

UK and Ireland

1947 - 2017

# LinkUP

Reaching children: Serving churches

Summer 2017



**70** years of Bible  
Club in Britain



**THE WAY  
THE TRUTH  
AND THE  
LIFETIME**

**P**SALM 10 says that a lifetime is threescore years and 10 - the number of years that BCM has been reaching generations of children in the UK.

Centre Pages

**Mission celebrates landmark anniversary**

## Incredible fun day for Clyde Valley kids

By Irene Paget

**A**LL too soon extremely happy and tired children were climbing aboard the bus after a thrilling day at BCM Clyde Valley's Big Kids Day.

Our theme was Incredible Me! and the children loved the positive spin we put on the popular Despicable Me!

We designed our own Incredible Me character and decorated the hall and publicised the event accordingly.

Throughout the day children were challenged to think of themselves as being God's Incredible creation.

We looked at the life of Samuel and sang about God accepting them just as they are... and that they are who they are because He loved them.

Games included pin the glasses on the Incredible Me, Incredible Me tin can throw, Incredible Me races, Incredible pit ball throw, and an Incredible bouncy castle experience. Incredible camp slides were shown and the children were encouraged to come back and enjoy a full week of incredible fun and life together.

Everyone left with a smile on their face and in their heart. They carried home great craft reminders and a card saying they were One in a Minion.

Altogether an incredible day... our thanks to an Incredible God.



# Our Minion dollar\$ event

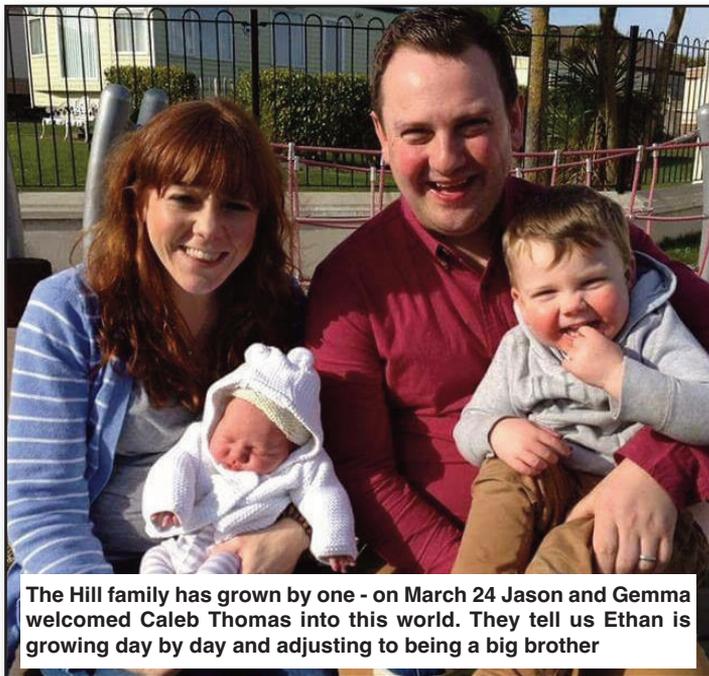


**L**AST summer we became the camp directors at Mullartown. We have moved into our new house, set up a camp office, painted and cleaned, cleared outside storage space and hosted weekend groups. All part of our new role!

Each week we have three discipleship groups (two Bubbles Girls' and an Oaks Boys' Group) and a young adults Bible study. The groups put on a Fireside Nativity at Christmas with more than 100 people coming to see the story told, sing carols and get a wee selfie with the donkey!

Gemma still leads a girls' discipleship group twice a week - about 26 attend. They are always lively and full of chat but we do manage to focus them as we look at women in the Bible, relationships, self image and how we can find God's help through things that come into our lives. The girls respond well but Gemma would love to see them bring more of God into their everyday life decisions.

We are very excited about our young adults weekend. This is to encourage them in their Christian walk, feed those who



**The Hill family has grown by one - on March 24 Jason and Gemma welcomed Caleb Thomas into this world. They tell us Ethan is growing day by day and adjusting to being a big brother**

normally are feeding others, and take time out to seek God.

We also visit schools, take SU meetings and church groups - mums and tots, Sunday school and youth fellowship.

We enjoy sharing the gospel and working alongside the local community.

We are excited about eight weeks of summer camps.

*Colossians 1:17 - He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

**Prayer topics: a new intern in September, two week visit by John Brown University Choir in May, ongoing weekend groups and preparation for summer work**

## We are blessed to be 4...



**Our fabulous new sports hall. This is an exceptional building that will greatly enhance and expand the work at Mullartown.**



**Jason and Gemma say they would be lost without their intern, Dan. He helps with maintenance, cleaning, hosting groups, schools work ... everything they ask. They make time for a daily lunch study and prayer. Dan and Jason have also completed a OCN course in youth leadership.**

# 70

## years of Bible Clubs in Britain



**May 1959: Founder members Bernice Jordan and Peggy Millar, first right, were in the UK visiting Bible Clubs across the country.**

Among the BCM pioneers who took up the challenge to open their home to children like those seen top left gathered round a piano were Mrs Richards and Mrs Wright.

Top centre are some of the boys and girls who attended the Bible Club run by Mr G.H. Eglen in Dereham, Norfolk. And the children in the photo, top, far right, were attending one of the first Bible Clubs in England.

Far right, Mrs Jordan and Mrs Millar again, this time with Bible Club leaders at a conference in the West Country.

This photo is dated 1949



# God's message for yesterday, today and forever

**IN 1987 I took on the task of writing the story of the first 40 years of the Bible Club Movement in Scotland.**

I remarked then that sometimes when the Bible refers to a "generation", it appears to take this to mean a span of 40 years. It was then quite a thought that the work in Britain of what is now Bible Centered Ministries was about to enter its second generation. Now if we take Psalm 10 at face value, we can claim a lifetime of work and prayer has gone in to this



evangelistic and discipleship effort. Bessie Traber, who founded BCM in 1936, and her earliest associates had seen more than 4000 Bible Clubs established in the US and Canada before Britain caught on.

As its reputation spread across the Atlantic there were constant requests from the UK for Bible Club Movement, as it was then, to send someone to help start clubs here.

Bernice Jordan, author of the *Footsteps of Faith* teaching programme, visited the UK in March 1947 in her role as BCM's field representative.

Most of her visit was spent in England, although she spent a weekend in Scotland where she spoke at the Saturday rally in the Tent Hall - then possibly Glasgow's biggest independent evangelical church - and she was also taught Sunday school at the city's Hermon Baptist Church.

The first Scottish Bible Club was registered No 6 in the UK and was at the home of Isa Calder, later Isa Buckley, in the Maryhill area of North Glasgow. Isa said years later of the gracious American woman who introduced BCM to Britain: "Her whole manner commended her Saviour and the work she represented."

In 1948 BCM in America sent Peggy Millar to Britain to work as field representative. She travelled throughout the UK, organising clubs with the help of Audrey McGhee, who gave up a well paid bank job to serve as BCM's secretary for Great Britain. The rest, as they say, is history. And a story for a future Link Up.

**Alister Blyth**

BCM Scotland held our 37th annual weekend conferences over two weekends, again at the Salutation Hotel in Perth.

This year's speaker was Margaret Gilvear, widow of Bill and

formerly a BCM missionary in Scotland. Margaret was in fact instrumental in establishing the BCM ladies conference.

The theme "Achievers with God" was challenging as well as encouraging as we looked at

how God's word can equip us for the battles we all face in life.

About 150 "achievers" attended and the feedback during and after the conference has been positive.

*Fiona Blyth*

I would like to help BCM reach more children with God's word and support its missionaries in their valuable work. Please find enclosed a cheque for:

£.....

payable to BCM UK.

I am a UK taxpayer and wish BCM to reclaim tax on this and my future gifts.

I confirm that I pay at least as much income or capital gains tax as will be reclaimed by all charities on my donations in each tax year, including community amateur sports clubs.

(Please note that other taxes such as council tax and VAT do not qualify).

Please send me a standing order form to set up regular giving from my bank or building society to BCM UK.

I have arranged to leave BCM UK a legacy.

Please send me details of how I can leave BCM UK a legacy.

Name.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Any further comments



# Mission, prayer and lots of info on our menu

**A**T 10am on a Saturday the Chryston community halls hosted our Prayer and Information Brunch.

An open hand on our welcome banner invited folk to partner with us in our mission to reach children and help churches teach the Word of God.

Looking more like a fayre, each area of the work was displayed under a gazebo with posters, leaflets and videos. At each, an enthusiastic worker was eager to share about different areas of our work.

Everyone enjoyed a cooked breakfast and had plenty of information about BCM to digest.

A comments board at the exit recorded what the guests felt about the morning, and they were all positive and encouraging.

As a staff we were delighted with the event. While we did learn a few lessons, as this was the first time we had tried this format, we all felt it was well worth doing again so watch this space!

**STANLEY PAGET**

# Time to pass on the baton

**A**S he rounded the bend the finish line was in sight. Could he turn on that extra turn of speed or would the race have sapped the energy needed?

Many BCM workers are reaching the time in their ministry when they can see the finish line looming.

*Do they go for the big finish or slow down gracefully? This raises the issue of how do you finish well.*

In a commercial job you can simply hand in your resignation or retire from your post. It is up to your boss to find a replacement so the business can continue. It is not the same in Christian service, often we are the boss, the worker and the office cleaner. So when we leave

the work stops. So as a mission we have to think seriously about how to finish well.

It seems to me we have two clear choices. Is it the end of a race, as Paul said, have we 'finished the course', and to the winner goes the prize or medal.

*In that case BCM would be handing out a lot of gold medals.*

I tend to feel it is more like the end of a relay lap. You pass on the baton to the next runner. You are part of a team, each with different strengths, those that get things going, make a good start, those that keep going when things get tough, and those who can raise their game for the big finish.

Looking to your future, how do you see it?

Perhaps you are the packed and tidy, clean break kind of



**● Is it the end of a race, as Paul said, have we 'finished the course', and to the winner goes the prize or medal**

person. Some have more of a need for control and would prefer to train another to do it "their way" so the work will continue seamlessly.

Perhaps you are set for a new beginning in the work, prepared to hand over control to new and younger workers, running the same direction but with a different style and pace.

A dynamic mission requires the experienced worker to guide the new. It needs the energy of the young to keep up with the children and it needs a team working together to serve God. So no easy answer to finishing.



## BCM UK

Reaching Children,  
Serving Churches

*Our vision: For more and more children and young people to know, love and obey God.*