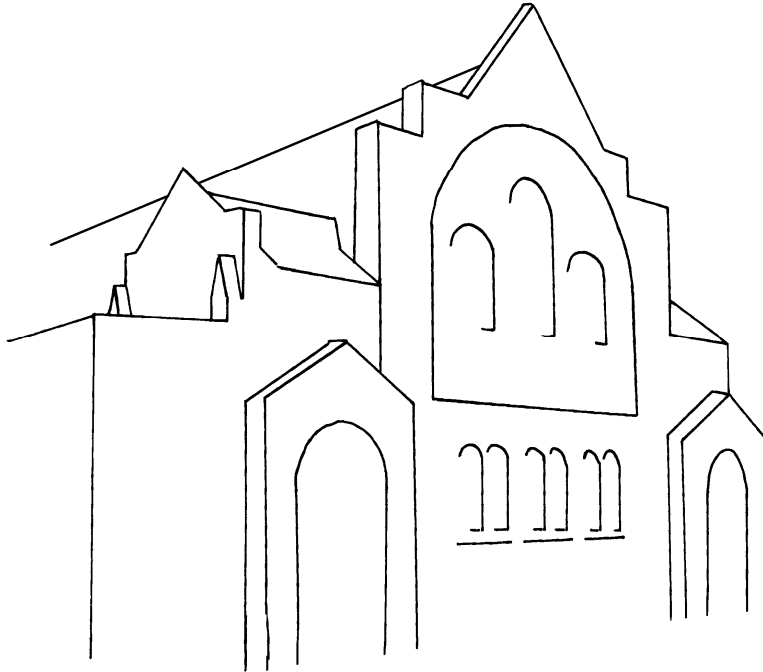


September
2013

Newsletter



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
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Where an Elder is listed with special responsibility for an area, please contact them first if your question relates to that area.

The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy. Have you seen the news on the Church Internet site? Check it out at

www.bhpurc.org.uk/news.htm

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 29th September. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk) by **Sunday 15th September.**

Please note that late contributions may be held over.

Editor: **Lisa Hamblin, 130 Clive Road, Enfield EN1 1RF**

En Francais...non!



My French is still not that good. It does seem strange writing my small bit for the newsletter whilst we are on holiday in France. Where we stay, Seche Boue is situated on a hill surrounded by farm land. As I look across the mainly open country side, I

see fields that had wheat only a few weeks ago, harvested, with large round bails of hay. Fields with sunflowers that are now beginning to lower their heads and very straight rows of maize. Occasionally, huge jets of water can be seen, watering the crops. This is clearly a very different setting to the one in which Paul wrote some of his letters of advice and encouragement to the young churches of the New Testament.

Paul's experience of Jesus is that of our own. He never met the man who was to change his life so dramatically, that he was to become the most important writer in the Bible. There are fourteen letters attributed to Paul, some of which are addressed to individuals with whom Paul shared his

missionary journeys. However, there has been significant discussion, as I have mentioned in the past, whether Paul actually wrote them all. Many scholars question the letter to the Hebrews and this has gained wide agreement.

Before his conversion, he was known as Saul. He was born of Hebrew parents around A.D. 5 in Tarsus, a city of Cilicia. He became a Roman citizen and also became fluent in speaking and writing in the Greek language. He was brought up in Jerusalem. He was a Pharisee and his trade was tent-making.

After his conversion in A.D. 37, and gaining approval from the Apostles, he set out on various missionary expeditions. On the first journey (A.D. 45-47), Barnabas was his partner. On the

second journey (A.D. 50-54), Silas (or Silvanus) was his partner. For part of the third journey (A.D. 50-54), Luke was his partner. Paul was imprisoned in Jerusalem in A.D. 58, in Cæsarea from A.D. 58-60, and in Rome from A.D. 61-63 and from A.D. 65-67. Church tradition records that Paul was beheaded by the command of the Roman Emperor, Nero.

Paul's letters are important because they give sound advice on what it means to be 'church' as individuals and collectively. I have realised as I have got older, that being 'church' means something slightly different to each generation. What I mean is

that each generation discovers for themselves what church means to them. As the older generation we should encourage and guide. It also means that we should learn to accept perhaps, slightly different ways of doing things. Whatever changes may happen, we still have one mission. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to remind them. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. This is in chapter 4 of 2 Corinthians.

A bientot




Eunice insisted Cedric show her just where in the Bible it said men couldn't do the washing up.

Smile Lines

I know what you meant, but it's not what you said...

These are classics - real life extracts from church bulletins and announcements that didn't come out quite in the way intended!

From a pew-sheet: Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.

Announcement in an Episcopalian pew-sheet: Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8pm in the church recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Report in a church magazine: Miss Charlene Mason sang I will not pass this way again, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

From a pew-sheet: Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

From an announcement: The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.

From a pew-sheet: Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. Do go along if you can sing at all. They need all the help they can get.

From an announcement: Sadly, Barbara remains in the hospital awaiting more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping, and has requested tapes of the minister's sermons.

When atheism is the default stance of the media...

Atheism is a 'delusion', a 'fairy tale for those afraid of the light'. That was the message from Prof John Lennox from Oxford University, who urges Christians to have 'the courage to create public space' for the discussion of 'a biblical worldview' in society – citing the example of Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English 400 years ago.

Dr Lennox was addressing over 600 people at the recent Bible Society-sponsored National Prayer Breakfast, held at the Houses of Parliament. As Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, Dr Lennox has frequently spoken out against modern-day atheism, calling Richard Dawkins 'wrong'.

Dr Lennox said that the new atheism is responsible for "the moral drift" in today's society. And he added that science and religion are not opposed. "There is no necessary conflict between science and God, the real conflict is between worldviews, atheism and theism," he said. "God is not the same kind of explanation as science is," he added. "God is the explanation of why there is a universe at all in which science can be done."

He warned that, "The playing field is not level since atheism has become so dominant ... and is often regarded as the default position in the media." The risk of this is, he said, that society would forget "the contribution of Christianity to the moral foundations of our society". And he hinted, this was already to be seen in both the parliamentary expenses scandal, as well as the Leveson enquiry.

"If we teach people that morality is an illusion, they will begin to believe it," said Prof Lennox. "Many already have with the result that our institutions are awash with scandal, families are increasingly fractured, people are lonelier than ever and trust is at an all-time low. We have sown a wind and are reaping a whirlwind."

Earlier, in a statement, the Prime Minister David Cameron said, "It is encouraging that Christianity still plays such a vital role in our national life. We are a country with a Christian heritage and we should not be afraid to say so."

Whole Life Discipleship: 'And whatever you do!'

Do you know how to train fleas? Take an ordinary jar and place dozens of fleas in it. Put a lid on the top of the jar, and leave them for a few days. When you remove the lid the fleas will only jump to a few millimetres below where the lid has been. The fleas are now trained and will not jump out of the jar. (Though it is probably best not to try this experiment in your home!)

In the church today we are often 'trained' not to live beyond the limits, as whole life disciples! We can view discipleship as more about the sacred part of life rather than the secular. Are we aware of what God is doing in our school, workplace, with friends and family, on our street or in our leisure time? Whole life disciples spend every day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus in their lives. As the apostle Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' (Colossians 3:17)

We do ordinary things in the name or character of Jesus ie acting in the same way that Jesus would do if he were in our place.

It's helpful to think in terms of frontlines, the places where we spend most of our week: everyone has a frontline: young or old, working or not, sick or well. This could be our workplace, home, college, community or club.

This is where God has called us! God is at work on our frontline to shape and use us, making it a place where we can grow as a disciple and make a difference to those around.

As churches we need to be committed to helping each other see the significance of our frontlines in God's purposes. Are we supporting one another, especially in prayer? As one teacher put it: "I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday school and they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. The rest of the week I'm a full-time teacher and the church has never prayed for me. That says it all."

With less than 7% of the UK population going to church, God wants to use us as salt and light wherever we spend time. Christians are exactly where they need to be to serve him, so that others might see what a disciple of Jesus looks like, as we grow as disciples ourselves.

First results from the 2012 London Church Census

The number of people going to church on a Sunday in London leaped by 16% between 2005 and 2012. There are roughly 720,000 people in London going to church on a Sunday, nearly 100,000 more than the last time they were counted, seven years ago.

The diverse congregations filling London's churches on a Sunday now represent a quarter of all English churchgoers, as 8.8% of Londoners go to church each week (nearly 10% in inner

London) compared with 5.6% of people in the rest of England.

These findings are from the London Church Census commissioned by London City Mission and carried out by Brierley Consultancy in October 2012.

The growth is largely driven by London's ethnic diversity. Two new churches opened in London every week between 2005 and 2012. Two-thirds of them were Pentecostal Black Majority Churches (BMC) and a third catered for a particular language or ethnic group.

Another vibrant strand in London's church growth is the number of larger churches, categorised as those with over 200 people on a Sunday, though over a third of them have more than 500.

Larger churches account for 23% of all churches and just over half of all churchgoers (54%).

The very largest congregations, the 140 that have over 800 people attending each Sunday,

represent 3% of the churches and 12% of the churchgoers in London.

Diary

September

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|--|
| Sun 1st | 10:30am | Communion with Revd Martin Legg |
| Mon 2nd | 8:00pm | Book Club |
| Tues 3rd | 7:30pm | Elders Meeting |
| Sun 8th | 10:30am 5:30pm | Parade with Lynda Cook Second Sunday Study |
| Wed 11th | | Girls Brigade start back |
| Sun 15th | 10:30am | Morning Worship with Dr Paul Ashitey |
| Sun 22nd | 10:30am | Morning Worship with Revd Martin Legg Followed by Harvest Celebration BBQ |
| Sun 29th | 10:30am | Morning Worship with Jill Nugent |

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 15th September

PRAYER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2013

For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain.
Philippians 1:21 NIV

Sunday 1st

Thanks for carers and those helping people to stay in their own homes

Monday 2nd

Ray, Frances, Jackie, Yannick Ray Rr & Catherine Nguene

Tuesday 3rd

Member of Parliament for Edmonton - Andy Love

Wednesday 4th

Cross Road

Thursday 5th

Staff and pupils at Raglan Primary School

Friday 6th

Ruth, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Give thanks for the hard won freedoms we enjoy in the UK

Monday 9th

Tony, Diann, Rebecca, Joseph & Stephen Nicolaides

Tuesday 10th

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park – Jonas Hall

Wednesday 11th

Delhi Road

Thursday 12th

Staff and pupils at George Spicer Primary

Friday 13th

Karam, our sponsored child
in Bethlehem

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Thanks for Thanks for an-
swered prayers

Monday 16th

Mabel Osae

Tuesday 17th

Member of Parliament for
Enfield North - Nick de Bois

Wednesday 18th

Dimsdale Drive

Thursday 19th

Staff and pupils at Grafton
Nursery School

Friday 20th

Those suffering from alz-
heimers and the charities
who seek to find a cure

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for our Brigades as
they help local girls and boys
to learn useful skills

Monday 23rd

Sylvia Page

Tuesday 24th

Local Councillor for Bush Hill
Park – Denise Headley

Wednesday 25th

Downs Road

Thursday 26th

Staff and pupils at Bush Hill
Park Primary School

Friday 27th

Those suffering from Multiple
Sclerosis and the charities
who seek to find a cure

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

Thanks for the preachers
who come to our church
each Sunday

Monday 30th

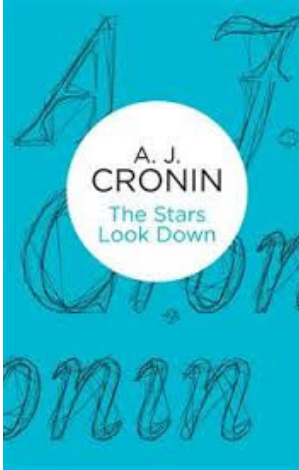
Sue Paraskeva

Tuesday 31st

Local Councillor for Bush Hill
Park – Denise Headley



Book Club

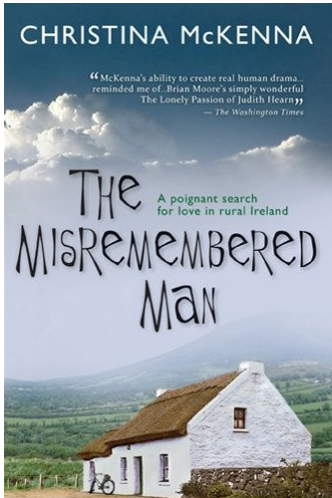


The Stars Look Down by A J Cronin

We enjoyed this book immensely, didn't think we would because of the mining aspect, expecting it to be very dark indeed, but although of course it was dark in many places (especially the pit disaster) we loved the characters. David was a favourite but his 'flighty' wife was frustrating to read about; yet he still loved her. His mother was surprising being disappointed when he 'bettered' himself.

Although written in 1930s referring back to circumstances in the mines before and after

World War I there are so many similarities to our present day politics and, questionably, leaders of industry.

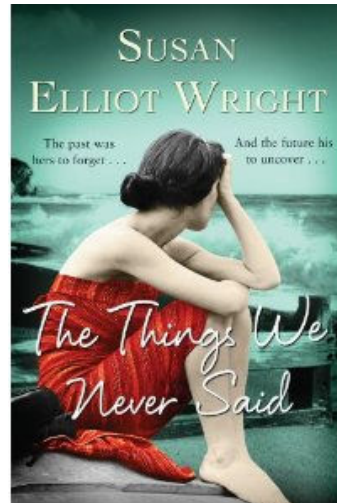


The Misremembered Man by Christina McKenna

Divided opinions on this book, which made for an interesting discussion. It had fun, tragedy, sadness and joy. Very descriptive writing; you could have been there back in the 1970s in rural Ireland. What did happen to Jamie in the end? The group

had their own thoughts on this.

For 2nd September we read 'The things we never said' by Susan Elliot Wright



Sylvia Page.

Be a messy gardener

This autumn, don't clean up your garden too much for the winter – leave some messy bits. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds fears that 'sterile' gardens where nature cannot survive are contributing to the decline in wildlife.

Instead, build 'homes for nature', urges the RSPB: leave some weeds and garden debris, let the grass stay long, don't cut all the nettles, leave the odd log to rot, and cut a hole in your fence for the hedgehogs. You can also fill a bucket with woodchips, soil and rotten branches for insects. Or fill up an old washing bowl with water and gravel to create a 'mini pond'.

Many celebrity gardeners applaud this approach. Monty Don of the BBC's *Gardener's World* recently tweeted: 'Do not strive after tidiness'. The RSPB campaign is in response to a report that 60 per cent of species in the UK have suffered declines in the past few decades. Our sparrows, starlings, grass snakes, frogs, voles and badgers need our help to breed, move around and survive.

Mike Clarke, chief executive of the RSPB, says: "Nature in the UK is in trouble. Gardens provide a valuable lifeline for species like starlings, toads, hedgehogs and butterflies, which are struggling to find homes in the wider countryside. Although the overall problem is huge, the solution can start on a small scale....Our aim is to provide one million homes for nature across the UK, because if there is no home for nature, then there's no nature – it really is that serious."



TEEN meets GOD: Luke's story

I grew up in a Christian household, but my parents left the decision to me over whether I'd decide to become a Christian. I attended church regularly with them and built up a nucleus of friends there, but ultimately I was left to make my own choice.

When I was 11 I attended a 'Saltmine' camp, which was a Christian summer camp. I got this amazing buzz through being in the meetings – a kind of spiritual 'high' - and this was the first time I began to feel like God was real. I made a decision that week that I would follow Jesus.

However, life quickly settled back into its status quo and a few years later I found myself fairly unhappy, and so looked to my Bible for help. I continued attending summer camps and, aged 14, felt a renewed sense of purpose. I decided that year to get baptised, and this is when I believe I truly became a Christian. I didn't want to just be a Sunday Christian and I wanted my faith to be for always. I didn't want to lose the feeling that I got at these camps and I knew that was only achievable through getting to know God better.

Since that point my life has slowly flourished. I began standing up for my faith at school and to my surprise people began to accept it. Of course there's a lot of banter around these sorts of things, but actually I've felt enabled to strengthen my friendships with people and tell them about God. I've begun reading my Bible more and have found that the more things I give over to God (exams, sports, etc.) the more things seem to grow and prosper.

I now have a solid church family, and a sense of belonging that is so important. I've now co-founded a Christian website for teenagers, and I've even begun to preach, which is something I'm extremely passionate about for the future. Loads of exciting things have happened since I became a Christian!

Luke is 16 and lives in the Midlands. He's the co-founder of the website: www.forchristianteens.com

Luke made a decision to follow Jesus. He prayed, asking God to forgive him for the things he does wrong, and then he promised to live God's way. To find out more about the Christian faith, visit www.lookingforgod.com

Boys' Brigade News ¹⁵

Where to begin? Well let me start during the middle of July. After taking the boys on a brief expedition weekend, we held another grand jumble sale in the hall. We had spent the previous 2 weeks collecting all sorts of jumble from around Bush Hill Park.

On the Saturday of the sale, there was a long queue of people in the car park by 9.30am (the doors didn't open till 10am). Once we opened the doors, the jumble hungry people swamped the stalls, looking for those cheap 20p deals (they even manage to haggle the price when something is costing just 10p). After a few hours of hard work by all the sellers, the sale was over. It turned out to be very successful and raised some funds to help subsidise camp for the boys.

The last Monday session of the summer for the company section was our annual game of Danish rounder's and the BBQ of all BBQ's.

We finished the summer session with the long awaited Camp 2013. (Excitingly there are now less than 11 months to go till camp 2014). Once again we were off to the Isle of Wight for a week of fun. Our theme for camp this year was 'Circus' and everyone made a massive effort to arrive on Saturday morning dressed as all kinds of Circus characters. Myself and Mr Rencho were dressed as ring masters, with Mr Ward dressing as the strange peg selling man from the league of gentlemen, that goes 'Dave'. Chris was a strongman. The boys all made a massive effort and looked great. We had 2 clowns, 2 magicians, 1 side show freaky hairy man, 2 strong men, 2 fortune tellers, 1 fire eater, 1 lion tamer and 2, yes 2, bearded ladies. Seeing is believing, so I will put a few pics up in the church lounge for you to have a look at.

It was very funny stopping at Mac Donald's on the way and watching people look in disbelief at the strange bus of lads that pulled into the car park. It was even better on the ferry, especially as the lads got the captain to announce that we were on board.

After the heat wave that had hit the country over the previous weeks, it was a shock to hear reports that rain and storms were on the way!! But we normally spend most of camp being wet anyway, so we didn't worry. As it happened, it was raining a bit Saturday afternoon & evening and then it was fantastic weather all week, apart from Tuesday. The rain didn't affect us on Saturday as we were wet in the sea anyway! In fact the sea was warmer than the rain! On the Tuesday we spent the day on mountain bikes, doing an amazing 40 mile bike ride, so again the weather was no problems. In fact, having large muddy puddles to ride through at high speeds was great. It was even better if you managed to splash Mr Cutts who was avoiding them!!

The week was crammed full of activities, and food! We went to the beach and the sea was great. Everyone swam in the sea and there were large inflatable dinghies that the boys piled into (well until the staff capsized them and then took them over). Then the Senior boys thought they would try and capsize the staff - never. Also while on the beach, the lads would have free time to do things like - dig a hole to bury Namdi in, or go crabbing on the rocks.

Back in the field we organised different things such as Football competition, Wallyball tournaments, large initiative puzzles, slippery pole, balloon games, assault course and the feats of strength. This year the bush tucker trials also returned with some crazy challenges. Ice cream, doughnuts, chillies, how many baked beans in the mouth.

We returned to Head Hunters this year, which is an outdoor lazar shooting game, set in the woods. Two teams battle it out to capture the opposition's base.

On Wednesday, the circus came to camp and everyone got back into their fancy dress again for the day. As we were going down to the beach that morning, for the beach Olympics, we held a beach parade. This meant we paraded (in the fancy dress), marching to a band, through the public camp site and onto the beach. We do this every year, and regular campers look forward to us marching past in strange costumes. What was

even funnier was the looks from the other BB campsites nearby, who managed to stop playing football for a minute, to stare at us (I mean they seemed to do nothing else all week than play football).

Once down on the beach, we commenced with our very traditional beach Olympics. This event has some very Olympic styled things in it, like races, and throwing things. It also has some 2nd Enfield style events. Like the burpo competition - drinking a 2 litre bottle of coke the quickest. This year I was pleased to uphold my 20th consecutive year of winning the Burpo competition, with a very acceptable time of 1 min and 14 seconds.

As part of the circus day, we organised a range of circus style events, like tight rope walking, pie throwing (Extra points for their tents if they hit the other person in the face with the pie). Knife throwing (except we replaced the knives with water balloons), coconut shy, carnival games, plate spinning. You get the idea. The field was like a circus all afternoon.

I said last year that camp 2012 was one of the best, but I feel that this year's camp topped that. It was a really enjoyable week. Did I mention that there are less than 11 months to go till camp 2014.

At the end of the session we also said goodbye to Michael, Thomas, Charlie, Raymond & David, who leave us now as young men. four of them have been part of the company since they were very young and have made it all the way through the company. Its always quite sad to say goodbye to lads that have become such a part of the company, but like most old boys, we know they will hold the 2nd Enfield close to their hearts. I do hope that they keep in touch. They will of course be getting their official discharge certificates during the enrolment service in October.

And now we are fully up to date. We all start back to BB the week of September the 9th and are looking forward to a packed programme of events. There will be our normal trips away in the coming months as well as many competitions.

Andrew Caddies

Wordsearch

Luke 4 tells the story of one of the greatest moments in world history: the day Jesus first began his public ministry, and proclaimed that it was he whom Isaiah had been talking about. He was in the synagogue in Nazareth, and on that Sabbath morning he stood up to read: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom...release the oppressed...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' The Messiah had begun his work on earth.

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| nazareth | countryside | jesus | synagogue | isaiah |
| scroll | spirit | lord | anointed | me |
| proclaim | freedom | prisoners | recovery | sight |
| blind | release | oppressed | proclaim | year |
| favour | stood | prophet | good | news |
| sat | written | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | B | E | S | L | O | I | P | P | F | L | E | E | R |
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| E | N | E | N | P | O | O | D | N | O | R | Z | O | N |
| E | D | L | H | O | E | U | D | G | U | A | S | T | S |
| R | P | E | A | D | I | E | A | N | R | P | O | L | E |
| N | T | R | A | E | Y | N | F | E | S | R | L | S | E |
| M | E | D | I | S | Y | R | T | N | U | O | C | J | R |
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| G | O | L | S | E | O | O | U | C | D | L | P | R | T |
| V | O | N | D | R | O | N | S | I | S | A | I | A | H |
| E | E | O | H | P | E | N | E | T | T | I | R | W | G |
| W | M | E | D | P | A | E | J | R | O | M | I | R | I |
| N | R | E | C | O | V | E | R | Y | S | A | T | N | S |

Big catering headache!

Bible Sketchbook



What a catering headache! Thousands of people following Jesus with nothing to eat. Jesus told his followers "You feed them." Impossible - all they could find were two fishes and five small loaves. Undaunted Jesus gave thanks to God, blessed the food and gave it to his followers to give out. They trusted Jesus, and amazingly, at least 5,000 were fed with 12 baskets left over. His followers trusted Jesus to provide; how about you?

Read more in Matthew 14: 13-21



