

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 87: Autumn 2016



Recycled for the Kingdom

ONE OF BRITAIN'S most popular pastime practices is attending a car boot sale - we spend approximately £1.5 billion a year at them.

A parallel thought is that the value we ascribe to our own personal identity is often dramatically different from Christ's perspective of it.

In Luke 6, the religious establishment of Jesus' day viewed Jesus' associates as rubbish.

Verse ¹²Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Things are beginning to move quickly. Jesus has been calling people to repent; and forgiving sin; preaching the kingdom of God; and healing every disease. You would think that everyone would love Him, that all Jerusalem would rally behind Him.

Doesn't happen today either does it? You would think that when Jesus offers forgiveness of sins, people would jump at the chance...but most don't – why? Jesus does offer to forgive sins but he also requires submission to his will. Seeking Christ as Saviour, we must submit to Him as Lord.

Opposition is mounting. The religious leaders are getting more and more desperate and vicious. Jesus sees His eventual death is looming nearer, so it's time for Him to train those who would carry the mantle after He is gone. But first, He goes to the mountain to pray.

This was a special prayer. Luke uses an interesting phrase here - 'prayer of God', a phrase used only once in the entire Bible. It suggests a deep communion that Christ has with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit - up all night reviewing the disciples one by one - the Trinity was deliberating.

Where is your mountain? Where's your place, where it can be only you and Christ? To talk about that cloud that is hanging over you. That decision that is looming. That sin that is eating at your heart and

pushes you further from God and others. Where God can lift you up, and you can experience the peace of leaving it in His hands. Go to that place, abide there for a while and commune with God.

So Jesus calls twelve - a symbolic number. There were twelve tribes of Israel called to be a light to nations around them. The apostles would be the new Israel - the ones upon whom Jesus would build the Christian Church, but they were ordinary people.

Some of you might have heard about the Recycled Orchestra. It was founded in the slums of Paraguay's capital Asuncion. The poorest of poor live in the district of Cateura. It is the hideout place for alcohol addicts, thieves, pickpockets, and rapists.

What makes this worse is that Cateura is also Paraguay's garbage dump dealing with 1500 tons of garbage every day. Most children find themselves every day rummaging through the rubbish to try and salvage something that can be recycled for money or food.

In 2006 Favio Chavez came to Cateura for a specific recycling project and decided to teach music to the children. It soon became evident that most musical instruments cost more than a house.

Favio approached a skilled craftsman who took rubbish and transformed it into other items. Favio gave him a violin and asked if he could make another one for him. Soon he had made a violin from paint cans, an aluminium pot, and wooden pallets.

Favio gave the violin to a student and started to teach her how to use it. Two years later Favio had a group of 30 students, whose lives were transforming in front of their families, the nation and the world.

The rubbish items were instruments in Favio's eyes yet they had to grow into that reality.

God takes us where we are, and if we are willing to submit we will be transformed, by the grace of Christ, into God's image.

John 15 says

16 ... I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.

Our purpose is to *go and bear fruit* - to bring glory to God by loving each other.

Often we feel like we don't know what it is that God wants from us. This can be likened to when the craftsman begins to cut, shape and hammer those oil canisters into a cello. This moulding and shaping is not easy. It's painful and yet joyful.

There is joy because the Craftsman is clear on our purpose - to bear the fruit of love. Then God can use us to begin to transform other people's lives. That brings joy even though there is so much suffering.

As Christ's representatives today, He chooses human beings - people like you and me. However imperfect and sinful we may be, Jesus Christ holds out to us the offer of apprenticeship to Him, that uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God.

Within your immediate circle, there are people perplexed with doubt, burdened with difficulties, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Invisible. But a friend whom they can see, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ. When you give yourselves to Christ in wholehearted devotion, angels rejoice that they may speak through your voice to reveal God's love.

Where is your mountain for prayer? You are an heir of the kingdom of God. Come, now, to the foot of the cross so He can manifest His glory through you.

Excerpts from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter

DO NOT conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12: 2.

KIT Flashback

PICTURED are **Michael Lucking and Peter Cooper** who were baptised at a lovely service on April 23.

In the photo, Michael is on the left and Peter on the right. We give them both a warm welcome to our church family.



As you know, **Joseph Ngondo** married **Faith Allen** in Malawi on June 26. To our delight, Faith lent us a DVD of the whole ceremony which was almost as good as being there. We were also pleased to see that **Burnell and Angela Bussue** were there, so our church was represented. The happy couple are shown with Angela on their big day (left).

Early in July, **Olsen Roberts** married **Rebecca Dean**. The photo to the right is of them. Both the bride and groom look stressed-out because Olsen was given the day off from being a hospital patient, and had to return there the next day. We wish both couples every happiness.



Also we have the photo of a lovely little girl with a big name. **Cidalina Sereena De Jesus Teixeira-Jones** was brought to be dedicated by her mother **Rachael** and Father **Telmo**.



AS GOOD AS NEW **Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH**

COUNTY DURHAM housewife Sue Westhead made the news recently by having a still functioning kidney, now over 100 years old. Sue's mother Ann Metcalfe donated it to her daughter in 1973 when she was herself 57 years of age. Expected to last about 20 - 30 years at most the kidney is still *as good as new*. This expression has become more personal over the last decade as people worldwide have benefited not just from organ donations but a whole gamut of human *spare* parts. Necessitated by the inroads of disease and horrific warfare injuries the advances of clinical science and the honed skills of surgeons has made possible the reconstruction, installation or activation of body parts deemed to be essential to life.

Just recall the excitement aroused when organ transplants were first experimented with. No less a miracle today, these operations are now fairly commonplace. What has brought the idea of *as good as new* several steps closer is the recycle-ability of a variety of body parts. Skin of course, now capable of being grown from cultured cells; and ears, using somewhat similar techniques; whole limbs, fingers and even faces are now constructed or reconstructed to enable recipients to regain their personhood. *As good as new?* Well, for the most part. Certainly good enough for people to be happy functioning individuals. Not however, *new*. That is still to be. For God tells us, *I will make all things new* (Rev. 21:5). *As good as new* will do for now, most people would think, but it falls far short of what God has in mind.

Re KIT distribution

AS YOU KNOW our church has debts it has to settle as quickly as possible. That is why I put many of you on our online list before the last KIT hoping you would be happy with an e-version of KIT.

I am one of those who likes something I can hold and perhaps shove in a bag or pocket, or even scribble on. If you get online KIT and would prefer a printed one please let Pete or me know. My email address is below. Pete's is kit@stanboroughchurch.org .

If you get a printed version and would prefer to go online, again please let one of us know. Thanks.

KIT Report



OUR THREE NEW ELDERS are so different from each other, perhaps you'd like to know a little about them.

They are shown, left to right, **Etienne Guenin, Alain Fidelia and Steven Moser.**

Etienne was born in Anneçy, France in 1982 and is of Franco-Swiss descent. His mother is Marcelle and his father is Michel who is a retired minister in France and is a cousin of the late Marcel Guenin who looked after our church finances for years. Etienne is married to Carolyn née Cooper. Together they have led the church youth ministry and spent 1 year working as missionaries in Benin (2014-2015). Etienne works as a software developer.

Alain was born in Watford of Anglo-Mauritian ancestry. He is the eldest son of the late Pastor Roland Fidelia and his wife Valerie. Valerie delighted us with her soprano solos for many years. Alain and his wife Carol have a daughter

Charlotte who has inherited Valerie's talent. Alain is the managing director of a machine tool company which Carol and Alain both own. Valerie was a nurse and Charlotte has followed her into a medical profession by recently qualifying as a physiotherapist.

Steven was born in India to two doctor parents, Susan and Eric Moser, both of whom were medical missionaries there. The family moved to the UK in the early 1980's. Steven is a consultant radiologist. He is married to Kirra and they have five children - Nadene, Anjali, Eloise, Seth and Celeste. They have been attending Stanborough Park Church since 1999.

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

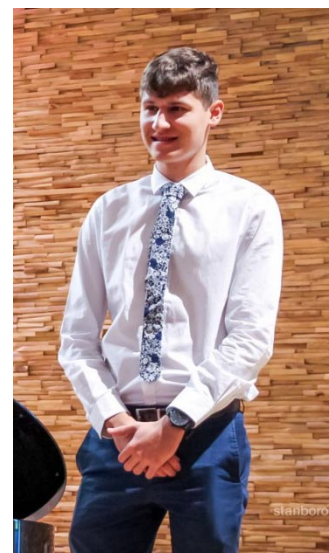
CONGRATULATIONS to **Mary and Neville Shields** who celebrated their Golden Wedding in July.

There have been many transfers since the last KIT. We welcome **Dr Eric Moser** from English Church, Hosur, India; **Mary Auyeh** from Stockholm Church, Sweden; **Enio Severi and Maria Perpetua Alves de Azevebo Siveri** from Mantova Church, Italy; **Richelle Anim** from Fulham Church, London; and **Ketsia Kemp** from Martinique Conference, Martinique.

We are sad to bid goodbye to **Sara Neves** who will attend the Portuguese Speaking Church, Central London; and to **Matthias and Ramona Towle** who are moving to Aylesbury Church.

The Adra Annual Appeal raised over £10000 with one event still to come.

Our latest student missionary arrived from Australia in July. He is **Ben Vidacak** and is shown right. Hopefully we'll find out more about him by the next KIT.



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KIT Autumn 2016. KIT is published quarterly and authorized by the church board at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Bronwen Atkinson (editor) - address bet@roybron.plus.com, Audrey Wolfram (design and layout) and Mary Kapon (secretary). Others to whom we are grateful are Pastors Jacques Venter and Richard Willis; Lorna Annable who produced Junior KIT; Frank Blewitt; Billie Dragojevic; Lorraine Cooper; Sheila Stickland; and Peter Walton who produced Teen Page. Gwen Olney and the deaconesses helped with distribution. Photos were taken by Audrey Wolfram, Dan Sabatier; Jef Nascimento, and the Audio-Visual Dept. KIT was printed by John Browne of 24 Hour Printline of Rochester, Kent.