

ISSUE 1
MARCH 2017

HBC ACCORD

A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS



Hendon Baptist Church

Worship the King!

See what Ade has to say about what being in the worship team means to her

The church in Romania

Ralph and Pastor Errol both share about the church's work in Romania

Youth for Christ at HBC

Read about the exciting work Youth For Christ do and will do for our community

Plus!

A PIECE FROM OUR
VERY OWN SENIORS

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PASTOR'S PAGE



I am sure that most of you know by now that our theme for 2017 is Investing in the Kingdom. The purpose and focus of this article is to challenge you to embrace the theme and do your part for the kingdom of God.

Have you ever asked, 'What can I do for the Lord?', 'How can I make a difference for the Lord?' or 'Is there a place for me?' You may even have said, 'God cannot use me!', 'I don't have anything to offer' or 'I have done my part already.' Whichever one you are, there is still so much we need to do and can do for the Lord. God really wants to use each and every one of us for His glory. Where or what is the starting point for investing in the kingdom? I want to highlight four aspects:

1. Investing in our personal lives



There are two very basic foundational principles – namely, prayer and Bible study. When we master these two principles, they become the source for living a fruitful life in and for the Lord. Prayer – you speak to God. Make time for the Lord, to spend time with the Lord. In Colossians 4:2 we are commanded to 'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.' Pour your heart out to the Lord.

Praying will transform your life – for the rest of your life. 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:6-7). You might also want to consider adding a regular time of fasting with your prayer life.

Bible study – let God speak to you. Take the greatest book of all time and study it thoroughly. Get to know the God who invested in us through Jesus Christ on the Cross. Love the Word of God, make it your own and enjoy it as you discover the truth. 'Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth' (2 Timothy 2:15). The first step in studying the Bible is simply to start reading it. (A reminder: we are reading through the Bible in one year.) In Deuteronomy 6:6-7 the Lord says, 'These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.'



Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.' In other words, the Word of God should be our life – so let's live it! Inevitably, from these two principles there should be a lifestyle that matches our prayer and Bible study habits – let your life speak to the world.

2. Investing in and through the Church ministry

In our morning services we have been exploring and studying spiritual gifts. It should be the goal of every believer to know what spiritual gifts are, to discover their own gifts, and then to use them to serve the church. Spiritual gifts are mentioned in the following passages: 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:8–10; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Peter 4:11.

'INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM – THE RETURNS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!'

We can also invest in the kingdom through our natural talents and different skills. In Exodus 28 God was looking for people with specific skills to honour Him in a task and bless the people. We read the words 'skilled workers' (v. 3), 'skilled hands' (v. 6 and v. 15) and 'skilfully' (v. 8), emphasizing uniqueness. If you have a skill or talent then use it to invest through the church – the skill of cooking, baking, knitting, carpentry, listening to others, writing, motivational speaking, public speaking, singing, playing an instrument, etc. The list is endless!

3. Investing beyond

Investing does not stop with prayer, Bible study and church ministry! Think how and where else you can invest in the Kingdom. Our Christian life continues even when we are not at church! Evangelism is sharing our faith with others – at work with our colleagues, be a blessing to them in any way you can. Marriage – work on being a great, better husband or wife. Parenting – be the godly father or mother our children deserve. Children – be the great, lovely and godly son or daughter you should be. The list is again endless: friendships, dating, being single, worship, sport, leisure time, etc. Be practical.



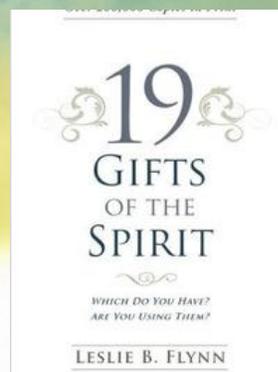
“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 11:18-20 NIV

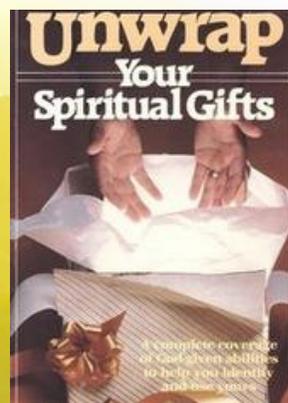
4. PRACTICAL STEPS

- Write down some specific goals for investing into: personal lives, church ministry and beyond
- Be realistic – start small and work toward greater investment
- Be accountable to someone else
- Be prepared to fall, but then get up again – because the devil wants you to be a failure!
- Ask for help and support from others
- Read books, articles, websites, etc.

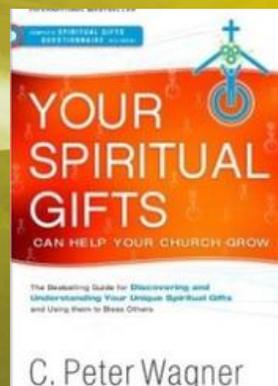
A final challenge and recommendation is to read a basic yet very good book that covers various aspects of our faith. It will be a real blessing as you prepare to invest in God’s Kingdom: *The Keys to Spiritual Growth: Unlocking the Riches of God*, by John MacArthur (Crossway Books USA, 2001).



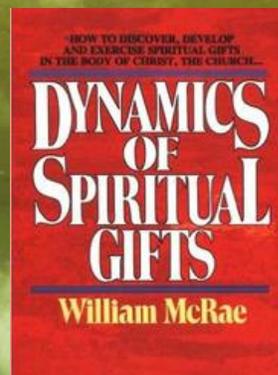
19 Gifts of the Spirit: Which do you have? Are you using them? by Leslie B. Flynn (David Cook, 2003).



Unwrap Your Spiritual Gifts, by Kenneth O. Gangel, (Victor Books, 1993).



Your Spiritual Gifts can Help your Church Grow, by Peter C. Wagner (Regal Books, 2012).



Dynamics of Spiritual Gifts, by William McRae (Zondervan, 1983).

Worship the King!

This is the first part of an occasional series on worship in the church, in which we talk to members of the worship team about the part Christian music plays in their lives and discover some of the songs and hymns that are important to them. In this, our first issue, Jacqui Pearce begins by talking with Ade and finds she's followed a varied and fascinating path in which music has played a vital part.



Left to right: Ade, Cynthia & Lindsay

We are really blessed in Hendon Baptist Church to have a very gifted and dedicated group of musicians to lead us in our sung worship every Sunday – and on other occasions as well. Adeola Oyeledun, or Ade as she is better known to all of us, sings and plays the drums – and in both these roles helps to provide a strong lead within the church's worship group.

She is also learning to play the piano, although these are still early days for this new venture. Despite not reading music, Ade has a natural gift for singing in harmony and a strong sense of rhythm, both of which come across in her involvement with the worship group.

'THE WHOLE CHURCH WAS A CHOIR'

Growing up in Nigeria, Ade's first experience of organized religious meetings was in a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, where she found the singing was sometimes accompanied and sometimes not, with no one really taking a lead. Music didn't seem to play a major part in meetings and worship was quite formal. The songs are not those we would recognize, as the Witnesses have their own hymn books, which naturally reflect their beliefs and depart from evangelical Christian teaching in certain crucial respects. Nevertheless, Ade found that some of the songs she learned in her brief time in the Kingdom Hall contained a number of important messages that stayed with her as she grew up.

The family did not stay long at the Kingdom Hall and soon moved to a Christian church in the Protestant tradition, where the atmosphere was more relaxed and less formal – something of a surprise, given their previous experience with the Witnesses. Ade came to England in 1993, and the family moved into a house in Hendon, in Finchley Lane, which made Hendon Baptist the obvious choice when it came to looking for a church. She remembers David Nunn, minister of HBC at that time, although she wasn't able to attend regularly because of school and then university commitments. She remembers the worship at the time as being 'quite serious' and 'more restrained'. Ade took her A Levels at a school in Shrewsbury, where she started going to a Baptist church. She was 16 years old and found the worship natural and lively, but once she went to university in Manchester she had to move churches again.

'SINGING GLORIFIES GOD, BUT IT ALSO BUILDS US UP,'

This time she found fellowship in a Church of Christ, which modelled itself on the early church and saw the use of instruments in worship as a distraction. Instead, the 'whole church was a choir', and everyone sang in harmony – not only that, they sang with conviction. Regular instruction was given in singing in harmony, and as the pastor was a singer who had been to the Royal Northern College of Music, he was passionate about music, taking the time to teach the congregation to sing together. Although Ade has no formal musical training, she says 'that's where I really got into harmony in music', and this is something that has stayed with her.

Ade left the Manchester fellowship in 1999 and spent four years back home with her parents in Nigeria before returning to London and coming back to Hendon Baptist Church during the interim period between the ministries of Pastors David Nunn and Tim Sutton. At first she didn't attend every week, and tended to keep herself to herself, until one week when Pastor Tim invited people to make a commitment to serve, and to stand up if they felt God was calling them. Ade stood up. After this she started staying for tea/coffee after the morning service and began to get to know people. Tim had asked if there was anyone who played an instrument and would like to be involved in music in the church, and Ade saw here ways in which she could serve and make a contribution. She started singing with the choir '1835', and things have developed from there. Now she sometimes plays the drums, and sometimes sings in harmony with other members of the worship group, but is careful to caution against the subtle temptations of being 'up front', and of getting lost in the 'activity of making music'. Ade stresses that 'singing glorifies God, but it also builds us up', and as melodies stay in our minds they help us to recall words of songs that can be of real help to us in tough times. We talk about different attitudes to music in the church over the years and Ade mentions that Charles Haddon Spurgeon and John Calvin regarded it as a distraction, while Martin Luther was not only in favour – he also wrote hymns that are still part of the church's life (such as Now Thank we all our God). So what music stands out for her? What are the songs and hymns that mean the most to her? Top of the list come two great old Christian hymns, Love Divine and When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. Amongst contemporary writers Ade admires Stuart Townend, and his songs In Christ Alone, Creation Sings, The Perfect Wisdom of our God and How Deep the Father's Love mean a lot to her.

She also listens to songs by Keith Getty, Matt Redman and Graham Kendrick, and going back to the 1980s, Majesty and He is our Peace who has Broken Down Every Wall stand out. These are the writers whose Christian songs Ade listens to at home, but she also loves traditional hymns and emphasizes the value of resources such as YouTube for making available a vast range of worship music.

How does the worship group prepare for their contribution to Sunday morning services? When planning, they pray and watch videos on YouTube for ideas on how to render different songs, then decide on which instruments to use, and in what combinations. As all the members of the group are busy people, it's never easy to find time to practice, but they try to get together for at least an hour or so during the week, and arrive early at church on Sunday so they can play through the chosen songs as people start coming in for the service. I hear them as I walk up First Avenue, several houses away from the church; their preparation really pays off, as it adds greatly to the spirit of worship before the service has even started. But 'we need more musicians!' Ade says – so if you can play an instrument or sing then please do talk to one of the worship group and see how you can get involved. One thing Ade stresses is the need to get feedback on the worship group from the congregation, something people tend to be hesitant to do in case they hurt anyone. But it is important to know what really helps us in our worship, and what holds us back – so please do talk to Ade and to other members of the group and let them know how you feel, what you find difficult and, above all, what brings you closer to God. They encourage and build us up week by week, making time to practice together and giving of themselves the least we can do is to encourage and thank them for their wonderful service to the church!

Ade's message is: music is something to be treasured as part of our worship together. It doesn't have to be there for us to worship God, but when the songs have real meaning they can lift us into a new realm. She also emphasizes the importance of not underestimating the ways that music can speak to children. It's all too easy to fob them off with 'fluff', and we mustn't be afraid of introducing them to songs and hymns that the adults sing, explaining their meaning and encouraging our children to learn these from an early age. 'It's a privilege to serve and worship in that way, to express our love for God and the truth in scripture through song'.

Written by Jacqui Pearce

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US
HOW VAST BEYOND ALL MEASURE
THAT HE SHOULD GIVE HIS ONLY SON
TO MAKE A WRETCH HIS TREASURE.
HOW GREAT THE PAIN OF SEARING LOSS -
THE FATHER TURNS HIS FACE AWAY,
AS WOUNDS WHICH MAR THE CHOSEN ONE
BRING MANY SONS TO GLORY.

BEHOLD THE MAN UPON A CROSS,
MY SIN UPON HIS SHOULDERS;
ASHAMED, I HEAR MY MOCKING VOICE
CALL OUT AMONG THE SCOFFERS.
IT WAS MY SIN THAT HELD HIM THERE
UNTIL IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED;
HIS DYING BREATH HAS BROUGHT ME LIFE -
I KNOW THAT IT IS FINISHED.

I WILL NOT BOAST IN ANYTHING,
NO GIFTS, NO POWER, NO WISDOM;
BUT I WILL BOAST IN JESUS CHRIST,
HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION.
WHY SHOULD I GAIN FROM HIS REWARD?
I CANNOT GIVE AN ANSWER;
BUT THIS I KNOW WITH ALL MY HEART -
HIS WOUNDS HAVE PAID MY RANSOM.

STUART TOWNEND © 1995 THANKYOU MUSIC
HBC CCLI 2602



God is
spirit, and

His
worshippers
must worship

in the Spirit
and in truth.



A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS – FOCUS ON ROMANIA

ARTICLE BY RALPH CIORA AND ERROL JACOBS

We are indeed a 'church for all nations', and in order to celebrate the rich diversity of people from around the world who worship with us, and those churches in other countries with which we have strong links, we will be highlighting individual fellowships overseas in a series of articles starting with the church in Romania. This article has been contributed by our brother Ralph Ciora, and concludes with Pastor Errol's recollections of his visit to Romania in 2016.

We in Hendon Baptist Church share with Bethany Baptist Church in Santandrei, north-western Romania, in their ministry for the kingdom of our Lord Jesus through our Romanian Christian brothers and sisters who are currently active members of HBC. Bethany Baptist was built by a team of brothers from Promised Land Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, who, despite not then having a church building of their own back in the US, gave us the chapel building as a gift. American Pastor Tommy Mallard has been waiting on the Lord for years – and, through faith, Promised Land Baptist Church has now received the gift of its own building.

The pastor of Bethany Baptist is brother Cornel Iova, a servant of God who expands His kingdom by preaching the gospel in the town and surrounding area, and by teaching people in the knowledge of God through His holy Word, the truth of scripture. By the grace of God, Brother Cornel and Bethany Baptist founded Carmel Baptist Church in the nearby village of Giris de Cris in 2009. He keeps us posted by regularly emailing news of people coming to faith in Jesus Christ, and he asks for our support in prayer for evangelistic events and for his occasional preaching in other churches as well.

There are regular services every Sunday in Carmel Baptist Church, which Hendon Baptist is supporting financially and spiritually year by year. Both Santandrei and Giris are difficult areas. The Orthodox Church and others exert strong opposition, hardening the hearts of the people against the gospel and discouraging those who convert with the threat of having no burial place in the cemetery when they die. People who want to give their life to Jesus may find that members of their own family will threaten to throw them out of the house and disown them if they abandon the traditional religion for the Baptist Church. The village of Giris is three miles from Santandrei, and is made up predominantly of poor people who don't have easy access to the nearby town of Oradea – they are in great need of the gospel and of coming to know Jesus for their salvation..

NEWS

On 14 August 2016, Carmel Baptist Church held a baptismal service, in which four souls witnessed to the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and saviour in the waters of baptism. Three people came from Giris and one from Santandrei. The youngest of the group, a 12-year old girl by the name of Carina Purtan, is part of the same Romanian family who are members of Hendon Baptist Church.

PRAYER NEEDS

Brother Adrian Toma, father of two and minister of Carmel Baptist Church, is seriously ill following surgery on his vocal chords. He has been sent from Cluj to the city of Bucharest for further medical investigation to see whether he is suffering from a malignant or benign growth. Please pray for the power of God to come with healing in brother Adrian's life, so that he can continue to serve the Lord with boldness in Carmel, and that we can celebrate the victory of our faithful God in awe and adoration.

ROMANIA MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our own Pastor at HBC, Errol Jacobs, took part last year in an evangelistic mission during which he preached the gospel in Bethany Baptist Church every day for eight days, from 31 January to 7 February. Several people gave their lives to Jesus at that time, to the glory of God! Pastor Errol writes: 'I had the privilege of going to Romania to preach the gospel in one of the churches we support. It was a week-long crusade, and I arrived late on a Saturday evening, due to flight delays because of the weather. I stayed with the Purtan family, and what a blessing it was.

I was treated like a king, a brother, a son and part of the family, as they fed and looked after me – I also changed a size or two! I managed to get a few hours' sleep and then jumped right into a full schedule of preaching, teaching and visitation. The first and last Sunday mornings were dedicated to teaching and encouraging the believers, and every evening throughout the week there were evangelistic services in two different church locations.

It was truly amazing to see the church's desire, eagerness and zeal for the Lord, and reaching out to bring the lost to Christ. I was blessed to see every night how the whole church would turn up and be part of a great week of ministry. There is so much we can learn from the believers in Romania in serving the Lord. The mission was not without challenges, as Romania is mainly Orthodox, and the priests have a tremendous hold on the people. The people are afraid of going anywhere other than their Orthodox churches, but in spite of this, God broke through and people still attended the evening services.



I was humbled and blessed once again as I saw God move in people's lives. Every night there was at least one person who surrendered to Christ and was transformed. Pastor Cornel and the two churches are doing fantastic work for the Lord. It is my prayer that they will continue to grow as they stay true to the Lord. Furthermore, may we at Hendon Baptist Church be challenged to minister faithfully here in London and beyond.'

*Pictures:
Bottom left: Baptismal candidates at Carmel
Bottom right: Worship in Carmel Baptist Church*





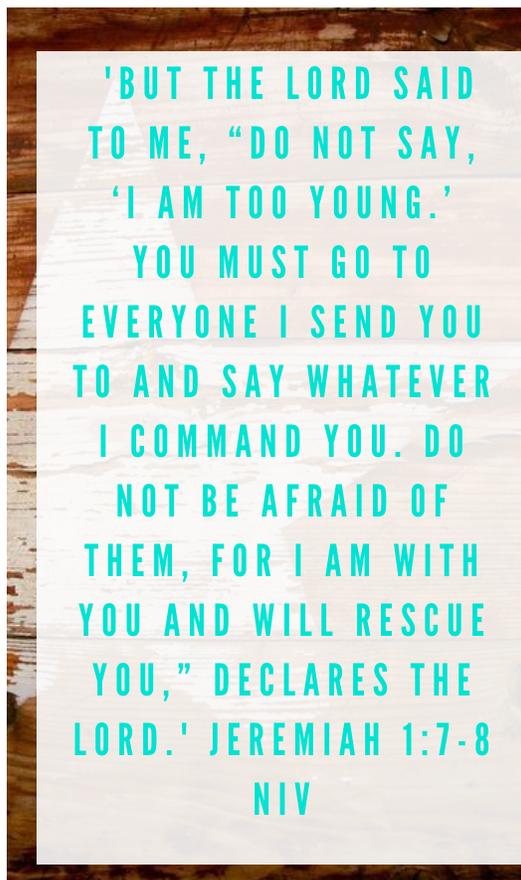
YOUTH FOR CHRIST AT HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday 15 January an exciting new journey began between British Youth for Christ and Hendon Baptist Church. We at British Youth for Christ were honoured and delighted to spend time with the congregation of Hendon Baptist Church and dream together about what it might look like to see the lives of young people in Hendon transformed by the love of Jesus, and in turn see a community transformed.

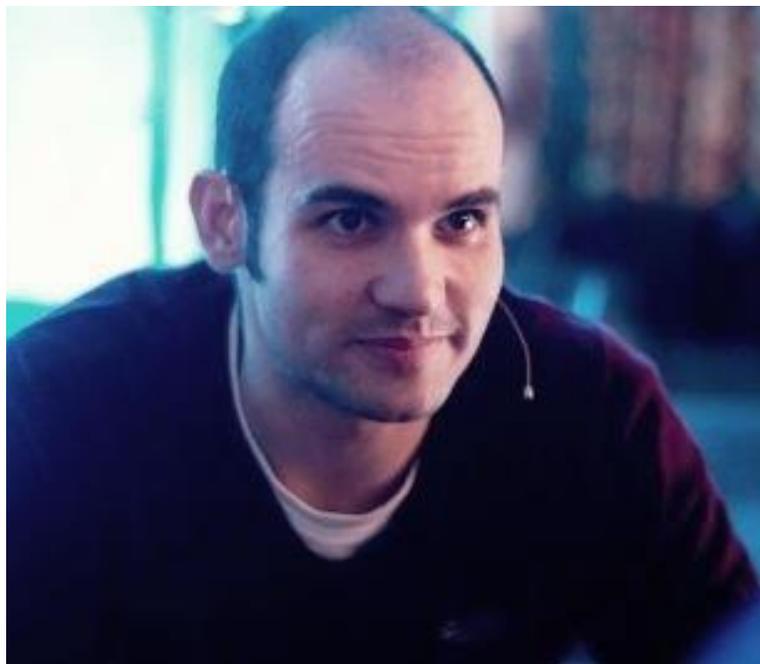
British Youth for Christ was founded in 1946 by Billy Graham, who saw a desperate need across our nation, where young men and women were returning from war and were searching for answers that only Jesus could provide. Our heart at YFC is still to see young people across our nation come to know Jesus for themselves, with every Church reaching every young person in their community, and this is the journey that we are looking to embark on together with Hendon Baptist Church.

It was clear to us at YFC that there is some incredible youth work already taking place in your church and some passionate, faithful and inspiring volunteers giving of themselves week in, week out to serve and love the young people in your church and the surrounding area. In Exodus 17 we see Aaron and Hur hold up the arms of Moses as a battle takes place around him and he fights for his community and his nation. We at YFC want to support and fight alongside what is already being done in your church, whilst also helping Hendon dream of what could be in your community. This might look like YFC missions teams coming and doing sports- or arts-

based mission weeks in your local schools, whilst signposting to existing clubs or launching new ones. We would love to stand alongside you as we hold conversations with leaders in your local area to assess need amongst young people, and look to do outreach in the community, whether that be on the streets, in local cafes or in schools, and create a youth strategy to see the young people of Hendon travel from first point of contact to becoming disciples of Jesus. It can be a long journey, standing and living alongside the young people in your community, but we are excited to travel with you.



Last year we came into contact with a young man in his early 20s who explained that he had grown up in a family that was totally unchurched, although he and his brother attended a youth group at a church with which YFC was partnered. After a time this young man found out that his parents were divorcing and his world fell apart. He felt lonely and disappointed and the only thing that kept him going was the contact with his local church and the youth worker there, whom he began to look up to in place of his absent father. Over time he came to know Jesus for himself and would openly admit that without that church youth group and youth worker he didn't know where he would be now – his faith would be non-existent. There will be so many young people with similar needs a very short distance from where you are reading this magazine. We pray that together we might see more young lives transformed by the gospel.



Article by Laura Hancock

*Phil Knox, Director of Resources
Youth For Christ*



*God – a poem by
Esther Jacobs,
aged 10*

God is like a jewelled sky,
Shining as bright as
diamonds.
God cannot be seen by the
eye,
He is within us
Life is a series of twists
and turns
That with Him we will
overcome..

God is a fire that always
burns,
He can't be blown out.
Life is a mystery,
Waiting to be solved.
God's love is free,
It is a gift from Him to me.

Young People at HBC

1) Decide on your goal.

You are more likely to revise if you have a goal in mind. Whether this is moving up a set in English, getting into a college of your choice or achieving the grades you need for university, it is important to know why you are studying. It might help to keep a visual reminder of your goal in sight while you're revising – for example, a picture of the university you want to go to stuck on the front of your A Level notes. If you are properly motivated, you are less likely to get side-tracked from your studying.

2) Choose a time and place to study each day and try to stick to it.

Have an area in the house where you always study and stock it with everything you need to help you – revision guides, paper, pens, healthy snacks etc. Beforehand, think of all the possible things that could distract you and then minimize these factors. For example, ask your parents to look after your phone while you're studying.



3) Revise little and often.

Don't wait until your teacher sets a test or you're on study leave – revise little and often throughout the year.

4) Mix up the revision.

It is tempting to revise one topic at a time, but research suggests that it is more beneficial to mix up your topics as it makes your brain work harder. For example, revise 20 minutes of Maths, 20 minutes of English and then another 20 minutes of Maths.

5) Make a revision timetable.

Download a blank revision timetable and decide when you will revise for each subject – this helps you to make sure you leave enough time for all your subjects. If you're studying A Levels and you have free periods in the morning, these are a great time to study as your brain functions better at this time. Block off time for socializing and relaxing, and make sure you go to bed early each day – late-night studying is definitely not beneficial.



6) Make your brain work hard.

Passive activities like copying your notes out or highlighting key words require very little brain work and are therefore not effective. Choose revision activities that make you think. These could be, for example: writing a set of questions and answers about a topic, doing past exam papers, asking a friend or relative to test you on what you have learnt, teaching someone else about a topic or putting ten facts that you have learnt in order of importance. The more you think while you are revising, the more memorable it will be. Start each revision session by trying to recall what you revised the previous day. The more often we try to recall something, the better we remember it.

7) Think carefully about who you revise with.

Many students say they prefer to revise with friends. However, this is often because their friends aren't doing much studying and this makes them feel better about the small amount of work they themselves have completed. Choose study partners who are motivated and keen to do well. Test each, share revision tips and be encouraging.

8) Talk to your teachers.

Ask your teachers for advice. They can point you in the direction of good revision videos, websites and books. If there is something you don't understand, bring this to your teacher's attention. They will be happy to explain it to you.

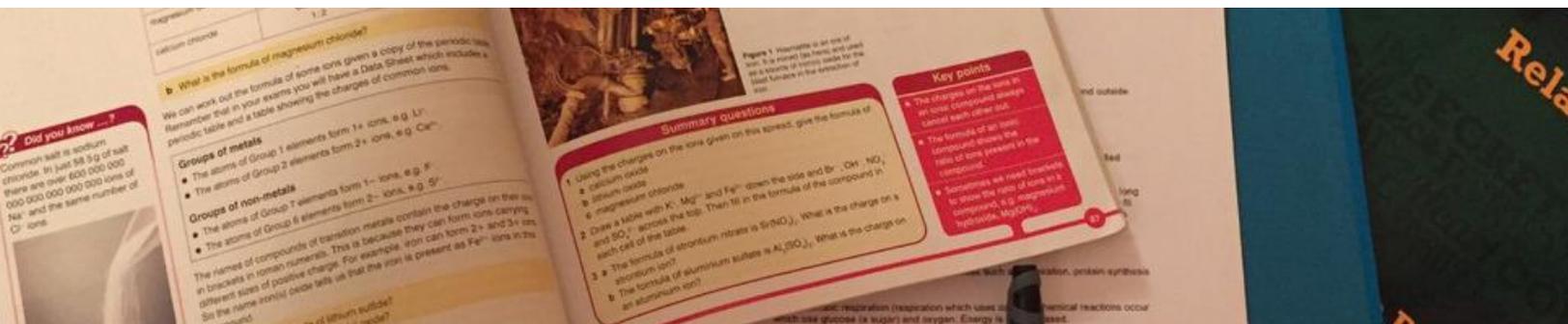
9) Download the syllabus.

Find out what exam board you are using for each subject and download the syllabus. Colour-code it in red (for topics you don't understand), amber (for topics you kind of understand) and green (for topics you are confident in). For every hour of revision, spend 30 minutes on red topics, 20 minutes on amber topics and 10 minutes on green topics.

10) Be kind to yourself.

Make time to relax and do the things you enjoy. Eat healthily and exercise regularly. Drink plenty of water and get enough sleep. Try your best and work hard, but remember that there is more to life than good exam grades!

Written by Lindsay Jacobs



SENIORS

What's green and helps you learn more about Jesus?

When? - we meet Sunday mornings, except the second Sunday of the month when it's Family Service.

Where do we meet? - you can find us in the Green Room, located on the second floor of the building, first door to your left marked 'The Green Room'. You can't miss it. The room is quite large and box-like, the walls splattered with a lime-like green paint. Towards the back of the room there are normally stacked orange chairs which we use regularly, and might I say they really do go well with the colour scheme. The mint-like walls really do bring out the burnt orange chairs, which makes the room even more exciting, moving on to the bookshelf which is full of Bibles, magazines and other stationery bits. Anyone who wishes to attend is very much welcome to!

Why do we go to Seniors? - we go to the Seniors youth group because we have discovered that the church sermons are generally aimed at the older generations. Often they are based around themes that we are unfamiliar with such as dealing with money issues, marriage etc. Also, we find that if we are just sitting in the pews our brains tend to 'switch off' and we don't actually learn anything about God.

For this reason, our church visit will be much more significant and leave an impact on us if we approach it another, more interactive way. Seniors is a place to talk about things relevant to us in a way which we can understand. We can ask questions and start discussions about topics we are interested in and want to find out more about if we would like, something that we could not do in church. I would say that I go to seniors because it lets me take something away with me to think about for the week, but mostly because I really find it fun.

What we do there? - prayer, Bible study, join with Juniors every 3rd Sunday, play games, contribute to services, e.g. prepare drama sketches and sing and sometimes watch DVDs.

What do we gain? - we gain a lot from Seniors as it helps us improve our Bible knowledge. The Bible knowledge gained in Seniors also helps us become more proficient in using God's Word. Seniors also assists our spiritual growth most importantly.



*"HOW CAN A YOUNG
PERSON STAY ON
THE PATH OF
PURITY?
BY LIVING
ACCORDING TO
YOUR WORD."
PSALM 119:9*

Spiritual growth often occurs best in the context of small group Bible study. Seniors also provides a place to belong. In Seniors we are known, personally recognized and transparency is more likely to occur.

We can share needs and concerns from our life. As we participate in discussions, we become part of the group. Seniors helps us build and gain meaningful relationships by meeting people, learning their names and hearing their week's story.

"DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN FAITH AND IN PURITY." 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Who?

Currently we could have seven people at Seniors, although not everyone can get there every week.

We are Angelo, Brinta, Mary, Paulina, Polo, Queenie and Sean, with Sharon and John leading.

And the answer to the question

We hope you will have realised, that it's Seniors in The Green Room.

Some of the topics we've looked at recently

- Sermon on the Mount
- Prayer
- Barriers to Jesus
- The Acts of the Apostles
- Jeremiah



NB This is an old picture showing the range of ages.

and Finally

we think Seniors is:-

- a good way to start the week
- a place to learn something new which we remember
- a place to talk about real life issues
- a place to build friendships and have lots of laughs.

Written by Brinta, Paulina and Sean

BIBLE QUIZ COMPETITION

Two prizes are up for grabs – one for children (under 18) and one for adults. Simply answer these questions taken from the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and hand your answers in to Lindsay by 31 May. If no one gets all of the questions correct, the submission with the most correct answers wins. If more than one person wins, the names will be drawn from a hat. You may use a Bible to help you answer, but no internet searches are allowed!

1

How many disciples did Jesus have?

2

What was Jesus' first miracle?

3

How many sheep did the shepherd leave behind when he went to search for the lost sheep?

4

What type of tree did Jesus curse?

5

What colour robe was placed on Jesus before his crucifixion?

6

On what did the wise man build his house?

7

In the parable of the lost coin, how many coins did the woman have to start with?

8

Who was released in place of Jesus before his crucifixion?

9

Which relative of Peter's did Jesus heal?

10

Where did Jesus tell Peter to get a four drachma coin to pay for Jesus' and Peter's tax?

11

Where did Jesus tell us to store up treasures?

12

What colour robe was placed on Jesus before his crucifixion?

13

How did John the Baptist die?

14

How many woes did Jesus declare to the teachers of law and the Pharisees?

15

In what town did Jesus raise a widow's only son from the dead?

16

Jesus healed ten lepers but only one returned to thank him. What race did this man belong to?

17

When Jesus walked on water, where was the boat heading?

18

To which Pharisee did Jesus say 'No-one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again'?

19

How long had Anna the prophet been a widow?

20

To which fungus did Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven?

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. —

Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV

In April 2013, the Journal of Political Economy published a study into the impact of child sponsorship through the charity Compassion in six different countries. The study examined the adult life outcomes of a group of 10,144 people in Bolivia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, the Philippines and Uganda, which included children who had been formerly sponsored and those who had not. The study found that former sponsored children were 13% more likely to finish primary school, 41.6% more likely to finish secondary school and 82.6% more likely to finish university. In addition, former sponsored children had a 17.6% higher chance of a salaried job and a 35.9% greater chance of having a white-collar job. Sponsored children also had a 75% increased likelihood of being a community leader and 70% greater chance of being a church leader (Compassion 2016, based on a study by Wydick, et al. 2013). This is believed to be the first independent study of its kind, looking at the impact of sponsorship on the more-than 9 million children who are sponsored worldwide by a variety of organizations.

So what is child sponsorship? Two of the main Christian child sponsorship programs are World Vision and Compassion. They operate in slightly different ways. World Vision use the funds they receive to benefit the whole community, not just one specific child. They work out how much money will be needed to support a particular community, and choose the number of sponsor children accordingly. They typically work in one community for 10-15 years.

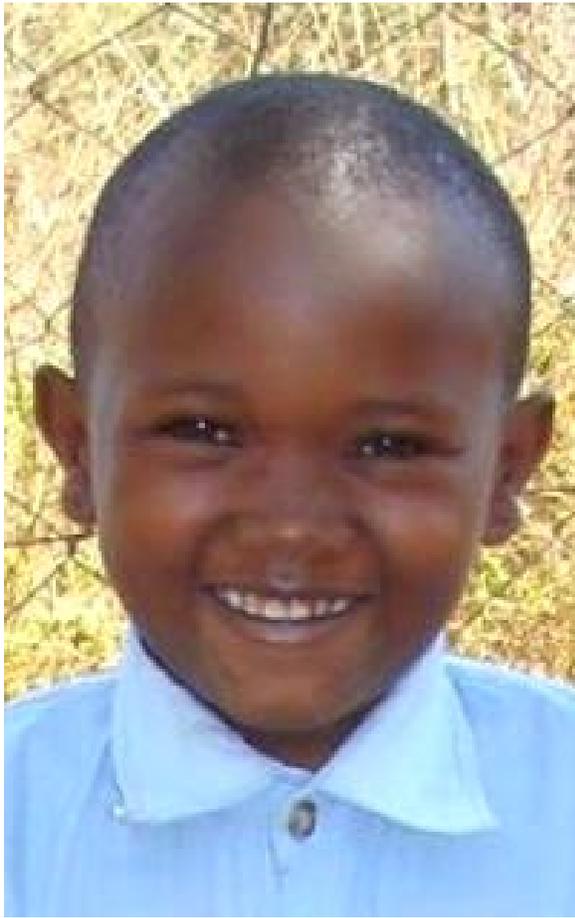
Sponsors receive the details of one child with whom they can correspond, and there is also the option to visit them.

World Vision states that the donations are used to equip children, their families and communities with 'clean water, nutritious food, healthcare, education and livelihoods - so they can enjoy a childhood free from need and full of promise.' In addition, the sponsorship friendship provides the sponsored child with 'real hope and encouragement, as they flourish towards their full potential in life.' Sponsorship with World Vision costs £26 per month. Across all their programs, 85p out of every £1 goes directly to charitable activities, 14p is invested in fundraising and 1p is spent on governance (World Vision 2017).

In contrast, Compassion focuses their child sponsorship program around individual children rather than whole communities.



Nicole



*Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. (Matthew. 19, v. 13–15, NIV)*

Picture left: Paul

They work through local churches to find the poorest children in their community, who are invited to register with their program. Each child is linked to one sponsor and, as with World Vision, they are encouraged to correspond, with the option of visiting. Each sponsored child receives care and resources to support them in the development of their mind, body and relationships. This differs from area to area, depending on what the greatest needs are, but generally includes school fees and uniform, nutritious food, health check-ups, personal attention and guidance from staff members, age-appropriate biblical teaching, literacy and life skills training, vocational training and encouragement.

The gospel is shared with all the children, but faith in Jesus is not required to be a part of the program. Compassion believes that as the lives of children are transformed, they in turn will transform their families and communities. Sponsoring a child through Compassion costs £25 per month, with 85p from every £1 directly benefitting the children (Compassion, 2016).

From a personal perspective, I have had experience of both programs. Both do a great work in releasing children from poverty using different methods. Sponsoring through World Vision enables you to see a whole community improve, which then enriches the life of your sponsored child.

Compassion allows you to have a direct impact on the life of a child, which in turn has a positive effect on their family and community. Both offer a very personal way to give money - allowing you to see directly the good that your donations are doing. If you are looking for a charitable organization to invest in, I can recommend child sponsorship.

Written by Lindsay Jacobs

References

Compassion 2016, <
<https://www.compassionuk.org/> >
[accessed 29 January 2017].

World Vision 2017. World Vision <
<http://www.worldvision.org.uk/> >
[accessed 29 January 2017].

Wydick, B., Glewwe, P. & Rutledge, L. 2013, 'Does international child sponsorship work? A six-country study of impacts on adult life outcomes', *Journal of Political Economy* 121:2, 393-436.

THE EVERLASTING WORD OF GOD

It is our first issue, and I was not sure what to write about or even how to begin writing. But after much prayer, many attempts, and a series of questions, God led me to write about His everlasting word which is to be a foundation for our lives.

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."^[1]

For far too long, I have skipped past the qualifying words in this passage: 'everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice' and simply focused on the man building his house on firm foundation; 'the rock' leaving unasked the question of what the rock actually was. Here, Christ instructs us to put the word into practice, and in doing so, we will be steadfast like a house built on rock, unmoving, unwavering and unshakable rock.

But what is the word? John, in the opening lines of his gospel tells us that: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning^[2].' The Psalmist informs us that the word is to be a lamp unto our feet, and a light for our paths^[3], guiding each step we take. Peter tells us that 'the word of the Lord endures forever.'^[4]

The word is timeless, it was present when the foundations of the world were being put into place. Its guiding nature is evident in the early people of God.

For instance, Joseph, although living millennia before the gospels were written, practiced God's eternal word and in turn God built his life on a foundation that neither slavery, temptation, prison nor the niceties of ruling one of the world's most prosperous nations were able to shake. The word sustained the Israelites in the desert^[5], the word inspired Paul^[6], and the word, is still penetrating lives today.

But the word is truly remarkable. We are told that it does not have to remain outside us. The word became flesh and dwelt amongst the disciples and the word has now created a bridge between us and God to allow us to have a relationship with God. The word can be with us, should we choose to accept it, as Christ is also called Immanuel, God with us. The word will not only sustain us but also transform us and nourish us so we may never hunger again.^[7]

The word has a purpose, it does not only sustain but transforms and does not depart from us without impacting our lives; '[as] the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'^[8]

The word demonstrates God's immense love for He is the one who chooses us and not the other way round. He is the one who sends His word down like the rain and the snow. He is the one who ordains His word to accomplish a purpose.

The Lord however does not leave us bare, He sent us the Holy Spirit, the Helper who Paul reminds us is proof that we belong to God^[9]. The Holy Spirit lives in us, God lives in us, and we are His temple. As we practice His word, we draw nearer to Him and He to us. We are to invest in the kingdom, and it is through this that our faith, which is the only way to please God (Hebrews 11:6) will grow. The King of Kings lives within us! He is life, we are alive and can call upon Him to give us strength as we practice His word. This Easter, let us stand firm in His word which tells us that we are victors through Him and which encourages us that nothing can separate us from His love. May we fix our eyes on Him, loving Him with our mind, heart and soul, so we will become like a 'grapevine that bears much fruit, a healthy vine watered by a spring, whose branches grow over the wall,'^[10] and will we ensure that our lives are built on solid foundation.

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever."^[11]

Written by James Mutinda

References

- 1 Matthew 7:24-25 NIV
- 2 John 1:1-2 NIV
- 3 Psalm 119:105
- 4 1 Peter 1:25
- 5 Deuteronomy 8:3
- 6 Ephesians 6: 15
- 7 John 6:35
- 8 Isaiah 55:10-11
- 9 Ephesians 4:30
- 10 Genesis 49:22
- 11 1 Peter 1:23-25

REMEMBERING DIANE JAMES

We in Hendon Baptist Church lost a much-loved and longstanding member of our fellowship when Diane left us to be with the Lord on 8 December last year. Aged 77, she had been a part of the church's life for a great many years and had served God with love and humility in a multitude of ways, never pushing herself forward but always putting others first. I talked with Diane's son Vincent, and daughter-in-law Bayara, and with her close friend Catherine to try and find out a little more about this very special lady who had been an integral part of HBC's life for as long as I can remember (and that goes back to the late 1970s).

As a young mum, bringing up Vince with her late husband George, Diane was very regular in attending services and became an indispensable part of the leadership team for the Tuesday Fellowship.



It was then called the 'Women's Meeting', precisely because it was aimed at providing a meeting place for ladies – mothers who weren't at work and retired women – although George was always a stalwart help, driving the ambulance to collect those who had difficulty with mobility. Diane devoted a considerable amount of her energies to arranging speakers for the Tuesday meeting. She also spent a lot of time visiting, together with Anne Whytock, and praying for the ladies who came along week by week. She was very good at arranging the programme, working closely with the other leaders, and had a wide circle of contacts.

Vince remembers that she used to make hand-drawn invitation cards for the speakers, decorated with flowers.

Diane served the church for many years as a deacon and had a deep concern for every aspect of the church's work. She was also regularly attended the Monday afternoon house group, which sometimes met at her home, and always prepared well for studies, so that she could be ready to lead if the need arose. She was always reading her Bible and spent much of her time in prayer.

All these activities took a great deal of her time, on top of her job as a dinner lady at Sunnyfields School, but Vincent recalls that she was always there for her family, and that she could be great fun. She loved playing games, with Mah Jong a particular favourite – and she was a good cook, her Sunday roasts being particularly memorable.

Above all, it is for her shining faith that Diane will be remembered by those of us in the church who were privileged to know her. A quiet and gentle lady who never drew attention to herself, Catherine comments that it would be all too easy to overlook quite how much she did and how involved she was in the life of the church. After her diagnosis of cancer two years ago, she became very close to Catherine, who went with her to all her medical appointments and gave moral support that she really appreciated. She kept very positive and came to accept what was happening to her as the Lord's will, as her share in His suffering. In her final months, as she battled the disease that finally claimed her, she seemed positively radiant. She trusted herself completely to the Lord, and eventually refused the treatment that was causing her such difficulties with all its unpleasant side-effects.

Weeks before she died, Diane gave testimony in church to the Lord's love for her and His goodness toward her throughout her illness. At her funeral service, on 3 January 2017 in Hendon Baptist Church, Norma read Psalm 46, which had been very important to Diane, and the last psalm she heard. We also sang some of Diane's favourite songs and hymns, including Be Still for the Presence of the Lord and Jesus, we Enthroned You, as well as From Heaven you Came. Tributes were paid by Indra and Diane's old friend, Anne Whytock, by Vincent and Bayara, who read a poem. It was a very fitting and moving tribute to someone who had always given her all for others out of love for the Lord. We will certainly miss her greatly, but can rejoice that she is now with Him

Written by Jacqui Pearce

PSALM 46 (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth give way
and the mountains fall into the
heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their
surging.

There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
The holy place where the Most High
dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall,
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms
fall,
He lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us,
The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see the works of the Lord,
the desolations he has brought on
the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends of
the earth,
he breaks the bow and shatters the
spear,
he burns the shields with fire.
Be still and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord Almighty is with us,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

SUNDAY SERVICE: 11.00AM IN THE CHURCH
GIRLS' BRIGADE: TUESDAYS, 6.30PM
CAMPAIGNERS: FRIDAYS, 6.00-7.15PM (JUNOS); 7.30-9.00PM
(CROSSTRAX)
IGNITE (YOUNG ADULTS): EVERY 3RD FRIDAY, 8.00-10.00PM
TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP: TUESDAYS, 2.00PM
SPARKLES PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP: TUESDAYS,
10.00AM-12.00PM
HOME GROUPS: WEDNESDAY EVENING (8.00PM) AND
MONDAY MORNING

HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH, FINCHLEY LANE, HENDON NW4 1DJ

