

Overwhelmed!

On the Monday of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, 45 of us gathered together at 94 Sunnyside Road for our annual Charity Barbecue, in aid of the work of IREF (The India Rural Evangelical Fellowship). This year's project was to raise funds for a full-time nurse to help care for the 1,500 children in IREF's orphanages. The salary cost has been estimated at £900 per annum.



In 2004, our barbecue raised almost £200 to support the work of IREF's newly opened Child Development Centre at Ullipalem. Last year, all previous records were broken when over £330 was raised for the same project.



This year, I hoped we might get about a third of the way towards the funds needed for employing a full-time nurse. So imagine my amazement when we counted up all the donations that had been so generously given this year, to discover that **£902.58** had been raised - £510 of which was gift

aided – bringing the total to a massive **£1,046.33!** I am completely overwhelmed at people's exceptional generosity towards this very worthy cause. And I know that our colleagues in India will be thrilled too. So let me say a very big 'Thank you' to all of you who dug so deep to make this project possible.

View on line

In last month's newsletter, Elaine Willmore gave us a graphic account of her visit to Bangladesh, to see the work of Traidcraft, courtesy of the BBC, who were making a documentary about fair trade products. You can still catch up on her news at www.bbc.co.uk:80/tyne/content/articles/2007/05/05/traidcraft_bangladesh_feature.shtml

More from around the world

Earlier this year, two of our members were privileged to travel even further afield. Ray and Val Hill, both recently retired, paid a visit to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and the South Sea Islands, before stopping off in San Francisco on the way home. They gave us a superb PowerPoint presentation of their tour at our International Fellowship Tea on the last Sunday in April, focussing on all the different churches they had visited en route, with their rich variety of worship styles, welcomes and sermons.

Here is their account of the last church they visited before coming home to DRBC.

Food for Thought

In the city centre of San Francisco, Hamilton Square Baptist Church is committed to winning as many people for Christ as possible. Their welcome pack for visitors contains a booklet called '*Seven Wonders*' which attempts to answer the kind of questions a non-believer might be asking. Another booklet goes further by asking the question '*Should I go to Church?*' It goes like this.

I once thought, "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian. But a pastor challenged me to find out for myself what the Bible said about churches and pastors, and he gave me a list of helpful texts.

- I started by reading **Ephesians 4: 11-13**, and I learned that Jesus gives special gifts to the church to help me grow as a Christian.
- Then I looked up **Hebrews 10: 24-25**, and I realised that being together with other Christians is how God intends to help me cope with life and encourage me to do what is right.
- Then I read **Romans 10: 13-17**, and I learned that Jesus sent these pastors and teachers to build my faith.
- I read **Matthew 16: 18-19**, and I discovered that the church is more than a group of believers. I realised that Jesus built the church, owns it and protects it.
- Then I read **Matthew 18: 20**, and I found that when believers gather to worship, it is an event of such importance that Jesus joins them, no matter how small the gathering.
- I looked up **Luke 4: 16**, and I discovered that Jesus was in the habit of attending church.
- I also read **Luke 22: 19**, and I found that Jesus told us to use the Lord's Supper to help us remember that He died for our sins. When I stay away from church, I miss that important event.

I was convinced, but I wondered how I could convince my friends. I knew what they would say about going to church: 'If the church belongs to Jesus, why can't Christians agree? Why are there so many denominations?'

I searched for some answers to their objections and found one in **1 Corinthians 13: 12-13**. Then I realised that our inability to see Christ's work clearly was one reason for all these denominations. Some lean on one part of the Bible and others lean on another. I told my friends that what really counts is what they do with Jesus.

My friends reminded me how poorly some church members behaved. I didn't have a good answer because I also was hurt by the judgemental and selfish behaviour of some Christians. But then I read **Ephesians 4: 32**, and I knew that forgiveness was so important to Jesus that He told His followers that if they refused to forgive others, then they would not be forgiven either (**Matthew 6: 14-15**).

One of my friends said to me, 'I don't need others to have a relationship with God. I can be a

Christian by myself'. So I showed him what the Bible said in **1 Corinthians 12**.

Their final objection was the biggest. 'We are too busy – the weekend is the only chance we have to relax and enjoy ourselves'. I recognised it as a big issue because I felt this way myself at times. Then I remembered what Jesus said about priorities in **Mark 4: 18**. So I told my friends that the secret of a successful life is to put God first."

So, we'll see you in church!



News Round Up

- ⇒ **Ray and Val Hill** have kindly agreed to act as mentors for the **American Youth Interims** we are expecting. They will be responsible for their day-to-day timetable and will provide pastoral guidance and support. Please pray for the grant applications that have been submitted to fund the project.
- ⇒ Please pray too for grant applications that have been submitted for the next phase of our **building refurbishment work** – a new heating system for our church halls and ancillary rooms; additional ladies toilets; and refurbishment of our church halls (lighting, floor coverings, redecoration).
- ⇒ **Jens Rahmann** has agreed to take on overall responsibility for **general maintenance** items about the Church. Please speak to him if you spot anything that needs fixing – and even more importantly, offer to give him a hand if there is some way in which you can help. All skills, and limited skills, can play their part in ensuring our premises are kept up to standard!
- ⇒ Don't forget our *Fun and Food for all the Family Church Barbecue* on **Tuesday 12th June, 7.30-9.00pm**. Invitation flyers are available at Church for inviting your friends.

David Hunt