



October 2017 Mend-It

Message from Sarah Bingham

There is a well known saying, 'what goes around comes around'. I think most people see that as a bit like karma – you will be paid back for what you do. Even a superficial look at the world around us seems to deny the truth of that, though. Greedy, selfish people accumulate riches, whilst the poorest go to the wall. Some government policies even seem to promote this kind of social development. Nations exploit other nations and the UN seems powerless to effect change.

We shouldn't be surprised, though, to know that the Bible takes a much longer view of things. God tells His people not to seek revenge – God himself will avenge injustice. God tells His people not to judge others (though we still have to act wisely to protect the vulnerable), since only He can see someone's heart and motivation. All will face judgement one day, but for most it will be after their death.

St. Basil, though, talks of a kind of 'what goes around comes around' that often does seem to hold true. He said, "A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." It may be that you don't have a garden. It may be that your garden is mainly concrete and paving. It may be that your garden is lawn and flowers. Very few of us have gardens now where we eat the produce and share the glut of a good harvest.

By the time this newsletter comes out, we will have had our harvest festival and nearly all the crops will have been gathered in by farmers. Yet we can still be preparing for a harvest in the way St. Basil suggests. If you smile, it encourages others to smile too. If you do a good deed, it may well encourage someone else to, too. If you demonstrate a godly life, acting with courtesy and kindness, that will bring a change to those with whom you interact and also within you. If we all acted that way, our neighbourhoods would be transformed.

Ask yourself this: what have you been sowing recently, and is there a harvest yet?

Rev. Sarah Bingham

BMS World Mission

A few months ago, we met the Mahon family, Dave and Michele and their 3 children before they set off on their mission work in Peru South America, where they are based at Iquitos. To follow their progress and blog, please log into www.bmsworldmission.org/people/dave-mahon or you can send them a letter ,address: Urbanicion los Cerezos, 112 Dpto, 302 Cayma, Arequipa, Peru,
Rev. Fred Stainthorpe

Mend-It

DreamBig course, will be starting on Thursday 28th September and every Thursday , 10am-11am for 10weeks until Thursday 7th December. The course is a motivational coaching programme for Entrepreneurs students, volunteers and members of the community who may have ideas but need a bit of motivation to get started. The course will be run by Natalie Walker. Please see Natalie for more information and how to join.

West Midlands Open College, will be running and delivering a 12 week Accredited Entrepreneurship course every Tuesday at 930am - 1130am .Course tutor John Lukomona. please see John or Kayon Blake for more information.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, runs throughout the month of October. Operation Christmas Child, (**Samaritans Purse**) send shoe boxes filled with gifts for children all over the world.. What goes into a shoe box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. We are looking for a coordinator to organize this year's activities and to ensure the smooth running of collections into the church. If you would like to be this year's coordinator, please see John Jenkinson .

Mend-It Christmas day meal

Volunteers needed - Christmas Day free Community meal. Hosting servers or cooks are required both on the day & the lead up to the day. Please see Jess Selenic .