue salts and all blood components are contained in a higher or lesser degree in the vegetable life of the earth and the sea; they absorb the carbon dioxide we exhale and give out oxygen we need for our very existence; they combine carbon with oxygen and hydrogen to produce the various forms of sugars and starches that make up our foods – carbohydrates. The plant world is indeed the link between the animal and the mineral kingdom. Every vegetable that grows on the earth contains potassium, a mineral crucial for life, without which the heart, kidneys and other organs would not function normally; also, every vegetable that grows in the sea contains iodine, which is a precursor for making our thyroid hormone, our metabolism regulator.

Many of the plants used in traditional herbal medicine are valuable because of their high content of vitamins and minerals. Dandelion, Yellow dock, Burdock and our own Sorghum bicolor ('poroporo' in Yoruba) leaf sheath, are all rich in essential minerals, and especially in the iron needed for good blood circulation and have been used in blood-cleansing herbal mixes for centuries, while nettles, which are rich in iron, silicon and potassium, are traditionally used as a remedy for anaemia, as is Sorghum leaf. Corn silk, the styles (stigma) thrown away with the chaff from our corn, is rich in potassium and traditionally used to enhance renal functions, to facilitate the elimination of water from the kidneys, and is used as an adjunct in weight loss diets as well as in preventing bed-wetting (enuresis). Who would think the humble corn silk that is discarded would have so many beneficial uses; these also include its use as an anti-shine natural cosmetic face powder – a 12g Corn Silk powder sells for around £6 in London.



BUKI ADEKOYA-FAGBENLE BSC

Constant use of garlic, onions, thyme, sweet basil, bitter leaf, spinach and the various fruits, seeds and nuts we are especially blessed with, would definitely keep opportunistic diseases away. Take for example, garlic, my favourite antimicrobial and antihypertensive. Consumed regularly, it will keep many infections, infestations, colds, coughs, at bay; reduce high blood pressure and cholesterol levels, eliminate intestinal worms, tone up the heart and the digestive system and it has been traditionally used for various respiratory problems – some even laud its anti-tumour virtue. There are many more external uses. Those on anticoagulant therapy (taking Warfarin, Dabigatran, Apixaban etc) must beware though, as garlic will have an effect that is greater than desired. I have used garlic in many of my anti-hypertensive and anticoagulant mixes to very good effect. Modern science has empowered us to use chemical analysis in proving the veracity of traditional herbal knowledge. We now know about the constituents of many plants and how we can use these to treat most imbalances within the human body.

The use of plant-derived 'herbal' medicines has been around for centuries, and my main aim of writing this article is to encourage the increase in the use of herbal medicine safely and correctly. I would not recommend self-treatment without the right knowledge but as a form of first aid, and I hope many can benefit greatly. I am a trained Western Medical Herbal practitioner registered with the National Institute of Medical Herbalists (NIMH) and would endeavour to answer your questions as fully as I can. Those I deem would be beneficial to most of us, would be published in this magazine with actual names withheld. Over the months, I will be writing about simple herbal remedies for common aches and pains which afflict us at one time or another. These articles, however, are not intended as the absolute guide to the diagnoses and treatments of major illnesses and acute infectious diseases, especially in children, which should be referred to a professional medical herbal practitioner without any delay. The following symptoms, even though we have herbal remedies that could alleviate pain and discomfort in some serious problem, could indicate a medical emergency for which professional advice and medical diagnosis should be sought without delay: blood in urine, stools or sputum; drastic weight loss; persistent headache; mild but persistent fever; recurring pains in the stomach, bowels or anywhere else; persistent fatigue; chronic coughing or indigestion; vaginal bleeding between periods or after the menopause.

Many herbal medicines can be taken in conjunction with allopathic drugs, but there are instances of herb-drug reaction, such as the garlic example I mentioned above, hence the need to consult a fully qualified medical herbal practitioner before you embark on any drug and herb combinations. It is also important to take herbal medicine on an empty stomach, except when contra-indicated, as this assures the better assimilation of the active constituents in the plants, which may be slowed or impeded by enzymatic action when taken with meals.

THE HERBAL CONSULTATION

A medical herbalist will take a full consultation lasting over an hour, which will include the history of your presenting condition (time of first onset, circumstance, precipitating/ameliorating factors, associated manifestations etc); your previous medical history (childhood illnesses, other illnesses/accidents/hospitalisation for any reason, allergies, etc); past and present drug history; immunisations; family history and diseases; lifestyle and diet; and a full system enquiry for the system(s) affected. For example, if your main presenting condition is back pain, then a musculoskeletal system enquiry and even a full urinary one may be indicated, depending on the answers to the initial enquiry. From the full consultation the medical herbalist may decide to conduct a non-intrusive physical examination or suggest some diagnostic tests – blood, urine, liver function etc. A working diagnosis is arrived at, after an extensive differential one i.e. if your symptoms are pins and needles (paraesthesia in medical terms), through questioning, physical examination and deductive reasoning the medical herbalist could rule out trapped nerves, drug or alcohol abuse and may order blood/urine tests to eliminate diabetes and thyroid problems. S/he may also decide to check your reflexes and pain responses to eliminate a problem within the nervous system. The working diagnosis may be paraesthesia related to physical exercise, but this may change after all the results are collated. You will be prescribed a personalised herbal mix which will be made from scratch – tinctures, teas, cream or pessaries, based on your presenting condition – and advised on lifestyle and nutritional changes. You can send your questions and requests for appointments to bt6herbalclinic@gmail.com

THE CREATION – A FEW THOUGHTS ON A HOT ISSUE

Christians believe that the God of the Bible created the Universe and all living things. Until modern times, both Jews and Christians have also accepted that the whole creative process happened as described in the Book of Genesis, that is, in six 24-hour days, about 6,000 years ago. Experts in Hebrew, the language of Genesis, agree that chapters 1 and 2 are written as historical prose, not poetry, and that they should be taken at face value.

Charles Darwin and other non-Christian thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries challenged all this, by suggesting that somehow the universe created itself, and that the earth is billions of years old. Life began with very simple creatures that, over millions of years, evolved into the huge variety of animals, birds, fish, insects etc. that we see today.

No God was needed. These beliefs became the accepted teaching in schools and universities, and are promoted constantly by text books, TV programmes and other media. Now all the discoveries in science have to be fitted into this world-view.

Because of this heavily biased indoctrination, many Christians today accept Darwin's ideas and try to fit the millions of years into the Bible's account of origins. Some think that each Genesis 'day' must represent a long age. Others think

that Genesis 1 and 2 are not meant to be history – we can find spiritual truths in them, but they are myths. Few Christians seem to be aware of the enormous contradictions between these two different explanations of origins, evolution and the Bible.

However, there are other Christians, many of them well qualified scientists and theologians, who argue that the real evidence shows that:

- the earth can only be a few thousand years old,
- that Darwinian evolution is scientifically impossible
- that Genesis gives us the true history of the origin of the world and of all life.

These Christians are known as Creation Scientists, or Biblical Creationists.

So who is right? And does it matter?

The modern idea of 'millions of years' came from Charles Lyell, (1797–1875), a geologist who invented the idea that geological features such as mountains, rivers and rock layers must be understood and dated by looking at processes as they happen today (that is, extremely slowly and gradually). The Genesis account of the universal Flood was discounted. Fossils were said to show the gradual evolution

of living things from simple to complex, over vast time periods. (By the way, rock layers were then 'dated' according to the fossils found in them. Fossils were given 'dates' depending on their position in the rocks layers, a circular argument!)

Darwin, convinced by Lyell that the earth was millions of years old, wrote his book *On the Origin of Species*, aiming to show that simple organisms could gradually become more complex by means of natural selection, given enough time. The more recent discovery of mutations has been used to explain the way changes could happen.

If the evolutionists are right, then we have to accept that there has been death, disease, bloodshed and suffering from the beginning, because this is what the fossils show. If God exists, then this is His method of creation, the one He called 'Very good'. We also have to accept that humans are just modified apes and appeared very recently, at the end of the evolutionary process. It also means the Bible is wrong when it says that death came as a result of Adam's sin, and that thorns, thistles and general degradation in Nature are the result of the Fall. Noah's Flood, if it happened at all, must have been a local event, giving rise to the 'legend'.

Worst of all, we have to accept that The Old Testament Prophets, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles, were mistaken about Genesis, if it is mythology, because they all refer back to the events as History, upon which so many Christian doctrines are based. For example, Mankind is made in the image of God, not an ape (1 Cor. 15:22, 45, quoting Gen. 2:7); Adam and Eve were made 'at the beginning of Creation' (Mk. 10:5–9); Adam sinned, and brought about the Curse, (death) which affected the whole of Creation (Rom. 5:12–17); the need for blood sacrifice (Heb. 1:4); the Flood (Luke 17:27); Abraham (Jn. 8:56, James 2:21); the final defeat of Satan, the final restoration of Earth to its former 'Very Good' condition (see Revelation), to name just a few.

formed in living memory, give dates ranging from tens to hundreds of millions of years! Carbon-14 testing on diamonds, oil and coal gives readings which should not be possible if they are millions of years old.

Soft tissue, blood cells and other organic material, containing Carbon-14, are found in dinosaur fossils. This is impossible if they are the alleged 65 million years old, since C14 cannot be detected in anything as old as 1 million years. It has a half-life of 5.73 thousand years. The earth's magnetic field is known to be getting weaker over time. Calculations show that this indicates a young earth. All earth's mountains and land masses would have eroded away several

determined in the unchangeable first stage. This 3-stage process makes it impossible for one kind of creature to change into another. The amount of information found in DNA is mind-bogglingly vast. It is a fact of Information Science that information comes only from an intelligent MIND.

Perhaps these few points are enough to encourage the reader to investigate further. I strongly recommend a short book called *Evidence for Creation – Intelligent Answers for Open Minds*, by Tom DeRosa (Coral Ridge Ministries, 2003). There is also a fantastic website creation.com where there are some 9,000 articles by scientists, logicians, theologians and others who all accept the Bible as the Word of God, and who regularly

"Evidence against millions of years is strong evidence against evolution. And where can you fit millions of years into the Bible? You can't."

Jesus, the Creator, (Col.1:16) affirmed all these things, (Jn. 10:35). Was He wrong? long ages and evolution are fatal to Biblical Christianity. F. Sherwood Taylor, former Curator of the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, said, 'I myself have little doubt that in England it was geology and the theory of evolution that changed us from a Christian to a pagan nation'.¹

Biblical Creationists point out evidences to show that the earth is thousands of years old, not billions. We can mention only a few in this article.

Modern radio-metric methods of dating rocks often show vastly different results from the same samples. Rocks from volcanoes,

times over if the earth is billions of years old.

Evolution requires vast time spans. Evidence against millions of years is strong evidence against evolution. And where can you fit millions of years into the Bible? You can't. Recent research into the development of embryos shows that they go through 3 main stages. The first stage fixes what kind of creature will develop. All the genetic information is 'locked down' in this stage – any mutation here and the embryo dies. The second two stages create the limbs and organs, followed by their maturing and growth. Some variety in each individual is now possible due to the already inbuilt store of genes, but the kind of creature was already

produce books, pamphlets and DVDs on the whole range of topics concerned with Creation, Evolution, and the Christian perspective on these issues. It is a wonderful resource.

Article by Jeff Wise

Jeff is a retired Surveyor and a long-term student of science as it relates to the Bible. He lives in Braintree, Essex with his wife Valerie, a retired nurse and midwife

1. Quoted in BBC 1949, 'Geology changes the outlook', in *Ideas and Beliefs of the Victorians – an Historic Revaluation of the Victorian Age*, Sylvan Press, 195.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Perhaps it would be true to say that more and more people are asking this kind of question these days. Most Christians will know that Pontius Pilate, Roman governor of Judaea AD26–36, posed this question to the Lord Jesus Christ during an interview with him. The Apostle John records the account in chapter 18 of his gospel. Sadly, it wasn't because Pilate had a humble heart that was seeking to know about ultimate truth. It was more of a sneering response to something hugely significant that the Lord had just said about Himself and the members of His kingdom, '**...I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice**' (John 18:37).

Our society today is trying increasingly to distance itself from the notion that there is such a thing as ultimate truth. People don't like the idea because it has implications for them and the way they live their lives. So many would prefer to be free from such restrictions and limitations that might hinder their 'fun'. So the idea of 'right and wrong' have become merely relative, and we find ourselves back in the often selfish, greedy and violent days of the Old Testament Judges, when, '**...everyone did what was right in his own eyes**' (Judges 21:25). You may likely have heard it being said these days, 'What is right for you may not be right for me'. It sounds plausible on the surface, but look a little deeper and it eventually spells disaster for everyone. If, for example, we just applied this philosophy to motorists, there would quickly be chaos and anarchy on the roads. Yes, they could be even worse than they are now!

We know that the gospel is the truth. It is the good news (how the world around us needs that today!) about the Lord Jesus Christ and His coming into this world to save sinners like you and me. In order to do that saving, He had to live a perfect life so that He was qualified to be a sacrifice for others. Then He had to suffer indescribably on a Roman cross and there die. Finally, He had to rise again three days later, proving beyond question that He was the very Son of God.

The wonderful thing is that people today can still benefit from those gospel truths. Jesus is still applying His glorious work of salvation to the hearts of men and women, boys and girls. He is still offering the opportunity to every kind of person to turn from their sins and trust Him as their Saviour and Lord. Very sadly, however, huge numbers of people all around us are ignorant of the truth of this life-changing message. Yes, as the challenging hymn of Priscilla Jane Owens (1829–1907) says, 'We have heard the joyful sound...', and as Christians, we should rejoice every single day in that tremendous fact. The trouble is though, so many haven't heard it, and we urgently need to do

something about that. It is after all both the privilege and the responsibility of the Church to make the gospel message known. That's why the hymn continues, '...spread the tidings all around – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!'

This is the great desire of The Open-Air Mission, which began preaching in the highways and byways way back in 1853 in Central London. The work quickly spread all over Britain and even to European countries like France and Holland. Ever since then the Lord has raised up men to preach the gospel in all sorts of outdoor venues where people are to be found. We find the most profitable places these days are town and city centres, where there can be tourists, local shop and office workers, shoppers, students etc. Let's be conscious that these dear people are constantly being beckoned on every hand by the falsehoods of men and women who are confidently asserting either that there is no one out there to save them, that they don't need saving anyway, or they have to try and save themselves.

The Mission seeks to make the truth known through winsome open-air preaching, friendly personal conversations and the distribution of good Christian literature. We would never deny that the work can be hard, but we do have the joy of meeting people who are genuinely touched by the gospel. In Corby, evangelist Paul Linnell had a third conversation with Karl, a young dad who said about a year ago, when he first met Paul that he knew he wasn't saved and was 'living in sin'. Karl said that since then he had tried to, 'live as a Christian' by giving up smoking and swearing, and after the second conversation with Paul he even started going along to a local church. Sadly, Karl said that things then got worse sometime after that, so he stopped going. However, on this third occasion things were obviously very different. Karl was now back at church and even planning to be baptised, 'I've been saved', he joyfully announced. With Karl that day was a Roman Catholic friend to whom he was witnessing, named Larry, which was really encouraging for Paul to see. Then in January this year Paul met two believers from the church Karl is attending, who confirmed that Karl had indeed come to faith and was going to be baptised very soon.

The Lord Jesus once told an open-air congregation, "**You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free**" (John 8:32). Just as that has become true for Karl in Corby, it can become true for people in Hendon as well. So then, we need to get involved in going outside of the church and sharing the truth of the gospel, so that as a result, more needy people can experience that truth, and be set free from their sin and its awful consequences.

By Andy Banton

FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

Why not bring anyone who God leads you to evangelise to one of our Christmas activities.....

Tuesday Fellowship Carol Service

Tuesday 12th December,

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 17th December, 6pm

Christmas Family Service

Sunday 10th December, 11am

Christmas Day Service

Monday 25th December, 11am

Christmas Dinner and Games Afternoon

Monday 25th December, 1pm

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Sunday 31st December, 8-11pm

Midnight Service

Sunday 31st December, 11pm



Photos of OAM evangelists across the UK

Well over 2,000 open-air meetings a year are conducted by OAM workers and we are thus contacting many thousands of people who would not otherwise hear about God's great salvation.

Compassion UK has found that only 11.4% of adults (aged 16+) say they attend church at least once a month: Wales (10.9%), Scotland (13.3%), NI (20.4%), England, (10.9%), Greater London (16.3%)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

We are privileged to be able to share in the work of churches in other countries that are closely connected with Hendon Baptist, and have run articles on the church in Romania in the first issue of HBC Accord, and on the Chinese Church that meets in our own building in the second issue. We are very grateful to Ralph Ciora and to Pastor Alexis Chung for providing updates to keep us in touch and encourage us to pray for God's work in Romania and amongst Chinese people living in north London.

Update on

BROTHER ADRIAN TOMA, WHO MINISTERS IN CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN GIRIS, SENDS US THIS MESSAGE:

Holy greetings to you and to the church in Hendon in the Name of the Lord Jesus! As you have seen, Carmel Church has become more and more involved this year in evangelism and in several projects for helping those in need, both materially and spiritually. We have just held an evangelistic service after one of our brothers, at the age of 81, went to be with the Lord.

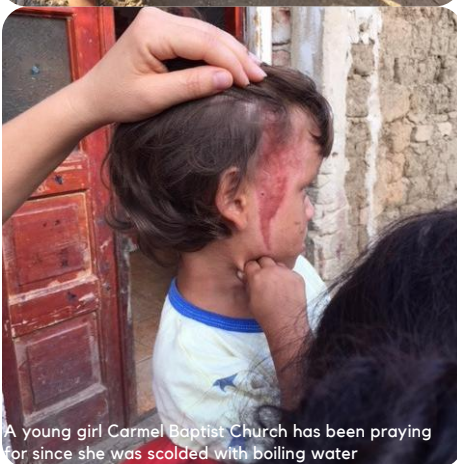
We have been collecting gifts (food, clothing and school items) that have been donated to help others, and the Lord is opening hearts to hear the gospel. In our last update we reported that the family of a 3-year old girl who was scalded with boiling water has received financial help with treatment and operations. The Lord be praised for the grace He gives us to serve Him!



Gifts children received at Carmel Baptist Church



Carmel Baptist Church



A young girl Carmel Baptist Church has been praying for since she was scolded with boiling water




Firewood at Carmel Baptist Church
Service at Carmel Baptist Church



WE ALSO HAVE NEWS FROM THE PASTOR CORNEL IOVA AND THE CHURCH IN SANTANDREI:

In October we were asked by a Santandrei family that didn't belong to the church, to hold the dedication/blessing service of their daughter (6 weeks old), and of their son Stefan who is 5 years old. In this family, the husband is orthodox and a doctor at the intern section of Curteanu Clinical Hospital in Oradea, while his wife is a Baptist, and an economist. It was a superb celebration with many unbelievers invited. They understood that baptising babies is not significant, but that they need to be dedicated to the Lord, and that their parents must raise them up on divine principles. Today even her orthodox husband comes to church and they have brought his parents along too. At the beginning of next year, the children's mum's sister and her husband will come as well, and they'll move to Santandrei.

Yes, we don't have churches fully packed with people at evangelistic services, but we will keep on ministering and sowing the seed of the gospel in whatever ways the Lord will open up to us. We dearly appreciate and are encouraged by our partnership with Hendon Baptist Church. We pray for you and for the ministry you have in London. Please continue to support us in prayer and with financial support for Carmel Baptist Church in Giris, and all the other evangelical missions along the Crisul Repede River: Psalm 80:15: 'Protect O God what your right hand planted...'.


By the mercy of the Lord, our church continues to grow despite the fact that many youngsters with their families have left for the West to find work. It seems that we need to adapt to today's

conditions and to work in the Lord's vineyard in ways that are different from how we used to minister in past years.

One new way is to evangelise at funerals and through sermons at wakes (before the funeral). In the context of the orthodox environment in which we live in Romania, it is harder and harder to bring unsaved people (orthodox) into evangelical churches. They have begun to say no, even to our invitations to visit us. This is more for fear of the orthodox priest, or because, as they say, they have their own religion, which is good, righteous and full of ancient customs.

We came to realise instead that we still have an 'open door' to reach them when we hold funerals and other special services, such as weddings or the dedication of infants. Just recently we held the wake and funeral service of our sister Jeni Trifan (who was 64). Many unsaved people came, and we took advantage of this opportunity to speak not so much about who our sister Jeni was, but mostly to proclaim the gospel, just as we would at an evangelistic service. Many people were touched and impressed by the word of God. We also recently held a service for the wake of our sister Floare Potra (aged 92), in whose house Bethany Baptist Church used to gather before it had its own building. Many, many orthodox people from Santandrei were present - and they heard the gospel and were again faced with the truth.

By Pastor Cornel Iova

Romania

Thank you all for the spiritual help we receive from you as you carry us in prayer, and for the knowledge that we really matter to you as you think about us! This shows again what special feelings our Lord has, and how He manifests them through you. We also thank you for the financial help we have received this year. This has gone toward our need for firewood, which we have purchased for the church heating over the winter - God bless! Greetings to Brother Pastor Errol too. We have you all in our prayers.

In brotherly love,
Adrian Toma

"Yes, we don't have churches fully packed with people at evangelistic services, but we will keep on ministering and sowing the seed of the gospel in whatever ways the Lord will open up to us."

NORTH LONDON ALLIANCE CHURCH (NLAC)

NLAC Summer-autumn news update

Following up on their report on the Chinese church that meets in HBC every Sunday afternoon, Pastor Alexis and Ada Chung have sent us the following news.

Thank God for His merciful protection and wonderful healing during and after Pastor Alexis' shoulder stabilization procedure in late May this year. We also thank brothers and sisters of various Gospel partner churches, especially Hendon Baptist, for their continual loving care and prayer support. For this summer-autumn period, despite the fact that planned and unplanned events came one after another - the PhD graduation of Alexis' daughter Faith, the Alliance (GB) annual conference, HBC/NLAC annual outing, NLAC short-term mission (STM)/church visit to Scotland - by God's grace Alexis is still gradually recovering from his keyhole shoulder operation. Praise the Lord for being so good to Alexis and his family, and to all of us! Let us recap what has been happening.

When they were attending Faith's Graduation Ceremony in Aberdeen, Ada and Alexis had a chance to meet deacons of ACCC where Faith has been attending and serving for over four years. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Alexis realized that there would be mutual blessings for ACCC and NLAC by initiating a short-term mission (STM) team to visit ACCC, consisting of 13 elderly and young family believers and seekers (excluding three who had to withdraw due to unexpected causes). We were able to hold joint Sunday Worship with them, a Summer Bible Club, an outing and music/Gospel sharing meetings. As a result of our willingness and openness, it has been a breakthrough and great time for NLAC to learn and know that we could serve (irrespective of the fact that our congregation and our resources are much smaller than theirs), as well as to experience our living God's wonderful care and actions. Thank God also for providing Faith with a job interview (after over six months job-hunting) immediately after her graduation, and then a one-year research contract at an NHS hospital in Inverness, starting from the time the Joint Summer Programme had just begun. Her brother Elisha finished his MSc in Birmingham in mid-September.

Pray that Faith has a less stressful time in her new job, so that her eczema will be under control and on the road to recovery. Pray also for Elisha to find a PhD research opportunity or a full-time job as soon as possible.



ACCC_NLAC Sharing Meeting

'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it' (1 Corinthians 12:26 NIV).

We have been regularly and patiently visiting and supporting a retired Christian brother who has terminal stage cancer that paralyzes the lower part of his body (i.e. staying in bed in a nursing home for over two years). He was once a secular 'Catholic' with an intellectual and sceptical mindset, but as a result of God's mercy he has finally come to Christ, trusting Him alone for salvation and providence. He was baptized in spring this year. Despite the fact that he has been in and out of hospital a few times his health is really in God's hands, with no deterioration so far. He appreciates very much his improved quality of life due to God's blessings and Christian love. Apparently his health care plan has been reverted from palliative care back to normal long-term patient care! Another intellectual Christian brother, who is a long-term sufferer of mental illness, has been hospitalized for many months in order to monitor the outcome of his trial of a new treatment that aims to help him regain his lost mobility, which was due to the prolonged side-effects of previous, ineffective treatment. At our last hospital visit (about a couple of weeks before he was finally discharged) to conduct Holy Communion with him, to our great surprise, he could walk with no need of any walking aid and even managed to play table tennis with us! Praise the Lord! Pray that both of these men, by simple faith in Jesus Christ, continue to experience God's wonderful grace, love and peace in facing the coming days.

'... Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few ...' (Matthew 9:35-38 NIV)

On the first Friday after this summer vacation, Alexis was leading an evangelistic Bible study amongst older people. They were looking at the story of Jesus meeting Zacchaeus the tax collector in Luke 19:1-10. At the end of the meeting Alexis sensed the Lord's leading him to challenge the group members to receive Jesus just like Zacchaeus. He invited those in the group to follow him as he led in a prayer of decision: confessing they were sinners in need of salvation and receiving Jesus as Saviour and Lord. To Alexis' delight one man and three women echoed his prayer and accepted Jesus as Saviour. Two of the four were occasional visitors and two regular attendants at the church's gatherings for worship. Pray that they remain firm in faith and have a desire to grow in Christ.

On the second Thursday in October, during the hospital appointment of an elderly man (his wife, a regular 'worshiper' amongst us, is one of the four elderly people who came to Christ in our evangelistic Bible study mentioned above), the Holy Spirit worked in his heart moving him to share his difficult lifetime experience (his wife had never heard of him sharing this before) that made

him have no trust in people, but rather in money and himself only. To cut a long story short, he received double blessings! One was having a loving and caring consultant who apparently felt surprised that nowadays there was still a church minister accompanying an elderly non-English speaking patient (not a blood relation) to attend a hospital consultation and the other was his own salvation by our loving and merciful Heavenly Father!

That night Ada and Alexis went to visit a single-parent mum who has expressed her desire to be baptized. Even though she came to our Sunday worship occasionally, for various reasons, we have been walking with her and her two lovely kids for over four years of difficult times. We helped her to understand and confirm her need of Christ for her salvation by trusting Him alone, and her ongoing relationship/experience of His love and timely help/protection. We concluded the pre-baptismal session with her decision prayer to accept Jesus as her personal Saviour and Lord of her life (and benediction as well), together with her kids.

Pray that God prepares the way and the time for a baptismal service to be held in the near future for a few yet-to-be-baptized believers.



ACCC and NLAC Joint Worship Service



NLAC STM Visit to ACCC



Hospital Visit

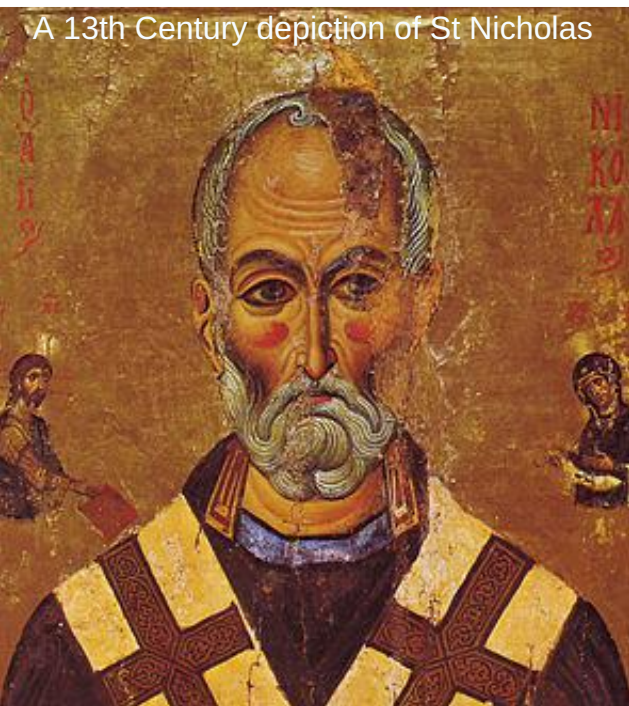


Faith's PhD Graduation



ACCC and NLAC Summer Bible Club

A 13th Century depiction of St Nicholas



Sinterklaas, Netherlands 2009



Santa waves during a parade



SANTA CLAUS

Should he be part of our
celebration of Christ's birth?

An Article by Lindsay Jacobs

The idea of Santa Claus originated around AD 280 with a bishop by the name of St Nicholas who lived in modern-day Turkey. According to legend, he gave away all his inherited wealth and travelled around helping the sick and needy. He suffered persecution because of his Christian faith and spent time in prison. The tradition of giving gifts to children probably originates in the tale of St Nick donating gold to an indebted father to prevent his young daughters from entering a life of prostitution.

His fame and popularity spread across Europe (especially in the Netherlands) and an annual feast is still celebrated in some countries in his honour on 6 December - the anniversary of his death. The name 'Santa Claus' came about through the Dutch nickname for St Nicholas - Sinterklaas.

Different countries have adopted different variations of the name - with Father Christmas being popular in Britain.

The idea of a mystical gift-giver has persisted to this day, despite the protestant movement and its rejection of saints. However, the idea of a plump jolly Santa carried by eight reindeer was initiated by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822 when he wrote the poem, The Night Before Christmas, for his six children. Today's image is far removed from the original Christian man who inspired it.

Santa Claus is a huge part of Christmas in many countries around the world today, including Great Britain. So should Santa Claus form part of the Christian celebration of Christ's birth? That is, of course, a decision for individual families to make. However, here are some questions to consider:

1) Is Father Christmas a god?

Let's face it - we attribute Santa with god-like qualities. According to the myth, he is apparently able to know our thoughts and actions - and judges us as naughty or nice. He is supposedly able to travel the whole world in a single night, giving him almost omnipresent qualities. He allegedly has magical powers enabling him to fly and to get into your house even if you don't have a chimney. In addition he knows what each child needs and wants and has unlimited resources to supply them. Perhaps most disturbingly of all, children ask him for the things they want - including impossible things that would require a miracle - this could even be considered prayer. If Santa is a god, it is worth remembering what the Bible says in Exodus 20:3: 'You shall have no other gods before me.'

.....

2) Is it right to lie to our children?

I cannot tell my children that it is a sin to lie and then lie to them by telling them that Santa (or the tooth fairy, or the Easter bunny) are real. I listen to my friends as they talk about the elaborate ways they have embellished this lie - with carrots and milk left out on Christmas Eve for Santa and his reindeer, an 'Elf on the Shelf' who arrives at the start of advent and gets into mischief each night and even footprints in fake snow on the path - and I wonder if they also tell their children off for lying. Perhaps even worse than this is parents using Santa to manipulate their children: 'if you do that, Santa won't bring you any presents. He's watching you'. As Christians, we need to teach our children what is right and wrong and discipline them accordingly, not use the threat of a mythical character to control them. Ephesians 4:25 says: 'Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body.'

.....

3) When your children stop believing in Father Christmas - will they also reject Jesus?

I remember as a child discussing Santa and Jesus with my friends and even then I noticed a pattern. As the children stopped believing in Santa, they also stopped believing in Jesus. I have no data to back this up - however it makes sense that this would be the case. If your parents tell you that Jesus is real and in the same breath that Santa is also real, when you find out that Santa is a lie, surely Jesus is too.

Children tell Santa what they want for Christmas



4) What happens to parents who cannot afford gifts?

Imagine this. Santa brings one child an iPad and another child only gets a pair of socks. Both children have been 'good' this year, but one is growing up in wealth and the other in poverty. The children are friends and discuss what Santa has bought them. Both believe in him and know that the gifts they get depend on how good they have been. How will the child from a poor family feel? Will they believe that they have been 'bad' and do not deserve elaborate gifts? And what about children in poor countries? What reason do we give our children for completing shoe boxes of gifts for children around the world when Santa will bring them gifts? And if he doesn't deliver to them, is it because he prefers rich white children?

In our family, we made a decision to tell our children from the start that Santa Claus is just a story, like any other fairy tale. If you have been teaching your children that Santa Claus is real, it is not too late to reconsider and tell them the truth. While some may say that Santa is a just a bit of fun and brings 'magic' to Christmas, he is merely a distraction from Jesus. So perhaps the most important question is: who is getting the glory at Christmas - Jesus or Santa?

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/santa-claus> [last accessed 27 October 2017]

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/12/131219-santa-claus-origin-history-christmas-facts-st-nicholas/> [last accessed 27 October 2017]

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23298005>

Sinterklaas: By Sander van der Wel from Netherlands - Intocht van Sinterklaas in Schiedam 2009, CC BY-SA 2.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=28147010>

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TOP TEN TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Many of us did not grow up with the Internet but it is now a part of children's lives from a very young age. How do we keep ourselves and our children safe online while still enjoying all the good things the Internet has to offer? Lindsay Jacobs explores some ways.

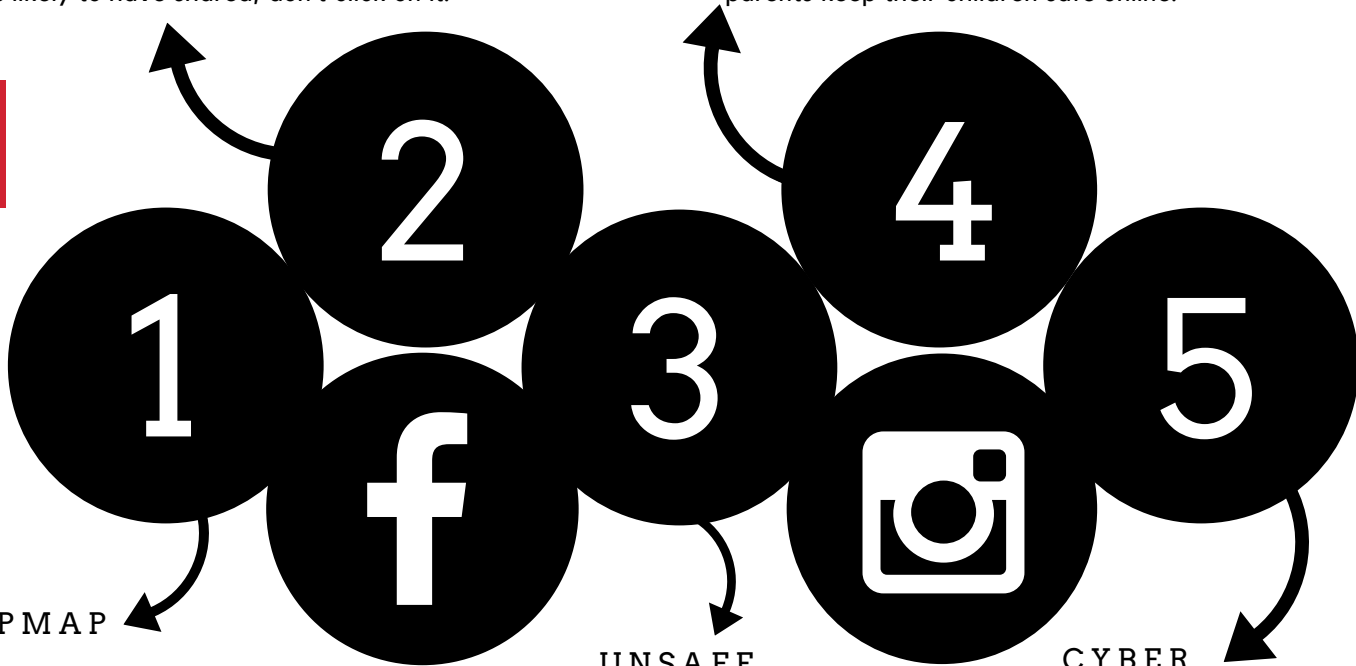


STAYING ANONYMOUS

It is important, especially for children, that personal details such as phone numbers and addresses are not shared on social media. Even posting a picture of your child in their school uniform online can be risky as it allows strangers to identify the exact school that your child attends. It is a good idea to make sure your child is aware of the dangers of sharing too much information online. See www.vodafone.com/digitalparenting to download a free magazine aimed at helping parents keep their children safe online.

CLICKJACKING

This is a disguised link that looks innocent and tempting but when clicked downloads malware or steals your personal information. Often the links takes the form of a funny video, a fascinating article or an amazing offer. If something looks too good to be true or if it is not something the person who shared it is likely to have shared, don't click on it.



SNAPMAP

For those of you who don't know, Snapchat is an app that allows users to send their friends photos or videos that are visible for between 1 and 10 seconds, depending on what the sender has chosen. A feature of Snapchat, called Snapmap, produces a pin on a map to show the exact location of the sender. If Snapmap has been set up on your child's app, they can opt out by visiting their phone's settings and scrolling down to Snapchat, clicking on "location," and choosing the "never share" option.



UNSAFE PASSWORDS

It is important for all online users – both children and adults – to create passwords that are impossible for others to guess and to use a different password for each account. Never use personal information such as your name or easy-to-guess combinations such as 1234. To create a really strong password, use at least 8 characters including a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Alternatively, use three random words together.

CYBER BULLYING

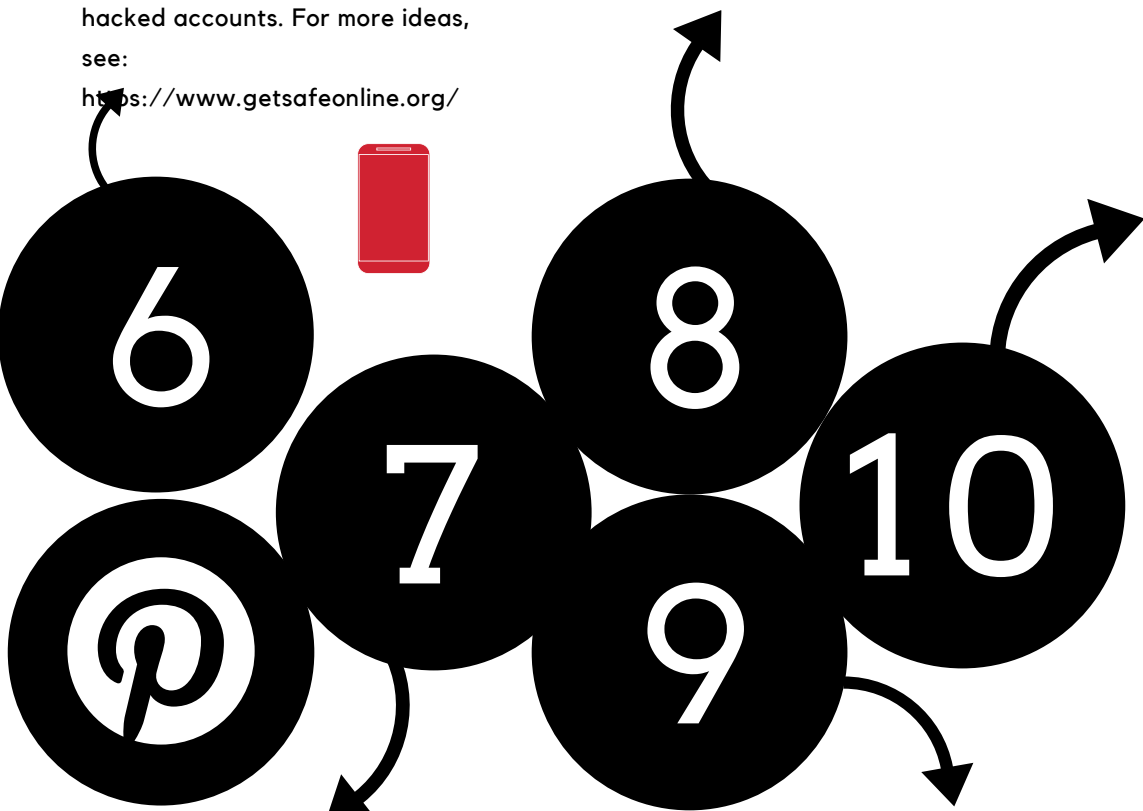
This is a form of bullying or harassment using electronic forms of contact. Sadly it has become increasingly common, especially among teenagers. Many apps allow the users to choose who can contact them so it is best to block the person, or alternatively to block their mobile number or email address. It is also possible to report the bullying via <https://ceop.police.uk/safe-ty-centre/>.



IDENTITY THEFT

We all know not to share our passwords – even with friends and family. However, there is much more you can do to protect your identity online. For example, you should never share details that are used in security questions – such as your mother’s maiden name or your first pet’s name. In addition, never divulge private information, such as your pin number, in response to an email, text, letter or phone call – often these are fake or from hacked accounts. For more ideas, see:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>



FAKE NEWS

Many of us have been caught out by incredible stories online that turn out to be fake. However, some stories that are shared on social media are designed to cause panic or anger. Others are simply “clickbait” – designed to entice readers to click on the story for an ulterior motive (similar to clickjacking – see above). However, a quick internet search will usually reveal if a story is true. Failing that, searching on a fact-checking website (such as <http://www.snopes.com/>) will help you decide whether a story is true and worth sharing.



AGE RESTRICTIONS

These are set in order to protect children until they are old enough to use apps safely and responsibly. Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, ooVoo, AskFM, Skype and Periscope all have a minimum age of 13. The minimum age for WhatsApp is 16 and for Whisper it’s 17. Kik, YouNow and YouTube allow users from the age of 13 with parental permission – but without this, they need to wait until they are 18. You can set up a password on the app store that you use to prevent your children downloading apps without your permission. Some mobile network providers also allow you to set up parental controls.



SEXTING

This refers to sending a sexual image or video in a message. For under 18s, this is illegal – even if it is a selfie. It is important to explain to children that sending such messages can lead to bullying, abuse and blackmail. If a child is receiving these messages from someone else, block the sender if possible and report to CEOPS (see link above). Children who have concerns or questions about sexting can visit Childline’s website (<https://www.childline.org.uk>) or phone them on 0800 1111.



PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most apps have privacy controls – for example, Facebook allows you to limit who sees your profile as well as unfriending and blocking people. On Twitter you can control who follows you and restrict who sees your tweets. Many other apps, such as Kik, Whisper and Snapchat allow you to block people. It is best to only socialise online with people you actually know – if someone unknown adds you as a friend on Facebook, for example, it is best to ignore them, even if you have mutual friends.



CONTACTS

Telephone: 0208 203 4041

Pastor: Revd Errol Jacobs

Leadership team: Lanie Acorda, Indra Ganeshnaguru, Mike Gardner, Angela Hassabis, Claudiu Linte

Church Secretary: Mike Gardner

Media team: Lindsay Jacobs, Jacqui Pearce, Brinta Mutinda, James Mutinda,

Email: magazine@hendonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Website: www.hendonbaptistchurch.org.uk

f /hendonbaptistchurch **t** @HendonBaptist

SERVICES & WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday service: 11.00am in the church

Girls' Brigade: Tuesdays, 6.30pm

Campaigners: Fridays, 6.00-7.15pm (Junos); 7.30-9.00pm (Crosstrax)

Ignite (young adults): every 3rd Friday, 8.00-10.00pm

Tuesday Fellowship: Tuesdays, 2.00pm

Sparkles Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesdays, 10.00am-12.00pm

Home Groups: Wednesday evening (8.00pm) and Monday morning

**HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH, FINCHLEY LANE,
HENDON NW4 1DJ**

