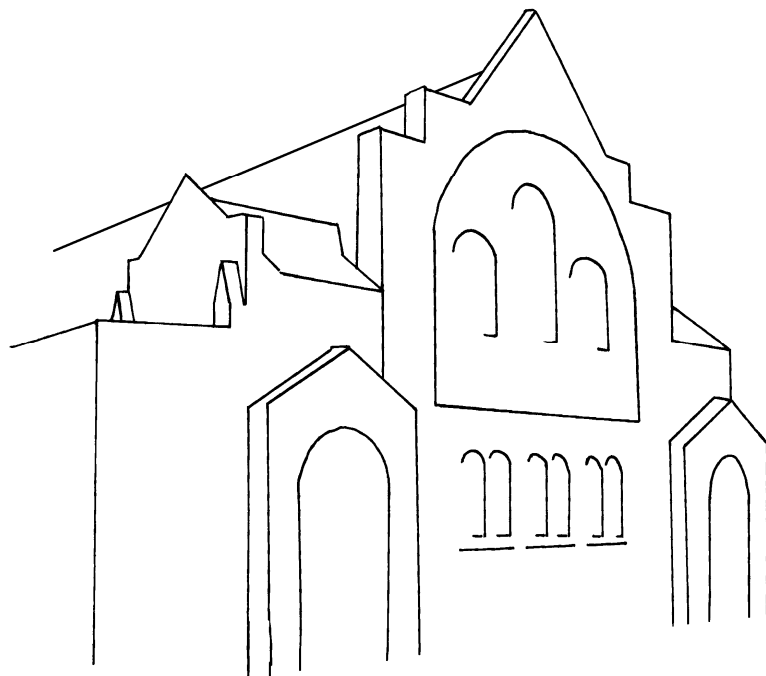




September
2015

Newsletter



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk

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Secretary
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John Vyse	020 8367 0362

Minister's open office

You can find our Minister, Henriette, between 10am and 12pm in the churches as follows:

Wednesday - Bush Hill Park

Thursday - Christ Church (knock loudly on side door that is found as you go towards the nursing home behind the church)

Friday - Lancaster Road

People from all three churches are welcome to come and see Henriette on any of these days. Of course, if you wish to speak to Henriette at any other time you can email HenrietteWentinkNL@gmail.com or call 020 8366 1284.

Please remember Henriette's day off is Tuesdays.

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.

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 27th September. All material for inclusion should be emailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk by **Sunday 13th September.**



“Church growth is rubbish...” 3

... Declares Michael Harvey, and he clearly enjoys the collective intake of breath by his audience. The man behind Back to Church Sunday and author of the book *Unlocking the Growth* has the gift to rattle people. He likes to entertain and exaggerate as he speaks; to drive his point home.

Harvey is passionate in his belief that all Christians are called to plant and water for God but that church growth itself is God's business (see 1 Cor. 3:5-7). He reminds churches that we have lost the plot in thinking that it is up to us to get 'bums on seats.' In our concern over how to increase numbers we are neglecting our real calling; to plant and to water.

But is that then not happening, in our churches where everyone is welcome? 'Not necessarily,' replies Harvey without hesitation. Being a welcoming church is not enough and it actually leaves us blinkered. Our welcome has to be taken across the threshold of our buildings. People need to be actively invited on a personal level, before they set foot in church. Personal invitation; that is what planting is all about.

So: invite a friend to come to church!

But it is not that simple, is it? What if they say 'no'? What if they ask us difficult questions to which we do not know the answers? Or worse; what if they do say 'yes'? Are we happy to introduce our friends to our church family? Or will they just embarrass us?

Our fear of 'what if' (ultimately our fear of rejection) prevents us from being invitational people. But God tells us again and again: 'Do not fear... for I am with you!' (Gen. 26:24, Isa 41:10, Jer. 1:8, 42:11, Zeph. 3:16-17, to name but a few places.) You see, God is already at work outside our church buildings, preparing the people who are waiting to be invited. He calls us to plant, to water, to simply invite. That's all we need to do. The 'yes' or the 'no' in answer to the question is God's. We do not need to worry about that part.

Of course we may hear many 'no's' before we get a 'yes.' It is to be expected. Successful athletes are well familiar with the concept of having to try hundreds of times before hitting success. The world's most celebrated minds are used to the idea. And Jesus himself knew all about rejection! What are we thinking when we believe we should not have to face rejection? Harvey challenges us: if we have not been rejected recently (for the sake of God's Kingdom) are we even 'in the game?'

Success in church has nothing to do with numbers or statistics. It is about moving back to faithfulness.

It happens when one person is inviting another person to come to church, no matter what the answer... and again and again. We are about to enter the perfect season of the year to invite a friend to church. There are celebrations for harvest; special Sundays when uniformed organisations renew promises; anniversaries; Remembrance Sunday; Advent and Christmas. The opportunities are plenty! Go on... invite someone to church this autumn and be surprised about what God is doing.

Yours in Christ,
Henriette



*Shirley reminded them they were going out
there to praise the Lord, not to kick ass*

Smile Lines

5

If biblical headlines were written by today's modern media...

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE

Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

On David vs. Goliath:

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION

Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY

400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS

Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

ITINERANT PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED

"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE

Local Farmer's Investment Lost

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK

Reading of Will now to be Delayed

Here is the News

Please remember **Phyl Cox** , her daughter Anne and son Stephen. Phyl is currently in hospital following a possible slight stroke. We have no further news at the moment.

Best wishes for **Barbara Camp** just starting retirement and not having to worry when the kids go back to school.

Well done to **Mwabi Mwenya** for getting good grades in her GCSE examinations – best wishes as she goes to 6th form college.

It is with sadness we hear of the sudden death of Rev **David Jenkins** from Palmers Green URC. In earlier years he was a good help to the Elders here during vacancies. We send our condolences to Jill and the family.

Congratulations and good wishes to **Christine Hughes** as she has celebrated reaching another decade!!!

Please remember **Margaret Trevallion** and family with the passing of her mother.

The **Boys Brigade** camp went well, their fancy dress theme for travelling to the Isle of Wight was “Star Wars”, if you look on the mini bus you can see some humorous signs which go along with the theme. A full report should be in the next newsletter.

The boys are celebrating their 125th Anniversary soon, there are a few things going on (see Andrew Caddies for more details), in particular there will be a special anniversary parade on Sunday 18th October. Do come and support the boys.

Asia Bibi stay of execution welcomed by Release International

Release International has welcomed a stay of execution for Asia Bibi – a Christian mother who has been on death row in Pakistan for blasphemy. The Supreme Court has suspended the death sentence pending an appeal.



Release, which supports persecuted Christians around the world, wants Asia's acquittal, a review of all blasphemy cases, and Pakistan to repeal its notorious blasphemy laws. All too often, allegations of blasphemy are used to settle scores with rivals. Those accused can face imprisonment and the death penalty. And even if acquitted, they can be murdered by extremists.

It's almost five years since illiterate farm labourer Asia Bibi became the first woman in Pakistan to be sentenced to death for blasphemy. Since then, Asia has been confined to a cell on death row. One cleric offered a reward of 500,000 rupees – about £4,000 – for the person who puts her to death. Militants have threatened to blow her up in prison, and her husband and children have been forced to go into hiding.



Christian Aid helps Gaza

We all remember the appalling pictures of the bombed buildings last year... it is so easy to forget the devastation is still there.

One year after war devastated large parts of the Gaza strip, Christian Aid has announced that: "Thanks to the generosity of the British public and the tremendous work of our partners in Gaza, the Christian Aid Gaza Crisis Appeal has reached 115,000 people and continues to help tens of thousands more by providing water, food, shelter, agricultural rehabilitation, counselling and healthcare.

8 **Operation Christmas Child launches search for everyone who has ever packed a Shoebox**

As part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign, the charity Samaritan's Purse is launching a nation-wide search for anyone who has ever packed a shoebox with them. It wants to hear from them.

Samaritan's Purse UK Executive Director Simon Barrington explains: "Where and when did they pack it? What they included, was there something particularly special they remember about their experience? We want to hear their stories of the impact it's had on them and why they got involved."

In the two decades since Operation Christmas Child began, 124 million children who have received shoebox gifts in Jesus' name. "It's a great way for all of us to make a difference in a child's life, to share God's love, to let them know they are not forgotten."

Samaritan's Purse plans to capture and share stories and photographs of everyone who's ever been involved, and to bring to life online and through social media, what Operation Christmas Child has meant to so many people.

There is also encouragement for everyone who has ever done a shoebox to get involved in this year's campaign: "Last year we were able to distribute more than 10 million shoebox gifts to children all over the world, some of whom live in the darkest of places. This year we want to reach a million more precious children with a simple shoebox gift. With your help and prayers, we will."

Tell us your story and help us to find everyone who has ever packed a shoebox! Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/yourshoeboxstory

What goes into the box is fun,
what comes out is eternal



Diary

September

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities
The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

Sun 6th	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Revd Henriette Wentink
Wed 9th		Girls Brigade restarts
Sun 13th	10:30am 5:30pm	Family worship with Christine Eaton from The Leprosy Mission Sunday Evening Reflection with Martin Hamblin
Mon 14th	8:00pm	Boys Brigade restarts Book Club
Thur 17th	7:45pm	Church Meeting
Sun 20th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Chris Hall
Sun 27th	10:30am	Harvest Worship with Revd Henriette Wentink

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 13th September

PRAYER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2015

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10

Tuesday 1st

Staff and pupils at Edmonton
County School

Wednesday 2nd

Dimsdale Drive

Thursday 3rd

Persecuted church in
Afghanistan

Friday 4th

The Boys' & Girls' Brigade staff
and the recruitment efforts

Saturday 5th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 6th

Thanks for our musicians, the
stewards, tea makers and
those who project our services

and provide the flowers week
by week

Monday 7th

Mavis Seligmann

Tuesday 8th

Staff and pupils at Enfield
Grammar School

Wednesday 9th

Downs Road

Thursday 10th

Persecuted church in Saudi
Arabia

Friday 11th

That parents will encourage
their children to attend the
Brigades

Saturday 12th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 13th

Thanks for those who love us
and share our lives

Monday 14th

Robert Stone

Tuesday 15th

Staff and pupils at Enfield
County School

Wednesday 16th

East Crescent

Thursday 17th

Persecuted church in Somalia

Friday 18th

Karam, our sponsored child in
Bethlehem

Saturday 19th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 20th

Thanks for those who help with
Kings Club and TWS

Monday 21st

Sue & Graham Stubbs

Tuesday 22nd

Staff and pupils at Chace
Community School

Wednesday 23rd

Erminside

Thursday 24th

Persecuted church in Maldives

Friday 25th

For Henriette and the future of
our church and fellowship

Saturday 26th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 27th

Thanks for those who teach us
whether at school, university or as
we get older in self-help groups

Monday 28th

Vicky, Wayne, Jude, Owen &
Tilly Thompson

Tuesday 29th

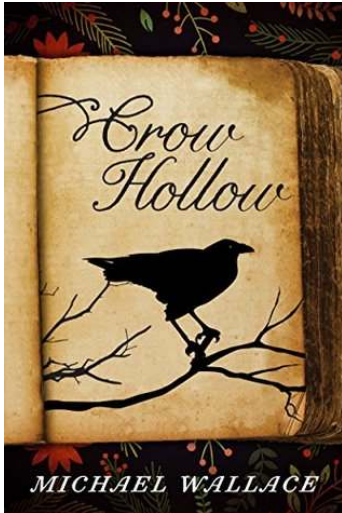
Staff and pupils at Kingsmead
School

Wednesday 30th

Falmer Road



Book Club



Crow Hollow by Michael Wallace.

Set in 1676, an unlikely pair—a young Puritan widow and an English spy—journey across a land where greed and treachery abound.

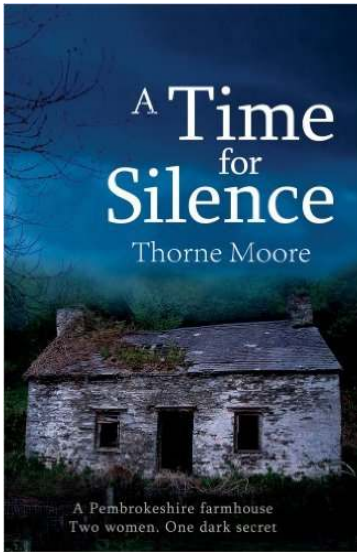
Prudence Cotton has recently lost her husband and is desperate to find her daughter, captured by the Nipmuk tribe during King Philip's war (that was new to some of us. His Indian name was Metacomet). She's convinced her daughter is alive but cannot track her into the wilderness alone. Help arrives in the form of James Bailey, an agent of the crown sent to Boston to investigate the murder of Prudence's husband

and to covertly cause a disturbance that would give the King just cause to install royal governors. After his Quaker partner is murdered, James needs help too. He strikes a deal with Prudence, he will help her find her daughter in return for her help when communicating with the Nipmuk tribe (she learned to speak Nipmuk during her time of captivity), and together they traverse the forbidding New England landscape looking for clues. What they confront in the wilderness—and what they discover about each other—could forever change their allegiances and alter their destinies.

Perhaps a bit contrived, this took us into unknown territory. We were not proud of our Puritan ancestors and their involvement in the destruction of native Indians; we found the Puritans a harsh and unforgiving religious group, but we liked the Quakers who were so distrusted by the settlers. We learned about the ways of living in that outback America as the New Englanders pushed back into the land in the west.

Some characters we liked others we didn't; as is often the case. Not a bad read...

We meet on Tuesday 4th August having read 'A time for Silence' by Thorne



Moore (an unknown author). It does start with quotes from Ecclesiastes. 13

Sylvia & Yvonne

A time for silence by Thorne More

One way of looking at this novel is that it is a good title. What would you have done in the early 1900s in a remote farm cottage in Pembrokeshire with an abusive husband, pillar of the Welsh chapel; renowned for his singing?

In modern times when Sarah, struggling to get over personal tragedy, stumbles across her grandparents' ruined farm, it feels as if

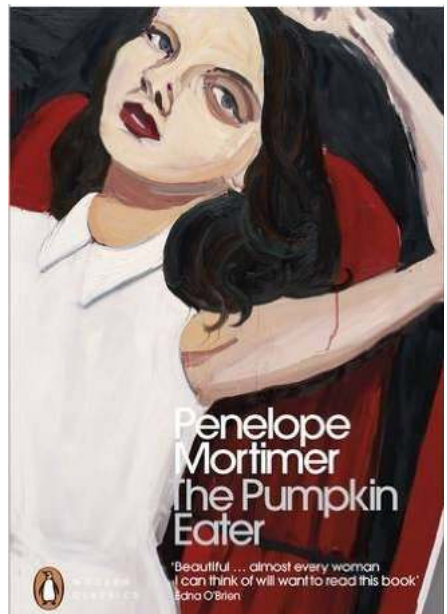
the house has been waiting for her. She is drawn to their apparently idyllic way of life and starts to look into her family history, only to learn that her grandfather, Jack, was murdered. Villagers did clam up when something happened; policing was poor. The main character is somewhat naive but so many of us are.

Another different read; enjoyed by some of us but not others. One of our members knows the area well and it is miles from civilisation even now.

Next month we meet on Monday 14th September having returned to old literature with 'The Pumpkin Eater' by Penelope Mortimer.

Next Book Club is Monday 14 September at 8pm when we will have read 'The Pumpkin Eater' by Penelope Mortimer.

Sylvia Page



Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea & Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
6th	Evelyn	Witter	Mavis & Jill		
13th	Judith	Brigades	Jane & Ivy	Barbara	Rensch
20th	Kath	Judith	Valerie	GB	
27th	Alison	Tony	Jill	Alison	Rensch

If you can fill in the gaps above please put your name in the sheet on the wall in the lounge.

If you would like to do any of the above but feel you'd need a little guidance first please talk to Lisa, she'll make sure you find the right person. The sound room is easier than you think - go on, volunteer!



Alas, 'With his little ukulele
in his hand' isn't in the hymnal.

‘Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.’ (C S Lewis).

As we look at the challenge of forgiving one another, let’s remember Paul’s words, ‘Forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.’ (Col 3:13). What do the four ‘gives’ of forgiveness look like in the Christian community?

God gave His Son for us: Paul’s word for forgiveness carries the meaning ‘be gracious’, as an expression of God’s grace i.e. His unconditional love and acceptance of us. This is demonstrated on the Cross, when God who gave His Son to die for us. Therefore, forgiveness is not dependent on anything we do, but on what God has done for us!

God gave us life in Jesus: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is.’ (1). Paul reminds us that Christians have new life and forgiveness through their relationship with Christ. It is His forgiveness that releases us from the resentment and bitterness e.g. ‘anger, rage, malice, slander’ (8). We can only really forgive others, when we know God’s forgiveness ourselves.

We give forgiveness to others: Forgiveness is never easy, as it requires effort and prayer. On the one hand, it is a choice we make; a decision of the heart to release others, and let go bitterness and revenge. On the other hand, it can be a process, in which we have to keep on forgiving others. In answer to Peter, who wanted to know how often to forgive, Jesus said, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but 77’ (Matt 18: 22). It can take time (if at all!) to achieve reconciliation.

God gives perfect forgiveness: How often do we can find ourselves saying, ‘I’ll forgive, but I can’t forget or things will never be the same again?’ We forgive often on a limited and conditional basis, while God’s forgiveness is perfect, ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’ (Jer 31:34). Like God, it’s not simply a matter of forgetting, but choosing not to remember. This involves not dwelling on resentment or hurts, but wishing people well, rather than seeking revenge.

A young Christian confessed his sin to God and promised not to do it again. An hour later he was back, ‘God, I’ve done it again!’ he said. ‘Done what?’ replied God.

Girls' Brigade News

Firstly we must thank you all for your continued prayers. We have had several enquiries from parents about new starters hopefully they will come along in September. We are also pleased that Rachel is going to help us with the Senior section so things are looking up.

Our camp which although small was a very happy affair. Our journey was uneventful although traffic was slow at times due to the problems with the channel tunnel and our first stop was to the Pick and Paint a Pot shop. Here we were able to choose something to paint and decorate using various methods which would then be glazed and fired. This was a really relaxing fun time and I am sure that we will show you the products of our labour in September. The house in Ramsgate was a little like the Tardis it appeared small from the outside but was very large once inside. On Sunday we went to the local church Hardres Street United Church, the members made us all very welcome and send their good wishes to Bush Hill Park. Unfortunately Sunday was a rather wet day but it did stop long enough for the girls to do a Foot Rally around the town.

Monday took us to Quex Park where we had the challenge of Laser Rush. We were divided into two teams which turned out to be staff against girls with the addition of two young boys on each team. The staff's self-appointed leader soon gave instructions and we took it in good part (at times) being bossed about by a 15 year old. Unfortunately, his strategy did not work and we were soon all killed off and our position, the church, was captured. So the girls won in the first round. The objectives changed for the second round, the staff were to attack uphill, not wishing to be beaten again the staff ignored the leader and advanced through the trees to defeat the girls team. The last game was a free for all which was won by the oldest member of the group who hid in a bunker and picked the others off from a safe hiding place.

Tuesday was a walk to Broadstairs with a bit of history to see Bleak House followed by a team challenge of mini golf. After the evening meal

it was down to the swimming pool for an hour or two.

Wednesday we had to get up early as we were going on a boat trip to see the seals and birds, fortunately the wind had stopped blowing and the sun had come out. We were able to get fairly close to the seals who were basking in the sunshine. The afternoon was sandcastle competition time. Some opted for the ideas of defence for the occupants, others went for the looks but the most enthusiastic was Charlotte and Sue completing theirs in record time with the help of a small person who came to visit. Wednesday evening saw us back again in Broadstairs for the fireworks display. We just got there in time for a torrential down pour that lasted the whole evening. However, soaked through, we watched the amazing fireworks and some bought the usual flashing light hats and headbands.

Thursday was back to Margate to collect our pottery and visit the shell grotto which was amazing.

Friday was packing up day and once everything was loaded into the cars we went to visit the Ramsgate Tunnels. This was most interesting. The tunnels run under the town of Ramsgate and were used during the Second World War as air raid shelters. As the war progressed doctors held surgeries and the WVS had help stations down in the tunnels. Some people actually lived in the tunnels for a large part of the war as they had lost their homes. A very interesting place if you are ever down that way.

There were of course other activities and challenges going on throughout the week for which girls were awarded prizes. Thank you to everyone who made this a very happy week, to those who sent cakes and especially Lynda who did all the planning then at the last minute was unable to come.

Our new session starts on Wednesday 9th September and we still have room for more members. Please continue to pray for the staff and girls but also spread the word about The Brigade.

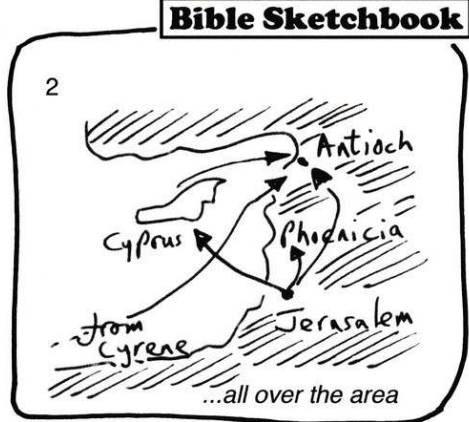
Charlotte McBride

Wordsearch

For some reason, the Church gives thanks for angels in September. The 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.

thanks	angels	church	feast	michael
all	genesis	god	sent	messengers
intervene	garden	eden	lot	gideon
balaam	mouths	lions	daniel	archangel
gabriel	mary	mother	teaming	revelation
danger				

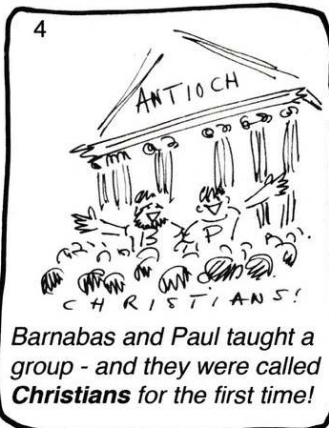




Persecuted...but kept on talking about Jesus!

There was terrible persecution of Christians after Stephen was stoned to death. Christians fled from Jerusalem but wherever they went they told people about

Jesus! They ended up in Cyprus, Phoenicia and Antioch. Some even came from Cyrene to help. Barnabas was sent to the new Christians in Antioch and was delighted at their faith. Paul joined him and they were amazed when the new believers made a huge gift to help starving Christians back in the Jerusalem area.



What a great response by the believers with both faith and giving. How would you respond in such a situation today?

Read more in Acts 11: 19-30



BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Monday	6.15pm	Boys' Brigade Junior Section
	7:30pm	Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
	8:00pm	Book Club (1st or 2nd Monday)
Tuesday	8:00pm	Housegroup (2nd & 4th Tuesday)
Wednesday	9:30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6:15pm	Girls' Brigade Explorers & Juniors
	7:40pm	Girls' Brigade Seniors & Brigaders
Thursday	7:30pm	Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training (when advised)
Friday	9:15am	Prayers in the Junior Room
	9:30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6:00pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
	7:30pm	TwS@bhpurc
Sunday	10:30am	Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)
	5:30pm	Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

