

From the editor

This week saw the funeral of Bernard Green, the General Secretary of our Baptist Union between 1982 – 91. When Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister Bernard spoke to *The Baptist Times*, giving a message that was both challenging and balanced. It seems appropriate to repeat it here:

'I see Mrs Thatcher as a woman of stature. I think she has given everything she has to the task of world politics.

'Although I would be critical of her on a number of serious issues I would still insist that some aspects of her policies have been extremely good. For example, I think she has stressed the need for us all to contribute the best we possibly can.

'However, I don't think that her relationships with the British churches or her understanding of the Church's prophetic role were ever satisfactory. For example, she could never see why, at the time of the Falklands War, church leaders were not prepared to lead a service of celebration. They wanted instead to pray for peace and for victims on both sides of the conflict.

'If the Church is to give a moral lead to the nation and take the message of the Kingdom seriously, it must get involved in political issues and challenge the powers that be.'

Contact Paul
Hobson on 01235
517677, editor@
baptisttimes.co.uk



The Big Welcome

BAPTIST churches, along with friends in Elim and Methodist Churches, are being encouraged to offer a Big Welcome to those who do not usually come to church.

The Big Welcome is a simple idea to encourage Christians to invite someone they know to something they love. It is a Free Church initiative, and is about making people feel welcome in any church activity.

This year's theme is God hears your questions, recognising that wherever we are on our journey of faith, we have questions.

Downloadable and printed resources are now available on the Big Welcome website: www.thebigwelcome.org.

Churches are encouraged to plan their event on or around 22 September. Posters, invitations and other printed materials will be despatched in late July.

NOTICE

Did you go to Yorkshire Baptist Campaign Camp or do you know anyone who did? If so I would love to hear from you and/or them.

Although I now live in New Zealand, I have never forgotten those happy days or the friends made there. I would really enjoy seeing photos and hearing your memories of those days, and knowing what you are doing now, if you stayed in the Baptist fellowship, if you are still in Yorkshire. Do you know of anyone else who attended these camps?

It is about 60 years ago for anyone who went on the early camps and 50 years this year from my first camp but I am sure, like me, they have never forgotten those days and just need the memory jogging. I am going to make a scrapbook as a record of those years that changed my life - but I do need your help with memories and copies of memorabilia as I want to cover all the years, and the people (leaders and campers).

Contact details: Barbi Ormandy (formerly Barbara Walker), 51 Cole Street, Dannevirke 4930, New Zealand Email address: barbi@slingshot.co.nz

BAPTISMS

Abingdon Baptist Church, Oxon: Callum Fleming and Courtney Bennett	2
Bromham Baptist Church, Bedfordshire: Charlotte Bolton	1
Chester Road Baptist Church, West Midlands: Michael Miller	1
Earlsfield Baptist Church, London: Tunde and Zoe Adesuyan; Judy Bowdidge; Doreen Dorman and Benjamin Williams	5
Great Ashby Community Church, Stevenage: Nikki Phillips	1
Keynsham Baptist Church, Somerset: Nannette Bevan	1
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Blackwood, Gwent: David Bowditch	1
Shinfield Baptist Church, West Berkshire: Bethany Luke	1
Shipley Baptist Church, Bradford: Caroline Wilkinson, Charley Pollard and Ruth Peacock	3
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Penarth: Robert Turton	1
Tyndale Baptist Church, Reading: Florence Overton, Katherine Thompson, Bindy Higgins	3
Whitley Bay Baptist Church, Tyne and Wear: Jean Callaghan, Simon Matthews, Neil McAthey, Jane Wallas, David Younger	5

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to editor@baptisttimes.co.uk

THE BAPTIST TIMES



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'Pray for North Korea'

BMS World Mission is encouraging its supporters and others to join in praying for North Korea.

The organisation has launched Project Cyrus, which will be releasing prayer resources on the country over the next two years.

The initiative has been six months in the planning, and is particularly timely given escalating tensions in the region. North Korea followed a long-range rocket in December with a nuclear test in February. Earlier this month it warned its military is authorised to wage 'cutting-edge smaller, lighter and diversified' nuclear strikes against the United States. South Korea has now raised its alert level to 'vital threat' amid indications the North is preparing for a missile test.

'When Cyrus was conceived', wrote BMS general director the Revd David Kerrigan, 'we had no inkling of the current situation in North Korea. But what's clear is that our prayers are needed now more than ever.'

The BMS initiative is focused on praying for the people of North Korea and the leadership of the country.

Inspired by 1 Timothy 2: 1-2 (Pray every way you know how... and especially for rulers and governments to rule well –



The Message), it is named after the sixth century BC ruler Cyrus the Great, a Persian praised in the Jewish Scriptures for his liberation of the Jewish people from their Babylonian captivity.

'It is this spirit of benevolence and that Project Cyrus seeks to pray for in North Korea,' explained a statement on the BMS website.

'God loves North Korea deeply, yet few there know of his character as taught in the Bible.

'The Church is present in North Korea but kept very quiet whilst its political leaders teach an ideology of self-reliance and isolation from the nations called Juche.

'Will you partner with us in prayer for North Korea over the next two years?

'Will you pray for a new freedom in North Korea to allow

believers to share the good news of Jesus without persecution?'

Individuals and churches are encouraged to sign up and commit to praying for North Korea over the next two years. Anyone signing up will receive monthly prayer updates, a wristband and a bookmark; while churches will receive quarterly PowerPoints for services or prayer meetings, as well as instructions of how to host a Pray for Korea evening to encourage others.

The charity Open Doors estimates there are between 200,000 to 400,000 Christians in North Korea. According to its sources there, they have been asking for prayer.

'No matter how difficult life is for us, we never blame or complain about our circumstances. God has promised us in the Bible that if we seek His Kingdom first, all other things will be given to us as well. Please pray for us,' Open Doors quoted a source as saying.

A planned visit to Pyongyang by BMS leadership next week has been cancelled after visas were not granted.

For more on Project Cyrus visit <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/support-us/pray-with-us/project-cyrus>

Entrican elected next Vice President

THE Revd Jenni Entrican has been officially elected as the next Vice President of our Baptist Union.

Jenni was the sole nomination for the position earlier this year, and churches and ministers were asked to register their votes by the end of March.

Jenni had 'the resounding support of the denomination,' said General Secretary the Revd Jonathan Edwards.

She will serve as Vice President from 2013-14, President Elect from 2014-15 and then as President 2015-2016.

'Jenni has much to bring us and I have no doubt that she will offer significant encouragement and stimulus to church planting within the denomination,' he added.

'Every year we are delighted to see the birth of new church plants, but there is no doubt in my mind that there is still significant scope for more planting.



'I encourage every church to remember Jenni in their prayers as she prepares to serve the denomination in this wider way.'

Jenni describes herself as 'a delighted but unlikely pioneer'. For eight years she has led Jacob's Well, a plant from Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church, recently stepping down from the leadership team.

She is a member of the Bristol Baptist College Council and its education committee; chair of the Incarnate Church Planting Network; on the Baptist Union Council, and a member of the Women's Justice Group. She has been a mentor for newly accredited ministers and has led retreat days.

With the presidency more

than two years away she said she requires a 'waiting and listening ear.' But in terms of what she would bring to the role, she said, 'First, and I hope always, just myself - a person like you, with gifts and skills and no doubt hang-ups, but hopefully a person who is continuing being transformed and excited by God as I grow and develop and get involved in what he is about in our communities.

'I am a woman minister who has led an alternative style church, an unlikely but delighted pioneer, and that will have an impact on the kind of areas I will get involved in.

'As I say in my profile, I really want to encourage others to have confidence about their relationship with God and what he really requires of them in living out the Kingdom.

'And I would love to see more voices released so that our Union vibrates with the colour and diversity and aliveness of God's Kingdom.'

Sunday School's 200th anniversary

THE Sunday School at North End Baptist Church in Portsmouth is marking its 200th anniversary this month - and former members are invited to attend.

The group is holding a celebration service on Sunday 28 April at 10.45am.

Sunday School Teacher Janice Nelson, who has been in the role for 23 years, says 'Our 200th birthday is an amazing achievement and we can't wait to celebrate. We'd warmly welcome hearing memories from any former members and are looking forward to the years the



Sunday School has to come.'

The Sunday School started at Lake Lane (later known as Lake Road) in 1813 in a room of a private rented house, with church buildings being built in 1822 and updated in 1865. In 1822, 700 children were

attending the Lake Lane Sunday School.

When the church buildings were destroyed in the Second World War, the congregation moved to a former Methodist premises to start Lake Road Baptist Church in 1950, in Powerscourt Road, North End.

In the 1970s the church changed its name to Powerscourt Road Baptist Church and then in 2002 it changed again to North End Baptist Church.

Any former members wishing to attend the celebration service are asked to email nebcsundayschool@gmail.com.

Midnight cycle ride for Baptist minister in aid of hospice

THE compassionate care given to one of his church members - which led to 'the most remarkable act of worship' he has ever participated in - has spurred a Baptist minister to raise funds via a nighttime bike ride for a local hospice.

At a quarter to midnight on 8 June, Richard Littledale, 48, the minister at Teddington Baptist Church in Middlesex, will set off from one of London's highest points, at Crystal Palace, to ride 100km through the city of London to Alexandra Palace - and back again.

Richard, who admits that he rarely cycles more than 20km at a time, will be undertaking the Nightrider challenge in aid of Princess Alice Hospice.

The way the hospice looked after a church member left a distinct impression.

'I chose to support Princess Alice Hospice having seen the amazing work that goes on there and the way that the team is willing to go that little bit extra for their patients,' he explained.

'Last year, a beloved member of my church spent the last few

weeks of his life in Princess Alice Hospice.

'During that time every member of staff, from the people who cleaned the ward to the staff who administered his medicines, to the chaplain, treated him and his family with the utmost warmth, humanity, dignity and compassion.

'True to its roots in an ancient understanding of hospitality, the team made this last lap of the journey more bearable by every means at their disposal.'

The stay included an emotional service at the hospice. The member had been a singer and worship leader in the church, and was missing services terribly, Richard said. With the chaplain's help, they brought the service to him.

'As pastor, I had planned an order of service, which was promptly abandoned in favour of something altogether more wonderful.



'From his bed, despite his weakness, our friend conducted the singing, urged us to pray, spoke of the sun setting on his time here, and urged the rest of us to make the most of ours.

'We laughed, we cried, we prayed, and above all we sang - our voices tumbling out of the wide open windows into the lovely summer's day beyond. This was worship, and I shall never forget it. I shall carry the sound of it in my head as I pedal - and for years after that too.'

Visit www.justgiving.com/Richard-Littledale or text RLG086 £5 to 70070

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