

Fellowship News

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2012

Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

Operation Christmas Child



The giving of shoeboxes started with an idea that a couple, Dave and Jill Cooke of Wrexham, Wales had while watching a television show about Romanian orphanages on October 10th 1990. They asked themselves how they could help the children who lived in poor situations day after day. Their answer was that they could offer the gift of love. They filled nine trucks with medical supplies, food, clothing and Christmas gifts for children and went off to Romania, which had recently been devastated by war.

Operation Christmas Child was adopted by Franklin Graham, International President of Samaritan's Purse, in 1993. Since then, more than 61 million shoeboxes have been delivered to hurting children in more than 135 countries.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children in desperate situations around the world. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to these children by the giving of gift filled shoeboxes and to show God's love.

A twenty year old man recalled how he still remembers the shoebox he received when he was a child living in Serbia. About 15 years ago, Nikola, as a five year old, was taken to the little local Pentecostal church one day before Christmas. His parents were members of the church and they had been told to bring their son along because there would be a surprise for him. Nikola was given a shoebox and he has never forgotten it.

"It was the only present I got that year, as my parents were not wealthy. In fact, I have to say that that shoebox was the main source of my toys for my entire childhood. My parents struggled to feed and clothe us and so toys were not a priority." Years later, Nikola fled Serbia, and ended up in Montenegro. Now about 20, he is helping our Samaritan's Purse partner, Vladimir, with the shoebox distribution to the refugees in the refugee camp called Konick 2. Nikola knows from personal experience what a difference a shoebox will make in the lives of these children and for how long they will remember this totally unexpected kindness. "I still remember most of the gifts in that box. There was this amazing little red and black car that spoke to me. The car said: 'Step on the gas, we gotta get out of here!' That made a huge impression on me at the time. I had that car for years and years - it finally fell apart from use."

Many churches are involved in the various countries supporting the work of Operation Christmas Child. Here is a thank you letter from a Baptist Church in East Belarus.

Dear Friends in Samaritan's Purse and OCC partners!

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your care for Belarusian children. We appreciate all your hard work in collecting gift boxes, your offerings with finances, time and efforts. You deliver Love in a Box! And you in the UK give us a chance to pass God's love on to needy ones in Belarus. We are a small Baptist church in the rural area of East Belarus, close to the Chernobyl zone. There are many forgotten and affected villages around us. High level of unemployment, drinking parents, neglected kids – all this is our daily reality. Many parents don't pay much attention to their kids, and they cannot afford to buy gifts for them. And OCC shoeboxes are like a bright light in darkness!

With your gift boxes we can and do organise many special OCC events in our church and schools. Many children come to Christmas performances and later to our Sunday school even from far away. OCC helps us to open hearts and open doors!

Last November we sent 48 shoeboxes from the village. It is heartening to see that such a little box can bring so much joy and happiness to so many children. God's love in action.

Sandra Jones

You say... God says...

kitmac05152011

YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's impossible"	"All things are possible"	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	"I will give you rest"	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	"I love you"	John 3:16 & John 3:34
"I can't go on"	"My grace is sufficient"	II Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	"I will direct your steps"	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	"You can do all things"	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	"I am able"	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	"It will be worth it"	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	"I forgive you"	I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I'm afraid"	"I have not given you a spirit of fear"	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	"Cast all your cares on ME"	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	"I give you wisdom"	I Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	"I will never leave you nor forsake you"	Hebrews 13:5
"I can't manage"	"I will supply all your needs"	Philippians 4:19

The Future of Kingsbridge District Churches Together

There are currently only six committee members on the KDCT committee which is not enough to fulfil the work of KDCT. Currently all the work of KDCT is on hold until its future is decided. If you would like to be involved in the future of KDCT please attend the KDCT AGM is on March 6th, 7.30pm at the Kingsbridge Methodist Church.

What's on this February ...

2nd—Quarterly Business Meeting, at the Chapel, 7.30pm

9th—Fellowship Lunch, 12.30pm at the Chapel

11th—19th Half-term holidays (for some)

23rd—House group at Denis & Kate's, 7.30-8.30 pm

26th—Sunday Evening Worship, at the Chapel, 7—8 pm

Pastors Comment ...

Although this is not 'official', I'd like to express the need of more deacons to be elected for the next AGM. Enid, Peggy and Denis work hard and done a wonderful job for many years although they are feeling the strain and would like others to be part of our team. As a result, if you have been with us in regular fellowship for the past two years, taken part in the life of the church and would like to become a deacon, then please approach one of the deacons or myself to be considered for election. People have often been worried by the commitment this may entail but so many of you have already proved to be very committed over and above what is expected. If you have any questions about becoming a deacon or would like to apply, then please let us know.

Secondly, it has been several years since we've had a baptism! I would like to run a baptism course during May/June for anyone who wants to know more about being baptised. I know at least one person who wants to take the plunge.

Sincere thanks to all those who gave on the 'spur of the moment' towards the children's Bibles for the weekly Bible Club at Malborough Primary. We managed to collect enough for six new Rainbow Good News Bibles which were put into use the following Friday. The children now almost have enough for one each and have written a card to say 'Thank You!' The school is receiving the highest grade of 'Outstanding' by Bishop John Ford after the Church School Inspection.

Lastly, Doris and Marjorie have not been well although getting better. Please also pray for Richard & Rachel (the BIG move) and others. Pastor Tim.

Services

February

5 th	Rev Tim Skillman
12 th	Mr Denis King
19 th	Rev Derek Hill
26 th	Rev Tim Skillman

March

4 th	Rev Tim Skillman
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Flowers

February

5 th	Mrs Sterry
12 th	Mrs Hallworth
19 th	Mrs Parsons
26 th	Mrs Jones

March

4 th	Mrs King
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Door Stewards

February

5 th	Miss Edgcombe
12 th	Mr Collins
19 th	Mr Collins
26 th	Mrs King

March

4 th	Mrs King
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Hoovering (week ending...)

February

4 th	Mrs Sterry
11 th	Ms Brown
18 th	Mrs Jones
25 th	Mrs Putt

March

3rd	Mr Jones
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