

# Brun News

Autumn 2008 - Donation 30p  
[www.brunswick-baptist.co.uk](http://www.brunswick-baptist.co.uk)



# About Our Church

Our Church is situated in the heart of Gloucester City Centre. If you are visiting the city then we are conveniently situated for the bus and railway stations. Just follow the signs to the docks.

Sunday Services are:

10:45 am for morning worship and 6:30 pm. Please check inside this magazine for communion Sundays and times.



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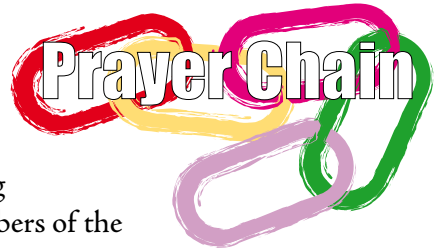
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If you have a prayer request, please ring one of the following people between 6.30p.m. and 7.00p.m. unless it is very urgent. Give your message as briefly as possible and do not engage in conversation at this time. The person receiving the message will then pass it on to the other members of the group.

The Team are (In no particular order)

Janet Portwood, Hilary Hill, David & Alice Godsell, David & Louise Williams, Dorothy Manley, Audrey Pavitt, David & Georgina Dowling, Sylvia Tripp, Alison Walker, Lorna & Stuart Hurst, Rob & Miriam Atherton.



## Is the Credit Crunch all bad?

As I write this article I am listening to the news of the collapse of XL Leisure, leaving many poor people stranded all over the world. Whenever we listen to the media we can't get away from the subject of the "*Credit Crunch*" and we are informed that it is having an effect on all our lives. Financial experts and politicians warn us that this downturn in the economy could cause uncertainty and even hardship for at least the next few years.

However, I would like to ask the question: is it all bad news that credit has become harder to obtain?

Only going back a few years our society used to encourage a culture of "*saving*" but now the message we hear is "*buy now and pay later*". I suggest that, what is fuelling this change in attitude is ignorance of the 10th commandment, not to covet the possessions of others. It is sad to say that people are being sucked into this illusion that we can all have everything that we want and have it now. It is *not* true, the truth is that we have live within our means and the secret of peace and happiness is to be content with what we have. As God's word says in Hebrews 13:5

*"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (NIV)*

So are there any benefits to "the Credit Crunch"? Well yes I believe there are, firstly if credit gets harder to obtain hopefully people will think twice before getting into too much debt. Secondly, I believe it is a warning to people that the world economy is finely balanced and that living in constant credit will catch up with you. Thirdly, since the fall of communism, many have come to believe that capitalism is the only god that works. It doesn't, and as people have their home and possessions repossessed there will be a large number of disillusioned people, hopefully these people will turn to him who will "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

One further point, please try and be involved in a house group for our present topic is entitled "Rivers of Justice" and the Bible studies will include learning how to manage our money and learning the art of contentment.

Best wishes

**Pastor Colin**

## A Weekend to Remember - Church Weekend (6th-8th June)

In June Brun enjoyed its first church weekend away; Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean was chosen for this exciting time of fellowship and fun. Viney Hill is an old vicarage which has been renovated to provide living accommodation and spacious indoor and outdoor leisure areas including a playing field, camping area and camp fire.

Approximately 60 people from Brun stayed for the weekend. Fellowship began with tea and cakes on arrival on Friday evening followed by prayers and worship. We were privileged to have the Rev Chris Rees from Stroat near Chepstow as the guest speaker for two days. The theme of his talks was based upon the subject of the church being one body, made up of many parts, and how each person in the church has a unique and important role to play within that body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Many of us felt encouraged by what we heard and we continue to pray for those who felt moved to want to participate in Brun's work.

All weekend the sun shone gloriously which was perfect for the outdoor activities and the BBQ on the Saturday evening. Many of the energetic youth enjoyed a mountain biking adventure across challenging forest terrain, and others tried their hands at archery.



Another group shared a gentle stroll through the forest to Jesus Hill, to witness a splendid view from a forest clearing towards Gloucester and Cheltenham. Saturday evening was rounded off nicely with Brun's own talent show highlighting some hidden talents amongst one or two of our church members!

On Sunday morning a worship workshop was led by Trevor Howard and there were more activities for those wanting to make the most of the summer sunshine. The weekend was brought to a close with a Sunday lunch followed by a service of worship and prayer.





Feedback is being collected from some of the people who attended, which, if positive, may result in the church planning a similar weekend away next year – so watch this space!

On a personal level, the weekend was a perfect ending to my three years of study at the University of Gloucestershire. As a result of the studies I have now qualified as a Social Worker and will be moving to Warwick to start a new job at Warwick Hospital at the end of August. My faith in the Lord Jesus has been continually enriched during the three years I have been part of Brun and the move to Warwick really is a bitter-sweet feeling for me. I have made friendships in the house-group and the Camel Trails social group and I have enjoyed being involved with a number of activities including worshipful dance and the holiday club.

Please pray for my new life in Warwick and in turn I will pray for the Lord's



continued guidance and blessing for Brun and in particular for Chris Rees' message to become more real to you as a church.

**Nicky Enticknap**

**D**uring August the Thursday Housegroup had an opportunity to wish farewell to Nicky. She has been a dedicated member of the group, regularly hosting us. Nicky has also been involved in working with the Youth, Holiday Club, Camel Trails and much more - we will miss her!

**Richard Hill**



## Sylvia Tripp's Baptism

On Sunday 1st June we had the baptism of Sylvia Tripp. Her daughter, Lorna invited her to come along to last year's Alpha course. She found the discussion times very helpful and enlightening.

During the baptismal service of Mr John Brown earlier this year, Sylvia responded to the Lord's command to be baptised. Jean Ward reassured her and said "You can do it". So she responded to Colin's appeal and went forward for baptism.



A bring and share lunch followed the service.

**Richard Hill**

## My Testimony - Katie Thorne

I remember some of the first times I came to Brunswick Baptist Church. It was several years ago now, and it was even before Charley became our Youth Leader. I remember feeling very uncomfortable in a room full of strangers all singings songs I'd never heard. What's worse, is then I had to go into a cold (and dull looking, at the time) basement and read through a Bible. I actually didn't understand the Bible at all. They asked us to turn to a certain chapter and it didn't make any sense to me, I was relieved when Abi told me which page to turn to, but then to find a page of words that I didn't understand and lots of little numbers dotted all around the place. I was very confused.

What's more is that I was never a big reader, I never found it easy to read because I was forced to when I was in Junior School, so since I started Secondary School, I'd picked up very few books. We had to read this big, confusing book, when normal books confused me. I remember us going around the circle, and as usual, Abi didn't want to read, and then I didn't because I wouldn't have a clue what to read. The group showed quite a bit of dislike for my decision not to read that day.

I was brought up not really understanding religion; I didn't know what to believe to be honest. My parents didn't teach me anything and I'd never been to church. I didn't know what to expect from this. Thinking back to Spring Harvest the first year I went, and how they did communion on one of the last days, and I just stood in the middle of the hall crying because I really wanted to go into that corner and drink really weak

## My Testimony - Katie Thorne (continued)

blackcurrant squash and eat fluffy bread, but so many things held me back then. It took another trip to Spring Harvest and a trip to Soul Survivor before I became a Christian, with Abi all the way telling me stories and explaining things to me that I didn't understand. I remember that we went swimming at Spring Harvest and as we floated around the pool along with the artificial current, Abi was telling me the story of Joseph. It was the first time I'd ever heard it.



I can compare times like that to how I feel now about God. Back then I was curious, but not convinced, I felt something for the things I heard, but I didn't really understand. It wasn't until the Youth Weekend last year that I actually would say I became a Christian. It was that weekend I gave my life to Jesus, and I've never regretted it or looked back, or even missed the atheist I used to be. Since then I've been passionate about God, and I love to pray. I can't even explain, but I'm sure others feel like me, I absolutely love to pray! About everything, anything, I like to ask for things, pray for people, thank God for everything He's done for me.

I've had my ups and downs with God, times when I felt farther from Him, and times when I felt close, but I know that that's normal, and even in the times when I felt like I was galaxies away from God, I never denied loving Him, and I looked back to that Youth Weekend, and remember how much love I felt for Him then, and I have faith that He'll be there to lead me wherever, whenever.

And this is a little note to you. No matter how far you feel from God sometimes, look back to the times you felt close, the times when you've felt Him holding your hand, or carrying you through your struggles, the times when you felt secure in Him, and when you knew that He was there, without doubt. Knowing these things have happened, brings faith for knowing it can happen, and that it will happen again.

I admit that even now I don't honestly know which books are in the Old Testament and which are in the New Testament, but at least now I know what that means! There was one night, soon after I'd bought my own Bible that I had the number 1146 in my head, and I didn't know why. But I opened my Bible and there was page 1146. I was a

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bit shocked to be honest, but then I read the very first passage on that page and it said this (Luke 6:43-45);

*“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”*

To me, this passage means several things, everyone encouraging depending on the situation. But I'll let you read it your own way.

**Katie Thorne**

*Katie was baptised at Brun on Sunday 20th July.*

## Farewell to Charley

Sunday 27th July marked the end of Charley's time as our Youth Worker when she led the evening service. This gave Charley a chance to reflect on her time here and to say farewell. At the end of the sermon she symbolically handed the baton onto Luiz.

It's hard to believe that it's been three years since Charley arrived here. She was at the time still studying at Bristol Baptist College to be a Youth Worker and a placement was needed for her to complete parts of the course. Already an experienced Youth Worker while working in Exeter, Charley came with lots of fresh ideas and it wasn't

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## Farewell to Charley (continued)



long before she settled into her role. Charley started first with the Basement Bunch, but not far behind came a Youth Club aimed at teenagers – Youth@Brun.

Charley's passion for youth work never shone through more than when she was actually interacting with young people. Whether this was playing Uni-hoc, table tennis or just chatting. Ultimately though what Charley really wanted was to introduce young people to Jesus.

The best times I spent with Charley were when she decided to work with me on the streets of Kingsholm and in the city centre. Working for Gloucestershire County Council had its boundaries, but this didn't deter Charley when we encountered a group of teenagers in the city centre. After just seeing them on four occasions, some of them opened up with some real thorny issues (we were advised that it could take up to six months to build up any relations before this could happen). We were both amazed at their outcry and we still try and go there. Charley also made friends with lots of younger children on the Rec too and both of us enjoyed playing football with them. God was truly with us on the streets, two Christians working in a secular environment showing His love.

It's difficult to pick just one moment out of the time that Charley spent here at Brunswick but I'm sure you have your favourites.

**Stuart Hurst**

## Sunday School

**D**uring August I volunteered to do Sunday School for the under 8's. You may be wondering what we do. We had Bible Stories and each Sunday we would focus on one Bible story. The children would hear the story and would be asked questions, then they would draw the story. All the children had very good imaginations when it came to drawing!! The group were given choices of what stories they wanted, and even told me what story they wanted to know more about. Until recently their work was displayed on the Sunday School's notice boards in the Raikes Hall. The stories we learnt about were: Noah Ark, Storm on the Lake, Man went through the roof, Feeding of the 5,000, Jarius' Daughter.

**Esther Coughlin**

## Charley & Vic's Wedding

On Saturday 6th September several hundred people journeyed from far and wide to witness the blessing of Vic and Charley's wedding, 38 people had travelled from Brun and some of Charley's friends from the swimming club at GL1 also came. They had got married the previous day in a civil ceremony at Honiton registry office and today was to be the big affair for family and friends. The service was held in a quaint



Anglican church in Upottery, Devon and was too small to accommodate the number of guests - many stood in the porch or squashed into the pews in the sanctuary. The musicians were from Cirencester Baptist Church Youth Band and the organist was Ruby Cooke. The service was led by Rev Rob Sylvester from Charley's previous church, St. Thomas, Exeter. Rev Bob Morris from Cirencester (their new boss) did the reading from 1 John 4:7-19 and Rev Ken Taylor followed with the address. Richard has a recording of the service if you are interested.

As many of you will remember the weather was not very kind during the previous few days and torrential rain had caused flooding in some parts of the country, well at least we didn't have floods but we did have a downpour at around 1.15pm which meant many people got wet going into the church. This also meant that there was a lot of mud!!!

Mud and squelching footwear was in abundance for the reception which was held in a marquee across the road from the church, not too far to travel but the access route was



very slippery and many people were wise enough to bring their wellies, although not glamorous they were definitely a good choice of footwear. Charley had come prepared and hers had smarties all over them and some were plain whilst still others had flowers on. Many ladies no doubt had cold wet feet that day, and the temperature dropped quite significantly into the evening. The food was cooked and served by Nick, Brenda, Martin (Nick's brother), Bethany and Tim, they all

## Charley & Vic's Wedding (continued)

worked exceptionally hard in awful conditions and no one went hungry. Everyone had to wait a long time to be served because of the number of people but there was plenty of food. Nick also decorated the wedding cake.

The usual speeches were made and a special one from Charley which revealed things about her new husband that perhaps we did not wish to know and I'm sure he didn't want us to know, ask someone who was there if you want further details!!!! A sight to remember was one of Vic and Charley bouncing up and down on the bouncy castle in their now not so clean wedding outfits.

Following the cutting of the cake there were some fireworks followed by a disco in the local village hall with Trevor and Christopher on the decks. Rob and I left after the fireworks as we were headed down south for the rest of the weekend.

Charley wanted it to be different and it certainly was, God bless them both as they begin their work together in Cirencester, Charley as Youth Pastor and Vic as Evangelist. So after their ordination on 12th October does that make them Rev Vic & Rev Charley Trykush? Watch this space!!!!

**Miriam Atherton**

## Induction of Luiz Marques as Part Time Youth Worker

On Sunday 14th September we had the induction service for Luiz Marques as Youth Worker. Many people from City Gates, School of the Lion and elsewhere came to support Luiz as he was inducted into the role of part time Youth Worker at Brun. After Luiz had answered Pastor Colin's two questions of commitment, the church prayed for him and Cassandra as they took on this new work.



After the service a bring and share lunch was held with almost a hundred people cramming into the Raikes Hall!

**Richard Hill**

## Church Barbecue at Boating Lake

The annual BBQ was held at the boating lake on Sunday 13th July. It was a brilliant chance to chat to people from church that I hadn't previously had the opportunity to meet. It was a sunny day, yes that's right, the sun was actually shining this day and everyone found a group of people to talk to. The food was exceptionally cooked and greatly enjoyed.



There were football games for whoever wished to join in or blankets for those who preferred to sit down. There was lots of smiling and joking which made everyone leave with joy in their hearts. It was wonderful to see so many cultures and points of view being embraced. Jonathan Berry and the team who catered for us, did an amazing job.

**Philippa Hale**

## Holiday Club 2008 - Champions Challenge

Taking advantage of the times, this year's holiday club had an Olympic theme. This enabled Trevor to write lots of songs about the Christian life as a race. To hear more please buy his CD 'Run the Race'. Remember this is what Jim really wants for Christmas.

We looked at the Bible and saw that Jesus is our trainer, team mate, sports physio (healer) substitute and winner.

We had about 45 children each day (60 overall) many from the schools we visited. We sang, competed, made Olympic torches, won certificates, ate biscuits and generally had a good time. They went away with a booklet about Jesus, with excerpts from Luke's gospel, so pray that it will have a lasting affect on their lives.

Can I say a big "Thank You" to this year's team who were fantastic. We had several new helpers and lots of old ones (I mean experienced!). Some children have enjoyed holiday club so much that they have come back as helpers.

**Rachel Howard**

## **September**

In September we wished Happy Birthday to Cassandra Conceicao on 11th, then Marie Coughlin who celebrated 95 years on 14th! On the same day Mark Billingham was 8, and Daniel Myatt 11. Joanna Juszczuk was also 11 on 16th. Other birthdays were Sharon Billingham on 19th, Don James on 22nd, Gladys, Marcia and Daniel all on 24th. Lastly Lozimar Lima on 28th.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to David and Georgina Dowling on 3rd, John and Janet Portwood on 7th, Gary and Christine Thomas on 16th, and finally John and Joan Cooper on 18th.

## **October**

Birthdays in October are Jonathan Berry on 7th, Ruby King who will be 10 on 11th, Olakunle Abioye on 14th, Joan Cooper 16th, Alan Billingham 21st. On Tim Woodman 22nd, the same day as Jadey Paratudo will be one year old. David Hood is on 25th, and Michelle Shaw 28th.

## **November**

In November we celebrate the birthdays of Karina Paratudo on 4th, Adrian Welsh on 5th, Rachel Berry 7th, Katie Thorne 11th, John Hale 13th, Jim Hauxwell 21st, Beauty Nxumalo 22nd, Rowland Binns 23rd, Aster Hajer 25th and David Godsell on 30th.

## **December**

In December we will be wishing Happy Birthday to Carol Brain on 10th, Sam Kanonik on 13th, Eryk Juszczuk will be 5 on 23rd, and finally it will be Georgina Dowling's birthday on 27th and Sylvia Tripp's on 30th.

## **January**

A long way ahead to the following in January: John Cooper's birthday is on 1st, Rob Atherton on 4th, Esther Coughlin 7th, Matthew Berry will be 7 on 12th, then Jacqueline Smith on 15th; Stuart Hurst, Patricia Store and Davi Paratudo all on 21st.

## Door Rota

	Duty Deacon	Morning Stewarding	Evening Stewarding
<b>October 5th</b>	Mr. M. Thomas	Mrs. C. Thomas TBA	TBA
<b>12th</b>	Mr. G. Dowling	Mr. & Mrs. G. McLaren	TBA
<b>19th</b>	Mr. D. Smith	Mr. D. Dowling Mrs C. Woodman	Mr. C. Horton
<b>26th</b>	Mrs. C. Thomas	Mr. D. Dowling Mrs. P. Harvey	Mrs. D. Manley
<b>November 2nd</b>	Mr. G. Coughlin	Mr. & Mrs. G. McLaren	TBA
<b>9th</b>	Mr. T. Howard	Mr. C. Horton Mrs. A. Pavitt	TBA
<b>16th</b>	Mrs. G. Dowling	Mr. J. Cooper Mrs. H. Squire	Mr. D. Dowling
<b>23rd</b>	Mr. S. Hurst	Mr. & Mrs. R. Atherton	Mrs. C. Thomas
<b>30th</b>	Mr. M. Thomas	Mr. D. Dowling Miss G. Hale	TBA

## Communion Rota

<b>October 5th</b>	Mr. & Mrs. G. Coughlin
<b>October 19th</b>	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hill
<b>November 2nd</b>	Mr. & Mrs. D. Dowling
<b>November 16th</b>	Mrs. G. Ahearn & Mrs. P. Harvey
<b>December 7th</b>	Mr. & Mrs. R. Binns
<b>December 21st</b>	Mrs. G. Ahearn & Mrs. P. Harvey

How do we pay tribute to someone who has reached 82 and led a full but private life? If like us you enjoy Jigsaws, you will realise not only the importance of each individual piece but the pleasure and satisfaction of looking at the completed puzzle. We are sharing but a few of our memories – a few pieces of the whole picture. You will no doubt have many of your own.

*Gwen:* Betty was a loyal and hard working member of Brunswick Baptist Church when the building was located in Brunswick Road. One of Betty's best friends at that time, was Barrie Sims, the Church Secretary. After his successful negotiations to sell the old Brun and purchase the present site, his job entailed a move to the USA. Jessie and I accompanied Betty on a visit to see Barrie in Washington DC and hiring a car, travelled up to Canada and the Niagara Falls via the Finger Lakes; after returning to Washington for a week, we then flew down to Florida spending a week driving down the Keys. Betty couldn't get over having a swim in the pool late at night, and being completely warm. A most memorable holiday especially as we had agreed to share the driving, and efficient Betty had left her Driving Licence safely in the UK !

Cricket was Betty's main sports interest. She was very knowledgeable, and loved



the TV coverage, especially the Ashes. She could tell you each team's scores and who was likely to win.

I got to know Betty best when we served on the Diaconate together in the present building. She became the Church Treasurer and her writing and figures were very very neat, but very small. It was a challenge to Audit the books!

Betty was well known all over the City. She had been teaching Secretarial Courses at Tech for many years, and I couldn't go anywhere without meeting someone who knew her. At the Shire Hall where I worked, most the secretaries had been taught by her. At bowls clubs in the City I met various ladies who had been on the staff at the Tech. Many of these people turned up at her funeral service and had nothing but good things to say about her.

After her retirement she became a voluntary worker in the cancer clinic at GRH. It was whilst working in this environment, that she became aware of her own breast cancer. Betty had the necessary treatment which was carried

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out by the team for whom she had been working .

The things Betty did in the church were mostly 'in the background'. She often spent Saturdays baking cakes, setting out on Sunday afternoons to visit Brun members who were no longer able to get out to Services. She would leave them enough cakes to last them the week. Her jams and marmalades were enjoyed by many, and the proceeds went to the BMS. She was also responsible for buying and wrapping the Christmas gifts for the elderly and those on their own over the festive season - no mean task in the latter years. She also provided the money to have flowers arranged on her behalf. For more years than I care to remember, she also collected Marie Coughlin and Vi Thomas each Sunday morning and brought them to Brun. Betty was also no stranger to the Creche, helping out when we were short of volunteers. She was also Home Mission representative for many years, served as door steward on many occasions, and became involved in Open Door until her final illness.

Betty had a list of people to whom she used to send the Church Magazine (which she herself had edited and produced for many years). This included two previous Ministers – Philip Withers and Albert Crowther. Betty would always write them a covering letter to

go with the Magazine, keeping them informed of the people they had known during their Ministry.

*Pat:* Although I had known Betty at Church since 1975, I became more closely involved with her latterly and was particularly encouraged by her quiet confident faith. In her last weeks in hospital, however, her hearing aid was not always in or efficient, so the other patients in the Ward heard her testimony loud and clear! She said she didn't know how people could face illness and the prospect of death without the assurance of a faith and how much she valued the support of people's prayers. Despite her own certain faith, she was sensitive to the feelings of those friends and neighbours for whom circumstances and events had undermined their belief in a loving God.

During her last weeks in GRH Betty received many visits from ex-colleagues, neighbours, and members of her Church family at Brun. I believe she spent more time talking to us than she had done meeting us from week to week at Church.

Betty was a very generous person, with her time, money and prayers. We shall miss her quiet presence at Brun.

**Gwen Ahearn & Pat Harvey**

## The Birth of Erin & Freya Godsell

In case you hadn't noticed we have been bringing two small babies to Brun lately called Erin and Freya. Our gorgeous twin girls have certainly changed our lives and despite the lack of sleep it is definitely a change for the better. We would like to thank everyone for all their continued love, support, help and prayers - we certainly wouldn't be managing without the people at Brun.



Alice, Dave, Freya and Erin Godsell

## Race for Life

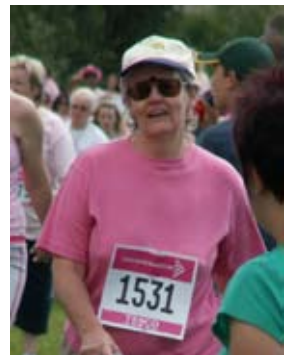
On Sunday 12th July, Mum and I were among hundreds of women who were either running or walking to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Together we have raised £248.50. We both walked the course, but ran to the finishing line! I did the Race for Life for my Mum and Esther Dowling, who have been treated and in memory of my Granda (Grandpa), Betty Howorth and Heather Manley. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us.



Esther Coughlin



Louise Williams (left)  
and Ann Welch (right)  
also ran the Race for Life





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In India the new school year has started. Feverishly, parents have been trying to admit their children for the first time; 12th standard children have been applying for college places and sitting entrance exams. One child sat for the medical entrance exam – he was sure he had done really well, but did not get called for an interview. After all, there were 26,000 students who sat that exam! Many children will have had their hopes and dreams shattered and wonder just what lies ahead. These are the educated ones. Almost 300 million people in India still cannot read their own name. Of those who manage to study, many struggle due to poor facilities and poor teaching and end up unemployable. Thank God for the education you have been able to receive and pray that more children will have access in this country to good educational facilities.

My time away with friends in Australia in May proved to be a time of renewal, refreshment and good fellowship. After my holiday I was soon into the swing of work at hospital and school. The weather was still hot and this continued throughout the whole of June and July. It is always a shock to the system returning from a cooler climate, especially as Australia was preparing for their winter.

Seeing patients again who returned for their check-ups was encouraging. Some

of them had battled through difficult times and have done so well. I had sent many of them post cards while away and these seemed to have really been appreciated, especially those sent to the children showing Australia's wild and unusual animals!

Many of you have been praying for the Balanilayam hostel and in my last letter I said, "I know that God will answer the many questions on my heart but it will be in his time. Pray that my ears will be attuned". Before I left for Australia I attended a birthday lunch for one of the hostel children. After lunch I talked with the couple in whose house we were. They asked about the hostel and I said I was still awaiting God's leading. Very quietly they said, "We would not mind taking on this work if we can continue the vision that you had". I could hardly believe it. This couple were people whom Marlienne and I had approached many

years ago but they felt that it was not the right time. Even last year their family commitments would have prevented any involvement. They are a professional, God-fearing couple with considerable experience with children and young people. The husband has recently retired as a professor and his wife is a teacher.

We will be going ahead with plans to open the hostel for the next school year in June 2009. There is maintenance work to be done and I have regular meetings with the new house parents. Marlienne and I always said that Balanilayam was God's project, not ours, and he has proved again that when we trust him and wait for his timing he does show the way ahead. The days of disappointment and patient and not so patient waiting are over. Rejoice with us!

A ticket is booked for my to return to England on 9 September. I will be on home assignment for the following three and a half months and look forward to meeting many of you again. At the end of November I officially retire from BMS. I am grateful that they have supported me for a further five years and allowed me to remain in service until I reach 70 years (that still seems impossible to me... will I really be that age!).

So what of the future? Many people feel that it is time for me to come and settle at

home again. I do want to find a base for myself although just where that will be I do not yet know. What does God require of me? That has been the question that I have been asking myself over the last months. Trying to get everything completed here regarding the hostel and packing has all concentrated on the next few weeks and I have wondered if that was possible or right. The department of haematology has asked me to continue "for as long as you can" and the school wants me to return. These last two years have given me tremendous opportunities that I could never have dreamt of. I decided that I would see if the hospital would allow me to keep the flat. If the answer was 'no' then that would be a sign that I should not return. Some of you knew the trauma of two years ago when I only knew five days before I travelled that I would have somewhere to live. In what seemed an unprecedented move the committee involved have said that I can keep the flat for the time that I am away in the UK.

I need a new passport visa if I am to return to India and the latter is like climbing Mount Everest, so I would really value your prayers. Returning this time will be a very different scenario. There are still many things to fit into place but I believe that God will show the way forward. I do not need to list things for which to give thanks and pray,

*Continued*

## News from Ann Bothamley (cont)

as these have already been mentioned.

These next five weeks will be filled with many claims on my time. Pray that God will help me to plan but not panic... to be busy but not burdened... to be working but not worrying... and to have my mind of what I am doing while my heart is fixed on him.

With greetings and love

**Ann Bothamley**

## A Pilgrim's Blessing

**M**ay the Babe of Bethlehem be  
yours to tend;  
May the Boy of Nazareth be yours for  
a friend;  
May the Man of Galilee His healing  
send;  
May the Christ of Calvary His courage  
lend;  
May the Risen Lord His presence send;  
And his holy angels defend you to the  
end.

*A blessing from the Austrian Passion Play  
town of Oberammergau.*

*The Passion Play will next be performed  
in 2010.*

*Submitted by Pat Harvey*

## Flower Rota



September 7th	Gwen Ahearn
14th	Pat Harvey
21st	Michelle Shaw
28th	José Jurado Aranda
October 5th	Louise Williams
12th	Joan Cooper
19th	Pat Harvey
26th	Gwen Ahearn
November 2nd	TBA
9th	TBA
16th	TBA
23rd	TBA
30th	TBA

### **Leaving Malawi for Home Assignment**

Thank you for praying about our air travel, particularly the first flight with Air Malawi. Although both of the two jets owned by Air Malawi were grounded only about a week before our departure, the flight was operated using a leased aircraft and the crew from South Africa. The whole journey was very L-O-N-G and tiring but generally went well. The transfer at Nairobi was not great and one of our 5 suitcases went missing there, but it was eventually found and delivered to where we were staying in Australia.

### **Australia**

We were quite tired when we landed at Sydney. We already knew that one of our suitcases was lost in Nairobi, but we did not know which one. We were disappointed to find out that it was the one that contained the banner that was newly made especially for Home Assignment meetings. Reporting the lost baggage meant that we had to give a long answer to every simple question. Our favourite is when we gave a full and truthful answer to the question "What is your home address?", the Qantas employee handling our report said, "So, you are homeless."

Australia's customs must be one of the most strict in the world. The officers were actually quite friendly and helpful, but they were very thorough. By the time we finished with the customs, we seemed like the last passengers in the airport building. We were very glad to see the familiar faces of the Lewis family. They visited Malawi as short term missionaries in December 2006, and they offered their hospitality for our time in Sydney.

### **Japan**

It was a little strange that Megumi's father was no longer there, but it was nevertheless very good to be with the Japanese side of our family. Megumi's mother was as well as can be (considering her heart surgery a few years ago and her blood pressure problem), and she was shocked but delighted to see how her three grandchildren from Malawi had grown.

### **UK**

Thank you for praying about our need for a car. One of our long-time supporters is a retired vicar. He, his wife and his nephew-in-law kindly found and prepared a

*Continued*

## Missionary News from the Fazakerleys (continued)

great people carrier, perfectly suited for our needs. They even brought the car to the airport upon our arrival at Heathrow. We like the car very much, and we thank God for the provision and for those people who secured it for us. As if that was not enough, they drove us down to the south coast and gave us a 4-day holiday. It was great to be able to relax for the first few days to recover from a yet another longhaul flight and the inevitable jet lag.

We are very fortunate that we can stay in the same house in Hoylake on the Wirral that we stayed in during the last Home Assignment. It gives us a sense of 'home coming'. Moreover, as some of you may remember from 4 years ago, it is a great 5-bedroomed house on the sea front! We moved into this house on the afternoon of Saturday, 23rd August, and on the following day the 'clan' gathered in this house. We are looking forward to host a few more 'clan gathering' during the course of this year to make up for the last 4 years.

Helen took Joshua up to Kendal, Cumbria, on Friday, 29th August, so that he could settle in to his uncle and aunt's house and get used to the town. He made some good friends at a lively local church. His first week at school seems to have gone well.

Elizabeth and Mary started at their school in Wirral on Wednesday, 3rd September. It is a very large school with over 1,500 students. Both girls found some of their 'old' school friends from the time they attended a primary school in this area during our last home assignment 4 years ago, and they are also making some new friends.



Malawi

Megumi & Helen Fazakerley  
16th September 2008

More than 4 months have passed since my return to Sapporo. Unlike most schools our OMF Japanese Language Centre has no summer holidays and July/ August have been particularly busy months with extra responsibilities welcoming new students and covering for colleagues on holiday. Currently we have about 20 missionary students either full or part time and ten Japanese staff.

How does a Language Advisor like me spend her days? Well, probably about half my time is spent in front of the computer keyboard either at home or at JLC answering e mails, writing language reports, listening to students' Japanese oral tests, and researching materials. I supervise a number of missionaries throughout Japan as well as those in JLC. Josh, for example, is a young Canadian paraplegic living in Tokyo with a heart to reach disabled Japanese for Christ. Because he has helpers in 7 hours a day, it is impossible for him to attend language school in the normal way so I keep in touch with him and his language teachers through e mail and by skype. When problems arise between teacher and student as they can do when study is mostly one to one, they are not easy to deal with at a distance. In JLC with 10 Japanese staff we are able to give a student with problems a change of teacher.

Regular meetings with individual students and teachers are also an important aspect of my job. The hardest thing is probably trying encourage and help practically those who struggle with learning Japanese and there are always one or two of these. But there always seem to be new additional challenges to face too. Currently, one is how to help a 5 year old whose parents are studying at JLC. Most third culture kids (TCKs) pick up the language naturally. However, G, has been going to kindergarten for a year and refuses to speak Japanese. Mum and Dad are concerned about how she will cope with Japanese primary school from April 2008. Should we try to find a private teacher? If so, who? It seems to be more of an emotional than a linguistic problem. We need much wisdom and prayer. Mum and Dad will not be able to stay long term in Japan unless their 4 children are able to settle into Japanese life and schools.

In the past 2 months I have taught orientation sessions on Japanese characters, what proficiency means and goal setting in language learning, among other things. Orientation includes training teachers as well as students. I have recently begun training 2 of our newest staff in preparation for gaining certification in oral evaluation. This taxes my Japanese ability with the linguistic terms I don't use on a daily basis! (It is easier to prepare a sermon.) Recently I spent a few hours researching radicals (the root part

*Continued*

of Japanese characters) on the internet to answer someone's questions. Another day I downloaded and explored a flash card software programme that I thought would help missionaries organize and learn the mass of Japanese vocabulary and characters that have to be mastered. I try to keep up to date with new Japanese language textbooks and resources for teachers. There are textbooks to be ordered, bank payments to be made, students to be billed, a library to be kept in order and so it goes on.

Church work gets less of my time than I would like these days but I preach on average about once a month at Hokuei church. I enjoy it although the preparation and delivery takes at least twice as much energy as a sermon in English would! I am currently following up one lady in her 30's who has been attending church for a couple of years but is not sure about baptism. A lady I prepared for baptism a couple of years ago continues to have her ups and downs in faith and in home life. Recently, her brother-in-law died. She was terrified of attending a Buddhist funeral for the first time as a Christian and was on the phone asking for advice. I prayed with her and for her in the next few days and it was great to hear her testimony the following Sunday. God clearly spoke to her when her eyes fell on 1 Timothy 1:7. 'For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control.' At the funeral it is customary for relatives' names to be read out and then they have to go up and offer incense before a photo of the deceased. To her astonishment her name was not read out and she was able to go up with her husband (not a Christian) without it being obvious that she was not offering incense. How gracious God is in protecting His loved ones in a culture that requires sacrifices of Christians that Westerners do not face. We continue to covet your prayers that His name may be further glorified in this needy country of Japan.

**Miriam Davis**  
**8th September 2008**



A man went to a barber's shop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so 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 realize 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 a loving 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 barber shop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

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, too, does exist! What happens is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

A story to share: ask God to bring you the right person to tell it to.

*Submitted by Philip Tory*



The Basis of the Baptist Union is:

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again the third day'.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

*Front Cover - Photos taken at the Church Weekend at Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre*

*Back Cover - Trevor & Nicky at Holiday Club 2008*

*- Vic & Charley leaving Upottery Church following the blessing of their marriage*

