

Mark Hill

News From Loughborough

July 29th 2009



Greetings, I trust this report will find you well. There is much to tell you about but the majority of my news concerns the Summer Holidays at Maplewell Hall.

We had a great week held on the 2nd - 7th August. 56 children from across the country attended with 18 members of staff working as counsellors, teachers, activity organisers, meal preparation etc.

The theme was ROCK ON!! We spent time each day looking at different "rocks" in the Bible. Day 1 was spent looking at the Rock of Creation. God made the world, but why, what was its purpose? Day 2 was spent looking at the Rock of the Fortress. We looked at how God is our fortress, at how he cares for us, and that when we are facing hard times, he will always be there for us and he will be a solid rock to support us. Day 3 was spent looking at the Rock of Worship. We looked at the Triumphal entry, where Jesus said "Even the stones will cry out", We looked at what it meant to worship, and why should we worship. Day 4 was the Rock of Rejection. We looked at 1st Peter and we talked about how some people choose to reject Jesus, but how He is the cornerstone of our faith. Day 5 was looking at the Rock of the Church, looking at Peter's statement of faith. We spent time looking at the church, it's purpose and importance.

Each day we had puppets in the morning with "The Professor" and Bubba. The activities ranged from games, crafts, sports, competitions. We even had a bouncy castle and bungy run. As always it was moving to hear children singing praise to God. And as usual I am now stuck with leading the very active songs we learned at Sunday School which the children ask for with too much delight on their eyes.

Trevor and Pauline Williams with the help of Charles Yankiah, provided wonderful food all week, and several others worked hard in the kitchen to help.

We are on the look out for some people to start taking over the cooking, Trevor and Pauline are not getting any younger and as much



Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like trying to eat without swallowing. --

Anonymous

Some people like to read so many [Bible] chapters every day. I would not dissuade them from the practice, but I would rather lay my soul asoak in half a dozen verses all day than rinse my hand in several chapters. Oh, to be bathed in a text of Scripture, and to let it be sucked up in your very soul, till it saturates your heart! --

Charles
Haddon
Spurgeon

as they would like to keep going they cannot now do all the work the kitchen requires. Let me know if you are aware of any one who would be interested in helping

Simon Williams did a great job of directing the camp and we truly had a great team that worked together well. To be amongst people whose main concern was to share their faith was a privilege. It was a joy to see children reading and studying their bible, and forming friendships with others that will last the rest of their life. The majority of our staff have been through camp as young people and are now giving something back to the next group of children. It's good to see but does make me feel old.

We will we never know the impact made on the children that come, but thanks to people's willingness to serve, love, and share many lives have been touched by Christ. We look forward to next year were the theme is "A Royal Affair" The dates if you need to know for planning are Sunday 25th July to Friday 30th July.

We are still awaiting news concerning planning permission for the clinic and plans for the clinic in Malawi. In the meantime the church at Loughborough and some others have sent money needed to repair a church roof in Kudzwala. It has now been fixed and we have had a report that those who mocked the church because of the state of the roof have now stopped.

We had the privilege on Wednesday 9th Sept to host the launch of the British Bible School's Distance Learning Programme. This is a very exciting time for the School as we take the lessons out of the class and into people's homes. Many who would like to study were not able to move to Corby to gain the benefit of the School. Now they do not have to and can study at their own pace in their own home. More details can be found at www.britishbibleschool.com If you know of anyone interested in studying as a British Bible School student applications can be downloaded from the site.

In our mid-week Bible class we are near the end of the gospel of Mark. However, I am only managing to get through a couple of verses a week! The discussion takes over and I learn more from that sometimes than through my own study. We now have moved the start time to 7pm as we have a class for small children and young adults also, so on a school night they can still get home in time for bed or last minute homework.

Hyper Pipers which is for our 6-12 year olds held on the first Sunday of the month was reviewed. We were going to bring it to an end and do things with the young people on different days and times. This

hasn't happened yet as, as it turns out, there has still been stuff to do on a Sunday. So it may change or may not—I try not to guess anymore.



Matt & Joanne with two members

The Gateway Club for people with learning difficulties is back now after the summer break. It is a key part of our benevolent work and a wonderful club to be a part of. It has taught us all the meaning of giving without any condition of receiving anything back, yet we do get so much out of assisting and the friendships that are formed.

The University students are gradually returning to resume their studies. We will pass out leaflets to let them know where we are and offer Bible study courses.

I do appreciate your financial support very much. It allows me to get so involved with things I just couldn't without your help. God Bless you for all you do.

Yours in Christ,
Mark



A view one Sunday evening looking down Oxford Street from the road outside the church building.

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