



Contact

MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2018

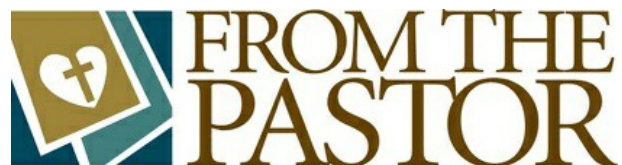
Motto 2018

I have
hidden
your word
in my heart
that I might
not sin against you.



Articles for the DECEMBER 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp - by SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER. They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com

November 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	<u>11</u>
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Ethical Evangelism

Recently I issued a challenge that every member makes it a target in their prayers and actions to win one person to the Lord in 2019. If we all do that and teach them to do the same in 2020, we will see revival style growth.

We know that it is the duty of every Christian to witness to their faith, Jesus commands it, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38

The apostle Paul said that He used all means, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22

Peter said that we should always be ready to speak for the Lord, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

It is God who converts, He may use us, but unless His Spirit convicts and draws someone to Himself they will not be saved, that is why this is a target first in our prayers, then in our actions. Since it is God that draws people to Himself there is no point at all us being unethical, looking to use gimmicks or tricks, those things will never see a person truly saved. I remember receiving evangelism training that used every emotional trick, one part stuck in my mind, "As you come to the end of the presentation say, 'Join me in this prayer.' Put your hand on their shoulder, bow your head, this will be too much for them to resist, lead them in the sinners' prayer." People won by such methods are quickly lost again because they have not been won by God's Spirit but by emotional manipulation.

What kind of evangelism is unethical? An extreme example was in the 1970's and 80's a cult called The Children of God used an evangelistic method they called 'flirty fishing.' When it started attractive female members would go to bars and nightclubs meet men, flirt with them and ask them if they would accompany them to an event the next night, the event would be a meeting where the cult would attempt to proselytise the *fish*. It went downhill from there, that is an extreme example of unethical evangelism but there are more subtle examples:

When the person has no choice but to listen: Some of us have been on the receiving end of this, when a taxi driver has tried to persuade us to his religion. If the person has no choice but to listen, it is unlikely that you will succeed, and you will likely make the person very uncomfortable.

If you pretend to offer one kind of help but preach the gospel as a condition of helping: Take, for example, our night shelter, people are there because they need a place to sleep, they should not be given the impression that this is dependent on them listening to a sermon. I wrote in a Facebook group recently, "I feel very uncomfortable when good works have the motivation of back door evangelism, it feels dishonest to say that we will help you with your problem when what we really want to do is preach to them." Many years ago, I volunteered with the Birmingham City Mission, they had a free meal service which was attended mostly by homeless people. Each night after the meal a speaker would speak and make a very direct gospel appeal, after which pudding and tea and coffee would be served. Of course, anyone that didn't want to listen was free to leave after the meal but once they left they were not readmitted. I asked a member of staff why they did it this way, they said, "If we give them their pudding none of them will stay for the talk." It didn't feel right then, it doesn't feel right now.

If you have a position of power: If you are someone's manager, or if someone has come to you for help, or you have some authority over their lives, although you may think that you have given them every chance to refuse to listen they may not feel like that. For example, someone approaching their manager while they have a family problem, they may be asking for time off. The manager listens,

grants the time off and then says, "Let me pray for you." Although the manager may think the person has every right to refuse, they may feel that their time off is dependent on receiving prayer. A better way may have been for the manager to have said, "If it is alright with you I will mention you in my private prayers." If the person shrugged or mumbled thanks, it could be left there but if there was an enthusiastic response then there could be an opening for further conversation. Even this has been cautiously undertaken.

Just seeing people as numbers: We seek to share the gospel with the lost because we care about them. This is not a competition between us to see who can reach the most people. A downside of the challenge I have issued is that we could become obsessed with getting our 'one for the year'. When I was a teenager I enrolled on a nine-month course, it taught basic bible knowledge, a little bit of theology, evangelism and gave opportunities to develop skills and gifts. Academically it was not a hard course, no harder than getting GCSE, however they required everyone to win someone to Christ during the course, if you didn't, you didn't pass. While that may have started with the best of intentions and with a certain logic, by the time I joined the course this requirement was called "Getting your fruit," and there were all kinds of ways to measure whether you really had achieved this goal. From time to time, former students would drop by and ask, "Have you got your fruit yet?" The Lord was good to me and I led someone to the Lord in the first few weeks, but as the course drew towards a close I noticed other students getting increasingly desperate. Accidentally, we had lost the goal of reaching the lost because we cared about them, and were reaching the lost because we needed to gain 'our fruit' to pass the course. The Bible tells us, "And of some have compassion, making a difference." Jude :22
Effective evangelism is compassionate evangelism.

Good ways:

Be honest: If you stand in the street with The Open Air Mission, you are being honest about what you are doing, people can stop and listen, heckle, or just walk by. There may be an issue if you use amplification or if you choose to pick on particular sins, normally ones you are never tempted to commit, and start condemning people to God's wrath. If you stand and proclaim God's love to a broken world you are doing a good thing.

Travel at the speed of the person you are seeking to win: Before I was in full time ministry I found an effective method was to wait until someone asked, "Did you have a good weekend?"

"Yes, I went to church, the pastor was on fine form." (You may need to say that the worship group were great, lying is unethical)

Almost always the person would then ask, "What kind of church do you go to?"

I would reply, "A Baptist Church."

If the conversation stopped there that was fine, but often people would say, "Baptists? What's different about Baptists?"

This gave me a chance to briefly speak about the need for a personal decision to follow Jesus.

Normally the conversation would stop there but inevitably every few weeks a Christian leader would say something controversial, or there would be a world event and someone would ask, "What do you think about that?" Opening another door for witness. Eventually people would confide their struggles, doubts or fears, making the space to offer support and prayer.

This is about them not you: At the risk of repeating an earlier point, our motivation must be love for the lost and love for the Lord. When we are thinking about the person we are trying to reach, how they feel, how they are receiving the message, how we are impacting them. Then we will avoid unethical methods.

I want to encourage you to witness, to make it a target of prayer to win at least one person to the Lord, it is a wonderful blessing when the Lord uses you in that way, but don't be desperate and think that the end justifies the means. Our evangelism should bring honour and glory to God both by the methods we use and the results He gives.

Our historic article this month is a tract by C H Spurgeon, pastor Metropolitan Tabernacle from 1854 until his death 1892



IT is by the grace of God that ungodly men are preserved from instant death. The sharp axe of justice would soon fell the barren tree if the interceding voice of Jesus did not cry, "Spare him yet a little." Many sinners, when converted to God, have gratefully acknowledged that it was of the Lord's mercy that they were not consumed. John Bunyan had three memorable escapes before his conversion, and mentions them in his "Grace Abounding" as illustrious instances of long-suffering mercy. Occasionally such deliverances are made the means of affecting the heart with tender emotions of love to God, and grief for having offended him. Should it not be so? Ought we not to account that the longsuffering of God is salvation? (2 Peter 3:15.) An officer during a battle was struck by a nearly spent ball near his waistcoat pocket, but he remained uninjured, for a piece of silver stopped the progress of the deadly missile. The coin was marked at the words *DEI GRATIA* (*by the grace of God*). This providential circumstance deeply impressed his mind, and led him to read a tract which a godly sister had given him when leaving home. God blessed the reading of the tract, and he became, through the rich grace of God, a believer in the Lord Jesus.

Reader, are you unsaved? Have you experienced any noteworthy deliverances? Then adore and admire the free grace of God, and pray that it may lead you to repentance! Are you enquiring for the way of life? Remember the words *DEI GRATIA*, and never forget that by grace we are saved. Grace always pre-supposes unworthiness in its object. The province of grace ceases where merit begins: what a cheering word is this to those of you who have no worth, no merit, no goodness whatever! Crimes are forgiven, and follies are cured by our Redeemer out of mere free favour. The word *grace* has the same meaning as our common term *gratis*: Wickliffe's prayer was, "Lord save me *gratis*" No works can purchase or procure salvation, but the heavenly Father giveth freely, and upbraideth not.

Grace comes to us through faith in Jesus. Whosoever believeth on Him is not condemned. O, sinner, may God give thee grace to look to Jesus and live. Look *now*, for to-day is the accepted time!

Here is a short extract from the Joint Public Issues Team report on the Hostile Environment, which represents The Baptist Union, The Church of Scotland, The Methodist Church and The United reformed Church in the areas of public policy, it sends reports on our behalf to politicians, media bodies and other influential. Does it reflect your views? Are these accurate Biblical reflections on current topics? If this raises your interest to agree or disagree you can read the full report here: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Destitution-Discrimination-Distrust.-The-web-of-the-hostile-environment.pdf> and then comment. I think it would be a mistake to comment having only read this short taster.

A more hospitable environment?

1. The hostile environment is inhumane because it deliberately inflicts destitution.
2. The hostile environment is discriminatory, and encourages xenophobia and racial profiling.
3. The hostile environment builds a culture of suspicion and distrust.

It is time to challenge the hostile environment and to promote a more hospitable environment. We invite churches, church groups and individuals actively to challenge the hostile environment.

Review the impact of the hostile environment

A first step for the Government would be a full and independent review of immigration policy and practice, to examine the damaging effect the policies of the hostile environment are having on the whole of society.

Contact your MP explaining why you think the policies of the hostile environment must be reviewed and dismantled. Conversations with or letters to MP's will be strengthened if you are able to reflect upon your own experience of the hostile environment or the experience of those connected to your church's community. Otherwise, you can refer to the case studies in this resource. Visit www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/endhostility for advice on meeting with your MP and for a template letter.

How can we build a more hospitable environment?

It may be that you have been affected by the hostile environment. Or perhaps your church is involved in supporting people through offering help to asylum seekers or recent migrants. Maybe you can share ideas about building a more hospitable environment.

Tell your story. We'd love to hear from you. We will safeguard the confidentiality of any sensitive information. You can email us at: church.society@urc.org.uk

You can get involved in the conversation online using the hashtag #EndHostility

Challenging ourselves

Take this opportunity to engage in conversations within your church or your community about the hostile environment. What is your experience of hostility and hospitality? How do we balance immigration control and welcoming the stranger? How does language affect how we think? Do you feel drawn to repent personally or corporately for being complicit in a culture of suspicion or distrust in our society? How can we work to build a hospitable society?

BMS World News

Issue 6/18



THE CHRISTIAN FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND HOW YOU'RE SUPPORTING IT

Four future leaders of the Church in Muslim countries have finished another year of education and formation, thanks to you.

Yaccoub lost his faith when he saw a bomb fall on a school bus in Syria, his home country, killing children as young as four. Now, he's just finished a year of theological education at one of the best seminaries in the Muslim majority world – a BMS World Mission partner that is preparing Christians to lead the Church in the region.

Yaccoub came back to faith thanks to the witness of a family member and the profound questions the Syrian conflict raised in him. "When I was intellectually searching for God I also had the life example of my aunt with me and that was the main reason that I decided to follow Jesus," he says. And today he has a vision to take both the intellectual and the loving, life example to his generation back in Syria. The generosity of UK Christians like you is enabling him to fulfil his vision.

Your giving has enabled BMS to provide four full scholarships to students studying at the seminary this year – covering their tuition, accommodation, food and books. "We need leaders in our churches and our ministries," Yaccoub says, "and people supporting us in this seminary are helping us to send out these leaders to areas where they are needed."

Each scholarship of \$10,000 (about £7,500) has helped to prepare women and men from the Muslim majority world (some of them from countries too sensitive to publish here) to serve God in their home countries or other places where the Church is small, and you have paid for these scholarships.

"I want to thank the people who give without knowing us," Yaccoub says. "I would like to thank them for the opportunity they are giving us to study here, to let them know that we are being transformed at many levels, theologically, spiritually and in our characters. They are sending prepared leaders."

Your support for BMS leadership ministries will transform far more than just Yaccoub's life. You can read more of his story at www.bmsworldmission.org/yaccoub

WONDERFULLY MADE: GOD HAS DONE AMAZING THINGS IN THE LIVES OF TADA, PHIL AND NATALIE

Last year, you met Adventure Man, Mr Determined and Captain Kindness. One year on, we caught up with them in Thailand and witnessed first-hand how God has been at work in their lives in miraculous ways.

Christians across the UK came alongside Phil, Tada and Natalie, three superchildren, by supporting our *Wonderfully Made* appeal – focusing on children with amazing abilities at Hope Home in Thailand. Now, we hope you'll be excited to hear how your prayers for them have been answered.

We are thrilled about the progress Phil has made in communicating using a specially customised iPad. He's now able to let his Hope Home family know what he is thinking – freeing him from the frustration of being unable to communicate his thoughts, feelings and desires. He's also hugely developed his mobility and is now able to walk with support and use his legs to wheel himself around in his wheelchair – giving him much more independence in movement (although admittedly at the risk of other people's toes!).

Tada had an accident at his school that resulted in a serious and potentially fatal head injury. The doctors couldn't understand how he survived it, but we know that God saved his life. BMS World Mission nurse Judy Cook swiftly removed Tada from that school and he now goes to a different one with some of his friends from Hope Home. Thank you so much for praying for him through *Wonderfully Made*. Tada's recovery is one amazing example of God answering your prayers through the year. And it's so exciting to see.

Natalie continues to do very well. She is thriving in her family. She is moving along through school and is still very happy, kind and helpful. Her singing voice has got even better!

Two hundred and eighty-eight churches supported our *Wonderfully Made* appeal, and thousands of you gave, raising £157,982.44 for BMS work in Thailand and around the world. Thank you so much! We are so grateful for your gifts and your prayers!

Watch the video!

Head to www.bmsworldmission.org/wonderfullymadethankyou to watch a special video from Hope Home.

BANANAS AND CHILLIES: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Ugandan farmers can now fund medical bills and school fees thanks to agricultural training. And it's all down to your support for BMS World Mission.

In Gulu, Uganda, BMS workers have trained 100 families to start farming chillies and bananas. Each household received in-depth training, including land preparation and how to plant the bananas and chillies. Once they were ready, the farmers used their new skills and knowledge to grow the crops.

And they were hugely successful. All the bananas are being sold in local markets in Gulu, and the dried chillies are now being bought by a wholesaler in the capital city, Kampala, that exports them all over the world.

This is having an amazing impact in the lives of these families. One of the challenges for many farmers in the area was not being able to pay for big medical bills or having to pull their children out of school if fees were raised. But now, this is no longer the case.

Namazzi* has benefited from growing bananas. Because the banana harvest is continual, Namazzi is able to take her bananas and sell them at a local market throughout the year. The new income acts as weekly spending for the family, so they can make sure there is enough food in the house, as well as covering small medical bills.

And it's not just in Uganda that agricultural training is having an impact. In Mozambique, people are learning to better grow corn, and cattle has been donated so farmers can learn how to plough. And in Nepal, BMS-supported livestock training means that women like Goma can provide for their families by selling buffalo milk at the market.

You're helping farmers learn new skills, provide for their families, and live healthier lives. Thank you.

**Name changed*

Discover more about the farming work you support, visit

www.bmsworldmission.org/recipeforsuccess

Tel: 01235 517619

Email: worldnews@bmsworldmission.org

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Poem of the Month

Last month's poem was by C.S.Lewis, who is well known as the author of the Narnia books and the Screwtape Letters. He also wrote numerous works of Science Fiction, Apologetics and English Literature, but did you know that he wrote poetry as well?

This month's author has been mentioned from the pulpit by Andrew. You might compare his poem with September's from Miriam Tiso, as it is on the same theme.

Christ who knows all His sheep
Will all in safety keep;
He will not lose his blood,
Nor intercession:
Nor we the purchased good
Of His dear passion.

I know my God is just,
To Him I wholly trust
All that I have and am,
All that I hope for.
All's sure and seen to Him,
Which I here grope for.

Lord Jesus, take my spirit:
I trust Thy love and merit:
Take home this wandering sheep,
For Thou hast sought it:
This soul in safety keep,
For Thou hast bought it.

Perry Green Services

At 6.00 pm

- 4th. Mr. Len Fowler
11th. Mr. Roger Barton (c)
18th. Mr. John Evans
25th. Tea and Hymns at Central 3. 30pm.

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We meet at 2.30 pm. On the first Tuesday of each month at Perry Green Baptist Chapel.

6th. Howard Chandler

BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme

- 1st Emma Adams
4th Eric Norman
James Bright
5th Sandra McAteer
7th Yvonne Haddy
9th Helen Adams
11th Janice Kenner-Lee
13th Joshua Uthayaseelan
19th Claire News
29th Nella Morley

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

6th

13th

20th

27th

Ladies in Fellowship Together(L.I.F.T.)

13th - A visit to the Christian Book Shop at 7.00

27th - Members Evening with a Christmas Theme.
Please bring Poems, Readings and short stories and your favourite Christmas Carols.

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

1st	Bob Wilkinson
8th	Rev. Alan West
15th	Richard Cherry
22nd	Rev. Stan Boleman
29th	Rev. Keith Berry.

CHURCH DIARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning 10.45 am

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

Sunday Morning Services

- 4th Parade Service, continuing the adventures of Paul the apostle and including a visit from another Paul, Paul Prosser from Noah will tell us about the winter night shelter.
- 11th Remembrance Sunday, reflections on Christian attitudes to military service, Pacifism, Non Combatants and Service on the Front-line.
- 18th Breaking of Bread
- 25th Service led by the elders
3. 30pm Tea and Hymns

On Sunday evenings we meet at our chapel in Perry Green at 6 pm, if you would like a lift please try to let the pastor know but the lifts leave Cumberland Street Entrance at 5:45 pm sharp.

A prayer meeting is held every Sunday before the morning service from 10 am in the Prayer Room

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 14TH OCTOBER

Our love and sympathy to those who have been bereaved recently:- ALAN DUDLEY – DERRICK his neighbour of many years and ANN NORMAN - her cousin JANETTE.

Mrs. McLEOD who used to worship with us died in September. We also heard of the death of JOHN WARNE who was a member and deacon at Central for many years before moving to Norfolk we would remember his wife SYLVIA and family.

EDNA SMITH had a few days in hospital due to an infection, and TOM MOWER had a fall at home and was in hospital overnight. Both RITA GIBBS and RIBCA SHAHZAD have had successful cataract operations.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT tripped at church – broke some bones in her foot and has to wear a boot for a few weeks. ZAC SEREATON has had an x-ray because of a painful back and MALCOLM O'DELL has had a carpel tunnel operation.

Several people have appointments coming up including:- GERALD HALE – a hip operation and ERIC NORMAN – treatment.

LESLEY LEE – her husband GEORGE is very poorly and MARGARET FRANCIS (LIFT) her husband has been in hospital. We wish CYRIL and Margaret YARDE all the best as they have recently moved.

May all these friends and others not mentioned know the Lord's strengthening and guidance, and the care encouragement of the fellowship.

TEA AND HYMNS Sunday 25th November at 3. 30pm.

Ann M. Norman

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 4th In loving memory of Joe Rebecca, a very dear husband, dad & grandad, from Margaret, Helen & Nigel, Dawn, Jane & Emma;
Mr. & Mrs. Jam Malcolm – In loving memory of Mr. Lou Norris & Mrs. Rene Lee
- 11th Lovely family memories, from Wyn Prodger & family
(Remembrance Sunday)
- 18th Miss Betty Cato - In loving memory of a dear Mother;
Treasured memories of Violet & Cyril Bugg and Jean & Eric Robinson, from Paul, Scott, Gillian & families
- 25th Steven Conybeare & family - In loving memory of a dear Mother & Father-In-Law;
Mr. Thomas Allen – In loving memory of a dear wife;
Eunice & Gerald Hale & family – In memory of loved-ones

Thank You Page

SMARTIES

Fundraising for NOAH



Many thanks to everyone who filled up a Smarties tube with money and returned it to us. You will be pleased to know that the proceeds from the Smarties tubes and cake sale totalled £277.65. A fantastic amount that we will be passing on to the charity NOAH.

Thank you from Girls' Brigade.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who sent me cards and flowers which I received for my 80th birthday.

Linda Hill

Many thanks to Anne and Jill for arranging transport for me to enjoy a lovely Sunday afternoon at Hymns and Prayers plus many thanks for the box of goodies that arrived at my front door later in the week .

James Stevens

LEPROSY MISSION

Thank you to all those with collection boxes for the Leprosy Mission. I was able to bank nearly £50.

I am sorry to say that I have decided not to continue with this anymore and thank everyone who have collected over many years.

Jean Corder

NOVEMBER 2018

**In everything by prayer and petition
let your requests be known to God.**

**A monthly prayer calendar to help
us remember different aspects of
our Church life and beyond.**



TOPICS FOR PRAYER

- Thursday 1st Pray for ourselves as we start a new month
- Friday 2nd Pray for Boys Brigade
- Saturday 3rd Pray for those attending Firework displays
- Sunday 4th Pray for our Parade Service
- Monday 5th Pray for Girls Brigade
- Tuesday 6th Pray for the Ambulance Service
- Wednesday 7th Pray for the Fire Service
- Thursday 8th Pray for the Police Force
- Friday 9th Pray for our Armed Forces
- Saturday 10th Pray for veterans of our services
- Sunday 11th Remembrance Day – Lest We Forget

- Monday 12th Pray for the Red Cross and all the work they do at home and abroad
- Tuesday 13th Pray for LIFT
- Wednesday 14th Pray for the Salvation Army
- Thursday 15th Pray for the Food Bank
- Friday 16th Pray for foster carers
- Saturday 17th Pray for those doing flowers and those who receive them
- Sunday 18th Pray for our Communion service
- Monday 19th Pray for those who care for family members
- Tuesday 20th Pray for Jump
- Wednesday 21st Pray for our Young People away at University
- Thursday 22nd Pray for our Young People still at home

Friday 23 rd	Pray for other churches in the town
Saturday 24 th	Pray for Messy Christmas
Sunday 25 th	Pray for our service led by one of the Elders
Monday 26 th	Pray for looked after children
Tuesday 27 th	Pray for those with money problems
Wednesday 28 th	Pray for those in Hospital
Thursday 29 th	Pray for those who work for the Church in various ways
Friday 30 th	Pray for NOAH and the Night Shelter as the weather turns colder.

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

10.45 am Morning Service
Communic8 and Crèche
6.00 pm Evening Service

Monday

1.00 - 3.00 pm Watercolour Art Club
6.30 - 9.15 pm Girls Brigade (5-18 years)

Tuesday

10.00 -11.30 am **JUMP** (Join Us Mums & Pre-schoolers). During term time
2.00 - 4.00 pm Short mat bowls
8.00 pm Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT)
(2nd & 4th week)
10.00 - 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

Wednesday

9.30 am (1st Week) Open Prayer Meeting

Thursday

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Friday

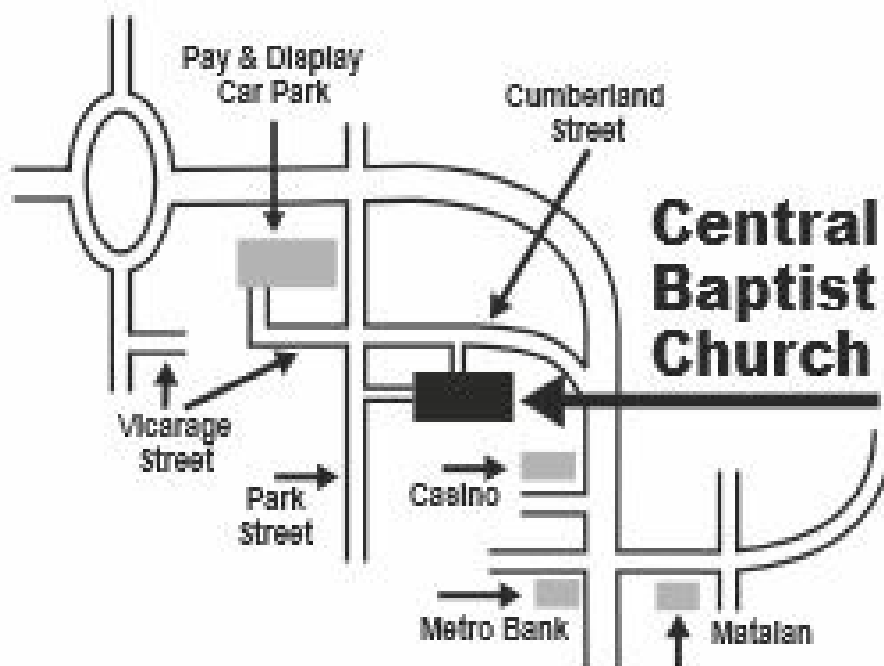
6.45 -9.30 pm Boys Brigade

Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

MINISTER
Rev. Andrew Gale
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY
Erwin Tadiar



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