

HBC ACCORD

A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS

"ASK ME,
AND I WILL MAKE THE
NATIONS YOUR INHERITANCE,
THE ENDS OF THE EARTH YOUR
POSSESSION." PSALM 2:8 NIV



BAPTIST WORLD MISSION

BMS TELL US ABOUT THEIR WORK SPREADING THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD AND HOW WE CAN ALL GET INVOLVED!

BUSYNESS

JACQUI PEARCE GIVES US SOME PRACTICAL BIBLICAL ADVICE ON NAVIGATING A WORLD IN WHICH WE INCREASINGLY HAVE MINIMAL FREE TIME!

HALLOWEEN

LINDSAY JACOBS EXPLORES HALLOWEEN AND GIVES HER TAKE ON HOW WE AS CHRISTIANS CAN RESPOND TO THIS PAGAN TRADITION

NOAH'S ARK

JEFF WISE LOOKS AT THE EVIDENCE OF NOAH'S ARK IN HIS SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE WORLD-WIDE FLOOD

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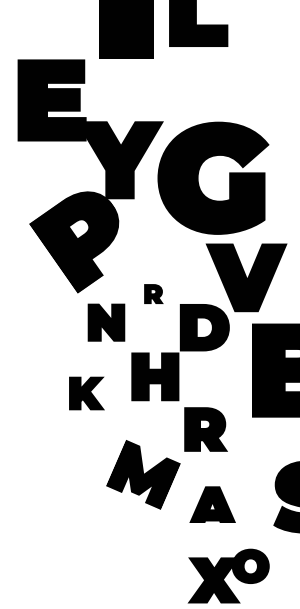
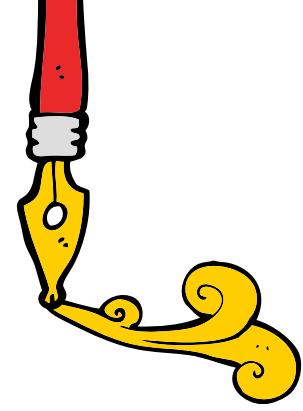
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PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to Issue 5 of HBC Accord. We are really grateful for feedback from readers, which has both encouraged and inspired us as we planned this current magazine and as we think about future issues. Your comments and questions are all very much a part of this planning process – as we've said before, this is your magazine and we very much want it to reflect what God is saying to us as individuals and as a fellowship. So please do keep your ideas coming!

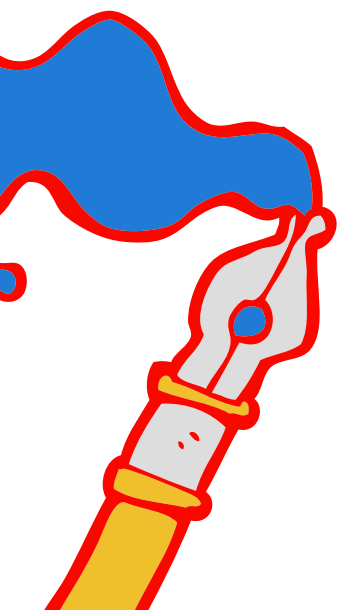
We are very pleased to be able to include an interview with Angela Hassabis – one of the joys of preparing for a new issue is talking to church members and finding out a bit more about them, and each time we do this we learn unexpected things. We also include an article on the Tuesday Fellowship, in which Indra Ganeshaguru tells us about her involvement and gives something of the background to this long-standing meeting in the life of our church. Preparation of this article coincided with the gift of a number of publications on the history of HBC by Mary Gravatt, and these have proved to be extremely helpful and really fascinating in opening up aspects of the church's past life that many – if not most – of us won't know. We will certainly be aiming to include more of these insights in future issues.

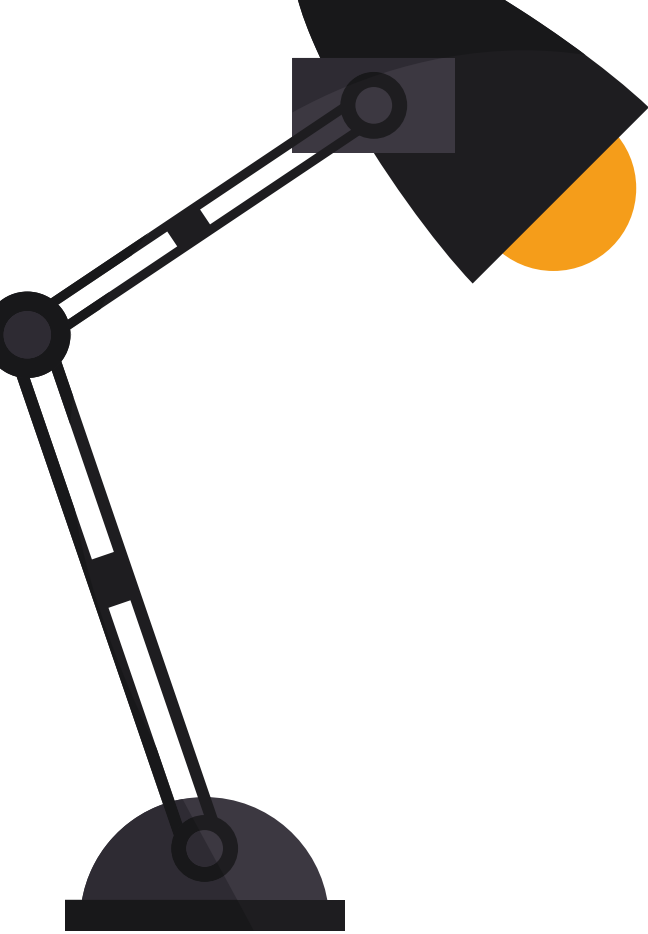
The new kitchen is now fully up and running, so we asked Giovanni Corradelli to give us an overview of how this came about and some of the possibilities that it opens up. Sadly (for us) Laima Arnold has passed away, although we know she has gone to be with the Lord and in that we can only rejoice. We include an appreciation of this lovely lady's life by Indra.

Other features in this issue include the second part of Jeff Wise's consideration of the worldwide Flood and a challenge to us to think about our response to Halloween by Lindsay Jacobs. We also carry an article on the inspiring work of BMS World Mission by Jo Cordell, one of a team who visited the church in April. As always we are also running our Quiz and there are Top Tips on how to prepare your child for school, something that will be important to many parents in HBC. It is a real delight to be able to share news of the three baptisms that took place at church at the end of September, and to share news from our sister church in Giris, Romania. Finally, we also have a look at that perennial question of how to find the time to do everything we need or want to do in a world that is becoming increasingly fast-paced and fragmented.

We hope you enjoy and are blessed by this new issue and we look forward to hearing more of your comments as we start (even now) to think about the Christmas issue!

JACQUI, LINDSAY & JAMES





Pastor's Page



Over the past two years, I have been studying for my Master of Arts in Theology, with the financial and prayerful support of the church. Over the next few issues, I will summarise my dissertation, entitled *Distinctives in Multi-Ethnic Churches: an Examination of Views and Practices in Evangelical Ministry*, which was inspired by our very own 'church for all nations'.

Cities, towns and neighbourhoods have become increasingly ethnically diverse. This can be noted within society as a whole: in schools, sports, the workplace, councils and public arenas. As a result, churches are evaluating their beliefs, practices and methods to be effective in ministry to these ethnically diverse communities and to remain faithful to the Lord and Scripture.

Some authors have written on multi-ethnic congregations proposing unequivocally that churches actively pursue becoming and planting multi-ethnic churches. Furthermore, some believe a multi-ethnic church is the answer to ministering effectively and to meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse culture – and that it is biblically mandated. Multi-ethnic churches are essential to reach out to the hugely diverse range of people that have made the United Kingdom their home.

The focus in these articles will not be exclusive to the United Kingdom, but will include research from other countries and settings. This is because, irrespective of where (urban, rural, suburban and so on) a multi-ethnic church is situated, it will have challenges and benefits. I will focus on a selection of these challenges and benefits over the next few issues.

“*Multi-ethnic churches are essential to reach out to the hugely diverse range of people that have made the United Kingdom their home.*”





A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS



We will look at various aspects of language, such as verbal and non-verbal communication, as well as the issues around preaching in a multi-ethnic church. Our second consideration will be worship within a multi-ethnic setting and the difficulty of having diverse expressions while trying to maintain unity. The third feature will be authority and power, focusing on five different types of power and how these can cause conflicts in a multi-ethnic church. Other aspects to be explored include evangelism and racial reconciliation.

For all the articles, DeYmaz's understanding of multi-ethnic will be used (as opposed to other similar words such as multiracial and multicultural) as he believes it includes culture, race and nationality, economic, educational and generational diversity.¹ It is important to explain what defines a multi-ethnic church. It exists when an ethnic group comprises no more than 80% of the congregation.² In addition, at least 20% of the people are of a different ethnicity or race.³

It is my hope that through these articles you will be enabled to understand different cultures better in order to have a harmonious ministry in Hendon Baptist Church.

References

1 DeYmaz, M. 2007, *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

2 DeYoung, C., Emerson, M., Yancey, G. & Kim, K. C. 2003, *United by Faith: the Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race*, New York: Oxford University Press.

3 Emerson, M. & Kim, K. 2003, 'Multiracial congregations: an analysis of their development and a typology', *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 53:2, 217.



Getting to know you...

One of the great joys of being a part of HBC is the remarkable diversity with which we have been blessed. People of all ages and backgrounds and from an unusually large number of different countries have been brought together by God to form a real family. We all have a story – indeed, many stories – to tell, and in this article Angela Hassabis talks to Jacqui Pearce about how she came to join us in Hendon, and the ways in which she has been called to serve God in the church.

Could you tell us where you come from originally, and how you became a Christian?

I come from Singapore, a small island situated at the bottom tip of Malaysia. It is a beautiful island and I have fond memories of it. I became a Christian when my grandma was working as a servant in a Christian household. The family introduced my brother and me to Christianity. We were orphans, brought up by my grandma, and we were very poor. I accepted Jesus at a Christian camp and have not looked back since.

When did you first come to HBC and how did you come to feel this was the church where God wanted you to settle?

I came to England in 1972 to train at the North London College of Camden in teaching children with special needs. I was already a Christian and had attended the Zion Bible Presbyterian Church in Singapore. On my arrival in England I attended several different churches in Tooting Broadway (which is where I landed up when I came to England!).

When the time came for me to do my



training I left Tooting and moved to Finchley, where I stayed with my host family, who are Greek. By then I had found Finchley Baptist church and worshiped there for about 10 years.

After my training I found a teaching job with the London Borough of Camden and continued to stay on with my host

family until I got married to Costas, and we moved to Hendon after our first child was born. I was still attending Finchley Baptist Church, but after being there for 15 years and now having three children I wanted to look for a church that had a ministry to young people – and at that time HBC had a strong youth ministry.

The ministers under whom I have served are: Pastor David Nunn, Pastor Tim Sutton and last but not least,

Pastor Errol Jacobs. I've loved every one of them! Psalm 139 says everything about the God that I serve and everything that He has done for me. At HBC I found that all my Christian needs have been

Psalm 139 says everything about the God that I serve and everything that He has done for me.

met, in worship, the preaching and the fellowship of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

You knew Catherine Gerrard before you came to England, and then met her unexpectedly when you arrived here – can you tell us more about that?

Another amazing thing was meeting Catherine in London. I knew her at my secondary school, then we both did nursing training after we finished our GCSEs. I left nursing because it was too traumatic for me to see people suffering and dying. Catherine and I went our separate ways until several years later, when I met her again at the Golders Green Woolworths, where she was a manageress. It was a total surprise, but I persuaded her to come to HBC and she is a blessing for me as she has always been a great sister in Christ and a true and faithful friend.

Could you say a little about the school you run?

My husband Costas and I, and now my son George as well, run an educational tuition centre at Hendon Central offering help to children with their schoolwork after school.

How long were you serving as a deacon in HBC and how did you find being part of the leadership team?

At HBC I felt the call to serve God as a deaconess in 2013, but was unable to complete my second term, which should have ended in September 2018, due to ill-health. I love the pastor and the leadership team, and, by the grace of God, we have always had great fellowship with each other, which I feel is the strength of the team!

You always go to the Sunday morning prayer meeting – can you tell us more about the importance of prayer in your own life and in the life of our church?

Ah ... Prayer! It is the only and greatest weapon we have against the enemy, Satan – that's my opinion! Our Saviour Jesus had to pray and talk to the Father all the time, so how can we (weaklings) not pray!!! To put it strongly, without praying we are 'the walking dead' and 'sitting targets for Satan's attack!'

By Jacqui Pearce



Ah ...

Prayer!

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and

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Satan's attack!'*



You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.*

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts,[a] God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand when I awake, I am still with you.

If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139 NIV

Busyness

Help! I can't do everything!

An all-too-familiar cry? It certainly is for me - so this article is something of an experiment. I like writing - and I think as I write. Ideas develop as the sentences are formed. In this case, I'm hoping to pray as I think as I write, and to try and address a very real problem that we can all identify with. Certainly I need to find answers, but I want those to be God's answers, and to explore with those reading these words how we can learn to achieve the right balance in our busy 21st-century lives. So, as I start to write I don't yet know how my thinking will progress, and how God will lead, but I want to see where this journey will take me, and all of you who are reading this article. When you've

come to the end of it, please do note down your thoughts along the way and send them to me so we can keep a dialogue going and explore together how to find that so-often elusive spiritual balance in our lives and in our church.

Everyday Chaos

I do too much. It's as simple as that. Balancing family life, a full-time job, 'extra-curricular activities' relating to my work, and church life is not always easy, and that's without factoring in small oases of relaxation or spending quality time with God. Don't get me wrong - I love everything I do, but sometimes

it can feel just a bit overwhelming, trying to manage all the different strands that make up our daily lives in this increasingly fast-paced, tech-led world. I'm sure you all find it the same, whether you're bringing up a young family, struggling with a demanding job, trying to keep on top of the housework - or doing all of these at once! And although it can be a huge blessing being able to keep in touch with family and friends via any number of social networking platforms, it can be very tricky trying to keep up with email, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc. on top of everything else, especially when it's all happening at the same time. So I want to embark on a journey of exploration with God, and to see where He leads me



in my quest to find a spiritual equilibrium that seems to be so elusive. And I hope you can all join with me so that we can take this journey together and learn from each other as we learn from our Father...

One in Seven

Where better to start than by looking at God, our Heavenly Father? The scripture that immediately comes to mind is right at the beginning of the Bible. In the account of the creation we read this: 'By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done' (Genesis 2:2-3). This essential time of rest following a period of 'work' was later enshrined in the fourth of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses at Mount Horeb: 'Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days shall you labour and do all your work, but the seventh is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work ...' (Deuteronomy 5:12-15).

It is all too easy for us to make this into a rigid, lifeless ruling, devoid of true spiritual value – something we human beings are very good at doing. It was something Jesus encountered time and again during his earthly ministry, and his apparent 'failure' to keep the Fourth Commandment was used as part of their case against him by Israel's religious leaders. For the most part these perceived infringements of the law recorded in the Gospels centred on healing: 'But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get

healed, and not on the Sabbath day"' (Luke 13:14; see also, for example, John 5:1-15; Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6). But perhaps the key points here are these: 'Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath"' (Mark 2:27); 'And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath"' (Luke 6:5).

So we learn that even God rested after his work of creation. He wants us to rest too, every seventh day, and this day of rest was instituted for our own good – moreover, it is a day over which Jesus is Lord. How do we put this into practice today, in the 21st century, and derive the full benefit that God intended from a day of Sabbath rest? That surely has to be a good starting point on our quest for spiritual balance in our lives. Certainly for me, it's a lesson I badly needed to learn. For years I looked on Sundays (and weekends generally) as a time for catching up on work I hadn't managed to do during the rest of the week – and I was spiritually impoverished as a result. I have no doubt that my health was also affected, although this remains an ongoing issue (too much work) over which I am still seeking guidance from God. It's only within the last couple of years or so that I have come to realise how important a weekly 'day off' actually is, and how much this reflects our Father's wise concern for his so-often wayward children. So now, I don't look at anything relating to 'work' (mostly meaning archaeological projects of one kind or another) on a Sunday, and I don't fuss around unduly with household chores either. The day gets off to a more relaxing start and with proper spiritual food at church that certainly makes a huge difference. I now look forward to Sundays as a real break away from the busyness of the week, and a time for spiritual refreshment. It seems counter-intuitive, to take regular

days off when there's so much to do (and I have friends at work who wouldn't contemplate this), but in many ways God's 'upside-down' kingdom does promote the opposite of what we think should be done, and if we only listened more closely to him, we would begin to see just why. There's still a lot more I need to learn about using this as a time to draw closer to God, but it's a start.

The other six days?

The case for taking Sundays as a day of rest may seem clear-cut (although it eluded me for far too long), but what about managing our precious God-given time during the rest of the week? How do we cope when our plans for getting through everything are repeatedly overturned by new calls on our time and we end up only managing to complete a fraction of what we need to do to keep on top of things?

As I was thinking about this today, I was very much struck by one of the passages in HTB's 'Bible in One Year' for 10 August, and Nicky Gumbel's commentary on it.ⁱ The passage in question is 2 Chronicles 1:1-17, which records Solomon, at the beginning of his reign, asking God for wisdom and knowledge, to enable him to govern Israel. Nicky comments: 'Do you ever feel overwhelmed by something you are supposed to be doing? I certainly do. Solomon was faced with a "staggering task" (v.9, MSG).' In the face of such an overwhelming mission, Solomon wasn't looking for riches, power or a long life. He wanted God's perspective on what he was called to do. And the Lord gave him not only the wisdom he asked for, but also unparalleled wealth, possessions and honour



(which he hadn't asked for). The BiOY commentary goes on to reinforce this: 'As Jesus said, 'Seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well' (Matthew 6:33). And as the apostle James said, 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you' (James 1:5).'

Whatever our workload, and however great our responsibilities, do they really compare with governing the seemingly ungovernable, nascent nation of Israel? That does put things into some kind of perspective, although it doesn't remove the seemingly continual day-to-day stresses we all face. Seeking God's wisdom first must surely become a priority for all of us – and we live at a time when the Holy Spirit has been given to the Church. Another passage in BiOY that struck me with some force this week (that for 6 August) concerns Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians: 'When God is with you by his Spirit you can actually understand the mind of the Lord. Indeed, you "have the mind of Christ"' (1 Cor. 2:16). That surely is something that should completely stop us in our tracks. Not only can we ask God for the wisdom we need to serve Him as we live our daily lives, and to carry us through all the myriad decisions we have to make on a day-to-day basis, through the Holy Spirit we have 'the mind of Christ'! There is so much to take in here that I feel I haven't even begun to scratch the surface of all that God is offering to his children with such a staggering promise. But surely this must begin to make a difference to the way I view the seeming mountains of things to do that can so often feel overwhelming.

How did Jesus cope?

What better model could we look to than Jesus Himself? He was fully human and fully God, and as a man he knew what it was to be tired, to be always in demand and to be interrupted in what he planned to do

by any number of unexpected calls on his time. Great crowds followed him everywhere and huge demands were made on him as the sick and demon-possessed were brought to him to be healed at all times of the day and night, and as he travelled around the country, teaching the people who came to him in their thousands. This would be enough to exhaust anyone, but we never read of Jesus turning people away and telling them he couldn't deal with their needs because he wanted a break. On one occasion, after healing many people into the evening while he was at Peter's house, he went with his disciples onto the lake in a boat and was so tired they had to wake him from a deep sleep that wasn't even disturbed by the violent storm that had sprung up and thrown them all into panic (Matthew 8:23–7).

After hearing of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus wanted to be alone and went by boat to a solitary place, but even there the crowds managed to find him. Instead of telling them to leave him in peace for a while, he 'had compassion on them and healed those who were ill', even providing a meal for several thousand (Matthew 14: 13–21). Jesus seemed to accept whatever came his way as part of his mission – and that has to be a very important lesson for those of us who are worried about the amount we have to do, and the constant disruption of our plans by unexpected calls on our time.

So, as a fully human man who was capable of becoming physically exhausted, how did Jesus cope? The answer surely has to lie in his relationship with his Father. Luke tells us that as the crowds grew, 'Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed' (Luke 5:16). After feeding the five thousand, 'he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray' (Matthew 14:23). And right at the beginning of his ministry, 'very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed' (Mark 1:35).

This has to be one of the main lessons coming through from this exploration of dealing with busyness. Making time to spend with God must be a priority, and the lessons learned from giving over one day in seven to rest, can be extended to the remaining days of the week. We need to have times of rest every day (both spiritual and purely relaxatory) in order to function effectively and to maintain that all-important 'balance'. After all, God looked over his work of creation at the end of each day – and saw that it was good. But, just as there are real dangers of falling into a legalistic frame of mind about the Sabbath (both for the ancient Jews and for us today as Christians), so there is potential for making the 'quiet time' something of a duty, an item on the 'to do' list that needs to be crossed off each day so we can get on with everything else that's piling up. And that for me is perhaps the number one lesson that's coming out of this exercise – in all the long lists of things that must be done, making time to be alone with God, and seeking his perspective, his wisdom in all that I am doing, must be the absolute priority. I won't pretend it's easy and I have a very long way to go, but I want to redress that spiritual imbalance that has built up over the years, and this seems like the best place to start.

I'd really like to hear your own experiences and thoughts as you've been reading through this article, so please do write them down, send me an email or give me a ring, and I very much hope that together we'll be able to build on these exploratory musings.

Article by, Jacqui Pearce



Baptist World Mission and Hendon Baptist Church

In April this year we had a visit from three members of BMS World Mission – Edwin Penman, Amy Hippisley and Jo Cordell. Together they shared with us news of what BMS is doing during a morning service, and invited us to become more involved. We asked them to tell us more for HBC Accord ...

Greetings from BMS World Mission! My name is Jo, and in April it was my great pleasure to spend a Sunday morning with your church family at Hendon Baptist Church, along with my colleagues, Amy and Edwin.

Within the first hour spent at Hendon, we quickly came to realise that we were amongst not just new friends, but caring brothers and sisters with a passion for the global church. We'd been met with great conversation, prayers, countless hugs and warm voices, all insisting 'I hope you're staying for lunch? We have food from over twenty countries' – what a welcome!

Edwin, Amy and I work within the Church Relations team in BMS' office in Didcot. A working day for us means plenty of emails, spreadsheets, cups of coffee and phone calls with our amazing supporters and we absolutely love it! We've come from different backgrounds – but have all ended up here because we fully believe in the transformative power of God, the work of BMS, and the potential of churches like Hendon to be an important part of that.



'How far would you go for the gospel?'

During our visit to Hendon, Edwin put this challenge to your church family, and it's been weighing on my mind since.

The book of Acts shows us how the early Church answered this question; they devoted themselves to fellowship and community, they gave what they had to help the poor and the needy, and they boldly stood for their faith in the world.

Although this describes the Church in the first century AD, the idea of having a dangerous, risk-filled life of faith is far from outdated today. Let me now fast-forward to 2018, to take you on a journey across the world, to the middle of the Sahara Desert:

Bardaï, in northern Chad, is a beautiful, violent, isolated place, where the local people would rather drive 14 hours across the border into Libya for surgery than use the local district hospital. Before now, the hospital severely lacked capacity, and inter-tribal tensions bred prejudice amongst the staff. Gunshot wounds and torture burns were left untreated, with no hope of healing.

But today that's changing, thanks to two BMS mission workers. Andrea and Mark Hotchkin are brilliant surgeons who live in Bardaï among the local people, in a mud house with no beds or running water. Andrea and Mark are witnesses to Jesus Christ and have made their home amid a Muslim-majority tribe with a fearsome reputation and a deep mistrust of outsiders.

Working in harsh conditions they are bringing light into this situation – tirelessly operating and bringing different people together for good. Thanks to their lifesaving care, medical miracles are happening, where God's power, human skill and communities come together. People trust their local hospital again, and lives are being saved and transformed.

"How far would you go for the
gospel?"



Real-life stories like this paint a vivid picture of what we as BMS are trying to achieve – and help to explain who we are. Our mission aim states that:

‘the highest goal of all we do is to bring people to faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and an experience of the abundant life that only he can provide.’

BMS works among some of the most marginalised and least evangelised people, in some of the most fragile places on earth. Our aim is to bring life in all its fullness, through seven ministries: church, development, education, health, justice, leadership and relief.

Working through our mission workers and partner organisations, where the need is at its very greatest, we intentionally go where others can’t, which is why you’ll find us in countries which are war-torn, in situations of extreme poverty and in places that are hostile to, or unreached by, the good news of Jesus Christ.

How you can be involved

When I read stories and prayer letters from our mission workers, I find it’s all too easy to feel superfluous – I’m an administrator, not a courageous surgeon! I work in an office, not the unforgiving desert, could God really use me? Perhaps you’re feeling the same – could God use Hendon Baptist Church for his work in the world?

I fully believe that the answer to this is a resounding YES. We know that God takes the little that we have to offer, in our weakness, and uses it for his glory, by his strength. BMS supports dedicated mission workers, who have given up everything to serve all over the world, but this work would be impossible without our support network of hundreds of UK churches and individuals who are praying for, giving to and encouraging our work.

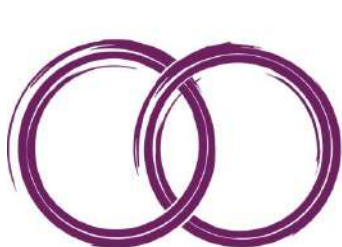
So, I’m really here with an invitation! Amy, Edwin and I would love to invite you to join in with this bigger picture and become a part of what God is doing through BMS.

There are so many ways for the whole church family at Hendon to be involved. We know that it’s important for you to express your heart for mission in a way that reflects Hendon’s unique character, so we’d love for you as a church to partner with us. Through our Church Partners programme, Hendon Baptist Church can form a real connection with BMS mission workers and be blessed and enthused through your tailored partnership.

But wait, there’s more! You can also stay informed about our work through our website, where you’ll find our great resources, including magazines, mission workers’ updates and videos. You can pray with us, using our prayer guide and weekly email update, serve with us overseas, and give to us – knowing that your gifts are changing lives.

Jo Cordell

*If you want to find out more, do look at the BMS website:
www.bmsworldmission.org*



BMS
church partners



All our readers know by now that Hendon Baptist Church has a spanking new kitchen, which is fully operational and already proving to be a huge asset. HBC Accord wanted to celebrate this exciting and important development in the life of the church, so we asked Giovanni Corradelli, our own resident chef, to tell us more about how it all came about.

It seems we've been on a long journey to reach completion of the kitchen – when did the ideas for this project first begin to take shape and how did they develop to give us the splendid resource we now have?

I was looking back at the first time we contacted Steelplan Kitchens in my emails and I was amazed to see that the first one was in November 2016! Rosanna, Jessica and I started coming to HBC in 2015 and I remember that as soon as I said I was a chef, Pastor Errol asked me to give them some advice about the refurbishment of the kitchen.

This is a professional kitchen – how does it differ from ordinary domestic kitchens and from the old church kitchen?

First of all, in its strength and durability. The METAL carcass ensures a Steelplan kitchen will last a great deal longer than a traditional wooden kitchen in a demanding semi-commercial environment. The polyester-powder-coated steel is impervious to water – no more swollen chipboard or rotting MDF! The metal is fire resistant and the powder-coated finish is formulated so that no toxic fumes are emitted in the case of fire. Hygiene: unlike wooden/chipboard cabinets the Steelplan Kitchen carcass does not contain any material that may sustain, harbour or encourage insects or bacteria.

What do we have in the church kitchen that wouldn't usually feature in our own homes and how can we make the best use of it?

A commercial dishwasher! The washing cycle is 2 to 4 minutes – no more hours spent at the sink washing cups and plates. Although we are still waiting, we are also expecting to get a commercial fridge and freezer: these will give more space to store large amounts of food at safe temperatures when we have special events (until now we used my catering insulated boxes from the College). We also now have a hot cupboard. This is essential for when we have bring-and-share meals after the service; cooked food can be kept warm while we have our service upstairs.

What kind of numbers can we now cater for?

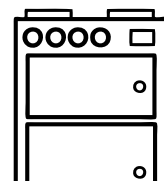
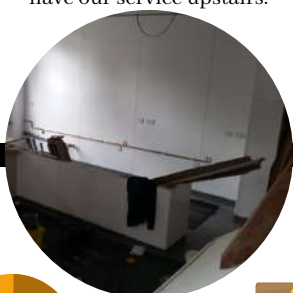
I'm confident that we can easily cater for 100–150 people (with the right number of helpers!). One of the things we still have to do is to sort out and replenish our plates, glasses, cutlery, cups etc. – at the moment our things are all mismatched or missing.

What is our vision for ways in which we can use the kitchen? Certainly it will be used for Sunday coffee/tea and lunches, and for special events – but what other ways can we make use of this valuable resource?

Our kitchen can now cater for a number of different possibilities, and personally I am excited to start thinking of ways we can be more present in the Community: cookery lessons, café, soup kitchen, small community restaurant, hall hire and catering for weddings, parties and conferences. These are just a few ideas on how we can improve our outreach and maybe create job opportunities as well.

How have you been aware of God leading in all the various stages we've been through to arrive where we are now with the finished kitchen? And how do we see Him leading us to use it in the future?

As a professional chef sometimes I've been frustrated to see how slowly things proceeded in terms of decisions and agreements, but as a Christian I can see the wisdom in God's timing. The Lord's favour has been on us the whole time; Steelplan Kitchens have been very generous and accommodating, and the contractors did an outstanding job in delivering our new kitchen quickly. I'm sure God will show us how to use our kitchen for the advancement of His Kingdom and will give us the right opportunities to invest and serve in the Church and community.



TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

For many years now, Tuesday Fellowship has been held in HBC's church hall. It has a faithful following and a long history of serving the church. Originally set up as the 'Women's Meeting' after some years it became clear that the gender divide was no longer helpful and the meeting was opened to all who were able to attend on a Tuesday afternoon. Indra Ganeshaguru tells us about her role in leading the meeting and what goes on when they get together.

The fellowship had been going on for many years before I joined it. I was told that Mary Gravatt started it as a ladies' fellowship and the numbers were high – as many as 65 to 70. I joined the fellowship after getting baptised at HBC by David Nunn in 1999. That's when I asked if it was possible to join and was told that anyone could do so. Since I was doing a part-time job and was off on a Tuesday I went along. Diane James and Anne Whytock ran the fellowship then and we numbered about 30–35 people – men and women young and old. Since Anne was able to drive an ambulance, she picked up many of the older and disabled people and brought them to the meeting. When Ann was leaving London that was when Diane felt two others should take over and run the fellowship. Angela and Catherine were appointed as leaders and continued for a year or two. When Angela was not able to commit herself to continuing I remember there was a shaky moment, when we were wondering if the fellowship could go on running. With a lot of prayer and discussion we decided to ask the diaconate if we could run it as a committee. This was agreed and given the blessing to go ahead, which is when I got seriously involved.

We had Alice Jolliffe, Diane James, Drucie Gardner, Laima Arnold and us girls – Catherine Gerrard, Norma Campbell, Lanie Acorda and myself. We joined as a group and ran the fellowship together, and this continues today (although we have sadly lost Alice, Drucie and, most recently, Laima). We have our committee meetings every quarter, planning and arranging speakers, and taking care of the finances. All but two of the committee members take turns to lead the meetings. Our numbers have dropped lately, through people passing away or being unable to attend.

We meet in the church hall, and the person who is leading on a Tuesday will come in early to put out chairs out and get the table ready for tea. They will also prepare by selecting hymns, readings and prayers. If we have a guest speaker we welcome them and introduce them to the whole group. Once a month we serve lunch and start the meeting at 1.00 pm. Otherwise it starts at 2.00 to 3.00 pm, and then we serve the tea and cakes. We do have two ladies, Diane and Jayne, from St Mary's every week, and Jayne helps with the preparations on lunch days.

The speakers cover a wide spectrum, for example, the Leprosy Mission, London City Mission, the Salvation Army and others. Up until last year we had Rebecca, who was then 102, attending our meetings. It is a privilege to have had her with us.

We do celebrate Pancake Day, and have a Christmas carol service, with a big lunch to which we invite other leaders from the church. We do have a lot of fun and laughter. I love the atmosphere during the preparations for Christmas lunch, setting the table with all the trimmings. My fondest memories are of when we celebrated Rebecca's 100th birthday, Diane and George's 50th wedding anniversary, and Alice's and Laima's 70th birthdays.



Our prayer and hope is that we will have more people joining us to boost numbers. If you would like to come along, please don't be shy – just turn up!



*We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

Psalm 78:4-6 NIV



A collage of some members of HBC Tuesday Fellowship during their weekly meeting



Postscript

Since Indra wrote this article, by a most happy 'coincidence' we were given a copy of the little booklet by F. M. Gravatt, *From Victoria to Elizabeth: Meetings for Women in Hendon Baptist Church 1873–1973*. It outlines the history of women's work in HBC from the foundation of the Dorcas Society seven years or so after the church was first formed in 1873, with the express aim of making and distributing clothes, blankets and other items for the poor. Its name was changed to the Hendon Baptist Church Aid Society in 1889, and it was one of several different initiatives started by and aimed especially at women and girls over the years. These included a Mothers' Meeting and the Baptist Women's League, both of which were running when the First World War broke out in 1914. In 1935, the then Pastor, Revd Rufus Jones, invited all ladies of the church to a new meeting to be held on Tuesday afternoons – and so was

born the Women's Meeting, the precursor of our present Tuesday Fellowship. From the outset a crèche was provided, with different speakers at every meeting. A regular attendance of 30–40 was maintained for many years. A monthly lunch was started in 1971, and members were encouraged to invite their friends along.

So here we can see the roots of the meeting that is still held on Tuesday afternoons, but which is now open to all, regardless of gender. There is a great deal more of interest in Mary Gravatt's little book and we hope to include more of her fascinating insights into the history of HBC in future issues of this magazine.

By Jacqui Pearce



Greetings from Romania!

It is so good to be able to share news from our brothers and sisters in Romania, as we have in previous issues of HBC Accord. Pastor Adrian Cova of Carmel Baptist Church sends us this greeting:

We are enjoying times of grace in the Lord's ministry – we are a united church and open for mission! We also are glad for the spiritual and material support that your church so faithfully offers to Carmel Baptist Church in GIRIS. We are grateful and thankful to the Lord and to you, and we want to assure you of our prayers and the joy produced by your support.

As I said, we are a church that is open to and involved in mission. When I say mission I am referring not just to evangelical outreach, but also to social engagement, helping others and praying in the midst of and for the people we serve.

Spiritually we are in a battle over Biblical teaching, God's Word, and are having a time of fasting and prayer over a review of our country's constitution concerning the family and the possibility of allowing same-sex marriage. We believe marriage should be between a man and a woman, just as God intended.

Socially we are involved in the gathering and distribution of notebooks, back packs, clothes and shoes for the poor families in the village of GIRIS now that a new school year has begun.

Once again holy greetings to our brethren in Hendon, and to Pastor Jacobs' family.

With love in Christ!

Pastor Adrian Cova



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hewbrews 10:24-25



REMEMBERING LAIMA ARNOLD

Laima was member of Hendon Baptist Church for many years, although perhaps many who now attend won't really have known her very well as she had been ill for some time and unable to attend services. She passed into the presence of the Lord in August. We asked Indra Ganeshaguru to tell us a bit more about Laima and her memories of the time she spent with us in HBC.



From left to right: Lanie, Catherine, Laima Arnold, Norma, Alice, Diane and Indra



Her faith was so strong that she mentored many of us and brought us close spiritually to the Lord, both through her actions and through her love.

Laima had been a long-standing member of HBC and came to the UK at the time of the Second World War, when Russia was trying to invade Latvia. She left the country with her mother and her sister, and went through many difficulties as they travelled through various European countries before arriving here. She trained as a fashion designer, and later worked in the medical field, for the famous heart surgeon, Professor Magdi Yacoub.

While she was still working she helped to bring up her sister's sons, and during her lifetime went through both good and difficult times. She was married twice and lost both husbands and had various heart problems, although she still managed to live independently.

While she was arranging for her sister's funeral at Golder's Green Crematorium she met Rosemary Nunn, wife of Revd David Nunn, who was Pastor at HBC for some 30 years. Rosemary invited Laima to church, and she was subsequently baptised by David Nunn and became a member of HBC in 1992/93. She was a

steadfast follower of our Lord Jesus Christ right up to the end. Her faith was so strong that she mentored many of us and brought us close spiritually to the Lord, both through her actions and through her love.

Laima was a generous giver, especially to those who were underprivileged. She was a beautiful, stylish lady, elegant in herself and in her possessions. The last few years of her life were plagued by illness, and she lost her independence when she finally had to give up driving. Yet she managed to carry on and live fairly well until she had surgery on her leg and clinical error caused her to become housebound. She then had to depend on others a lot, which she hated. In spite of all this, however, her faith was never compromised – she would say 'if my Jesus could suffer and die on the cross for me, what is my pain?' She was ready to go and rest in the arms of the Lord. Laima was taken to hospital on 5 August with a lung infection, and she passed away on the 12th. She is now without any pain or tears, and is with her Lord and Saviour in peace.



LOVE DIVINE

Verse 1

*Love divine all love excelling
Joy of heav'n to earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
And Jesus Thou art all compassion
Pure unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter ev'ry trembling heart*

Verse 2

*Breathe O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find our promised rest
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty*

Verse 3

*Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more Thy temples leave
May we be a blessing to Thee
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love*

Verse 4

*Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder love and praise*



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HOW GREAT THOU ART

Verse 1

*O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed*

Chorus

*Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art*

Verse 2

*When through the woods and forest glades I
wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain
grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze*

Verse 3

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin*

Verse 4

*When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art*



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T *HE GENESIS FLOOD PART 2:* WORLDWIDE EVIDENCE

Geological evidence

The Bible clearly teaches a global flood, covering even the highest mountains (Genesis Chapter 7). It mentions two main stages: waters rising and then receding, lasting a total of 370 days. This violent movement of massive volumes of water across all the land areas

wore away huge quantities of rock, soil and vegetation, grinding the minerals into particles of varying sizes. Moving water carrying sand, soil, pebbles and boulders etc. actually sorts them according to size and density and drops them in distinct layers as it loses velocity.

The run-off of the receding waters, in vast, continent-wide tsunamis, deposited billions of tons of material into the oceans, particularly at the continental margins. Billions of marine creatures were quickly buried alive, and became fossilized, as the layers hardened into rock. Even the highest mountains contain fossils of sea creatures, indicating that they arose after such animals had been buried.

Such layers are found on all continents, often in massive extents. For example, the layers of the Sidney Basin in Australia extend 200 km north and south. In the USA, sediment layers visible in the Grand Canyon extend 1,000 km northwards. Chalk layers of the White Cliffs

of Dover extend into Central Europe and beyond. Purple and white quartzite conglomerates in England also stretch right across Europe. There are many such features worldwide.¹ Often the layers are hundreds of meters deep and hundreds of kilometers wide. Only **worldwide** masses of deep, fast-moving water could transport, sort and lay down such vast layers of sediment – and three-quarters of earth's rocks are sedimentary!

Planation surfaces are flat plains, often hundreds of kilometres in extent. Some of them are on mountains, e.g. Table Top mountain in S. Africa. They are found on every continent. Secular geologists have no explanation. However, receding flood-waters would have eroded the tops of softer rock mountains, leaving flat areas.

Bent, or contorted rock layers are also a puzzle for geologists. Many examples of several layers of rock form sharp curves. They must have been bent while the material was still wet and soft. Otherwise, there would be

fractures radiating through them if they bent when hardened. Contorted layers must have been laid down and contorted very quickly, not over millions of years. Such features exist on every continent. Multiple rock layers, as in the Grand Canyon, usually have flat, level joins between them, with no signs of erosion or weathering. This shows that they were laid down extremely rapidly. Yet the secular interpretation is that millions of years elapsed between each layering. Canyons all over the world have similar layering.

Fossil evidence

Deposits of coal, oil and gas are made up of organic material, buried under layers of sandstone, clays and soils, just as you would expect from a *worldwide* flood. No such deposits are being formed now. That is why they are called 'fossil fuels.' Coal deposits are found on *every continent*, the result of rapid burial of countless billions of tons of vegetation, carried to the same locations in flood-water. And wherever they are tested, they show the same radio-metric dating (only thousands of years, not millions) at every level.

Fossils are made when animals or plants are buried in mud or volcanic ash, which then hardens quickly. This process prevents decay and scavenging by other creatures. There are fossil 'graveyards' on every continent, containing thousands of creatures which obviously died together at the same time. Around 90% of all known fossils are marine creatures. This is predictable in

a universal flood. Land creatures would flee to higher ground, to be finally drowned. Their corpses would then decay in the sea or be scavenged.

Many fossil sites worldwide contain a mixture of animals and birds not usually found together, apparently washed up by a flood and trapped in caves or crevices. Contrary to what is taught, many dinosaurs were fossilized along with 'modern'

mammals, reptiles and birds. But they are not shown together in museums and text books! Actual dinosaur bones, (not fossilized), have been found, stinking of decaying flesh, and having traces of soft tissue inside, including microscopic blood vessels and cells. They also contain carbon 14, impossible if they are millions of years old.

On *different continents*, fossilized tree trunks, minus roots and branches, are commonly found standing upright through several rock layers, or coal seams. This shows that the rock layers must have been laid down in a short time, before the wood could rot away. Birds and other creatures are found petrified in postures of death throes, heads and necks arched back, typical of being drowned or suffocated – not natural deaths. Proof of extremely rapid burial and fossilization is seen in soft-bodied creatures such as jellyfish. Mineralization must occur before they decompose.¹ I myself once picked up, in a gravel driveway, a strange stone that turned out to be a sea sponge. You can't get more soft-bodied than that! Yet Darwin wrote 'No organism² wholly soft can be preserved.'

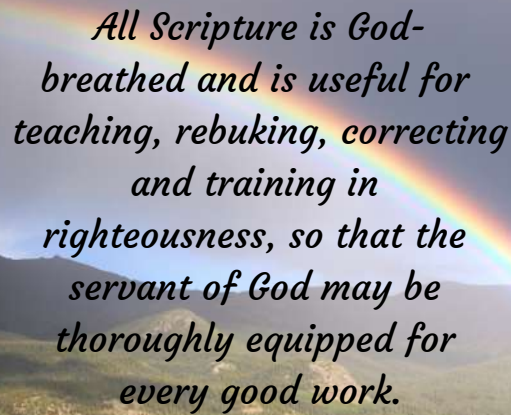
Again, such soft-bodied fossils are found on every continent.

A canyon as vast as the Grand Canyon is strong evidence of a continent-wide body of flowing water. So it is most probable that it was caused by a run-off from the Flood itself. If this is so, then the many other large canyons in the world could well have the same origin (see creation.com website for further evidence).

Historical evidence: other Flood accounts and legends

There are hundreds of cultures around the world that have traditions of a global flood. The ancient Babylonians had their own version of it. Among the Ancient Greeks, Plato, Herodotus and Aristotle mention it. Flood stories have been found among the Native Americans, the ancient cultures of Ireland, Wales, Norway, Lithuania, Romania, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Persia (Iran), India, Russia, China, Indonesia, Australia, Polynesia, Hawaii, Mexico, the ancient Celts, the Incas, Formosans, and many, many others. Coincidence?

In 95% of the flood legends, the flood was worldwide; in 88%, a certain family was saved; in 70%, they survived in a boat; in 67%, animals were saved; in 66%, the flood was due to man's wickedness; in 66%, the survivors had been forewarned; in 57%, they ended up on a mountain; in 33% birds were sent from the boat; and in 9%, exactly eight people were



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

spared.³ Some of these accounts closely resemble the Genesis version. An ancient temple in China has a wall painting that shows Noah's boat in the raging waters. Dolphins are swimming around it and a dove with an olive branch in its beak flies towards it. The painting predates the coming of missionaries to China. One account from China even includes Noah's name, 'Nuah.' According to one Chinese tradition, the flood took place around 2,852-2,738 BC, the same time slot that the Jewish Scriptures give.

Genealogies

In addition to the Biblical genealogies of people descended from Noah and his three sons, there are many other genealogies that trace descent from Noah. Early British kings trace their ancestry back to Brutus, a descendant of Japheth, son of Noah.⁴ Six royal houses of the Anglo-Saxons traced their descent from Japheth. So did the ancient Irish, and the Norwegian and Danish royalty. Odin, worshipped as a god by

the Norsemen, was in fact a historical character, the 17th generation from Japheth. Such facts lend support to the historical nature of the Genesis version, and other accounts of a universal Flood. The knowledge of this cataclysmic event obviously comes from ancient times, via Noah and his descendants, and the peoples that emerged from the dispersal from the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). From these the story spread all over the earth, becoming less accurate or more embellished as people migrated further away from its origin in time and place.

Evidence from geology, fossils and ancient traditions all fit beautifully with what the Bible says. The Global Flood of Noah's day was a real event. The only reasons for thinking it is a myth came from those with an agenda to discredit the Bible.

Article by:
Jeff Wise

References

1. Sarfati, J. (2015) The Genesis Account, 538.
- 2 Darwin C. (1859) On the Origin of Species, 1st Edn, 228.
- 3 Figures taken from J Perloff (1999) Tornado in a Junkyard, 168.
- 4 See B Cooper (1995) After the Flood.



Jeff and Valerie Wise

QUIZ

The names of 15 Bible characters are hidden within the text below, can you find them all? Some characters are well known, some less so.

Example: 'I have a **pet ermine**, it is a carnivore with a life expectancy of four to seven years.' The hidden name in this sentence is Peter.

Two prizes are up for grabs – one for children (under 18) and one for adults. Simply work out the names and hand your answers in to Lindsay by 31st December. 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.

A most interesting quiz for able victors to attempt. Rest here a while and search your mind. So many unusual names in the Bible – not Joe, Lily or Fred. And another thing – some are difficult to pronounce! Could this be a damaging waste of time, a hazard you must contend with? It would be a rash error to think this. No, ahead you must march with this strange task and step henceforth into this with gusto. At least you won't get in a rut, happily this task brings variety to your day, the very thought of it should bring a smile to your face! So ban nasty negative thoughts about this quiz from your mind. No point in going out to find the answers – Asda and Walmart have no idea! A month or so should be long enough so make sure to submit your answers.

Answers to April Quiz

1) The serpent, 2) Cain, 3) Jesus, 4) Nicodemus, 5) Paul, 6) Nathanael, 7) Job, 8) Pilot, 9) Judas Iscariot, 10) David, 11) Mordecai, 12) Peter, 13) Ezekiel, 14) Nebuchadnezzar, 15) God, 16) Xerxes, 17) Gideon, 18) Saul, 19) Habakkuk, 20) Deborah

Winner of April's Quiz: Tuesday Fellowship

WITNESSING TO CHRIST IN BAPTISM

On 30 September we were privileged to witness the baptism of three people who have given their lives to Jesus. The service was a time of great joy and blessing for everyone present, and we are delighted to be able to share the testimonies of those who were baptised.

KHADIJA

To God be the glory, for this wonderful day in my life, my baptism. I come from a Muslim background, but I had always known that I would become a Christian one day. I first learned about Jesus Christ in my early years through friends, but never really had the opportunity to give him my life because of my background. It was an abomination for a Muslim to convert to Christianity.

In early adulthood, the majority of my peers were Christians. They continued telling me about a man named Jesus Christ, who died for our sins to set us free. They also told me of how my life would be filled with purpose and would lack for nothing anymore, if I accepted him as Lord and saviour. I became very curious.

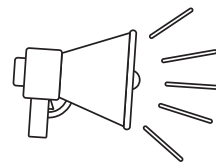
I secretly started going to church without the knowledge of my family. I was in and out of churches, not really giving my life to Christ, but was open to it. I got carried away by youth and thought everything seemed fine in my life at the time and lacked for nothing, so why change anything? I continued living my life as I had before.

Finally I reached a point in my mid-thirties when I had this sudden urge to evaluate my life. I thought all this time I had sinned several times, but good things continued to happen to me in my life, so why? I felt guilty and ashamed. I then realised that truly there is someone out there looking after me and keeping me safe. At this stage I finally made a decision and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

I have had trials and tribulations, but God has seen me through the storm. Since accepting Jesus, my life has become better and I have become a better person. I now have fear and love for God and also for my fellow men. I testify to God's goodness in my life – he is there for

me always. As I write this testimony I am going through a very crucial phase in my life right now that will seal my future, and I need God's immediate intervention, I need a breakthrough right this moment. Brethren please lift me up in your prayers as I am really desperate. God I pray that you give me the strength to continue holding on to my faith despite my trials and tribulations. I know you will see me through.

Thank you Pastor Errol and thank you Hendon Baptist Church for opening your doors to me.

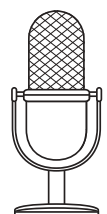


NAVID

Before I believed in Jesus Christ, I was a man who was having a lot of depression and darkness. When I believed in Jesus, he touched my heart and he not only took my depression but he died for me on the cross. My duty now is to bring the good news of salvation to all my family and friends.

Today, I believe in faith that I will die with Jesus and will be resurrected with Jesus again. From now I'm a son of God and the Holy Spirit is dwelling inside me.

Hallelujah to our lord Jesus Christ. Amen.





Navid, Yemisi and Khadija and HBC leadership team



Yemisi reading her testimony



Khadija reading her testimony



Navid after his baptism

YEMISI

I first gave my life to Christ at the age of 16. I was so happy and sure to do it. I thought everything will become clearer, but something still didn't feel right. On the morning of my 25th birthday, I prayed and I cried out to God, to show me himself and to understand. And he did. You see I didn't realise that I was battling with shame, rejection and self-hate. I also had people in my life who promoted these feelings and I was looking for them to love me, but they didn't know what love was and neither did I.

God showed me that loving him is a choice – a choice to love and accept myself because he accepts me. I learnt that loving myself was staying away from sin and if I do fall I can forgive myself because he has forgiven me. Loving God is loving, accepting and forgiving others because he accepts them.

I have been through so many trials and God has always seen me through, and I believe my relationship with God is between me and him, so I never thought it was necessary to be baptised. But recently God put this in my heart. I don't know why and this morning I thought about backing out because I was terrified of speaking in front of you guys, but 10 minutes before this service it dawned on me that today is my testimony. My testimony of how God saved me and my relationship with him. So I would like to thank him for today.

“

I would like to read a poem I wrote:

How to describe the indescribable, I have no words for it.

But you are so real to me.

My closest friend, my everything.

You have NEVER failed me;

Even when I didn't know you, you were always with me.

You waited for me to take your hands.

When I did you wrong, you never turned your back.

You accepted every part of me and now,

I truly believe.

I delight in you, O Lord,

Forever amazed by the wonder of your works.

I weep at your loving kindness,

I cannot thank you enough.

Truth and comfort in all your words,

Daily, I will strive to glorify you.

No power on earth or hell can take me away from you and

Till my dying breathe

I will joyfully praise YOU.



”

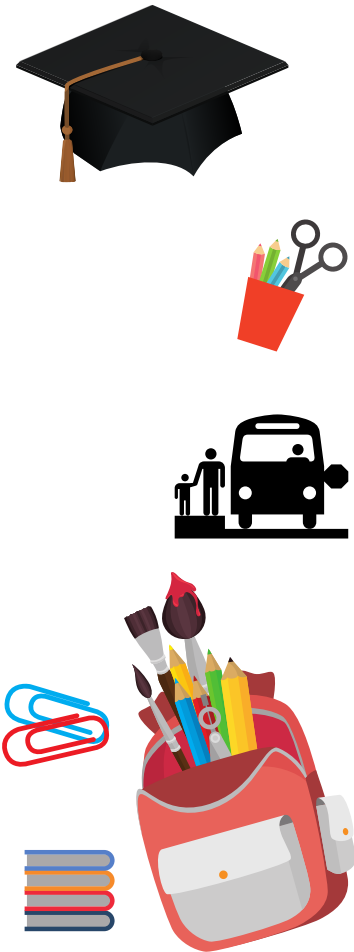


Top Ten Tips

FOR PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Article by Lindsay Jacobs

As the time of year for choosing schools approaches, parent and teacher Lindsay Jacobs explores some ways to help your child prepare for school.



1) Read to your child



Reading to your child from a young age can boost their literacy and reading skills when they start school. It also improves your child's concentration span and develops their creativity, imagination and empathy. It is never too early or too late to start enjoying books with your child and there is no need to spend lots of money – simply sign up at your local library to borrow books for free.



2) Help your child to socialise



If your child doesn't attend a nursery, it is a good idea to sign them up for pre-school which is free from the age of 3. This gives your child the opportunity to play with other children and build their social skills, as well as experiencing many different toys and activities.



3) Go on trips



There are lots of places in London to visit for free from parks to museums and public transport is free for under-11s. Even just taking a walk around your neighborhood and pointing out interesting things is beneficial. Talk about what you see, take photographs and draw pictures. Ask your child questions and encourage them to ask their own.



4) Promote independence



Teach your child to dress themselves, tie their shoe laces, do up zips and buttons, wipe their nose, use cutlery and so on. When your child starts school, they will be one of up to 33 children in the class with only one or two adults so the more they can do for themselves, the better.



5) Practice using stationary



Teach your child the correct way to hold a pencil and give them lots of practice in drawing. Form letters together as well as drawing shapes, zigzags and patterns. They also need to know how to use scissors. Supervise them cutting up paper using child-safe scissors. Give them shapes to cut around and practice cutting in a straight line. Another useful task is colouring in pictures and learning to keep inside the lines.



6) Practice fine motor skills

Tablets and smart phones are wonderful devices, but they could be responsible for children having delayed fine motor skills (the coordination of small muscles in the hands and fingers). This has an impact on their handwriting skills. Examples of exercises that improve fine motor skills include squeezing a spray bottle (fill an empty spray bottle with water and encourage your child to squirt it at a brick wall), squeezing pegs (ask them to help you with the washing), picking up grains of rice (have a race to see who can transfer the grains from one bowl to another the fastest) and so on. Search online for lots more ideas.



7) Work on their gross motor skills

Gross motor skills are larger movements that your child makes with their arms, legs, feet or entire body. Regular trips to the park is a great way to improve motor skills. Any activity involving movement can be beneficial – practice throwing and catching, kick a ball, have races, dance, skip and so on.



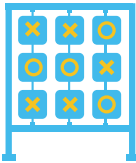
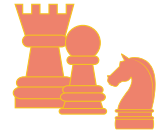
8) Share songs and rhymes

Teach your child nursery rhymes – even a young baby will enjoy being sung to. Most nursery rhymes have an educational theme, such as learning parts of the body or numbers. If you don't know any, look on YouTube or see if your local Children's Centre or library has a singing class for young children.



9) Play games

Playing games with your child teaches them to take turns as well as how to lose (and win) graciously. You can play simple pen and paper games (such as noughts and crosses) as well as card games and board games. Check out eBay or your local charity shops for cheap, second-hand games. Orchard Games have a huge selection of reasonably-priced educational board games for children as young as three.



10) Get into a routine

Children need a lot more sleep than adults. Try to get your child into a bedtime routine that involves them going to bed and getting up at a consistent time. If your child sleeps well, they will find it easier to concentrate at school.



HALLOWEEN

A Christian Response

By Lindsay Jacobs

Visit any shopping centre or supermarket in the autumn and you will be greeted to orange and black displays of witches, ghosts and devils. Every year Halloween seems to get bigger and bigger with ever more extravagant decorations and costumes. My Facebook feed is filled with pictures of my friends and their children dressed in disturbing costumes and having parties. What should the Christian response be? Do we see it as a 'bit of fun' and join in or should we completely shun this festival?

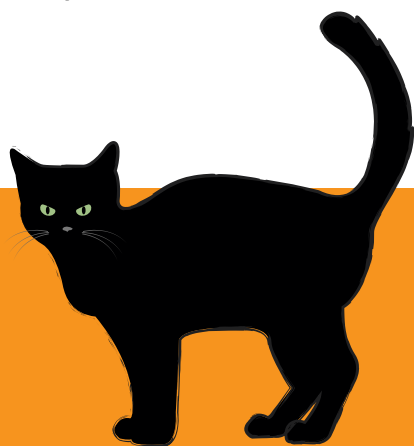
The History of Halloween

The celebration of Halloween can be traced back about 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced 'Sow-in') which was celebrated on 1 November. Samhain means 'summer's end' and it marked the end of harvest time and the beginning of winter when the Celts believed the boundary between this world and the next was at its thinnest. On the night before Samhain (31 October), the Celts believed the souls of the dead were freed from the underworld to roam the earth. Crops and animals were burnt as sacrifices to these spirits and the people left food and drink outside their homes to appease them. They also dressed up in costumes as a way of honouring the good spirits and hiding from the evil ones.

As Christianity spread in England, the Church began to take over Celtic festivals and 'Christianise' them as a way of helping people convert from paganism. In the 9th Century AD, the Church moved All Saints' Day to 1 November to coincide with Samhain, and the day before became known as 'All Hallows' Eve' from which we get the name Halloween. Trick-or-treating was originally called 'souling' and involved children begging for money, apples, ale or special cakes known as 'soul cakes' in return for praying for the dead relatives of the benefactors, a practice endorsed by the Church as a welcome alternative to leaving gifts for spirits. Another similar tradition emerged called 'guising' in which children would go door-to-door in costumes, asking for treats in return for a song performance.

In 19th-century Ireland, 'guisers' were given hollowed-out turnip lanterns engraved with a scary face, which was believed to ward off spirits. These became known as 'jack-o'-lanterns' and are the precursors of the pumpkins used today.

Today, Halloween is big business, with over £300 million spent on the festival in the UK in 2017, making it our 3rd biggest retail event after Christmas and Easter. The festival of Samhain is still celebrated as a religious festival by Wiccan witches – a fact which in itself should be enough to dissuade Christians from participating.



Some animal shelters do not allow people to adopt black cats in the lead up to Halloween as some people use them as accessories to their Halloween costumes and then abandon them after the festival.



A Christian Response

It is up to the individual Christian to decide if they will participate in the traditions of Halloween. As with every aspect of our lives, we should study the Bible for answers and always ask ourselves whether our behaviour and attitudes are honouring to God. Halloween has a dark history and even today it is celebrated by dressing as ghosts, demons and witches, with a focus on death and evil. Just take a look at the types of films that are on television and shown at the cinema around Halloween – the celebration of evil is obvious. The Bible is clear about God’s view on such matters. For example, in Deuteronomy 18:10–12 God says:

‘Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord...’

Furthermore, Paul asks in 2 Corinthians 6:14b:

‘For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?’

It can be difficult to go against what the rest of the world is doing, particularly for our children who may be invited to Halloween parties or school events.

However, aren’t we as Christians called to be different and separate from the world? Do we really want to be involved in a day that celebrates the Satanic rather than glorifying God? The Devil is always looking for a way into our hearts and lives – and those of our children. Let us not give him an opportunity, or underestimate his power. As 1 Peter 5:8 says:

‘Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.’

How then should we respond? Should we hide in our houses and switch off the lights to discourage trick-or-treaters? I don’t believe this is the best response. Instead, let’s use Halloween as an opportunity to spread light in a place of darkness. Where we used to live in Essex, we would regularly get as many as 20 trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Our response was to buy lots of sweets to give the children – along with a gospel tract. If you get trick-or-treaters where you live, why not give them a ‘Bag of Hope’, available free from UCB (<https://www.ucb.co.uk/bagofhope>), to share the message of Jesus with the children you meet?

Sources

History (2018), <https://www.history.co.uk/article/the-history-of-halloween> [accessed 5 September 2018].

Metro (2018) <https://metro.co.uk/2017/10/31/black-cats-are-at-risk-on-halloween-so-please-keep-yours-in-tonight-7040821/> [accessed 25 September 2017]

Telegraph (2011) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/insurance/contents/8849673/Bur-glaries-rise-by-26pc-over-Halloween.html> [accessed 25 September 2018]

Unsurprisingly, crime rates increase around Halloween; in fact it is the day of the year when you are most likely to suffer malicious damage to your home.



C O N T A C T S

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SERVICES & WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday service: 11.00am in the church

Sparkles Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesday: 10.00am-12.00pm

Tuesday Fellowship: Tuesday: 2.00pm

Girls' Brigade: Tuesday: 6.30pm

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

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

Youth Ministry: Monthly

Home Groups: Monday: 10.00am and 7.00pm, Tuesday: 8.00pm, Wednesday: 8.00pm, Thursday: 8.00pm (NB. Home Groups meet in different locations across North and North West London)

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