

Link Up



Reaching Children : Serving Churches

Spring 2010

Volunteers appreciated

Someone wrote recently that when she was young, all children went to Sunday School. I don't know where she grew up, but that was not so in my London borough! We did not hear the Gospel in Sunday School, Religious Instruction or School Assembly. Certainly nobody suggested that we should read the Bible. Let's say that we were immunised against Christianity! How refreshing then to hear the Scriptures taught clearly to school children in Bible Clubs. As a volunteer in clubs in two different areas, it is so good to hear children learning Bible verses, and listening attentively (most of the time!) while Barb and Angeline teach stories from the Bible. The children obviously enjoy coming and join enthusiastically in singing and other activities. Time goes quickly, but it is definitely time well spent.

Irene is a retired lady who helps Barb in a lunchtime club on Mondays at St. Paul's Worlebury First School (in Weston-super-Mare) and she helps me at East Huntspill Primary after-school club on Wednesdays (a small village South of Weston). Angeline



Irene Cape

I have been a volunteer with Bible Club for over 30 years, in Kilkenny in SE Ireland, working with one of the 2 children's clubs; there is also a youth club. There are about 16 of us volunteers, between the 3 clubs, and about 100 kids. We meet once a month locally to discuss the clubs and pray for them. Christmas is very busy preparing for a presentation to the parents. The year ends with Sports day and prize giving, all of which involves hard work behind the scenes. When asked why I do it, I answer that there is an eternal dimension here, working for the Kingdom of God to come in the hearts and lives of those we work with.

COLLEEN HARPER - Kilkenny, SE Ireland

BCM Volunteers – The most amazing of people, spanning a wide spectrum of ages and personalities, who have one thing in common a sincere love of our Saviour and a willing desire to serve Him in BCM Ministries. Could you be a volunteer?

Elaine, aged 34, reports ... I have been involved with BCM at all levels for 25 of my 34 years ... the main thing being that God used clubs and camps to bring me to Himself at 9 yrs of age ... BCM nurtured me as I am not from a Christian/church family. Here I was spiritually fed and taught how to live for God myself.

I began helping as an older teenager and now volunteer at 2 clubs each week and at camps. I also serve on the Teen committee and am a Trustee.

It never ceases to amaze me what we can pack into an hour whilst teaching the children the Word of God.

As a volunteer I have the opportunity to work with young people of very mixed backgrounds which can sometimes be quite challenging on a personal level but seeing God impact lives helps you to focus on the bigger picture. Working with BCM is a real blessing as you become an instrument in God's hands, building positive relationships that can last a lifetime. Many have come to know Christ for themselves. Others I meet in the streets of Kilsyth remember Bible Club and camps with great fondness but have still to let God continue to grow those initial seeds planted in their lives.

Elaine Hartley

The Psalmist's exhortation to 'Give thanks to the Lord for He is good' perfectly reflects our experience as volunteers with BCM international! We give thanks to God for His many and wonderful blessings through the work of Mullartown House, Annalong. Each August we lead a week of summer camp for 8-12 year olds. We are hugely privileged to work alongside a fantastic bunch of people reaching children with the gospel and encouraging them in their faith. It is our hope and prayer that every child and young person who passes through the doors of Mullartown will come to know, love and obey Christ.



Robert and Melanie Henry

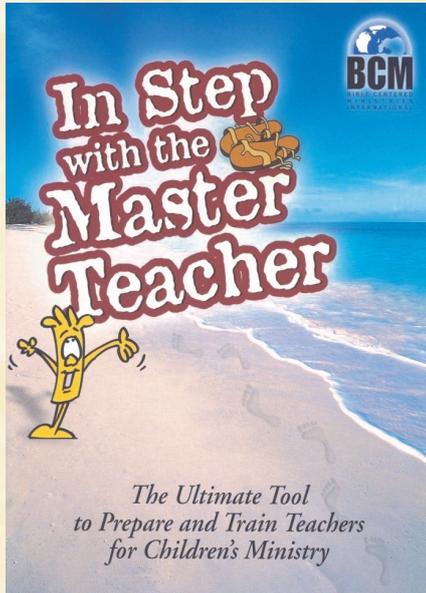
Camp is a wonderful opportunity – for all ages – and we would highly recommend it!

ENGLAND

The words of the Great Commission are familiar to us all: “Go and make disciples of all nations...” (Mt.28:19)

Often when we read those words, we think of adults but a third of the world’s population are children. If you are involved in children’s ministry then your aim should be to make disciples. It’s a challenging goal but one that we can help you with.

In Step with the Master Teacher is BCM’s excellent teacher training resource which helps prepare teachers to disciple children in the way that Jesus made disciples: by modelling God’s truth, building relationships, teaching for response, and using time effectively. To



date it has been used to train teachers in more than 25 countries around the world.

ISMT offers up to 22 hours of Biblical teacher training sessions full of creative and practical ideas that can be used regardless of the location, size or budget of any children’s ministry. The course looks at our relationship with God, our relationship with the children we teach, preparing a Bible lesson, and putting a programme together – all focused around the aim of helping children come to know, love and obey God.



Over the last couple of years we have run training workshops in Northern Ireland, Stoke on Trent, Dudley, Derby, Swindon, London, Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. This year, in Weston, we are currently running *ISMT* as a year-long course for a small group of Christians from various churches across North Somerset. It’s encouraging to see how keen they are to learn and share ideas together.

We think that attending an *ISMT* workshop will be of great benefit to Sunday School/Youth Church teachers (or to those thinking about becoming involved in children’s ministry) but don’t just take our word for it. Here’s what some people have said about the course:

- *Good fun and very informative*
- *Excellent sessions; well prepared and presented.*
- *I was challenged to be creative and imaginative.*
- *You’ve given me lots of ideas and enthused me again to think about different ways to teach the children.*

If you’d like to book an *ISMT* workshop for your church, anywhere in the UK please contact Angeline (01934 510919 – angeline@whitezoo.com)

or Barbara (01934 416300 – barbvan@talktalk.net)

For Ireland contact Brenda – brendaduffield@yahoo.co.uk

For a church presentation of the overall work of BCM contact Peter – peter.bittle@BCMInternational.org.uk

Thomas and Sarah Minnis are retiring from the work of BCM in April - an article regarding their work will come in our next edition.

BCM Kidz Day — Newton Mearns Baptist Church

What would you see at Kidz day???

Around 80 children having a whale of a time ... enthusiastically singing ... energetic leaders getting us all excited about answering competition questions. At group times you would have to be at six different places at once ... making Bible markers ... bouncy castle... Bible time ... Games ... Memory Verse ... Tuck shop (*healthy eating?!*) But then I also listened to a leader explain how a book without words, just coloured pages, can tell everybody about the love of God and how we must believe in Jesus. I'm glad I did that at my Bible Club, some of the group were thinking about it when we gathered together for the last session ... amazing quiz time and singing praise to God!



What a great day! Did you enjoy what you saw? Why not come in person next year?

30th Scottish Ladies Weekend Conference

On the 5th March over 100 ladies gathered in Perth for an inspiring weekend with Sandy Barber. The theme was:

"Important Challenges with Incredible Consequences"

We studied 6 questions asked by God and considered our responses. The final question "What is in your hand?" Ex 4.2 encouraged us to give to God whatever He has given us - large or small...big doors of opportunity swing on small hinges of obedience!

(Editor's note: Sandy was used of God with Margaret Gilvear to start these Annual Conferences 30 years ago. This was Sandy's final conference before returning to USA, this Autumn, with her husband Bob after their 40 years of ministry in Scotland and Eastern Europe.)



Trusting Through the Storm

SCOTLAND

Over 200 ladies gathered at Woodhill Evangelical Church, near Glasgow and enjoyed the Bible teaching ministry of Jeanette Windle on Feb.27th. The day was divided into three sessions where Jeanette spoke from personal experience and biblical insight of trusting God even in the most difficult circumstances.

"Our safety is not in the absence of the storm, but the presence of our God." She shared from Psalm 18, the life of Jeremiah and the example of Sarah: *Like Sarah...do what is right and do not give way to fear. (1 Peter 3:6)*

Even that Jeanette arrived safely from the USA was of the Lord as she woke to blue skies over her home and departing airport while surrounding areas experienced snow storms!

Jeanette is married to Martin Windle, the President of BCM . Read of her life and writings at:

<http://www.jeanettewindle.com> and you can order her books at <http://www.amazon.co.uk>



Prayer for Republic of Ireland—New Camp / Conference Centre

The long search is almost over – Castledaly Manor as mentioned in the last issue (hoped to be in our possession around Christmas) didn't quite make it but while not yet in our hands as I write, should be by the time you read this. The closing time on the transaction is the week of the 22nd of March. I will give a more detailed account of the way God has brought things about in the next issue. It is amazing but how else could it be?

IRELAND

Mullartown Update:

All systems are go for Summer Camp 2010, the Program Directors are all busy working on putting together teams and programs for summer camp 2010 at Mullartown House.



The theme has been chosen with the kids going on a 'journey of discovery' as they iExplore their way through the Bible.

Please pray for each of the Program Directors as they take the lead in this way and as they put hours of preparation into their week of camp. Please also pray for teams of counsellors that are being put together that God would supply the right staff and finally pray for Scott and Joanna Widman as they take overall responsibility for the running of Mullartown House and the summer camp 2010 program.

Kids Rally – Lisburn Baptist Church

The Bible Club Kids Rally is eagerly anticipated each year by the children who attend the weekly clubs in Northern Ireland and this year was no different.

On the 27 February 2010 at 6.30pm the halls of Lisburn Baptist Church became alive with the sound of laughter, cheers and screams as over 40 kids arrived brimming with enthusiasm and looking forward to the night ahead.

It was a 3 stage event:

Stage 1 – run them ragged – this ranged from 'big ball' volleyball, binbag and tinfoil fashion show with kids being transformed into batman and superman to name a few and finally unihoc.

Stage 2 – feed them – the usual bag of goodies was devoured by all!!

Stage 3 – singing, quizzes, memory verse and lesson. The singing was great with the kids being accompanied by a praise band made up of some of the older young people who help at camp. The highlight of the evening was hearing the kids from Stoneyford Bible Club recite the whole of Psalm 121 word perfectly. Our speakers (Steve and Judith) for the evening rounded the evening off with a clear presentation of the gospel from the story of the woman who washed Jesus' feet.

It was a great evening and the kids really enjoyed the night and were challenged once again from God's word.

Even though by 8.45pm the halls fell silent and the lights were turned off on another kids rally please pray with us that God's Holy Spirit would continue to 'speak' and 'shed light' onto what the kids heard on the 27 February 2010.

BCM is a faith mission. The work is financed through free will offerings from faithful people whose hearts are touched by God.

Any gifts can be sent to: BCM International UK (Anchor) Trust, 39a Swiss Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3AY.

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