



SALTAIRE METHODIST CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER

November & December 2010

Dear Friends,

As I sit in my study, I cannot help looking out of the window. It often helps me to concentrate, rather than distracts me! You see, the desk is placed right under the window, mainly for sunlight, but it also gives me the view of the garden and the road beyond. There is an apple tree here, whose leaves have been falling nonstop for weeks on end.

"The garden is a mess, an eyesore!" complains Dee. Of course it's a veiled command to leave the desk and go out and sweep the leaves, but I have done it twice already this week and so has she, probably even more times than I have, yet there remains a carpet of dead leaves covering the grass; an eyesore it truly is! Call me lazy, but I have decided not to do anything about it until they stop falling.

Sitting, looking out of the window, I start thinking, there is a story there. 50 years ago our churches were full to the brim with worshippers, now there are hardly any warming the pews. People have dropped out one by one, like leaves off my apple tree. The positive, of course, is there remain some leaves on the tree looking green and healthy and not likely to fall off any time soon. I wonder, if they could, would they not call out to those on the ground to climb back up and sit where they used to? Those leaves green and healthy on the tree, have they always been there, or are they new ones? Autumn sweeps the leaves down and newness to the tree appears, new healthy shoots keeping the tree looking alive. The natural cycle goes on and cannot be halted.

Prophets of doom say the Church is a dying institution. I do not know about that being true, but I remember when I was young, my mother always 'killed' the fire in late evening, but would always leave one ember burning, which she would blow back to life in the morning. The Church is not a dying institution, it has changed yes, as the world has changed, and yet it needs to adjust accordingly. The Gospel story is one of resurrection. Seeds are put into the ground to die and come alive again.

The church is us present worshippers, equipped not only to sustain but to invigorate. "I will put my spirit within you and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37 vs 14) says the Lord. The valley of dry bones is the story that comes to mind; (Ezekiel 37 vs 1 – 14) the image of bones gathered together, clothed in flesh and tendons, raised up into a marching army is vivid. It offers us hope for our future as a church. No despondency, cheer up! No looking back but forward in faith! The October count is not necessarily the measure of success. What we are about is Mission and mission is not about the number of people in the pews, but about reaching out to the world in every respect. (Acts 1 vs8). Wasn't it exciting to see hordes of people come into the church and observe and sense what church is about during the recent Art Festival? People milling in, out and about, having tea and biscuits and enjoying fellowship as well as an assortment of meals? Wasn't it exhilarating working hard for a cause and raising so much money for charity? Wasn't it gratifying converging on Bolton Methodist as part of the launch of yet another charity that depends on us? That, my friends, is Mission.

Having said that, of course it's exciting to enter the New Year alongside new names and new faces, (though perhaps they are not really so new). We wish a special welcome to Brian Outlaw, Norma Read and Lilian Carberry.

Shalom,
Freddy

THE PAKISTAN FLOODS

An update from Tearfund - 21 September 2010

Tearfund partners in Pakistan are bringing vital humanitarian aid to flood-hit communities that have gone weeks without any outside help. As the floods move south, the rising waters are causing renewed damage in the province of Sindh, where Tearfund partner SSEWA-Pak is operating.

Its staff recently visited the village of Malik in the Moro district where a month ago the 3,000 population had to leave because of the flooding danger. Although the river Indus is several miles from Malik, up to seven feet of water converged on it and left nearly half the houses destroyed or badly damaged.

Among those to suffer was 65-year-old widow Latifan, who lived there with her five children, aged between 13 and 18.



Latifan receives plastic sheeting for shelter from Tearfund.

Photo: Ashraf Mall/Tearfund

It was two weeks before the family were able to return to the village and when they did, they discovered that their home had been badly damaged and that their buffalo and goats, which they relied upon for milk, had been swept away.

Latifan's economic vulnerability has also been increased because of damage to the cotton crops in the area. She and her children worked as labourers in the cotton fields to make a living.

SSEWA-Pak has provided the family with food, hygiene kits and plastic sheeting, with the latter being used to provide shelter around the remains of their home. Latifan told the SSEWA-Pak team that they were the first outside organisation to offer any help in her community, including the government.

'I am very happy to have these things you have provided,' said Latifan, whose family is one of 200 helped by SSEWA-Pak in the village.

SSEWA-Pak is planning to help the villagers of Malik over the months to come as long term rebuilding of homes and livelihoods gets underway.

Elsewhere in southern Sindh, there are many other communities that have also received little help so far, as aid organisations concentrate their efforts on the north of the province. Tearfund partners have been doing assessments in the southern districts of Badin and Thatta where many families had to leave their homes at short notice and with few possessions. These areas are among the last to get hit by the floods and aid workers say it is difficult to predict how long it will be before the waters recede and people can return to their homes.



Thank you to everyone who gave money or goods for the appeal organised by the Interfaith movement in Bradford.

THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL

A child's book report on the Old Testament

Thanks to Lesley for this!

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbour's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour thy father and thy mother.

David got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

I wonder how often we take for granted that children understand what we are teaching ???

ST TERESA OF AVILA'S 'BOOKMARK PRAYER'

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing alarm you.
While all things are passing;
God is unchanging.
Be patient and you will gain everything.
With God in your heart nothing is lacking.
God alone suffices.



"All that Christians do, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer if done in simplicity, according to the order of God. Prayer **continues** in the desire of the heart, though the understanding be employed on outward things. "

John Wesley

PROFILE OF THOSE WHO PRAY

Prayer in the UK: A Survey by Tearfund

Tearfund's survey shows that prayer is a part of life for nearly half of UK adults. 42% of all UK adults pray outside church and religious services (equivalent to 20.3 million adults).

- 27% pray at least once a month (13.0 million)
- 26% at least once a week (12.5 million)
- 18% at least daily (8.7 million)
- 7% several times a day (3.6 million)
- A further 7% pray occasionally and 4% in times of crisis.

But prayer is part of life even for some with no religious beliefs. 12% of those who profess to have no religion say they pray sometimes.

Among all UK adults:

- 51% of women pray compared with 32% of men
- Young people are less likely than their elders to pray; just a quarter (27%) of 16-24 year olds admit to ever praying, and the proportion rises steadily through the age bands to reach 51% of those aged 55-74 and peaking at 61% of over 75 year olds. It remains to be seen whether young people will begin to pray as they become older, or whether the non-praying habit is a sign of things to come
- London is arguably the prayer capital of the UK, as three-quarters of Londoners pray (73%). This may be due to the number of black and ethnic minorities, who are more likely to pray.
- By social class, propensity to pray is highest among ABs (49% of whom 32% pray at least weekly) and lowest among C2s (36% with 18% doing so at least weekly); this again mirrors variations in churchgoing.

Those who pray believe strongly that their prayers make a difference. Among 42% of the UK adults who ever pray (20.3 million people), the proportions believing in the power of prayer are high:

- 57% of those who pray (11.6 million people) believe that 'prayer changes what happens in their life'. This is equivalent to one in four (24%) of all UK adults
- 32% of them (6.5 million people) have seen the effects of prayer in their own lives
- 59% of them (12 million people) believe that 'prayer changes what happens to other people they know'
- 47% of them (9.5 million people) believe that 'prayer changes what happens to the lives of people living in poverty in developing countries'
- Similarly, half (50%) or 10.2 million people believe that 'prayer changes the world'. This is equivalent to around one in five (20%) of all UK adults.

The subjects of our prayers are many and varied, ranging from material needs and health, to prayers for those in distress.

The top five prayer topics among the 42% of UK adults who pray are:

- Family and friends (68% of them)
- Thanking God (41%)
- Guidance (32%)
- Healing (26%)
- Worldwide problems e.g. poverty, wars and disasters (25%).

Other prayer topics included:

- Themselves – their relationship with God or their needs (19%)
- Confession (18%)
- Praising and worshipping God (17%)
- Work of your local church (10%)
- Others to come to faith (10%)
- UK issues e.g. the government, society (8%)
- Material needs (8%).

GOD CREATED CHILDREN

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children. After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was, 'DON'T!'

'Don't what?' Adam replied.

'Don't eat the forbidden fruit.' God said.

'Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!'

'No Way!'

'Yes way!'

'Do NOT eat the fruit!' said God.

'Why?'

'Because I am your Father and I said so! God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants. A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and was not pleased! 'Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?' God asked.

'Uh huh,' Adam replied.

'Then why did you?' said the Father.

'Eve started it!' Adam said.

'Did not!'

'Did too!'

'DID NOT!'

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.



FAIR TRADE

By Barbara Judd & Christians Aware

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade improves the quality of life for at least 7 million people. Sales of fairly traded goods went up by 81% between 2006 & 2007 and have now reached nearly half a billion pounds.

Principles of Fair Trade

- A fair price which covers the cost of production, including the farmer's work. The fair trade producers are most often associations of small farmers or co-operatives.
- Farmers need money throughout the farming year. Fair trade buyers will advance money against the future crops which they are contracted to deliver. This protects against the temptation to be given up as interest to money lenders.
- Farmers receive a 'fair trade premium' which is used for community projects. The community decides how to use the premium.
- Labour conditions must be safe and workers must receive a living wage. No forced child labour is acceptable.
- Harmful chemicals and GM crops are not acceptable.

Fair Trade has diversified

Until the late 1980s fair trade had largely been in crafts but then Oxfam, Traidcraft and others saw the need to branch out into goods that people constantly need to buy.

This need became obvious with the collapse in the world coffee prices in 1989. Coffee is grown mainly by small farmers and the fall in prices affected at least 25 million growers around the world. Fairly traded coffee gives cash directly to some of the small farmers who desperately need it.

We can all:

- Buy at least one fair trade product regularly.
- Make sure that our church uses fairly traded products.

At the same time:

- Support British farmers by buying local and seasonal products
- Assess the size of the carbon footprint in all our purchases

SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW FAIR TRADE SUPPLIERS HAVE USED THEIR PREMIUM

- Sugar farmers in Malawi set aside 40% of their premium for the replacement of vital machinery and an annual plough out and replant. They have also provided bore holes in the villages so that the women and girls no longer have to go down to the crocodile infested Shire River to get water.
- Fairtrade cotton farmers in the Cameroon have invested in constructing a new classroom.
- Fairtrade flower farmers in Kenya use their premium to fund teacher training and bursaries for university and secondary school places and bicycles so employees can get to work without relying on public transport.

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Since God gave us two ears and one mouth, He must have wanted us to do twice as much listening as talking.

## **METHODIST BOYCOTT OF GOODS FROM ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS**

### **1. What has the Church decided to do?**

On 30 June, 2010 the Methodist Conference (the governing body of the Methodist Church in Britain) called for a greater engagement of the Methodist people with those living in Israel and Palestine. The Conference report Justice for Palestine and Israel highlighted the impact of occupation on Palestinian communities in Gaza and the West Bank.

### **2. Why are the Israeli settlements in the West Bank described as "illegal"?**

However the status of Israeli settlements is described we must appreciate that a process of patient and careful dialogue will be necessary to arrive at solutions that meet the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians. The Methodist Church fully recognizes the right of Israel to exist as an independent state within secure borders. We affirm the UN resolution that the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention apply to the occupied Palestinian territories. This includes the principle that the occupier should not transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territories that it occupies. The expansion of the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and associated infrastructure pose a serious challenge to International law. It has contributed to making life intolerable for many in the West Bank and makes a sustainable peace accord around a viable two-state solution more difficult to achieve. In July 2004 every European government and most other governments affirmed their support for the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Separation Barrier. The UK Government describes the settlements in the West Bank as "illegal".

### **3. Why Israeli settlement goods? Why not boycott other countries?**

We are taking this particular action in response to requests from Palestinian Christians and the World Council of Churches and a growing number of Jewish organisations both inside Israel and worldwide. It is in our tradition to challenge and draw attention to situations that we believe are unjust, and the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories continues to make a lasting peace in the region more difficult to achieve.

### **4. What should Methodists do?**

Firstly, we want to encourage Methodists to engage in regular well-informed inter faith dialogue and also in prayer for the region and all who live there. Seek out interfaith groups locally to open dialogue for a greater understanding of the region.

Secondly, some may wish to write to their MPs, MEPs and Government ministers to call for urgent help to be given to those who are suffering as a result of the present situation in Israel and Palestine.

Methodists are also encouraged to visit the region for themselves where possible, to meet with Palestinian Christians and others and to share their experiences on their return.

Finally, check the labels of products you buy to see whether they originate from Israeli settlements. These can include everyday purchases such as herbs, dates, avocados and olive oil. In December 2009, Defra (the UK Government department responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs) introduced new advice on labelling, recommending that packaging of products imported from the West Bank should distinguish between Palestinian areas and Israeli settlements. The Methodist Church has written to major supermarkets to ask whether they are complying with this guidance.

*From the Methodist Church website*

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If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

## PRAYER LIST

### **Week beginning 7 November & 26 December**

Rev'd Ian Griffiths, Rev'd Keith Hunt, Charles Baker's Pastoral Group, Margaret Emmett's Pastoral Group, Eccleshill Methodist Church, Harecroft Methodist Church, St Anthony's RC Church Windhill, Christian Life Church & Westcliffe Chapel and the Hindu community in Bradford

### **Week beginning 14 November**

Rev'd Sarah Jemison, Rev'd Joy Rulton, Clifford Gray's Pastoral Group, Maureen Gray's Pastoral Group, Haworth Road Methodist Church, Little Lane LEP, St Margaret's Church Frizinghall, St Walburga's RC Church and the Sikh community in Bradford

### **Week beginning 21 November**

Rev'd John Allison, Rev'd Lynne Britten, Christine MacKay's Pastoral Group, Carolyn Shore's Pastoral Group, Kate Hainsworth's Pastoral Group, Northcliffe LEP, Saltaire Methodist Church, St Peter's C of E, Shipley Christians Together and the Jewish Community in Bradford

### **Week beginning 28 November**

Rev'd Stella Hayton, Rev'd Andrew Taylor, Mrs Linda Atkin, Gill Roper's Pastoral Group, June Whitaker's Pastoral Group, Sandy Lane Methodist Church, St Andrew's Methodist Church, Wrose Methodist Church, Salvation Army Corps and people of no faith in Bradford

### **Week beginning 5 December**

Rev'd David Bonney, Mrs Sharon Fell, Marian Mawson's Pastoral Group, Pam Cadman's Pastoral Group, Thackley Methodist Church, Thornton Methodist Church, Wilsden Methodist Church, St Paul's C of E, Aire Valley Team Ministry

### **Week beginning 12 December**

Rev'd Peter Whittaker, Rev'd Alistair Newton, Bob & Sheila French's Pastoral Group, Allerton Methodist Church, Baildon Methodist Church, Saltaire United Reformed Church, Christchurch Windhill LEP and the Christian community in Bradford

### **Week beginning 19 December**

Rev'd Freddy Takavarasha, Rev'd Nick Blundell, Brian Hainsworth's Pastoral Group. Lesley Hainsworth's Pastoral Group, Bolton Methodist Church, Calverley Methodist Church, Shipley Baptist Church, Crag Road Methodist Church and the Islamic community in Bradford

## METHODISTS LIVE LONGER

### *Report from the Daily Telegraph*



According to a report in the Daily Telegraph, Methodists live an average of eight years longer than the rest of the population. If you are an active Methodist male then you could expect to live until you are 83 years 9 months and if you are an active Methodist female then you could expect to reach 91 years and 1 month!

A new minister was doing his rounds visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it was evident that someone was inside but no one answered his repeated knocks. Eventually he wrote on the back of a calling card: 'Revelation 3:20' and stuck it to the door.

The following Sunday he was surprised to find his card in the offering plate. Below his writing was scrawled: 'Genesis 3:10.'

He reached for his Bible and thereafter broke into gales of laughter.