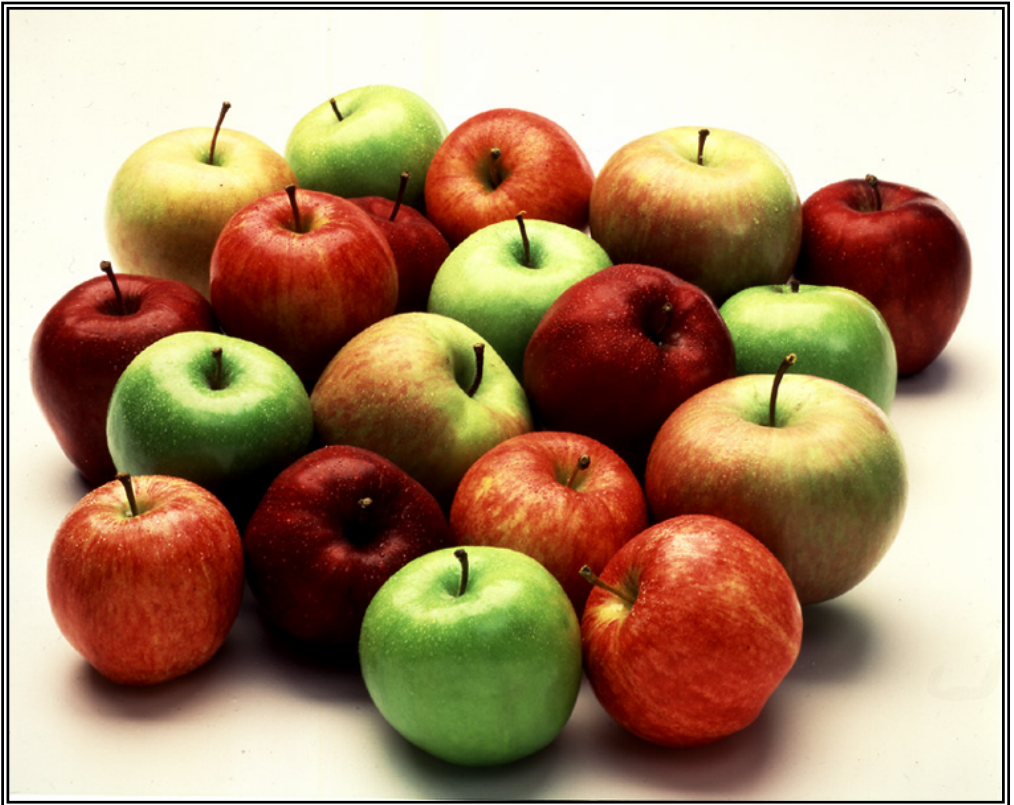


*The*  
**WAY**

**HAZELBANK  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

[www.hazelbank-church.co.uk](http://www.hazelbank-church.co.uk)

**Volume 33 No. 3  
Autumn Edition 2009**



*Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
O the joys of those who take refuge in Him...  
Psalm 34 v 8*

### **MINISTER'S LETTER**

***The Manse  
4 Knocklayde Park  
Castlerock Road  
Coleraine  
028 7035 2891***



Just recently we were to go to Belfast to visit friends, and one of us thought it would be a good idea to bring our Terrier pup with us. So space was created on the back seat and a blanket placed there for him to sleep on. He's a good dog and lay down to sleep on the blanket as we travelled down the road to Belfast. After about fifteen minutes I looked around and couldn't see him, but was reassured he was sleeping peacefully on the floor with his head under my seat.

That was fine, until all of a sudden, my dashboard lit up like a Christmas tree on a winter's night! I suddenly realised that the peaceful sleeping dog with his head under my seat was anything but sleeping. What had happened was that he had discovered one of the electrical looms that ran under the seat and decided that since he was down there that he might as well give it a bit of a chew!

It can be quite a terrifying sight seeing your dashboard light up for apparently no good reason. The lights are there to warn you if there is failure in one or more of the systems and, as a warning, they should give you time to get things sorted out before they go too far.

We have a gracious God who has not only given us the manual we need for living this life, the Bible, but this same book acts as an early warning system for our lives, to inform us as to how, and when, things go wrong.

The writer in Hebrews reminds us, *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* Heb. 4: 12, 13.

God's Word is the key, and His precepts are the engine to life, relationships, growth, and a maturity that leads to joy and contentment and a life worth living—happy and purposeful, a life that will impact others because He has first impacted us—you and me.

The point is that God wants us to spend time in and with Him. His Word, the Bible, is the primary platform for us to know and grow in Him. It lays out His institutions and gives us hope; it shows us where to go so we can grow.

When we read and meditate in His Word, we gain so much. When we forsake our responsibilities and refuse to know Him or obey Him, we gain the consequences and lost opportunities for ourselves.

Life without Him leaves a life of want and waste that is never satisfied or at peace. It leaves a life that is not content and a life that is stressed and overwhelmed because He is just on the outside looking in.

The key is to not just know, but to also apply and do, His precepts to the best for His glory.

If you would be prepared to live your life based on God's word in the Bible, the promptings to change your habits and thoughts and attitudes will be there for you to see long before the warning lights come on!

God Bless you as you take time to read and study His Word,

Your friend

Alan Johnston

## Your Magazine needs YOU!



We would like to introduce some regular features in our magazine in the future. In order to do this, we need your help.

Are there any gardening fanatics out there who would like to share their expertise with others? Perhaps you are a cooking enthusiast with an abundance of recipes and handy hints in the kitchen? What about all you avid readers? Would you be prepared to provide a book review from time to time?

These are some of the ideas being considered. If you would be interested in contributing on a regular basis, please speak to Lilian Edgar (70357737). We only produce 4 magazines per year, so if we have a few interested parties with time on their hands, and talents to share, you may only have to contribute once or twice a year!!

If anyone has alternative ideas about what you would like to see in the magazine, please get in touch and we can consider these also.

Thank you, Stephen, Wendy & Lilian

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### **Oct 4th - Harvest Sunday**

Morning : Rev. Donard Collins, Killowen Church of Ireland

Evening : Rev. Johnston

### **Oct 11th**

Morning : Pre-communion Service

### **Oct 18th**

Morning : Communion

Evening : Communion Thanksgiving - Rev. Maurice Barr.

### **Oct. 25th**

Evening : Douglas Mark - Open Doors

### **Nov. 1st**

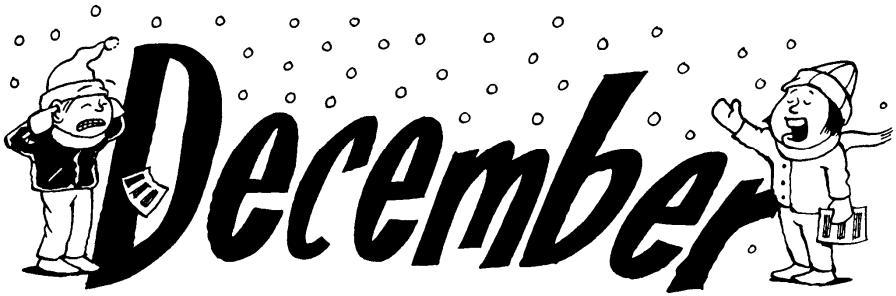
Morning : Mr Jonny Doey

### **Nov. 8th - Remembrance Sunday**

Evening : GB Enrolment Service

### **Nov. 15th**

Evening : Rev. Maurice Barr



**Dec. 13th**

Evening : Rev. Maurice Barr

**Dec. 20th**

Morning : Family Service

Evening : Carol Service

**Dec. 25th - Christmas Day**

**Dec. 31st - Watch-night service - Coleraine Baptist - 11.15pm**

*Open my eyes that I may see  
the Presence that is all around me.  
Open my ears that I may hear  
the voice that is quiet but ever near.  
Open my heart that I may feel  
the love of God close and real.  
Open each sense, make me aware  
of the Power and Peace always there.*

J. John & M. Stibbe

## THE GAP

The Gap Drop-in Centre opened its doors on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 after months of prayer, planning and preparation. It is a living testament to God's goodness and the compassion of our congregation's vision in attempting to reach needy people of the local neighbourhood in a neutral venue. If you like, it is the Zomba Project in Coleraine - an opportunity to fulfil the command of Christ to meet the needs, physical and material, of all whom we meet.

The Gap is currently open each weekday, from 10.00-1200 and aims to provide a welcoming environment where folk can chat over light refreshments at a minimal cost - the suggested donation of 50p is entirely voluntary. We have a team of trained volunteer staff who have gained much themselves through warm fellowship with church members, whom they previously had not really known. This is an added spiritual bonus to the joy of helping others. To date, we have served over 300 cups of tea/coffee to a wide variety of customers, including a core of regulars.

Alongside the refreshments, we have developed knowledge of needy situations; folk who are in difficult circumstances, not always of their own choosing or even making. As a result of our '40 Days of Community' programme, one of the Small Groups formed a link to 'Triangle Housing Association', where one of our elders works. One of Triangle's 'arms' is called 'Supporting People'; a project which helps folk who have been identified by DHSS as having an urgent need to be established in new housing. However, due to DHSS administration, a gap exists between applications for, and issue of, grants to new tenants which results in difficult financial problems. The Small Group arranged to supply a starter

pack to folk in this situation, via 'Triangle' staff, and to date four have been issued. As each tenant has different needs these packs vary; one has been kitchen utensils, another one was bedding and two others were groceries. The Gap has become a place from which these packs can be collected by 'Triangle' staff who then pass them on. Thanks to the generosity of church members, we have been able to supply these, but would like to offer the idea to the whole congregation, so that others who would like to help, may have that opportunity.

To that end, a box has been placed in the foyer, beside the 'Care n Share' station, where contributions can be placed. These can range from 50p upwards and will be wisely used to purchase provisions as necessary.

May we thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing prayer support. Without it the work would never have started and would be totally in vain.

Sincere thanks and may the Lord continue to use us all in His service.

## **SUMMER CAMP - CROATIA**

This summer I had the opportunity to serve on a team sent out by Portrush Presbyterian Church to Croatia. We helped members of a Baptist Church from Slovenia to run a kids summer camp. Gloria and Sebastian Forjan, who are familiar faces here at Hazelbank, were two of the main leaders. At camp my main roles were to teach English and organise craft and games. We had a lot of fun with the children we met and enjoyed playing at the seaside, introducing them to Irish dancing and tag rugby and playing some crazy water games where I discovered

I am a bit of a water magnet! However, most important of all was the time we spent praising God and introducing the children to Bible stories. My personal highlight on the final night of camp was seeing children as young as seven or eight responding to the Gospel story and making a commitment to Jesus. I would like to thank everybody in the congregation who prayed for me while I was away and would encourage you to pray for the children who attended camp as they go back to homes where there is little support or interest in Christianity. This summer in Croatia I was able to teach the children some English vocabulary but I left realising that the children along with many inspirational Slovene leaders taught me so much more as I saw them live out lives of amazing faith and courage in a country where many have little experience of evangelical Christianity.

Orla Chapman



# MONEY MATTERS

We continue to live in challenging times and it is against this backdrop that the financial position of the church may be summarised as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 :-

## Bank Balances

No. 1 Account	£11,245.03	<i>Overdrawn</i>
No. 2 Account	£12,967.82	
Ministry Extension Fund	£25,673.10	
Interest Free Loans	£ 1,000.00	

## United Appeal

Target of Honour	Contributions	Increase on 2008
£8,930	£4,606	£111

- \* The amount given by way of Free Will Offering has increased this year by £1,431 or 3%. Loose offerings have reduced by £1,106.
- \* Contributions to our Property Fund during 2009 currently stand at £15,977 which is on a par with 2008.
- \* Giving to the Ministry Extension Fund so far this year amounts to £7,413 which is down £817 on the same period last year.
- \* Running costs are up £7,071, approximately 11% on 2008. Part of this is accounted for by an increase in the quarterly PCI assessment for the third quarter of this year by £2,904.
- \* Expenditure through Property Account is £11,194 down £8,159 on 2008.
- \* Expenditure through Ministry Extension Fund is £11,302 down £427 on 2008.
- \* Taking into consideration that many face financial pressures due to the downturn in the economy I would highlight the fact that the Number 1 account is considerably overdrawn. We would ask that all members prayerfully consider what they can afford to give by way of weekly offerings.

David Kerr  
Hon. Treasurer

## JUST A THOUGHT

### THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a cross in my pocket  
A simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic  
Nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification  
For all the world to see  
It's simply an understanding  
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put a hand in my pocket  
To bring a coin or key  
The Cross is there to remind me  
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me to be thankful  
For the blessings day by day  
And to strive to serve Him better  
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder  
Of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master  
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket  
Reminding no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life  
If only I'll let him be.

## CROCODILE DOCK



### *Volunteers Of Crocodile Dock*

“Crocodile Dock.... where fearless kids shine God’s light!!!!”

This year’s summer Bible Club programme - ‘Crocodile Dock’ was a great success, where children went on a fearless adventure through God’s Word. A fantastic team of forty-five adult leaders and twenty-five young people were involved. At Crocodile Dock one hundred and ten kids experienced daily, how to show God’s love in their everyday lives and were encouraged to keep an eye out for ‘God in action’. Each evening the children received Bible buddies; Jacques le Croc, Blossom the Possum, Tucker the Turtle, Flash the Firefly and Belle the Spoonbill.

The programme was filled with incredible Bible messages where kids watched, heard, touched, and even tasted God’s word. The stations included crafts, team building games, cool songs, tasty treats and bible adventures. The activities focused on God centred stories, reinforcing that God is with us, God is powerful, God does what he says He’ll do, God gives us new life and God cares for us. The story excursions were mainly from the Old Testament book of Exodus, taking a jump to the New Testament on Day four. The children learned stories beginning with Moses and the burning bush, followed

by the plagues on Egypt, the first Passover, Jesus' death and resurrection and finally the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

The Bayou Bash programme organised for teenagers was also fantastic, with twenty plus young people registered. Each evening a different guest speaker talked through that evening's Bible story in greater depth. The teenagers had great fun playing energetic games, eating yummy snacks, exploring God's word while unwinding after the night's experience. Great friendships were made and existing relationships grew stronger.

Thank-you to all those who helped in making Crocodile Dock so successful!!! It was the commitment of everyone involved that made this programme work and put smiles on children's faces. This programme has been such an outreach, with children hearing about God possibly for the first time. This year the children raided their piggy banks and saved their pocket money to purchase life-saving mosquito nets for orphanages in Zomba. We thank God for this opportunity to let our lights shine to those in need. It's safe to say that the adults and children, from all age groups had a fantastic experience at Crocodile Dock and we praise God for the great week had by all involved.

## **'CAMP AMERICA'**

This year I travelled to America, but before I tell you about the team, I want to tell you how God managed to get me on it. This year I thought I was going to calm things down a bit and get a job, after all I've been to South Africa two years in a row. I went to an Exodus meeting with the intention of serving God locally rather than internationally. Little did I know that my plan would soon be demolished. One of my friends, Tim, runs Exodus and was leading a team to New York, so I naturally became interested. I guess the excitement of the bright lights overthrew me and I got my hopes built up on being able to go, but sadly there was an age limit on the leadership team and I didn't make it, so, Tim suggested the Spain team. He said it was a team full of creativity and a lot of street work, just like my past teams. So I registered and got in. On the night of my first team meeting I got a phone

call telling me that I could go to America with the NEELB. When I heard this I knew the team wasn't Christian and although I had that fear I thought I'd look into it. After speaking to Eugene, the team leader, I decided I would go ahead and apply, and amazingly I got in.

So to explain what this team involved I would like you to imagine two islands with a lake in between them. On one island there are boys on the other there are girls. These kids are left by their parents for 2-3 weeks and require constant supervision as most of the children are sufferers of ADHD.

Our team's role was to join in on games and to be a constant role model for the kids in the way we showed our manners, played games and even our enthusiasm towards chores. On each camp there were between 200-300 children so the camp controlled the number of kids by breaking them up into three groups, The Navigators, The Voyagers and The Vikings. These groups were split into different ages; the Navigators being the youngest aged 7-10 and The Vikings being the oldest aged 12-16.

One thing I found in America is the fact that they are very age conscious. This could be down to how immature their teenage kids are.

One other thing I found about camp was the lack of talk on religion. This made it hard to talk about Jesus, but not impossible. On team we managed to show Jesus' love to our team leader, I say "our" as two of my best friends joined my team too. Their names are Stephen Mathews and Jonathan Coulter. We went out as friends and came home feeling like brothers. But although we were growing as friends in Jesus we wanted to spread the Word. We had to choose our footsteps carefully as the camp didn't like talk of religion and it could lead us into trouble. After being told this, I wondered if the country of the free was really free .

After we settled into camp we started to hear about this event called changeover. This basically was the time when the old kids go and the new kids come for two to three weeks, but what I didn't expect was what happened to the camp leaders. Changeover was a time for them to take a break from work and go and spend their wages on hotel rooms and alcohol. Immediately this upped the stakes in camp. We knew camp needed a revival. What happened to the "YMCA" guidelines? My friends and I prayed and asked God to give us chances but we were either blinded by the devil or we felt the timing wasn't correct. Although we found it almost impossible to talk to the campers, we did show Jesus to members of the team who ended up asking us about God and how we manage to keep our faith during teenage temptations. Personally I feel the biggest lesson I have learned from team is that I might feel as if I am personally not making a difference but if I take time and look the little things are the most significant.

Thank you for your support, it meant so much.

Robert.

## VISIT TO UKRAINE

Visit to Ukraine – August 2009

From 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2009, I was in Ukraine with 3 other friends. We did not go with a particular organisation but felt God was leading us to do ministry there. We connected with a YWAM base, in Ternopil (Western Ukraine) that Leanne, our leader, already had connections with.

The journey there certainly was an adventure. We travelled from Coleraine to Dublin, and then flew to Krakow, Poland before getting an overnight train across the Ukrainian border to Lvov. From there we took another train to Ternopil where we met with Leanne who had travelled out ahead of us.

When we arrived, we literally had very little of an agenda, other than to be used where God wanted us. One passage we all felt God speaking to us out of was Isaiah 61:1-4. We felt strongly that we were to be carriers of God's spirit, and that during the week, He would use our presence, our worship, and our love to change some of the atmosphere in Ternopil. We were able to spend several afternoons in an orphanage, just spending time with, and loving the kids. We also got to minister in an old people's home, as well as taking to the streets with our instruments, and worshipping God, as well as sharing some testimonies, when we had our translator there.

For me it was amazing to see what God can and will do in our weakness, when we submit ourselves to Him, and His plans. It was amazing to see the whole week unfold with us taking our hands off



what would happen. I learned that God's leadership in our lives is truly perfect. The whole trip also left me coming home knowing it could not just be about one week. The people I met, and the city of Ternopil will remain in my heart. The children there stole my heart, and I want to continue praying that God will raise up fathers and mothers to adopt these children. I found it so very true that although we cannot change an entire nation in a week, we can love those around us with all the love within us. This is what God requires of us, whether in Ukraine or Coleraine.

Gillian Kane

## *CHANGE*

"No one likes a change...except a wet baby." Noel Coward

Scientists have come up with a term to describe organisms that are not constantly changing: it's "DEAD".

Change is inevitable....except from a vending machine!

