

CONNECT

Connecting and Communicating in Changing Times

ODESSA 2011 September 3rd -10th

At our Missionary Sunday in February we had a visit from a team of men from Gwersyllt Church, North Wales who shared how God worked in a remarkable way to open a door for them to partner with a church in Odessa, Ukraine.

For the last 3 years teams of men from North Wales have been visiting Odessa to do practical work renovating 'Transition House', a Christian orphanage which houses 40-50 children. UNICEF estimates 10,000 children live on the streets in Odessa. The team who visited us shared how these trips had been a huge source of spiritual encouragement for the men involved. The teams have been a mixture of Christians and non-Christians and one of the results of this has been many fruitful gospel conversations.

Following their visit, a number of men from Woodgreen were inspired by the project and expressed a desire for us to be involved as a church. The result is a trip to Odessa this September! It is hoped that this will be first of many such trips and the beginning of a fruitful partnership with the church there.



PLEASE PRAY...



- For Woodgreen's inaugural team visit 3rd-10th September. The team will include 12 men. (8 from Woodgreen and 4 from North Wales.)
- Pray for Paul Hughes, Ben Lewis, Neil Parmenter, Andy Cheetham and John Davenport as they prepare for the trip. Each man will be responsible for covering their own air fare and costs.
- Pray that the practical work will go smoothly and that the team will get on well. There are still places for the trip in September. Is God prompting you to join the team?
- The basement and first floor of Transition House have been completed and are operational. There is still much to do on the second and third floors of the orphanage, and a lot of materials still needs to be bought and put in place. Pray for safety as the team work together.
- Much of the next stage is tiling and flooring. Our immediate financial target is to raise £5000 for materials needed in this trip. Woodgreen has given a donation towards this.
- Please consider your involvement. Contraflow have arranged a number of things to raise money, and be part of this ministry. Please prayerfully consider (if you are a man) whether this is something worthwhile for you to get stuck into.
- Please consider how your ministry area in Woodgreen could support this, and give to those teenagers who are doing the sponsored events.
- Pray in faith for the next trip (possibly May 2012).

MAKE A NOTE!

WEEK of PRAYER: Mon 26th Sept – Sun 2nd Oct



'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.' (1 Timothy 6:17-18)

Restricted giving:

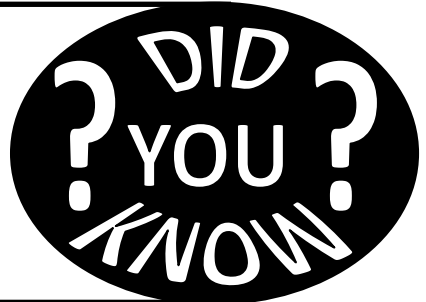
technical term for gifts given to Woodgreen for a specific person or purpose.

If someone giving to Woodgreen specifies that their gift can only be used 'for missionary X' or 'purpose Y' then it cannot be used to help cover the budgeted expenditure of the church, including our giving to missionaries.

We discourage restricted giving to Woodgreen because it causes uncertainty and difficulties for the Mission Team as they plan our missionary budget and for missionaries as they plan their income. It also causes significant extra work for the Finance Team and works against the Biblical principle that money should be given to God's work 'without strings attached', to be allocated by those appointed by the church to lead and oversee. Most giving to Woodgreen is 'unrestricted' giving.

Our first responsibility as Christians is to support the local fellowship we belong to. We are told to do this generously, freely and sacrificially (Malachi 3:8-10, 2 Cor 8:1-9, 9:6-8). However we also want to encourage you to give to missionary organisations and individuals over and above your giving to Woodgreen. Giving in a restricted way through Woodgreen delays your gift and is an administrative burden for the Finance Team. We have therefore decided not to process restricted gifts through the church from the beginning of October. If you want to give independently to individuals or organisations you can do so directly or set up an account through Stewardship Services. If you want more information about how to do this, or if you have any questions, please see Steve Marshall (Finance Team Leader) or Peter Coggins (Missions Team Leader).

**During the first 5 months of 2011
21 external groups have used the building,
which has generated an income of just
over £2,400. Many thanks to those who
have helped make this possible by opening
up and locking up the building. If you are
willing to help with this see Christine.**



SUMMER READING IDEAS

What novels will you be packing in your suitcase for your summer hols this year? Why not take the opportunity to be blessed by reading a good Christian book. Here are a few suggestions for 'sanctified summer reading'...



The Prodigal God

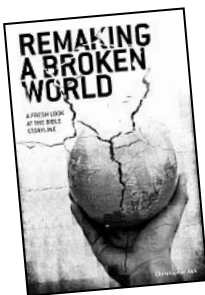
Timothy Keller

Thought you knew everything there was to know about the parable of the prodigal son? Think again! With pastoral insight, Keller gives a challenging and heart-warming new look at Jesus most famous parable. A wonderfully inspiring book that spotlights the amazing grace of God.

The Unquenchable Flame

Michael Reeves

Thought books about Church history were boring? Think again! Written with the skill of a scholar and the art of a storyteller, this is the most readable introduction to the Reformation around. Clear and at times laugh out loud funny, this book is a must for anyone who wants to know who Zwingli, Luther and Calvin were but are afraid to ask!



Remaking a Broken World

Christopher Ash

Given up on the local church? Think again! Christopher Ash shows how the ordinary local church contains within itself the seeds of a remade world. Tracing the theme of the church through the Bible, his aim is to rekindle our love and renew in us a commitment to be part of what God is doing in the world through the church.

PLEASE TALK TO US...

The purpose of CONNECT is to communicate better, raise ideas for your feedback, explain the thinking behind any new initiatives, cast vision for the future and follow up issues raised during Sunday ministry. It is also available for download from our website. If you have any comments as a result of what you've read in this edition please get in contact, always including your name. You can do this either by speaking directly to one of us as Elders or by emailing us at: connect@woodgreenchurch.co.uk