



nacukie news

Newsletter United Kingdom, Ireland and Isle of Man

September 2020



Foreword

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

'I give,' was the theme our Serving and Leading Team came up with for the postponed UK Church Convention. There were many activities planned around this idea, especially in recognition that Thanksgiving Day would be celebrated in a few weeks after the event.

The sentiment of 'giving' lies at the heart of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, who freely gave His earthly life for our salvation. He teaches us through His example that we should also give gladly and generously whenever we can. All of us have much to give because we have all received much in the first place.

We can first of all think of the grace that we have received through our election and the forgiveness of sins and in turn we want to be gracious and merciful to those who have perhaps failed us or disappointed us in some way.

All of us are given the peace of the risen Lord in every divine service and again are asked to share this very special peace on to those who are in turmoil.

We have a wonderful support network in our ministers and brothers and sisters, and I sincerely hope that you also experience this. What a wonderful gift it is to support

and help one or the other through difficult circumstances.

As we approach Thanksgiving Sunday I think of the hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter,' which some of us may have sung back in our school days. The chorus has the following words:-

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

May this lovely little melody and beautiful words fill our heart and soul in the coming days and weeks, to help us appreciate every good gift which we have received and then be inspired to 'give' what we can to others.

With love and greetings

David Heynes

Life memories

Retired Priest Sandy Ziemski

Retired Priest Sandy Ziemski reflects on his life of faith and shares some experiences.

At the age of 14, I moved from Scotland to New Zealand with my parents and two brothers. Then when I turned 16, I moved via the UK to Toronto in Canada.

I started a commercial apprenticeship with a building company, where I was befriended by a New Apostolic priest who worked there as well. He also was from the UK and had moved out there some years earlier. He told me of the New Apostolic Church and invited me to the services. I was not interested at that time but I believed in God.

Some months later, I was walking past a Christian church which had a billboard outside with a bible text, 'Ask and you shall receive.' I thought I would try out this word, as several days later a colleague at work was selling raffle

tickets. The top prize was \$100 (which is probably about £500 in today's value.) I bought a ticket, went home that day and prayed that if God was really there, He would let me win the first prize, and I could serve Him as a priest but without the long robes!

Guess who won the \$100? Me.

I was a bit dumbstruck really and started to consider matters of faith. I visited the local library, and every Saturday morning I would go there to read the new testament in privacy, from beginning to the end over a period of many months. >



> I was astonished at the many sayings of Jesus and also His promises towards us.

I left the company where I worked after a couple of years, but started to visit many different Christian churches to hear their views and whether I thought they were the right one for me or not. After visiting many of them over a period of months I still wasn't sure of the way ahead, so I prayed for guidance. The first thought awakened in me was why didn't I contact the New Apostolic priest I had formerly known?

I made contact, and two days later I was in a Wednesday night service in Rexdale Church, Toronto. It was a preparatory service for the departed, which the priest informed me wasn't ideal for a guest. But I was adamant that I wanted to attend.

I was taken aback by how personal the sermon was and I thought my friend, the priest, had primed the officiant all about me!

I didn't attend every service for some time, but I had a memorable experience in Bingeman Park, Kitchener, in a youth service held by the District Apostle Kraus. The priest I already knew had taken me there to mix with the many young people. I think I was around 18 years old then.

During the service, I wondered if this was really God speaking or man, and I voiced those words to the priest sitting by

me. I asked the priest whether the New Apostolic Church had people of many different religions? Indeed, if they even had Jewish people?

At that exact moment, the district apostle stopped talking, looked up and said, 'You know, in the New Apostolic Church we have people of many different religions, even Jewish people.' We were both shocked. I met the district apostle some years later in the early 1970's at a youth event in Canada. I told him of my experience during his sermon. He made me tell everyone at the fellowship/youth meeting, which I gladly did.

I was convinced of God's presence then.

My next memorable experience was several years later. I had joined the church in the UK and was a member and subsequently a priest in the Coventry congregation, (where I served for approximately 30 years.)

I was at work in the car industry in Coventry and would regularly testify to my fellow work colleagues of our faith. One lady I spoke to was rattled at my testimony to her. She called me a religious maniac and I was taken aback by her reaction. However, I said to her, 'You can't live forever you know.'

I went home and prayed that God would acknowledge my words to her. Several weeks later she came to see me. She had been on a bus travelling to work



and someone sat next to her, gave her a church invitation card to another denomination, with the words, 'you can't live forever you know,' on it.

Wow....I was taken aback but thrilled at the experience that God had acknowledged me.

I have had several other experiences of faith, but my article would be too long to list everything. I just wanted to share my journey of faith so far, so others can know of God's powers. If any members want to contact me throughout the UK my email address is: sandyziemski@yahoo.co.uk

Best wishes
Your brother in faith,

Sandy Ziemski ■

Introduction

Raising money for the homeless – Brother Art Knappert

Brother Art Knappert is an I.T. professional and has been a huge support in helping with the set-up of the recent YouTube broadcasted services. He is also a regular on the morning "Thought for the Day" calls and over the past months other attendees will have noticed his magnificent and growing beard. We asked him for his reasons for doing this.

Why am I doing this:

While I was working in central London walking between the office in Old Street and Waterloo station, I became aware of a large number of people sleeping rough, all ages were present but distressingly people in their teens and early twenties. For a young person to feel they must leave their home to live on the streets must be severe - and frightening, these people need somewhere safe to get cleaned up and stand on their own two feet. We don't know what their back-story is, but we can help, since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown I've been growing my beard, initially as a back to the office

beard challenge, that has gone on longer than expected. I felt it was important to make this count so came up with a shave for "End Youth Homelessness". I have set a target of £1500 and as of now we are at 44% hopefully I will hit or exceed the target by the 4th of September when the beard will be shaved.

I have been compared to Santa Claus and Fidel Castro (not sure why) some have said they would pay to have me keep the beard and play Santa at Christmas, one little girl in a supermarket said to her mum "look it's Santa", and one work colleague has asked if they could have the beard as they can't grow one!! >



> Who am I:

Just a hardworking man! I have been New Apostolic since '99 soon after I met my wife, Denise. We attend Camberley congregation and can also sometimes be found in Hitchin and occasionally London Central. I'm 52, we live in Bracknell we have 3 grown up children between us and I have 2 granddaughters. I've worked from home all through lockdown as a systems admin for a central London firm.

How can we donate?

Art has registered his charity shave with the online website:
www.justgiving.com

Once on the website enter the following in the search box to find Art.
"Art is shaving his beard"

By the time the newsletter is published the deadline for the shave will have expired but donations will still be accepted and will count towards the total. ■

COVID-19 - Update on the Opening of Churches

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Further to previous articles, I would like to provide you with an update on the plans to open our churches. The latest information from the UK Authorities, published on the 14th August, stipulates that face coverings, with the exception of the serving minister, must be worn by attendees for the length of the stay in the building. We are also following local authority advice which may require additional and stricter measures to contain local outbreaks of the virus.

Provided we can comply with the above, both locally and nationally, we are working on four criteria for the first phase in opening a church building:

- Do we have local ministers who are willing and able to attend and hold services?
- Do we have a reasonable number of brethren who want to attend and are prepared to register their details in advance as required by track and trace?
- Is the Risk Assessment report favourable?
- Do we have a local team who are prepared to manage the registration of members, plus prepare and clean the church both before and after the divine service?

During September the above will be reviewed by the district and local ministers. Initially Camberley and London Central, which are two of our larger buildings, will open from 13th September to any member who wishes to attend and is prepared to register. The Government advice for those that are deemed vulnerable and who are over 70 years of age, also needs to be followed.

Please note the invitation to attend a church service with holy communion is not restricted to the members of that specific congregation but to any member who wishes to attend. Your rector will be able to provide further information on how to register.

All of the above is subject to change as it remains to be seen how the virus will develop and spread during autumn and winter. We therefore need to remain patient as we manage our way through this situation.

With love and greetings

David Heynes

P.S.

Following the statement made by the CMO and PM this afternoon to further restrict social interaction in England, I firmly believe that the New Apostolic Church in the UK and Ireland should follow the spirit of the advice and new law by delaying the planned opening of some of our churches from the 14.9.20 and until further notice. In this way we protect one another as well as our neighbours and the wider communities. I am aware that places of worship (in England) are exempt from the new maximum of 6 people but as we are able to offer online divine services as well as other daily and weekly online activities we are better placed than some other churches to provide for our members and should anyway set an example for our brethren and especially our youth, as well as our neighbours and communities. I know this will be a huge disappointment for those who have registered and had hoped to soon be back in Church but hope we can all understand the reasons behind this difficult decision.