

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 89: Spring 2017



Soaked By God taken from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter.

TODAY we find ourselves about 10 days after Jesus' ascension to heaven. Just before He ascended, Jesus told the disciples in Acts chapter 1 to wait in Jerusalem for *the promise of the Father* - the baptism of the Spirit - and that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them.

This brings us to Acts 2, verse 4: ***And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*** This meant that pilgrims from all over the world heard the gospel story in their own languages. The people listening were amazed and perplexed, causing them to wonder aloud what this meant. Peter then gives them this astonishing answer: ^{Verse 14} ***Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:***

When Joel wrote his book, a devastating locust plague had attacked Israel and left them with **nothing**. Joel saw the plague as judgment from God on the people who had left him. So, Joel called them to repent, the people responded, God's heart was stirred and he took pity on them. Joel called the locust plague **the day of the Lord**. Then he saw another **day of the Lord** coming, in the future one which will be **great and terrible** (2:31). It will be signalled by portents in the sky and signs on earth, and the whole earth will be summoned for judgment. But before this occurs, Joel wrote that God promises that a great outpouring of his Spirit will happen: ***I will pour out my spirit on all flesh*** (2:28).

Peter tells the crowd that what they have just witnessed was this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the fulfilment of Joel's vision. It meant that God will draw near to men and women and make himself known and felt in powerful ways. There is a great difference between perceiving a lake at a distance and being immersed in the lake. So there is a great difference between experiencing God as a distant object and being immersed in his presence. Think of children playing at a water play area. They are half-hearted at the beginning, but once they are saturated with the water from head-to-toe they exhibit a kind of freedom, running around screaming with happiness, not scared at all fully enjoying the experience.

God's desire for us is to be soaked – saturated by the Holy Spirit - to fully enjoy his presence and be freed from the fear of sharing the gospel news. When God draws near to a person by his Spirit, he does so to reveal himself. He stirs up in us true images and conceptions of his beauty and power and mercy and truth and holiness and greatness, and

he quickens our affections to respond properly to all that we see. It is unthinkable that a person could be soaked by the presence of the infinite and holy God and not be moved deeply by the self-revealing presence of the Judge of the world and the Lover of your soul, God's unconditional and intimate love towards us was seen in the death of Jesus on the cross.

Peter quotes from the book of Joel to describe what happens next, reading from verse 17 onwards: *And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*¹⁹ *I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapour of smoke.*²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*²¹ *And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

When God almighty pours himself into an individual, the inner life is filled with God and the mouth will constantly speak of the excellences of our Maker and Redeemer and Friend.

Do not think this is beyond your reach that it is for the professional spiritual elite. The Spirit will be poured on *all* flesh—whether you are man or woman, old or young, servant or master, the promise is for you.

Remember that Christ died for you and he desires for you to be soaked, to be drenched, and to be saturated by the Holy Spirit. He reminds us of his desire in Luke 11:13: *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

The Holy Spirit, the representative of himself, is the greatest of all gifts. All good things are comprised in this. The Creator himself can give us nothing greater, nothing better.” (MB. p, 131)

Blessings,
Jacques.

PLENTEUS GRACE WITH THEE IS FOUND,
GRACE TO COVER ALL MY SIN;
LET THE HEALING STREAMS ABOUND,
MAKE AND KEEP ME PURE WITHIN:
THOU OF LIFE THE FOUNTAIN ART,
FREELY LET ME TAKE OF THEE,
SPRING THOU UP WITHIN MY HEART,
RISE TO ALL ETERNITY.

BY CHARLES WESLEY,

(USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE STANBOROUGH PRESS)

Kit Flashback to 2016

On October 15, Pastor Jacques dedicated a lovely baby girl. Her name is **Jeni Mahima Anand Thangamani** and she is pictured with her family. On October 29, **Pastor Geert Tap** baptised a whole family for the first time. They were the **Molteni** family who were mentioned in the last KIT. Below is a photo of them - father **Massimo**, mother **Annalisa** and daughter **Beth** who was 14 on October 29.

In early December we lost three members to Watford Town Church. We hope **Monica Davis**, and **Vincent** and **Amy Grant** will be happy there. However we are able to welcome **Uche Nwosu Ademuyiwa** from Willesden Church to our church.

Apart from Christmas itself, the big event in December was of course our **Toy Service** on December 10 which was as enjoyable as usual. Someone who just missed it was **Sebastien Luc Guenin** who made his appearance on December 27. He is the son of **Etienne** and **Carolyn** and the first grand-child of **John** and **Lorraine Cooper**. Warm congratulations to them all and to Etienne's family as well.



A few days later, on December 31, **Zara Stojkovic** was dedicated. She is the daughter of BUC Youth Director, **Pastor Dejan Stojkovic** and his wife **Deana**. They are pictured with **Pastor Dan Thompson** who performed the dedication and **Pastor Paul King-Brown** who preached the sermon. Both pastors are family friends of Zara's parents.



Worship at Stanborough Park would not be the same without our wonderful musicians. Our lead photo is of the church's choir and orchestra.

A WORD IN YOUR EAR - Richard J B WILLIS MA MSc FRSPH

IT IS FORTUNATE that we are counselled to ***try the spirits whether they be of God*** (1 John. 4:1) since it might be difficult to locate the origin of the prompting voices. Psychologist Julian Jaynes said (particularly of people of the past): *They had not yet acquired the trick of attenuating these internally generated voices to distinguish them from "real" ones, so they heard them as if they were the voices of real people talking to them.* It is thought generally that if a person is of a religious nature, these voices will appear to be of divine guidance. Of these people, the poet Alexander Pope was moved to write:

*What's now apocrypha, my wit,
In time to come may pass for holy writ!*

Sadly, history is replete with such experiences, and at much cost to human life. What Jaynes observed of the past is also a present day problem. Some 2 million plus people in Britain claim to hear voices regularly, with 1 in 5 persons hearing voices occasionally. Jaynes' explanation for the phenomena is what he describes as a bicameral (two chambered) mind. One of these chambers generates voices, and the second chamber hears them. The latter chamber is not able to establish whether it was a genuine conversation or not. Recent research with hi-tech auditory equipment has amplified sub-vocalisation of voices, thus suggesting that a great number of voice hearers are producing their own scripts for the voices. Either way, trying the spirits is of utmost importance. It is also fortunate that in addition to the counsel to try the spirits, there are criteria listed for testing their reality.

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

2017 started very well. Most weeks we have been reminded that the church exists for evangelism, and on January 7 we had two very important visitors. The first was **Pastor Mark Finley**, who emphasised the value and importance of prayer. The second was **Chiamaka Ngwaba**, a tiny baby who was dedicated by Pastor Finley. She is shown with her parents.



January 21 was **Pathfinder Investiture Day**. We can be justly proud of our pathfinders and adventurers. They continue to work hard at course work and honours, look good and are very polite. Meanwhile their Pathfinder Bible Experience team continues to get first place in competitions, showing they have an excellent knowledge of the bible.

February brought us the sad news of the death of **Sister Christine Hall** in Scotland. She did so much for our church when her husband, **Pastor Victor Hall**, was our senior pastor here. We send our sympathy to their children. Later, in March, we heard of the death of **Laverne Byng** a former employee of Stanborough School. Apparently, she was a lovely person with a beautiful singing voice

There was good news. **Charlotte Marshall**, who arrived as a student missionary and then married **Matthew Marshall**, has continued to enhance both the traditional and parallel services with her musical ability. Charlotte has now transferred her membership to our church from Eight Miles Plain Church in Brisbane, Australia. We are delighted to welcome you Charlotte.



February 11 was the occasion of the baptism of **Volker** and **Magdalena Herkner**. They have worshipped with us for some time, and it is great that they decided to take this important step.



March 11 was another

baby's big day. **Jasmine Ama Isaacs** was dedicated by **Pastor Geert**. They are shown in the photo with her parents.

It's Celebration Time! This year Stanborough Park Church is 90 years old! Events are planned for later in the year to celebrate. One which you should not miss is a Flower Festival on 14-16 July. Its title will be **Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone Be The Glory.)** Profits will go to **Peace Hospice Care** and **Stanborough Church Refurbishment Fund**. More details are available from **Audrey Balderstone - 01923 260270** or from our website.

**WE SEND OUR LOVE AND WISH YOU
ALL A LOVELY EASTER.**

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KIT Spring 2017. 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; Lorraine Cooper; Sheila Stickland; and Peter Walton who produced Teen Page. We are also grateful to our photographers - June Coombs, Dan Sabatier and Jef Nascimento. Gwen Olney and the deaconesses helped with distribution. KIT was printed by John Browne of 24 Hour Printline of Rochester, Kent.