

## Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday  
 Prayer Meeting 8.00am  
 Morning Worship\* 10.30am  
 Key Club (Children aged 4-11) 10.30am  
 Evening Worship 6.30pm

Holy Communion follows the first morning

and the third evening service each month

\*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.

Monday  
 Followers (Young people of secondary school age) 7.30PM

Tuesday  
 Second Tuesday (monthly) 10.15AM  
 Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) 7.30PM

venue as announced

Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.45PM

Tots' Club (term-time) 1.30 - 3.00PM  
 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7.45PM

Thursday  
 Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly) 2.00PM  
 Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) 7.30PM  
 at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

Friday  
 Good News Club (Children aged 5-11) 6.00PM  
 Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) 7.45PM  
 at 1 Tinshill Mount

### TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL

Registered Charity No. 511933

website: <http://www.TinshillFreeChurch.org.uk/>

#### Pastor:

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Tel. No.  
 (267 2680)

#### Deacons:

Mr Jonathan Chell, 34 Kirkwood Close, Leeds LS16 7EW

Mr Graham Leng, 383 Otley Old Road, Leeds LS16 6BX

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# THE MAGAZINE

## Nº 273



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2009

## Pastoral Letter — September 2009

### Back to skool!

When your eight year old granddaughter jumps up into your arms, and you begin to feel the weight, you know that another year has quickly passed as she goes back to school. When your nearly five year old grandson goes to ‘big’ school for the first time, you know the toddler years are finished. You know that they will quickly learn many good and useful things in various subjects over the next year, with dedicated teachers who love children. Some children have even looked forward to the beginning of term.

However, reports repeatedly come out that at the age of sixteen, and even eighteen, standards in the “three R’s” have not improved, or have even fallen back, despite computers, mobile phones, and technology (or perhaps because of them!). Remember what the “three R’s” are:- reading, writing (including spelling), and arithmetic, the very foundations of managing daily life, such as estimating what a shopping bill should be, and writing notes for tradesmen. It looks as though a “Back to Basics” emphasis is required.

This phrase “Back to Basics” was used by the Prime Minister of the day, John Major, in the 1990s. Recognising that the fabric of life was falling apart in the nation, he hoped that laying the foundation of family life in society by supporting the ‘nuclear’ family of father, mother and 2.4 children would lead to a healthier society – and of course it would. The idea of tax breaks for married couples is not new, but is very desirable. We are now reaping the consequences of believing that “all forms of family” are good for the nation. John Major included in his plan a “Back to Basics” programme for education, and for law and order, too. It is sad that the electorate revolted against what was really a moral campaign, and so political opponents ridiculed him. Supporters of every political party should be able to support a moral campaign. Needless to say, John Major lost his job. Surely, a “Back to Basics” approach is also required in your children’s knowledge of the Bible. The subject at school used to be called simply “Scripture”. In many schools, you had to learn the Lord’s Prayer “off by heart” (there is some value to parrot learning, including the ‘times’ tables in

Thu 24	2pm	Thursday at Two	Speaker: Graham Leng
Sat 26	2 – 4pm	Church open to receive Harvest gifts	
Sun 27	am/pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Services	
Wed 30	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	Speaker: Graham Leng
<b>October</b>			
Thu 1	7.30pm	Followers’ Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	
Sat 3	7.30pm	Harvest Supper	Speaker: Bill Dyer
Thu 8	1pm	Thursday at Two meal	Speaker: Tim Mills
Fri 9	7.45pm	Elder/Deacons Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	

The next magazine (October) is due to come out for Sunday October 11th, so the deadline for items will be Wednesday 30th September – all contributions to Martin Sellens please.

## ROTAS

Week ending		Cleaning	
Sept. 12	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
19	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
26	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
October 3	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
10	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens

For Sunday		Flowers	
Sept. 13	Ruth Holder	20	Margaret Green
27	Jenny Leng	October 4	Angela Mathers
11	Margaret Williams		

Library		Evening	
Sept. 13	Christine Crossley	Rosemary Hilton	
20	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Jack/Ruth Rozday	
27	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers	
October 4	Phil Leng	Paul Crossley	
11	Rosemary Hilton	Christine Crossley	

## Preaching Plan

	Morning	Evening
Sept 13	Glyn Williams	Martin Sellens
20	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
27	Jonathan Chell	Glyn Williams (Harvest)
Oct 4	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
11	John Harris	John Harris

## Outside Appointments

Do pray for our men as they minister outside the church in the coming month as follows:

### Glyn Williams

Sun 13 Sept pm Swinton Evangelical Church, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Sun 11 Oct am Roundhay Evangelical Church

### Jonathan Chell

Sun 13 Sept am/pm Hambleton Evangelical Church

Sun 11 Oct am/pm Swinton Evangelical Church, near Rotherham

## DIARY

### September

Tue 15	7.45pm	Men's Fellowship	Speaker: Glyn Williams
Wed 16	1.30pm	Tots Club restarts after Summer break	
Fri 18	7.30pm	Leeds City Mission Autumn Praise at St Georges Church.	Speaker: George Verwer
Sat 19	10.00am	'Contact' leaflet drop. Meet at church.	Take leaflets away if another delivery time suitable
Mon 21	7.45pm	Evangelism Group at 87 Tinshill Road	
Tue 22	7.30pm	Ladies' Prayer Group at 14 Bedford Drive	
Wed 23	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	Speaker: Jonathan Chell

arithmetic!); the ten commandments certainly had to be well known if not memorised, and at our school Isaiah 53, with its beautiful prophecy of Christ, was frequently read by the teacher. I realise that 'comparative religion' is a necessity in our multi-faith society, but any country would expect that their 'traditional' faith would have a priority in religious education – in our case the Christian faith.

Not all this is negative, by any means. As schools start again let's thank God for Christian teachers who teach faithfully what they must teach and then, by example and words when possible, show their living faith in Christ. And praise God that there are wide opportunities for unpaid Christians to take R.E. lessons and assemblies throughout the nation.

God has opened up opportunities to take Scripture teaching into schools. What is the reason, humanly speaking? Because the increasing number of secular teachers feel that they do not want to teach Christianity, and are less able to do it than motivated Christians. Whatever the reason, let's support in prayer those who go in on a voluntary basis.

*“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it”* (Proverbs 22: 6).

Let's get in there early, and pray for those who are 'on the front line'.

With warm greetings

*Glyn Williams*

## Freshers' Week 2009

Freshers' Week is the week before a university year starts, and is given to new university students to orientate themselves in new surroundings before they start work on their degrees. It is also a fantastic opportunity for Christian Unions (CUs) to make their presence known and to share the gospel on university campuses before their members become busy with work. At many universities around the country, CUs will be facing their busiest week of the term as they try to contact Christian freshers to help them find churches and Christian friends, as well as sharing both the gospel

and their lives with non-Christian students. Please pray particularly for freshers' fayres, as thousands of students will visit every stand they see looking for freebies, giving chances for conversations with people who would otherwise avoid the CU.

At Reading University, the CU has a variety of events planned which try to make new students consider how they will live at university, and to spend some time thinking about life's big questions. At the same time, practical help will be given to students who are moving into halls of residence, and to the many international students who are often thoroughly bewildered by British life. It is a time in which friendships will be developed, beliefs (or the apparent lack of them) will be challenged, and we pray people will turn to Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. It would be wonderful if you would join us in that prayer.

Freshers' week is a special opportunity as freshers have few constraints on their time, and it is often this week in which people are most willing to talk about the gospel. Please do pray for the CUs in Reading and the many other universities and colleges around the UK as they seek to make the most of this opportunity which is sadly often out of bounds to local churches. Please also pray for Christians going to university for the first time as they look for churches and make new friends. It is a critical time for them as they form friendships, decide how to use their time and money, and face many temptations with which Satan will try to erode their faith. Particularly pray for those brought up in Christian families, many of whom will have to decide for the first time in their lives what stance to take on contentious issues such as going to pubs, gambling, etc.

Please do pray particularly for the several young people from Tinshill, mentioned below, who are starting or continuing university courses, that they may honour God both by working hard and that they would be able to share the gospel with students who may be open to think about ideas they have not previously considered.

**Pray for:-**

Chen Wei Ng who is going to Bristol to study medicine; Timothy Rozday

'Different organisations are there working, mostly smaller ones. There is a big need for water purifying tablets and food. Thousands of houses are destroyed. I landed at this place just south of Assasuni near Sunderban. Many embankments are broken, water is streaming everywhere and houses washed away.

'There are several hundreds of people there to meet the plane. The beach is very slippery with mud everywhere. I could hardly walk. I walked along the embankment next to the river, people everywhere were asking for food and water. I felt quite helpless, since I actually could not do anything. Quite amazingly in spite of all the tragedy, people are still smiling in Bangladesh. We have got something to learn.

'So there is a lot for MAF to do in this remote area. Without the plane, it is very hard to reach these remote areas.'

The cyclone survivors are now staring at the prospect of an epidemic outbreak. Stagnant water has become a health problem due to rotting organic matter and dead cattle. This poses a major public health risk with water borne diseases on the increase.

A survey visit by the Presbyterian Church to the affected areas confirmed that as well as a shortage of fresh water, there is also a shortage of food since large areas of crops have been destroyed, shrimp farms washed away and rice fields inundated with water.

The establishment of several new landing sites has enabled our plane to get closer to those who need aid. Flights have taken many relief agencies to work in the affected areas including DfID, Action Against Hunger, Free Christian Churches of Bangladesh and Helen Keller International.

MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.

**Thought for the Month**  
We think that we are in the land of the living going to the land of the dying when in reality we are in the land of the dying headed for the land of the living.

On 25th August Frank Rand celebrated his 90th birthday and on the following day there was a coffee and cakes afternoon which some from church were able to attend at Oxenford Court to mark this important and happy occasion. We are so thankful that Frank was home from his stay in hospital in time for his birthday. We send our love and congratulations to Frank, and even though he and Myrtle are not now well enough to be present at Tinshill on Sundays as they would dearly wish, we assure them both of our prayers and thankfulness for their testimony and faithfulness to the Lord.

Pray also for Benjamin Williams who begins at Cookridge Primary School on Thursday 10th September. He has been attending the Nursery at Cookridge for some time so is familiar with his surroundings, but pray for his happiness and progress in full time schooling.

### **MAF News to SHARE September 2009**

## **Bringing aid to cyclone survivors**

Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.

A powerful cyclone ripped across coastal parts of Bangladesh at the end of May. Cyclone Aila caused tidal surges and flooding that killed hundreds of people and left millions trapped by floodwater or forced to take refuge in makeshift shelters. More than 600,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

An estimated five million people have been affected. Many were still recovering from the devastation caused by cyclone Sidr which struck at the end of 2007.

With one third of the country covered in water, Bangladesh is already home to many rivers and lakes. MAF's amphibious plane is able to land on water sites, reaching right to the heart of where help is needed.

Several months on from Aila, thousands are still feeling its effects. Relief pilot Rune Karlsson describes the scene from a recent flight to the south of the country:

who is studying medicine at the Stockton Campus of Durham University; Matt Sellens who is doing a Foundation Degree in the Art of Games Design at Cumbria University in Carlisle; Lucy Naylor as she begins her Catering course at Thomas Danby College, Leeds; Daniel Rozday returning to York University; Tim Hilton returning to Reading; Bruce Gregg to Cumbria at Carlisle.

Katy Sellens is taking a year off after her A levels and has been accepted to do a Diploma in Sports Science at Cumbria University in Lancaster in September 2010 – she will be here for the next year and is seeking to be particularly involved in hockey training in local schools.

## **New books for the church library**

Below is a list of books recently added to the church library. I am sure you will be helped, encouraged and blessed by reading them, as I have been.

### **Biography**

*The unusual suspects: 25 Jewish people defy the final taboo* by **Richard**

**Gibson**. This book is an amazing collection of stories which have one thing in common, they are all about Jewish people who have come to believe that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah of Israel and the Saviour of the world.

### **Doctrine**

*And some... evangelists* by **Roger Carswell**. This is an excellent book on evangelism which keeps the Bible in the centre but is also very practical and eminently readable. It is a must read for all God's people.

*Counsel one another: a theology of personal discipleship* by **Paul Tautges**.

The author suggests that counselling is not primarily the work of the professionals but a crucial way for believers to demonstrate biblical love toward one another within a gospel-centred, truth-driven, and grace-dispensing church environment. Solidly rooted in the belief that the Scriptures are sufficient for every soul-related struggle in life, and totally committed to the truth that the Holy Spirit is competent to accomplish the work of sanctification, this paradigm-shifting book will challenge every believer.

## Family/ Social/ Contemporary issues

***Friendship by Hugh Black.*** This is a classic guide to finding, restoring, and building lasting friendships. Originally published in 1898, this edition is the result of the efforts of two friends who so enjoyed discovering this title and appreciated the value of it in their own lives. The final chapter is headed 'the higher friendship', the friendship we have in God Himself through Jesus Christ, which revolutionises the way we live, the way we think and the things we value.

***Empty arms: a mother's journey through grief and hope by Keren Baker.*** It is hard to imagine any greater pain than that of losing a little child. Steve and Keren Baker have had to endure such heartbreak when their lives were turned upside down by the sudden death of their little daughter Nattie. In the midst of her grief, Keren has written this highly personal, yet intensely practical, account of her continuing journey throughout all their dark and difficult days.

## Christine Crossley

### A Beautiful Land

We may not have had the promised Barbeque summer, and there has been a lot of rain, but our climate gives us a green and pleasant land, and living on the northern outskirts of Leeds we have ready access to lovely countryside and places of natural beauty. Through the summer Followers benefited from both these aspects in our summer programme and day trip to the Lake District.

We had two weeks break at the beginning of the summer because of leaders' holidays, but following that we had five consecutive lovely Monday evenings. Four of them were really golden evenings and the middle one was a lovely green/grey misty overcast evening in a very warm, verdant Roundhay Park. On our golden evenings we went to Ilkley riverside, Otley Park, Swinsty reservoir and finally to our much loved Almscliff Crag. We took drinks and eats with us on each occasion and picked moments when the evening closed with a short epilogue or closing outdoor prayer together.

vengeance, but the blood of Christ cries out for something far better, namely, forgiveness, grace and peace.

Whatever happens to us in this life is under the permission and control of God. Whatever is allowed which is painful is vastly overtaken by a greater weight of glory in Heaven.

Our time on earth is but the length of a ruler – very short and very finite. We are not to be those who “sorrow as others who have no hope”. The power of ‘positive thinking’ is not required. The reality is that Christians have every hope and a wonderful future.

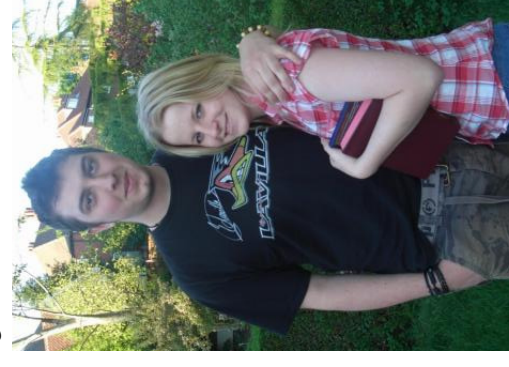
Let us translate this into a joyful attitude, and one filled with trust and prayer. The future is not only bright – it's glorious.

*Glyn Williams*

## Fellowship News



Our loving congratulations to Jonathan and Yvonne Chell on the birth of their little son, James Edward on August 15th. We praise the Lord for the safe arrival of James, and for the joy he has already brought to Jonathan and



Yvonne, 'big sister' Hannah, the wider family and the church family here at Tinsill.

Loving congratulations also to Matt Sellens and Natalie Walker who became engaged on 12th August in the lovely setting of Whitby Abbey. We surround them with our love and prayers for the Lord to bless and guide in their future together.

*looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*" (verses 11 & 12). Looking into the global future must always have a lesson for us today. It is a spur to holiness, watchfulness, and prayerfulness.

1 Thessalonians 4 gives us a graphic picture of the Resurrection of the dead on that "day of the Lord". It will come suddenly. As Jesus rose from the dead, so will His people in their new and glorious bodies. Those who had died, and those who are still alive, will have their glorious bodies at one and the same time – nobody will be first into the completed glory! *"We will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord"* (verses 15-18). It will not be quiet, as a trumpet will sound, accompanied by the voice of an archangel!

Note again that there is always a practical application to these doctrinal truths. *"Therefore comfort one another with these words"*, and that is what we seek to do by reminding ourselves of these truths.

Each one of us must then experience the Judgement Day. The Father has given Christ the power to be Judge, and we must all appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ. Those who are found to have faith in Christ will be welcomed into their heavenly home, but those without Christ will remain condemned, because they have not believed in Christ as their personal Saviour (John 3: 18).

#### 4 Conclusion

Heaven is for Christians. The future in Heaven will be full of joy; without fear and tears; without sin; we will be part of the celebration of Christ with His church. It will indeed be a wedding celebration, and a life of everlasting happiness. We can hardly take it in.

We will enjoy to the full the activities of our best and most noble powers, without any desire to be unclean or oppose our neighbours. Christ will be the centre of our life and worship and it will certainly not be boring!

This should affect our attitude today. These things must become an encouraging reality today. Heaven is granted to us because of the free grace of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His cross. The death of godly Abel by his brother Cain was a murder. The blood of Abel cries out for

We had one remaining Monday when we decided to stay indoors as rain had threatened, but it did turn out as another golden evening!

This year we hired a fairly new VW 9 seater for the Lake District trip which was a smooth ride and not so exhausting for the driver, but we still had the height to be able to see over walls and hedges. The morning was warm and sunny and the 'bacon butty' stop at Kirby Lonsdale, by the River Lune was no disappointment. We pressed on and arrived in Ambleside by noon. Our time around the town was sunny and we bought our fish and chip

lunch and ate in the small park area where in a previous year we had enjoyed a good game of crown green bowling. However, almost as we ate our last chip, around 1.30, the first rain spots fell so we hot footed it back to the 'bus' and drove up by Grasmere, Rydal Water, Thirlmere and on to Keswick by Derwentwater. Here we decided to walk, raining or not. It was

warm and the rain was soft, so we did the walk up to Friar's Crag following the side of the lake. We had checked the times of the launch on the lake, so decided that would be a good idea as the launch has an under cover section. We really enjoyed this trip, even in the rain, but the highlight was



River Lune at Kirby Lonsdale





a full arched rainbow, very low, touching the water, as the sun kept finding a channel through the clouds. After the boat trip we decided to go east and see if we could leave the rain behind. The rain got heavier, but as we approached Ullswater it was stunningly beautiful even in sweeping mist and rain. We drove slowly by the side of the lake and climbed up towards the Kirkstoe Pass. This was something else. We moved in and out of thick drifting cloud where we kept seeing views of tree tops poking out of the cloud, then views of a deep grey silent lake.

It was obvious the rain was here to stay so we headed away from the Lake District back towards Kirkby Lonsdale and as we approached the sun sailed out and we had a golden 1½ to 2 hours by the riverside there. Was there anything extra special there too? Yes there was. Towards the end of our time by the water we saw a heron and the electric blue flash of a kingfisher across the water, and not long into the last leg of our journey home we spotted a kestrel over the road at sunset.

We are so thankful to the Lord for a safe and happy day with lots of enjoyment and special things. The rain certainly made no difference to the laughter and chatter of the day. We are also thankful for the string of golden Monday evenings. Thank you for praying for us. We are about to move into our new teaching term and value prayer for each of these special opportunities on a Monday evening.

*Martin Sellens/Margaret Williams*

## **Bought any new shoes recently?**

If not, some shoe shops will give you an empty shoe box when you tell them the reason you need one or more, or a friend, relative or neighbour might

does all these things because He made us in the first place, and cares particularly for all those who have put their trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

With regard to prayer, it is a matter of urgently making our requests known unto God and praising, confessing, and resting in His Presence. We may even have to wrestle in order to rest in His Presence. But someone with an awareness of the Presence of God through prayer and the reading of God's word will be far better equipped to adjust to whatever experiences in life are granted to us. Neglect of these things means life will catch us unawares.

### **3 The Global Future**

The future is not bright for this earth. Despite its beauty, it has been spoilt by its inhabitants throughout the world. But the world will not finish by global warming, flooded continents, or nuclear catastrophe. It will finish when the day of the Lord comes, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth. There are various signs of the times which give an indication of how things are going, but they do not give us room to estimate a date when the Lord Jesus will come. Matthew 24 speaks of false prophets, even claiming to be the Christ, further wars and earthquakes, and then the most potent sign is the growth of the "beast and the false prophet", consisting of anti-Christian governments and false churches respectively, and in league together. This is increasing in our own land.

Our own church gets a lot of teaching on the Second Coming and the 'last things', so detail here is not necessary. However, the Book of Revelation gives an awesome picture of tribulation in the last days. Christians have always borne tribulation for their faith, but this will happen on a wider basis as the Christian ethos is increasingly rejected. However, that does not mean that Revivals will not happen or that millions will not be swept into the Kingdom of God before Christ comes. Revivals are taking place in other parts of the world – pray for them in this country! They are a magnificent antidote to opposition.

We have then "the day of the Lord", when the heavens will pass away with a great noise (2 Peter 3: 10). The application of this is:-

*"What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

*soothsayer...for all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord*" (Deuteronomy 18: 10-12). Therefore, we have to be as prepared as possible for whatever comes – including surprises!

The Christian is given the resources to be as prepared as possible, and these resources are to be taken up actively. The resources of God are taken up by two things. The first is trust and the second is prayer. Let us also remember that if the future brings unexpected blessings, then we ought to be prepared to receive them humbly, and not become proud or complacent in them. We should also, of course, praise God for His wonderful gifts of grace to us in life.

With regard to trust, we have plenty of Scripture verses assuring us that God cares what happens to us, and that He is in control of all things. In the 'Sermon on the Mount' our Lord says, "***Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on***" (Matthew 6: 25). He goes on to say that our heavenly Father feeds the birds and the lilies of the field – how much more will He not look after us. In Luke's gospel, chapter 12, with regard to physical fear owing to opposition, our Lord says that He knows about sparrows who are sold in the market place, and so He knows and cares about us – the very hairs of our head are numbered! What a powerful and loving God we have! And should all things seem to be going wrong, like Job we are to keep trusting.

"God holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad:  
if other hands should hold the key,  
or if He trusted it to me, I might be sad".

(No. 791, *New Christian Hymns*).

And this really is the key to trusting God. He promises to give strength and grace whatever the personal future holds for us. The unknown future. Our God is not just a benign Father handing down gifts of strength – He is really with us in our experiences. Psalm 139 tells us that He knows all about us – when we sit down, get up, whatever we are thinking; whatever we are saying (good or bad); He defends us, or hedges us round, from behind and in front; His Spirit is with us wherever we go; and His right hand holds us. When it is dark either physically or emotionally, He eases that burden. He

have a box to give you.

Amazingly it's Shoe Box Appeal time again and this quarter's Blythswood News (on the table at the back of the church) carries up to date stories and photos of the joy brought to children and adults in receiving a shoe box. There is the story of Rohan whose parents took their own lives when their business collapsed and he now lives with his very poor grandmother. He needed a geometry set for school – an impossibility for him! The shoe box he was given contained a geometry set. He believes "the good Lord sent this box for him".

Paul, born in India, contracted Leprosy as a child and only has stumps for hands. He cannot work and needed reading glasses – they were in his shoe box, as were socks, both things he had prayed for.

Laci, is an elderly widower in Hungary who is disabled, walking with two sticks, and who only has partial sight in one eye. He lives in a tumbledown shack with his chickens. He was overjoyed with warm gloves, soap and toothpaste (which he is too poor to buy), but especially with a magnifying glass which he so needed.

Please fill some shoe boxes again this year. It's going to be an effort! The supply of material which Ken Link has worked with in previous years is no longer available to him so we must all find our own boxes and cover them ourselves, then fill them for a chosen age group etc. But as we look ahead to the plenty and warmth of our own Christmas ahead, let's put loving effort into bringing joy to others who have so little. Let's pray that the Lord will make us keen and creative and guide us to that special item which will be wonderful to receive. The Lord knows where every box is going.

Leaflets with the customs form in are available at the back of the church, please take one for every box you can fill.

The main points to remember are:-

- \* Use average size boxes (giving larger ones to some in a group can be difficult and similar sizes are easier to pack in the lorries)
- \* Boxes should have a separate detached lid which is wrapped separately
- \* No food other than packets of sweets (no unwrapped or loose sweets and

lollies), no chocolate items

- \* No talcum powder
- \* All items must be new
- \* Please try and include the 'necessary items' in each box which are toothpaste, toothbrush, warm hat, warm scarf, warm gloves
- \* If you can make the donation of £2 per box towards transport costs, you can give the money to Martin or Margaret as a church cheque will be sent to cover the cost of transport.

Completed boxes can be placed in the upper extension room from now on, and the final date at church is Sunday 18th October to allow time to get them to our local collection point in Garforth at the beginning of November. (If you don't have any large rubber bands to put round your box, we will put bands on before we take them – they cannot be sellotaped down as literature is added later)

Then, finally, pray about your boxes right up to Christmas – for the safety of the delivery drivers and trucks, for the Lord to steer your boxes into the right pair of hands, and for the child or adult who receives them to know the love of Christ to them and to learn to trust Him through the literature which will be added to each box by Blythswood.

Thank you in advance.

*Martin, Margaret and the Followers Prayer Group*

**Second Tuesday — 14th July 2009**

## **What about the future?**

These are brief notes from the Second Tuesday seminar.

### **1 Introduction**

I recently watched a TV programme showing the first moon landing on July 19th, 1969. It was a personal and amazing report from the astronauts' point of view, with excellent pictures of the earth receding, of earthrise from the moon, and the docking of the moon module back with the command module. That was forty years ago, and the sobering thought came that in forty years time, I am very unlikely to be around to view the next exploits

into space, and yet my spirit would be with Christ and with the 'spirits of just men made perfect' – a joyful prospect indeed!

“As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him” Psalm 103: 15-17. For a Christian this should not be such a daunting prospect; we are part of Mount Zion which cannot be shaken. The Apostle Paul was convinced “that neither death or life... will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 8: 38. But for the near future, Christians have prospects and purposes on this earth first.

### **2 Personal future**

Our mind is normally taken up with what the following day, month, and year will bring. What will happen about my health? Will it get better or worse? Will I be able to afford the heating bills for the coming winter? Apparently more and more people spend more than 10% of their income on heating bills, and bills are forecast to go up again. What will happen in my family? What will my relationships be like inside and outside the family? Will I have the mental and physical resources to handle whatever comes?

In some ways, we would love to know the future out of curiosity. Perhaps if we knew what was going to happen, we could adjust to the news now! Or perhaps we feel that we could take steps to change the prophecy if that were given to us.

The Bible is very clear about 'fortune telling', or rather 'future telling'. King Saul consulted the witch of Endor and was told that he would be dead tomorrow and he was! That doesn't mean that the witch of Endor, as a supposed medium, was always right. It means only that God could overrule a situation to make an evil person tell the truth, as with the false prophet Balaam in the book of Numbers. In the book of Deuteronomy, we are warned never to give in to curiosity by consulting "soothsayers" or any means of supernaturally telling the future. It can't be done anyway because only God has power over the future, so only He can forecast it. *“There shall not be found among you anyone who...practises witchcraft, or a*