



November 08

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

Mission Newsletter 9

*"Don't give up! Don't get discouraged! I have read the end of the book!
We win!"
Desmond Tutu.*

Mission Partners and Mission Giving...

At its 12th November 2008 meeting, the PCC resolved to send our giving for 2008 to our current mission partners: CMS (£2,200); FEBA, the Bible Society, MAF, the SU (incl. Sheringham Beach Mission), the Children's Society, SCCS, SAYT (£1,150 each) and the Sevenoaks District Council of Churches Literacy Project (£150).

In addition, it was agreed that, for one year only, we should send £1,000 to support Colin Smith's work in rebuilding the church and community in Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya after the devastation of the post-election violence. Two other new recipients for this year only are the Harvest Project of the South American Mission Society, aiming in building a new church of El Buen Pastor in Tarija,

Bolivia, and the Worldwide Silver Lining, for its work with orphans and schoolchildren in Kenya, seeking to release them from poverty through Christian love and education (£600 each).

and recently.....

At a 9.30 a.m. service at St. Bart's recently, our Vicar interviewed Harri Shee and Clare Bliss, both at Durham University, about their Christian faith and life as students in Durham, where he was once a student himself. They are both involved in preparing for the 'Know the Truth' mission, a week packed full of talk and other events, put on by the Durham University Inter-Collegiate Christian Union, to offer the claims that Jesus makes and to respond to questions. They would be grateful for prayers for this mission.



FEBA reports that its Mozambique staff members have managed to get Radio Mathyana FM radio station back on the air with the help of their Mark 2 Chrysolite Suitcase Studio, after armed robbers stole all their audio and computer equipment. The Specialised English Programmes are now broadcast to China, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaya and Indonesia with India likely to follow in Spring 2009. John Bartlett, the Chief Executive will be leaving at the end of November. A management team of six will take on his responsibilities and prayer is requested for them and for the people involved in the choice of a replacement.



MAF. Prayers are asked for all involved in the apparent loss of an MAF 'plane off the coast of Australia. Neither the pilot, 23 year old Hadleigh Smith, nor the 'plane have been found at the time of writing, though some cargo and an aeroplane wheel were discovered on a shoreline not far from where the 'plane took off.



Recently, MAF has dedicated an aircraft for work in Lesotho, where it will support the Lesotho Flying Doctor service and six health clinics.

Over the last months, MAF has suffered from the rapid rise in the cost of fuel and the dwindling availability of Avgas, which fuels their piston-engined Cessnas.



P.S. We heard from **Crosslinks** that **Gladys Maingi**, whom we have been supporting for the last four years, has passed her examinations and has returned to Sudan. Our prayers go with her.

What can you do? Pray for the people and issues raised in these reports

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
- FEBA - Ruth Barclay
- The Bible Society - Andrew Hill
- MAF - Mags Southgate

National:

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

Local:

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

Home

Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust. Good news! The Trust has been able to appoint a second youth worker, Phil, who will be half-time at SAYT and at Kemsing.

Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service. A date for your new diary! The Annual Open Meeting in 2009 will be addressed by Brian Thorne, Emeritus Professor of Counselling at the University of East Anglia on 'Spiritual Discipline in Helping Relationships.' The meeting will be held on Thursday 21st May at 8 p.m. at St.Mary's Kippington Parish Centre.

Away

The Children's Society. St. Bart's Christingle Service will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday 7th



December and this year's emphasis at the annual Christingle Service will be upon the candle, representing 'Jesus, the Light of the World.'

The Society was acclaimed as Britain's Most Admired Charity in October this year at the 'Third Sector' magazine awards ceremony.

This is the first award to be voted for by charities themselves, a unique opportunity to publically recognize and celebrate the work of their peers. "I am pleased that the efforts of everybody, individuals and teams across the whole organization, have been recognized in this way," said the Society's Chief Executive, Bob Reitemeier.

Scripture Union. Nationally, the SU has celebrated the opening of a new Youth Encounter



Centre in Moseley, Birmingham for training youth workers and club leaders in multi-faith work. Its aim is to help Christian teenagers live out their faith amongst their Muslim friends. Prayer is also needed for people involved in senior leadership changes, for those on mission and holiday committees and for those searching for new schools to host New Year house parties.

After a successful summer beach mission at Sheringham, when a number of children became Christians, thoughts turn to the next one with prayer still needed for a possible house purchase and for ways of dealing with challenging behaviour.



Even Further Away

CMS. We have just received a 'not-the-link letter' from Colin and Anita Smith, telling us more about them than their work. 'In October, we returned from a lovely relaxing time visiting friends



over half-term to find that our home had been broken into and quite a number of items stolen, mostly electrical and many of them belonging to Sandie. It is the fourth time we have had things taken this year. Then, on the day following the American presidential election, we woke to find our home flooded and, in the mopping-up process, Anita slipped and damaged her knee and so is now sporting a knee brace and crutches. Sandie is now at the High School and, after half-term, went on a weekend near Mount Kenya, where they learnt to live as nomads. They built grass huts, rode camels and slaughtered and ate sheep (the latter activity Sandie refused to be part of!). Sheila is coming to the end of some of her courses and faces months of revision and practice papers for her IGCSEs in May. We have yet to hear if she will be offered a place in Monkton Combe's sixth form. Please pray for: Anita's knee to heal; Sheila in her preparation for her IGCSEs; Sandie at High School; protection from further thefts from our home; Colin in all his commitments; Kenya still recovering from the post-election violence.'

The Bible Society. Historic Times for Nepalese Christians! The Society reports on a momentous change in Nepal, when the first official Christmas will be celebrated



this year, a result of changes by the new federal democratic republic by which all religions have been offered equal recognition. Schools, offices and workplaces will stay shut and the church family will be able to worship openly together for the first time. The Society's Christmas Appeal is for bibles and resources for the growing church. Consider a visit to the Bible society website to view their alternative presents to supply the needs of Christians in Nepal and around the world. 'A passionate church is poised to seize the opportunity.'

Another cause for celebration is the report that the Bible Society of Brazil has distributed over 60 million bibles in 60 years. During 2008, churches have funded bibles with bike rides, concerts, marathon bible readings and special services. Another aim is to create 29 hand-written bibles with scribes raising money for Braille and audio versions. 'Our prayer is for Scripture at the heart of Brazilian life', said the Society's Vice-President, Adail Carvalho.

