



CONNECT

May 2008

'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'

Dear Friends,
Imagine what it would be like to live in a world without any hope.
Imagine what it must be like to have only your own limited resources to live by. Imagine what it must be like to get up each day dreading what is ahead and feeling powerless to change anything. Well, there are countries and people who experience that every day of their lives.

Last week I received a heart rending email from a 16 year old girl living in Zimbabwe, writing to the world to tell of the terrible things that are happening in her country. Her heartbreak brought tears to my eyes yet she was not without hope. She had faith in God through Jesus Christ. She was writing to ask people around the world to pray for Zimbabwe, believing that prayer could and would change things. We prayed together every evening that week at 8pm and want to encourage everyone to continue praying with the world for Zimbabwe every day at 8am, 1pm, and 8pm.

Believers in Jesus have their hope in a mighty God of love who showed his love for the world by coming to be part of it. Jesus said, "I have not come to judge the world but to save it." (John 12:47) At the Spring Harvest Conference this year we were also all reminded:
That our God is the God of Hope and the God of Miracles;
That the name of Jesus is above every other name including cancer, debt, unemployment and divorce;
That God is always with us even when we have seemingly lost hope.
So if you have lost your hope at this time, if your circumstances are impossible, look up to the God of Hope.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Tim 6:17

Bless you.
Sue

Our Boys' Brigade

Formed in 1883 in Glasgow the Boys' Brigade is the oldest uniformed youth organisation in the world. During 2008 the Brigade will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary and numerous events are being planned for the year throughout the world. On founders day, 4th October, there will be a special service in Glasgow Cathedral whilst here in Cheltenham we shall be celebrating with our boys a display at the town hall. The Brigade itself is a Christian organisation founded by William Alexander Smith in Glasgow as a midweek extension to his Sunday School bible class. The mid week meeting was essentially a pioneering project designed to do something for the boys of his Sunday school class who aimlessly roamed the streets during the week. The Brigade activities are built on four corner stones: Faith, discipline, physical activity and work within the Community. The discipline aspect comes in the form of drill and the band marching, both added by William him being an ex army officer. Although the Brigade has had to change over the years its principles have never changed. The programme itself is designed to encourage personal development and many an employer has testified to the additional benefit a boy from the Brigade brings. The object of the Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys through a personal development programme.

Our boys will be taking part in all of the 125 events planned for this year which are as follows:-

7th January - Static Bike race in Kings square Gloucester where our Junior and Company boys completed the 125 miles in about 7 hours;

26th April - Battalion Parade starting in the late afternoon marching from the Promenade for a thanksgiving service at Christchurch following a BBQ for the boys.

7th June - Fun day in the park. This is an open event designed for all youngsters in Cheltenham and wherever to join us in the various activities scheduled to run in Pittville Park. There will most likely be racing events, climbing, boating competitions, a football tournament, and maybe bouncy castles and the like. The exact programme is still to be determined. Also on that day there will be a Rock Concert, which will be open to all youngsters. It will be held at Tewkesbury Abbey and is called 'Rave in the Nave'. The star group that night is 'Replenish,' a top 5 Christian Rock Group. Tickets and publicity will be out shortly.

25th July -2 August - The Battalion camp at The Isle of Wight.

4th October - Finally as previously mentioned the Founders day Display.

For parents who would like to know more information about joining our Boys' Brigade here at the church then do please come and speak to us on a Friday evening or phone us on 01242 692812.

We run on most Fridays from 6.30-7.45pm for 5-10 year old and 7.45-9.00pm for older boys.

Peter Guns Captain Charlton Kings Boys' Brigade

An analogy of God by Robin Williams

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they talked about many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said:

'I don't believe that God exists.'

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer.

'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realise that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine loving a God who would allow all of these things.'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an un-trimmed beard. He looked dirty and un-kempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber:

'You know what? Barbers do not exist.'

'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber.

'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'

'No!' the customer exclaimed. 'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'

'Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me.'

'Exactly!'- affirmed the customer. 'That's the point! God does exist!

What happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him.

That's why there is so much pain and suffering in the world.

Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet.

Coming up in June...

Revive

A Contemporary Worship Service
Tuesday 4th June@CKBC

Services during May

4th May 10.30 am "Present Yourself" Romans 12:1
6.30 pm Service of prayers for our children

11th May 10.30 am **Victory Outreach**
Come and hear life changing testimonies from ex-offenders.
Bring a friend and come and be filled with hope.
Followed by a bring and share lunch.

18th May 10.30 am Morning Worship led by John Palmer

25th May 10.30 am "The Transformed Life" Romans 12:2
6.30 pm Prayer Service for our children

If you would like to:

- advertise an event on this newsletter;
- submit an article;
- tell the world about how God has answered your prayers;

Or

- Receive this by email

Then please email me at mellerina@tiscali.co.uk



www.ckbc.org.uk