

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known No 74: Summer 2013



With us in our boat.

IN MATTHEW 14 we read of an interesting event. Verse 22 tells us that Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side. Verse 24 tells us the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

The previous time that they experienced the storm, Jesus was with them. This time they had to face it on their own. Is that what we sometimes think and feel especially when the issues of life hang so heavily over us? Do we tend to forget that Jesus is actually present with us?

What is happening here? The disciples had had an already exhausting day. The storm picks up and you can just imagine them thinking, not again! For several hours they try to fight this storm exhausting themselves, fearful of the small boat being turned over, drained to the point of emotional fatigue!

Maybe you don't have to imagine very hard, perhaps you're in a situation that makes you feel like that right now!

Now the disciples knew that the Old Testament portrayed the idea that only God could walk on water. In the midst of the storm Jesus does what only God can do see verse 25.

Secondly, when the disciples shout out in fear, see verse 26, Jesus gives them an emphatic answer, ***It is I*** - translated from the Greek ***ego eimi***.

In John 8:58 we read, Jesus said to them, ***Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*** Again we find the words ***ego eimi***. In doing so he is appropriating to himself the title of Yahweh, of God - see Exodus 3:14. Also John 8: 59 tells us the Pharisees wanted to stone him because he had the audacity to claim to be the God of the Old Testament.

So now when the disciples see this person walking on the water, in disbelief thinking it is either a ghost or God, they shout, ***Who is it?*** and Jesus answers, ***I AM! - Peter it's me, God.***

Matthew is trying to show us that here is the I Am. Here is the one that can overcome everything this world can throw at us. Here is the one that can overcome the power of chaos itself. Here is our Creator who

suffered and died on the cross for you and me. Here is the one that when we feel overwhelmed, shaken, depressed, frustrated, stands in our midst almost shouting at us, **HERE I AM, I am present.**

When the car breaks down, when professional work is pushing the boundaries, or your relationships are breaking apart and it feels like you are losing your grip on things, often at these times Jesus' promise that he will be with us to the end of time seems to appear so hollow or meaningless. Maybe you are in such a place now. Often we cry out to God for a sign or a miracle. It seems as if faith is believing that Christ is present and in control despite the obstacles.

One evening a house caught fire and the little boy of the family was forced to climb out of the window and onto the roof of the house. His dad was standing on the ground with outstretched arms, yelling, **Jump I will catch you**, but the little boy protested, **Daddy I cannot see you, I cannot see you.**

Eventually the dad clicked and shouted back, **That's O.K. because I can see you and that is all that is important.**

The little boy jumped because he trusted his dad.

Faith gives us the courage to live our lives, because even though we cannot see God, we know God can see us.

Christ is calling you and me to a faith that dares to believe, in the face of all the evidence, that Christ is with us in our boat, as it makes its way through the storm, battered by the waves.

Excerpts from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter.

SO DO NOT fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isa. 41: 10 (NIV)

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

MARCH was a particularly sad month for our church because we lost four of our number.

A long-time member, **Margaret Winterflood** was buried on March 22. Her funeral was followed by that of **John Barnard** on March 27. Only for us to hear of the deaths of **Yves Vitry** the following day, and of **Stanley Maxwell** the day after that. Brother Vitry was 104, and Brother Maxwell 85, good ages, but we feel sad at losing them all and send our condolences to their families and close friends who miss them all even more than we do.

There was another funeral on June 10, this time for **Albert Montague-Sutton**. We send our sympathy to his wife, Pam, and his step-children and other relatives who gave a glowing account of his character and how he cared for others.

There were happier occasions. The first of these was the delightful performance of **Handel's Messiah** by our church choir and orchestra on March 30, followed by the wedding on April 1, of former KIT team-member **Etienne Guenin and Carolyn Cooper**.



Etienne and Carolyn (photo by Dan Sabatier); and Sharon and Leo (photo by June Coombs)

On April 27 **Dr Leo Thanikkel** was baptized. He was the fiance of **Sharon Harris** and they celebrated their marriage on May 13. Leo met Sharon, learned about her church, received Bible studies from **Pastor James Huzzey**, and after attending church for two years was baptized. That started a short series of baptisms which will end in September.

May 11 brought another happy occasion with the birth of **Grace Willems**, the little daughter of **Estella and Chris**. Sadly Chris's father died on May 14 leaving the couple with very mixed emotions.



Another notable event was **Barbara Hankin's** eightieth birthday on May 27. Barbara is such an active Christian it is difficult to believe she has reached such an age.

June 1 was a very interesting Sabbath. In the morning we saw the dedication of **Aasha Elizabeth Kharkongor Evers, Joanna and Andrew's** little girl. During the service, Aasha was serenaded by her mother and a few of Joanna's friends.

In the afternoon we had the first of a series on the subject of **Creation and Evolution**. This one was taken by **Dr John Walton** who is Research Professor at St Andrews University and **Dr Alistair Noble**, Director of the Centre for Intelligent Design. The illustrated lecture was extremely interesting showing the intricacy in the design of the apparently simplest organisms and explaining the difference between micro-evolution and macro-evolution. A large audience listened with rapt attention.

The following Sabbath afternoon saw the baptism of **Misha Jordan Dragojevic**, aged 19, Misha was born in London of Serbian parents. The family spent some time in Australia before settling just south of London and attending Stanborough Park Church. Misha had Bible studies with **Dr Radisa Antic** and later from two friends, **Ana and Radenko Dzuver**. She said, *It was when I realised the extent of Jesus' boundless love that I realized how desperately I wanted to be baptized.* **Pastor Jacques Venter** welcomed her into church fellowship and Misha is pictured with Dr Antic and Pastor Venter. - picture by Kish Poddar. Barbara Hankin's photo is by June Coombs.

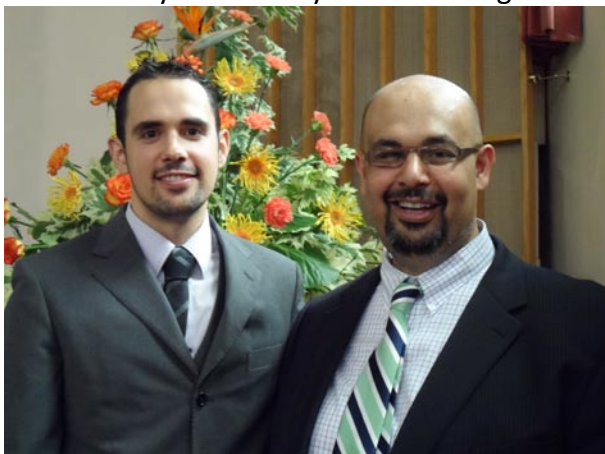


The next baptism was of **Giles Barham** on June 22. Giles, aged 27, is an Assistant Treasurer at the SEC Offices in Watford. He is a fourth generation Adventist and wanted to plan out all his future before being baptized. Then he realized baptism could be a start not a completion. He said, *I am pleased to make this commitment after years of experiencing 'the outside world'. Getting baptized felt like finally coming home.*

Kish took this photo of Giles with his friend **Pastor Japhet De Oliveira** who baptized him. Another of his close friends, **Pastor Dejan Stojkovic** preached the sermon.

The fourth baptism was of **Eva Papaioannou**, aged 14, who was baptized by her grandfather **Pastor Peter Papaioannou** on July 6. Pastor Papaioannou's maternal grandparents were the first Adventists in Greece about 1900 making Eva a fifth generation Adventist. She said that the baptism of a friend made her long for her friend's experience of great joy - the sort of happiness that only God could give.

In Kish's photo, below, Eva is shown with her grandparents, **Pastor Peter and Mrs Revel Papaioannou**, her parents, **Dean and Anna**, her brother **Andreas** and little sister **Thespina**. Eva is a member of **Heavenly Voices**, a children's choir trained by **Christine Cornwall** and **Minerva Valls** consisting of **Eva and Andreas, Amy and Ethan Cornwall, and Jaris, Ruben and Alan Valls**. We appreciate their contributions to our services very much. Amy and Jaris sang a duet at Eva's baptismal service.



There was a great deal more to celebrate since the last KIT. A Garden party at **Audrey Balderstone's home** in May raised £1500 for the Peace Hospice and the church's development fund. We congratulate Audrey on the success of this project.

Congratulations too to **Patrick Sheehy** on achieving a B.Sc. Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from Walla Walla University.

Congratulations too to **Min-Young Bae** who went on holiday to Italy where she won first prize in the under-24 category at the Vietri sul Mare-Amalfi Coast International Piano Competition in Salerno.

Congratulations to the whole church for exceeding its ingathering goal by collecting £14,385.86.

***That's the Spirit!* by Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH**

TWO RECENT studies reported on by Giacomo Bono and colleagues have demonstrated how forgiveness and feeling connected to others contribute to our feelings of well-being. There is a natural progression in these connections. Being able and willing to forgive restores the connectivity between persons as relationships are rebuilt, and well-being results. We may, rightly, think of this as cause and effect. The research is continuing to look at the effect on well-being of the person forgiven and the resulting psychological status.

Ephesians chapter four through to chapter nine anticipates the above and is an exhortation to walk connectedly as Christians. Central to that walk is unity of the Spirit. We are counseled to forgive one another as God in Christ forgave us (Eph. 4:32) and to be controlled by the fruits of the Spirit which will help to cement our connectedness and relationships. So when we see the result of forgiveness we can truly say, *That's the Spirit!*

Forthcoming Events -

Another baptism on September 7 and the One Project Programme at Newbold November 1 to 3. This will be a gathering of Adventists seeking to stimulate preaching, worship and adoration of Jesus in and through our church. More details are available at <http://the1project.org/>

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