

Sunday 25th
June 2017



Postcards from the Holy Land...

On Saturday 10th June, 16 intrepid church members set out for the Holy Land to partner with Ramallah Local Church in sharing the gospel with 85 Palestinian children through running a Summer Camp. The camp has been running 18 years and involves children from church families and from the wider community aged between 4 and 12. Our part in the camp was the fulfilment of plans that God had laid on the hearts of the leadership and many across the membership, which have been developing over the past few years as the relationship between our church and the two churches lead by the Kakishes in Ramla (Israel) and Ramallah (West Bank) has grown.

As a church, our primary purpose is to be part of God's mission to see His Kingdom come on earth as we follow Jesus. When we commit our lives to Jesus our whole lives are caught up in the mission of God - his eternal plan for the world - and this means that God wants to use us in the place he has called us to, which for many of us is Battle and the surrounding area. But we need to remember that this plan is bigger - that the local church is to have a global vision worthy of the God we serve, that we are the people who can see to the ends of the earth in the scope of eternity through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit is always able to do so much more than we could ever ask or imagine, to take us further than we ever thought we would go, to give us opportunities we never thought we would have, to use us in ways we never thought possible - if we are obedient to his leading and his power at work in us. So the opportunity for 16 of us to be a part of this mission trip in the Holy Land was more than just a church-organised tour, it was part of God's unfolding plan for his people both here and there.

And we experienced God's blessing in many ways: through experiencing the hospitality and culture of our hosts; through serving children whose experience of life is very different to our own and who are growing up in a difficult situation; through seeing the joy of the Lord in them as they worshipped God, heard Bible stories, played games and enjoyed crafts; through seeing the children meet with Jesus; through forming relationships and bonds of Christian love and fellowship with brothers and sisters not only there, but among the group itself as we developed a strong sense of community; through eating together; through praying together; through sharing the Lord's Supper together; and through all this, of

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Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, *and beyond*

continued . . .

course, having a lot of fun together! One of the huge blessings was baptising Chris Spicer in the River Jordan and hearing the testimony of what God has done in his life. Through all of this, I believe we will each have been inspired by a bigger vision of the Kingdom of God - the Kingdom which we are a part of and which will one day fill the universe.

Of course, I haven't even mentioned yet the privilege of being able to see first hand the places where Jesus walked, taught, worked miracles and where God's story unfolded through the Old Testament. There were many places which had an impact on different members of the group and where they experienced the presence of God afresh. But being involved in the summer camp alongside this, reminded each of us of the privilege it is to be part of God's unfolding story today.

And at the end of it all, it is great to be back in Battle to continue to serve the Lord here, hopefully with more vision, more passion, greater wisdom, but above all, walking closer with him and with one another to see his Kingdom come on earth.

Your servant in Christ,

Mark Hirst

P.S. We will be sharing as a group on the 23rd July at 5pm about the trip in detail and future plans, please come along!

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- If you would like a t-shirt or vest for the Battle 10k in September (whether you are running or supporting) please order via Celia before 1st July. Cost is £16.99
- Please get baking/buying cakes for SOLID (children's Christian camp). Your donations are greatly appreciated by tired and hungry leaders & children. Gluten free cakes would be appreciated too! Please deliver them to the office by 9.30am on Friday 7th July.
- Ice cream tubs are also needed for Solid. Please deliver them to the office before 1st July. *Thank you.*
- Please join us at 8.45am next Sunday when we will be celebrating a baptism!
- Please note there is no 5pm today.
- This Tuesday there is a **men's curry night** in Battle. If you would like to go please contact Ben Garlick on 07730 763 865.
- **Next Saturday there is a men's beach walk and breakfast.** Meet outside All Saints Church, Old Town, Hastings at 8.30am or if you are just coming for breakfast go straight to the John Logie Baird pub in Hastings at 9.30am. For more details please contact Dennis on 07805 362 840.
- Melvyn is preaching at Frimley Baptist Church today.

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus;

Sunday, June 25th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering. ● *CANCELLED - 5pm Informal Worship.*

Monday, June 26th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders meeting.

Tuesday, June 27th. ● 9.15-11am Caterpillars Explorers Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship, Speaker: Mark Hirst. ● **7pm: Men's** curry night.

Wednesday, June 28th. ● 10am onwards: Selfie Crafting - bring your own projects to work on. Refreshments provided. £1. ● 5.15-6.15pm: BBFC Youth training at the Rec. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, June 29th. ● 9.15-11:45am: Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

Friday, June 30th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayers in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 10.45am: Coffee Club in the Youth Room. ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club ● 7-9pm: 4:12 Pool Party!

Saturday, July 1st. ● 8.30am: **Men's beach walk and breakfast.**

Sunday, July 2nd. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and baptism plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering. ● 5pm Informal Worship and communion with Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.



This week's prayer pointers :

- ◆ Pray for those preparing for baptism. Pray that God would guide their every step with His wisdom and grace.
- ◆ Pray for those undertaking and coming to the end of exams. Pray **that they would know God's peace as they wait for results.**
- ◆ Pray for those booked onto Soul Survivor in August. Pray that God would be preparing their hearts and minds.

Dates for your diary

- ◆ 3rd July Prayer and Praise
- ◆ 7th-9th July **SOLID** children's camp.
- ◆ 17th July Church Meeting
- ◆ 25th-29th August Soul Survivor
- ◆ 3rd September BBB10k run



Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com
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Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.
