

# EBF peace calls

MILITARY intervention in Syria and Iraq will not solve the underlying issues which have contributed to the rise of Islamic State.

That was the message from Baptists leaders in the Middle East during the recent gathering of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) Council. The EBF represents Baptist churches and Unions both in Europe and the Middle East.

Seven leaders from the latter region were present at last week's EBF meeting in Bucharest, where one whole session was devoted to listening to them describe the challenges – and in some cases, the suffering – of their situations.

'What came across was their consistent faith and trust in God for the continuing life of the churches, even in extreme situations,' reported EBF General Secretary Tony Peck.

'One clear statement which came out of that was that they all felt that airstrikes and military intervention will do little in the longer term to solve the underlying issues which have led to the rise of the Islamic State, and could make them worse.

'They urged the EBF and indeed Western Governments to invest in education and the



alleviation of poverty as the priorities for rebuilding life and trying to establish peace in the Middle East.'

These hopes were expressed in an EBF resolution on the Middle East, which among a number of points, expressed solidarity with Christians and other religious minorities suffering because of multiple conflicts and aggressive persecution, and stated that "the path to achieve peace and to be free of extremism is through Justice, Development, Human Rights and Rule of Law."

This was one of three resolutions made at the Council, which had a general theme of peace and reconciliation.

Russia and Ukraine was the focus of another, which was initially made by the Baptist World Alliance in July and now adopted by the EBF.

One of the Union Vice-Presidents, Igor Bandura described the very difficult situation which exists in eastern

Ukraine. Baptists and other evangelicals have been especially targeted by the Russian-backed rebels because they are seen as Western agents.

The final resolution focused on the centenary of World War 1. The Council paused at noon on Friday for an act of reflection on this centenary, led by Mr Peck along with Christoph Stiba, the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Germany.

Mr Peck said, 'Our Resolutions reflected all three of these parts of our Council, on the Middle East, on Ukraine, and remembering the First World War.

'We certainly want our member Unions to use these among their churches, and also when speaking to their own governments about these situations.

'Our Middle East Representative, Nabil Costa (Lebanon) will continue to update us as to what practical steps we can take to help situations like that of the Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and in Gaza.'

**View the EBF Resolutions:**  
<http://www.ebf.org/council-resolutions>

# Baptist youngsters 'fantastic fundraising effort'

YOUNG people from Eden Church in Penarth have exceeded a fundraising target to help a Ugandan community gain easier access to water.

Initially the youth at Eden Church in Penarth aimed to raise £1,000 in six months for the Tearfund 'One Big Mountain' project.

But thanks to their efforts, they were able to hand over a cheque for £1,500 last week, which minister Simon Jennings described as a 'fantastic achievement'.

The youngsters of the newly-formed church, which is affiliated to the South Wales Baptist Association, were moved by the 'One Big Mountain' film that highlighted the struggle of Doreen and Jouvillet in Kabale District, south-west Uganda.

It showed how the teenage sisters are forced to complete a two-hour round trip down a mountain to collect 20 litres of water, twice a day. Without it their family would have no water to drink, prepare food or wash with.



They set to work on a number of activities: they baked and sold cakes each week, developed a 'loom band' industry, and helped organise and run benefit concerts with the help of Penarth Community Choir and Lewis Merthyr Brass band. These concerts gave them a platform to share about the project and gain the financial support of local residents.

They also encouraged the church to take part in several challenges, one of which was a

sponsored walk up Pen-Y-Fan a mountain in the Brecon Beacons national park. To help identify the plight of the girls they encouraged walkers to carry large bottles of water to the top and back.

'It was a day and a task that everyone who took part won't forget in a hurry,' said Simon.

Tearfund director for Wales, Hywel Meredydd (pictured), visited Eden Church on Sunday 21 September to receive the funds and thanked the young people for their hard work and support.

# 'River of justice' at the NWBA

A RIVER of justice flowed across the North West over the weekend, as the churches of the North Western Baptist Association gathered for their annual forum at Lymm Baptist Church.

NWBA's theme for 2014, drawn from Amos 5:24, is Let Justice Flow. Throughout the year, churches have been invited at the Association Roadshows to share—and celebrate—the stories

of their involvement in issues of faith and justice. The stories have been written up on paper plates in the 'celebration zone,' leading into a communion service together.

On Sunday, those 'streams' of justice flowed together into a showcase of just a few of the organisations working for social justice in the North West. They were beautifully joined together

by worship leader, Tim Judson.

The congregation were further challenged to Let Justice Flow in an unconventional, poetic address by Transitional Regional Minister, Tim Presswood and Co-Principal of Northern Baptist Learning Community, Clare McBeath, whose words flowed and intertwined as the streams of God's justice converge into a mighty flood.

# Three generations of ministers

With his retirement this September, Philip Webb brings to a close a remarkable Baptist family ministry spanning almost a century

WHEN Philip was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1974, he was following in the footsteps of both his father Horace Webb and grandfather Albert Frank Webb.

Albert was born in Bristol in 1884. Baptised and later married in East Street Baptist Church, Bedminster, in 1918 he took up the pastorate of Old Sodbury, Little Sodbury, Yate Rocks and Sherston Baptist churches.

By the time Albert retired in 1947 his son Horace had become the pastor of Hillfields Park, Bristol.

Subsequent pastorates followed at West End Baptist Church, Westbury, Saffron Walden and Wellington, Somerset. And so Philip, born in Bristol to Horace and Lillian, in due course entered the Baptist ministry. July marked the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

Did he know from an early age that he wanted to become a Baptist minister? 'No!' he states. 'Following a family tradition

would have been the worst of reasons for going into ministry.

'I tried very hard not to, but God's call, while I was reading for a Physics degree at Exeter University, ultimately proved irresistible.'

Philip's first pastorate was at Victoria Park, Bristol. From 1980 he worked for the Baptist Union as Secretary of the Lay Preacher's Federation and the Christian Training Programme. There were subsequent pastorates in St Albans, and Maidstone, from 1989 to 2001, during which time his wife Jane was also ordained to the Baptist ministry.

Their final move so far was to Derbyshire when Philip was called to be County Ecumenical Development Officer for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and Jane accepted a call to Hill Street, Swadlincote.

By the time Philip retired in September of this year he had also served four further years in a similar ecumenical role in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

When the churches of that area staged a farewell service it was noted that this was the conclusion of 96 years of



consecutive Baptist ministry by these three generations.

'It has been an incredible privilege for us all to serve God over these many years in so many ways and in such a variety of situations, local, regional and national,' Philip says.

'I am very grateful to all those who have encouraged me and worked with me along the way, and most especially thank God for all the wonderful things we have all seen in His service.'

He adds, 'Stipends may end, but God's calling never does, so I am sure that there will still be many opportunities to serve him in different ways.'

Darren Blaney

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## Pioneer Collective update

THE vision of the Pioneer Collective "to identify, release and resource 400 new Baptist pioneers" was shared at the Baptist Assembly in May.

Since then we have been responding to enquiries and working with the regional associations to encourage those who are coming forward as they explore or embark upon their pioneering journeys.

These individuals range from church members seeking to engage their communities with the gospel in fresh ways, to experienced Baptist ministers sensing a call into a new sphere of ministry and mission.

As the project gains momentum, however, the task of fulfilling this exciting vision now requires up to a day a week of administrative input, and so we are now searching for a new administrator.

Good IT skills are essential, and as you would be working from home, so is the ability to work without constant supervision or direction. The role is currently unpaid, but you would have the reward of contributing to this important initiative.

If you are interested please contact [simon@pioneercollective.org.uk](mailto:simon@pioneercollective.org.uk) or call Simon Goddard on 0845 475 4003.

We obviously also encourage you to contact us if you are exploring whether you are one of those 400 new pioneers.

## The Revd Dr Paul Goodliff

THE Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, who has served the Baptist Union for the last 10 years as the Head of the Ministry Department and, since the restructuring, as Team Leader of the Ministries Team, has stepped down from his role.

However, our Union will continue to benefit from Paul's experience and gifting as an accredited Baptist minister, including his active involvement with several of our working groups.

The Revd Lynn Green,

General Secretary of the Baptist Union, said, 'We wish Paul well with all that future ministry will hold for him as he focuses more on writing and pastoral theology.'

'I would ask our Baptist family to pray for Paul and his family at this time of endings and new beginnings and also for the Ministries Team as they continue to play their part in calling, equipping, releasing and supporting ministers to enable our Union to grow healthy churches in relationship for God's mission.'

### JOBS

**Director, The College of Preachers  
Regional Minister, East Midlands Baptist Association**

For more details visit: [www.baptist.org.uk/jobs](http://www.baptist.org.uk/jobs)

### ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the Revd Gareth Evans and his wife Rosa who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 5 September with family and friends. Gareth is currently pastoral minister at Ararat Baptist Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff. He was Moderator of the South Wales Baptist Association from 2007 to 2012.

### DEATH

**RAY, Monica** - Mrs Monica Ray (nee Flowers) died in hospital in Haywards Heath on Monday 22 September, aged 82. Monica was a member of Baptist churches from her early 20s in Stroud, Acocks Green, Selsdon and Haywards Heath. She served on committees with The Baptist Missionary Society from 1981 - 1992 including General Committee and the Candidate Board. A thanksgiving service will be held at Haywards Heath Baptist Church, West Sussex at 2.30pm on Friday 3 October.

### BAPTISMS

**Bretton Baptist Church, Peterborough:** Sam Merrell and Vinny Singh . . . 2  
**Grays Baptist Church, Essex:** Dave Woolven. . . . . 1  
**Langley Mill Baptist Church, Nottingham:** Chloe and Adam Baldwin . . . 2  
**Newbold Verdon Baptist Church, Leics:** John and Pat Walker, Barry Phillips. . . . . 3  
**Opengate, Bognor Regis:** Benjamin Martin. . . . . 1  
**Wollaston Baptist Church, Northants:** Steve Woodruff, Nathanael Hogg, Ernest Boateng . . . . . 3

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to [phobson@baptist.org.uk](mailto:phobson@baptist.org.uk)

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