



## February Key Events

5<sup>th</sup> Community  
Sport Plus  
Service

5<sup>th</sup> Evening  
Service

24-26<sup>th</sup> CCW  
Weekend Away  
at Pioneer  
Centre

29<sup>th</sup>

Congregational  
Meeting

Don't forget  
to pray for  
Garth, Jean,  
Rebecca and  
Daniel



# Relay



*Welcome to the February edition of the ChristChurch Relay magazine. This month it is focusing on the External Support Ministry petal - we have an update from Campbell and Glenys.*

## Scripture Focus for February

Isaiah 52:13-15

Hebrews 1:3

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. <sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness— <sup>15</sup> so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.



Interim Leader's LogTake time to stop

In February we mark the beginning of Lent. Traditionally this has been seen as a time of preparation before we share again in the Passion of Jesus the Christ; His suffering, humiliation, death and glorious resurrection. Traditionally too, Lent has mirrored the time before Jesus began His ministry when He withdrew for forty days and nights of fasting and prayer. In Jesus' life there was no chronological link between the two although there is a very significant spiritual one. Jesus used that time of fasting and prayer to seek his Father's Heart and to make decisions about the form that his earthly ministry would take. Those decisions led inexorably to the cross.



The rule of the Prince of Peace will bring an end to war and conflict and those who peddle in strife and thrive on confrontation will be thwarted.

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore. Micah 4:3

Darkness must flee when the Light of the World comes into the world.

In him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it. John 1:4-5

Those whose lives are built on half-truth, deception and hypocrisy cannot survive the Truth.

'If you were Abraham's children,' said Jesus. 'You would do the things Abraham did. As it is you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth!' John 8:39ff

Jesus warned his disciples that following him was not going to be easy. He warned of persecution and misunderstanding, of rifts in families and between erstwhile friends.

'From now on there will five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. Luke 12:52ff

That all sounds hard doesn't it? Just as well we've got Jesus as the friend from whom we cannot be separated, the brother who is always for us! Knowing too that whatever we are facing he's done it too. His family did not

always understand him and nor did his friends. They even deserted him at his time of greatest need! Through it all though he knew where he was going and he knew too that he was perfectly in tune with his Father.

Lent can be a time for us to do what Jesus did: take stock of where we are in relation to God and the call he has placed on our lives. Take time to be quiet and seek the Father's heart. Life is so crowded, the pace of life so fast, the demands on our time so numerous that we have to make a conscious effort of will and timetabling to put God where he needs to be: right in the middle!

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matt 6:33

I'll let you know how I get on with the timetable review! You have my permission to ask!

God bless,

*Sue*

**Ichthus Leaders conference 2012 by Huw Ap Dewi**



Sue, Glenys, Andrew and myself went to Croyden for this year's Ichthus Leaders Conference. After a smooth, uneventful train journey down we went straight into the first session (after a well needed coffee!). There was a fantastic worship team led by Chris and Jenny Orange and Roger Forster delivered the message. The theme of the weekend was 'Glory in the Church'. Over the various sessions and seminars we looked at the different ways of bringing God's Glory to the church and how God's Glory manifests itself in our lives and how it can impact others around us. Throughout the whole weekend I found that there was something challenging from every seminar and talk and found myself asking a lot of questions about myself as a person and how I live my life. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to be challenged and refreshed. We have bought copies of the talks from the weekend and they are available on request to anyone who would like to hear them. I also made lots of notes if anyone would like to discuss anything that I took from the weekend. The titles of the Talks were: 'Glory in the Church'; Roger Forster, 'Glory in the persecuted Church'; Sam Yeghnazar of Elam Ministries, 'Order in the Church'; Mark Bonnington and 'Glory in the House'; Joseph Boadu. I would usually recommend my favourite but they were all fantastic! God Bless. Huw

**February 2012: RELAY Update from Campbell and Glenys**

**Martina Best** reports that she had a very enjoyable Christmas and a quiet New Year with snow in Ankara on both Christmas Day and New Years' Day and now the temperature is down to minus 12!

Her health has been good this winter so far and since returning to Ankara at end of September she has been busy with a number of clients, doing counselling, mentoring and prayer ministry as well as basic Bible studies.

Overall it's been an encouraging time with lots of positive things happening. Some days she goes home with a heart full of joy and gratitude, feeling privileged to be part of the Lord touching and changing lives and other days goes home with a heavy heart, as there's so much brokenness and pain. Being a woman in Turkey is such a struggle e.g. one of the ladies she has been meeting with regularly for three months can't come any more as her husband has forbidden her to come to Bible study. Martina states "so I lift up all these wonderful, precious people to the Lord and try to understand what is on His heart, so that I can join in with my prayers and line them up with His heartbeat".

Since November the women in her fellowship have been meeting every second week for fellowship, prayer, worship and bible study with an average attendance of 8 and the week before Christmas they had a special time together, reflecting on our Lord becoming man, and the way He can understand us in our humanity. This ministry is headed up by Rabia, who is pregnant with her 3rd child, and slowly adjusting to her new situation with Martina usually doing the worship, sometimes sharing. Other ladies like the pastor's wife are supporting this too. Please pray for Rabia and Martina as they get together in the next couple of weeks to plan and to have wisdom in deciding where they should be heading. Their aim is to meet the needs of the ladies, see them built up, start discovering their gifts and ministering to each other.

In Oct - Dec last year she had to cope without any of her supportive prayer groups as for different reasons none of the ladies were available to join in the groups. Praise the Lord that in January, two of these prayer groups are up and running again as it really makes a difference for her.

The fellowship in Ankara is generally doing well with a positive atmosphere and Sunday services have good worship and solid preaching while activities like the soup day and Alpha evenings continue.

**Kevin and Anne** report that they too had a good time over Christmas meeting up with a family in Tanzania ( Hope and Anna and their kids) to celebrate on the Day together with another friend (Helen) who travelled from northern Tanzania to join them.

Anne had decided to give away some of her books (!!), so each of the kids received a "school prize" or equivalent. Kevin had brought some marzipan back from the UK in November, so we enjoyed some of the classic flavours as well and ended up with two cakes, one for before and one for after dinner! That morning they had given thanks to God for their marriage in the church in Iringa and asked that the offering go to a recently built village church (Mtitu) where the roof was being washed away in the heavy rain. Pray that they get the roof on before more rains come.





January 9th was Kevin's birthday which they celebrated with a special walk to visit a friend's family in Lulanzi, a village near Kilolo. Guided by Batazari they followed paths through tall Eucalyptus woods, newly planted maize, beans and potato plantation and stretches of grassland with beautiful wild flowers. They passed several schools where students were on their first day back in 2012, one of them was Batazari's old school.

Their own school started back on January 16<sup>th</sup>, so please pray for that the new headmaster, John Sichone can feel welcomed and give a good lead to both staff and students.

On a practical note the electricity is still six metres away from connection to their house, so please pray that this will be resolved soon. Weekends in town are spent catching up with old friends, doing internet, and playing volleyball. Every second Sunday the Iringa Christian Fellowship meets and it is wonderful to be able to worship in English!

Almost every weekend they pass through a village on the way to Kilolo where lots of children crowd around the window of the car with bags of peaches until they decide which one to buy. Next day is 'peach cooking day', as well as bread baking, rice boiling, water heating, onion frying, chicken roasting, and maybe cashew-nut cooking as well. The milk (which needs to be boiled) comes at seven in the morning and before term started Anne was very enthusiastic about lighting the cooker preparing porridge and toast for breakfast, boiling the milk AND had hot water for the dishes. Now we're back to reality and need to get to school by 7.30, so unless she starts at 5am it won't happen. What does happen each day they're in Kilolo is that they have a small bowl of thick cream (off the milk which has been boiled and cooled) which together with those peaches is, according to Anne, as near to heaven as possible. Don't worry about her theology, you would not be the first to raise a question mark!

tearfund

### **Tearfund:**

As you know we have joined a Connected Church programme since last Autumn and have pledged to raise £500 over the year to support a community of ex-bonded slaves in Shivngar, Nepal. This community is reliant on Tearfund and it's Nepalese partner Sagol ( translates as "being together") working with the church in the town of Tikapur. At Christmas we learned a little more about the community through the lovely play performed by the junior church and the short DVD. Although they are developing their own "internal economy" ( the pigs) and local co-operative to grow crops which ensures a better price at market, their lives are still very precarious and that even a few days illness can mean no work and no food. The local minister, Pastor Madan, fears that without significant support over the next five years to help transform the community the grinding toil of daily life may tempt some villagers to return to slavery. The church is determined never to let that happen. Their immediate needs are 1) to improve sanitation in the village as the current situation leaves them vulnerable to another cholera outbreak and 2) to support development of vocational skills. To provide them with a more solid foundation a church has been built in the community so believers can meet together and over 20 families have become Christians.

More information on Shivnagar will be presented at CCW on Sunday mornings throughout the year and the Tearfund website is another resource that can be accessed for updates.

## FI

Campbell, Glen, Frank and Val were joined in Oradea in November by Karen Budde from the USA. We had a challenging but enjoyable visit catching up with the Romanian team and in particular meeting Tomi for the first time. He is an alcoholic who has been abstinent for many years and is now providing counselling under the guidance of Christ with a group of alcoholics. Frank and Glen attended the group for co-dependents (mainly wives) and were touched by the stories they heard. It was a delight to meet Dalia, Nelu and Christina's baby, for the first time and to also meet the children who attend Christina's group of the Increderea Club and to hear their prayers which were very humbling. Val has produced a newsletter about FI and more editions of this will be available in future months. Please continue your prayers for the team and in particular for Nelu's health; that Tomi will integrate into the team and for the on-going court case for compensation for the old building.



## Calendars and Pigeons



Gareth raced his pigeons and they were very obliging. He has donated their winnings plus the ten pounds he gave me as a starter, to our Church Charities.

With the sale of the Birthday calendars, Gareth's money and a 'top-up' from Geoff, we were able to donate £100 to each of 4 of Christchurch charities - Hope for Justice, FI, Persecuted Church and Tearfund (East Africa).

We can select other CCW charities for the next project

A great big "thank you" to Roy for his expertise in producing the calendar and to Geoff, Gareth and Sally for their help.

Many thanks to everyone who bought the jam which financed the printing and to everyone who bought the calendars. Blessings, Mary.

The Leadership Team thank Mary for all her work

## There are still places for the Weekend Away!

### FOR LENT – Commences 22nd February.....The BIG READ:

Many people across our Churches took part in the BIG Read last year. This year, with the help of N.T.Wright's Book 'Mark for Lent', we're doing it all over again... with Mark's Gospel. Richard Sharples has a supply of books at the discounted price of £5. Check out the website [www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk) - There is material for both individuals and groups, and stuff to download if people are keen. Why not ask your house groups to consider this material for Lent?

## Our Hymns, the Songs of Faith

For February's RELAY magazine I've chosen a hymn which is a heartfelt cry to know Jesus' nearness & guidance as we promise to be his faithful servants. It's a hymn etched on my memory from the days of my youth when it was often sung at baptismal services as young or old made public witness to new found faith in God. I imagine it's a hymn that means a lot to many of us.

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.**

**O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see Thy footprints, and in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength alone.  
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;  
And then in Heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.**

The hymn was written by a John Bode for his daughter & 2 sons' confirmation service in Cambridgeshire in 1868. I imagine today's parents & grandparents who read these words can understand Bode's heartfelt longing that his children might want to pray the words of his hymn throughout their lives. I'm writing this article on the first day of 2012. **May we & our loved one's find we can use these words during 2012 to confirm our own faith, our commitment to follow Jesus & our desire to know, hear & be led by God.**

Also in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the hymn speaks about the distractions that many face in modern Britain in these words: 'I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear'.

'Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will'.

**Will you join me in the urgent prayer that in our generation the spirit of distraction might be overcome & many be drawn to find 'their Saviour & their Friend'.**

There are many tunes to which this hymn is sung. In the early 1960's we used J.W.Elliott's 'Day of Rest' & then from the late 1960's the hymn was enlivened by Geoffrey Beaumont's 'Hatherop Castle'. You can sing along to the hymn & these tunes on these websites:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svgHDdzP5xY&feature=related> &  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A&feature=related>

*Art*

**ChristChurch Monthly Rotas**

	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb
		communion	offering	communion
<b>Setting Up</b>	Art	Sue	Peter	tbc
<b>PA</b>	Eth	James	James	tbc
<b>IT</b>	Lucas	Frank	Frank	tbc
<b>Music Group Leader</b>	Colin	John	Huw	tbc
<b>Service Leader</b>	James and Meg	Peter	Sally E	John Wells
<b>Speaker</b>	Ros	Sue	Rev Sarah Errington (St Johns)	John Wells
<b>Tea</b>	Glenys, Rosemary, Meg	Jan, Steve, Dorothy	Peter, Elaine M, Marilyn	tbc
<b>Crèche</b>	Lucy	Sally E	Val	tbc
<b>Little Ones</b>	Sally G	Meg	Andrew and Liz	tbc
<b>Junior Church</b>	Community Sport	Lizzie, Glenys	Glenys, John	tbc

If you have any queries please call Sue Allen - ChristChurch Interim Team Leader on 01978 756719,

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