



CONNECT

July 2008

'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'

Dear All,

A small African boy told his mother one day that he was going off on a long journey to find out what God is like. So he packed 6 cans of drink and a few small cakes into his bag and set off.

After walking for a while, he reached a local park. He was tired from all his walking so he sat down on a wooden bench for a rest. Next to him was an old lady sitting on her own. He felt hungry so he took out his drinks and cakes to eat. Realising the old lady had nothing to eat and drink, he started to share what he had with her. She smiled at him a lovely friendly smile. The afternoon passed without them sharing a word. They simply sat together sharing the food and drink, occasionally smiling at each other.

Eventually the refreshments ran out and the boy thought it was time to go back home. So he ran home.

"Did you meet God?" his mother asked him.

"Yes!" he replied.

"What was he like?"

"Well he had a bigger smile than I expected."

Meanwhile the old lady was collected from the park bench by her son.

"What did you do today, Mum?"

"I met God, and he has the biggest smile I have ever seen."

God created us in his own image. Male and female, he created us, according to the book of Genesis chapter 1. One place where we learn to discover what God is like is through learning to discover each other. His image is in us all whether we're male or female, but we find out what God is truly like in his Son, the Lord Jesus. Jesus said to his disciples, "Anyone who has seen me, has seen my Father God."

Our church weekend away at Hillhouse in Somerset was once again a wonderful time spent together in fun, learning and sharing. It is as we share these special times that we learn more about each other, and discover more about what God is like.

A big thank you to all her helped to make this a very special weekend.

God bless.

Sue

Barbara's Trip to Kolkata

On July 1st Barbara Rainbow leaves for Kolkata, as a volunteer with BMS World Mission for nearly 3 weeks. This will be Barbara's 4th time in Kolkata, and the 8th time she has been as a summer volunteer with BMS. She will be working with the Good News Children's Education Mission (GNCEM) in their mobile schools for the street children, and also helping them provide aid for the homeless. GNCEM also run a hostel for children, and provide them with an education and give them a chance that they would not normally have. Barbara will also be working alongside the Salvation Army who run a feeding programme for the homeless, run a hostel for the blind, a home for the aged, and an education programme and provide help and relief for the children who live on Howrah Railway Station in Kolkata. Barbara uses her annual leave for work for these trips, and funds the costs herself. With generous donations from CKBC and work colleagues and others, she has been able to help many of the projects in Kolkata, such as buy a washing machine for the hostel (where previously all the washing had been done by hand), purchase mattresses and bedding for the elderly gentleman in the home for the aged, put in new showers and plumbing in the home for the aged, and other needs as they arose.



Samaritans Purse Conference

This conference took place in Birmingham on the weekend of 13th – 15th June, and I had the privilege of being able to attend. This was the 2nd annual conference I had attended and I came back from this one more enthusiastic than ever for the work I am doing for Operation Christmas Child.

It was a real joy to be able to meet up with other folks who are doing the same job as me, and be able to swop notes! It also made me realise that I was a member of a large family, not just nationally but internationally too.

The theme of the w/e was “CONNECTIONS” – connection with God, connection with children and connection with the overseas partners, some of whom were at the conference and were able to speak to us about what was happening in their countries. The preacher on this theme was Roy McCloughry, a Christian writer, journalist and radio broadcaster who was a joy to hear. Our music was provided by a group from a Liverpool church, led by a man who is an ex-policeman and now works for Samaritans Purse.

A particular pleasure for me was meeting up with some of the folks I went to Serbia with just before Christmas – it was good to see them again. Most of them live a long way from Cheltenham so regular meetings are not possible.

Samaritans Purse International is a Christian organisation whose actions are firmly rooted in scripture and this was reflected strongly in all the SPI staff I met on this w/e. I am now looking forward to going to Belarus in August as part of a summer camp team, so watch this space!

Best wishes

Mary Jones

Services for July 08

6th July

Communion Service

"Following My Leader" Matt 4:18-25

A Life Changing Prayer Service

13th July

Family Service with Brigades

"You Need Hands"

Communion Service with Prayers for Healing

20th July Dedication Service

"Let the Children Come" Mark 10:13-16

27th July

To be confirmed

Open to God

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- submit an article;
- tell the world about how God has answered your prayers;

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

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