

MINISTER'S LETTER



When, on the night of his arrest, Jesus prays for his friends (John 17) he essentially says to God, ‘I’ve done all I can. I’ve said all I can. I’ve taught them all I can. I’ve passed on all I can. I’ve given them all I can. I’ve protected them all I can. It’s now time for them to stand on their own and to make their way in the world. I can do no more for them - except pray.’

The prayer that follows is a heartfelt plea that they be kept safe - just the sort of prayer then that a parent may offer for a much-loved child.

The American author Joyce Maynard writes, “It’s not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can’t tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself.”

In a similar way, we can’t just tell our children - and that could mean our own biological children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren, or other children that we care for, including those who are part of the church family in this place - about God’s love, we have to live it and experience it for ourselves that it might be more fully revealed to them.

Our children are watching us to see what we do with our lives and what we do - how we live - will go a long way not only to shaping them but also to the picture of God that they receive. If our children see us living out our lives in the Christ-like ways of compassion and care, truth and justice; if they see us delighting in God’s creation and celebrating life with all its joys and sorrows, then they’re more likely to find the story of a God of love resonating with them than if we’re, say, self-interested, small-minded, bigoted and surround them with hatred.

Whilst there does come a time in each of our lives when we understand that we have to step out from underneath that security blanket which (hopefully) has been provided for us by our parents and stand on our own two feet and make our own way in the world, I’m not sure that many of us entirely achieve this. Not whilst our parents are there for us

to turn to. So I guess that the flip side is also true, namely that in life a parent rarely reaches a point when he or she can stand back and say,

‘I’ve done all I can. I’ve said all I can. I’ve taught them all I can. I’ve passed on all I can. I’ve given them all I can. I’ve protected them all I can. I can do no more for them.’

But, if like Jesus did for his friends, we can at some point look our children in the eyes and hand on heart say, ‘We’ve told you God’s story, we’ve lived it to the best of our ability and still continue to pray for you’, we’ll not only be demonstrating that we’ve taken seriously our calling as followers of Jesus, we’ll also be revealing that we’ve become more Christ-like ourselves.

In such a way, through such little steps, the world is transformed.

With every blessing

Paul

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Circle the City 2015 - Christian Aid Charity Walk



One Sunday, not so long ago, the 24th May to be precise, a team of intrepid adventurers set forth on a mission to visit 16 churches in the City of London, all for the good cause of Christian Aid.

Fortified by wise words of morning services, Wendy,

Phoebe, Angela, Tony, Wendy, Dawn and Mike (behind the camera,

honest!) set forth by the subterranean transportation system, colloquially known as “The Tube”, arriving at a place called Bank. From there they set off to find the location from where they would start their adventure, namely the church called St Mary Le Bow, whose bells were strangely silent. At that place they joined hundreds of others in registering their intent and then took nourishment.

Hunger satisfied and armed with map they took their first tentative steps. Up went the cry "Which way do we go?". Instructions and map were consulted and consensus said that from the church turn left on to Cheapside and then right into Milk Street leading on to Gresham Street until they reached the first checkpoint at St Lawrence Jewry.

There they collected their first star, a mark to show that they had indeed visited that church. It is neither the intention of this article to give a detailed description of each church nor to give exact details of the route they took. That would take as long for you to read as they took to complete the course. So I shall spare you that. Suffice to say that after St Lawrence Jewry - St Margaret Lothbury, St Mary Woolworth, St Michael's Cornhill, St Dunstan in the East and All Hallows by the Tower fell to our merry troop.

At the latter, much refreshment was laid on and gratefully partaken before setting out to conquer St Olave's, St Botolph without Aldgate, Bevis Marks Synagogue, St Botolph without Bishopsgate, the Dutch Church, St Giles Cripplegate, Christchurch Greyfriars, St Bride's, St Paul's, Cathedral returning once again to St Mary Le Bow, strange names all.

Having completed the 6 mile circuit and collected their medal for doing so, the adventurers, tired and footsore set off to return to their nests once more until next year when their walking shoes will be donned and the challenge taken up once again to "Circle the City". Will you join them?



PS. Mike and Phoebe would like to thank their sponsors for raising nearly £400 for Christian Aid.

Mike Mortley

Inside St Raphael's Hospice

This spring has been an exciting time for St Raphael's Hospice as on Thursday 26th March our Orangery officially opened! We were joined by Norman Lamb MP, the Mayors of both Sutton and Merton, June Whitfield and other local funders and community representatives for the grand opening.

The Orangery café serves hot and cold drinks and a range of light snacks and is open to patients, visitors, staff and members of the local community. The comfortable dining area also contains a children's play area with a television and play station – perfect for children visiting the hospice who need a little time out! On sunny days the patio doors can be fully opened onto the courtyard garden, which is a relaxing and beautiful sun-trap.



The Orangery also houses a room which is furnished with sofa beds and easy chairs large enough to cater for four people (adults or children) either as a chill-out zone during the day or overnight sleeping for relatives of patients. The larger of the two cloakrooms with a shower is positioned next door for family members to use.

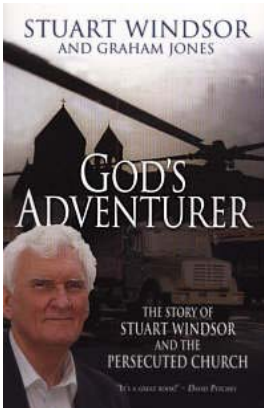
The new area will benefit both patients from the ward, who can have a change of scenery and spend time out of their bedroom, as well as those attending the Jubilee Day Centre who can socialise with other patients at the beginning and end of sessions.

The cafe is open from 9am - 4pm on Monday - Friday and we would encourage you to suggest it to friends and family as a place to come for a cup of tea, sandwich, or piece of cake. We hope that people will enjoy visiting the Orangery café and will recognise the hospice as an integral part of their community.

Kerry Thomas

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God's Adventurer



Right from its opening chapter, describing taking relief to Nagorno Karabakh in 1992, this was a book I couldn't put down. Stuart Windsor tells his story – Barnardo's boy, ex RAF, ex-North West Water Authority, Pentecostal pastor, and for the last 17 years National Director U.K. of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. CSW's objectives are: showing solidarity with persecuted Christians and others; visiting and encouraging church leaders; delivering aid;

ascertaining the facts and recording examples of persecution. It operates in about one third of the 66 countries listed by Amnesty International in 2009/10 as experiencing unjust imprisonment and torture, though inevitably only a small number of affected countries make it into this book.

The book is just packed with moving and sometimes horrifying examples, and Stuart pays tribute to the faith and heroism of the martyrs and persecuted Christians in Iran and Mongolia, Burma and Pakistan, Nigeria and Sudan. 'It's essential,' Stuart is convinced, 'for Christians in the West to pray, speak out and stand in solidarity with the persecuted African Church.' As you read the many accounts in this book of God's activity, bear this quotation in mind: 'As we often say in Christian Solidarity, we don't believe in miracles, we rely on them.' Stuart hopes that telling his story, containing his own 'simple testimony' that 'faith works', and telling these stories of the persecuted church will 'persuade more Christians to discern God's voice and obey in trust'.

If reading this book moves you as much as it did me, then I strongly recommend you to get hold of *Baroness Cox: a Voice for the Voiceless*, by Andrew Boyd. Baroness Caroline Cox, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, is a trustee of Christian Solidarity International, the parent body from which CSW split in 1997. She works closely with Stuart and is frequently mentioned in his book.

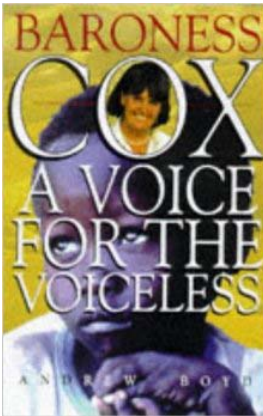
Reviewer: Barry Vendy (26/03/2011)

Having read this book on Stuart Windsor's adventures, I agree with this review and highly recommend this book.

Stuart has agreed to come and speak at the morning service at Martin Way on the 26th July. It would be good to encourage as many as possible to come and hear him and support CSW on that day -(retiring collection). Or buy his book!

Paperback: 306 pages RRP£9.99 **ISBN:** 9781854249999

Gwen Wildman



Baroness Cox: a Voice for the Voiceless

In this compelling biography, Andrew Boyd tells the story of Baroness Cox's humble beginnings as a nurse and her subsequent nine-year fight as a sociology lecturer and Labour supporter against intimidation by the hard left. Caroline Cox's secret expeditions to buy freedom for slaves captured by Arab traders in Sudan's war against black Africans. This is just one campaign in the Baroness's tireless patrol of the world's least glamorous causes. Her elevation to the peerage by Margaret Thatcher enabled her to draw greater attention to the causes she espoused. And she was not afraid to put her own life at risk to do so, as she frequently did during her numerous, hazardous treks into first Communist Poland and Moscow, then warring Nagorno Karabakh, Burma and north-east Africa on behalf of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Paperback: 448 pages **ISBN:** 9780745937359

(Out of Print, but copies available from Amazon)

Andrew Fox



Charity Challenge The Great Wall of China Trek 4th to 12th April 2015

Part One - Days 1 to 5

In April Rachael Conquest and I took on a challenge with Charity Challenge (that Anne Conquest had previously done) - to walk along parts of The Great Wall of China. It is somewhere I have always wanted to go but to be able to do it and raise funds for Charity was a must!



I may hear some of you say, but surely it was just a holiday, how can you raise money for charity through a holiday! Well yes, we got to see the amazing country China on this trek but this was certainly not a holiday for resting and relaxing! Each day of the trek was a challenge, be it up and down thousands of steps, very steep slopes, passing signs that say 'danger follow detour' but continuing along the passes, walking along parts of the wall that are crumbling and sheer drops either side of you with nothing to stop you if you did fall! I would not have missed a minute of the adventure but if asked to go up and down that many steps again I think I would have to think long and hard about that.....!

Day One and Two - Arriving and the briefing

Here we meet our British guide Neil and the rest of our group – all 21 of us at the airport upon checking in – Neil stayed with us for the whole of our trek. So after the 10 and half hour flight we arrived in China at lunch-time but due to the 7 hour time difference ahead, in our heads it was around 6am! We were met by our Chinese guides Jason and Tony – these are their chosen western names, it is generally known that while at school they chose themselves a western name as well as their chosen Chinese name. We had an hour and half transfer to our first Hotel 'The

Natural Times Hotel' – we are based here for 2 nights. Then in the evening we went for a stroll around the area to stretch our legs after the long flight, then dinner and a briefing on what's to come in the rest of the week.



Day three - Badaling Great Wall
This was our first encounter with the Great Wall and wow what a way to be introduced! We commenced our climb steeply up hill, watchtower after watchtower,

and step after step! Neil had said the day before we would be having a break every 20 minutes or so – all of us were amazed how often that would be but totally understood why this was the case once we started! This part of the wall had been recently renovated so steps and slopes were modern but still tricky and for some reason there was music played over speakers the whole way while we walked!



There were a few other tourists on this part of the wall but on the whole it was just our group and the views all along were amazing!



Day Four – Huanghuacheng, the Lakeside Great Wall

After breakfast, we had a transfer of around 1 hr to the start point of today's trek. We began the walk on a narrow, rural, overgrown path as we climbed up to the Wall, which is one of the least renovated sections that we completed during the week. There were some steep descents and narrow paths on the first section in the morning. For lunch we were brought a meal by a farmer from

the nearby area, you certainly had to have a love (like) for Chinese food as we had it for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sticky rice with each meal and chop sticks..... I am not so great with chop sticks but Anne had already warned me of this so in true British style I took a knife, fork and spoon with me! We then continued along the Wall, which became a paved path in much better condition. The views were magnificent over the Xishuiyu reservoir below; the final section was a steep downhill on the paved Wall, to the final watchtower. Tonight we stayed in Impression Lodge – family run and very friendly – we had a camp fire and spent some time getting to know those on our trip. There were so many stories as to why each person was doing the trek and for what charity.



Day Five - Gubeikou Gateway



The day started with a drive (approx 1.5 hrs) to a village where our trek began. There used to be three passageways between Northeast China, the Mongolian Highlands, Beijing and the central plains. These were Shanhai Pass, Juyong Pass and Gubeikou Gateway, the latter lying between the

two passes and being located in today's Miyun County, northeast of the city of Beijing. Gubeikou was the site of incessant warfare and was heavily guarded by the armies of various dynasties from 7th-13th century. In particular, the Ming Dynasty (1368- 1644AD) added many defence installations and increased the strength of the garrison. Nowadays, the main castle no longer exists and much of the Wall has collapsed.

Today was a long days trek along the Gubeikou section of the Wall walking straight through to our accommodation for the night. This section was very worn away and many paths were narrow and edges crumbled



away, I found this partially challenging as a fear of heights made me concentrate on my feet and the path closely in front of me! The only time I was able to look at all the



amazing and beautiful views was when we stopped for a break and I steadied myself, another reason to appreciate the regular breaks we were given!

After Lunch we descended off the Wall through farmland where we stopped at backpacking accommodation for a well needed bathroom break! Then we had a steep climb up a narrow path weaving its way alongside sections of the wall before we reached the renovated Jinshangling section for our final part of today's trek to our overnight accommodation at Jinshang Lodges. Here we were able to view a young man demonstrating the ancient art of paper cutting. He had started this craft when he was 8 years old being shown by his grandfather – the detail and patience that goes into each picture was amazing!

Abby Herring



Part Two - Days 6 to 9 will be in next months newsletter.

Spring Harvest 2016

As we go to press in this Newsletter we still have not decided what dates we are going to Spring Harvest next year, but it will be some time between 28th March and the 10th April.



The theme will be game changers - *God is the ultimate Game Changer. We want to create space to encounter him. Through that encounter we become a team of game changers in our society, transforming communities in the name of Jesus. God is at work, constantly doing new things by the power of his Spirit. The exciting question is: do we want to join him? In every circle of our influence, his presence makes us game changers. Together, we can change the world.*

Fundraising will include, big brunches as usual, and a possibility of a quiz night.

It will be decided at a meeting at the end of May which dates we are going. I will be booking our trip on the 24th June, so please speak with me for full details before then, as I need to know how many people want to join us at Spring Harvest.

Emily Bacon

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**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

CSW Conference 2015

What are we doing in our homes, workplace, schools, churches to ensure that justice and godliness prevails? Pursue Justice was the theme of this year's conference and this question cropped up time and again throughout the day as we heard moving testimonies from people who have suffered and been tortured because of their faith.

I was privileged to attend this conference as a volunteer and had the enviable task of welcoming delegates and directing them to the Registration team. This was a great opportunity to greet some familiar faces who have been coming to this event for many years and those who have a heart to pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith.

Mervyn Thomas, Chief Executive introduced the speakers to the morning session; Rev David Shosanya and Dr David Landrum. David Shosanya noted that "pursuing justice has a theological mandate. It is not just political correctness" and as such we have a duty to tackle injustice. When there appears to be a secular agenda to push faith into the margins of society, Dr Landrum emphasised the need for Christians to be resourceful and to be a political voice. Another David, the Rev David Shearman led the prayers for churches and Christians.

Ben Rogers, CSW's East Asia Team Leader spoke about the situation in Vietnam together with a testimony video. I found the Kandhamal testimonies through a dance routine particularly moving and disturbing. The two girls who were dancing did another routine enacting witnessing their father being tortured before being murdered in Burma. Their haunting screams in that auditorium will not easily be forgotten.

I was fortunate to be able to sit in to some of these sessions. Throughout the day there were videos and testimonies from Nigeria and Middle East. The afternoon session included stories from Eritrea and updates on the situation in North Korea. There were group prayers, individual and corporate prayers for each country following each session and also times of quiet reflection. This was essential as, by the end of the day my mind was a whirlwind of the 'why' questions. The following quote may put things in perspective;

***Suffering is not a question that demands an answer,
it's not a problem that demands a solution,
it's a mystery that demands a Presence.***

Anon

Gwen Wildman

Extreme Maturity

Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.

JAPAN: IBARAGI KUN

After they had all been tried, found guilty, and sentenced to die, twenty-six Christians were marched to the place where crudely made crosses stood. Almost three months earlier, they had been arrested in Kyoto, Japan, and charged with following Christ. One of the convicts was named Ibaragi Kun.

Seeing how young Kun was, an official took him aside and urged him to recant his faith to save his life. Looking the official in the eye, Kun said confidently, "Sir, it would be far better if you yourself became a Christian. Then you could go to heaven with me."

The officer stared, startled by the young man's faith. Finally, Ibaragi asked, "Sir, which cross is mine?"

The bewildered official pointed to the smallest of the twenty-six crosses. Young Kun ran to the cross, knelt before it, and embraced it. When the soldiers began to nail his hands and feet to the cross, he did not cry out in pain. He courageously accepted the path God had laid out for him.

The crucifixion of the twenty-six Christians on November 23, 1596, was the beginning of a period of intense persecution of Christians in Japan. Over the next seventy years, as many as one million Japanese Christians follow the example of Ibaragi Kun, a very mature twelve-year-old boy.

Spiritual maturity is not measured by a birth certificate. Chronological age has little to do with conviction. Rather, spiritual maturity is measured one day at a time. We measure our maturity by how well we daily apply our faith. Contrary to popular belief, spiritual maturity is not how much we know about the Bible. Many people are very familiar with the Bible, yet they remain strangers to spiritual maturity. Obedience to the Bible's commands is the mark of maturity. One question will help us know how well we are growing spiritually. We must ask ourselves each day, "How much more do we look like Jesus today than we did yesterday?" Our answer is a true reflection of our growth.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	2	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	3	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Fri	5	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	14	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Graham Currie</i> - "Msaada" a charity set up to help the victims of the Rwandan genocide
Thur	18	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Wimbledon
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	21	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	28	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft

*Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk)
or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*



We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Alice Day on 27th June

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Martin Way Website

Our website (www.martinway.org.uk) is always under review, a new page "Community" has been added to showcase organisations which have chosen Martin Way as a place where they feel they can offer further services to the community. Most are regular long-standing bookings. Have a look to see if any strike a chord with you.



We also have Electronic versions of the Newsletters (going back to 2000), Paul's letter and many other articles and information about the church.

For instance how many of the 27 Ministers that we had in Martin Way since our opening in 1934 can you name?

How much do you know about our Church Groups and Activities?
Want to follow a Bible Study, but don't know where to start?

All of this and more can be found at the Martin Way website.

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**The Christian Church is the one organisation in the world
that exists purely for the benefit of non-members.**

Archbishop William Temple (1881-1944)

Two of the Organisations that use Martin Way Church as their meeting place



The Elizabethan Floral Arrangement Society

Promoting the artistic use of all types of plant material

Learn how to arrange flowers with step-by-step instructions and enhance your home with beautiful floral designs. Enjoy up-to-date news and views on ever changing trends. Gain friendship through flowers and social contact with people who share a love of flowers and plant material, as well as an artistic inclination.

The Society is affiliated to NAFAS, the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, and meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month except January.

The next meetings:

2nd June 'Crown Imperial' Club mini show and social

7th July 'Elizabethan Stars' Demonstrations by Award

Winning club members

Contact: secretary@surreynafas.org.uk for more information



Morden Park Evening Townswomen Guild

A group of ladies, who meet on the second Thursday of every month (except August) from 7.45pm to 9.45pm, for social evenings with speakers on a variety of subjects and games or quizzes.

Regular pub lunches, coffee mornings take place, and walks weather permitting.

The next meetings:

11th June 2015 Games/Quizzes evening

9th July 2015 "You the Jury."

Contact: Tracy on 020 8644 4582 for further details

or visit the website www.the-tg.com

Items for the **July Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 14th June** at the latest