

The Light

Issue 193: June 2011

June Issue:
news and thoughts
from around
the circuit



The warmest of welcomes!

Seymour Street's
new Welcome
desk is unveiled

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Patience

A story of God
and Ed McDade

Interview with:

Shirley Carrington,
Pastoral Assistant
at Seymour Street

Pakistan

Kenneth Pervaiz
shares about being a
Christian in Pakistan

Editor's Letter

You're welcome...

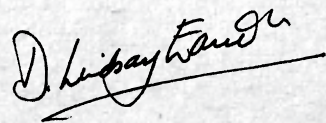
Its good to feel welcomed wherever we are, and that is one of the important details that Churches need to keep in focus. One of the great innovations that Helen Lynn brought to Seymour Street Sunday School during her time as Superintendent was to have a 'Welcome Party', often including herself, at the door each week as the children arrived at Sunday School, ready with a friendly comment. It makes all the children, and parents too, feel known and valued, not just anonymous attenders! This week we also highlight others who also play & have played, an important role to welcome folk into our Services.

It is a sad fact that in many countries today their Christian communities are feeling less and less welcome! That is the case in Pakistan, where Kenneth Pervaiz is from, and I hope you will read his personal account of life back at home for his fellow Christians, and pray that the Lord will encourage and protect them.

In this issue we also reflect on seeing many of our young people involved in voluntary Christian projects both at home and overseas, and also a number going on to receive Bible College and theological training.

I hope you find this issue of the light an encouragement!

With best wishes



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If you have articles or images for the next edition of 'The Light' please contact any of the above.

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COVER PHOTO: New Welcome Desk at Seymour Street provided in part by a donation from the family of the late Billy and Vera Walker. At the desk are Deborah Knox (left) and some members of the welcome team.

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Young people in Christian Training and Service

Sarah Hinds starts studying Youth and Community Ministry at Belfast Bible College in September

Michael Anderson will spend the next year as part of the 23rd Methodist Team on Mission (TOM Team). The TOM teams are organised by the Department of Youth and Children's Work and spend time working with, and bringing encouragement to, different church across the Connexion.

David McCrea has been working for the last year with a Methodist Church in Taku, Finland where he has been involved in a wide range of youth and church projects. Following from his experience in Finland he has recently applied to study at Belfast Bible College.

Helen Dunlop has recently completed her first 2 years at Vanguard Bible College, Edmonton, Canada, and will return in September for her final year. A highlight this year has been the mission trip she took part in from Vanguard to Cuba in February. This summer she will be on the team of Ibiza 24/7.

Louise Monroe has already completed a degree in Theology at Queens University and is currently half way through her Master of Theology course.

New Welcome Team at Seymour Street

Every church knows the importance of making sure that we give a warm welcome to new visitors to our services, and to make sure that they are invited along to church activities they may be interested in. Following the outreach activities of 'There's More' and the increased number of 'new' people coming in through the doors of Seymour Street the Pastoral Care Committee recommended that the church should put in place a new Welcome Team, and the Church Council appointed Deborah Knox to lead in this important role. A beautiful new Welcome Desk (front cover) was recently installed and this is now staffed for each church service by a member of the Welcome Team who keeps an eye out for new faces, but also provides an information point for enquiries by all church members. The desk is also used as a point where people can sign up for events and activities or request visits from the Pastoral Team.

The Welcome Team work closely with the Pew Stewards, led for many years by John Maze and Bobby Teeney, who ensure everyone is able to find a seat, and are the first point of contact for many people with the Church. Both John and Bobby are retiring from this role after a combined total of very nearly 80 service! Seymour Street marked their retirement with gifts presented to them by the Rev Brian Anderson and the Society Steward, Tom Millar. (Opposite).

ALIVE AND POPPING!

Article by Margaret McIlhenny

'Alive and popping' was the theme of our Trinity Fellowship Weekend, 18th to 20th March 2011, at Whitepark Bay Youth Hostel – one of the most stunning locations on the North Antrim coast, with magnificent sea views and a wonderful sandy beach below.

A group of 36 adults and children gathered for a very special weekend of fun and fellowship. Our speakers were Peter and Liz Murray, who led our thinking about the Church in Thessalonika, and how Trinity (and every church) should also be "alive and popping" – Prayerful, Open and Powerful. As Archbishop Tutu said, the church should not be defeatist: "We are inviting people over to the winning side!"

The children had their own programme, led by Jonny Hill, our Youth Worker, and Sarah Hinds, our Intern from Seymour St Church. They had a lot of fun as they learned about wearing the armour of God. Penny the Puppet helped us all see things differently.

The programme included times for discussion, praise and prayer, and also for relaxing together with a family quiz (eating lots of popcorn!) and playing a large floor version of Jenga, which had everyone on tenderhooks as the tower grew taller and shakier! One of the most enjoyable parts of the weekend was the Saturday afternoon walk and scavenger hunt along the beach, in glorious sunshine. God really blessed us with the weather, which added such a sparkle to everything. And the food was good too, a vital aspect of any weekend of course, resulting in a collection of favourite recipes!

We thank God for a wonderful time together, for safety and sunshine, for fun and fellowship, for all that we learned from Peter and Liz, and a renewed awareness of what it means to be part of God's family at Trinity.



Trinity members on the Weekend

Easter Sunrise Service meets with a surprise

It was back in the early 1980's that the leaders of the Seymour Street youth group 'Focus', a predecessor of SNASS, suggested we go to Hillsborough Lake early on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with the sunrise. That first year about 20 or so of us met up in the Forest Park car park and armed with a few guitars walked to the corner of the Lake and were about to begin our short act of worship when we noticed another group of people over towards the old Fort. Before going any further we went over and found that a like-minded group from Hillsborough Parish Church had also come to celebrate Easter Morning at Sunrise! The difference was that they came with readings and prayers, while we came with guitars and praise! It turned out that our worship that Easter Morning was so much stronger when we all worshipped together.

From that small beginning the Easter Morning Sunrise Service at Hillsborough Lake has become a regular feature and with the participation of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, and also Trinity Methodist Church, attracts a large crowd, the short service being led each year by a different one of the churches.

While we may not have actually seen the sunrise on many years due to our unpredictable weather, there is always a beautiful sense of peace and tranquillity as we soak in the assurance that Christ is indeed risen from the dead to bring us new and everlasting life!

Such an early, and usually chilly, start in the morning also deserves the opportunity for a warm and welcoming breakfast, so after each Service either Trinity or Seymour Street hosts a breakfast for Methodists on their way home. It all adds up to an encouraging start to each Easter Sunday morning.

Why don't you plan to be there next year?



Patience...

A story of God and Ed McDade

*"Patience is a virtue....." the saying goes
"—possess it if you can. It's seldom in a woman,
but never in a man"! Be that true or not, Patience
is a Fruit of the Spirit we are all encouraged to
cultivate. Maybe God's patience with us is sorely
tried at times?*

Ed McDade's ministerial journey perhaps started with promptings from God long before Ed recognised them as such.

As a boy from East Belfast, he grew up in Newtownards Road Methodist (now East Belfast) Mission, in Boys Brigade, Youth Club, Sunday School etc. He accepted Christ as Saviour and recognised His Lordship at the age of 19, and was a BB officer, youth Club leader and later Junior Circuit Steward in the church before embarking on Local Preacher's training. Finally, recognising God's call to him, he went forward as a candidate for ministry in 1983, having worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, the Northern Ireland Electricity Service and the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services as a Purchasing/Supplies Officer. "Services" of a different kind led him to Edgehill College in 1984-87, and ministry in various places has guided him to Rathcoole (Newtownabbey Methodist Mission); Portrush and Portstewart with the University of Ulster chaplaincy; Irvinestown, Pettigo and Tirwinney circuit; Cullybackey; and now Trinity Methodist Church in Lisburn.



Involved in Castlewellaan Holiday Week (CHW) from its early years, he led the Youth and Children's team for 11 years and still meets people who have vivid memories (nightmares?) of his LOUD shorts and vast

array of tee shirts from those years. He came back to leadership in CHW four years ago when he took on the role of Chairman.



It was patience of a different sort he needed, though, while in Fermanagh, when he met an East Belfast girl called Heather, for in the early "dates" she made it quite clear she didn't really want to go out with him! After getting used to walking three paces behind Heather (he jokes), love blossomed and they were married in 1998.

Although Heather and Ed were not aware of meeting before 1997, it is possible they met as teenagers because Ed helped out with the BB Company in Heather's church- Bloomfield Presbyterian. Heather had become a Christian aged 12. The following year she experienced God's healing from a prolonged illness. This had a profound influence on her early years as a Christian, and it was during that time she had a strong sense that God had someone with whom she would share in Christian "ministry" of some kind. The next 25 years was a time of learning patience, and waiting for God's timing. It never occurred to her that she might eventually marry a minister. So when she met Ed, a Methodist minister who lived 100 miles away, and moreover, was a sports car driver, she couldn't imagine that this was the man for her! However God was patient, and Ed was patient, and the rest is history!

Heather did her nurse training in the Royal Victoria Hospital and went on to become a District Nurse, working in Twinbrook, Poleglass and Dunmurry for 14 years. During that time she was fully involved in the Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast.

After getting married, she enjoyed the opportunity to nurse in a rural setting in Fermanagh, and since leaving Cullybackey, is continuing to work as a Practice Nurse in Portglenone Health Centre. She says that being a Methodist minister's spouse has brought her many new friends, new experiences and opportunities, which she could never have imagined 12 years ago!

Heather enjoys all things "crafty" and the great outdoors, while Ed's hobbies are tied up with driving his 2 seater silver projectile around Lisburn, "playing at" playing golf a few times a year, and visiting an auction when time permits.

In Jeremiah 29, the prophet wrote:

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope".

Back in the days of Youth leadership in East Belfast, it never really occurred to Ed that life



Ed and Heather enjoying a Microflight flight in 2010

would bring him to ministry at the seaside, university or lakeside- never mind organising building new halls in Co Antrim and leading a team involved in community work in Lisburn! God moves in mysterious ways...

Patience... For our part it's all about developing patience as we trust in God's character and in the outworking of his will for us. He is faithful.

About Castlewellaan Family Week

It all began just over 25 years ago, when a group of ministers, including Ken Wilson and Dennis Bambrick who are well known to our Circuit, thought of using Castlewellaan Forest Park as the base for a week of family activities combined with Bible teaching and fellowship. Using the Castle Conference Centre as accommodation for those requiring 'luxury' and the field for those content with tents and caravans, the main meetings were held in a tent at the top of the rise close to the Castle and the youth activities in the old courtyard buildings near the main car park.

The Castlewellaan Holiday week has gone from strength to strength and now attracts several hundred, with a full programme for children, youth, young adults as well as the main morning and evening programme. Many excellent speakers have provided inspiring bible teaching over the years, and the added seminars, and discussion groups allow for a strong sense of fellowship.

The highlight of the afternoon recreational programme is the 'Open Day' when many visitors come along to enjoy and participate in the games - and the famous 'Water Slide' which attracts a dedicated following of

testosterone driven maniacs who have to be held back for the first hour while the younger element are allowed to enjoy the fun.

All in all CHW is a brilliant family week provided you are prepared to put up with the (high) chance of wet weather creating a mud-bath in the field and a great way to recharge your spiritual batteries over the summer. This year's programme can be downloaded from the website at www.castlewellaanholidayweek.org, and the dates are 30th July to 6th August.



Living and working in the community around Seymour St

An interview with Shirley Carrington –
Seymour Street's Lay Pastoral Assistant



How did you come to be living in Spruce Street on the Low Road?

'When I married Jonathan in 1994 we settled in Lisburn, Jonathan's home town. I moved from The Moy, where I grew up in the Methodist Church, and we joined Trinity Methodist Church during the early years of its development under the ministry of Bobby & Hazel Loney.'

How did you come to take up the post of Lay Pastoral Assistant?

'I worked for a security company in Belfast for a number of years but found myself made redundant. Much to my surprise (tinged with disappointment at not being able to take it easy for a while' – she said tongue in cheek) 'within two days I was offered a new job in the the Lagan Valley Hospital coordinating community day care services.'

'It was not long before I realised how much I enjoyed working with people and eventually I saw the opportunity to combine this with my Christian faith,

and in faith applied for, and was appointed as Lay Pastoral Assistant in Seymour Street. Jonathan and I, and our Son, Peter, have enjoyed settling in to Seymour Street and count ourselves to be amongst friends.'

What do you enjoy most about being Lay Pastoral Assistant?

'There is no doubt about it, it is the pastoral visits to people's homes, and feeling I can make a difference to their lives. Through my pastoral visits I soon came in contact with families in real need of practical help and I was able to enlist the assistance of members of the church to support them in practical ways doing minor repairs, painting and decorating. But soon the question started to develop in my mind 'How can Seymour Street do more to meet the needs of the community – and what are those needs?'

What did that question lead to?

'A few years ago Brian carried out an initial study of the church catchment area, during a period of 'Sabbatical' leave. It was one of the first things Brian noted about Seymour Street, that as a church it wanted to serve the needs of its local community more effectively. Now, with the support of Brian and the Church Council I made contact with the Hilden Community Association, and Seymour Street was invited to be represented on the South Lisburn Community Forum, which brings together statutory and voluntary agencies. I have now attended

several of their meetings, giving Seymour Street a recognised place and voice in the community which we did not have before.'

Tell me about the Community Audit that has just been carried out.

'The success of the 'There's More' mission demonstrated the value of moving beyond the walls of the church into the community, but if we as a Church plan to do more for our community then we need to know what it's real needs are – not just what we think they are. With the aid of volunteers from the Congregation a simple questionnaire was taken round the homes in the whole of the area bounded by the Belfast Road and the River Lagan from Seymour Street to Hilden. A sample of over 200 replies were received representing 10% of the 2000 or so homes. From the responses we will be able to access what services and activities our community would like to see – from Mother's and Toddlers to Citizens Advice, from Youth activities to Silver Surfers.'

How is Seymour going to approach meeting these needs?

Following the example of similar initiatives, Seymour Street is, with the support of the Church Council, to set up a new group which will have an independent identity, but which will be integrated into the life of the Church. This group is to be called 'Damask', a name reflecting both the linen history of Lisburn and the 'Damascus Road' experience of Paul!

As a separate entity from the Church, yet always an interracial part of the Church, 'Damask' will be able to enlist the support of Government and non-religious agencies, as well as the Church, in developing the activities we undertake for the community. This is an exciting development about which Seymour Street will be hearing much more as time goes on!

You are working part time – do you not feel under pressure to do more than you are meant to?

I am pleased to be able to work a flexible arrangement. If the pastoral work requires more time in one particular week, I can balance that on another week when there are important family needs to attend to.

And finally Were you not disappointed that Daniel O'Donnell was not invited to sing before the Queen during her recent visit to the Republic of Ireland?

'No Comment!'

Being a Christian in Pakistan

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.”

John 15:18-20

Christians in Pakistan face severe opposition from militant Islamic groups, including imprisonment, torture and even death. Many Pakistani Christians have been falsely accused under Law 295c of blaspheming Mohammed or the Quran, a crime punishable by death. Courtrooms packed with militants have often pressured judges into returning a guilty verdict or continuing trials indefinitely. Christians are regularly barred from jobs or face troubles from their employers and co-workers. Christian merchants are often harassed. The war in Afghanistan intensified problems, with Pakistani Christians seen as being a part of an attack on Islam. In court, a Christian man's testimony is worth half that of a Muslim man's. A Christian woman's is worth only a quarter, so Christian women and young girls are easy targets for rape -- and justice for them is elusive. In this perspective, the last year has seen an intensification of the level of discrimination and persecution against Christians in Pakistan, particularly women and young girls. Kidnap, rape, forced marriage and forced conversion to Islam have sadly become everyday occurrences.



Militants attack a Church in Pakistan

Also, in the last few months, three members of the same Christian family have been forced to flee their home because of charges of blasphemy against them, despite there being no evidence to support the claims, and in Faisalabad, the Christian community remains on high alert after two pastors were shot dead after being accused of blasphemy and hundreds of Muslim extremists took part in a demonstration against Christians, burning car tyres and throwing stones at a local church.

Hence, hate, rejection, persecution and discrimination are the words which every Christian child, man and woman in Pakistan have to experience at some point of their life. However, it is not something which is new to Christians. The great characters of Bible like Paul, Peter, Stephen, sadrak, mesak, Abednego, Daniel, Joseph and many others had experienced persecution and discrimination as a cost to follow God. Moreover, our role model, Jesus Christ, had gone through all sufferings and persecution



A Christian girl displays her faith while following the traditional practice of staining her hands with Henna.

which he didn't even deserve. As Bonhoeffer said, "To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ." Personally, being a Christian in Pakistan, I think that even though it is hard and difficult to practice one's faith but at the same time I take it as blessing. As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. More importantly, Christian faith does not promise facilities, but a fight; a fight with flesh, circumstances, doubts, and suffering. And to fight, we need power and strength which comes directly from our Lord Jesus Christ who says:

“Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness”

Isaiah 41:10



Kenneth Pervaiz

is from Pakistan and is a Student at Belfast Bible College who has had a placement at Seymour Street Methodist Church over the last year.

He has worked with the young people in the Seymour Street Youth Club and we have all been impressed by his gracious Christian faith and ability to fit into a culture which is very different to the one in which he was brought up.

SOMEBODY WANTS WHAT YOU HAVE

Article discovered by Janine Mayes,
written by Amy McGuire. Used with permission.

It's easy to think the grass is always greener in your neighbour's garden. And perhaps it is. At least the part you can see. But remember... When you're weary of preparing another meal and doing dishes yet again, somebody wishes they had food to put on the table. When you've folded and put away a(nother) mountain of laundry, somebody wishes their children had proper coats and hats to wear to school. When you're groaning over the highest heating bill yet this year, somebody wishes they weren't so cold.

When you're losing sleep and gagging over a child's stomach bug episode, somebody is praying for a miracle over her child's hospital bed. When the exhaustion and nausea of the first trimester are about to do you in, somebody is weeping (yet again) over a negative pregnancy test. When your headache intensifies over your teen's college financial paperwork, somebody is visiting the site of her teen's fatal car crash. When you wake up to another cloudy, rainy day, somebody is praying for moisture to end a season of drought.

When you pick up your husband's dirty socks and take out the trash because he forgot, somebody is wishing that for just a moment she didn't have to do it all alone, all the time. The next time your situation threatens to steal your joy, try to remember... somebody wants what you have.

Give thanks in all circumstances...
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Amy's blog can be found at amysfinerthings.com
(Picture by Janine Mayes).



From the registers...

Seymour Street:

BAPTISMS

Jake Peter Brian, son of Brian and Lynsey McMichael.
Jacob Kwashie Aindriú, son of Rachael Dumigan.
Jack Kenneth, son of Stephen and Pamela Bradford.
Nathan James, son of Peter and Joanne Livingstone.

WEDDINGS

Peter Derek Gilpin and Tamara Anne Graham.

DEATHS

Mrs Mary Connolly,
El Shammai Nursing Home.

Dromore:

DEATHS

Charles Wesley Dunlop.

Priesthill:

BIRTHS

Noah Dillon to Chris and Carole.

Magheragall:

BIRTHS

Alfie Mairs to David and Melissa.
Charley Colin Davis to Colin and Suzanne.

Seymour St Sunday School Anniversary ...an excuse for a party!

The Sunday School Party at the end of year is no doubt a favourite event for all concerned, but this year's Sunday School Anniversary Service was more than just an excuse for a party, it was all about why Jesus wants to have a party!

The guest of this year's service on 22nd June was the Rev Ross Harte, minister of Newcastle Methodist Church, and well known praise leader from Autumn Soul and The Castlewellan Holiday Week. He chose the theme of the 'Lost Sheep' and 'Lost Coin' and enthralled everyone with his engaging retelling of the story, with the unexpected help of his son, who in response to the rhetorical question, 'And do you know where I got this story book?' posed to the congregation shouted out clearly - 'From me!', which was perfectly true as his father had borrowed this book, originally picked up at a Seymour Street sale, from his son's book shelf!

Ross was welcomed to the Service by Ann Patterson, who took over leadership of the Sunday School during the course of the year from Helen Lynn. Helen has been a wonderful and inspiring Bible Class leader and Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years and we are sorry that she has had to step down, and we are indeed grateful to Ann for taking up this important role into which she is putting so much enthusiasm. The involvement of all sections of the Sunday School in the service was a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the many teachers, with prayers, songs and thoughts led by the children.

And so we all enjoyed hearing once again that Jesus rejoices over one sinner who repents - and that is just as true today as it was when Jesus first spoke those words!



Brian Anderson looks forward to...

Uganda - 2011

I am really looking forward to being with the team over 17 days in Uganda. It will be such a privilege to watch this group of young adults bringing their faith to bear in a very different culture and I am confident it will be a seminal faith experience. We will gain so much, probably more than we will give. I think it will be good to expose their faith to hard questions, which they are ready for. We are going at the invitation of the Ugandan Methodist Church, to work with them in and around Jinja. The main focus will be on the refurbishment of two houses that are to become manses for new ministers. We anticipate dividing the team of 19 up to work on each dwelling, one is in the centre of the city and the other in the suburbs. We are further told we will be working with the local children, youth and community. I can't give to many details as a local committee is putting the programme together.

I am greatly encouraged by the team. The leadership bring many talents, all of which will be needed and more besides.

Louise Monroe has been to Africa so many times, I think she has dual citizenship, and that practical knowledge will be so invaluable and she will take to do with the day to day stuff when we are there. Daphne Hanna will look after the money but she also has qualifications in Counselling, and is practically minded. Simon Kinghan, is the project leader when it comes to the Manses, so I hope he does not get fired, but leads us to achieve of our primary goal, getting the two house ready for a family to live in. He also has a wonderful sense of humour which will lift our Spirits. Me, well besides preaching, I am not sure what I will bring, but I am up for most things.

The young people have proven their commitment. They have come up with many of the Fund Raising ideas, they have arranged them and made sure they worked. Thanks also to a number of parents for their hard work.

The team have sense a lovely maturity around them and they will be great ambassadors for our church, and God.

However, I am not naïve of Africa and know that it will challenge their emotions and their faith profoundly.

Africa raises question about justice, poverty, suffering and resilience and I hope they will ask their questions, and discover together as a group some answers.

Can I mention one more fund raising event. A Ceilidh on 24th June, at 7.30p.m.in the Seymour Street Hall. Some games, dancing, live music and bagpipes. All proceeds for this mission project and all are welcome. Please prayer for us. We leave on 27th July returning on 14th August, and some where we can retell the story of our Uganda 2011 trip.

The team (pictured opposite) consists of:

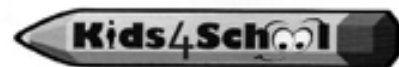
Rev Brian Anderson	Claire Maze
Louise Monroe	Jonathan Swain
Simon Kinghan	Nadia Wright
Daphne Hanna	David McCrea
Stuart Black	Matthew Good
Craig Manley	Christina Colligan
Michael Maze	Jenni Mork
Michael Anderson	Hannah Stewart
Anna Jones	Andrew Wright
Michaela Johnston	

*Pictures used without permission!
Photo-montage by Lindsay Easson*

And the Editor adds... Tanzania 2011

As well as the Uganda team, Gwyneth, Lindsay, Catherine and Jack Easson from Seymour Street are going to Tanzania as part of a small team of 10 working with the Christian charity 'Kids4School'. Over a period of two weeks they will be painting murals, building toilets and water tanks and other work to improve the facilities at several primary school near Dodoma in the centre of Tanzania. Information about Kids for school can be found at www.kids4school.org

enabling children in Tanzania to go to school



E: info@kids4school.org

W: www.kids4school.org



CALLING CHRIS- TIAN CRE- ATTIVES

FACTORY FLOOR



CALLING CHRISTIAN CREATIVES

Factory Floor is a growing collective of Christian creatives who believe that just as advertising for any commercial company needs to stand out from the competition, so Christian material needs to stand out from the rest.

If it doesn't, then it's as lost as the people it's aimed at.

That's where we come in, and if you're creative in any way then we'd really love to hear from you.

For more details visit factoryfloorstudio.com

NIGHT

Youth | events, study & culture

INTRO

Good summer to you all!! Summer is truly here, the scorching weather, (well above 12 degrees), the holidays, the time off School and University... These truly are going to be some fun months ahead. We are always keen to know what you are up to, If you're at any of the festivals let us know & share your experiences with us!

In the Summer months we have some banging events coming up, with one of the main events, obviously being summer maddness 2011! With speakers such as Elaine Storkey, I recommend hitting this up if you are free! Until next time!

WHAT'S ON?

SUMMER MADNESS



Summer Madness is something I am sure you have all heard of and if not... get signed up, from great music to food and climbing walls, definitely a must if you are in the country!

H2O FESTIVAL

WATER4LIFE - FRIDAY 17/06/11

This was great last year & i am sure will be great this time round, with American rockers POD headlining, set in moria park come rain or shine, get your wellies on and i will see you there!

LOL!

Two men died and went to Heaven. St. Peter greeted them, and said "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but your mansions aren't ready yet. Until they are, I can send you back to Earth as whatever you want to be."

"Great!" said the first guy, "I want to be an eagle soaring above beautiful scenery!"

Logo Wear

2 Chronicles 19-20, John 13:21-38

Key Verse: **John 13:34-35**

A current marketing trend is stores that sell only logo wear. Want a hat that has a favourite team name on it? You can get it there—as well as shirts, pants, socks, pens, pencils, posters, beanie babies . . . you get the picture. We like to let others know our favorite teams, schools, vacation spots and hobbies by becoming a walking billboard. We proclaim our loves.

While we proclaim our loves, Jesus wants our love to proclaim. Specifically, He said that by our love for one another "all men will know that you are my disciples" (v. 35). The logo wear of the disciple of Christ is love.

Read carefully, though. Jesus said that we are to love as He has loved us (v. 34). The definition of love does not come from the latest popular movie or song on the radio but from the example set by Jesus. In Ephesians 5:25-32, Paul detailed Christ's love for us:

1. His is a sacrificial love—He gave himself up for us (v. 25).
2. His is a purifying love—He did that to make the church holy (v. 26).
3. His is a caring love—just as we take care of our bodies, He takes care of us (v. 29).
4. His is an unending love—Like God intended for husbands and wives, united permanently, a union that illustrates the union of Christ and the church (vv. 31-32).

It's easy to put on a hat with a favorite team logo to let people know we are fans. But it is vital that our lives be a logo, stamped indelibly with the trademark of a disciple love for one another. And not just any love, but a love patterned after the love of Christ.

DEVOTIONAL



Does your love for others show enough that you are recognized as a disciple?

Let yourself be branded with love of god!

"No problem," replied St. Peter, and POOF! The guy was gone. "And what do you want to be," St. Peter asked the other guy.

"I'd like to be one cool stud!" was the reply.

"Easy," replied St. Peter, and the other guy was gone.

After a few months, their mansions were finished, and St. Peter sent an angel to fetch them back.

"You'll find them easily," he says, "One of them is soaring above the Grand Canyon, and the other one is on a snow tire somewhere in Detroit!"