OUR THANKS TO MARY AND HELEN

BCM honours two of our longest serving workers for many years spent faithfully reaching boys and girls with the good news about Jesus.

Pages 3 & 8
Rachael and I joined BCM in early 2015, a few months after both of us saw a clear calling to missions and pursued the call with prayer alongside our home church.

We had been heavily involved in youth and young adult work in our home town of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and we each had a passion for helping young people understand and practically apply the gospel to their lives. But until the Lord clearly spoke into our own lives, we frankly had no particular interest in foreign missions!

While Northern Ireland was on our radar as far as potential ministry locations, we weren’t set on it as our destination until after our orientation with BCM in June 2015.

As we heard more about the spiritual and practical needs among the youth of Northern Ireland, as well as BCM’s vision for furthering their current work, we felt clearly that this was indeed where God had been preparing us to serve.

After meeting with the UK Anchor Trust and Northern Ireland’s trustees during a preliminary visit in October 2015, we officially received approval to serve with BCM in Northern Ireland the following January, and after finishing our support raising and receiving our visas, arrived last March.

Over the past nine months we have had the privilege of participating in existing BCM ministries, speaking at many YFs and churches, and beginning new ministries, including weekly and monthly Bible study groups, sports outreaches, and one-on-one discipleship, as well as serving in our local church in Lisburn.

Much of what we have been doing has been simply starting and growing relationships with those around us, both in and outside of church and BCM circles.

Our desire is to see young people growing in relationship with Christ as they study His Word and submit their lives to His leading. We pray that they will obey Him in reaching out to their families and communities alongside local churches.

We trust God to continue raising up a generation that loves Christ and desires to see their families, workplaces, schools and communities transformed by the power of the gospel.

We ask you to pray with us as we develop discipleship ministry and plan Bible studies, outreach and other events to connect with and develop relationships with youth and young adults in Lisburn and beyond.
MARY Barclay has retired after 38 years with BCM International, the latest step in a faith journey that began in her teens through the Open Air Mission at Largs.

Mary became a primary school teacher and would happily have remained in the classroom. But God had other ideas. She was asked to take on the Bible Club in her own church. Soon she was helping out at camp and for several years took on the role of cook.

In 1976 she visited a missionary family in Brazil and while there felt God challenge her about the children of Scotland.

After giving up her post as an assistant head teacher Mary studied at Lebanon Missionary Bible College in Berwick-on-Tweed before working with Bible Clubs around Edinburgh and Falkirk. Leaving teaching was a wrench and she was all too aware that she had no promised support. She did not know how she would get by but trusted God to meet her needs. He spoke to her through Nehemiah 8:10: “Neither be ye sorry for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

God has never let her down.

Her ministry has since taken her to the States, across Europe and to Israel where she had the unexpected surprise of being asked to sing on a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

Mary has also immersed herself in teacher training, leading worship at the piano, counselling, and in a prayer ministry for hurting individuals.

Now with health issues taking their toll Mary is happily entering a new phase of her life. She expects to remain busy in Christ’s service with bookings in her diary until next spring and her ongoing prayer ministry.

The Lord has been Mary’s strength.
BAGS packed and most of the UK missionaries headed for Germany to meet with our fellow workers and their families from throughout Europe.

Our biannual conference was held at a Christian centre in Siegwinden in central Germany where we experienced great German hospitality, good food and the amazing family atmosphere that only a BCM Conference can manage! Time was spent studying Biblical Conflict Resolution with Mike Leister from BCM Germany, praying together in many languages, hearing of specific BCM ministries in Ukraine, Muslim states, Peru and Sri Lanka. Sharing of our work in individual countries with mainly young Germans at our BCM Missions Fayre, praying they will “catch the vision” God has for them...who knows maybe the UK will be part of that.

A visit to Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German whilst in hiding was another highlight for many especially in this the 500th anniversary year of him nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenburg church door.

“Night bites” were delivered by Chuck Powers from France, then after supper, some relaxing fun when folks caught up with each other, shared ministry situations, and played inter generational games before retiring for the night.

All in all a great week when everyone left with plenty to be thankful for, plenty to pray about, plenty to act on and plenty to look forward to in 2019 when God willing we will meet again in France. Why not join us then?

IRENE PAGET
Scotland

As the ministry in Weston-super-Mare drew to a close I asked the Lord what I should do next.

It seemed like it might be the right time to move back to Scotland, to be near family and friends.

The BCM work in Scotland is close to where my family live.
After much calling on the Lord, I applied for a council property in North Lanarkshire.

I prayed that I could be near a bus stop in a small town within walking distance of shops, church etc. The lady at the council called to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3

Ccil warned that it would be hard to obtain a house here.

I just left it with the Lord: “Lord, you know what I need.”

Then it happened out of the blue. “Hello Kathleen” the lad said, “just to let you know there is a house available for you to look at in the town of Kilsyth”.

“Whereabouts?” I asked. “Maxwell Place. Near the town, near the bus stop, near the shops, by the river and within walking distance of the churches.”

Four days later I was the very proud tenant of a house.

What a great and mighty answer beyond my faith and imagination.

Also through the generosity of family, friends and church I was provided with everything I needed for my new home.

It is my palace, so beautiful and peaceful. One verse that stood out during my search was Luke 8:39, “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”

The ministry the Lord has for me will be much the same as before, working with mums and tots, ladies Bible studies, prayer ministry, children’s work and helping my family, especially my brother in Holland who has cancer.

This will all take time but I just want to testify about how much the Lord has done for me.

So watch out for those phone calls - you just don’t know when the Lord will do amazing things.

KATE MACNAB testifies to God’s goodness and mighty provision on her return to Scotland

God’s answer to my prayer

I would like to help BCM reach more children with God’s word and support its missionaries in their valuable work. Please find enclosed a cheque for:

£.................................................................

payable to BCM UK.

I am a UK taxpayer and wish BCM to reclaim tax on this and my future gifts.

I confirm that I pay at least as much income or capital gains tax as will be reclaimed by all charities on my donations in each tax year, including community amateur sports clubs.

(please note that other taxes such as council tax and VAT do not qualify).

Please send me a standing order form to set up regular giving from my bank or building society to BCM UK.

I have arranged to leave BCM UK a legacy.

Please send me details of how I can leave BCM UK a legacy.

Name.................................................................

Address...................................................................

Telephone............................................................

Email.................................................................

Any further comments

Please return to BCM UK, PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 9PP

Take a peek inside Kate’s new home...

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KATE MACNAB testifies to God’s goodness and mighty provision on her return to Scotland
Our longest serving volunteer, Helen Sanders, has had to stop running clubs because of health issues. She has faithfully served God in Bible Clubs for more than 60 years. We give thanks for her and all the children she has reached since she began serving with BCM in 1956. Please pray for Helen as she adjusts to this new phase in her life and as she waits on the Lord to strengthen and guide her. Helen’s years of service were celebrated at an event in Weston-super-Mare in May 2016. Many guests spoke of her great love for children. She became known for being patient with those who showed challenging behaviour. Helen would persevere when others would be tempted to give up.

NEW data protection rules require us to have your written permission to send you future LinkUps. Please email office@bcm.org.uk if you wish to remain on our mailing list.

Deadline for April LinkUp, March 20.

Alister.Blyth@bcm.org.uk

BCM is a faith mission. The work is financed through freewill offerings from faithful people whose hearts are touched by God. Any gifts can be sent to BCM International UK (Anchor) Trust, PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 9PP Tel 07845 174853

Email: office@bcm.org.uk
Follow BCM UK on Facebook. Visit www.bcm.org.uk and click on the top right of the home page.

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