

The Outlook

February 2005



Magazine of Hope Baptist Church

Our mission is to be Christ's body in the community, demonstrating the Kingdom of God and calling others to become his disciples.

Shopping in Little China

On behalf of everyone who attended our Chinese Fellowship's 'Shopping in Little China' day on Saturday December 4th, last year a big THANK YOU. The magnificent sum of £1100 was raised towards our building project. This was fantastic and as a church we say **THANK YOU** to our Chinese Fellowship. You did so well and we had a wonderful day.



Please remember our Chinese Fellowship in your prayers, as they work with many students and Chinese people in our city.

Judith Pinch

Merrylyn and her family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and messages of sympathy at the passing of her mum Joan. A special thanks to all who were involved in the lovely funeral service and of course to Andy for his guidance and support through difficult times.

God bless.

The Outlook

This edition of the Outlook was compiled by Claire Worrall. March's edition will be compiled by Nicky Hatherell who will be happy to receive your articles/information, no later than 17 February, in person or by email:

Nickyhatherell@aol.com

Any articles received by email will be acknowledged.

Dear Friends

The post-Christmas period is usually bad enough for most people anyway...the sparkle and surprises of Christmas over...the dark nights and dismally wet days...and Spring seems such a long way off.

But this start to the new year for many has been simply horrendous....

At the time of writing this article, more than 160,000 people have been reported dead in the tragic and overwhelming events surrounding the Tsunami in South Asia. Millions more are without shelter, water and suffering enormously from the after-shock of this loss of life on a scale rarely, if ever, seen on one single day.

Many in this country have responded with shock and tears, millions by immediately giving financially, or by planning events to raise support to try and do something to help the situation abroad. Nationally, there has been an amazing and refreshing outpouring of action which says that "these people are something to do with us."

Beyond the grief, and amazement of the power of the earth and sea to cause such destruction, have been the questions...."Why has God done this?", "Why do these things happen?". How can we say God loves the world?". Even those who don't believe in God now look for Him, if only to have someone to hold responsible for this terrible outrage against human life.

I expect that in many classrooms, homes and workplaces, this is going to be a testing time for Christians who stand up for their faith, and consequently have to explain what is perceived by some to be "God's activity" in the Tsunami devastation.

Some of the questions need careful thought before we answer. Some of the issues need to be addressed within a larger space than this one allows. This space will be given in other parts of "The Outlook" in the weeks to come.

As we study together the letter to the Ephesians, let's work hard at it together. In these dark days for the world and for people's emotions, we must stand as a light—ready as His people, individually and together to declare the love and truth of God, even under the critical gaze of His accusers.

We must be ready to SPEAK UP of what we know of Him. We must be ready to GROW UP in our faith and in wisdom as we seek to understand what goes on in the world, and interpret it against God's everlasting Word. And we must allow ourselves as the Church of Christ in Peverell to be BUILT UP, in order that we can act with compassion and speak with authority into situations like this.

"...in Him you are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit".
Ephesians 2 v 22

Andrew Gardiner

Come and join the Celebrations...

An opportunity too good to miss:
Build fellowship, experience prayer together, feed on the Word, prepare to
act..... For everyone !

Tuesday 1st February
Tuesday 1st March

7.30pm at Hope Baptist Church

Don' t say afterwards "I wish I' d been there".
BE THERE !

We would like to thank everyone who contributes regularly on a Sunday morning, this month we would particularly like to thank the following people:

Coffee

- 06 Marian Brown and Sandra Brown
- 13 Margaret Underdown and Beryl Brown
- 20 Rebekah Beard and Pat Taylor
- 27 Pat Dodd and Tim Hart

Crèche

- 06 Jenny George & Merrilyn Duook
- 13 Jackie May & Leontine Amissale
- 20 Julie Harrall & Sheena Kingdon
- 27 FAMILY SERVICE (No crèche)

After church Care – Under 8' s only in Thee Bar

- 06 Sandy Lashbrook and Louise Sumner
- 13 Ray and Cindy Hedges
- 20 Judith and John Pinch
- 27 Family Service

Flowers

- 30 Jan Ron and Jenny Weeks. Celebrating their Wedding Anniversary
- 06 .
- 13 Mrs Iris Punchard.
- 20 Pam and Adrian Smith to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.
- 27 Mrs Kathleen Pritchard In loving memory of her husband Mr Stanley Pritchard.

Transport

- 06 Peter Brown
- 13 Mike Lumis
- 20 Bill Wonnacott
- 27 Mike Munson

Communion

Set-up

Wash-up

Stewards

- 06 Nick Beard, Margaret Tripp, Peter Man and Pat Taylor
 13 Nicky Hatherell, Estelle Robertson, Andrew Jones and Pat Taylor
 20 Wilf Smale, Sheila Boddington, Trevor Fray and
 Sheena Kingdom
 27 Marion Brown, Mike Lumis, Salli Lumis and Tim Hart

**BMS Birthdays**

- 13 Mrs Nicky Hatherell
 19 Mrs Doris Dunstan
 24 Mrs Dorothy Camfield

Open House

Why not join us for a fun afternoon with a quiz and St Valentine card making competition. The date for your diary is Monday 21st February at 2.15pm in the church hall.

A tea with various sandwiches and cake will be served with a cup of tea or coffee. The suggested donation is £1.50, with all proceeds going to the Tsunami Disaster Fund. We hope you can join us.

Should you require a lift, please contact me, Pam Smith, on Plymouth 219844, to arrange a pick up time.

Travel to the Dutch Bulb Fields and Beyond..

Thursday 10th March

Adrian and Pam Smith invite you to join them for a lavish and colourful audio/visual tour of the Netherlands including Dutch bulb fields, “The Keukenhof Gardens”, and The Biggest Flower Parade in the Netherlands plus many other exciting and interesting places, concluding with a little wartime history in and around Ypres in Belgium.



The date of this spectacular event is Thursday 10th March, 7pm for a prompt 7.15pm start. Following the presentation there will be authentic Dutch food for you to try.

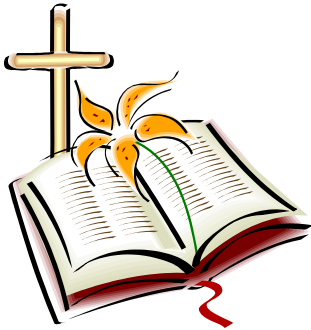
Sixty tickets will be available from now until the 1st March, Mondays and Tuesdays at ‘Contrasting Horizons’ or myself in church on Sundays. The cost is £2.50 for adults, children from 5 to 12 years old £1 and will include the buffet.

For those who saw our first production, shown at Open House last year, will find this one vastly improved. Adrian has spent many, many hours since, including more pictures, film clips, adding live sounds, special effects and suitable background sounds, plus a full running commentary with interesting information, statistics and humour. It will be shown on the BIG SCREEN, in the church hall.

The proceeds will be going to the church building fund so we hope lots of you will be able to support us.

Should you require transport, please don't hesitate to call us on Plymouth 219844 to arrange a pick up time.

Easter Floral Arrangements

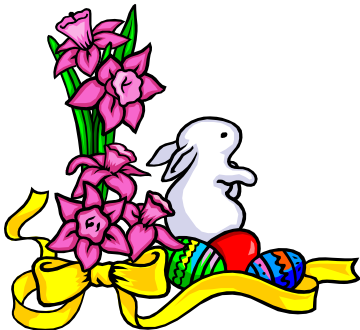


Did you help with decorating the church for Harvest Festival? Was it fun and rewarding? Perhaps you would like to come along again and help to decorate the church for Easter.

Whether as an individual, or house group, another church group, for example Women's Rendezvous, Open House, maybe even the Men's group? Children and leaders from the Sunday classes. Youth groups or "Nutkins". All would be welcome to join in.

Flowers, foliage, collages or any other arty things you might think appropriate and suitable could be used. If you would like to choose a windowsill to decorate, just see me, Pam Smith and book your space.

We will be meeting at 10am on Saturday 26th March at the back of church. Should you prefer to do your display at a time more convenient to you, that's fine.



We are always happy and grateful to accept donations of flowers, greenery or money towards the Easter displays.

Hope you can get involved.

Pam Smith.

Prayer Labyrinth 14-20th March

What is it? It's basically an interactive prayer chapel (or 'prayer zone' depending on your age)

Where? In the back of the Church

Why? Several Reasons:

1. We set one up 2 years ago and had a very positive response. A number of people met God there in a personal and beautiful way.
2. Others wished they'd set aside more time and would like another chance.
3. People from outside came in and used it.
4. It's really hard to pray for the building fund. We feel that our prayers need to be in the context of God's greatness and purity, in worship and repentance, to make sense of it all.
5. Do we want people in the community to think, 'What a capable social group of fundraisers they are' or 'What an amazing God they must serve'?

6. It's the week leading up to Easter week, what better way to take time out in preparation for such an important time of year.
7. It's also right in the middle of our series on ' Ordering your private world' .

Therefore:

- ? Please keep this week as free as possible
- ? All we're asking fellowship groups to do this time is come and use the labyrinth. There will be a representative in each group to enthuse you!
- ? Any volunteers who would enjoy helping with stewarding, gardening, constructing or creating will be very welcome.
- ? If you have any questions about any of this I will be delighted to talk to you.

Yours excitedly
Jenny Saunders

Mission Committee

Each month in the Outlook one of the committees that serve the church has the opportunity to tell you about themselves and their work. For February I am delighted to be able to introduce you to the Mission Committee.

We are:

Marian Brown

Hilary Jopson

Ray Hedges

Tania May

Andy Saunders

We also look forward to Richard Simpson joining us soon.

We have a great remit:

- ? To keep world mission, in all its breadth at the heart of church life.
- ? To challenge and encourage the church family to support mission prayerfully, financially and practically.
- ? To encourage individual response to the challenge of mission.
- ? To co-ordinate support of BMS and Home Mission, including the organisation of events such as 'annual offerings'.
- ? To build relationships between link missionaries and the church.
- ? To co-operate with local churches in support of mission.
- ? To propose and manage the General Mission Fund.

You can see from the above that our task is to foster Hope's support of mission beyond the Poverell area. Outreach committee focus on our own evangelism and social action. Mission Committee try to keep the church excited about missions in Plymouth, the UK and abroad.

Ray and Marian's particular brief is to publicise the work of mission amongst Baptist churches around the UK. Tania and Richard do the same for BMS World Mission.

From my perspective the most exciting parts of our work are:

- ? Linking with Gomer and Torph Roseman who work in the Sudan and with a family working in such a sensitive area of the world that we can't mention their names here!
- ? Releasing significant sums money to enable mission.
- ? Seeing people from Hope like James Bowman-Powell serving abroad short-term.
- ? Special services where we focus on an aspect of mission.

If you have a heart for mission and might be interested in working with us in any way I would love to meet up with you.

**God Bless
Andy Saunders**

Thanks

Many thanks to all who sent me cards, gifts and telephone greetings of the occasion of my 85th birthday on 9 January 2005. Special thanks to Pam Smith for the beautiful floral arrangement.

Kathleen Pritchard"

New Baby

Our congratulations to Leontine, who gave birth to a baby boy early in the morning of Tuesday 18 January.



The baby will be called Eliachim, and he weighed 8lb 6oz.
Not straightforward but all doing OK.

February Diary

| | | | |
|-----|----|--------|---|
| Tue | 01 | 10.00 | Mums and Baby Group** |
| | | 1.00 | Parent and Toddler Group* |
| | | 7.00pm | Celebration |
| Wed | 02 | 10.00 | Parent and Toddler Group* |
| | | 1.00 | Parent and Toddler Group* |
| Thu | 03 | 10.00 | Coffee Morning** |
| Sat | 05 | | Community Quiz Night |
| Sun | 06 | 10.00 | Prayer in the Lower Guildroom** |
| | | 10.30 | Morning Worship Ephesians 2: 11-22 |
| Sun | 13 | 10.30 | Morning Worship Ephesians 3: 1-13 |
| Tue | 15 | 7.30 | Members' Meeting |
| Sun | 20 | 10.30 | Morning Worship and Communion Ephesians 3: 14-21 |
| Sat | 26 | 7.30pm | Women's Rendezvous Fashion Show Church Hall |
| Sun | 27 | 10.30 | Family Service |

*These meetings are held weekly **during term time only**

These meetings meet weekly **all through the year

Fellowship Groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks, so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

Women's Rendezvous

The ladies of Women' s Rendezvous are hosting a ***Fashion Show*** on Saturday 26th February in the church hall, to raise funds for the church building project.



Travelling Trends, a well-known West Country company will be staging the fashion show from 7.30pm.

Travelling Trends specialises in buying "over runs" of ladies fashions from all the High Street stores such as M&S, Wallis, Next, Gap, BHS, Debenhams etc. Because they buy in bulk they are able to offer the clothes at approximately 50% of the High Street prices. Sizes range from 8-18. Clothes can be tried on and bought on the evening. Pay by cash, cheque, credit or debit card.

This is really a great opportunity to update your wardrobe, or even treat yourself to a new outfit.

Tickets cost £3. This includes light refreshments. Tickets can be obtained from any of the ladies in Women's Rendezvous.

Come along and bring a friend (or two). Have a good evening and help us to raise money for the building fund. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Weeks

Hope Baptist Church - Budget 2005

DRAFT

INCOME

| | note | £ | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------|--|
| weekly offering | 1 | 60,600 | |
| donations | 1 | 2,500 | |
| gift aid recovered tax | 2 | 12,600 | |
| rents | 3 | 25,300 | |
| mission | | 1,500 | |
| outreach | | 0 | |
| thank offering | | 0 | |
| other income | 4 | 8,500 | |
| bank interest (not building fund) | 5 | 1,800 | |
| | | 112,800 | |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------|--|
| ministry | 6 | 58,000 | |
| administrator | 7 | 6,930 | |
| children and families worker | | 2,520 | |
| youth support | | 1,800 | |
| mission | 8 | 10,370 | |
| building maintenance | 9 | 14,830 | |
| utilities | 10 | 3,500 | |
| multi media | 11 | 500 | |
| administration | 12 | 7,600 | |
| outreach | 13 | 1,450 | |
| training | | 200 | |
| other expenditure | 14 | 5,100 | |
| | | 112,800 | |

net surplus/(deficit) 0

Notes - Income

Note 1 - weekly offerings

This represents a 30% increase on the 2004 a
ie £46,000 x 130%
Donations are one off income items, ie SWB
Chinese/African fellowships/other church bas

Note 2 - gift aid tax recovered

Assumed to be 25% of £45,000 'gift aid' offer

Note 3 - rents from third parties

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Library | (£1,000 per |
| NHS | (£303 per m |
| Nutkins | (£599.500 po |
| Slimming World | (£11 per we |
| DRP | (£50 per mo |
| Keep Fit | (£200 per te |
| Art Club | (£100 per te |
| Parties/other sundry | |

Note 4 - other income

Minibus contributions
Weddings and funerals
Baptist Times
Traidcraft
Soup run
Early years grant
Youth Forum (re administrator)
Mums and babies
Parents and toddlers
Photocopying/other

Note 5 - bank interest

Assumed 4.44% on reserves of £40,000 = £1

Notes - Expenditure

Note 6 - Ministry

| | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| stipend (net) | 20,400 |
| pension (total) | 8,230 |
| heat and light | 1,920 |
| tax and NIC (total) | 7,600 |
| property maintenance | 2,500 |
| insurance | 350 |
| travel expenses | 1,350 |
| council tax | 2,750 |
| water rates | 1,500 |
| telephone | 800 |
| study books etc | 400 |
| housing allowance (£850 per month) | 10,200 |
| | £ <u>58,000</u> |

Note 7 - administrator

Salary ~~£11,550 per year~~ x 3/5 = £6,930 Administrator to do room bookings

Note 8 - mission

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Home Mission (£40 per 98 members) | 3,920 |
| BMS (£40 per 98 members) | 3,920 |
| Anistasis/other | 2,280 |
| Short term mission | 250 |
| | £ <u>10,370</u> |

Note 9 - buildings maintenance

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| maintenance/fabric | 7,500 |
| insurance | 2,030 |
| cleaning | 2,240 |
| caretaker | 2,070 |
| catering/kitchen | 250 |
| council tax | 740 |
| | £ <u>14,830</u> |

Note 10 - utilities

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| gas | 700 |
| electric | 1,500 |
| water | 1,300 |
| | <u>3,500</u> |

Note 11 - multi
~~maintenance a~~

Note 12 - adm
~~printing/copyin~~
publications/b
subscriptions (
telephone (chu
bookings secre
expenses (mini
Lee Abbey
miscellaneous
office equipme

Note 13 - outr
~~newcomers lun~~
events
churches togeth
Alpha
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Note 14 - othe
~~minibus~~
weddings and f
Baptist Times
music
gifts
Traidcraft purc
consumables in
soup run

The Tsunami disaster – what did Jesus say?

For those of us who do not have close relatives or friends killed in the tragedy, almost any response except stunned silence might appear glib to those who have.

Of course we can and should offer practical financial and material assistance to those people working in the area to support the survivors. We can also pray for all these people but can we as Christians do more?

Jesus actually had a lot to say about events such as this. We find his words in all 3 of the Synoptic gospels (Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21) about the signs we should expect to see in the last days. These clearly include earthquakes, of which the latest in Indonesia is an undeniably large example. Amazingly in Luke 21:25 Jesus is recorded as saying about the last days:

“ There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (NIV version)

This strikes me as very relevant in the circumstances. I believe the church should have more to say on this matter than just “we don’ t understand” and “this is enough to shake our faith in God”, which is being quoted of it in some arenas.

Because Jesus spoke directly about earthquakes (and tidal waves?) he evidently did not want his people to be perplexed by them or ignorant.

If we believe that those who accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord spend eternity with Him and those who don’ t spend eternity separated from God (as the Bible clearly teaches) then surely a key question is what happened to the 156,000 + dead people and what would happen to the population of Plymouth should a similar tidal wave hit us today or should Jesus return today (surely another possibility).

To me this represents an opportunity for the church to offer practical compassionate assistance in Jesus’ name. It should be able to speak with confidence about the true nature of God. We live in a fallen creation in which God’ s will does not always happen. Surely we should also stress the urgency of people getting reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus himself spoke a lot about last days events, his second coming and the reality of hell. If we accept what Jesus is recorded in the Bible as saying, should we not share these teachings?

Tony Jopson

Following the shocking death toll and physical devastation of the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, I, like many other Christians thought carefully about those difficult questions I like to tuck away most of the time. How can God allow this to happen? Is God sending us a message? and so on. I formulated my responses, shed my tears at the sheer human tragedy of it all and then was happy that my faith was still strong. I waited patiently for my non-Christian friends to start challenging me, which of course they did in due course; I had my neat little answers ready and waiting. The geographical distance of the tsunami from my own home and the long list of names I did not recognise conveniently cushioned me from any need to doubt or question God. I was coping with it all very nicely, thank you.

Early in January however I discovered a school friend is missing in Thailand and after some desperate flicking through websites and a flurry of emails to other friends around the world I discovered that his family have given up hope of finding him alive. The busy-ness of the day distracted me from this tragic discovery and I was content to remember good times back at school.

It was only in the empty darkness of the night that the gaping hole of grief opened wide for Satan to launch his ambush and march boldly in. Within minutes I had found a whole host of reasons to blame God for my friend's death. Why had He sent a tsunami on Boxing Day when so many Brits would be holidaying in Thailand? Why take the life of someone who had so much more life yet to live? And so I destroyed all my nice, neat answers, my "still strong" faith weakened and crumbled and in my desperation to understand I blamed the one who wept the most.

In that dark moment the Lord reminded me that He gave His only son over to a torturous death to pay the price for our sin. Would He really, after paying such a huge price for us, simply let His beloved children go without a second thought? Absolutely not.

I returned to my careful thinking of December when the pain had not been so personal, apologised to God for blaming Him so quickly and laid down the first brick to rebuild my faith, humbled and blessed.

Helen Pugh

Treasures in Heaven – Hope Baptist Church Budget 2005

As I write I am the new church Treasurer and have worked closely with Peter Brown to present this year's opportunity for those involved in the fellowship to partner financially in this year's vision for the church. A summary of the 2005 budget is attached.

As a membership we unanimously agreed to commit to the expense of employing 2 full time ministers and a part time administrator. We have also budgeted for a part time Children's and Families worker. A trainee youth worker will also be funded through a special fund set aside.

We must now finance the ongoing commitments we have made. Setting a balanced budget for 2005 requires giving from regular offerings **to increase by approximately 30%** over the level of offerings received in 2004.

This comes after a year in which many members have given significant sums towards our ambitious buildings refurbishment project. But be of good cheer – the church is growing and I believe will continue to do so both in numbers and more importantly spiritually.

We have the platform to make a significant impact for Jesus Christ in this community. Including Nutkins pre-school, mums and babies, parents and toddlers, the youth clubs and of course the Sunday youth groups, we regularly have around 200 children and young people into our premises each week. Surely many fellowships would relish such an opportunity to influence so many young lives (and their parents) with the Gospel.

Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 6 verses 19-21 – He says that wherever our treasure is, that's where our heart would be as well. Let's resolve to put our hearts into supporting the preaching of His gospel at Hope in 2005 to the best of our abilities. This includes financially, and so therefore we are all invited to prayerfully consider our regular financial commitment to the fellowship in 2005.

Within this edition of the Outlook is a Standing Order form, which you are invited to complete as appropriate, sign and return to the Treasurer – this is a great way to firm up your commitment to being a partner in this ministry at Hope in 2005.

With regard to the immediate future there will be a delay in getting bank mandates changed to reflect the change in office of Treasurer. I would be grateful, therefore, if people could continue giving receipts or cash to Peter Brown as he has kindly agreed to stay involved in the financial administration of the church for the time being. Thank you for standing with us in this commitment to building the Kingdom.

**God bless
Tony Jopson**

Pastoral Care Course

The Department of Pastoral and Spiritual Care
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
And
The Department of Spiritual Care
The Plymouth Teaching Primary Care NHS Trust

Where and When

Mount Gould and Derriford Hospitals

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Saturday 16 April | 9.30am - 4.00pm |
| Monday 18 April | 7.00pm - 9.30pm |
| Monday 25 April | 7.00pm - 9.30pm |
| Monday 9 May | 7.00pm - 9.30pm |
| Monday 16 May | 7.00pm - 9.30pm |
| Monday 23 May | 7.00pm - 9.30pm |
| Saturday 4 June | 9.30am - 4.00pm |

Leaders

John Bust
Mandy Churcher
Tony Kyriadides-Yeldham
Paul Snell

For an application form
01752 245255

Cost

This course is provided free of charge including the course study book, tutoring and refreshments. This is because the expectation is that applicants are seriously considering a pastoral ministry within one of the hospital departments



Mutley Baptist Church Art-Zone
Presents a talk by
Colin Hale
On Wednesday 16 February
at 7.30pm

Interested? Then Colin Hale would like to share his personal journey with you, and your friends. This is a unique opportunity to hear Colin, as he visits Plymouth from his home in Dudley.

He will speak about his professional career as a painter, illustrator and graphic designer, as well as how he came to accept his creativity as a gift from God which can be used to God's glory.

Colin is also an elder of a Methodist church, and a freelance local preacher.
This clear illustrated presentation was given in 2004 at a church in Ross-on-Wye.

Admission by ticket only, £1 from either:-

Mutley Baptist Church, or The Upper Room, Christian Literature Centre, 64 Cornwall Street, Plymouth

Further information from:

Mutley Baptist Church, Plymouth Tel 01752 203346

www.mutleybaptist.co.uk

email: office@mutley-baptist.co.uk

**Artist?
Christian?
Christian artist?**

Mercy Ships

The following is an extract from a letter from Judy Polkinghorn, the Executive Director of Mercy Ships

January is a time for new beginnings. At this time we'd like to thank you for your gift of £100 to Mercy Ships. Your support helps make new beginnings a reality for thousands that are treated on the Mercy Ships. Thousands like Dilcia who need a new start in life. She was treated during the recently completed Honduras field service.

Eight-year-old Dilcia was born completely blind. When her mother heard about Mercy Ships, she and her daughter travelled the 60 miles to the hospital ship. Mercy Ships doctors performed two surgeries on Dilcia's eyes, removing both of her life long cataracts. She was thrilled to be given the gift of sight for the first time in her life!

During the Honduran field service, Mercy Ships medical crew dispensed 989 pairs of glasses and performed 176 operations, giving many people new beginnings.

Our hearts go out to all those suffering from the December 26th Tsunamis in South Asia. Mercy Ships is there and responding. You can find out more on www.mercyships.org.

We are enormously grateful to all those in the UK who have donated already towards our part of the relief efforts.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support, and from everyone here in the UK office may I wish you a peaceful New Year.

God bless you.

Reflection

I am neither a man of letters nor a man of science,
But I humbly claim to be man of prayer.
It's prayer that has saved my life;
Without I would have lost my reason long ago.

If I did not lose my peace of soul
in the midst of many trials,
it is because of the peace
that came to me through prayer.

One can live several days without food
but not without prayer.
Prayer is the key to each morning
And the lock to each evening.

It is a sacred alliance between God and us
Let everyone try this experience

And they will find
That daily prayer will add
Something new to their lives
Something, which cannot be found elsewhere.

Mahatma Gandhi

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The local service for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 4th March at Peverell Park Methodist Church at 2 p.m. This year's service has been prepared by Christian women of Poland on the theme "Let Our Light Shine". The service is open to everyone and lasts for about an hour with light refreshments served afterwards. Do join us if you can.

Prayer Focus

Pray for Leontine and new baby Eli, and other son Jean , who has not been at all well.

Pray for Peggy Horton - Recovery from operation to her hand

Pray for Carole Eastcott , who has a broken wrist

Pray for our New Treasurer - Tony Jopson as he takes on his new role within the church

Pray for our newly elected deacons - Beryl Brown, Mark Henagulph and Debbie Reed

Praise and prayer news from Roger and Sheila Torpey in Spain:

Praise God for successful carol service attended by 150 people in local hotel,

Please pray for new housegroup starting the 40 days of purpose studies