

intouch



Going Deeper

See Page 3

intouch

October & November 2013

A new term starts, the leaves on the trees begin to fall, the evenings get darker, students return to their studies, the clocks go back and at South Parade we come together for Vision Sunday, a new Alpha course starts, and new faces appear on the Ministry Team. Brian encourages us to listen to God's voice and to discern in what ways he wants us to "Go Deeper" in our faith. As you read the many and varied stories of God at work in His church in the magazine, pray and ask God where He's leading you at this time.

Contents

- Page 3 From the Ministry Team: *Going Deeper*
- Page 5 Around the Church
- Page 10 Miracles in Syria: *Joy of Childhood Restored*
- Page 12 More Than Just... *Fairtrade News*
- Page 14 Diary of Geoff King Aged 56 & $\frac{3}{4}$
- Page 16 The Gospel and Creation
- Page 17 Leeds Open Air Meetings
- Page 18 Postcard from Africa
- Page 19 Prayer Focus
- Page 23 Eight Things... *People Say about Alpha*
- Page 24 My Home Group
- Page 26 Ruth: Rescued, Redeemed, Restored: *Part Two*
- Page 29 New Baptist Logo: *An Expression of Who We Are*
- Page 30 Questions: *Food for Thought*
- Page 32 Recommended Reads: *What Happens When...*
- Page 33 Come Prepared: *Preaching Themes and Readings*
- Page 34 Church Noticeboard
- Page 36 South Parade in Numbers: *Part Four*

Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Contributions to: magazine@spbc.org.uk or to the Church Office
Deadline for contributions: 15 November 2013
Next edition published: 1 December 2013

From the Ministry Team

Going Deeper

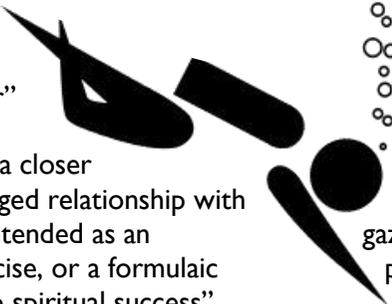
By the time *Intouch* hits the streets we will have celebrated our annual Vision Sunday as a church.

This is always a good time as good stories are swapped, long-standing relationships rekindled, new commitments made and energy raised for the next season of our life together, building community in Christ. This year's theme is "Going Deeper" and is about us pressing on to a closer and more engaged relationship with God. It's not intended as an academic exercise, or a formulaic "seven steps to spiritual success" type of activity. It's about entering into what Paul describes as pressing on "*to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us*" (Philippians 3.12).

Going Deeper invites us to journey in discipleship in many different

ways. For example it asks us to be serious about prayer, including taking time to listen to God, and to read our Bibles more consistently and carefully.

From time to time I visit a friend who lives near the top of a tower block. The view is stunning in all directions. Every time I go up there



my first action is to stand and gaze across the city and regain a sense of perspective, both geographically and spirituality. Prayer is about placing our lives in God's hands, gaining perspective, gazing at the view of his eternal purposes for us. And it doesn't need lots of words.

Going Deeper invites us to live more integrated lives. In particular it calls us to tackle the holiness issues that affect us – the quelling of temper, greed, gossip, negativity and the like. The nearer we get to the Light of Christ the shabbier some of

our behaviour and attitudes appear. In simple terms, if you have a favourite sin, decide to stop it. Today!

Going Deeper takes us to a place where we can no longer put our feet on the bottom as we swim more confidently in the life of God

Going Deeper takes us to a place of faith where we can no longer put our feet on the bottom to control our progress. One result of this is that the false division between the sacred and the secular begins to disappear as we swim more confidently in the life of God which is about how we live in all circumstances. No more separation

of the Sunday stuff from how we live every day of our Monday to Saturday lives.

Going Deeper calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, to love our neighbours, and to learn to love ourselves properly as God intends us to. Richard of Chichester wrote the now famous lines:

*Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.*

Go Deeper!

Brian



*You are my God. I worship you.
In my heart, I long for you,
as I would long for a stream
in a scorching desert.*

*I have seen your power
and your glory
in the place of worship.
Your love means more
than life to me,
and I praise you.*

Psalm 63.1-3 (CEV)

Around the Church

Adel Adventures

As I've looked back at some Adel updates I see that we often comment on the weather, be it snowy or sunny or, as today, wet and windy. I often think it would be good to live in a place where the weather was settled, but then I reflect and think isn't it good that we have so much variety without which all the beautiful plants and wildlife that we enjoy wouldn't flourish. God gives what we need, not what we want.

Over the summer many of us have enjoyed holiday times and times with our church family. A number of us from Adel have been on our summer outing to Burton Agnes



Hall. We had a good day, not too hot, not too cold – just right for exploring the Hall and its gardens. We did wonder if we'd lost some folk but it seems that they just took a while to find their way out of the maze!

We're praying that the weekend away will be a really significant time

We're looking forward to our weekend at Thornleigh in October. It's often in those times away from our normal routines that we give God space to speak to us. We will be welcoming a number of folk from Cafe Church as they join us for the weekend. Paul Rockley will be leading the sessions over the weekend and we're looking forward to what God has to say to us and praying that the weekend will be really significant in the life of our mission community.

Margaret Greer

Adel Mission Community Leader

Update From Bristol **My second year at Bristol** **Baptist** **College...**

...but first I will explain this picture! The city of Bristol, in recent months, has seen the

“unleashing” of 80 differently, and cleverly, designed Gromits, to raise funds for the Children’s Hospital; as you can see they are fairly big! Unfortunately, we didn’t have one placed outside the Baptist College, but this one, named “Where’s Wallace?” is my favourite so far.

Another year has passed since my last update in this magazine and another year of a theology degree and ministerial formation has been completed. What has this year involved? Well, the study of numerous modules including worship, preaching, mission, doctrine, the books of Job and John, Baptist history and principles...oh, and New Testament Greek, which was very demanding, but interesting; I have to say that I will not be studying Hebrew... think that one’s best left to those who have a natural inclination towards

languages and, first and foremost, an extremely good memory!



Gromit & Caroline

Our Wednesday formation programme has continued in the areas of spirituality and church mission and ministry with space and time to discern and identify the Lord’s own hand of formation

upon our lives and calling. My involvement at a local church included journeying with someone through the weeks leading up to her baptism, together with the privilege of performing my first baptism; it was obvious that this was a very encouraging time for the church, of seeing God at work, not only in the individual’s own life, but within the life of their community.

This second year has gone extremely quick, but I am aware of the Lord’s faithful hand holding me

I also had the opportunity to visit the Victory Church in Cwmbarn which has seen a great outpouring

of the Holy Spirit and this visit proved to be part of a significant marker in my own calling and walk with the Lord.

What have I learnt? A lot about God, the Church and myself! Psalm 121 has continued to be a constant meditation: *“I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”* This second year has gone extremely quick, but as I approach my third and final year and enter the settlement process, I am aware of the Lord’s faithful hand, the hand that holds, supports, guides and never lets go.

Your prayers are very much appreciated and I would be grateful if these could include the following areas:

- the settlement process and discerning where the Lord wants me to settle as a minister and for others in this same situation
- for new people starting at the college this September and for the tutors
- for my continued living at the Anglican college.

Many thanks and God bless you all,

Caroline Brown
Bristol Baptist College

Long Term Support

TLG update: As the TLG volunteers begin another term of supporting struggling children at Little London and Hollybush schools, Hazel Randall, who co-ordinates the Early Intervention Centre at South Parade, sends this update on what’s going on with the scheme.

Most of the team have now been mentoring for over four terms, and several of the team have completed the work which they were doing with their first child and have started working with a second, or even third child. Others of us are now supporting two children, as we have started working with a new child, but are still continuing to support the first child, meeting them for a shorter session each week. This has happened when a child has made good progress and is more confident and settled, but is not quite ready to be unsupported.

All of the children we are supporting have difficulties outside of school such as a child with a very large family and a struggling single mum, a child who is carer for his mother, and children dealing with bereavement, foster care and neglect. One unfortunate child has



*We can't change
the children's home
circumstances, but we
can give them an hour
when they feel safe*

been in several different foster homes, has had 3 social workers and has been moved to a different school. The TLG volunteer is the only consistent person in his life and it is taking considerable commitment on her part to keep track of where he is and to continue working with him.

We can't change the children's home circumstances, but we can give them an hour when they feel safe and happy. We also hope to be able to discuss issues with them and help them to make good choices for themselves. We are finding that the children are enjoying one-to-one attention and most of the volunteers are not seeing the behaviour which is causing concern in the classroom.

We are sad to be losing Dave Bartram who has been a TLG coach since we started. His commitment, calm manner and ability to be a much needed positive male role model have been greatly appreciated by the staff at Hollybush. A big thanks to Dave

for all that he's done.

Thank you to everyone who is praying for this work.

Hazel Randall
TLG Co-ordinator

Remember to continue to pray for the children, volunteers and our local schools. To find out more about the scheme speak to Hazel at the Headingley Morning Mission Community, or visit the TLG website www.tlg.org.uk

Nathan and Amy Come to Town

October marks the start of a new season in youth and young adults' ministry in South Parade as Nathan Shipley joins the Ministry Team at South Parade. Amy and Nathan are no strangers to Leeds, having studied at Leeds Uni - Nathan worshipped at Headingley Morning during that time and served on the Uni CU exec as Cells Co-ordinator.

They are moving up from Burwell in Cambridgeshire where Nathan has been the Baptist Church's Youth Worker since 2008. Amy has been working as a Music Therapist in the area.

Among his many talents Nathan is a serial gig attendee, a football coach



Amy & Nathan Shipley

and a leader on youth camps in the Midlands. Rumour has it that he supports Notts County (ask him about the wheelbarrow) and has a certificate in child resuscitation (always handy for a youth leader). He's worked in the secular youth field, as a teaching assistant and as a systems co-ordinator in a print firm, and holds a BA in Communications and Law and an MA in Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology.

Amy and Nathan have had an offer accepted on a house not too far from our Headingley buildings – pray that all the formalities surrounding that are completed in

good time. We will be welcoming them formally at 6.30pm on 27 October at South Parade in Headingley – please make every effort to come and give them a great welcome as they settle among us.

Oh, and rumour has it that there will be a little Shipley joining them in spring next year!

Brian Nicholls

Church Library

The library at Headingley has had a makeover this summer. It is now split into two sections. In the **Foyer** is the “Vision” section with books about the Spirit-filled life, Discipleship, Prayer, Community in Christ and Mission. In the **Sanctuary** there are Bible commentaries, Christian biographies and books on Christian Doctrine. There are no charges any more and no more books “for reference only”. Simply record your loan in the note books provided.

Paul Rockley & John Lockwood

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church, from your Mission Community, homegroup, cell group, project or meeting by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk.



Miracles in Syria

Joy of Childhood Restored to Syrian Families

“I am trying to recall whether there has been a time or a place where I have heard so many miracles and answers to prayer. I don’t think there is,” said Oenone Chadburn, Tearfund’s Head of Humanitarian Support, visiting local churches in Lebanon who are providing support to Syrians fleeing the conflict.

It may be surprising to see Syria on a list of amazing things that have happened with Tearfund this year. The Syrian conflict has resulted in the death of more than 100,000 people and about 2 million people are now refugees. The fighting seems intractable and the death toll continues to rise relentlessly as livelihoods and infrastructure are destroyed.

But, as Christians, we believe that, even in the darkest places, God is still shining a light - and we have seen that light shining even in Syria. People’s amazing generosity to Tearfund’s Syria Crisis appeal

resulted in more than £2m funding, plus further financial support from the Disasters Emergency Committee, which we are using right now to assist some of the most desperate people in Syria and Syrians who have fled to surrounding countries.

We are thankful for all of you who gave. Here’s just one little example:



“I was sat at my desk when I heard the patter of small feet,” says Jane Robertson who

works in Tearfund’s Northern Ireland office. “A mum had brought her two small children, Bethany, aged seven, and Elysia, aged three, to give Tearfund their pocket money during Lent - it came to around £10. The children, from Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast, told me they wanted to give it to Syria, which they had heard about on the news.”

Thanks to Bethany, Elysia and other Tearfund supporters, Tearfund partner Vision Hope International has been able to

provide pre-school education and trauma care through play and art therapy to 90 children who have fled from Syria to Jordan. "Vision Hope International is enabling these children to experience the joy of childhood once again," says Morag Gillies, Tearfund's Country Representative for Syria.

We are enabling these children to experience the joy of childhood once again

Through our partner, The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, your support is providing vital food packages to 3,500 people in Syria and Lebanon who have been forced to flee their homes. In Jordan, our partner, Medair, is funding accommodation for hundreds of Syrians in urgent

need of shelter and security. Your generosity is also equipping a network of local churches in Jordan to distribute essential food and hygiene supplies, showing God's love in action to 150 refugee families each month.

Please continue to pray for the people in Syria caught up in the conflict, those who have fled to neighbouring countries, and pray that leaders in Syria and across the world will work together to find a peaceful solution.

Whatever happens, thanks to your outpouring of prayer and giving, we will continue to provide emotional support, food and accommodation to displaced and distraught Syrians.

Peter Shaw

Editor, *Tear Times*
Reproduced from the Autumn 2013 edition of *Tear Times* with permission.

...involved...

For more details of how Tearfund is helping Syrians and for the latest prayer updates, visit: www.tearfund.org/syria

When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.

James 3.18 (CEV)

More Than Just...

Fairtrade News

“More than just...” has been a key phrase for Traidcraft this year.

New lines come with the phrase “More than Just... Chocolate” or “More than Just ... Coffee”. It refers of course to the issue of justice as well as to the extra support you give in buying these goods: not only delicious things for you but also the real difference it makes to the lives of the producers.

For example, the new coffee line comes from one of the most remote and disadvantaged groups

Traidcraft has ever partnered. Working on steep mountain slopes, the growers harvest the beans by hand: it takes 20 tonnes of beans to make one tonne of instant coffee. Traidcraft has helped them with technical support as well as arranging for the beans to be processed and packed locally rather than selling to a middle-man, giving them a larger proportion of the value.

Many of you have seen the hand-carved olive wood items made in Bethlehem. These have come via a Christian couple in Harrogate who go out regularly to help with

...informed...

The new Traidcraft catalogue is now out – ask Pam if you would like a copy to take home and browse over a cuppa (fairtrade, of course!).

The new range offers hundreds of indigenous crafts from Africa, Asia and Latin America, most hand-crafted by artisans using traditional skills and each has its own story. There are also groceries, gift foods, greetings cards and useful household items.

Do visit the stall at the foyer at Headingley and have a look. The stall is provisionally scheduled for 20 October, 10 November and 8 December.



practical work, such as olive picking.

You will know that the Palestinians are facing enormous problems in their daily lives, many cut off from their agricultural land and so from their means of support. Every penny from the sale of the wood articles goes back to the



group in Bethlehem who made them. Apart from the financial support, it encourages them to know that they are not forgotten. There will be a last chance at the end of October to put your orders in.

Pam Roe

Headingley Morning Mission Community

New General Secretary of the Baptist Union

The Revd **Lynn Green** has been inducted as the new General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Guests from all over the UK travelled to the West Midlands to share in the uplifting service at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church on Sunday 22 September.



Her new ministry was prayed for as she was surrounded on stage by friends, family and people representing the life of our Union, which deliberately included young people and children. Following this she was then declared, to much applause, “inducted to the office of General Secretary of our Union” by current BUGB president Ernie Whalley.

Mrs Green shared something of her personal journey, thanking “all the churches that have allowed me to practise on them” and stressing her reliance on God and openness to His calling. She had not pursued the role, she said, but her name had been put forward as a potential General Secretary by colleagues she trusted.



“What has enabled me to embrace this role?” she said. “It is undoubtedly from God.” She asked those present to keep praying “and I will try my very best to be faithful to God’s call.”

Diary of Geoff King

Aged 56 & $\frac{3}{4}$

Dear Diary

Friday 20 September

What a day!

Drop-in this morning was heaving, slow to start but by 11am there were 30+ people all wanting a bacon butty at the same time.

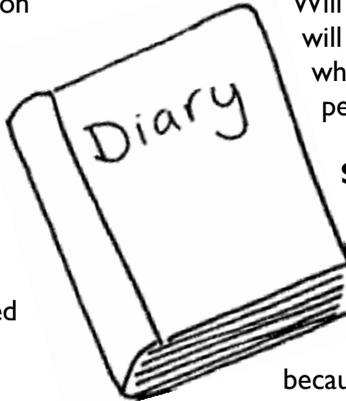
Three birthdays as well, how do you sing happy birthday to three people in one verse? Roger did a few twiddly bits and we fitted all three names in.

Of course numbers were swelled by those who had turned up to help prepare for Hope in the Park on Saturday. Nathan was keeping a close eye on Duncan as Nathan is co-ordinating between the various groups this year and is learning the ropes from the master.

Should I be amused by the smell of bacon we leave behind for the

Messianic Fellowship that uses Cragg on a Friday evening?

I kept to the speed limits as I fitted in two visits between Headingley and Horsforth and was home in time to look over what I have put together for Sunday morning. Will it be good enough, and will I feel the same about it when I stand up in front of people?



Saturday 21 September

What a day!

Three times I came back to the house because I had forgotten bits and pieces. When I did get to Cragg I was just in time to help Brian and Wiggy load the van with sofas for Hope in the Park. The sofas are for the "we will listen to you" spot which was only a tiny part of all that was going on at Hall Park, arranged by Horsforth Churches Together.

It was full on till 4pm. I was an assistant at the Sumo Wrestling,

sort of like being a doorkeeper at the house of the Lord.

Four hundred people from Horsforth discovered that there are Christians who are part of the community

I didn't count them all but it could be that 400 people from Horsforth discovered that there are Christians who are part of the community. And the sun was shining!

So I've got this evening to fret about our "open service" at Cragg tomorrow, featuring the work of Horsforth food bank and inviting people to bring gifts for the enterprise, but I do have Match of the Day to look forward to.

Sunday 22 September

What a Day!

Which is more than can be said for Match of the Day: Sunderland went down 3-0 to West Brom!

Put the finishing touches to notices etc for this morning, which is odd as I normally like to have it in the

bag the night before.

It looked like we were the first to be at Cragg but the door was unlocked and Mavis was there getting the kitchen ready.

Before long the hall was buzzing: music group, Sam setting out info for the food bank, Nathan on sound desk, Ruth and Co for the teas and coffee, Brian and the Wiggies to help with chairs, and lots of others to lend a hand.

We had four or five visitors from the local community to give to the food bank (as well as the Cragg gifts) and two people who stopped on for the short thanksgiving service who wouldn't normally be there. So it was OK after all.

We had an unexpected guest for lunch who was in need of comfort food, so we had eggs, chips and beans. With a sunny Sunday afternoon ahead of us it was surely a foretaste of heaven.

Geoff King

Church Worker

...informed...

Cragg Mission Community meets at Cragg Avenue, Horsforth, LS18 4LX every Sunday 10.30am. Why not join them?

The Gospel and Creation

Colin Bell (Faraday Institute and Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, Cambridge University) is speaking for Christians in Science at South Parade on Tuesday 12 November on the topic “Global Warming: Scientific problem or moral issue?” Colin is well qualified to talk about this topic being both an environmental scientist and a member of David Morris’s last church in Cambridge.

Christian ethics – including the ethics of how we care for the earth – ultimately derive from reflection upon what it means for us today to live as citizens who are “worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians

1.27). Scripture provides us not with all of the answers in a simple list of dos and don’ts, but with a counter-cultural vision of radical discipleship, a godly wisdom and an ethos that fundamentally re-oriented us to the world.

Scripture challenges us to recognise the intrinsic value of all of creation (intrinsic in the sense of given by God) and of the particular value of human beings within creation; and it calls upon us to reflect Christ’s sacrificial love in all of our relations.

John Lockwood

Cragg Hill Mission Community

...informed...

If you wish to explore this topic further come and hear Colin Bell talk at SPBC on 12 November. Further details on page 35.

“People weren’t hungry for fancy sermons or organisational polish. They just wanted love. They wanted to know that God could pick them up and give them a second chance.”

Jim Cymbala Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire (see page 32)

Leeds Open Air Meetings

Open air meetings have been held in Leeds since 1968, first outside Leeds Town Hall and then outside WH Smiths in Lands Lane or in Briggate. They were initially started by Professor Verna Wright and a number of believers attached to Leeds Young Life.

Over the years, some conversions have occurred and many good contacts and conversations have taken place. It has been a faithful witness to a needy city where over 90% of people do not attend church. That is the immense value of open airs – one reaches people who will never otherwise have contact with Christians, and who do not come near a church.



Matthew Seymour preaching in Briggate in July 2013

Perhaps you may not have heard of this regular open air work being done, but we would like to draw your attention to it, and to ask that you come on a Tuesday (1.20-1.50pm) to stop and listen and to remember us in prayer if you are not able to support us there.

Talks are biblically based often using a talk with graphics on a board and easel. A crowd attracts a crowd so it is good if passing Christians can stop and support. This then encourages others to stop as well, so that hearing the message may prompt a passer-by to stop and talk with a team member.

A small team organise the meetings led by Roger Oldfield and Andy McIntosh. We are grateful for support from a number of churches and preachers and pastors joining us when they can. Please would you consider whether some from your own church could come and join us.

Christian regards to all,

***Roger Oldfield &
Andy McIntosh***

Postcard from Africa



Greetings!



Dear All... Weather warm and sunny, wish you were here!

I should be in my fourth flat by the time you get this. It's only half an hour's walk from language school so I can put all that saved energy into my classes and homework!

Next time you hear from me I hope to be down South, living near and working with a lovely medical couple from Cragg!

*I'm getting really good at packing!
Much love,*

An SPBCite Overseas xx



*Everyone at South Parade
c/o Intouch Magazine
South Parade Baptist Church
Kirkstall Lane
Headingley
Leeds
LS6 3LF
UK*



Prayer Focus



October - November 2013

*The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.*

Psalm 34.17

Mission Communities

Remember the five Mission Communities of South Parade in your prayers as they Go Deeper over the next few months. Pray for the Community that you are a part of, and remember the others too. Pray for Mission Community Leaders and the leadership teams as they seek God's guidance for the future. Pray for the regular services and meetings, that we would welcome all who come through the doors, that people would find Jesus in our midst. Pray for those who preach, lead worship and play music. Pray for those who welcome people on the door or who serve tea and coffee. Pray for the neighbourhoods and communities that we're based in, that the church would be a source of light and hope in the world. Remember Adel's weekend away in October.

- Adel
- Connect
- Cragg
- Headingley
- SENT

Pull out and use!

Leeds

Pray for the city where God has placed you at this time. Remember those organisations that work with some of the most vulnerable in our society. Pray for other churches in your locality, and for your local Churches Together group. Find out about the work of some of the organisations listed below, and see how you can continue to support them practically, financially and in prayer. Pray for the people who lead the City Council who continue to have difficult decisions to make on spending and priorities. Pray for students in Leeds as the new term gets under way. Pray for the CUs at Leeds Uni and Leeds Met and in other colleges in the area: pray that they would grow in their faith and in their boldness to speak the gospel on campus.

- St George's Crypt
- Christians Against Poverty
- Leeds City Mission
- Caring for Life
- Joanna Project
- Leeds Network
- Leeds Youth Cell Network
- Leeds Faith in Schools

Around the World

Pray for all those from South Parade currently serving with mission organisations around the world, in training or on leave. Pray that they would know God's presence, His love, His guidance and His peace each day. Pray for the countries where they are working, for peace and stability, and the growth of the church.

- Steve and Ismay
- David and Ann Macfarlane
- Becky North
- Jane Waites
- "Jane" (p18)
- Chris and Dorothy Gnanakan
- Levi Booth
- Tim and Delphine Minard
- Matt and Jude Tindale
- Jayne Godfrey
- Jill and Colin Jones

South Parade

Pray for the work of the church. Pray for work among the **Under 5s** as they meet each week, and the regular Teddy Praise services. Pray for the work with **children and young people** as Heather goes into local schools, and as schoolchildren visit our buildings from time to time. Pray for the success of the half-term holiday clubs.

Pray for the mentoring done by **TLG volunteers** at Little London and Hollybush schools. Pray for the **Junior Church** sessions on Sundays and youth events and cell groups meeting throughout the week.

Pray for the regular Messy Church sessions at **Little London**, and the meetings of the **Cafe Church** in Holt Park. Pray also for the **ABC Coffee Shop** and its volunteers, the **Drop-in** at Cragg and regular events in the **Green House**. Pray for the visitors and volunteers at **Rooted** on Tuesday evenings. Pray for the **Barnabas Bunch** and the **Retired People's Fellowship**.

Pray for the work of the **church office** and the volunteers there as they deal with the admin of the church and welcome visitors to the building and deal with other groups who we come into contact with. Pray for **Delessa** and those who care for the church buildings.

Pray for the **Alpha Course** starting in October on Monday evenings in the Green House. Pray for Paul Stephens as he co-ordinates the events. Pray for the speakers and group leaders. Pray for everyone who comes to the evening sessions. Pray for someone you could invite to this or future Alpha courses.

Pray for the continuing plans for a new **CAP centre** based at South Parade, that the right people would be found to set up this venture, that it would be supported by the whole church, and that people's lives would be changed as a result.

Pray for the **Elders** and **Deacons** and for the responsibilities they have in leading the church and its Mission Communities. Thank God for their willingness to serve the church in this way. Pray for them as they meet and pray and make decisions on the future direction of the church. Pray especially for **Geoff Greer**, the Church Secretary and **Adrian Howe**, the Church Treasurer.

Ministry Team

Pray for the Ministry Team as the church enters a new phase of its life in a new term with the vision of Going Deeper. Pray for each of them as they look to God for guidance and strength. Thank God for their enthusiasm and commitment. Pray for Nathan Shipley as he moves to Leeds and starts working with South Parade. Remember Dave Bartram as he begins work with other churches in Leeds.

- Brian Nicholls
- Paul Rockley
- Heather McLeen
- Geoff King
- Gemma Eastwood
- Lawrence Cockrill
- Kate Burkett

David and Ann MacFarlane

Pray for our link missionaries with BMS World Mission in Italy. Pray for:

- The five people were baptised in the sea recently.
- Lucia as she returns to Reggio in October but still needs intensive physio after her stroke.
- The preparation for the return of the asylum seekers to Rosarno - getting clothes, mattresses and basic living necessities
- The food bank - more and more Italians are asking to be added to the list.
- The local political situation. A commission was sent from Rome after the arrest of the whole local council who say there is no money left. It's possible there will be soon be no public buses.
- For Davide, Cristina and their two children.
- For Lorenzo, Marianna and their two children.
- For Antonio, Guisy who still have not found work after their dismissal from the football team.
- For health and strength for David and Ann in their ministry with both Italian and Philipino brothers and sisters.

For more information, see the latest newsletter (available in the foyer at Headingley), speak to Pat Dalglish, or visit www.bmsworldmission.org.uk/admacfarlane



Eight Things...

...People Say about Alpha

Alpha encourages you to think. It is clear to me that hanging out with people of faith is a damned sight more productive than wailing at each other across internet threads or books.

Adam Rutherford, TV Presenter

What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings – that, and its astonishing success.

The Times

Alpha has succeeded in many cases in turning faithful churchgoers from an inward focus on church work to an outward focus on evangelistic outreach.

Christianity Today

Alpha ... is probably the most interesting and incredible thing going on in our Christian world.

Tony Blair

Doing an Alpha Course is challenging and serious fun, even if

you're a dyed-in-the-wool atheist like me.

Deborah Orr, Journalist

Bishops tend to spend quite a lot of time going around Anglican churches confirming people and the number of people who have become Christians through Alpha Courses is far and away the story you most often hear.

David Gillet, Bishop of Bolton

Alpha opens the door... for the sharing, caring, praying community which is exemplary of the church in action.

Dr Desmond Tutu, Former Archbishop of Cape Town

The phenomenal growth of Alpha Courses is showing the church that we do not have to be on the defensive about our faith, but can expect people to be interested, and then radically changed by the gospel.

Elaine Storkey, The Institute for Contemporary Christianity



...informed...

The Alpha Course at South Parade is in the Green House on Monday evenings at 7pm from 7 October.



My Home Group

Next week our home group will meet at Headingley Hall, a well-appointed residential home tucked away in a back street of Headingley, to lead a short informal service with up to 30 or so residents. We usually sing a few well-loved hymns, read a passage from the Bible, and we'll usually present a short "talkette", often reflecting on what we've been studying at the home group in the previous few weeks. We also go at Christmas and Easter, but at this time of year it's our harvest-themed service, so we'll probably sing "We Plough the Fields and Scatter" and other harvest favourites. We try to stay around after the service and chat for a while over a cup of tea, catching up with people we've met before, or welcoming folk who've

moved in recently. We think it's a really valuable part of the group, and look forward to each session.

*In a small group you
can admit doubts and
questions that you might
not be comfortable
sharing in another setting*

The group is officially known as "NFG3", for reasons lost in the mists of time and the dust of the South Parade archives. We meet most Tuesday evenings at the house of Steve and Hazel Randall in Adel, usually for a short Bible study. We've recently started on Ernie Whalley's studies in Philipians, and are enjoying Ernie's straightforward questions and challenging "homework" between sessions. It's good in a small group to be able to admit to doubts and questions that we might not be comfortable sharing in another setting, but also encouraging to share our experiences of God walking alongside us.



An important part of being in a small group is being able to share in prayer together. At the end of each session, we discuss and then bring before God our families and friends who're in need of prayer; difficult work situations; and the mission of the church. It's great to share answers to prayers too, even for the little things: one Wednesday morning we all had an email from one of the group saying "thanks for praying about that vital missing memory stick last night - we've found it at last!"

One of our members left the UK a few months ago to serve on long-term mission in North Africa. We've been part of her amazing journey for several years, and prayed with her here on Tuesday evenings as she's tested and explored God's call

on her life, and we're thrilled to be part of her mission as she's taken this brave step of faith. For security reasons we can't say openly who she is or where she's gone - but we know her by name, know where she's living and share her news regularly and uphold her in prayer each time we meet.

But it's not all prayer and Bible studies: we make sure we find time for meals and social events to help us get to know each other better and have some fun. There's always room for more if you want to join us - get in touch with me, Steve or Hazel and find out when and where we're next meeting.

Matthew Newman

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...involved...

See the weekly notice sheet for details of home groups in your Mission Community and the people who co-ordinate them.

What's special about your Home Group? Email magazine@spbc.org.uk and tell us about it..

...informed...

For details of service times, locations, Mission Communities, small groups, children's work, student events, sermon downloads, the weekly notice sheet and much more, go to the church website:

www.spbc.org.uk



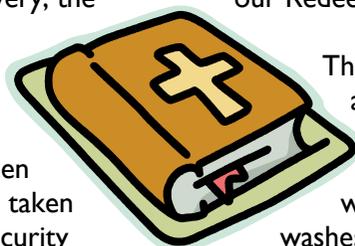
Ruth: Rescued, Redeemed, Restored

Part Two

In the third chapter of Ruth we start to see a development in our story. Naomi has cared for Ruth, you could say that she disciplined her and walked with her on the road of discovery, the discovery of the redeemer, the person who is able to set her free from her past. Ruth has been on a journey that has taken her from a life of obscurity and emptiness to a life that now appears full of opportunities, security and blessing. This young girl from a foreign land has taken a risk and trusted in the God of Naomi, the God of the Israelites, the true and living God, the God who answers by fire yet speaks in the still small voice. She now finds herself experiencing the graciousness of a man who is able to offer her a better life, a life that is beyond an existence and subsistence, a life of purpose and wealth beyond her wildest dreams.

As we read on we actually find that to embrace the “new life” was not

without its risks and not without sacrifice. Our life with Christ will always involve a cost, the question is are we prepared to travel the road that Ruth did to enjoy all that our Redeemer offers?



The first thing that Ruth is asked to do is to cleanse herself and make herself ready for her encounter with her redeemer. She washes, puts on fresh clothes and perfume and sets out to the threshing floor. The threshing floor is a place where men work hard and play hard. This is not the place for a virtuous women, yet we find that Ruth was prepared to put herself at risk to gain the notice of this great man Boaz.

Naomi instructs Ruth to wait in the shadows until Boaz has eaten, take notice of where he lays down and then go and lie at his feet where, Naomi says “he will tell you what you are to do next”. Sometimes in our Christian experience we just have to go and lie at the feet of our Redeemer and wait for our Saviour to speak the words that empower

us into the next phase of our experience. Ruth follows Naomi's advice and lies at Boaz's feet. At around midnight Boaz wakes up and is surprised to see someone at his feet, he asks "who are you?" Jesus asked a similar question of the man possessed by many demons in Mark 5.9: "what is your name?" Our Redeemer will always want to know our name and will require that we honestly describe ourselves, and we have to answer truthfully like Ruth and the demon possessed man who both acknowledged who they were. One was called Legion, for he said "we are many" and the other said "I am your servant".

This story of a young woman in a foreign land shows us that life is not lost by circumstances but gained through Grace

Ruth then makes a request of Boaz: "cover me with the corner of your blanket" or as the New King James version says "take me under your wing". Ruth was saying I belong to you, you are a close relative, you are my kinsman redeemer, I am willing to be counted as one of your family regardless of what others will say



about me. Remember, Ruth had really taken a risk to find and know this man Boaz, this kinsman redeemer and she was not going to let anything get in the way. What makes this story even more remarkable is that Ruth, a very beautiful young girl, could have gone after younger men, men of considerable means, wealth and materialism, but as acknowledged by Boaz in Ruth 3.10 she is praised for showing more kindness at the end than at the beginning. Boaz recognises her tenacity, commitment and desire to do what was right and comforts her with the words "do not be afraid, I will do all that you request" (3.11).

At this point in the story we encounter a little bit of a twist. Boaz informs Ruth that yes he is a close relative but in fact there is a closer relative and it falls to him to have first option to redeem Ruth. Boaz, being the gracious man that he was, says that he will intercede on her behalf and see if this closer relative is willing to perform the task. In the meantime Boaz graciously keeps her safe and in the morning sends her on her way with a large amount of grain, in fact the measure used is considerably larger than indicated in some modern

translations where it is referred to as just a measure or scoop. The older translations refer to an old measure called an ephah. An ephah is actually equivalent to approximately 24kg or 24 bags of flour. Boaz gave Ruth 6 ephahs, that is $6 \times 24 = 144$ kg. What this demonstrates is that Boaz was extremely generous and gives us an insight into the heart of God where Grace truly abounds.

So who is this “closer relative?” I would like to suggest that it is “the law”, it is what we call the ten commandments. These were given by God to Moses in order to set out a way of life for the Jews, God’s chosen people, so that they would enjoy a life free of strife and trouble if adhered to. The trouble is the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Paul refers to being free from indwelling sin in Romans 8.1-4 where he talks about there being no condemnation to those who are in Christ and how the law of the Spirit of Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death.

Boaz recognises that there is someone who is a closer relative to Ruth and knows that he has to be

given a chance of redeeming. This closer relative is willing to acquire the land and material possessions of Elimallech but unable to commit to the responsibility of taking on Ruth. What this demonstrates is that a life lived in “the flesh” or lived without God and His saving Grace is unable to fulfil and keep the law. This story shows a higher way and serves to indicate that “by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2.8 (KJV).

Ruth was saved by Grace and was established into the house of Boaz and gave birth to a son called Obed who in turn fathered a son called Jesse, who in turn fathered a son called David, who later became the king of Israel and who was described as “the friend of God”. I think this little story of a young woman in a foreign land and a man’s world shows us that life is not lost by circumstances but actually gained through Grace, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who offered Himself on a cross so we could be free from the power of sin and death.

Steve Ford

...inspired...

Read more of Steve’s thoughts and studies at blog.stevelford.me.uk

New Baptist Logo

An Expression of Who We Are

Until now the BUGB website has been primarily designed to provide resources, information and support to local churches, and while all of these features will remain, we have recognised that it could increasingly become the gateway through which many people are introduced to the story of Jesus and life and witness of their local Baptist church.

The new site has much more of a “feel” of engaging with a spiritual community and seeks to make it easier for visitors to find their way around. We are first and foremost a community of interdependent churches, associating together to make Jesus known in our communities and to the world.

A feature of both the website is a new logo that will be increasingly used as a symbol of our working together. Designed around the shape of a letter “b” it retains the core symbols that have been used by our Union for over half a century – these are more than mere graphics, but an expression of who we are:



**BAPTISTS
TOGETHER**

As our world becomes increasingly “on-line” we hope that

- The cross – at our very heart is the Gospel message of Jesus, whose life, death and resurrection is the foundation of our faith; a symbol that connects us with a wider Christian community and defines us as centred on Christ.
- The fish – one of the earliest symbols of Christian community, reminding us that we belong to each other and are called to walk together and watch over one another in love.
- Water – expressing our defining commitment to believer’s baptism and the cleansing and renewing by God’s Spirit that undergirds our identity as disciples of Jesus.

this site will be a valuable mission presence that Baptists can be proud of. We hope that it might inspire and encourage local churches to recognise that their own websites are a vital element to engaging with the community around them.

From the new *Baptists Together* magazine September 2013. See www.baptist.org.uk

Questions

Food for Thought

We have a quality bi-monthly magazine in *Intouch* and have rarely expressed our gratitude to the Editor and staff for its excellence. The summer issue offered two challenges. The article by Liz Crathern reminded me that I once saw a newcomer quietly leave worship at Headingley, when group prayer was announced. Can we consider without disharmony if the practice could be excluding and even thoughtless?

We have some very direct guidance on Prayer from Jesus recorded by Matthew and supported by Mark and Luke.

- Do not pray in public to be seen or heard (Matthew 6.5).
- Do separate yourself and shut the door to pray (6.6) .
- Do not heap up empty phrases (6.7).



In a different context (Matthew 5.37) Jesus again urges simple language. We also learn from Luke that John the Baptist taught communal prayer and the disciples asked Jesus to do the same. In response, Matthew then writes: “*Pray then like this*” (RSV Matthew 6.9) giving us the disciples’ prayer. Is the simplicity deliberate on the part of Jesus? There is another challenge in 6.15. Forgiveness of an acknowledged sin is dependent on forgiving others. Do we take our New Testament teaching seriously?

In the New Testament, there are frequent examples of prayer. In Romans 17.1 the everyday events of our life which are described as reasonable or spiritual worship, are wonderfully described in The Message as unspoken prayer. We meet in houses to share one another’s burdens, in community we pray for guidance in whatever projects we plan and we claim the promise of the presence of the Holy Spirit. All these complement but do not contradict the advice given by Jesus, recorded by Matthew and elsewhere.

Should we listen to teenagers more often and recognise their growing search for independence?

The second challenge from the August *Intouch* is from the Ministry Team. In the reference to young people leaving Leeds for work or study it states “sadly others will give up”. In the search for understanding the scientist asks what is happening and why does it happen in that way. Christians can observe that the world is turning towards a materialistic belief and rejecting the Good News. It is not surprising that a large proportion of children brought up with Christian teaching reject it when confronted with the indifferent or aggressive world view.

Some surveys find that 50% of young people from Christian backgrounds are lost to public worship. The rejection may be partial. People abandon public worship without rejecting the idea of faith. We can of course pray for these individually and collectively, but should we be preparing them to

be better able to defend their beliefs? They will be told that the world is full of cruelty and asked “Where is God” or that science has proved that there is no place for God in the material world and morality is a convention. Can we better prepare our teenagers for the challenge? Should we listen to them more often and recognise their growing search for independence?

As for my third point, in his studies on Philippians Ernie Whalley invites us to ask our family about their attitudes to Christianity. I know one whose response is determined by having two colleagues who proclaimed a Christian belief that was incompatible with their actions, sometimes criminal. To them a life dedicated to people from the Third World was a personal aberration. For another coherent belief was destroyed by university study. What did Paul mean when he wrote in 1 Corinthians (3.2) “*I fed you with milk not solid food...even yet you are not ready (for it)*”?

Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community

“And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”

Matthew 5.47 NIV

Recommended Reads

What Happens When...

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire: What Happens When God's Spirit Invades the Heart of His People
by Jim Cymbala

A young pastor was asked to do a favour for his father-in-law. Would he please go and preach four Sunday evenings at a multiracial church known as the Brooklyn Tabernacle.

The minute he stepped through the door he realised things were not good. The dwindling congregation, the vagrants, the lack of funds, the

divisions entrenched in the few attendees. Those first days were so desperate that very soon Jim was overwhelmed, broke down and cried. Then he began to pray and pray... and God answered, "If you and your wife will lead my people to pray and call upon my name, you will never lack..."

Jim realised that everything begins with prayer. So the congregation began to pray earnestly, humbly, desperately and God began to move in this place. They are now 10,000 strong and growing and The Brooklyn Tabernacle choir is renowned worldwide. This is what happens when you open your hearts and let the Holy Spirit work in you. It is an amazing testimony to the power, love and faithfulness of God for all people.

Sam Fisher

Headingley Morning Mission Community



...inspired...

If you've read a book recently that inspired you, recommend it to the church by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

Date	Morning Services	Evening Service
Going Deeper: Stories of People Seeking God		
6 October	Mark 9.14-32 <i>Lord, I believe, help my unbelief</i>	2 Kings 5.1-16 <i>Naaman: what if the answer doesn't suit?</i>
13 October	1 Samuel 1 <i>Will God hear me?</i>	Luke 18.9-14 <i>The tax collector: I daren't come any closer</i>
20 October	James 5.17-18 <i>Elijah: just like me?</i>	Judges 6 <i>Setting a fleece</i>
27 October	Acts 12.1-19 <i>Didn't you notice God's answer?</i>	Acts 4 <i>Daring to pray in the face of difficulty</i>
3 November	Daniel 9.1-19 <i>Confession: the prayer on behalf of others</i>	1 Samuel 7.18-29 <i>Promises made in prayer</i>
10 November	Habakkuk 3 <i>Prayer for revival</i>	John 17.6-26 <i>Jesus prays for us</i>
17 November	Genesis 32.22-32 <i>Wrestling with God</i>	Luke 22.39-46 <i>Gethsemane: facing impossible choices</i>
24 November	Jonah 2 <i>In the pits? The God who hears</i>	2 Corinthians 12.1-10 <i>The thorn in the flesh: when the answers don't come</i>

Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3.2 (NIV) (10 November)

Church Noticeboard

Café Church Programme

October 2013 - January 2014

Sunday Lunches 1pm: Good Food, Short Talk, Chat!

- 6 October
- 3 November
- 8 December
- 5 January



Other Events - Everyone Welcome!

- Sunday 20 October 3pm: Music @ Cafe Church
- Saturday 16 November 6.30pm: Beetle Drive
- Sunday 15 December 3pm: Music @ Cafe Church
- Friday 20 December 2.30pm: Carols at the Coffee Shop

*Café Church @
Holt Park*

Cafe Church meets at the ABC Coffee Shop in the Holt Park Shopping Centre behind Asda. For more details contact Harold

Daytime Home Group

A new daytime Home Group for those unable to attend evening meetings for whatever reason, has just been launched. They meet in the Green House on Tuesday mornings 10-11am. Contact the church office for more information, or just turn up!

Under 5s:

Still looking for help on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Contact Kate via the church office.



Welcoming Nathan Shipley

Special Service
27 October 6.30pm

Christians in Science

The Leeds local CiS group are holding two meetings this coming autumn. Meetings are at South Parade, Headingley.



CHRISTIANS IN SCIENCE

Refreshments from 7.30pm, talk starts 8.00pm, followed by questions. All welcome.

Tuesday 8 October

Denis Alexander (Faraday Institute, Cambridge University): *Genes, Determinism and God*. In December 2012 Denis gave the Gifford Lectures at St Andrews University under the same title, which is soon to be published as a major academic book.

Tuesday 12 November

Colin Bell (Faraday Institute and Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, Cambridge University): *Global Warming: Scientific problem or moral issue?* Colin Bell joined the Faraday Institute to work on a joint project with the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics on "Hope for creation: a biblical vision for contemporary environmental policy". He is now involved in producing and delivering resources on faith, values and environmental issues for schools and church youth groups.

Further Information from John Lockwood or visit www.cis.org.uk/groups/leeds

Calling All Keyholders!

Please make the Admin Team in the Church Office aware of your presence, if you come into the Headingley building during office hours, so that we can send a fireman to rescue you in the event of a fire. Thanks, Gemma.



Your group featured here!

To add something to the December *Intouch* Church Noticeboard email magazine@spbc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch

South Parade in Numbers

The Alpha Course!

Part Four

In the UK



Since the Alpha course started in **1977**

2.8 million

people have attended, **299,000** of them in 2012.

9,300 courses were run in 2012

75% of British prisons ran an Alpha course in 2012

9,053 people follow Alpha (@alphacourse) on Twitter (and rising)

Worldwide



22.5 million

people have attended Alpha courses.

Alpha currently runs in **169** countries

in **112** languages

At South Parade 7pm



(for 7.30pm) is the time the course starts on Monday evenings in the Green House at South Parade from

7 October

The course runs over **10** weeks,

is open to guests from all **5** Mission Communities.

The meal costs **0p**

There's always **at least 1** more place for you or a guest!



Ten Ways to Love

- 1 Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 18)
- 2 Speak without accusing (James 1.19)
- 3 Give without sparing (Proverbs 21.26)
- 4 Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1.9)
- 5 Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17.1)
- 6 Share without pretending (Ephesians 4.15)
- 7 Enjoy without complaint (Philippians 2.14)
- 8 Trust without wavering (Corinthians 13.7)
- 9 Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3.13)
- 10 Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13.12)

Thanks to Mike Burkett for sending this!

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



For more "Cake or Death" cartoons
by Alex Baker visit:
cakeordeathcartoon.wordpress.com

Prayers Answered

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for health, that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.*

*I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked for but got everything I had
hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were
answered.*

I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

**Anonymous Confederate Soldier's Prayer
supposedly found on a casualty at Gettysburg**

*Smile if you love Jesus.
Text while driving if you
want to meet him*



South Parade poster August 2013



South Parade meets as five distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley, Adel and Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **SENT** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets at different locations in the community in Bramley. We also have projects in Little London and Holt Park. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.

Together, we have a shared vision to **build community in Christ**. We hope that all who meet us will be helped to **belong** to Christ and his people, will discover what it means to **believe** in him, and will **become** all that he invites them to be in character, lifestyle, witness and service.

Senior Minister
Minister

Brian Nicholls
Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor for
Youth and Young Adults

Nathan Shipley

Children's Worker

Heather McLeen

Church Worker

Geoff King

Administration Manager

Gemma Eastwood

Associate Pastor

Lawrence Cockrill

Under 5s Co-ordinator

Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham, Judith Briggs,
Adam Clayton, Claire Ginn,
Geoff Greer (Church Secretary),
Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer),
John Pelham, Rosemary Stirk

South Parade Baptist Church
Kirkstall Lane, Headingley
LEEDS LS6 3LF

0113 275 4989
www.spbc.org.uk
gemma@spbc.org.uk



“

*Forgetting what is behind and
straining towards what is ahead,
I press on towards the goal to win the
prize for which God has called me
heavenwards in Christ Jesus.*

”

Philippians 3.13-14 (NIV)

