

July / August 2010  
No. 717



The Monthly Newsletter  
of the Baptist Church,  
Kay Street, Rawtenstall

Charity Registration No.1129330

## **ARE YOU AN OPTIMIST OR A PESSIMIST?**

Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

I am writing this just after a sermon on Spiritual Depression, and facing a week when many English tennis players will be knocked out at Wimbledon, suffering the torment of watching the English football team facing humiliation (or progress) in the World Cup, and hearing this week's Emergency Budget which will bring bad news for our finances, even if it is the medicine needed to turn the country round from increasing debt.

Then I turn to my daily Bible studies – and I'm in Jeremiah, and there wasn't much good news there for the unfaithful people of God. I turn to prayer topics, and in "Release" magazine I read about the terrible persecution, imprisonment and refugee status of Christian believers, in places like Eritrea, Pakistan and Laos.

I'm down to Rawtenstall for some lunch. Eating and drinking are usually pleasurable experiences, but what do I find in the cafes? The usual moaning and grumbling – everything's wrong with the world, and if it's not too cold, then now it is too hot! Is it me, or are Rossendale folk particularly prone to grumbling?

I am one of the founder members of the Grumpy Old Men club of Kay St. Church, and yet there is a great danger in grumbling about the present state of society, and of the habit we have of harking back to the good old days, when life was simpler and slower and happier, when there was more respect for people and property, and for God, and yes, summers were always good.

What will cheer me up? Well, the glorious weather for a start and the opportunity to spend time outside in God's glorious creation. Being with friends and family (especially my wife), meeting with other Christians, having a laugh, learning something new, discovering more about our world, and travelling – these are activities that bring joy to life.

But having said all that, there is nothing better than knowing and following the Person who brings peace, meaning, purpose and yes, joy to life – Jesus Christ. Knowing and following Jesus enhances

life, and yet so many feel so negative about the Christian faith. We can know Jesus, who came to earth to show us who God is, to live a perfect life, to suffer and die for our sins, and to rise from the dead to guarantee that those who trust their lives to Him will have sins forgiven, and inherit eternal life, and bring us to a place He has prepared for us, where there will be no more pain, no more anger or selfishness, no more sin. We shall forever be with the Lord.

So – are you an optimist or a pessimist? I believe a Christian HAS to be an optimist. Perhaps more often we should spend time thinking of what Jesus has done for us, and for the beautiful world he has put us in, despite the problems.

Years ago, a preacher in a small farming community was known for his gracious and thankful attitude to life. In every public prayer it seemed he had something new for which to express thanks. Rarely did he repeat himself. One Sunday, however, was unusually stormy and the ground was sodden with the heavy rain. A sharp, bitter wind blew from the north, and some of the crops were battered. As the people trudged to church that day, they wondered what the pastor could possibly be thankful for on such a miserable day. But once again, he was equal to the occasion. He began his morning prayer by saying “Heavenly Father, we thank you that not every day is as bad as this one”.

I’ve been challenged recently meeting people who are going through real health problems, or who are facing joblessness, and yet they have an inner joy and confidence in God.

Because of Jesus our Saviour, we have a living hope. This world is not all there is. So let’s learn to reflect on God’s goodness and grace, and give thanks each day. Life will flow easier, the way should be smoother, and people will notice in us, in our lives, in our attitudes, in our words, that Jesus DOES make a difference!

David Isherwood

On behalf of Matt Hirst and the deacons.



What is the point of money? It's worth asking, because it is something that takes up a lot of our time.

The traditional definition of money is: "a medium of exchange and a store of value". It doesn't have any use in itself, but is only of value for what you can get in exchange for it, or you can store up the spending power by saving it for the future. Its uselessness was brought home to me when my mum was dying; it just didn't have any relevance to the situation.

However it is something we need. The way our society operates, you have to have some, and you have to manage it. The pressures of society in fact encourage many to manage their money in an irresponsible way. The underlying aim is to amass more and more of it, or the products that it buys. There is an interesting alternative view expressed in Proverbs 30. 7-9:

*"Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God."*

Nobody would argue with the first request in principle, but praying that you don't become rich? That doesn't fit in with the way we are encouraged to think in the world. As one of God's people, all we really need is enough to live comfortably.

Unfortunately the attitudes to money around us have led many people to over-committing themselves, and they have become entrapped in debt. It is a trap, and it is one it is extremely hard to escape from. The legacy of debt is hugely destructive, causing depression, isolation, the loss of homes or the breakdown of relationships and families. The future often promises no way out, and for some the only alternative is suicide. It is a problem nobody likes to share; those who suffer often do it on their own.

John Kirkby set up Christians Against Poverty in 1996 in Bradford because he had a burden to help those trapped in debt. He knew the problems from personal experience. The story of the early days of the charity is an amazing one of perseverance and faith in the face of immense discouragement. Yet God honoured

the faith of John and those around him, and it was rewarded by seeing lives transformed as clients were released from their debts, and in many cases coming to their own faith in Jesus.

CAP now manages several million pounds of debts on behalf of clients and helps people across the country. It firmly believes that all its work should be based in local churches, where clients can receive the support of other Christians and hopefully join the fellowship themselves. CAP has a vision of a church-based centre in every major city and town in the UK by 2021.

CAP will not compromise on the aims that what people most need, as well as release from debt, is a relationship with Jesus himself. This evangelistic outlook has closed many normal sources of funding, and CAP is entirely reliant on regular giving by Christians through the Life-Changer programme.

In all my dealings with CAP personnel, I am always impressed by the focused drive and determination to go on helping the needy out of their predicaments.

A verse they find inspirational is:

***'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.'*** Proverbs 31:8-9



As a result of working with those in debt, it became clear to the CAP staff that there is a real need to help people to manage their money. Many of the situations of debt that were being addressed could have been prevented if only someone had told them how to.

CAP Money is a course describing a simple and workable method to manage money. It avoids easy credit but instead puts the individual back in complete control of their own money. This is greatly liberating. The course is for everybody, and everybody can benefit from it. Many of us muddle through with our finances, but we can make them so much more productive.

We hope to be running the CAP Money course at Kay Street in the coming Autumn, and as often as necessary thereafter. More details to be announced later.

Bill Boaden



## ALEX GOES TO UGANDA

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On the 13<sup>th</sup> July I will be travelling to a village called Kisenyi in Uganda to work with an organisation called Ministry Resourcing International for 3 weeks. Ministry Resourcing International is a Ugandan organisation formed in 2007. It is a small organisation, with no assets or paid employees, so all donations go straight to resources for the project work. Their mission statement is as follows:

“Ministry Resourcing International exists to advocate for the growth and enrichment of Christian ministry in individual lives, churches and communities, for their greater effectiveness and impact in God’s kingdom”

I became involved in MRI and more specifically the Kisenyi Project through a friend of mine Daniel Hoyle who some of you may know. Danny went on a gap year with Oasis two years ago and MRI were the local partners to Oasis in Uganda. He is now involved with MRI both in the UK and Uganda.

As Danny is returning to Uganda this summer, he invited me along. When asked, I knew that it was something I was capable of and would be an amazing experience, but I was still unsure as this is not something I envisaged myself ever doing. It took me a few weeks of prayer and consideration, but I agreed to go because something told me that this opportunity was there to be taken not simply dismissed as a far-fetched idea that would never happen. I hope that this trip develops me both in my faith and as a person.

The Kisenyi Project is based around the village of Kisenyi, around 15km from the capital Kampala. There are a total of 6 people from the UK involved with the project, and our time there is staggered between July and September.

The project started with a survey of the village population in January this year, which asked families what their biggest problems were. The project is tailored around the results of the survey and focuses on both the physical and spiritual needs of the community.

To address the physical needs of the village the project includes:- adult literacy classes; entrepreneurial classes; a sanitation project (building public pit latrines in the village) at about £350 each and women's skills classes

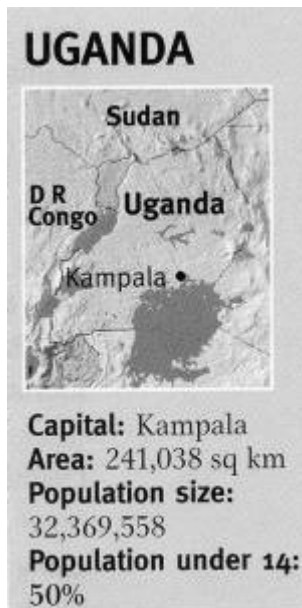
The spiritual needs will be addressed through:- kids clubs; Conferences held locally; Sports evangelism and we will also be involved with Sunday ministry in local churches

With all of these classes, conferences and sports, the aim is to provide a meal to each attendee. This could total over 1000 meals over the whole project, costing £380 (38pence per meal). When our teams leave Uganda we hope to sustain the adult literacy and entrepreneurial classes at the cost of £80 per month for a local teacher and meals for the attendees.

Personally I will be involved mainly in the sports ministry, as sports are something I am very passionate about. Sports ministry is all about reaching out to the community to show them that churches and Christianity are not confined to certain buildings, and the message can be shared in more ways than standing and preaching. We will be putting on sports days and football tournaments for the local people, as well as organising sports within schools.

Whilst there we aim to set up a village football team, which will be linked to the church and overseen and funded by MRI.

To help set up this venture I will be taking with me footballs, shirts and various other sports kit which will be used in the long term by a local coach who will take over when we leave, making this area of the project sustainable.



Alex Willis



## **PRAYER POINTS for JULY and AUGUST**

### **Jake Berry MP.**

At the meeting in June Jake asked for prayer for:

- Balance between work and family time
- Adjustment of his family to his new role
- The ability to do the right thing instead of the popular thing
- Wisdom to discern between positive and negative lobbying
- The workings of the coalition and appropriate responses to pressures applied by small factions within the coalition parties

Please also pray for:

- Safety, energy and mental peace and agility
- Good advice and courage for tough decisions
- Jake not to be seduced by power.

(Jake has agreed to these being published.)

### **Les and Fiona**

- Praise God for Meena's dedication (page 13)
- Pray for wisdom for Les and Fiona as they raise her. Pray for God to help them keep the promises they made at her dedication.
- Pray for safety as they travel to home assignment
- Pray for their use of time whilst in the UK – for a good balance of rest, family time and church visits

### **Other BMS prayer requests:**

- Pray for more workers, both to replace those returning to the UK and to develop other opportunities
- Pray for people prepared to travel to tough places where their safety may be at risk
- Pray for protection, physical and spiritual, for those serving overseas.
- Pray for those who have returned to the UK, particularly those returning in unforeseen circumstances. Pray that God will help them readjust.

## **Vision**

- Praise God for His faithfulness so far.
- Praise Him for the continued opportunities in the schools
- Pray for His continued provision
- Pray for wisdom as Vision continues to develop.
- Pray for the 'old' life team as they come to the end of their year
- Pray for the 'new' life team as they take up the reins.

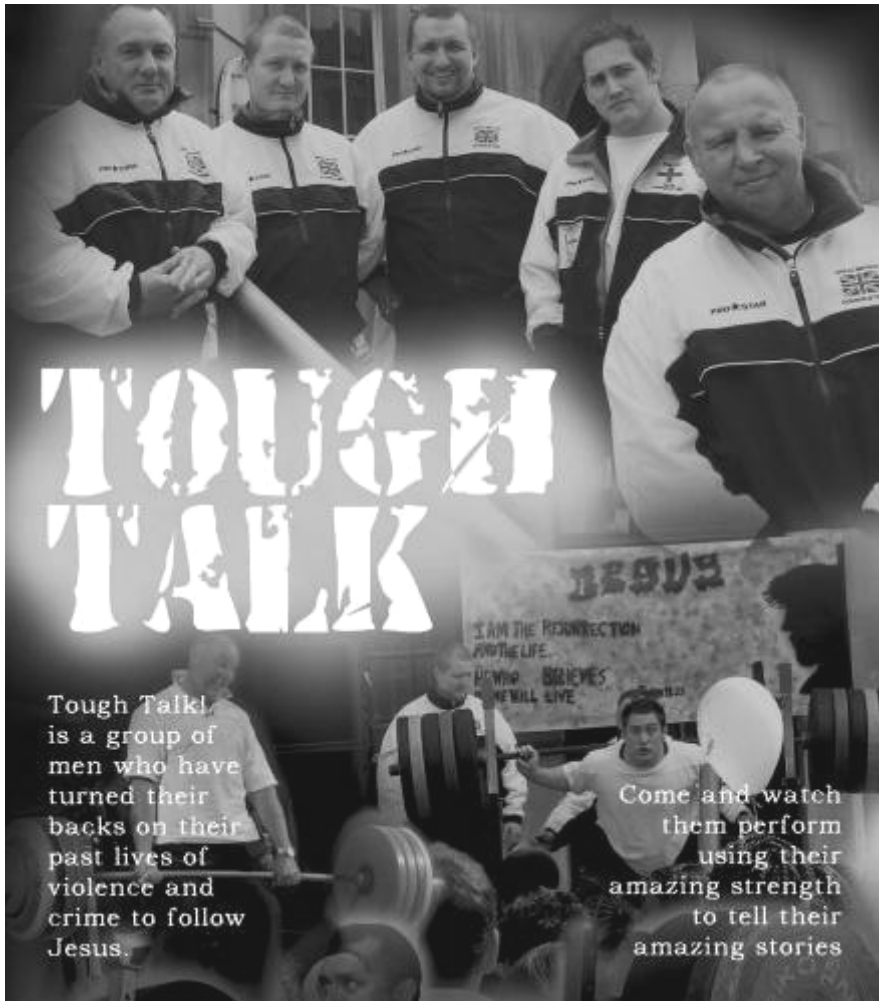
## **Tough Talk** (page 10)

- Pray for the planning of this event.
- Pray that those interested would hear about it and be prepared to come
- Pray for many to come to Christ
- Pray for appropriate and sensitive follow up.

## **Persecuted church**

- Continue to pray for Christians in Orissa, scene of widespread anti-Christian violence in 2008. Many Christians are reported still to be homeless. Pray that the Indian Government will step up its efforts to restore these people who have suffered so much.
- Pray for the work of Release and others supporting survivors of the Orissa riots. Their work includes helping women widowed in the violence to prove in court that they qualify for government help. Many widows cannot 'prove' their husband's death because it has not been possible formally to identify the body.
- Pray for Christians in Karnataka state, a particular flashpoint for anti-Christian violence. Christians are often attacked and accused of 'forced conversion', especially since the BJP, the Hindu nationalist party, came to power there in 2008.

(Release International)



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 7 pm.**

Doors open 6.30 pm.

7 pm. Service – testimonies, weightlifting, talk and challenge, followed by refreshments and opportunity for people to talk with counsellors

### ***A little bit about Tough Talk***

Tough Talk is a registered charity dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an informal way that appeals to people who would not normally go to a church meeting. Tough Talk is made up of a group of men with backgrounds of ex-bouncers, ex-football hooligans and ex-East End hard men who have turned their backs on their past. For more information on Tough Talk visit their website at [www.tough-talk.com](http://www.tough-talk.com)

### ***The Kay Street Event***

This event is designed to be an outreach event to the local community. Kay Street will be working with churches across the valley to host this event with the aim of bringing people into church that would not normally do so. The event coincides with Back to Church Sunday and is a great opportunity to bring your friends and family.

We hope that you will personally invite and bring along people that you feel would benefit from hearing these guys talk about their lives before and after they met Christ. We don't want to fill this event with Christians – we want to fill it with those who need to hear God's message of redeeming love.

### ***How can you get involved?***

Aside from inviting and bringing your friends along we will need a number of people to help with the following;

- Stewarding at the event
- Prayer team – before, during and after the event
- Counselling team – to pray with and talk to those who make a commitment to Christ at the event.

Additions to this list may follow in the September newsletter.

For more info or to volunteer for any of the above please see Emma Pemberton or email her at [gazandem@aol.com](mailto:gazandem@aol.com)

Emma Pemberton on behalf of the Local Missions Team

## FROM BANGLADESH

24.6.10

Sunday, 20th June was a special day for Meena. She was dressed in a beautiful outfit and taken to church for a dedication service. It was a lovely service and a wonderful opportunity to both thank God for Meena and to show that we are part of the church family here. In fact, one of the three questions we were asked was whether we would accept the help of the members in raising Meena.

We have only been in Dinajpur for nine months but already feel we belong to this community. This feeling has increased since arriving back from Dhaka with Meena, as she has been taken into everyone's hearts. We look forward to making a home and raising our family here when we return from home assignment in November.

Les & Fiona

The family hope to be in Rossendale Sept 2 – 5. Their provisional programme is to be at 'Shoppers' on the Thursday; a meal on Friday evening and our Sunday morning service.



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Our sympathy has gone to **Anne, Graham and Mark Foster – Norman** died on June 6 after a long illness.

'To Kay Street Church Family – I thank you on behalf of the family for the wonderful way you have cared for us during our time of sadness. Your love, concern and faithful prayers have meant so much to us, as have your flowers, cards and visits. With grateful thanks **Anne Foster.**'

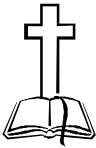
**Jilly Horton** has had the first of her series of operations.

**Vera Cunliffe** is very poorly and in hospital again.

**Joan Crook** has had a fall resulting in a fractured arm.

We continue to remember these in our prayers and others with health problems.

**Next issue** – news of students gaining degrees. Please let the Editor know their results.



## **SUNDAY WORSHIP in JULY and AUGUST**

	AM	PM
July 4	Mr J Barrie <i>Call / Covenant</i>	Prayer & Communion
July 11	Rev M Hirst <i>Redemption, Exodus &amp; Wilderness</i>	BBQ & Service at Baldingstone House
July 18	Rev J Prior <i>Special to God</i>	Rev M Hirst
July 25	Rev M Hirst	Café Church
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Aug 1	To be announced	Prayer & Communion
Aug 8	To be announced	DVD / Tape
Aug 15	All Age Service – Vision Team	Mr D Isherwood
Aug 22	All Age Service -TTNG	Café Church
Aug 29	All Age Service – Rev M Hirst	'Going Deeper' (see overleaf)

Communion services – Evening July 4 & Aug 1  
Morning July 18 & Aug 15



## **DIARY for JULY and AUGUST**

Sat July 3	Prayer Breakfast – Asda 8 am.
Sat July 3	Torch Fellowship 2 pm.
Mon July 5	Deacons' Meeting
Tues July 6	(am) YP room in use for Bereavement Counseling
Sat July 10	Deacons' Away Day – Shekinah
Sat July 10	Open House & Garden Party (see overleaf)
Sat July 10	No Limits for 5 -12 year olds (see overleaf)
Sun July 11	BBQ, Evening Service & World Cup Final Baldingstone House
Mon July 12	Services Team Meeting – the Manse
Fri July 16	Music Session
Sun July 18	Visit to Holme Manor
Mon July 19	Church Members' Meeting
Mon 19 – Fri 23	Vision Prayer Meeting – 2 Melia Close
Sat July 24	'Inspire' using premises all day
Sun July 25	Visit to Cherry Tree Lodge
Fri July 30	TCC Driving Course using downstairs area
Fri July 30	Camera Club – 'Street Scenes'
Sat July 31	Monthly Walk – Following Foulridge Footpaths 5½m.

Tues Aug 3	(am) YP room in use for Bereavement Counseling
Fri Aug 6	TCC Driving Course using downstairs area
Sat Aug 7	Prayer Breakfast – Asda 8 am.
Sat Aug 7	Torch Fellowship 2 pm.
Sun Aug 8	Visit to Holme Manor
Fri Aug 13	TCC Driving Course using downstairs area
Mon Aug 16	Local Mission Team Meeting
Fri Aug 20	Music Session
Sat Aug 28	Monthly Walk – A Saunter from Summerseat 4½m.
Sun Aug 29	Visit to Cherry Tree Lodge

## INVITATION

Geoffrey & Eileen Coward request your support at their  
**Open House and Garden Party**

At 173, Haslingden Old Road on Sat. July 10  
 10 am. to 12 noon and 1 pm. To 4 pm.

Homemade scones, jam & cream, tea & coffee  
 (also White Elephant & Bric-a-brac stall)

ALL donations for persecuted Christians via Release International

The 'Going Deeper' Series

**The Occult and Paganism**

with

**Rev Kevin Logan**  
 (Author of 9 books, including, 'Paganism and the Occult' and local paper columnist)

Sunday, August 29th at 8:00pm  
 Kay Street Baptist Church  
 (Coffee from 7:30pm)

*'25 years ago' will return in the September issue*

# ROTAS for JULY

## STEWARDS

	<b>Porch</b>	<b>Upstairs left</b>	<b>Upstairs right</b>
<b>July 4</b>	Amy Lord Peter Leonard	Margaret Robinson	Tom Pickup
<b>July 11</b>	Andrew Platt Helen Platt	Alan Hitch	Julie Gill-Burden
<b>July 18</b>		Alpha group 2 to arrange	
<b>July 25</b>	Carol Hargreaves Paul Webb-Sear	Joan Haworth	Joan Crook

## COFFEE

<b>July 4</b>	Jo Mitchell	Janet White	Gill Wills
<b>July 11</b>	Peter Leonard	Jane Jackson	Judith Pickup
<b>July 18</b>	Alan Hitch	Fred & Sheila Wild	
<b>July 25</b>	Thelma Hitch	Yvonne Rhymes	Jim Barrie

## CRECHE

<b>July 4</b>	Thelma Hitch	Alison Perry	Carol Hargreaves
<b>July 11</b>	Anne Webb-Sear	Derryth Mellish	Gwen Haworth
<b>July 18</b>	Rachel Gosling	Michael Wilding	Sue Bury
<b>July 25</b>	Janet Barrie	George Kirk	Sheila Whipp

## FLOWERS

<b>July 4</b>	Hazel Pretty
<b>July 11</b>	Vacant
<b>July 18</b>	Vacant
<b>July 25</b>	Vacant

## COMMUNION

<b>July 4 PM</b>	Joan Crook & Renee White
<b>July 18 AM</b>	Doris Paul & Joan Haworth



Have a good holiday

## **ROTAS for AUGUST**

### **STEWARDS**

	<b>Porch</b>	<b>Upstairs left</b>	<b>Upstairs right</b>
<b>August 1</b>	Amy Lord Paul Webb-Sear	Julie Gill-Burden	Tom Pickup
<b>August 8</b>	Andrew Platt Helen Platt	Joan Haworth	Peter Leonard
<b>Aug 15</b>		Alpha group 1 to arrange	
<b>Aug 22</b>	Carol Hargreaves Tom Pickup	Joan Haworth	Joan Crook
<b>Aug 29</b>	Joan Haworth Peter Leonard	Helen Platt	Andrew Platt

### **COFFEE**

<b>August 1</b>	Pat Coulston	Adrian & Gill Bower	
<b>August 8</b>	Michelle Wogden	Jenny Goy	Audrey Madge
<b>Aug 15</b>	Di Isherwood	Jayne Ashworth	Janet White
<b>Aug 22</b>	Robin Coulston	Jo Mitchell	Gill Wills
<b>Aug 29</b>	David Isherwood	Peter Leonard	Judith Pickup

### **CRECHE**

<b>August 1</b>	Alison Perry	Gwen Haworth	Carol Hargreaves
<b>August 8</b>	Rachel Gosling	Thelma Hitch	Michael Wilding
<b>Aug 15</b>	George Kirk	Derryth Mellish	Janet Barrie
<b>Aug 22</b>	Sheila Whipp	Alison Perry	Sue Bury
<b>Aug 29</b>	Thelma Hitch	Michael Wilding	Carol Hargreaves

### **FLOWERS**

<b>August 1</b>	A & T Elkington
<b>August 8</b>	Vacant
<b>Aug 15</b>	Vacant
<b>Aug 22</b>	Joyce Barnes
<b>Aug 29</b>	Margaret Robinson

### **COMMUNION**

<b>Aug 1 pm.</b>	J Barnes & T Hitch
<b>Aug 15 am.</b>	Mary & Bob Callender

**Material for the next (September) Newsletter  
should reach the Editor by August 19.**