

# Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 90: Summer 2017



## *I Believe by Brian Davison*

**RECENTLY** I had the privilege of taking part in the dedication service at Stanborough Park church of little Sébastien Guenin –son of Etienne & Carolyn (nee Cooper).

As I thought and prayed about what I should say, my mind went back to my teenage years during the 1960's. At the time, I thought that the 60's was a wonderful decade. Those years experienced the *space race* culminating in Neil Armstrong's being the first man to walk on the moon in July 1969, and of course who can forget England's winning the world cup!! Much to my parent's disapproval, I eagerly listened to Alan Freeman hosting *Top of the Pops* every Sunday afternoon.

In 1964 three young men from Ireland called *The Bachelors* released their version of the song called *I Believe* which got to number 2 in the hit parade, and I loved it. I took a risk and played the song to the church congregation during the dedication service! As I watched most of the *oldies* mouth the words and sway their heads, I knew I was OK!

I've often wondered whether the Bachelors actually believed what they sang about. Knowing that later in the decade they recorded such songs as *Walk with faith in your heart* (1966) and *I'll walk with God* (1968) I like to think that they did!

Let me remind you of the words of *I believe*:

I believe for every drop of rain that falls  
A flower grows  
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night  
A candle glows  
I believe for everyone who goes astray  
Someone will come to show the way  
I believe, I believe

I believe above a storm the smallest prayer  
Can still be heard  
I believe that someone in the great somewhere  
Hears every word  
Every time I hear a new born baby cry  
Or touch a leaf or see the sky  
Then I know why, I believe

As I thought of those words, they suggested to me that there **are** defining moments in all of our lives that bring us to the place where we recognise that there must be a supreme being and *above the storm the smallest prayer can still be heard* and that *someone in the great somewhere hears every word*.

Negative experiences can bring us to that defining moment. I well remember a Sunday Supplement headline written by a reporter holed up with terrified civilians in a bunker during the Balkan war. Being shelled from all sides, no one thought that they were going to survive. His headline was; *There are no atheists in foxholes*.

However for Etienne and Carolyn I suggested that on a positive note perhaps the most relevant section of the song was that line; *Every time I hear a new born baby cry*. Sébastien was a miracle, and as they drank in the beauty and perfection of their new born child, I'm sure it was one of those defining moments for them, when they gazed heavenward and whispered, *Do you know God, THIS is why we believe*.

It's interesting to note that when you read the story of this world's creation as recorded in Genesis. Chapter 1 v 26 tells us that God made us in His image to be like Him. Does it mean that God created us to look like Him?...Possibly.

As God is our Creator, possibly another aspect of being made in the image of God is that He has given us also the ability to create! So I reminded Etienne and Carolyn, that God had now entrusted them with the ability to procreate another human being in the form of young Sébastien! What a privilege, what a responsibility!

Another wonderful characteristic of God is that He craves relationships, and God has passed on to us our desire for relationships, especially within a family unit.

As far as God is concerned, He desires us to develop a relationship with Him. So much so, that in the Bible, He calls us His Sons and Daughters and refers to Himself as our Father. I love what the apostle John wrote in his first letter chapter 3v1. ***How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are.***

How wonderful is that?

It may well be that the ups and downs of life and the hard knocks we have endured have caused us to seriously challenge our belief in God. Yet that doesn't alter the fact that God still considers Himself to be our Father, and calls us His Son or Daughter.

Remember, when the time is right, our Heavenly Father will be watching us from afar off and will welcome us with outstretched arms back into His family - the family of God.

***FOR GOD so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*** John 3: 16 and 17.

### ***KIT Flashback.***

**LATE** in 2016, **Douglas and Adina Farrant** met **Princess Michael of Kent**. They are shown enjoying what proved to be an interesting conversation.

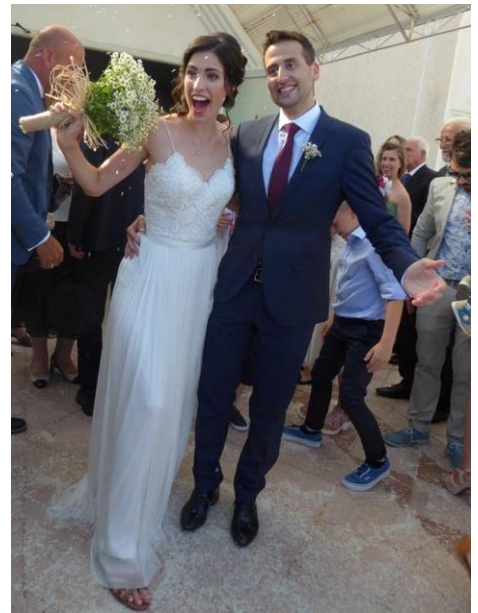


The second photo is of our current student missionary. **Lidia Diniz** is from Brazil and is here until February.



## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

**THIS TIME** let us start with a delightful photo. On June 19, **Joellyn Sheehy** married **Marco Presutto** in the Gaeta Adventist Church in Italy. Joellyn's mother, **Arnetta**, fills in the details: They were surrounded by many of their family and friends from the USA, UK, Ireland, Japan, Sweden, Ukraine, Germany, Romania and of course Italy! Marco had come to live with Joellyn's parents to improve his English in the summer of 2013. They first met when Joellyn came home from University in 2014. Three years later with much improved English, Marco finally proposed. They are planning



on living in Loma Linda, California where Joellyn is beginning her 2nd year of medical school and Marco is hoping to apply for a *Green Card* to be able to stay in the US with his new wife!

You might like to see a photo of

little Sébastien Guenin who was mentioned in Brian's editorial.

Sadly since the last KIT we have lost many who were dear to us. We send our warmest condolences to the families and close friends of **Maureen Pfandl**, the older sister of **Caroline Swain**, who died on Good Friday; of **Usko Rinta-aho**, who died on May 2; of **Vivienne Evers**, **Alfred Wolfram** and **Adrian Atwood** and of **Felicity Romain** x of whom slipped away at about the same time. Felicity Romain was the mother of **Virginia and Roseanna**.

Our church's really big event this year was the flower festival **Soli Deo Gloria - To God Alone Be the Glory** - which ran from July 13 to 15. It started with a Preview Evening and ended with a Flower Festival Concert. The many exhibits showed what church officers do ranging from the Ministerial Team to the Pathfinder and Adventurers and Toddler Club. It celebrated Stanborough Park Church's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our lead picture shows my favourite exhibit showing a peaceful garden with a river of roses. Here are two more exhibits showing the original builders of the church and the Toddler Club.



## **BEYOND BELIEF - Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH**

**THE DEPUTY EDITOR** of the *New Scientist* magazine, Graham Lawton, states: *Deep inside you is a personal guidebook that influences almost everything you do.* He goes on to ask: *How did it get there, and why is it so powerful?* Lawton is writing about belief. One thing is absolutely certain about belief, and that is there is no specific centre for belief in the brain, contrary to the sometimes sensational claims made by psychology writers with books to sell! The general consensus of modern day neuro-research is that there are no super cells, neurons, or brain chemicals solely identified with belief. So it is concluded that we self-generate what we believe based on our total culture and life experience to date. Daily we form concepts, we speculate, and we make decisions based on the evidence of all our senses.

Christians argue that the basis for belief has indeed been planted in us by a God who made us in His own image (that in itself is a belief!). Non-believing scientists demand evidence of religionists as they do of fellow researchers in their own disciplines. However, seekers after truth usually do not abandon their senses and make an arbitrary decision with regard to belief, but weigh various forms of evidence and probability using all their reasoning power to arrive at a decision. When all is said and done, there is much that science takes on faith and is dogmatic about. Why should scientists deny that same process to people of growing faith? All of us see in a glass darkly at the present time, but when we see clearly we shall see something that is truly beyond belief.

Contacts: Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 609, St Albans Road, Garston. Watford. WD25 9JL  
Our Church Clerk, Pat Swan's, new mobile number is 07926 119981.

Website: [www.stanboroughchurch.org](http://www.stanboroughchurch.org)

Web TV: [www.livestream.com/stanboroughparkchurch](http://www.livestream.com/stanboroughparkchurch)

Hope Channel: [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk)

KIT: [kit@stanboroughchurch.org](mailto:kit@stanboroughchurch.org)

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Here is a photo of Sébastien Guenin with his family. Etienne's family are on the left, and Carolyn's on the right, with Brian Davison on Etienne's right. On the far right are Beatrice and Peter Cooper whose wedding pictures have so far eluded me.

