

# Keeping In Touch K.I.T.

---

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known      No 62:      Summer 2010

---

## *An Invitation Too Good To Miss*

IN LUKE 14, we find Jesus telling a parable about a dinner while he is eating at the home of a prominent Pharisee. It's interesting to think about the drama and the tensions undoubtedly present there.

In the story, *a certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.* Amazingly, they started to make excuses why they couldn't attend. If we read them we can easily see that they are phoney excuses.

The master is angry. His gracious invitation has been mocked. To refuse the invitation is to lose it. He orders his servant, *Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.....Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.*

Sometimes the church does not seem to be the place for healing and celebration. Sometimes we feel like hiding. It's easier not to be there. But I want to encourage you to stay with us. The church family needs you. Together we can make a difference. Let no-one push you out

Someone took the top ten excuses of those who choose not to attend church and inserted "wash" instead of "go to church".

### Ten reasons why I never wash.

1. I was forced to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites - they think they are cleaner than others.
3. There are so many kinds of soap, I could never decide which was right.
4. I used to wash but it got boring.
5. I wash only at Christmas or Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'll start washing when I'm older.
8. I really don't have time to wash.
9. The bathroom isn't warm enough to wash.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

God's banquet has begun. It doesn't begin at the end of time, but NOW. The time is NOW! (love, joy, peace, celebration...) God's banquet has begun in Christ.

God makes the guest list, not us! Who is on the Lord's guest list? (*ALL*, black and white, people with large incomes, people on welfare, married/divorced people, Conservatives and Labour).

God's invitation can be refused.

But why refuse?

If there are any excuses in your life that stop you joining this feast, from coming to this church, then you need to tell us.

- If you say the church is too cold, I guess Mary, Ian and I might get blankets from our cars and fans for those who say it is too hot.
- Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick service time. They are here every week.
- Perhaps you are waiting for hell to freeze over? It did just that in January 2001. A little town called Hell in Michigan has fewer than 400 people. The river at the dam froze over completely after several weeks of below freezing weather.

Excuses have a price. So the poor, blind and lame are having the time of their lives at the party. What happened to the original invitees? See Luke 14: 24, *I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.*

So my friend let's grab an invitation and see you at the table.

Excerpts from a sermon by Dejan Stojkovic.

**JESUS** said, *I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.* Matthew 26: 29 NIV

### Reaching out - Inviting in - Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH AITV FIHPE

EXCITING new research is showing that we are hardwired for compassion, and that compassion and spirituality are closely linked. The Latin root words for compassion mean *to suffer with*. German philosopher Arnold Schopenhauer summarized the concept succinctly, saying, *Compassion is the basis of morality*. Abraham Lincoln epitomized compassion in taking home a drunken, vomit-covered man found lying in the street. He may have had the incident in mind when he said in his inaugural speech: *With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds*. Compassion significantly reduces depression and stress and, when practiced consistently, may permanently change our neuro-circuitry. So reaching out to others, and inviting them in, truly exemplifies that giving and receiving bestow enormous benefits all round. Luke, the physician, was ahead of his time (see chapter 6 v 38 for confirmation)!

*FOR the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* Romans 14: 17. NIV

### KIT Puzzle.

WELL DONE if you identified both hymns in our last puzzle. It was impossible to find all the words because two letters were misplaced despite umpteen checks. Sorry!

This quiz is easier just find the missing words.

1. For the LORD takes ..... in his people.
2. Whoever ..... in the Son has eternal life.
3. The Lord is not slow in .....his promise.
4. Has not the LORD gone ..... of you?
5. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways .....
6. One thing I do know: I was ..... but now I see.
7. The man with two tunics should ..... with him who has none.
8. Jesus asked, *Were not all ten .....*? *Where are the other nine?*
9. Enable your servants to speak your word with great .....
10. ..fight the good fight, ..... on to faith and a good conscience.

### KIT Book Review.

YOU must have heard of **Ben Carson**. He is the American, Adventist brain-surgeon who specialises in separating twins joined at the head. You may have read his book, *Gifted Hands*. I haven't but I have read *Take the Risk* - a book brought out in 2008. *Take the Risk* teaches the reader how to identify, choose and live with acceptable risk.

I read about Dr Carson's at-risk childhood in a poor district of Detroit, about his mother who was determined to get the best for her boys, how he coped with the enormous amount of medical knowledge he had to master, how he carried out some of his cases - not all of which were successful.

I found I couldn't put the book down and grew in my respect for a genuine Christian. It's a book well worth reading. Stanborough Press have it and the ABC shop in Watford. It's price is £11.99 and there is an audio version available too. What's more Dr Carson's formula for identifying acceptable risk is easy to understand and use in one's own dilemmas.

### More Schoolboy Howlers

1. A CIRCLE is a round line, joined up so as not to show where it began.
2. A centimetre is an insect with a hundred legs.
3. Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogen - Oxygen is pure gin, hydrogen is gin and water.
4. Some cows are very dangerous, especially the bull.
5. Guy Fawkes chose the 5<sup>th</sup> of November for his plot because it was Firework Day.
6. An antidote is a funny story you have heard before.
7. The piece of music describing the retreat from Moscow is called 1812 because that is the distance from Russia to France.
8. William the Conqueror was one of our best authors and wrote the Doomsday Book.
9. Mushrooms always grow in damp places, so they look like umbrellas
10. A cuckoo is a bird which lays other birds' eggs in its own nest.



## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

SINCE the last *KIT* there has been great sadness and an incredible amount of joy in our community. On March 11, **Florence Allen** lost her sister **Joyce**. It happened so far away, our hearts go out to Florence, to Faith and all the others who loved Joyce. On May 8, we heard of the death of **Heather Thompson** of the Crieff church. Heather died after a very distressing illness. We send our sympathy to her husband, **Michael**, and children **Lisa, Keith and Gail**. We remember the family when they worshipped with us.

**Jenny LeCorre** lost her battle with cancer on May 22. Again we can visualise them in our church and send our condolences to her husband, **Terry**, and daughters **Celine, Kirsten and Marcella**.

More bad news on June 5 told us of the death of **Sister Elizabeth Bungay**. She was a member of our church for very many years and we are very sad at her loss.

The following week, we heard that the father of **Angelika Horwood** had passed away. We send our sympathy to **Angelika, John and Laura**.

Also on July 9, **Sister Enid Roberts** died. We send our sympathy to **Olsen, Heather and Neilson**. Enid was an inspiration to us all right up to the end.

When **Dejan** preached the sermon on which our editorial is based, he was probably thinking of May 30 as well. That day was a **Double Wedding Celebration** for Stanborough Park church. That day **Kimberly Chybalski** married **Michael Chang** in Watford just after noon; and **Deana Ilic** married **Dejan Stojkovic** in Serbia a few hours later. The Watford wedding was lovely, and Deana and Dejan were persuaded to have a Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving at Stanborough Park on June 13, for the sake of those who didn't go to Serbia. **Congratulations** to both couples and of course we wish them every happiness. Michael's official photographer took the photo of the new Mr and Mrs Chang. Dan Sabatier took the one of the new Pastor and Mrs Stojkovic. Deana is the one with two little flower girls in the picture.



**Congratulations** too to **Dr Carlyle London** who obtained his **PhD in Health Care Science** early in the year. Also to **Romola and Brian Combridge** who celebrated their **Golden Wedding** on March 27. Also to **Therese and Philippe Valsin** who provided the church flowers on April 17 to express thanks to **God** for their 45 happy years together. On May 15, **Edwidge and Graham Turner's** family provided the flowers to thank **God** for his blessings in the lives of Edwidge and Graham who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays in May. On June 19, the church flowers were given by their family to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Margaret and Eustace Anthony**.

Two members of the Guenin family have cause to celebrate. On April 24, we were told of **Sophie's engagement to Kavit Shah**. Also **Dr Christian Guenin** is now a fully qualified dentist. **Congratulations** to Sophie, Kavit and Christian.

On February 27, **Cyndy and Samson Caderma** dedicated their baby girl **Charlize Lauren** to the **Lord**. We wish them **God's** blessings.

Since then, at least six babies have been born to our extended church family.

**Congratulations** to:

**Sunsiree and Jean-Marc Renard** on the birth of **Davide** on March 9,

**Grandparents Pat and Peter Bone**, and to **Audrey and Andrew** on the birth of **Annabel Violet** their second daughter on March 31.

**Grandma Audrey Balderstone** and to **Amanda and Peter** on the birth of **Spencer David** their baby son on April 22, **Grandparents Dawn and Paul Tompkins**, and to **Laura and Tim** on the birth of their daughter **Erin Amy** a week later, **Grandparents Diane and Dennis Johnson**, and to **Nicola and Richard** on the birth of their son **Daniel James Richard** in early May.

The last birth is stop press news. On July 6, **Jonathan James Evers** arrived to the delight of **Joanna and Andrew** and both sets of grandparents.

There have also been two baby dedications. We are still chasing details about the one on June 5; but on June 19, **Riley Steyn** was dedicated by his grandfather. Appropriately Riley's parents and grandparents come from South Africa, though Riley won't be playing football just yet. **Congratulations** to parents **Delryn and Rinus** and grandparents **Pastor Willie and Mrs Marieta Steyn**.

Another kind of birth has been happening in the lives of five persons who were **baptised** on May 1. In the bulletin we found the names of **Clare Tullett** and her young cousin **Laurent Vitry**, also the names of brother and sister **Rebecca and Matthew Morais**. That makes four. A surprise element was the fact that **Maria De Morais**, the mother of Rebecca and Matthew had been studying the Bible in secret and chose to be baptised with her children. Something lovely was that the preacher that day was **Daniel Thompson** who baptised his nephew Laurent.

**Arto Keshishian's** picture shows Clare, Rebecca and Maria standing behind Laurent and Matthew. **Johnson Wong's** picture shows the Steyn family.



Recently we have added five members through transfer, and lost two. On March 20, **Luke Marshall** transferred to Swansea Church and on May 22, **Knut Asle Asbjornsen** transferred his membership to a church in Norway. However on June 19, **Linda Merchant** joined us from Watford town, and **Karin Vicente Greco, Romulo Vicente Greco, Rebecca Vicente Greco and Guilherme Vicente Greco** joined us from Sao Paulo. We wish all seven happiness in their chosen places of worship.

**Paul Godfrey and Kish Poddar** raised over £12,500 by competing in the London Marathon; the **ADRA Appeal** raised £6271.34; a **Giant Sale** on June 5 raised a record £1868.50 to boost the **Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs Camporee Fund** and £41.50 was raised for **STOP**; and on June 27 **Audrey Balderstone's Garage Sale and Tea at Three** raised £1620.00 for the Peace Hospice and Helen and Douglas House. People have been working hard and they are grateful to all their supporters. Much more has happened but sadly we've run out of space now.

### ***KIT Quiz Answers***

1, Delight - Psa. 149: 4; 2, Believes - John 3: 36; 3, Keeping - 2 Pet. 3: 9;  
4, Ahead - Judges 4: 14; 5, Smooth - Luke 3: 5; 6, Blind - John 9: 25; 7, Share - Luke 3: 11;  
8, Cleansed - Luke 17: 17; 9, Boldness - Acts 4: 29; 10, Holding 1 Tim 1: 18 and 19.

*KIT SUMMER 2010. KIT is published quarterly and authorized by the church board at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Editor: Bronwen Atkinson, address [roybron@onetel.com](mailto:roybron@onetel.com); Design and Layout and nature photos: Audrey Wolfram; Secretary: Mary Kapon. Other contributors were Pastors Dejan Stojkovic and Richard Willis; Frank Blewitt; Lorraine Cooper; Arto Keshishian; Daniel Sabatier, Johnson Wong. Lorna Annable who produced Junior Page; and Maggie Mann who found the Teen Page story. Etienne Guenin, Gwen Olney and the deaconesses helped with distribution. Our thanks to them all.*

