



Historic Missions in Merger Talks

Bill Lattimer has been appointed interim Executive Director of the South American Mission Society (SAMS), with a brief to lead the society in the short to medium term, particularly in discussions about a possible merger between SAMS and the Church Mission Society. The two long-established Anglican mission societies are looking at an approach that would maintain the integrity and focus of SAMS, while bringing it into the global network operated by CMS. Both parties have expressed their intention of consulting widely before any agreement is finalised.

Does this statement apply to you?

"We are all at risk of experiencing unhealthy levels of stress in its different forms, whether at work at home or in our church."

If so, you might be interested in a workshop offered by **Sevenokas Christian Counselling Service**, entitled 'Understanding Stress.' The workshop will explore the stress process and consider some coping strategies and stress management. It takes place on Saturday 24th November from 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. at Sevenoaks United Reform Church, St.John's Hill and will be led by Maureen King, Director of Training at SCCS. The cost for the morning is £15.

Many thanks to Alison Walters for her work on the Mission Committee on her resignation. Welcome to Andrew Hill, who will act as the link with the Bible Society.

What can you do?

The work of the Mission Committee in relationship with our partners includes: organizing the giving; building closer links; providing information to the congregation; arranging preachers from our partners; encouraging prayer and producing a prayer list.

If you would like prayer points, information or wish to help, the link people are named below, or please contact David Matthews on 01732 462485 or at matthews.dg@lineone.net.

International:

CMS - David Casiot
Crosslinks - David Matthews
FEBA - Ruth Barclay
The Bible Society - Andrew Hill
MAF - Mags Southgate

Local:

Sevenoaks Christian
Counselling Service - Robert Hunt
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust - Liz Cole
Churches Together in Sevenoaks
Literacy Project - Colin Fleetwood

National:

Children's Society - Sylvia Grafton
Scripture Union inc. Sheringham Beach Mission- Dawn Hallam

AND FINALLY....PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE AND ISSUES RAISED IN THESE REPORTS

A printable version of this newsletter is available at www.otford.info/st.bartholomews



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FOUR VOICES FROM LAST SUMMER

Sarah Hubbard writes about a trip to South America

I can say that Latin Link was an opening of my life with God. Whilst on projects in Argentina, I saw many witnesses to faith and testimonies to God. It was amazing to see a real commitment and to work with people so passionate about God. I can only hope that one day I am as close to God. Not only did I have a chance to see the world but I was put in a situation where I had to rely on God and everything was perfect. Now I'm at university with fewer Christian friends, I can push for God's word to be spread. I thank everyone who gave me this brilliant gap year: I have grown as a person and as a child of God.



God. It was so exciting and such a privilege to share in their outreach programme and to see how much God is working in that country. I was particularly struck by the amount of time the Christians there spend in prayer: up to four hours a day. I wonder if in the West we have forgotten how important it is to pray? While the Gambia is a predominantly Muslim country, there is a small number of Christians who, while on the face of it may look helpless, rely so completely on God's strength that amazing things are happening out there. Their persistence and passion in praying for revival in The Gambia was extremely humbling and highlighted the need for us here in the UK to start praying along similar lines for our own country.

Emma Torry writes about the Sheringham Beach Mission

The beach mission was a fantastic opportunity to meet other Christians and to introduce children of all ages to Christianity. The two weeks gave me a chance to explore my own faith in more depth and to hear about other people's experiences. My best memory is when we got to know the children as they came to the activities each day. It's an amazing thing to be able to take part in a beach mission as it is fun and exhausting but you meet so many new people and learn more about yourself!

Harri Shee writes about a trip to The Gambia.

Last summer I went to The Gambia in West Africa to work alongside GAMFES (a Christian group that works with students). We were running a rural outreach programme, whereby 30 or so Gambian Christians stay in a small village for a month and reach out to the community through a combination of both social action and telling them the gospel. In addition, Bible classes are run so that the Christians themselves grow in their walk with





Gladys Maingi wrote "Greetings from Uganda. My family and I are okay. God has been really good to us. My husband has just completed his degree and will be graduating in October and this is God working.

It has been a long time but I thank God for every member of St. Bartholomew's for the support and prayer that I trust that I have got from you all. I am very grateful for the opportunity to study and it is because of you people. Please pass my regards to all my supporters. I have just completed my attachment in a children's home and it was great experience for me. I learnt a lot from it and I know now that I can do better in future. The university will be opening in September and I look forward to it because I will be starting my final year. I passed all my papers last semester and it was God's grace.

May God bless you all and I look forward to hearing from you. I pray for you and we love you."

THREE STORIES FROM MAF

Over 300,000 people have been



affected by recent severe flooding in the north and east of **Uganda**. With much infrastructure destroyed, the MAF team has responded with relief flights for those seeking to support suffering communities.

In **Tanzania**, more than 600 children were vaccinated during the monthly Kilimatinde Safari when pilot, Gero Gringmuth, flew the medical team to the villages of Chidudu, Mpapa and Mahaka. The team provided vaccinations and health advice and examined pregnant women. In Mahaka, an evangelistic team from Dodoma joined the medical staff to teach Bible stories to children, baptize two people and prepare a seminar for an evangelist to run for local people.



MAF Learning Technologies (MAF-LT) is responding to the needs of the emerging Church by providing vision, consulting, leadership, and the necessary technology for training leaders through distance education and digital publishing. The goal of MAF-LT is to see technology-supported distance education take its place as an effective tool in the repertoire of all organizations seeking to prepare leaders in rapidly growing indigenous churches.

Please pray for those who are training new pilots and for those pilots as they prepare to work for MAF, and for their families at a time of change and uncertainty.

TWO RECENT PREACHERS



The preacher with a big suitcase.

When Jon Hargreaves arrived to preach at our FEBA (Far Eastern Broadcasting Association) service in October, he walked up the aisle with a large suitcase. His text was "God's word is not changed", words written by Paul to Timothy, when Paul was in chains in prison. The suitcase illustrated the text. Built into the case was a radio transmitter, with a range of 15-20 miles. These small radio stations are used by FEBA to broadcast God's Word to locations that are hard to reach.

Here is one from a number of examples given by Jon. The 'House Church' movement in China is estimated to have 100 million members and is still growing. FEBA is helping to satisfy the hunger for the Bible by broadcasting passages of the Bible in Chinese at dictation speed so that hearers can write them down in order to study them together. It was two Polhill brothers who helped to establish that church 100 years ago.

One million Bibles wanted! The Bible Society aims to provide a million Bibles to first year secondary students in Ghana. Leigh Smith used this example of the Society's work when he talked and showed a dvd at the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday 28th October, taking as his headline words from the reading from Romans 15: "so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." As one adult said in the film: "If you've got faith, you've got to share it!" The delight on the faces of the children on receiving their Bibles showed the joy of doing just that, as the Society hopes to continue to do through ideas such as asking for donations of £240 to buy the books for a class or their 'Bible a Month' scheme. Leigh concluded that "Above all, we need prayer,"



for this and all the other work mentioned in their literature.

ONE URBAN STORY: Colin and Anita Smith in Kibera

One of the boldest moves Colin Smith has made since becoming Director of the Centre for Urban Mission at Carle College was helping transfer the Centre to Kibera in 2003. "We realized if we want to train people for ministry in the slums we needed to place the college right in the heart of an environment from which we can learn and to which we can contribute," he says. Students are asked to live in the massive Nairobi settlement (where about a million people live in shanties) for part of their training. This presence within the community has sometimes come at a cost. In January, a first year student was shot and killed on his way to college. Weeks later, the college caretaker was caught in crossfire on

her way from church and wounded in her leg.

Three years ago, Moses and Simon Peter were among students who agreed to move into Kibera and become part of the community. Neither they nor the Centre staff knew whether they would stay.

A few months ago they graduated and both have decided to stay and work in Kibera. A delighted Colin says, "This (commitment to Kibera) wasn't something we planned. Sometimes we find ourselves trying to keep up with what we sense God doing."

Praise God for the long-term impact Moses and Simon Peter will have in Kibera. Please pray for the Centre for Urban Mission students and staff, that they would remain a faithful presence in the community.

FINALLY FIVE

The annual **Christingle service** will take place at St Bart's at 3.30 p.m. on 2nd December when Barbara d'Avino from the **Children's Society** will be the speaker. The local Children's Society support group will meet for a 'catching-up tea-party' on 6th December.

Handcrafted cards for all occasions will be on sale at every service on the first Sunday of each month at St.Bart's.



The **Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust** says: "Thank God for The development of the Kemsing detached session, with more regular attendance of a core group of young people; improved behaviour during our detached sessions on the Greatness estate and for improved finances."

"Please pray for the development of our schools work; the appointment of a new worker for Jane's post and for someone to take on the role of Trust Secretary, involving seven meetings a year."

