

MAY 2008

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

Who was it, I wonder, that coined the title 'Flaming June'? As I write, Cathy and I are preparing to dash north for a couple of days - to Manchester, while a Test Match is being played there... and the weather is forecast to be horrible! Ok, it's not June yet, but I'm holding my breath that the planned picnic in Sunnyhill Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> June will take place and not be rained off. What chance, do you think?

Now I know that the British are always laughed at because of our endless preoccupation with the weather - but it really has been a bit extreme in recent years, hasn't it? Flowers coming early and being killed off by April frosts, floods where there have never been floods before, no real White Christmas for I don't know how long... you make your own list.

But we've been comparatively fortunate in this part of the world. Just now, Burma is still in the headlines, and in another part of *The Messenger* you will find news of an appeal to send aid via the Presbyterian Church there: in that way we stand a good chance of the help reaching people who actually need it, not being squirreled away by some nameless government agent.

Someone was asking me the other day - on another topic actually - 'where is God in all this? In her case, the question was 'Why does a loving God leave a nine-year-old motherless?' But the same question applies to the disasters in Burma and China.

It turns out that thousands of people have died in each country because of human wickedness. In Burma, it was the government who are frightened of letting foreign aid workers and resources into the county.

In China it seems that children suffered most, because there was wide-scale cost-cutting (against government regulations) ignoring the building codes which would have ensured that hundreds of schools would have not fallen down. Ironically, it is China, with its life-long suspicion of 'foreign devils' which is now open to international inspection and aid, and Burma, once friendly to the West, which is so paranoid that millions of dollars-worth of help is cruising just outside territorial waters waiting for permission to land. I hope that things will have improved by the time you read this.

So where *is* God in all this? I think that the answer lies in the fact that He put us into the world and gave us control of it. (Genesis 1: 28) However many disasters there are, we still live in a wonderful world full, for the most part, of wonderful, lovely people. For you and me, our task is to live loving, Gospel lives, showing the fruit of the Spirit - and letting our own love infect others. It means that we must be positive, not passive, not trying to right the major wrongs, but putting in our own two-pennorth of love wherever and whenever we can...

And it might just work...

Love and peace to you all,  
Revd Jim.

## THE BURMA CYCLONE

I know that many people, like me, have refrained from sending money towards disaster relief in Burma (Myanmar) because there is even greater doubt than usual that it will reach the people who really need it. However, you might like to consider sending help to our Christian brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church (PCM) there. Most members of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) live in the north west of the country, in and around the city of Tahan. While it seems this area was spared the worst of the devastation, the PCM has an office and staff in Yangon (Rangoon) and there are concerns for their safety.

The PCM and the URC have had a long and important relationship. The Revd Dale Rominger, the URC's Secretary for World Church Relations, has e-mailed the general secretary of PCM, the Revd Lalengzauva, saying 'Please know that your friends in the United Reformed Church are holding you in their prayers. I am assuming that most PCM people in the Tahan area are safe, at least that is what the news here would lead me to believe. However, I know people may have lost family and friends in other parts of the country. I'm also aware that your staff in Yangon may have been affected. I pray for their safety'. The Council for World Mission (the URC's Mission Partner) is making funds available from its Solidarity and Action Fund and is also undertaking its own efforts to provide food, clothing and medical supplies.

If you would like to give to this fund, there will be a retiring collection after the morning service on 8<sup>th</sup> June to which you can contribute.

Revd Jim.

**BURMA (MYANMAR)**

## **AND GOD SAID, "NO"**

I asked God to take away my pride and God said, "NO".

He said it was not for Him to take away but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said; "NO".

He said her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God to give me patience, and God said, "NO".

He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation: It's not granted it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness and God said "NO".

He said He gives blessings: happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain and God said, "NO"

He Said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me"

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said, "NO"

He said I must grow on my own but He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if he loved me and God said "YES".

He gave me His only son who died for me and I will be in heaven some day because He died for me, I believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me.

And God said "Ah, finally you have the idea".

J. Macdonnovin, KAIROS

The author of the above was a candidate at KAIROS, the Washington State Reformatory in Monroe. KAIROS is a prison ministry active throughout the U.S.



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# FLOWER LIST

JUNE 2008

## MONEY MATTERS

### OFFERINGS DURING APRIL 2008

April 2008	Cash	Envelopes	Total
April. 6 <sup>th</sup>	£ 50.00	£267.50	£317.50
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	£ 91.00	£291.00	£382.00
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	£ 70.20	£283.80	£354.00
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	£ 71.20	£153.80	£225.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£282.40</b>	<b>£996.10</b>	<b>£1,278.50</b>

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The Communion Offerings during March and April for **St. Luke's Hospice** amounted to £142.10 and this has been added to our Project account which stands at **£324.00**

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**COMMUNION OFFERINGS**  
during May/June  
will be made on behalf of  
**TEAR FUND**

Joyce Field.

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**DATE DONATED BY ARRANGED BY**  
**JUNE 2008**

1<sup>st</sup> - Mrs.P.Maycock & - Pam Maycock  
Mrs. C. Balfour  
8<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. C. Eddisford - Christina Eddisford  
15<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. H. Guerin & - Sheila Mortimore  
Mrs. S. Mortimore  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs. M. Johnson - Vivien Crispe  
29<sup>th</sup> - Church - Susan Day

**JULY 2008**

6<sup>th</sup> July - Church - Pam Maycock

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## THANK YOU

**Dear Friends at The Hyde,**

**I just wanted to express my grateful thanks to you all for the financial support you gave me towards the cost of my summer mission. I have now reached my target of £650 in just three months and I am amazed at how quickly the money came in.**

**I am continuing to make greetings cards and offer babysitting to raise a little bit of spending money.**

**Many thanks again for your generosity and a special thank you to The Men's Breakfast Group. I hope to see you all later in the year when I can share some of my mission experiences with you.**

**God Bless,**

**Kathryn. (Strachan)**



**PREACHING PLANS for -  
June 2008**

1<sup>st</sup> June - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. John Douglas  
8<sup>th</sup> June - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. Jim Gould  
6.30 p.m. - Communion  
Rev. Jim Gould  
15<sup>th</sup> June - 10.00 a.m. - Communion  
Rev. Jim Gould  
22<sup>nd</sup> June - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. Jim Gould  
29<sup>th</sup> June - 10.00 a.m. - "Songs of Praise"  
Rev. Jim Gould

**JULY 2008**

6<sup>th</sup> July - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore

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**PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS FOR  
CHRIS MORTIMORE**

Please pray for Chris as he leads worship  
at the following venues during June 2008.

**JUNE 2008**

8<sup>th</sup> June - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road  
15<sup>th</sup> June - 10.30 a.m. - Totteridge  
22<sup>nd</sup> June - 11.00 a.m. - Queens Park  
6.30 p.m. - St. John's, Kenton  
29<sup>th</sup> June - 11.00 a.m. - Northwood Hills

**JULY 2008**

6<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde

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One of our preachers was very small of stature  
and when he sat down in the pulpit during the  
hymn before the sermon he was completely out  
of sight. One Sunday we finished the hymn  
and sat patiently waiting for him to appear.  
Several minutes passed and we wondered if he  
had dozed off when he suddenly reappeared  
and announced his text:

**IT IS I - BE NOT AFRAID.**

**DIARY FOR JUNE 2008**

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> - 1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi  
Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> - 9.00 a.m. - Mens' Breakfast  
Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - Housegroup  
1.15. p.m. - LunchtimeService  
7.15 p.m. - Housegroup  
Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup> - 6.00 p.m. - Elders Meeting  
Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> - 1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi  
Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - Housegroup  
1.15.p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - Housegroup

**JULY 2008**

**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> - COFFEE MORNING AND  
LUNCHES**

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**SPECIAL HYMNS**

DENTISTS – Crown Him with many crowns  
CONTRACTORS – The Church's one foundation  
GOLFERS – There is a green hill far away.  
POLITICIANS – O Jesus I have promised  
CENSUS OFFICERS – All people that on  
earth do dwell.  
CAR VALET – Shine Jesus, Shine.  
AGONY AUNT – Tell out my soul.  
COACH DRIVER - Ride on, Ride on.  
GUIDE DOG TRAINER – Lead us heavenly  
father, lead us  
BOXER - Fight the good fight  
MAN FROM THE PRU – Blessed assurance.

# REFLECTIONS

## OUT OF THE MOUNTHS OF BABES.....

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TALES

#### The Story of Elijah

The Sunday School teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces and laid it on the altar. Then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour them over the altar. He made them do it four times.

“Now can anyone in the class tell me why they had to pour water over the steer on the altar? Asked the teacher. A little girl started waving her hand. I know, I know!” she said. “To make the gravy!”

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#### Lot’s Wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when one small boy interrupted, “My mummy looked back once when she was driving and she turned into a telephone pole,” he announced triumphantly.

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#### Did Noah Fish?

“Did Noah do a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?” the teacher asked her class. The reply came from a small boy, “How could he with only two worms?”

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After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, “That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home but I wanted to stay with you guys.”

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A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table she turned to their six-year-old daughter and aid, “Would you like to say grace?” “I wouldn’t know what to say,” the girl replied. “Just say what you hear Mummy say,” the wife answered. The daughter bowed he head and said, “Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

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Jesus said, I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 18 v 3*

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