

# Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known No 71: Autumn 2012



## *God poured out his Love into our Hearts.*

**WHEN I WAS** growing up, as a teenager I contracted a chronic disease which meant I was home from school at least 30% of the school year. You miss out on a lot of social things if you are not there when they happen, and there was always a new day with pain to be faced. I was terrified of the pain and realised quite soon that my parents could not help me, however much they wanted to. The only one who was there in the darkest moments of fear and pain was God.

It got to the point where I really did not want to live any more. I couldn't see that the joy outweighed the suffering. And I really was tempted to end my own suffering.

But something from God stopped me. It was as if God was saying: *'Hey, you didn't give me a chance yet! You do not know what I have in store for you around the corner.'*

I think that was when my lifelong adventure with God began. I was so happy just a few years later, when I was so much better, and could start to enjoy life. So you see, I did not become miraculously better immediately, but God has helped me so many times in life.

It is easy to give up when you think that things are not going to work out. Sometimes we are in the middle of suffering and we cannot see what God is doing. Suffering can come in different shapes for us, through grief, through stress and worry or through sickness and pain.

Remember Job? Remember how God answered Job's question about his suffering, *'You are not almighty God, you cannot understand'* Job, chapter 38 on.

That's a hard answer for us to accept in these questioning, irreverent days. But maybe we need to take things on faith, and trust that God knows what he is doing and that sometimes we just cannot understand why he lets bad things happen.

God had been there in my teens and later too. He was there in my innermost being where no one else can reach. Of course he can take away sickness and pain. He gave me a new life where I could go far away from home and still be healthy. But I knew that you could leave fear behind even in the middle of suffering and walk with God.

Romans 5: 3-5 reads, ***'We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.'***

Paul describes such a fantastic progression in the growth of an individual here. One learns to plod on through suffering, and this perseverance gives us character. We grow as we appreciate the moments without suffering, and small simple pleasures when we have to do without, and the strength of character produced sees a way out - a shining land of sunshine above the clouds that is filled with hope.

All of this because *'God has poured out his love into our hearts'* Not a trickle - **POURED**. I have experienced this outpouring of God's love a few times in my life and it is wonderful to really feel how much God loves you.

You have a choice; to turn away from God and let suffering twist you into bitterness and loneliness, or turn to God in your suffering and let him create his image in you, making you a stronger and a better person.

In Malachi 3: 3 it says of God, 'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.' Who were the Levites? God's people - us!

Someone went to ask a silversmith about this verse. In order to be purified, the silver must be in the hottest part of the fire. The smith must watch it all the time so it is not there too long so gets ruined. How does he know when it is done?

When he sees his own image in it! **He watches us closely, he waits to see his image in us.** Taken from a sermon by Karin Wiczorek.



**Musical Success Story** sent in by June Coombs

**AT THE END** of June, Minyoung Bae, 21, entered the International Piano Competition in Padua, Italy and was awarded third place in the 19 -22 age category. She played Liszt's *Rhapsody Number 2* and Ravel's *Une Barque Sur L'Ocean*. She was there for five days and was able to fit in some sightseeing including a visit to Venice.

Minyoung - photo by June Coombs

**Special News Flash** sent in by Pastor John Arthur.

**CHRISTINE DAVIES**, who spent her childhood years in Stanborough Park church, was selected as Birmingham University's Alumina of the Year 2012. After receiving her award from the pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, Christine presented the keynote address to 1,000 graduates, friends and professional staff assembled for a graduation ceremony in the Great Hall which dominates the campus. At a time when public confidence in bankers, politicians and other leading figures has eroded drastically, Christine emphasised the need for trust and transparency in all walks of life.

She said she was both humbled and honoured to accept the award but remained totally mystified as to why she had been chosen - especially when she learnt that there are no less than 170,000 former students of Birmingham University currently living all over the world

As Managing Director of the Birmingham office of McCann PR (part of McCann Erickson, the world's largest advertising and communications network), Christine has worked closely with the university's School of Business Studies in providing work experience and employment for students. Her mother, Ruth, flew down from Scotland for the event, but father, Pastor John Arthur, was forced to view proceedings on Livestream because of his inability to travel on health grounds.



**NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!**

**WE HAVE HAD** an amazing quarter since the last KIT. The news has been mainly of births and baby dedications with a wedding, a diamond wedding and three baptisms thrown in for good measure. We hope to have photos of some of the babies in the next KIT.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to four of our number. **Mrs Joan Gallivan's** funeral was on July 11, followed by **Mrs Liliane Vitry's** on August 31, followed by that of **Paul Johnson** on September 5. **Miss Agnes Poulton** died on September 24 at the grand age of 104! Agnes, Liliane and Joan were known to many of us. Paul was a civil engineer and worked abroad a great deal so was not able to meet with us so often. He died as the result of a car accident. All of them will be sorely missed and we send our condolences to their families and friends.

**Sebastian Andrew Shields** was born to **Oksana and Andrew** on July 9. **Alyssa Smith** was born on July 25, the third daughter of **Anne and Daniel**. **Jack Joseph Berry** was born on August 16. He is **Barbara Hankin's** sixteenth grandchild and the son of **Helaena and Warren**. **Hannah Louise Stickland** was born the same day. She is the second daughter of **Kirsty and Bob**. Of course all these children have brought much joy to their parents and extended families.

Little **Franklin Curtis Chang** is the son of **Kimberley and Michael** and was dedicated on July 28. As you can see

below, he is a gorgeous baby.

On August 18 three people were baptised. Remember **Estella Rodricks**? She was re-baptised with **Chris Willem** – who was baptized for the first time. Chris and Estella were married on September 2. The third candidate was young **Michael Okafor**. Michael is the son of Ngozi who was baptised last year. We include photos of Frankie and the newly-weds, but one of Michael will hopefully be in the next KIT.

Frankie Chang  
(Photo by his  
father.)



Chris & Estella Willem

August 18 was also the **Diamond Wedding Day** of two special people. **Pastor Roy and Sheila Burgess** met at our church, got married in 1952 and in time had two children, **Elaine and David**, and four grandchildren. Like their parents, Elaine and David each have a son and daughter. Roy served the church in England, Wales and Ireland ending his ministry as our senior pastor in 1983 for seven years. I found I could remember each of his sermons right through the following week.

Meanwhile Sheila taught for 30 years retiring as headmistress of a junior school. Roy still gets called upon to care for churches, sometimes for some time and miles away from Watford. On their special day, to their delight, they received a card from **Her Majesty**. When asked what is the secret of having a happy marriage, they said, *'Have a strong faith, have shared interests and have the love of the family and also the love of the church family...'*

Two others who have over the years gained the love of the church family are **Pastor Paul and Barbara Clee**. When Paul joined us we knew Barbara already and he was a very popular choice amongst those who knew him. He has proved to be an excellent preacher with a great sense of humour and a very caring man who really believes *'whosoever will may come'* and should feel welcome. Paul was born in Yorkshire, a county he loves dearly. They have two sons **Timothy and Jason**. Before arriving at Stanborough Park about two years ago, Paul served in churches in North England, at the NEC Office, also as president in Wales and in the TED Office. He said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time with us. His hopes for our church were embodied in his recent sermon (September 29) based on 2 Peter 3: 11 & 12. He encouraged us to be true worshippers, to look forward with eagerness to the second coming and to hasten that event by our own witnessing. On retiring at the end of October, he intends to accept invitations he has received to preach at Adventist churches and would like to work in health education in some way. He hopes we'll treat his successor as kindly as he feels we have treated him.

The latest information is that **Pastor John Ferguson** is not coming here as previously planned. **Pastor Jacques Venter** will be coming, but not until January.



Pastor Paul Clee



Roy and Sheila Burgess



Charlotte Rashleigh and Ivana Mendez

Frank Blewitt took the photos of Pastor Clee and also of the two ladies. He also found our lead photo of a lovely autumn scene. Cath Burgess took the photo of Roy and Sheila.

**Charlotte** from Brisbane, Australia arrived in July to serve as a student missionary for one year. **Ivana** is from Slovakia. She is our new intern pastor and is married to **Rory**.

**Fike Bright** from Edmonton Central Church and **Peter and Abigail Lucking** from Stratford Church joined us by transfer on July 28. We give them all a warm welcome.

Finally, we welcome **Peter Walton** to our KIT team taking the place of **Etienne Guenin**. As Stanborough Park's Youth Leader and a deacon and busy planning his wedding next year, Etienne is fully occupied at present. We thank him for all he does for our church. **Sheila Stickland** is another most welcome addition to our team.

**Survival Points** by Richard JB Willis MA, MSc, FRSPH

**SURVIVAL**, from the Latin *super* beyond, and *vivere* to live, translates as to *live beyond, to outlive, to remain alive*, and typically **three** stages in life crisis and other rites of passage: separation or other crisis event, merger or transition, reincorporation. In the first the prevailing difference between oneself and others becomes evident. Transition is described as the individual's entering an experience as *one kind of person* and emerging altered by the experience. Reincorporation is a settling back into a fairly normal existence.

The experience of survival may take one of two distinct courses: **guilt** that the person has survived when others in similar conditions have not, or a **sense of specialness** where non-affected persons view the survivor as *wonderful* or *remarkable* thus placing them in a separate category of people. They are often envied as being positive thinkers, taking charge of their lives and changing personal values. Some books by survivors reinforce this idea. Real survival is a recognition that bad things happen even to good people and that we can do all things (sometimes within limits) through Him who strengthens us.

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***Finally, to you all then, loved of God and called to be Christ's men and women, grace and peace from God the father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7 (J.B.Phillips)***



# Junior Kit



Draw from the start point to all the red dots and green arrows.

There is a green arrow for every green sentence here.

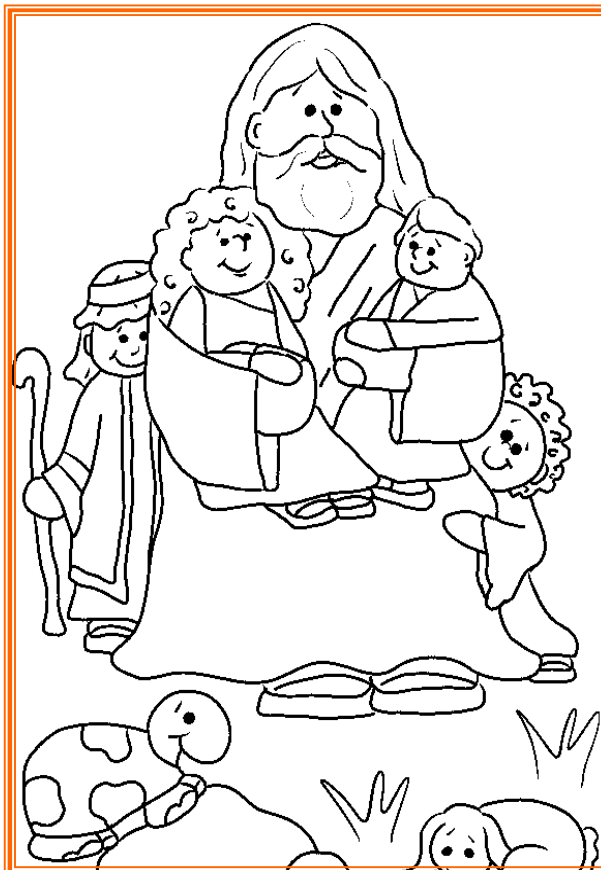
There is a red dot for every red sentence here.

Find the route for each one. 12 in all.

1. I got top marks for my composition.
  2. We won the football at school today.
  3. I got a gold medal in the swimming race.
  4. I had £5 from the police lost property today—no one had claimed it.
  5. I got the leading roll in the school play.
  6. Dad said we could have a puppy as a pet.
1. I got all my maths wrong at school.
  2. I have argued with my best friend.
  3. Mum punished me for bad behaviour.
  4. My cat died today.
  5. Grandma is very sick.
  6. I crashed my bike and can't ride it.



Life is good - people who love you, a beautiful world to live in, plenty to smile about and lots of great things to do.  
So when things go wrong pick yourself up, dust yourself down and remember to talk to Jesus. He will always be there for you.



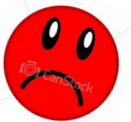
JESUS NO MATTER ABOUT YOU

Sometimes life is up



Sometimes life is down

But Jesus is always there to help you



SMILE

