

Ballee Baptist Church



OUR MAGAZINE

October—December 2011

WELCOME

to the October—December issue of *Our Magazine*

As I put pen to paper for the Church magazine, things are hectic in the Kennedy household. We are in “Christmas Mode” as the rush up to Christmas has started, but we are also in “Wedding Mode”, with our daughter Deborah getting married in January. As the bride’s father I keep a low profile and try to keep my head below the parapet, but still, it seems in every conversation, the wedding is always mentioned!!

I must not, in fear of my life, reveal any secrets about Deborah’s wedding, but it has caused me to think about the Bride of Christ. What a beautiful bride that will be when presented to her Bridegroom in a day to come. For a few moments I want you to take a fresh look at the Bride of Christ, the Church. I want you to look beyond the warts, beyond the problems, and beyond the frustrations and see the church in the way that God sees the Church. I believe when we start to truly and sincerely love the Church it changes the way that we interact within the Church, it changes the way that we participate; it changes our motives, and changes our priorities. We can talk all day long about what God expects of us, and how much we should be doing within the Church, but until the people that make up the Church, love the Church and stand behind the mission of the Church, people will not do anything.

1. I love the Church because Christ loves the Church

When we love someone we tend to love the things that they love. That is why family heirlooms are so treasured and valued. One of the reasons why I love the Church is because Christ demonstrated that He loved the Church. Now, before we go any further it is important to make clear that when we speak of the Church we are not speaking of a physical building with the name “Church” on it, we are speaking of people who are saved. I can give you numerous reasons why we should love the Church, but I believe that one of the greatest is because we have been commanded to love the Church (John 13:34-35). The Lord Jesus gave Himself up for the Church...He Takes Care of the Church...He Hurts When the Church Hurts...He is the Head of the Church. Some people may say, “I love Jesus Christ, but I do not love the Church.”

This is not possible and is like severing the head from the body, because the Church is the body of Christ and He is the head (Colossians 1:18)

2. I love the Church because the Church is God's Family

I would be willing to bet that every family has some secrets. Some things that they would never tell anyone about. Perhaps something that a family member has done that would embarrass the entire family, but you keep it a secret to protect your family who you love. You don't stop loving that person that may have done something terrible because your love is unconditional. I think that the Church should guard each other in the same way, because we are a family. When one in the Church sins, it probably isn't the best response to go and tell people of the sin that your brother committed. We don't want to broadcast it to the community, but rather should want to help the one who sinned to overcome. Some things simply need to stay in the family and our love for one another, as a spiritual family needs to be unconditional (Ephesians 3:14-15)

3. I love the Church because of the Strong Relationships

The Church is unlike anything else in the whole world, in that, special relationships can be formed between those, who have a common bond in the Church. You can have dozens of friends in the world, but no friendships or relationships can compare with those that you can develop within the Church. You cannot find friends in the world that care about your soul, that will pray for you, that will desire you to be a better person, that will encourage you when you are down, will love you unconditionally, will forgive you when you mess up and will care about where you spend eternity. The fellowship that we can have within a Church is a special thing that is unique to the Church. I have heard that giant redwood trees in California actually have really shallow roots. They stay strong and do not topple over because they are connected together by their roots. Since they are connected together at the roots they are able to stand strong and withstand the storms and the wind. As Christians when we are rooted together in Christ we are able to withstand a lot of difficulties because we are connected together (1 John 1:7)

4. I love the Church because of Her Impact on the Community

There are a lot of clubs, charities and social groups that do amazing things. I am thankful for those groups, which raise money for finding a cure for a disease, to build hospitals, to feed the hungry, to provide gifts for children that cannot afford it, or lobby for moral issues that are important to us, but those groups will never make the impact that the Church has. Much to the regret of many people in society, the Church has greatly impacted the world in which we live in.

The Church has Influenced Lives

How many lives have been impacted because of the Church and what she stands for? There is no telling. Paul was an incredibly immoral man, who was changed because of Christ and he became a great influencer for good. He may have been someone that people thought could never change, but Christ saw beyond that. One life changed makes an eternal difference. Paul on one occasion was influencing so many people that he caused a riot in the city of Ephesus (Acts 19:23-27). There is nobody that is too far from the grace of God.

There are countless more reasons to love the Church. The Church has conviction and commitment to truth in a world rejecting absolutes. The Church shows there is hope beyond this life. The Church is a great place to raise our children and educate youth. The Church is a great place to celebrate life and salvation. The Church is a place to find meaning, mission and purpose in life.

I love the Church, don't you? It is a beautiful Bride...I think I will meditate on the beautiful Bride of Christ as I approach the "Big Day".

Enjoy the rest of the magazine.



There was a tiny Lamb in Bethlehem who was
destined for Golgotha's altar

You were ransomed...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a
lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation
of the world
1 Peter 1:18-20

The Grace of Encouragement by Charles Swindoll



Ladies Fellowship

As I write this it is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and another year has almost gone.

We started our winter season with a Saturday morning breakfast in the Adair Arms. We all had a great time of fellowship and the food was excellent from fresh fruit to cereal to croissants and to top it all off a great big fry. It certainly was not a morning for those watching the calories! Marion Reid from Antrim was our speaker. She spoke and testified from catholicism to Christ and was full of the joy of the Lord, even though she had been through many trials in her life. We finished the morning singing, "Is my name written there, on those pages bright and fair".

The first meeting of the year was with Jeannie Campbell from Silk Road Ministries who works with her husband Billy in Cambodia. Richard and Cherith McCord had been with them earlier in the year and Cherith showed a dvd of some of the work. We heard of the school work and the building project. Richard and Cherith have collected many little packs for the school children and on the dvd we also saw them as they prepared not only in school with their education but also as they prepared for life and work.

Maud Kells was with us in October before she returned to the field in Congo. This amazing lady told us of the work in the hospital and also the building project. We saw her as she co-ordinated the making of the bricks for the building project and the buying of the tin for the roof as well as travelling miles along dirt tracks on her bicycle from one village to another. For a lady of her age the work accomplished with God's help was amazing and she certainly was a challenge to us all.

In November we had Keith Lyndsay, the Co-ordinator of Acre International. Many ladies came to this evening as well as many visitors. We watched in awe as Keith made some beautiful table centres, a wreath and a garland and how to transform pine cones with just a few drops of cinnamon. As he worked he told us about the reason for Christmas and of the work of Acre. We heard how the Lord is working in Portugal and how recently they had a team at the Fatima pilgrimage. This is an annual event when thousands go to the shrine to pay penance in the hope of healing and sins forgiven. There they were able to speak to them the truth of the Gospel and give them water and point them to the water of life.

We hope you have enjoyed meeting with us and if you haven't that you will join us in January 2012 when we are looking forward to having Linda McLaughlin along. Please come along and have fellowship and some supper with us. A Happy Christmas to you all.

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Our theme running through the SALT meetings is a character study on Joseph which deals with all kinds of topics including jealousy and purity. SALT kicked off on the 4th September with an evening entitled "Nice to see you." This was a night which we all used to get to know the newest members of SALT and to strengthen bonds with the older members also. This night went well and

we all got to know each other. The next SALT meeting was on the 18th September when our topic was dealing with jealousy. The young people all broke up into groups with one leader and we had a Bible study. On the night of 2nd October we had a special "what did you do last summer" night. On this night some of our own youth took part, including Alison and Katie Ogilby, Sarah Elder, the Spark team and Rebecca Millar. They told us about what they did over the summer and how they were involved in different aspects of God's work. They all told us how the summer events affected them and how it has opened their eyes to a need in the area where they served God. It was an extremely enjoyable night as we saw how the young people are being used by God. It was also a very challenging night. On Saturday 15th October the Youth were involved in the Word of Life Superteams event that was held at the church. The purpose was all about encouraging the young people to invite their friends along to an evangelistic event and to get teams of young people, from the church and also other churches such as Grange Baptist, to compete in a series of team challenges and quizzes to see who were the Superteam. There was also food provided and after all this was over the main purpose of the night started which was to bring these young people into the church to hear the gospel which Joel presented. The night was a huge success with 54 young people attending and 11 of our own SALT youth helping out by leading some of the challenges. The young people all enjoyed the night and we all had a good laugh at some of the games.

The following night at SALT, Sam Balmer came to speak on the title "dealing with rejection". This night was good as we all enjoyed having a different speaker and his challenge to us. The 30th October was a celebration of the 400 year anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible and as a youth group we decided to celebrate this by having a Bible search night to encourage the young people to read their Bibles and also show that the Bible is still relevant to all the needs of today. Each committee member decided on a topic and divided the young people into groups. Each group went round to each leader, who explained why they chose the specific topic.

Then each young person wrote down some Bible verses that they could use as references if they ever faced any problems linked to the topics chosen. This was a great night as the youth really enjoyed all the different topics discussed and took down lots of verses to help them. After this more structured night we had a more relaxed night where the young people were asked to take SALT. The young people who took part were Lynsey Alexander, Hayley Johnston, Matthew Wilkinson, Chloe Manson, Ruth Cameron, Craig Barkley, Ashlea Whann and Sarah Jones. They organized different quizzes with questions which were then asked to 6 groups made up of all the young people. Then after all the quizzes were over the points were added up to see who had won. This less structured night was great fun for us all, providing some healthy competition.

The Friday night after this was our SALT Ground coffee night held in Ground coffee shop in Ballymena from 7:30pm to 10:00pm. When the young people arrived they could order coffee and buns, then play board games or just sit and chat. This was a great chance for the whole youth to gel and come together through fellowship. Stephen McGall brought his guitar and his friend to play some music and sing for us. The young people all really enjoyed and sang along to the songs he played. All in all it was a brilliant night. The last night in this update was the 27th November in which Pearl Harkness came to speak to us on purity and temptation. This was tied into our theme of Joseph as we looked at how God helped Joseph deal with the incident with Potiphar's wife. It was really good to have a known face come along to talk to the young people on this very relevant topic. The young people responded well to this and were challenged and encouraged by her visit. That's all for this update! Look out for the next SALT update in the next edition of the church magazine.



Salt Committee

SNYC

Saturday Night Youth Club

info on SNYC...

Welcome to Saturday Night Youth Club! (More commonly known as SNYC). This is the place to be on Saturday nights from September on for ages p7 and up to meet with your friends and to have a bit of fun! Come on in when the doors open at 7.30pm and the pick-up time is 10pm. There is countless things to do around the place, sit and chat near the tuck-shop, play football in the lower hall with the boys, foosball, table-tennis, wii games, pool, snooker and on many nights there are special feature nights where things like crafts and mountain-biking (!) and maybe even baking take place. Come and join the fun with your friends! (:

Each evening there is also short Bible-based epilogue.

dates...

The dates for next year are as follows:
14th Jan 28th Jan 11th Feb 10th March
24th March

SNYC isn't on at the end of Feb due to a missionary weekend. Also due to Easter being the first weekend in April it is not on then either.

report...

Our Saturday Night Youth Club proves to be a great place for our young people to be every other Saturday night. It provides a place for the young (and not so young! The leaders have fun too!) to come and meet up with their friends and make new friends. There is always something to do. If there isn't a special night running (like crafts, football tournaments in cages and cup-cake baking to name a few) there is more than enough space and activities set up to entertain the children in a friendly environment where we can chat to them and get to know them and give them the support they need. Not just children from the church attend on these nights and it's so good to see other unfamiliar faces coming in from the housing estates surrounding the church. This gives us an opportunity as Christians to reach out to these young people and through relationships with them we can guide them into God's hands. Each night is marked by an epilogue, usually given by one of our leaders and this gives us the chance to tell the young people the only thing that will matter in their lives, the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole group of young people has also been divided up into different, smaller groups, called 'focus groups'. Each group has at least two leaders to look after them specifically and to pray for the young people and the different life-circumstances that they go through. These leaders are also here when any of the young people would like to talk or raise any issues. Discussions about the epilogue may also be taking place within these groups from time to time which will also let us learn how we can help each young person individually. All in all, it's fun for everyone involved and we're experiencing good numbers this year as well.

Please pray
for the work that goes on here
and for the young and untouched hearts that belong to the wider
community that we are getting the opportunity to talk to about spiritual
matters. Also pray for those who are saved that they will gain
strength in witnessing to their friends and grow their
faith. prayer points...

The Devil's Beatitudes

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy, with a bit of luck they may stop coming to church altogether—they are my missionaries.

Blessed are those who are very religious and get on everyone's nerves—they are mine forever.

Blessed are the gossipers—for they are my secret agents.

Blessed are the troublemakers—they shall be called my children.

Blessed are the complainers—I am all ears for them.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it is all about other people and not about yourself—I've got you!!

By Bishop Sandy Millar



Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known unto God (Philippians 4:6)

Francois Fenelou who lived in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries wrote: Tell God all that is in your heart as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles that He may comfort you;

tell Him your joys that He may sober them; tell Him your dislikes that He may help you over come them; tell Him your temptations that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil; tell Him how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself and others.

Tell Him—He's your friend.

During these cold winter nights many people spend their time knitting or crocheting. Why not knit a small blanket for a needy newborn in Cambodia? There are many poor families in the villages surrounding Hope House School, Kampong Speu, Cambodia, who would really appreciate a blanket to wrap their little one in. These can be in any colour, but must be lightweight and small in size. We will take these in April to the villagers, hoping to help them in some physical manner and also display Jesus' love in action.

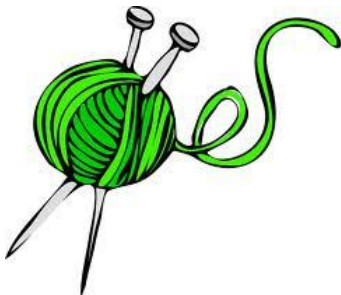
As many of you may know, we are planning to go to Cambodia and Hong Kong during Easter 2012. The dates are 6th-24th April, including travel. We will spend one week in Cambodia, alongside Billy and Jeanne Campbell, and the remainder of the time serving with LCI in Hong Kong. We would love to take a team of willing volunteers with us, so we would ask you to prayerfully consider coming with us!

A breakdown of our trip is 8th-15th April in Cambodia, and 16th-23rd in Hong Kong. You can come for one half of the trip, or stay for the entire time.

Please speak to us or send an email to rickymccord82@yahoo.co.uk if you have any questions about our planned visit, or the little blankets for the newborns.

We really appreciate your continued interest in all that we are involved in and value your prayers for Hope House School and LCI.

Richard+Cherith McCord



A is for Abraham, he was a friend of God,
 B is for Balaam, in evil paths he trod.
 C is for Caleb, a good report did bring
 D is for David, he was Israel's royal King.
 E is for Elijah, a prophet of the Lord,
 F is for Felix, who trembled at the word.
 G is for Gideon, who Mideon's host did slay,
 H is for Herod, over Judea he held sway.
 I is for Isaac, on an altar he was laid,
 J is for Jesus, by Judas was betrayed, who on the cross did shed His
 blood, from sin to set us free.
 K is for Keturah, she was Abraham's second wife,
 M is for Moses, by whom the law was given.
 N is for Nicodemus, who was taught the way to Heaven,
 O is for Obadiah, in a cave the prophets hid.
 Q is for Quartis, Paul's brother in the Lord,
 R is for Rahab, saved by a scarlet cord.
 S is for Stephen, he was martyred for the truth,
 T is for Timothy, trained in the word from youth.
 U is for Uriah, by David's order slain,
 V is for Vasthi, she was a royal Queen.
 For W, X, Y, no matter where we look, beginning with those letters
 there's no name in God's own book.
 Z is for Zachariah, of old he did foretell,
 The glorious advent of our Lord as King on earth to dwell.
 Now all that's written in God's most Holy book,
 Is written for our learning when into it we look.
 To teach us the way to God and how to happy be,
 Not only in their present life but through eternity.

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An Extra-Ordinary Night

An ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to hook an "extra" on the front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed. The sheep would have been forgotten and the shepherds would have slept the night away. But God dances amidst the common, and that night he did a waltz. The black sky exploded with brightness. Trees that had been shadows jumped into clarity. Sheep that had been silent became a chorus of curiosity. One minute the shepherd was dead asleep, the next he was rubbing his eyes and staring into the face of an alien. The night was ordinary no more. The angel came in the night because that is when lights are best seen and that is when they are most needed. God comes into the common for the same reason. His most powerful tools are the simplest.

Luke 2:11 Today your Saviour was born in the town of David.

THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY OF A KUNG FU CHAMPION

TONY ANTHONY

RAISED IN CHINA, TONY WAS TRAINED IN THE WAY OF KUNG FU, BECOMING A 3 TIME WORLD CHAMPION, A MASTER OF THE ART AND A HIGHLY PROFICIENT COMBAT FIGHTER. IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES TONY WORKED AS AN ELITE BODY GUARD, TRAVELLING THE WORLD PROTECTING SOME OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST, MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE.

WHEN TRAGEDY STRUCK IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE HE FELL INTO SINISTER CIRCLES AND WAS ULTIMATELY INCARCERATED IN A CYPRIOT PRISON. A THEN VIOLENT AND BLOODTHIRSTY MAN, TALKING TO A STRANGER WHO BEGINS TO VISIT HIM, TONY FINDS HIS ANGER BEGINS TO DISAPPEAR AS HIS PRIORITIES SHIFT AND HIS LIFE TAKES A MASSIVE TURN. WHERE PREVIOUSLY THE OTHER INMATES HAD RESPECTED HIM FOR HIS FIGHTING ABILITIES, NOW THEY ARE DRAWN TO HIM IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

FREE
ADMISSION

MONDAY 5th MARCH 2012 8pm Jordansdown University
TUESDAY 6th MARCH 2012 8pm Tullyglass House Hotel Ballymena
WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2012 8pm Joey Dunlop Centre Ballymoney
THURSDAY 8th MARCH 2012 8pm Coleraine University

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Born this day.....A Saviour

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” Luke 2:11

Into a stable among the hay,
The God of Heaven sent one day,
His only Son, the one He loved
Down to earth, from Heaven above.

“Good tidings of great joy” I bring,
The angels’ voice did surely ring.
“For unto you is born”, they sing
“A Saviour who is Christ the Lord.”

That Christmas morn, so long ago,
As shepherds saw the shinning light,
They quickly to the stable went,
And o’er the Christ child gently bent.

A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes,
A King in a manger full of hay.
No welcoming party, save the soft moo
Of the animals which heralded His birth.

He’s no longer in the stable,
He died on Calvary to be our Saviour.
When we trust ourselves to Him,
A new life in Christ will then begin.

Then every Christmas sure will bring,
Lots of joy, for Christ is King
Of our life and of our heart,
And from us, will never ever depart.

Written by Barbara Mills



Dates for your diary

Here are some important dates for the coming months....



JANUARY

2nd—6th January—week of prayer

FEBRUARY

24th—26th February—Missionary Weekend

Friday 24th— Mr Tom Rice—Society for the Distribution of Hebrew Scriptures

Saturday 25th—Mr Douglas Mark—Open Doors

Sunday 26th am—Pastor Hamilton Moore

Sunday 26th pm—Mr George Conn—Faith Mission

For further information refer to the Monthly Information Sheets

Services

Sunday School & Bible Classes—10.15am

Sunday Services—11.30am & 6.30pm

Salt*—alternate Sundays @ 8.00pm

Good News Club*—Mondays @ 6.30pm

Bible Study*—Tuesdays @ 8.00pm

Ladies Fellowship*—2nd and last Wednesday of each month @ 8.00pm

Men's Fellowship*—3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7.45pm

Prayer Meeting*—Thursdays @ 8.00pm

Youth Club*—alternate Saturdays @ 7.30pm

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Beloved ,let us love one another 1 John 4:7

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