

# Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 75: Autumn 2013



## Up to a Higher Level

**IN THE LAST KIT**, we looked at the experience of Jesus walking on the water and I made the claim that Matthew was trying to show us that here is the **I AM**. Here is the one that can overcome everything that this world can throw at us. Here is the one that can overcome the power of chaos itself. Here is our Creator who suffered and died on the cross for you and me. Here is the one who when we feel overwhelmed, shaken, depressed, frustrated stands in our midst almost shouting at us, **HERE I AM**, I am present.

Peter's problem was that he wanted proof of the presence of Christ. Today our test is to believe that when the storms of life are raging, like they might be for some of us, that Jesus will come into our situations and calm the storm.

In the Exodus 3 story of Moses and the burning bush, God told Moses that he was on holy ground. The Hebrew word is *godesh* a noun.

The first holy object in the history of the world was the Sabbath. It looks as if what made every minute of the Sabbath holy was the fact that God rested on every one of those minutes. See Genesis 2: 3 *Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified ( verb = qadash) it, because in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made.* It is the active presence of God in the Sabbath that makes it holy. Holiness is the very personal nature of God.

When in 1 Peter 1: 15, God calls us to *be holy as he is holy*, he is asking us to give him the freedom to take control of our lives so that his presence transforms us into holiness - into his likeness in character.

When I was a young boy I had toothache, I knew that if I went to my mother she would give me something to deaden the pain, but the next day she would take me to the dentists. I knew those dentists; I knew that

they would start to fiddle about with all sorts of other teeth which had not yet begun to ache. They just couldn't let sleeping dogs lie.

In a way Christ is like those dentists. Every time we go to Christ in order to overcome a particular sin, he will give us the victory, but he doesn't stop there. He will see his job through.

Being holy as God is holy, involves the recognition that it is not about us, but about God. Being holy has the meaning of being set apart, but not in terms of being removed from something. Instead we are set apart in terms of added quality. The active, holy presence of God transforms our lives and gives that extra quality.

Also his holiness requires us to surrender all. Moses was told to take off his shoes. In Hebrew culture that meant he was yielding his right to live as he wanted to and was accepting to live according to the customs of God.

Imagine yourself as a living house. You allow God into your house and his presence initiates a renovation of your house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on. However as time goes on in your relationship with God, you notice that he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and it does not seem to make sense.

The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of- throwing a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage; but he is building a palace. Why? - because he intends to live in it himself.

We shouldn't be surprised when the going is rough because Satan has a vested interest in keeping us from holiness. When the storms of life are crushing our spirits, when illness knocks us down etc, etc. When you cannot bear it anymore and you feel like shouting to God, *Why!... why?*

The answer could well be, *My child I am pulling you up to a higher level, where you will need to be much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than you could ever have dreamed of being before.*

Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for you and for me. Godliness - to be holy as he is holy.

Excerpts from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter.

### ***Holy, Wholly - Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH***

**BOTH HOLY AND WHOLLY** are words of Germanic origin finding their way into Old English (halig and hal respectively). So we discover that holy and wholly are intimately connected. Given that we are made in God's image we might expect that. The writer Dr Evelyn Frost concurs, saying *It may reasonably be inferred...that the wellbeing of the natural order lies in its ever-progressive approach to its final destiny, and because this destiny is divine, the most healthy state of the universe must be one in harmony with and response to the activity of the divine within it and upon it.*

That does not mean that we can achieve dietary or physiological perfection or holiness, nor does it mean that we can have *holy flesh* as has been stated by some fanatically in the past.. It simply means that by applying all the logic of good health practice we can be fit vessels for Holy Spirit power. We are saved wholly and will be made holy. Whilst we can accept the first, God will take care of the latter in His own good time. Seward Hiltner writes, *Health itself is not to be a preoccupation. It should be part of the Christian pattern of life and rather automatic in operation. An overriding preoccupation with health can be a form of idolatry that gets in the way of a satisfying relationship with God. Health is to enable service to God, but it is not an end in itself.* If the bygone Germans and Old English could see the relationship, how much more should we with the light we have received?

***THOSE who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.***

Daniel 12: 3 NIV.

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

THE LAST QUARTER was dominated, it seemed, by baby dedications. Starting on July 20, **Marc and Sarah Murray** brought little **Marc-Reuel** to be dedicated to the **Lord**. The family are shown in the photo by **Johnson Wong**. A week later **Hannah Stickland**, the second daughter of **Bob and Kirsty** was dedicated by her uncle **Pastor Nathan Stickland**. On August 24, **Chris and Estella Willems** brought **Grace** to be dedicated by **Pastor Paul Clee**. Below are photos of Hannah, and of Marc-Reuel and Grace with their parents. We send our warmest congratulations to all the proud parents and grandparents.



August brought its own excitement with the wedding, at St Albans church, of **Melissa Hall and Matthew**



**Small**. Their wedding was well-attended by fellow members and friends from Stanborough Park church. August 28 was the Golden Wedding of **Usko and Paulina Rinta-Aho**. We send congratulations to both couples. The last Sabbath in August, something lovely happened. **Annabelle Lim** is starting university soon and felt she needed to reconsecrate herself to **God**. So that's what she did, not by being baptised again, but simply by making a public profession of faith. Left is a photo of Mel and Matt, and right of Annabelle with her Dad -**Dr Sin Lim** - the latter taken by Johnson. We applaud Annabelle's decision.



Sadly we need to report the death of a former member of our church. On August 8, **Sister Sheila Leigh** died at her home in Weymouth. We send our sympathy to those who were close to her.

September 2 started with **Alex Browne** scaling the heights of Mount Toubkal in the Atlas Mountains in Aid of Parkinson's UK. So far she has raised over £2200. If you'd like to support this cause, donate at [www.justgiving.com/alexbrowne1](http://www.justgiving.com/alexbrowne1). All money raised goes direct to the charity. Congratulations Alex. Right is a photo of Alex who is the granddaughter of our **Pastor Patrick and Rosemary Boyle**. Her parents **John and Amy** print KIT.



The following Sabbath was a double birthday celebration for **Juliana Keshishian** who chose to be baptised on her sixteenth birthday. She



wanted to be baptised to be born again and make a fresh start with **Jesus**. On her father, **Arto's**, side she is a fifth generation Adventist, and a fourth generation one on her mother, **Mirian's**, side. Her mother is Brazilian and Juliana speaks Portuguese as a second language. She is also plays the piano and flute to a high standard. The photo below of Juliana with Pastor Venter who baptised her was taken by her father. Welcome to our church, Juliana.

On September 10, interesting events continued with **The Essential Energizer**, a series of Tuesday talks at 8pm following a light meal at 7pm, led by **Ivana Mendez**. They will continue until November 12.

Thursday, September 12 was the Preview Evening for **Ode to Joy**, another flower festival organized by **Audrey Balderstone**. A photo of one of the displays completes this newsletter.

It was arranged by **Kira Moser** and her friends on behalf of those who attend our Parallel Service. **June Coombs** took the photo.

On September 21, **Paul Cooper**, aged 14, started wearing a smile which would not come off, at least not whilst I was looking at him. It was Paul's baptismal day. Another fourth generation Adventist he was baptised by his granddad **Pastor Peter Cooper**. His grandmother, **Mrs Betty Cooper**, told the children's story. Paul's parents are **Stephen and Zeny**. Paul's picture was taken by June Coombs. Why did he get baptised? He said he wanted to get closer to **Jesus**. What better reason could there be?

Paul's baptismal day was also the Golden Wedding Day for **Max and Elaine Thompson**. We welcome Paul and congratulate Max and Elaine.



**Worth remembering:** something an American evangelist David Asscherick said, quoted recently by Pastor Jacques Venter, ***THERE IS a niche in the heart of God that only you can fill.***

### **Notes typed by NHS medical secretaries in Scotland.**

1. Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.
2. Patient's medical history has been insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the last three days.
3. Patient has chest pains if she lies on her left side for more than a year.
4. On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
5. Discharge status: Alive, but without my permission.

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