

## 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  
 Wednesday 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:** Mr Glyn Williams, 87 Tinshill Road, Leeds LS16 7DN  
*glynwtr@aol.com*

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

Tel. No.  
 (267 2680)

**Elder:** Mr Martin Sellens, 68 Moseley Wood Walk, Leeds LS16 7HG  
*martin.sellens@o2.co.uk*

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

**Deacons:** Mr Jonathan Chell, 34 Kirkwood Close, Leeds LS16 7EW  
 Mr Graham Leng, 383 Otley Old Road, Leeds LS16 6BX  
 (285 7829)  
 (267 2395)



You are invited to...

## A Code Breakers & Quiz Night

On Saturday 6th March  
At 7.30pm

*Quizzes Supper Prizes Talk*

Choose any quiz in any order....

**"Code Breakers" (2 quizzes)**

**"Name that Flower"**

**"What is it?"**

**"How's your History?"**

Open to all in the fellowship and guests

Please pray for this year's holiday club....

## Risky Business!

Learn from the Bible about 4 men who were very brave!

*Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th April  
Every morning 10.30 to 12.20 ish*

For Primary School age children

Sun 28 am Dedication of James Chell during the morning service  
April  
Fri 2 4-6pm Asda chaplaincy  
7pm Good Friday service

## ROTAS

### Week ending

February 6	Beccy Henry	Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
13	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
20	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens
27	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Natalie Walker
March 6	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
13	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
20	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
27	Beccy Henry	Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
April 3	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley

### Cleaning

Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens
Carole Brearley	Natalie Walker
Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley

### For Sunday

Feb 7	Beccy Henry	14	Angela Mathers
21	Margaret Williams	28	Carole Brearley
Mar 7	Christine Blayney	14	Carol Getzels
21	Eva Ng	28	Lai San Hamilton
Apr 4	Christine Crossley		

### Flowers

Beccy Henry	14	Angela Mathers
Margaret Williams	28	Carole Brearley
Christine Blayney	14	Carol Getzels
Eva Ng	28	Lai San Hamilton

### Library

#### Morning

February 7	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
14	Paul Crossley
21	Rosemary Hilton
28	Angela Mathers
March 7	Phil Leng
14	Christine Crossley
21	Paul Crossley
28	Christine Crossley
April 4	Angela Mathers

#### Evening

Phil Leng
Christine Crossley
Jack/Ruth Rozday
Mavis Mathers
Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
Angela Mathers
Jack/Ruth Rozday
Rosemary Hilton
Mavis Mathers

## Comparisons

The only two topics of conversation recently have been the downfall of snow in December and January, and the tragic earthquake with its after-shocks in Haiti. The snow has apparently been the worst for about 28 years, grinding the nation to a halt until things eased. And true enough, the weather has been a danger for young and old, particularly on that day when a headteacher was seen on all fours crossing the road to his school to avoid slipping on black ice! When I opened my car window, a complete sheet of ice, like a pane of glass, threatened to fall inside the car!

I thought that global warming was meant to make such a harsh winter highly unlikely! And therefore the local councils had not invested as much preparation for such an event as they might have done. Since then, for several days the weather has been dark and sometimes very rainy. Suddenly we are happy about this, because we can still get about and carry out business and leisure. Note the comparison – the nation would normally grumble about the rain, but in comparison with the cold and snow, it is a positive delight! The snow was beautiful for a day or two... the rain is a great relief. *“He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes”* (Psalms 147: 16).

But then we have another comparison – living in this country and living in a sunny place like Haiti. We might grumble about the government (of any complexion) and the expenses scandal, and the climate, but actually things are less stable in other lands. The Haiti earthquake is a case in point – our hearts have gone out to the people suffering in Haiti, where they have lost at least 200,000 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children. What a joy when one has been saved from the rubble after more than a week underground – one person prayed that he would commit himself to God if he was freed – and he was! May he keep his vow! The value of one life is accentuated when just one precious soul is saved from death. Haiti was already the poorest country in the west, and now attention is being paid to it out of genuine compassion, with multi-millions of dollars and pounds being put into the

Thu 11	2pm	Thursday at Two	Speaker: Jack Rawnsley
Fri 12	7.45pm	Elders/Deacons Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	
Tue 16	7.45pm	Men's Fellowship	Speaker: Paul Crossley
Thu 18	11-1pm	Asda chaplaincy	
	7.30pm	Followers Prayer Group	
Fri 19	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount	
Sun 21	6.30pm	Recognition of Martin Sellens as Elder in the evening service	
Tue 23	7.30pm	Ladies Prayer Group	
Thu 25	2pm	Thursday at Two	Speaker: Jonathan Chell
	8pm	Elders Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road	
<b>March</b>			
Thu 4	7.30pm	Followers Prayer Group	
Fri 5	4-6pm	Asda chaplaincy	
Sat 6	7.30pm	Quiz Night special	
Tue 9	10.15am	Second Tuesday	
	7.30pm	Ladies Prayer Group	
Thu 11	8pm	Elders Meeting	
Fri 12	7.45pm	Elders/Deacons Meeting at 383 Otley Old Road	
Fri 12 – Sun 14		Young People's weekend at Pateley Bridge	
Tue 16	7.45pm	Men's Fellowship	
Thu 18	7.30pm	Followers Prayer Group	
Fri 19	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group	
Tue 23	7.30pm	Ladies Prayer Group	
Wed 24	7.45pm	Deputation	Speaker: John Almond – Caring for Life
Thu 25	2pm	Thursday at Two	Speaker: Gordon Firton
Fri 26	am	Year 5 schools visit – What is Easter all about?	
	7.45pm	Members Financial Planning Meeting	

relief effort. It is a positive reminder that we are made in the image of God, and that human beings are capable of great humanitarian compassion. On the other hand, our human race is a great mixture, as we also see in Haiti – the looting, the threats in order to get to food first and so on. But we don't have to face such a famine of food in our country. Perhaps we should be more thankful to God, and less complacent, that all our needs are met and the poor do have somewhere to go for help, whether it be social services or the humanitarian/Christian charities.

But then of course the Haiti disaster raises the inevitable question “Why, if there is a God, does He allow this suffering?” and in giving an answer to this, our Lord raises a third comparison for us. Eighteen people had been killed by the fall of a tower in Siloam (Luke 13, verses 4&5). The numbers who died are far less than in Haiti, but the principles remain the same. Our Lord answered a question the people were thinking “*Those eighteen on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all the other men who dwell in Jerusalem?*” Our Lord then gave a resounding ‘No’ to that question. It is pointless and inhumane to surmise on what might be a good reason for God to judge Haiti, because all nations deserve to come under the judgement of God and have received the grace of God to live another day. The Haitians are no worse than the British, if we are talking about deserving God’s judgement!

But then our Lord gives this third comparison – between dying physically and dying spiritually. Remember that in Christ we have the most loving person who has ever lived – He did not come to judge the world, He came to save. He came to give His life a ransom for many. And so when He says (v 5) “*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish*” He is not being harsh or unkind, but He is giving a loving warning. Eighteen people have physically died, but now take care of your own soul. Unless a person repents of his or her sin against such a pure and loving God, he will perish spiritually. It’s bad enough to lose one’s life, but it is infinitely worse to die without Christ.

We can’t answer fully the question “Why, if there is a God, does He allow suffering?” He is still a loving God. Not one of us actually deserves to live

## OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister outside the church in the coming months, as follows:-

### Pastor Glyn Williams

Mon 8 Feb 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee  
 Thu 11 Feb 8pm North Yorkshire Bible Rally, Northallerton  
 Sun 14 Feb am/pm Reeth Congregational Church  
 Mon 22 Feb 7pm Wakefield Evangelical Church Trustees meeting  
 Mon 22 Mar 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee

### Jonathan Chell

Sun 7 Feb am/pm Salem Baptist, Ramsey. Cambridgeshire  
 Sun 14 Feb am/pm North Preston Evangelical  
 Wed 17 Feb pm Bethel, Armley – mid week Bible Study  
 Sun 21 Feb am/pm Bethel, Armley  
 Sun 7 Mar am Staincliffe Baptist  
 Wed 17 Mar pm Bethel, Armley – mid week Bible Study

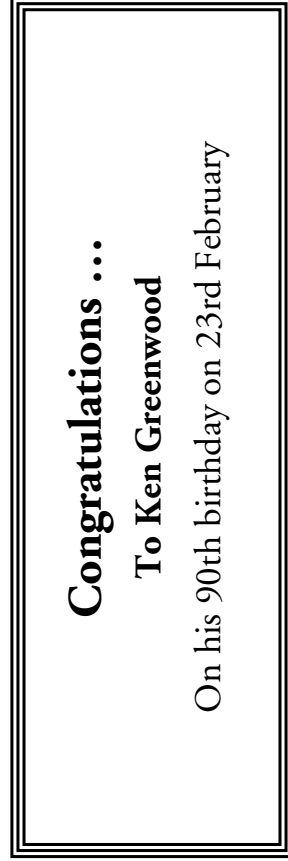
## DIARY

**February**  
 Wed 3 7.45pm Deputation Meeting:  
 Steve and Rachel Peat (SIM) – Peru  
 Thu 4 7.30pm Followers Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk  
 Fri 5 4-6pm Asda chaplaincy  
 Fri 5 pm North of England Church Officers conference at  
 Sat 6 am/pm Mirfield  
 Sun 7 2.30pm Service at Cookridge Court  
 Tue 9 10.15am Second Tuesday  
 Wed 10 7.30pm Ladies Prayer Group at 14 Bedford Drive  
 Wed 10 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Speaker: Martin Sellens

March so that Warran can have further work done on his knee - there is more about their experiences and journey in the article sent by Lee Ellen's Mum for The Magazine.

We look forward to welcoming Helen Parsons into membership on February 7th.

Rae Benson is still in hospital - do pray for her and remember those who are not able to join with us for worship at present due to age or infirmity.



## Congratulations ...

**To Ken Greenwood**

On his 90th birthday on 23rd February

## PREACHING PLAN

	Morning	Evening
February	7 Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	14 David Gregson	David Gregson
	21 Mick Lockwood	Mick Lockwood
	28 Jonathan Chell	Glyn Williams
March	7 Glyn Williams	Martin Sellens
	14 Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	21 Gary McKee	Gary McKee
	28 Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
April	4 Glyn Williams	Jonathan Chell (Easter)

We welcome David Gregson from Reeth and Mick Lockwood from Haworth to our pulpit in February. Mick is one of our Holding Trustees and was present at the Annual Trustees Meeting on 16th January. In March we are pleased to welcome Gary McKee to our pulpit for the first time, from Sunderland Free Church.

another day if we compared ourselves to God's standards; God always works His gracious purposes out through tragedies like this; and it is a reminder to the living to turn to Christ without delay, for we do not know what the future brings.

May the Kingdom of Christ increase both in Haiti and the United Kingdom.

With every good wish

*Glyn Williams*

## ‘Love one another deeply from the heart’

*Previously published in Evangelical Times November 2009  
and printed here with permission.*

One of the great challenges facing us as Christians is the need to relate to each other well. The evangelical Christian community is fragmented.

The temptation is to move in ever-smaller circles of fellowship and choose the company of those who agree with us in every detail of faith and practice. This may mean we have little contact with other evangelical Christians.

Yet the reality is that we are eternally united to all who are in Christ. We are brothers and sisters. And our understanding of this has inevitable consequences for here and now.

Good Christian relationships matter, because they please God. Our Lord specifically prayed for his disciples and those who would believe in him through their testimony. He had seen how the disciples argued amongst themselves and followed their own agendas.

### Truth

So, as the shadow of the cross loomed large, he prayed for those who in future generations would believe the words of the apostles, that they: *‘may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me’.*

Another important petition in that same prayer was: *‘Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth’* (John 17). In our Lord's heart there is an essential

link between truth and love. Our sanctification is worked out through active engagement with the Word of God, in fellowship with fellow Christians.

Then, good Christian relationships matter in times of opposition and persecution. We are involved in a spiritual battle for the truth. In the UK we are reminded every day that we are a marginalised minority, which is sometimes barely tolerated.

Absolute truth is not popular. Error is proclaimed with great authority and many people are being led astray. People desperately need to hear and believe the truth if they are not to be eternally lost.

In the face of those who oppose us and the gospel, we need to stand together. Mutual respect and affection are so important at a time like this. Differences between Bible-believing Christians can easily be exploited by the enemies of the gospel, with the result that we and the message we proclaim are discredited.

#### **Authenticity**

Then also, good Christian relationships matter because they authenticate the message we proclaim. Our unity as Christians is an essential element in witnessing to the peoples of the world. The way we relate to each other is a validation of the truth.

As our oneness is seen, people around are more likely to believe in Jesus and know that he has come from God. This is especially important in reaching younger people. We are making little impact amongst young adults and need to consider urgently how we can reach them for Christ.

Younger people are relational. They spend time together. Through mobile phones and social networking sites they maintain contact with each other and their friends. They are in constant communication.

It would be easy to dismiss these relationships as superficial and unreal, and see them as virtual relationships rather than real face-to-face human relationships. But they really do invest time in these relationships and make them a priority. They are always available and often tell their friends that they love them.

will hopefully recover over the summer months, to be ready for college in September.

They are planning to fly home 1st March. There is such a lot to do in a short time. Your prayers for suitable flight arrangements would be so appreciated. Travelling so far with leg injuries and a little four year old could be stressful. They require furnished accommodation for six months. (This is already underway. A house has become available near Lee-Ellen's parents in Alnwick.) Lee-Ellen needs to finalise her employment arrangements. They need to get Astrah into school. Warran needs to register with a local doctor then be referred to a Consultant. Please pray that his surgery will be successful. The doctor in Australia says that there is a chance, though there are no guarantees, that his leg will be returned to 80% of his pre-accident fitness. This would be such an awesome blessing.

We so appreciate your interest in Warran, Lee-Ellen and Astrah. How we give thanks for Tinshill, that your testimony, ministry and fellowship brought Warran to the feet of the Saviour years ago, and that even now you follow his progress with interest and commitment.

May God continue to bless you, With Christian love, in the name of Jesus.

*Lorna Turner  
(Lee Ellen's Mum)*

## **Any old books?**

Leeds City Mission bookstall in the market would be glad to receive them. Open every day 9am to 4pm. Contact Graham Leng.

## **Fellowship News**

We send our congratulations to Esther Mosby who married Jon Coe on 19th December 2009 in the town where Jon grew up - Seattle, Washington. Following their honeymoon they are back working in the NE of England. The wedding photos are displayed on the missionary notice board.

Warran, Lee Ellen and Astrah Fawcett are due to fly back to the UK in early

discharged from the RAF. Several years previously he had sustained very bad leg injuries in a motor accident and was not able to continue military service. His leg gave him a great deal of trouble and he was in pain most of the time.)

It became obvious to them that they could be of use to NTM – Lee-Ellen as a nurse, and Warran using his extensive computer/IT skills and they decided to go to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in December 2008 not as missionaries but as associates, supporting tribal mission, from an administrative base near Goroka. The plan was to stay about eighteen months to two years during which time they would get as much experience as possible and ask the Lord to lead them into future service.

Shortly after arriving in PNG, Warran fell and hurt his bad knee. In spite of this injury he has managed to contribute to the IT department, installing more effective communication between the Regional Headquarters and the missionaries in remote bush areas, and has helped organise more effective working systems within the office. Lee-Ellen helped in the medical centre and is currently the school nurse. They have gained a great deal of experience and this has enabled them to look ahead. They decided, before Christmas, to attend Bible school, starting in September, at the NTM college, North Cotes near Grimsby. They will do intensive Bible Study for the first year then Cross Cultural Communication in the second year. This is an accredited course and will equip them for a wide range of work in the future. Astrah will be starting school.

Returning to Warran's leg injury: The doctor looking after Warran's medication etc. recommended that he have surgery on his knee. He is only 37, suffers a great deal of pain with the beginning of arthritis, and so was referred to a surgeon in Cairns, Australia. The family flew out to Cairns in January and he had an operation during which arthritic tissue was removed and some work was done on the meniscus. The surgeon went on to recommend that further surgery be carried out to repair ligament damage. He said this should be done as soon as possible as Warran would otherwise be at risk of further injury. So they are coming home to have this work done. Lee-Ellen will return to work at the Freeman Hospital and Warran

This is a challenge to us. How real is our fellowship within our local churches? How much do we know about each other? Do we spend quality time together and communicate regularly? Would we be able to find the homes of other church members without using a sat nav?

When did we last offer practical help to a fellow Christian? Are we there for each other and do we really love each other?

### **Building**

Relationship building takes time, and many of us seem to be short of time. It requires personal commitment. We cannot build relationships between Christians simply through attending a Sunday morning service or an occasional small group meeting.

The amount of quality time we spend together is frighteningly small. We communicate little about ourselves even in requests for prayer, and may seldom express our love for each other verbally or in practical ways.

Inter-church fellowship also needs to be fostered. The independence of some evangelical churches today is extreme. Too often, our own church programme takes all our time and energy.

We need to stand together in proclaiming the truth to a lost world and a generation growing up with little contact with gospel people. We need to take practical steps to demonstrate visibly our glorious unity in Christ.

While we are not all the same and may differ somewhat in our understanding of the Word, we still rejoice in each other and in our common experience of the love and grace of God in Christ.

Our divided world desperately needs to see the transforming power of the truth, which unites us in a love reminiscent of the love of the triune God.

*Peter Milsom*  
*The author is director of UFM Worldwide*

The world crowns success; God crowns faithfulness!

## Religious Superstition

How easy it is to fall into religious superstition! I mean thinking that God will bless us because of our religious activities. I've prayed, so everything will be fine now, because I've prayed. Not because of God's intervention, but because of my prayers. I've had a bad day so far, but I'll read my Bible now then the day will improve, not because I'll be living life with a greater focus on God, but because I read my Bible. Having gone to church twice this Sunday, I think an easy week at work is pretty much guaranteed now. I can't be bothered doing any work, but reading a book about theology is bound to solve that problem. I don't suppose any Christians consciously and deliberately think like that, but I'm sure I can't be the only one who catches myself sometimes. It's tempting to put our faith not in God, but in our religious works.

We see this problem in the Bible too. This isn't the only example, but the one which sprung to my mind occurs after a battle between Israel and Philistia recorded in 1 Samuel 4. It's a disaster for the Israelites, and with 4,000 dead soldiers it's time for a rethink. What solution do they come up with? They recognise God is in control of the battle, by asking "*Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines?*" and they're sure they know how to obtain His favour – "*Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.*" Does it work? The Philistines are scared stiff, and decide the best defence is a good offence. "*So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. Also the ark of God was captured*". Hardly the desired effect.

Can we combat this malaise, or are we simply helpless in the hands of our sinful motives? We can do many things. We can examine our motives, repent when we find ourselves lacking, and rely more fully on God's grace in Christ. It is all we can ever do to fight sin – flee to Christ.

*Tim Hilton*  
*(first published at [tjhilton.wordpress.com](http://tjhilton.wordpress.com))*

waist with the belt of truth as a vital part of our Christian armour – in the centre of our bodies and holds armour together and where we carry our sword which is the Word of God!

4) **Life saving and life changing.** The story of Dan Woolley was recently in the newspaper – an American working for a Christian organisation, Compassion International, who was rescued from the remains of a hotel in Port-au-Prince in Haiti after 60 hours, despite serious injuries and a broken leg. He used his iPhone applications to seek medical advice on stopping the flow of blood and strapping his injuries and preventing shock setting in. He even set his phone's alarm to go off every 20 minutes so he didn't lose consciousness! His phone saved his life. The Bible by pointing us to the Saviour, the Lord Jesus, is both life saving and then life changing as our lives are transformed as God works in our hearts. The Bible is crucial in leading us to Christ and then helping us to grow and mature as Christians – truly a '*lamp to our feet and a light to our path*' (Psalm 119: 105).

*Martin Sellens*

## News from the Fawcetts

Warran Fawcett was born and raised in Leeds. He attended Sunday School at Tinshill and later joined your fellowship.

He met Lee-Ellen ten years ago at Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre. They were both attending a leaders training week. Warran had enjoyed the Christian Adventure Holidays as a teenager, when he attended with youngsters from Leeds.

Warran and Lee-Ellen were married in 2001, and their little daughter, Astrah, was born in 2005. Two years ago they found themselves in touch with New Tribes Mission, Lincolnshire with a view to becoming associates of the mission. They felt the Lord calling them to mission work and decided to explore various possibilities, gathering information about serving the Lord both at home and abroad. (At the time Lee Ellen was nursing in the Freeman General Hospital in Newcastle and Warran had his own furniture/woodwork business in rural Northumberland, having been

- 3) Cases of 2 mothers – on trial for helping severely ill children to die – Frances Inglis convicted of murder and got 9 years minimum whilst Kay Gilderdale given 12 month conditional discharge
- 4) British social attitudes study results show further moral decline of the nation. 45% now say “it makes no difference to children whether their parents are married”.
- 5) Chilcott Inquiry into Iraq war. Attorney General gave the go ahead to the Cabinet to go to war, yet all lawyers at the Foreign Office (more than 30) thought it was illegal.

What are we to make of all these things?

The critical question which comes to mind is – “What is truth?”

What is happening in the world only makes sense when you have a biblical perspective. We all need a spiritual compass otherwise how do we know if we are going in the right direction if we have no reference point? Can't rely on conscience or our own heart as easily deceived and our heart is “desperately wicked”.

Four things to remember about the Bible

- 1) **Enduring** – Matthew 24: 35 The words of Jesus will not pass away. Earlier in Matthew 24 Jesus tells us what the end time will be like – including earthquakes. We can understand world events in the light of Bible truth
- 2) **Unchanging** – Hebrews begins and ends with Jesus – God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son (1: 2) and Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (13: 8). He can be relied upon, God's promises will be kept and He is the Word of God made flesh (John 1: 14).
- 3) **Absolute** – Jesus said “*I am the way, the truth and the life*” (John 14: 6). He doesn't lie and doesn't change so is a reliable and only solid foundation on which to base our lives. God's truth is absolute (Psalm 119:v 151,152). Most convincing verse is Jesus's prayer to God the Father recorded in John 17: 17 “*Your word is truth*”. Christians are to gird themselves around the

## Haiti

The Caribbean country of Haiti is badly affected following the powerful earthquake on 12 January which caused devastation and large loss of life. With a base in the city of Gonaives, MAF was already there with a fleet of 3 aircraft and team of 21 staff. Other MAF pilots and aircraft are on standby to come to Haiti should the needs arise. Our team values prayer at this time:

- Please pray for the team who have been affected by the situation, and as they decide how best to assist in the disaster relief response
- Pray for our partners as they seek to bring relief and support to affected areas
- Pray too for the people of Haiti as they come to terms with the consequences of the quake. This follows in the footsteps of the devastating series of hurricanes that swept across the country in autumn 2008.

Visit [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org) for further updates.

*from Mission Aviation Fellowship*

## mk, pk: ok?

The Americans would call them MKs; others might call them PKs; but we call them Thomas and Jacob. Missionaries' Kids or Pastors' Kids can often be the forgotten members of the family. And yet they are the ones that suffer as much, if not more, than their parents. Take Thomas and Jacob for instance.

Firstly, they were both born in Spain, fourteen and twelve years ago respectively. So for them Britain is a foreign country.



Spain is 'home'; it's where they belong, it's what they've always known and are comfortable with. It may say "British" on their passports, but they feel as Spanish as bull-fighting, Real Madrid and paella. They can't wait until they are eighteen, when they will be able to apply for Spanish nationality. When, four years ago, we broke to them the news that we were leaving Santa Cruz, one of their reactions was: "Well, at least we're not moving to England"! For our two MKs, the UK is a place for holidays (we call it 'deputation!'). It's a place where grandparents and cousins live; a place where Mum and Dad used to live. It's not that they don't like Britain; it's just that they don't feel at home there. Apart from anything else, the food is so different, and nobody speaks Spanish, the boys' first language.

### **The extended family**

The extended family is, of course, almost non-existent for the boys in a meaningful way. Growing up as they did in a village where most children called into Gran's on the way home from school, they were different. Thankfully Thomas and Jacob see their grandparents about once a year, perhaps not much less than many children in the UK. But aunts, uncles and cousins are usually only encountered on visits to the UK, maybe every two or three years. Birthdays and Christmas usually pass without seeing their extended family. Modern technology helps, of course. Following our UK visit this past Summer, Facebook, Skype and Messenger have taken a real bashing, and it's nice to see them having a more meaningful relationship with their cousins and our friends' children.

### **Adjustments to be made**

Our MKs are dual-purpose, in that they are also PKs. That in itself makes them different and weird here in Spain, given that Spain is not over-endowed with evangelical pastors or their children. And it's not just in school where it's hard; at home it's not easy either. Dad's job doesn't have set hours, so often evenings are used up for church activities. Saturdays frequently suffer the same fate. Tensions and problems arising from pastoring a congregation unavoidably make their way into the home. Pastors get tired, snap at their children, and sometimes have to talk or take phone calls behind closed doors.

We are truly grateful to our God that both boys have made a profession of faith and appear to be going on well. But we are in a church plant with no other youngsters of the boys' age, so there is no youth group for them. Our nearest like-minded church is over one and a half hours' drive away.

Regional youth activities are usually further away, anything up to a three-hour drive, so often the boys stay over with friends. Camps and retreats are also looked forward to as times for being with other Christian youngsters.

Please don't misunderstand. We are not complaining. We love Spain as much as our boys do, and unless the Lord was to indicate otherwise, we wouldn't ever want to leave Spain. Rather, we have wanted to highlight how different and difficult it can be for MKs and PKs. We have written of the situation of children in a European culture; MKs in other continents have additional issues to face. But our boys will survive – others have; Judith and myself for a start and we know that the God who called us is faithful. But the next time you pray for missionaries, please don't forget the MKs, OK?

*Matt Hill – Cuenca, Spain  
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## **The Spiritual Compass**

After speaking at Thursday at Two on January 28th I was asked if I would write some short notes of what I had said, so I thought I would do a short summary for the magazine –

There have been some interesting things happened in the last few weeks:

- 1) Earthquake in Haiti – 200,000 dead and 3 million needing aid. We have seen the worst (looting and riot) and best (compassion, massive acts of sacrifice and service by dedicated folk) of human nature. Some miracles despite the great difficulty of it all (eg. a 17 year old girl pulled out of the wreckage after 14 days, alive and expected to make a full recovery).
- 2) Edlington, Doncaster – Two 10½ year olds convicted of grievous bodily harm against 2 children of similar age because they had "nowt else to do"! But who are the victims and what about the parents?