



SHAPED FOR THE BEST

There were the days here in the old staff room at Capernwray when the mugs we used for our coffee and tea breaks were a motley gathering of all kinds of shapes and sizes, colours and cracks. Amusing to view while practical to use and, come to think of it, actually not unlike the hands that held them as hot drinks were sipped! There must have been creators for those shapely mugs formed by fingers with an artistic touch, a sense of humour or just a simple idea.

Perhaps you have watched a potter at his wheel throwing the clay onto his spinning disc to form a plain or more intricate pot. We did over Christmas as a friend came to demonstrate his craft along with some of the results of his forming ability. How easy it seemed as with care and concentration he ensured the clay was centred on the wheel to guarantee the perfect shape. He worked firmly to remove harmful air bubbles and to make the clay, softened with water to remove the lumps, malleable in his hands and then he applied

the right pressure to form the desired shape.

He spoke to us of the potter's house in Jeremiah, which is a familiar text and the topic of many a message but still the provider of timeless truths. The prophet was sent to the potter or 'maker' to watch him working at his wheel and with these words described what he saw. "But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as it seemed best to him." Jer 18:4. Read on and we understand the context behind the instructions to Jeremiah. God likens Himself to a potter who is forming Israel into something good and for good but they are resisting and God, as faithful as He is to himself, is prepared to bring judgment upon the nation unless they will respond to His remarkable intentions. We know what happened.

I watched Ken, our potter, and his intentions were also remarkable for what arose from the wheel through forming fingers was both beautiful and useful. Let me encourage or remind you, as I do myself, of several truths for the year ahead as we respond to our eternal Potter. There is no better place to be than in His hands for that speaks clearly of security and purpose as God declared to Israel "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so you are in my hand, O house of Israel." (Jer 18:6) Though marred as we are the Lord's shaping work is done in a way that seems best to Him. (Jer 18:4) God will graciously use the various events, situations and circumstances of the coming months of 2012, though unknown to us now, to shape us more and more into the image of His Son, which is surely best for us too. We can have great confidence that the Potter intends good for us. Let us then submit as workable clay to His re-creative hands that what is formed brings pleasure to Him and fulfilment in His purposes for us. (Jer 18:10)

I know I can speak for all the "mugs" here at Capernwray as we thank the Lord for you, your prayers, encouragement and support, trusting that together with us you will be available to Him and for what He has in store in the months ahead.



Capernwray Missions is pleased to announce the launch of their new Missions Training Course starting in June 2012.

Capernwray Missions Training Course (CMTC) is a four-week, 'hands on' programme aimed at providing Bible teaching and equipping students for practical evangelism and discipleship in a culturally diverse environment. (2Tim 3:16-17) The course is for both Africans and for those from other nationalities, so therefore promotes an exciting, living, learning and working setting.

Week 1. Based at Word of Life Nairobi

This first week will be cultural orientation, Bible teaching and local outreach.

Week 2 and 3. 'On the road'

For these two weeks, we will be working with churches in rural Kenya and possibly Tanzania. This will involve proclaiming Christ through schools work, sports ministry, church meetings, open-air evangelism and by any other means possible!

Week 4. Based at Word of Life Mombasa and Nairobi

For the last week, we will start in Mombasa working with Word of Life there and then head back to Nairobi for debriefing and local outreach.

Dates, Fees and Visas

The course will start June 11th and finish July 6th 2012 and will take place in Kenya and possibly Tanzania. The cost excluding flights, visas and insurance is £900. This includes food and accommodation, transportation while on mission and an African student subsidy. You will also need some vaccinations and anti malarial medication. We will provide you with a list of vaccinations needed and visa details. We can also assist with booking flights to Nairobi if required.

A small portion of the course fee will go towards subsidizing the cost of African students attending. Pastors and ministry leaders in Kenya and Zimbabwe are identifying potential African students.

For applications and any other information contact:

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Capernwray is also pleased to bring you news from a couple of our past students who have gone on mission after completing Bible School...



Jo Maslen
BOSNIA

Hi, I'm Jo & I was at Capernwray Hall from 2005-2007, first as a student, then as anRA. These were amongst two of the most life changing years of my whole life, and I would encourage any of you out there who are even slightly thinking about Bible School to DO IT! Time spent out of the pressure & stress of the 'real world', and in an environment where you can work out who you are in Jesus is a precious & beautiful experience. The Lord did things in

my life way beyond my expectations.

So, where am I now? I'm serving the Lord with an international team in Bosnia with CrossWorld (www.crossworld.org). It's quite a long story how I ended up here, but the Lord was gentle & patient with me on the journey, & despite my not wanting to be here, I find myself in love with the Muslim people of this city & my heart breaks constantly for their lostness in this dark, dark place.

So, what is my "job" here? I am involved with a market garden business which we established last year. The aim of setting up a business (Business as Mission), is to employ nationals & then ultimately to share Christ with them. This year we grew tomatoes, peppers, aubergines (eggplants), cucumbers & squash from seed. It was hard work & much learning, but the best spiritual conversations I have ever had were on my knees whilst planting.

I am also involved with the organisation of our Adventure Camp for teens, which runs for 5 weeks in the summer. It's all pretty laid back & it's a chance to get alongside the teens & share Jesus with them through having coffee, kayaking, hiking, sports, playing games, etc.

Every day, I wake up right out of my comfort zone, often with nerves and wondering what the Lord has in store for me today, but isn't this a great place to be, do you feel this every time you wake up & wonder what the Lord will surprise you with during that day? Let's pray that 2012 is a year where the Lord does things in all our lives that far exceed our expectations & comfort zones! (Ephesians 3:20-21)

If you would like to hear more about what we do here in Bosnia, would like to get regular news from me, or how you can pray, send me an email, I'd love to hear from you! My email address is: crazybritjo@gmail.com



Belinda Nyabako

ZIMBABWE

In 2009 I left Capernwray Bible School with a certificate in one hand and a vision in another. I had gone to bible school with a plan. That plan did not include coming back to Zimbabwe. Today I stand amazed as I look and see how God has been weaving the threads of my life together in ways I never dreamed or imagined. I see myself in the words of Mother Theresa as, "A little pencil in the hands of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world". One of the very first things I did when I got back home was to act on my vision. In December 2009 I registered a Trust and named it "Ruvheneko Trust", which means, "light" in Shona. I found myself taking a path of learning and understanding how God wanted to use Ruvheneko Trust. In Isaiah 55 Vs. 8-9, it says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways" declares the Lord.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Ruvheneko Trust is still growing and still learning to discern God's thoughts and ways. We have been blessed in so many ways. The heart of the organization is to address both physical and spiritual needs of the community, and to do so in a way that is sustainable and empowering. We've developed three main programs through which we address the needs of our community: schools work, sports ministry, and project support. We're also working towards establishing a community centre that will be a place of skill training, youth activities, Bible lessons, and project development. We place great value on spreading God's word, connecting with local leadership and resources, listening and partnering with the people we serve.

As we embrace 2012 we are excited for the ways that God will use us. If you would like to learn more about what we do or how you can partner with us please email me at ruvhenekotrust@gmail.com

In Christ
Belinda Nyabako



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TORCHBEARERS STUDENT CENTRE



We pass on to you sad news from the Philippines. The director of the Torchbearer work died on January 2nd after being hospitalized and suffering a heart attack. As a fellowship we rejoice that he is in the presence of His Lord and Saviour but will miss him and in our terms see a gap in the work. We pray for his wife Techie, their two daughters and son in their loss along with the team with which he served in Manila.

Chris Thomas (International Director) wrote in acknowledgement of Loy's life and ministry; "Loy had a great heart for young people and was gifted in communicating the Gospel to them. He had a big vision cut short, it would seem to us, but God was not taken by surprise and we wait on Him in His time for what the future holds."

Thank you for your prayers for the family.



Bible School Students

The bible school students return the first weekend of January for the start of the second term. 10-day outreach will be a large part of this term, so please pray for the students as they start preparing for this time away, that this will be a lifechanging experience for them and for many of those they will be working with.

Conference Hall Update

We are grateful for your ongoing support for the New Conference Hall, in giving and even more so in praying. Shortly before Christmas we sent out tender documents to a number of contractors and these will be returned to us by 20th January in preparation for a directors' meeting on 26th January. We would value your prayers particularly for this meeting that the directors will clearly know the Lord's mind as they consider when is the right time to start building the new Conference Hall.



Our directors (left to right) Neil, Becky Silver, Angela Mills, Mark Thomas, Michael

Thanks for reading, until next month...

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