



28 September, 2016

News:

Nominations sought for the President of the Baptist Union 2018-19

General Secretary the Revd Lynn Green has written to all Baptist ministers, church secretaries, church treasurers, regional teams and email subscribers to inform them the nomination process for the President of the Baptist Union 2018-19 is now open

In the email on Wednesday morning (21 September) she explained that the President may be female or male, lay or ordained, and will be chosen 'because of gifts and experience which will help to communicate our Baptists Together vision and mission priorities'.

She added, 'The President should bring their own unique insights and experience into their leadership, and may feel led to bring a particular emphasis within the overall strategy.

'They will be expected to work closely with the Baptist Steering Group (BSG) and General Secretary in informing and communicating the agreed vision, culture and priorities of Baptists Together.'

The person elected will serve as Vice-President during 2017-18, and will become a member of the BSG Accompanying Group in order to begin to familiarise themselves with our Baptists Together vision, culture and priorities before taking up the lead role during their presidential year.

Our current President is the Revd Rupert Lazar, and he will be succeeded by the Revd Dianne Tidball in May 2017. Rupert's Presidential theme is 'Anointed to Do Good', based on Acts 10:38. More details on his theme is [here](#).

Nominations can be made by an Association in membership of the Union, or by 25 members of the Assembly acting jointly (see [here](#) for more information on who is a member of Assembly.) Voters must have the consent of the nominee before nomination.

New approach for Get in the Picture

Get in the Picture, the ecumenical, evangelistic project which seeks to involve all kinds of people in the Christmas story, has been relaunched with a new approach in 2016

In previous years participating churches have registered their events and uploaded event photos to the Get in the Picture website.

This year there is no central website, so there is now no need for churches to register or pay a fee. In addition they are being encouraged to either:

- take photos on participants' phones/cameras (reducing the need for consent forms as the responsibility for the photos remains with the owner of the phone/camera) or
- have their own photographer and upload the photos they take to your church's website, Facebook page or a separate Instagram account. The changes have been made both to simplify events and keep costs down.

Get in the Picture is an event which invites people to be part of a nativity scene and have their photo taken. Since the idea was started by The Light Project in 2008, many churches across the UK have taken part over the Christmas period.

They have each used this initiative in their own way, but all have been able to engage with passersby and share the real meaning of Christmas with them.

Affordable first aid training for churches

A Baptist minister has created a company to provide first aid and health and safety training for churches and others at cost price

When David Callander became minister-in-training in 2014 at Trinity Baptist Church in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, he found a church without first aiders or up-to-date fire or health and safety policies. 'This is not unusual in churches, especially during an interregnum,' said David, explaining local training companies were charging £150 for a one-day first aid course, per person.

To address this David went back to his secular role – teaching – and formed a company, initially to train his own church volunteers.

Following an on-line survey, it was found that Baptist church health and safety provision in the North West was poor, so the North Western Baptist Association kindly part-funded some training to enable David to teach churches fire safety, manual handling and health and safety courses at Level 2, at cost price.

He has now expanded Churches Training to provide cost price training to all churches, charities and not for profit organisations, as well as to anyone in receipt of benefits.

'We operate as a not for profit social enterprise. As we run at cost price, this has brought the 'per head' cost down to just £35, which has saved churches a fortune in training fees,' he said.

David has recently been inducted as minister at Ilkley Baptist Church in Yorkshire, and is keen to offer the training initiative to other churches throughout the country. He has a colleague in Surrey who is prepared to teach in the South and London, while he is available in the North.

He also sees this as part of his church's mission strategy, as it brings lots of new people into the church, where the majority of the courses are held. 'Many unchurched people on the course have asked about our 'paddling pools' when they have seen them - it starts conversations,' he said.

'Incredible story about ruin and redemption'

A new film documenting the untold story of Christian missionaries saving lives amid tribal genocide in Nigeria 50 years ago is released

The Disturbances tells the actions of the missionaries and local pastors in the country when thousands of people, mostly Igbos and Easterners, were brutally killed in a few days in the fall of 1966 in Northern Nigeria. The death toll would have been higher if they had not taken action to save lives.

Their heroic work has been unknown, primarily because those involved never spoke about what happened - using veiled language and euphemisms, such as "the disturbances," in public reports and statements.

The film has been produced by EthicsDaily.com, a division of the Baptist Center for Ethics (BCE). The producers conducted more than two dozen on-camera interviews, acquired nearly 2,500 documents, slides and photographs, obtained several hours of missionary 8mm and 16mm home movies, worked with roughly a dozen different

denominational, educational and filmic archives, and talked to scores of other witnesses.

Interviewees include missionaries and missionary children with the Assemblies of God, Christian Reformed Church, Church of the Brethren, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Southern Baptist Convention, Sudan Interior Mission and Sudan United Mission, as well as Nigerians.

BCE founder Robert Parham was the child of missionary parents in Nigeria during the genocide. 'What Nigerian pastors and missionaries did to save lives during a time of tribal genocide, in which an estimated 30,000 Igbos and Easterners were brutally killed, is a true story that every Christian ought to know,' he said.

'Simply put: This is an incredible story about ruin and redemption, blood and boldness, denial and dedication, guilt and goodness. The Disturbances is both horrifying and inspiring.'

'The Disturbances is a first-class piece of documentary that recovers a vital piece of history that could have been lost forever,' wrote former Baptist Times editor Mark Woods, now a contributing editor to Christian Today. 'But it's also a window into how Christians responded at a time of terrible danger and distress, and how they remained faithful to their calling.'

'It is not just informative, but inspirational.'

Baptisms

Gilgal Baptist Church, Porthcawl: Rosie Perkins, Nicola Evans, Sammi Ford, Karen Henderson, Owen Griffiths and David Parfitt

Nailsea Baptist Church, Somerset: Jacob Parsons

ShIPLEY Baptist Church, Yorkshire: Abigail Baylis

Stockport Baptist Church: Maryam, Negar, Delsa, Samira, Parisa, Elham, Foad, Ali Reza & Shahram

Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church, Kent: Merlin Sheppard, Ruth Deacon and Mo Akioye

The Baptist Church, Kilmington, Devon: Jed Holmes, Edith Turner

West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church, Croydon: Elizabeth Fung

Death

ISAACS, The Revd Dr Marie, B.D., D.Phil., b. 1936,

Lecturer, scholar, author and for many years Associate Minister and then Minister at Heath

Street Baptist Church, Hampstead, was ordained on 8 December 1962. Marie died after a long illness, bravely borne, at University College Hospital, London, on 9 August 2016. She will be sorely missed by her family and her many friends.

Funeral took place 2 September, 2 pm at Heath Street Baptist Church. Donations may be given to Marie Curie (www.mariecurie.org.uk).