

Trinity News

Always
&
Forever



November 2017

Ministers Muse

Dear friends,

last Sunday on my way to church the wind was blowing and the leaves were dancing. The colours on the trees as the leaves reabsorb their chlorophyll were amazing, reds and golds, amber and browns and various shades of green.

They reminded me that autumn is now upon us and of the song I used to sing as a child, *'Autumn days when the grass is jewelled'*. Some lines cheer us up, *'clouds that look like familiar faces'* and the *'smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces'*. Others remind us of the realities of life in Autumn, *'whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered'*, and the *'scent of gardens when the rain's been falling'*. But the chorus is one that we can sing, say or pray anytime: *'so I mustn't forget, no, I mustn't forget. To say a great big thank you. I mustn't forget'*.

I was told many years ago that growing old is no fun and not for wimps, but it is only recently that I realised how true that is. But, no matter what stage of life I have been going through, I have always had to rely on my faith in God. I know many of you have been, or are going through, testing times and if you are anything like me it is only faith in God that keeps us going day after day. It is so wonderful that you also keep each other going through telephone calls and visits, cards and emails. When we are at our lowest ebb God calls others to cheer us and when they need us we are able to respond. God still works and walks in our world and today you may be his eyes that see a need or his hands that reach out in love or support. Yours may be the voice of conversation or prayer, heard or unheard, that brings comfort. Never forget God calls you to be his presence in the world even if you can't move from your bed. Never forget that God blesses and uses every action we make and God continually blesses you too. So never forget to say thank you.

Your friend and minister, *Janet*.

The Bagpiper

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for direction. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

I'm still lost ... it's a man thing.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance day is a day of reflection. It allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. By your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
That marks our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lt. Col John McCrae

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.



Christmas Angels

Once again we are asking for knitted Christmas Angels that will be distributed around the streets of Wallsend just before Christmas.

This is a wonderful way to brighten up peoples Christmas and bring some of its real meaning to them.

The Angel knitting pattern is in the centre pull out page.

Prayers for the world

God in the silence and in the noise, God in our peace and in our wars,
God in our hearts and in our homes, God in our offices and our cafes,
God in the pubs and in the churches, God in the sorrows and celebrations;
We pray that you would draw us closer to you, shape our worship this month, that we might
be changed so as to shape our lives, families, communities and world. Amen.

From Starters for Sunday, churchofscotland.org.uk

A Prayer of the Church

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15 9-13. NRSV

“Lay down one's life”- this is among the most resonant phrases we associate with Remembrance Day. In the Bible we find it only in John's gospel and the letters of John, but it appears several times. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10; 11, 15); the Father loves Jesus because he lays down his life (10; 17); Peter promises to lay down his life, though Jesus knows he will deny him (13; 37-38); John's first letter tells us to lay down our lives for our brothers. (1 John 3, 16)

On Remembrance Day we remember those who died in war, and therefore think of laying down one's life as an unrepeatable sacrifice. Yet John's letter reminds us of our everyday willingness to make sacrifices for one another. *How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? (1 John 3, 17).* When the sound of the bugle dies away, pray to go on living in this spirit of sacrificial service.

Prayers for the church here at Trinity

May we never grow ungrateful for the life that you have given us, nor despairing of its possibilities. May we never grow cynical about the world in which you have set us. May each day be welcomed as a new opportunity and each person as the neighbour whom Christ has given to us. Thank you for people, for city streets and rain on a window pane; for the seasons, for sun and cloud, for words, conversations, books, jokes, prayer, for music that lifts us close to heaven and ordinary days that so often take us by surprise.

May God bless your past and remind you of his promises.

May Jesus reassure your hearts and minds of joys to come.

May the Holy Spirit fill your present with the will to trust and serve.

And the blessing of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

Nicaragua News October 2017

Hello one and all!

There is always mixed feelings at this time of the year as I prepare to leave the people I have been among for 8 months, while there is great excitement knowing I am heading back home for another four months 'break' and seeing so many of the people I miss and of course, enjoying some home comforts!

As I write, this is my crazy time when sometimes I feel my feet are hardly touching the ground. My colleague from the SIFT office is here at the moment for 12 days and we have to see all of our 135 students in 8 schools and 2 universities to take a fresh photo of them for their sponsors, see their reports and book them back into school for the new year.

As always with so many children receiving a scholarship, there are proud moments and disappointments too. Some of our students are on the schools honour roll for being great achievers, while others don't always appreciate the chance that they have been given to study.

The weather has been so mixed up lately, but I reckon that doesn't just happen in Bluefields. We have had some tremendous flooding and extreme heat, but not in the correct seasons. Recently the Nicaraguan president put Bluefields on danger alert for hurricane Irma. Children in the schools were sent home and told not to attend the following day, when the forecast showed we would be hit, but thankfully we didn't get anything like was expected.

In September I was truly spoilt for my birthday. It is always humbling when I see the people who can least afford it, trying to make my day special. One gift was an apple and another, 2 small ice cream lollipops.

I made another trip to San Pancho last month with some of the church members to re-visit the health centre and maternity home, but not for another horse ride - I made sure I took my wellingtons! We were able to take more bed sheets, clothes and baby items. The nurse asked if there was any way we could help in making a door between 2 rooms - the labour ward and the delivery room. At that point, in torrential rain and a mud path, a woman about to give birth would have to leave the labour room, walk outside around the building in the rain and the mud, to get to deliver her baby. We were able to leave the money for a local builder to make the hole in the wall and I said I would meet the cost of the door with funding I still have - and that is in process right now. We also looked at where a well could be drilled, as we now have access to a drilling machine and I have made that my project for when I return in March. This will be of huge benefit to a health centre who has to depend on rain water or walk a distance in the dry season to use someone else's well. I took the opportunity while my SIFT colleague was coming out, to get him to order a fetal heart doppler - a small portable machine for the midwives to take out to the various communities for registering the heart beat of the unborn baby. Hopefully that will be delivered to San Pancho while I am back home. Thankfully, with people's generosity, my money pot has not ran dry! Isn't God good?

So, with less than two weeks to go and lots of last minute things to get done, I will soldier on and look forward to catching up with many of you in the next 4 months.

With love and appreciation, I pray God's blessing on you all.

Margaret

Points to Ponder

- Don't worry about what I'm doing. Worry about why you're worried about what I'm doing. *Simple reminders .com*
- God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it's me.
- One loyal friend is worth more than a thousand fake ones.
- Prayer is the key to heaven but faith unlocks to door. *Wings of Encouragement.*
- I am responsible for what I say, I am not responsible for what you understand.
- 4 things you can't recover in life....a word when it's said; an opportunity when it's missed; the time after it's gone; trust after it's lost.
- Dear Mind. Please stop thinking so much at night. I need to sleep!
- I'm never perfect, but I'm always genuine.
- Never regret anything that has happened in your life, it cannot be changed, undone or forgotten. So take it as a lesson and move on.
- Never be a prisoner of your past, it was just a lesson not a life sentence.
- What's broken can be mended; what hurts can be healed; and no matter how dark it gets, the sun is going to rise again. *Simple reminders.com*
- Jesus comes not for the super spiritual but for the wobbly, and the weak-kneed who know they don't have it all together, and who are not too proud to accept the handout of amazing grace. *Brennan Manning.*
- When someone is rude, don't listen. When someone is unkind, walk away. When someone tries to put you down, stay firm. Don't let someone's bad behaviour destroy your inner peace.
- **Cherish those you have in your life, because you never know when God will need them back.**

Most of the above are freely available on the Internet and cannot be attributed to a particular person.



A New Magazine



Next year we are going to expand this magazine to incorporate both Allen Memorial and Trinity Methodist Churches.

This has been agreed by both October Church Councils but one thing we need is a new name for the new magazine.

So let's have a competition for the best name. It must be snappy and not too long but in some form reflect the two churches. – Not “Allen Memorial and Trinity Magazine” ...boring... - A good suggestion was “The Meth Gazette” but unfortunately the Trinity Youth Group is known locally as The Meth.

So put on the thinking caps and send any suggestions to me. If they come before 19th November I'll put them in the December/January magazine for our readers to select.

Alan Barker Editor

“Don't Forget” from the blog by Mavis Andradez



I must admit that I struggle with this particular time of the year. I am really more of a pacifist and try to avoid confrontation of any sort if I can. So I find the reminder of war and military conflict difficult. I know and understand the arguments in favour of such action but can't help thinking that if those in power who lead their country to war were themselves to be affected by it in the same way that service people are, then there would be much more time spent in trying to avoid war in the first place. It's fairly easy to say that there is no other way when you are not going to be killed or maimed yourself. I must admit that I tend to dream with John Lennon's song that says ...

'Imagine there's no countries, it isn't hard to do, nothing to live or die for and no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace.' Everybody caught up in war loses something so there are no real outright winners. My uncle who was held prisoner by the Japanese on the infamous Siam railway used to say, 'War makes people on both sides do some terrible things.' It would seem that the only ones who come out of it all happier are those who invent and trade in the arms industry and as long as there are wars and conflicts they are laughing all the way to the bank!

The problem is that although you might kill the ones who are considered to be the instigators and leaders of 'the enemy', you can't kill an idea so easily. Hitler was killed but today neo-naziism, fascism and ultra-racist nationalism exist all around the world in the guise of a pseudo 'patriotism' and 'looking after your own'. Osama Bin Laden may be dead but his ideas live on. So, does war actually achieve anything? In Europe we are straining under the crisis of displaced people and those fleeing war situations. It seems a bit hypocritical to bomb places where people are living and then try to avoid helping them when they flee for their lives and no longer have a home to live in as a result.



Sometimes I wonder. Is it just a sort of macho power thing among world leaders, a case of not losing face, more about one-upmanship? It certainly seems to be more of a case of who has the biggest weapons and best strategies rather than who is actually right, a bit more of a power thing than a better way of living. It reminds me of the school bully or children fighting over a toy each claiming 'it's mine no, it's mine'. Wars are usually caused by disputes over power, who is 'right' or possession of land. And so some people prefer to wear a white poppy to signify the desire for peace to safeguard any tendency to glorify war and conflict. I think we need to accept both the red and white and understand the stance of the other instead of judging them as lacking patriotism.

I was very moved the other week watching DIY SOS, the Big Build. They took on a whole street and converted some of the houses especially for veterans. It makes you wonder if being killed is maybe an easier if not better option than surviving but being disabled. The programme showed veterans who suffered mentally, emotionally and physically as a result of their severe injuries. The saddest thing is that so many of these veterans return as heroes

but are soon left on their own. They can no longer serve in the military, so they find themselves unemployed and unable to do the job they have been trained for. Many have severe bouts of depression and trauma and any sudden noise triggers off terrible memories. Some struggle to cope. And it also affects their families. One veteran cried at the thought that now he had a house with a lift so he could get upstairs to put his children to bed. He had felt that he was no longer able to be the father he wanted to be. And so there are so many tragic stories.

In one of the episodes, the tradesmen were joined by Princes William and Harry as they showed their support for the project and actually did some work and talked with the workers and the veterans. Whatever your opinion of the royal family is in general, I must admit that I do admire Harry for the way that he supports in active ways those who have been affected by their faithful military service, walking with them on long treks and adventures to raise funds for charities that help the wounded and highlighting the problems and bringing them to public awareness. He was so right when he made the comment that we send our young men and women into war situations and when they come back injured and in need of specialist help, what sort of country are we if we don't rally round and help? Yet these people who were willing to put their lives on the line for the country (unlike many politicians and those in seats of power), slip through the net and have to depend on charities to help them. Some end up living on the streets. Is that how we treat heroes?



The original poem about the poppies in Flanders Field remembered those who had died. It was not a racist idea - us vs them (whoever 'them' may be). It was not about national pride. It was not about British values (it was actually written by a Canadian) It was not about jingoism. It was not about glorifying war. It was actually the opposite of all that. It was about remembering the senseless shedding of blood and waste of lives and the national sentiment at the time was 'never again'. Today, sadly for many it seems to be more about

judging people on the sort of poppy they're wearing - or not and judging their patriotism accordingly. It is often thought about as being 'proud to be British' when that was not the original idea of the poppy at all. So this Remembrance Day, don't forget the real reason for the day and the original thought behind the poppy and not confuse it with a sort of 'call to arms' or a 'we'll show 'em' kind of gung-ho attitude. Remember those who have given their all for their country (whichever that may be). Don't forget those who survived but for whom life has changed forever. Don't forget those left behind who have to pick up the pieces and carry on. Don't forget those whose homeland has been destroyed to such an extent that they can no longer live there and raise their families. They need help. It might seem that killing will solve the problem. The truth is though that ideas live on and the aftermath of war and its consequences bring many more problems that need to be addressed. Don't forget all those affected by war, wherever they are or in whatever way they are affected. Throw your memory net wide to include all who need help as a result of war. Don't forget the real significance of the poppy.

Being a Christian in North Korea

If you think North Korea's dictators are bad for the *world*, just imagine what it's like to be a *Christian* there.

Anyone who knows anything about world missions and the global church knows about the Christians of *South* Korea. According to the Operation World prayer guide, "From the first Protestant church planted in 1884, South Korea now has possibly 50,000 Protestant congregations," and 15 million Christians of all kinds. It's also a missionary powerhouse, currently sending more than 21,000 missionaries to about 175 countries. Amazing!

But the Christians of *North* Korea? They're virtually invisible—though of course not in the eyes of the Lord Jesus! Operation World says that although no one really knows their true number, there could be as many as 350,000 underground Christians living in the slave state of 24 million people. When you consider that the government there—whether run by the Japanese occupiers during World War II, or the current cult-like, totalitarian leadership—has been trying to stamp out all vestiges of Christianity for about 70 years, that's *also* amazing.

Tragically, and infuriatingly, up to 100,000 of these brothers and sisters in Christ are locked up in harsh prisons or work camps.

Where did they all come from, and how do they survive? Well, in answer to the first part, it's a fascinating story. Did you know that from the late 19th century until 1942, Pyongyang, North Korea's Orwellian capital city today, was known as the "Jerusalem of the East"?

According to Providence journal, "a Presbyterian medical doctor named Horace Allen ... became physician to the king of Korea and received royal permission to proselytize after saving the life of a royal family member severely wounded during an attempted coup. Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries from the United States followed, and along with Catholic and other Protestant missionaries from other countries, they found Koreans to be receptive to their message in large numbers. A quarter of a century later in 1910, Korean Christians numbered over 200,000, two thirds of them Presbyterians and Methodists, in a country of approximately 13 million people."

If the city of Seoul was receptive to the gospel, and it was, Pyongyang was even more so. Following a series of revivals in and around the "Jerusalem of the East," by 1910 the region was the most heavily Christian in all of Korea.

Of course, most of us know what happened next. After World War II, the communist regime of Kim Il-sung attempted to stamp out all foreign religions, especially Christianity, which was branded a tool of "Western imperialism." Missionaries were thrown out, churches closed, and many Christians executed for their faith, with many more pouring into democratic South Korea at the end of the Korean War.

So how do those who remain survive? As with all of us, by God's grace. Today, Open Doors USA reports, North Korea is the most oppressive place in the world for Christians. "Due to ever-present surveillance," the agency says, "many pray with eyes open, and gathering for praise or fellowship is practically impossible. Worship of the ruling Kim family is mandated for all citizens, and those who don't comply (including Christians) are arrested, imprisoned, tortured or killed. Entire Christian families are imprisoned in hard labour camps."

It's no wonder that one North Korean Christian lady who escaped continues to pray a simple prayer she learned from her mother: "Lord, Lord, please help!"

And the Lord, through agencies such as Open Doors, is answering that prayer, providing Bibles and emergency relief inside the country as well as to fleeing North Korean Christians. They're not invisible to Him—and *now*, I hope, not to *us*, either.

From the Internet- Operation World (Bible studies).

Bible a Month Club: Serbia.

“They shall be like trees growing beside a stream- trees with roots that reach down to the water, and with leaves that are always green” Jeremiah 17, 8. (CEV)

Serbia is a land-locked country in Eastern Europe and has borders with Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria. It covers an area of 77,474 sq km, which is approx. 32% of the size of the UK. It has a population of 7.1 million, about 11% of the UK. The literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 98%. Languages include Serbian, Hungarian, Bosnian, and Romani.

The word of God was recently brought to the Romani people through the four Gospels and a children's Bible. Soon they will have the whole New Testament for the first time in their history.

Bible Society's team in Serbia is now helping young Romani people acquire literacy skills as well as engaging them with the word of God. Romani children have difficulties in learning and integrating into society, which is why the team in Serbia are working hard to help them, through the Bible.

Misa Bakic, who leads the work in Serbia, said, “It's a great pleasure and privilege to teach children their native language through the Bible texts. They are very happy because they praise the Lord through this learning. Every time they meet me on the street they run after me, asking me about the next class. During these classes they learn Bible stories, they learn about the true values, morality, and family values. The Bible is the root that will give stability to these children throughout their lives”

There has been a four times increase in the number of children finishing their school grade since last year, as well as more young people completing Bible schools. These children now have a brighter future.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray that the Bible message would have a great impact on Romani children.
- Give thanks for the success of the literacy program in helping more children finish their school grade and engage with the Bible.
- Pray for the translation work on the New Testament in the Roma language, that all Roma people would have the word of God in their own language.
- Give thanks for Misa Bakic and pray for this work with Romani youth.

Thank you for your support which is bringing the Bible to life at home and around the world.

From the Bible a Month bi-monthly newsletter

From WW1 to Afghanistan by Private Curtis Welby

When Pte Curtis Welsby's friend Jamie died in Afghanistan just weeks before their battalion was due to return to the UK, the 20 year old from Manchester turned to the Bible. Pte Welsby, from the 1st battalion the Mercian regiment, carried an active service testament from 1916 in his body armour.

"I was upset, I was angry" Pte Welsby recalls that time in March 2013. "We all had our body armour on. I noticed the Bible popping out a little bit from my pocket. I went to put it back then thought, "No, I'm going to read it. I need something to make me feel good right now"

Randomly he found himself at Revelation and read in chapter 21 verse 4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

"I read it over and over again" he says, "And I thought, there's nothing for Jamie to worry about now. It was exactly what I needed to read, because what happened was totally devastating and unexpected."

Pte Welsby's little New Testament has seen five conflicts. It first belonged to his great-great grandfather, Jay Greenwood, a teenager who fought in the First World war having lied about his age. It was passed on to his great grandfather, who took it with him to the battlefields of the Second World War. It then travelled to Korea with Pte Welsby's grandfather and to northern Ireland with his uncle.

Its thin pages are worn with use and it readily falls open both at Acts and John. But it was Revelation that spoke to Pte Welsby on his tour of Afghanistan. "Arriving in Afghanistan was scary. When you leave Camp Bastion you realise that it's real. It's you and your friends now. I kept my Bible with me in my pocket all the time and it calmed me down. I thought that God would be looking down on me. I had a sense of him being with me. I would pull it out and read it when we went on patrol and I had a tingling feeling go through my body every time. Anything could happen. Nobody had a clue what would happen. But, when I picked up my Bible, I felt that nothing would happen to us. We got into firefights but we always got out of them. When we were out on patrols and we would stop, I would pull it out and the stories in there make you feel happy. The local kids used to ask me for it but I always said, "No". It's been in my family for so long. It'll be passed on to my nephew. He's only 7 but he already wants to be in the army. "

All five generations of Pte Welsby's family have served in the Infantry, so it is surprising that both the Bible and men survived.

"It means a lot to me" he says, "All of my family has read it. I wish I could know what they read. But me and my grandad were very close and we both liked the same things. I reckon he had a hand in saying, "stop at that page". I reckon he somehow guided me to reading Revelations.

From "Hear my Cry"- words for when there are no words. Produced by the Bible Society.

Finding the Hidden People

“I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat” Hosea 13: 5 (NIV)

By Bunmi Oluloto, a leader for the Leprosy Mission Niger.

Niger is a large African country to the north of Nigeria, in the heart of the Sahara desert. The heat can be overwhelming- today it is 40 C. dusty, dry and arid, Niger is one of the world’s poorest nations. Across much of Niger lie dotted tiny hamlets. Small communities, as poor as can be, struggle to survive. The land is parched and rainfall is scarce and unpredictable. Crops are hard to grow. A few livestock are kept by villagers struggling to feed themselves. For many, it is a two mile walk to fetch water from the well.

We depend on the goodness of God to work in his mission. We are a very small team, just 6 of us working here in Niger to help thousands of people with leprosy. I want to tell you about one of the very important things we are doing here to fight leprosy.....

Our team arrives at a remote village in the Maradi region; people are sheltering from the fierce afternoon sun. Our research tells us there are probably two or three people in a village like this who have leprosy. It is likely to be untreated leprosy as health services here are extremely scarce and located far away from some of the villages. If it isn’t treated it can cause severe, permanent disability, and others could catch it too. What our team has come here for it to find these people and treat their leprosy.

We can’t just hold a meeting and invite anyone who may have leprosy to come along, but it’s not that simple. In most villages like this, leprosy is often seen as a curse and something people are desperately ashamed of. If a member of your family starts to show signs, and you think it could be leprosy, you will do everything you can to keep it a secret from your neighbours and the rest of the village. If a person is thought to have leprosy, the best they can hope for is to be hidden away by the family inside their house. If the villagers suspect leprosy, the whole family would be shunned. At worst, a leprosy-affected person would be cast out of the village and left to try and survive in the wilderness with no one to care whether they are dead or alive.

We know leprosy is just a disease, but here people are terrified of it. It’s really dreadful that people who are sick are locked away inside as a shameful secret with no hope of treatment. This is something you can join us in praying for - that our God will break down fear and misunderstanding here in Niger.

It is a huge challenge to find these hidden people but God has called us to find them so we can help them, and treat their leprosy before they become disabled. And we want to tell them it’s just a disease, and show them the love and acceptance Jesus showed people with leprosy.

One approach we are using is to meet with village chiefs to educate them and the villagers about leprosy and the fact that it is easily treated. Once we have gained their trust we hope it will be easier to find the hidden people with leprosy. We will be carrying out a mass campaign with the help of other people affected by leprosy who have been cured, asking to see everyone who lives there, and telling them about the signs and symptoms of leprosy and how it is curable.

Please do continue to pray for us. Pray that we can find every hidden person- man, woman or child, so they can be treated and helped and experience a transformed life.

Your support reaches Africa’s rejected people.

From New Day, the newsletter of the Leprosy Mission.

Journeys in Jordan

by Tim Foggin, Bible Society Programme adviser for the Middle East.

Millions of people have had to flee their homes in the Middle East, an estimated 1.4 million Syrians have ended up in neighbouring Jordan where they comprise 20% of the population. I'm just back from visiting Bible Society's work in Jordan. Before I went, I was aware of the refugee situation. But it's when you meet families that you really come to understand the horror and complexity of their tragic journeys.

We met an Iraqi refugee family who fled from Syria, and had a dreadful journey. We asked them if there was a passage from the Bible that gave them hope. And the daughter read Psalm 13 (CEV).

How much longer, Lord, will you forget about me? Will it be forever? How long will you hide? How long must I be confused and miserable all day? How long will my enemies keep beating me down? Please listen, Lord God, and answer my prayers. Make my eyes sparkle again or else I will fall into the sleep of death. My enemies will say, "Now we've won!" They will be greatly pleased when I am defeated. I trust your love, and I feel like celebrating because you rescued me. You have been good to me, Lord, and I will sing about you."

The whole family had tears pouring down their faces while she read this psalm. It personified how the Bible can speak to us in our deepest need.

This year, with your help, we're spending around £110,000 over five projects in Jordan. Bible Society provides everything from bedding to trauma healing for people who've fled their homes. But crucially we do so through the local churches. We support the local churches and they support the refugees, which makes it sustainable.

The real needs go far beyond bedding and food. The most pressing needs are possibly emotional. All our projects have a biblical component, and the people who are doing this are full of compassion. They are really playing a critical role in being the hands and feet of Christ.

We spent quite a bit of time in a town where the local church is providing trauma healing for families who have fled their homes. That applies whether they are from a Christian or Muslim background. I had a sense from the families that I talked to that they were discovering love and care from Christians and they questioned why- why should these people go out of their way to care for them? The answer was that Christ had shared his love with the local people and they were sharing that love with others, no matter where they came from or their background.

We met one young woman, Sarah (not her real name) who used to be a devout Muslim but had an incredible faith journey that involved an encounter with a nun who gave her a New Testament. She said, "Reading the Bible made me feel restful, peaceful and love to. I lost track of time as I was reading the Bible. I kept on reading the book of Matthew over and over again. I was amazed by Jesus and what was written in this book. I made my decision to believe in Christ when I confessed my faith. I have come to meet many people at Bible Society, who have helped me know Christ, the Bible and the Christian faith more. I thank God for this grace and relationship" Sarah still wears her hijab to express respect to her family; even when she goes to church, she keeps her hijab on.

Through the love, listening and care that they receive, many more are on a faith journey, learning about the love of Christ. When you watch the news from this region, the numbers seem so vast, the problems seem intractable. But we have an amazing compassionate team in Jordan working with the local churches and they are making a difference amidst the Middle East crisis helping people through their physical and spiritual journeys.

It is hard to measure what this will mean in the future. How can you quantify a changed life and the lives that person will affect? That is what is happening right now in Jordan through the gifts and prayers of supporters like you.

(From Word in Action, the bulletin of the Bible Society)

Cocoa Farmers



Chocolate is one of the world's favourite foods but growing cocoa is a hard task. Fairtrade is helping to make it more sustainable.

Ninety per cent of the world's cocoa is grown on small family farms by about 6 million farmers who earn their living from growing and selling cocoa beans.

Cocoa trees grow in tropical environments, within 15 to 20 degrees latitude from the equator. The ideal climate for growing cocoa is hot, rainy, and tropical, with lush vegetation to provide shade for the cocoa trees. The primary growing regions are Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The largest producing country by volume is Côte d'Ivoire, which produces around 40% of global supply.

Cocoa is a delicate and sensitive crop, and farmers must protect trees from wind, sun, pests, and disease. With proper care, cocoa trees begin to yield pods at peak production levels by the fifth year, and they can continue at this level for 10 years. But for all this hard work, cocoa farmers gain very little from a very profitable global cocoa trade.

The international price of cocoa beans is currently rising in response to high demand for cocoa products. As the industry wakes up to a potential long-term shortfall in global supply; disease and age are damaging cocoa trees and the number of farmers is falling because the benefits are so poor that few young people want to stay in the profession - the average age of a cocoa farmer is 50!

Farmers aren't benefitting sufficiently from the rise in prices and remain in poverty as their incomes fail to keep up with rising production costs and household expenses. Fairtrade helps to make cocoa farming in places like Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana more sustainable through payment of the Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects so farmers can better provide for themselves and their communities. In 2013-14, cocoa farmers earned more than £8.4 million in Fairtrade Premiums and almost a quarter was invested in directly supporting farming families meet their daily needs.

Regional Quiz. Ireland

See how well you know this part of the UK. (Answers later in this mag- but NO PEEKING until you've had a go!)

1. What is Dublin's most famous theatre called?
2. How would you be travelling if you arrived at Shannon from abroad?
3. Which two of the counties of Northern Ireland begin with A ?
4. Which three places in northern Ireland may officially use the title "city"?
5. Which ocean is to the west of Ireland?
6. In which city is the Maze prison?
7. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
8. Which stone is kissed to receive the gift of smooth talking?
9. Which Irish town sounds like something in a wine bottle neck?
10. Which type of glass is Waterford famous for?
11. What is the capital of the Republic of Ireland?
12. What is the county town of Fermanagh?
13. What Irish flute player shares his name with a Bay?
14. Which Causeway is said to have been built as a bridge from Ireland to Scotland?
15. Which stout is Dublin world famous for?
16. What are drumlins?
17. What do the towns of Dun Laoghaire and Rosslare have in common?
18. Which colour is associated with Ireland?

With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the National Support Newsletter for Liver Patients, their carers and families.

Remember this bloke?

- Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it.
- Here's my strategy on the Cold war: we win, they lose.
- The most terrifying words in the English language are : I'm from the government and I'm here to help.
- Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the US was too strong.

- I have wondered what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress.
- The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examinations.
- Government is like a baby: an alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.
- The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.
- Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidise it.
- Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.
- No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenal of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.
- If we ever forget that we're one nation under GOD, then we will be a nation gone under.

All quotes are attributable to former US President Ronald Reagan. (Article from the Internet.)

Stories of Hymns: Abide with me

It was the author of this hymn who coined the phrase, "It is better to wear out than to rust out". For most of his adult life, Henry Lyte was the pastor of a poor church in a fishing village in Devon. It was a discouraging pastorate, but he kept at it. When he wrote this hymn, he knew he was dying of tuberculosis and asthma, and he felt very much alone.

Lyte was inspired by the words of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of his resurrection and they invited him to stay with them because it was getting late. "Abide with us" they said, "for it is toward evening" (Luke 24; 29)

The ageing pastor knew that it was getting "Toward evening" in his life, but he determined that he would wear out rather than rust out. Shortly after he wrote this hymn, he preached his last sermon; he was so ill that he practically crawled to the pulpit to do so. The hymn concludes, "In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me"

Scriptures: Psalm 27,4. Luke 24, 28-31. John 15, 5. 1 John 3, 24.

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

From the Complete Book of Hymns by William J Peterssen and Ardythe Peterson. Tynedale House publishers.

Smile!

- I saw a dyslexic Yorkshire man the other day. He was wearing a cat flap.
- I've been learning to guess the weight of dogs.....I picked up a few pointers yesterday.
- Gave up my small business dating site for chickens. Couldn't make hens meet.
- My wife is going to a fancy dress party as a Rastafarian and she's asked me to do her hair....I'm dreading it.
- I've got a job making chess pieces.....I'm on knights next week.
- As I get older and I remember all the people I've lost along the way.....I think to myself, maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't for me.
- When I was a kid, my dad used to let me put my pocket money in a special money box under the stairs.....I was 15 before I found out it was the electricity meter!
- I called an old school friend on the phone and asked him what he was doing. He replied that he is working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment" . I was impressed.... On further inquiring I have learned that he was washing dishes, pots and pans with hot water....under his wife's supervision.

And finally- the old ones are the best.....

Five deadly terms used by women

1. **Fine.** This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to shut up.
2. **Nothing.** Means something and you need to be worried.
3. **Go ahead.** This is a dare, not permission; do not do it.
4. **Whatever.** A woman's way of saying you've got to be kidding?
5. **That's okay.** She is thinking long and hard on how and when you will pay for your mistake.

Bonus word: **Wow!** This is not a compliment. She's amazed that one person could be so stupid!

Memorable quotes

- Old women with mobile phones look wrong *Peter Kay*
- I climbed a mountain and hollered, "Helloooo!". A voice came back, "The echo is busy at the moment. Leave a message at the beep and we'll get back to you"
Eddie Izzard.

- The concept behind the mobile phone is that you have absolutely nothing to say and you've got to talk to someone about it right now. *Jerry Seinfeld*
- New York is the first US state to ban talking on hand held cell phones while driving. First time violators could receive a fine of \$100 with an additional mandatory six month jail sentence if your ring tone plays a Latin theme novelty song.
- The technological advance I'm waiting for on my phone is the "get to the point" button.
- Have you ever noticed that wrong numbers are never engaged?
- The mobile phone...the fax machine....the email. Call me old fashioned, but what's wrong with a chain of beacons? *Harry Hill*
- Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrongly and applying unsuitable remedies. *Groucho Marx.*
- Politicians are people who, when they see the light at the end of the tunnel, order more tunnel.
- A politician never believes anything he says, so he is always amazed when other people do. *Charles de Gaulle.*
- Generally speaking, politicians are generally speaking. *John Sergeant*
- It's clearly a budget. It's got lots of numbers in it *George W Bush*
- Political skill is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen *Winston Churchill.*

Some of the above are from the Internet and cannot be attributed to an author.

Answers to the Irish Quiz.

1. Abbey Theatre
2. Air
3. Antrim, Armagh
4. Armagh, Belfast, Londonderry
5. Atlantic
6. Belfast
7. Belfast
8. Blarney
9. Cork
10. Crystal
11. Dublin
12. Enniskillen
13. Galway
14. Giant's causeway
15. Guinness
16. Hills
17. Ferry ports
18. Green.

How Irish are you?

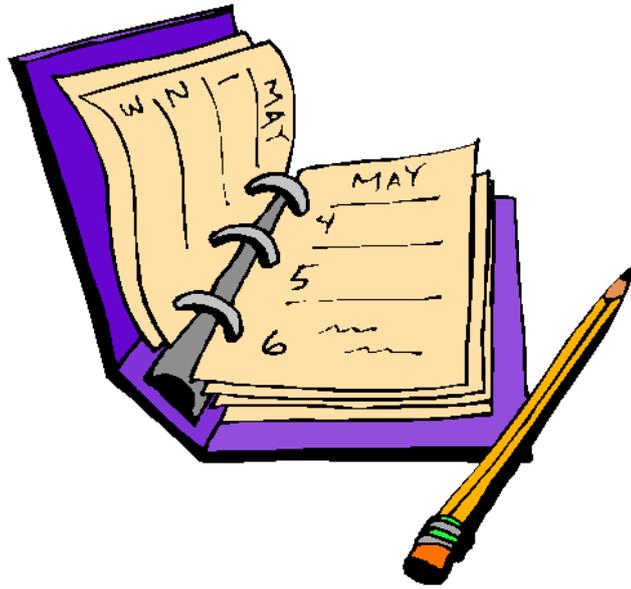
18-15 right: Irish, born and bred.

14-11: you know a lot about Ireland

10-7: you visit Ireland quite a lot.

6-3 : you hardly ever got to Ireland

3-0. You need to visit Ireland more. Ireland is an island to the west of the British Isles!



Preachers

- November
5th 10.45 a.m. Rev Janet Jackson
Shoe Box Dedication
Service.
- 12th 10.45 a.m. Mrs Pat Gurr.
- 19th 10.45 a.m. Rev Janet Jackson
Communion Service.
- 26th 10.45 a.m. Pastor Tom Leighton.
- December
3rd 10.45 a.m. Rev Gordon Wynne



Door Stewards Rota

(All 10-45 a.m. unless otherwise noted)

- November
5th Mr R Falcus.
- 12th Mrs J Scott.
- 19th Mrs S Aston.
- 26th Mrs S Filmer.
- December
3rd Mrs L Morgan.



Coffee Morning Rota

November

4th Susan Bewley &
Lynda McQuillan

11th Maureen Mills &
Lorna Morgan

18th Sylvia Aston &
Janis Duff

25th Mick & Zoe Watson

December

2nd Susan Bewley &
Lynda McQuillan



Flower Rota

Sunday 5th November
Janis Duff

Sunday 12th November
Susan Bewley

Sunday 19th November
Doreen Kirtley

Sunday 26th November
Sylvia Aston

Sunday 3rd December
Peggy McCullough

During the last month our Communion Table Flowers have brought their beauty and our thoughts and prayers to David Filmer, Mick & Zoe Watson, Pamela Fender, Jean Trewick, Olive Lindsay, Doreen Kirtley and Myra Coulson.

Audio Visual Operators

November

5th Susan / Lynda

12th Alan

19th Mark

26th Alan

December

3rd Susan / Lynda



Articles By?

All articles for the December and January magazine MUST be handed in by Sunday 19th November.