

# Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 86: Summer 2016



## ***The Test of Faith.***

**LET US CONSIDER** an event, there on the Sea of Galilee, found in Matthew 14 Verse <sup>22</sup> **Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side.....** <sup>24</sup> **But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.**

The previous time that they experienced the storm, Jesus was there. Sometimes you forget that Jesus is actually present with you.

We are reminded of the very real world in which we live. A world that has lost its sense of direction, tossed around by faith and doubt, ecstasy and guilt. Coming to church is when we can escape the claws of depression and insanity and find a bit of peace.

<sup>25</sup> **.. Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.** <sup>26</sup> **And when the disciples saw Him ..... they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.** <sup>27</sup> **But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."**

After an already difficult day, the storm picks up. For hours they try and fight this storm exhausting themselves while making no progress; fearful of the small boat's being turned over at any moment.

This reminds me of a story I heard. A swimmer was shouting desperately for help; but the life-guard just stood there—watching the drowning swimmer carefully, but doing nothing to help him. The swimmer grew so weak and tired that he began to sink. Finally, the life-guard jumped in, swam swiftly to him, wrapped an arm around him, and brought him to shore alive.

Why did the life-guard just stand there? A life-guard would explain to you that if he jumped into the water at the first moment of trouble, the swimmer, in a state of panic, would have tried to hang on to him - probably drowning both of them. The life-guard had to wait until the swimmer had thrashed around exhausting all of his strength; and then he would rely on the strength of the life-guard. Often we truly acknowledge that Jesus has worked in our lives if we have hit rock bottom and are forced to turn to God and ask for help. Love does not force. He will wait for your call to help. He will wait at the door until you invite him in.

Notice what Jesus does to show that it's him. Firstly he walks to them on water. Now the disciples knew the Old Testament said that only God could walk on water so in the midst of this storm Jesus does what only God can do.

Secondly when the disciples shout out in fear, Jesus gives them an empathic answer. The original Greek that is translated here as **It is I** is, *egō eimi*. Look at John 8:58:

**58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."**

The original Greek translated here as **I AM** is, *egō eimi* - exactly the same as Jesus' answer to Peter. Notice that what Jesus is saying here to the Pharisees is **I Am** and by doing so he is appropriating to himself the title of Yahweh, of God. Jesus emphatically answers **I Am. Peter it's me, God.**

Here is the **I AM**, the one who can overcome everything this world can throw at us. When we feel overwhelmed, shaken, depressed, frustrated, our creator, who died on the cross for us, is shouting at us **HERE I AM!**

**28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come."**

After a week at Newbold, I phoned home. My daughters only have to hear my voice and they know it's me. To differentiate between the noise of the world and God's still voice we need to get to know him. Here you have Peter, who has spent intimate time with Jesus, he hears Jesus claim he is God and he is checking to make sure.

Storms are raging around us and we need Jesus to enter into our lives. Unfortunately, sometimes, not believing that God is present and he wants to come into our lives and calm the storms, we jump ship.

Jesus brought Peter back to this challenge after his resurrection, when they were sitting by the fire, and Jesus posed that probing question, **Peter do you love me?** That question implied trust. **Will you trust me when I say I will be with you?** Sometimes we think that if we had enough faith we would be able to overcome obstacles. Faith is, believing that God will be in control despite the obstacles. It is not God's lack of presence in our lives that make us doubt and want to give up believing, but rather our not believing that he is always present. Faith is not about being able to walk on water. It is about daring to believe that God is with us in our boat, as it makes its way through the storm, battered by the waves.

Taken from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter.

*Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:9.*

## **THE TRUST BANK Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH**

**I READ** a sign in a warehouse many years ago. It said, *We trust God, others pay cash!* Interestingly, there has been little in the academic literature until recently regarding the nature and effect of trust. Dr Donald W Pfaff prompts this new debate: ... *lest that some think that "trust" is a fuzzy notion, okay for intimate personal relationships but hardly the stuff of hardnosed public policy, they need to think again. Recent scholarship points to the benefits of reincorporating notions of mutual trust into the nation's political, economic, and legal institutions.* As D H McKnight and N L Chervany comment: *..Like water, the need for trust is not noticed until it becomes scarce in an environment!* We grow up developing our own view of reality. Whether that reality is sound or a misconstruct, trust is necessary for the world to work properly.

Harvard's Dr Icheru Kawachi surveyed the various States that make up the US and concluded: *The level of social trust was strongly predictive of mortality ... higher levels of social trust were related to fewer deaths from all causes combined and to single causes of death such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, homicide, and infant mortality.* Part of the reason for the benefits of this social trust is, as Jonathan Haidt states, *We trust and cooperate more readily with people who look and sound like us.* Cooperation and team spirit creates trust. Ultimately, trust is simply another term for caring and sharing primarily at the local level. Political scientist Robert Putnam says, ... *the social capital that is generated by such local groups " makes us smarter, healthier, safer, richer, and better able to govern a just and stable democracy".* We can therefore both trust in God *and* others! That's a trust bank that benefits us all!

## Encouraging Words.

**WE FIND** the story in Nehemiah chapter 2. Jerusalem was in ruins. Nehemiah was cup-bearer to King Artaxerxes, and was distressed over Jerusalem. Artaxerxes was sympathetic and offered help. Nehemiah's response was, in his words, *I prayed to the God of heaven.* In *Prophets and Kings* by Ellen White, we find these words on pages 631 and 632:

*To pray as Nehemiah prayed in his hour of need is a resource at the command of the Christian under circumstances when other forms of prayer may be impossible.....In times of sudden difficulty or peril the heart may send up its cry for help to One who has pledged Himself to come to the aid of His faithful, believing ones whenever they call upon Him.....In every circumstance, under every condition, the soul.....may find assurance, support and succor in the unfailing love and power of a covenant-keeping God..*

On pages 632 and 663 we find how Nehemiah asked for everything he needed to help those working in Jerusalem and how Artaxerxes responded to his requests.

## KIT PUZZLE.

NAME:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. A wise woman:                            | A..... |
| 2. The son of consolation:                  | B..... |
| 3. He walked with Jesus:                    | C..... |
| 4. A female judge:                          | D..... |
| 5. He took his family to a foreign country: | E..... |
| 6. He was married to Drusilla - a Jewess.   | F..... |

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

**AT STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH** we are blessed by having some talented musicians among us. Our lead photo shows five of them. They are **Jiae Ahn** on the piano, **Jieun Ahn**, **Victoria Balan** and **Minyoung Bae** on violins and **Jihee Ahn** on the cello.

The rest of our news is of sad and happy events. We have lost four ladies who brought much joy to our church family. They will be sorely missed by their families and close friends.

**Sister Aenid Wright** died on April 14 at the grand age of 98; **Sister Gillian Huzzey** died on May 26; **Sister Barbara Izasars** died on June 13; and **Sister Joyce Whilding** died on June 20. She would have been 100 on November 11 this year.

Meanwhile there have been two weddings since the last KIT. **Nick Dean** married **Daniela Laterza** in Italy on May 19 (pictured right), and **Joseph Ngondo** married **Faith Allen** in Malawi on June 26. We hope to have one of Faith and Joseph in the next KIT. Congratulations to both couples.



Years ago a South African family started attending our church. Their daughter was **Megan MacIntosh**. About the same time **Cyril Boureau** arrived from France. Cupid got busy again, Megan and Cyril married and they are shown with their baby **Oscar Pierre**. Warm congratulations Cyril and Megan.

April 23 was very special because it was the day **Peter Cooper** and **Michael Lucking** were baptised. Peter was such an active member of our church community, people thought he'd been baptised years ago. Michael chose to make his big decision at the age of 17 with most of his life before him.

Our Pathfinder and Adventurer Club has been busy. Our **Pathfinder Bible Experience Team** ranked First Place in Arizona, and the younger ones achieved a Gold award at the SEC camp in late May. Congratulations



and Well Done!

Our welfare department is still in need of non-perishable food - tins, pasta, jam, biscuits, etc.

A variety of **Life groups** have been formed so we can get to know each other better and deepen our experience with God. For more information; [lifegroups@stanboroughpark.org](mailto:lifegroups@stanboroughpark.org).

Congratulations too to **James** and **Fiona Cooper** who became grandparents for the first time, on May 6. **Harry James** is the son of **David** and Kate.

More congratulations to **Joellyn Sheehy** who has been accepted on a Loma Linda University Medical School course starting in August.

### ***KIT Flashback.***

**WE ARE** still waiting for a photo of a wedding reported in the last KIT, but here is one of **Mary Standish** and **Nigel Hankin** who married on November 2. Belatedly we wish Mary and Nigel every happiness.

On March 5, **Joelle Turner** transferred her membership from Leicester to Stanborough Park. Also, since that date a counselling service is available to members and community folk. Prices and more information are available from **Fay Lido** on **07920 198 258**, or **Sandra Martelly** on **07538 973 290**.



Congratulations to **Giovanna Gayle** who achieved the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification on March 18.

### ***Something lighter***

**WIFE** texts husband on a cold winter morning:

*Windows frozen, won't open.*

Husband texts back:

*Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with a hammer.*

Five minutes later, wife texts back:

*Computer really messed up now!*

As it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority, try this one:

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Gurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Jap, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Jordanian, a Kiwi, a Swede, a Finn, a Canadian, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, an Argentinian, a Libyan, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist and an African went to a night club.

The bouncer said,.....

*Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai.*

**KIT Puzzle Answers:** 1, Abigail, 1 Samuel 25: 32-33; 2, Barnabas, Acts 4: 36; 3, Cleopas, Luke 24:18; 5, Deborah: Judges 4: 4; 6, Felix, Acts 24:24.

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