

Chairman's notes

The meat of this Newsletter lies in what our Schools Workers, Margaret MacCormack and Martha Botros, have been doing and achieving in the schools in the summer term. They have been instrumental in sharing the Christian story with young people in some most remarkable ways. Youngsters now live in a society where such vital matters are too easily squeezed out. So at the end of another school year, I salute what Margaret and Martha have been doing to bring an awareness of Christianity to young people.

I am also grateful to all members of the Management Committee for their continuing commitment and hard work. I offer special thanks to all those individuals and churches supporting our work through regular payments and special donations. As I have said many times, this work will continue only if we have enough support and longer-term regular income to pay our way. I shall return to this existential threat in the next Newsletter....

.... In the meantime, I wonder whether any of our readers and supporters would like to hold a fundraising event for BRAVE – perhaps a coffee morning, a tea party or a garden party?

Finally, please let me know if your church would like to have a talk about BRAVE's work, either during a service or in a church meeting. Either of our Schools workers, or a member of our Management Committee, would be delighted to do this.

Richard Genochio
Chairman, The BRAVE Trust

Margaret's and Martha's reflections

"Children cannot believe in or make up their mind about faith issues if they don't know about them."

We have sought to work at a deeper level with all the schools, which has been challenging and quite revealing. We long that the students should have the opportunity to engage with the truths of Christianity, think them through for themselves and feel free to have an opinion. Children cannot believe in or make up their mind about faith issues if they don't know about them. Many lessons in schools about RE can be very confusing to the child so we

are pleased when we are asked to take such lessons and give them good reasons why Christianity stands up to scrutiny and historical investigation, yet also giving them opportunities to experience God's love for them, to pray and listen for His response to them.

We have been very aware of the sadness of death and separation in Roysia School. The children and staff miss Erica the Deputy Head as her son suddenly died in April and she has not been back to the school since. Many of the children remember the former headmaster Peter Fielden who also died in the spring. The school had an Ofsted inspection and did very well, with Ofsted complementing them on the prevalent team spirit in the school. We try to encourage them all we can. We have taken assemblies regularly in this school but the time is

quite short and often we have to shorten the assembly on the spot.

The Christian rap trio Twelve24 returned to our schools and had an astonishing impact, not just on the children.

At Edwinstree staff, dinner ladies, cooks and caretakers kept coming and standing at the back, listening quietly or dancing to the music. This was the first time Twelve24 had been into Edwinstree and I think everyone was amazed by their professionalism and sound Christian message. Greneway School anticipated the band's visit with great excitement. The whole school assembly at Greneway was memorable. To see 500 people, students, teachers and cleaning staff all bouncing to the music was a great experience. Lead singer Josh commented that the bouncing was going across the hall in an amazing wave that made the hairs on the back of his head stand up. He said he felt that God was certainly moving in the hearts of all gathered.



Keeping up our furious pace until the final week of term we took a selection of 15 Edwinstree pupils to visit St George Cathedral and Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in Stevenage, to explore it as a place of current worship, and also learn about the historical significance of the apostolic church.



Edwinstree pupils meet Fr. Shenouda at Stevenage Apostolic church

"Do not worry" To follow up the visit of Twelve24 in the schools, we held some 'Lunchtime Specials', where the students have shared their experiences having been inspired by the words of the TWELVE 24 band. These children are listening to their CDs of the band's songs and not only enjoying the music but also discussing the meaning of the words. We shared part of Psalm 139 and gave them each a quote from Matthew 6 vs. 25-26 on small cards, showing just how much God loves and cares for us. Whilst a clash of activities has made it more difficult to have these sessions with Roysia pupils we have had some amazing follow up letters from the students and it is obvious that God has been moving in their hearts and in the adults, staff, cooks and dinner ladies alike.

Making time for prayer and reflection. It was good for us to share and in turn learn, from other like-minded individuals engaged in Christian ministry to children/youth. Our day at Ely youth diocesan office was spent in prayer and reflection and thought provoking discussion. Later in the day we were able to have lunch together in the crypt of the cathedral and enjoy a brief bit of sunshine whilst walking within the grounds. We also thoroughly enjoyed our day out on a canal barge earlier in the summer with approx 15 other youth workers within the St Albans diocese. The Bishop of Hertford joined us along the way for Communion and also The Revd Canon Dr Tim Bull who seemed

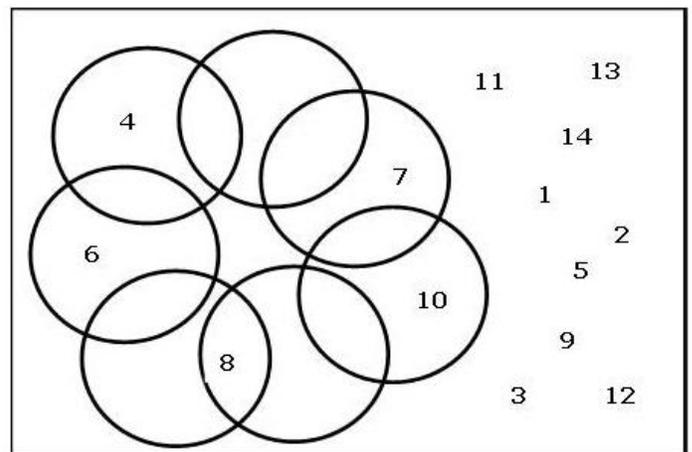
genuinely interested in our work within schools and took time to chat with us.

Thank you for your prayers, support and understanding for this ministry that God has placed on all of our hearts. Children and students are being stirred to listen to God's calling and we are joining in. What a JOY!!!!

Margaret MacCormack and Martha Botros

Summer Puzzle

In last years summer newsletter we had a puzzle on an Olympic theme, which nobody entered. Therefore there's still a wind up torch available as a prize for any bright spark that can solve our summer competition. Numbers have featured heavily in this newsletter, so this time around all you have to do is insert the numbers within the box into the circles so that all the numbers in each of the circles add up to 21.



When you've done that, write your answer in an email, **with the order of the numbers in a clockwise direction**, to the newsletter editor at simonrice@gmail.com. First correct entry wins the torch. Enjoy!

Legacy:

Could you leave a legacy for the BRAVE Trust in your will?

Please contact our Treasurer Mike Maze for further details.

Donations

Planned giving helps us know what money we have to spend in advance and so offers us the greatest benefit. However we are equally happy to receive a one-off payment.

How about organising a coffee morning or other local event in aid of the BRAVE Trust?

Online shopping:

If you shop online you can raise funds **without any additional cost to yourself**. If you or your family shop at Amazon, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Curry's, iTunes or countless other shops online we are missing out on extra cash for the BRAVE Trust.

Not sure how to set it up? Contact Simon (simonqrice@gmail.com), our webmaster, who will help you directly to set it up on your PC.

Corporate Giving:

Many corporate organisations will match a payment from its employees or donate to causes employees are involved.

Charitable

Does your employer operate a scheme that could help the BRAVE Trust?

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*I would like to make a one-off donation of £.....

*I would like to make a regular monthly donation of £.....(*delete as appropriate)

I am a UK tax payer and all donations I make from this date until I notify you otherwise should be treated as Gift Aid donations

Signed.....Name.....

Dated:.....Address.....

Please send your donation to Mr. Mike Maze, BRAVE Trust Treasurer, 16, Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ (Mikefmaze@aol.com)