

## SYDENHAM MISSION 2015 [ contd. ]

attendance at the meetings and the singing during them; a passion for souls expressed itself in a variety of ways, the most notable being the prayer meetings that led up to the Mission. There is no doubt that our own souls were fired with fresh zeal over this period; continue to pray that the Lord's Word will produce fruit in the lives of many: His promise cannot be voided (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Special thanks is due to Phil Hartin and his helpers for the sterling work in the Kids Club, to the students of the Whitefield College of the Bible who willingly assisted in outreach and in the meetings, to Chris Armstrong for the supply of the sound system, to those who sang, testified, or helped in any way (Ruth 2:12).



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday, 29 April @ 8.00pm:  
*Annual General Meeting.*

### MEETINGS TODAY

- Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am:

*Conducted by Students of Whitefield College of the Bible*

- Adult Bible Class – 3.10pm (with Rev. Thomas Martin (Lisburn))
- Evening Service – 7.00pm: *Whitefield Students*
- Fellowship Supper – 8.30pm

### INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

*“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance.*

*It is laying hold of His willingness.” [ Martin Luther ].*



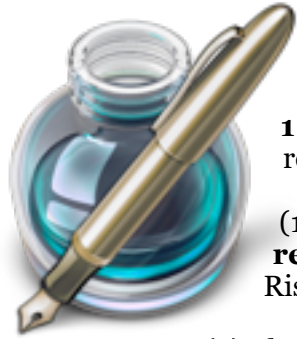
### SYDENHAM MISSION 2015

It seemed like a long time coming, but the Sydenham Mission has now come and gone. I am convinced, however, that the results from this Mission will manifest themselves over many days to come.

The Mission itself was extremely well supported, with attendance rising to over 80; while the Kids Club, after a slow start, reached 17 children (a few parents were also present at the meetings).

Many encouragements have been noted. A willingness to work was evidenced through the distribution of 2500 invitations and Gospel literature in the area over the course of just a few days; a spirit of enthusiasm reflected itself in both the

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## SHALL I EMPTY HANDED BE?

Text: **1 Corinthians 15:58**.

**1 Corinthians 15** is the classic resurrection chapter of the Bible.

(1) First we trace the **Identity of the resurrection**. (Paul reminds us that the Risen Christ was seen by many people).

(2) The **Importance of the resurrection**: if there is no resurrection, then Jesus could not have been raised ... plus ... plus ... everything crumbles into dust! But He **did** rise! The resurrection is *the cornerstone* of our belief.

(3) Finally, Paul points to some of the **Implications of the resurrection**. Principally in **1 Corinthians 15:58**: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

### [1] DEPTH: OUR FOUNDATION.

“Steadfast” ... means, to be deeply rooted / securely anchored.

- Only on Christ; **1 Corinthians 3:11**.
- Through the Word; **Ephesians 2:19-20**.

*His oath, His covenant and blood,  
Support me in the ‘whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand ... .*

### [2] BREADTH: OUR CAUTION.

“Unmoveable” | “immovable” ... to be firmly persistent, with an emphasis on vigilance.

Puritan preacher Richard Sibbes insisted: *“The chief difference, wherein one Christian differeth from another, is watchfulness.”*

In Homer’s Illiad we encounter the story of the nine year war between Greeks and inhabitants of Troy. After nine years of futility Odysseus came up with a plan. He suggested that they build a giant horse and put 100 of best fighting men into and leave it outside the city.

The residents of Troy looked out and saw the big horse and the Greeks heading to their ships to travel home (supposedly). The Trojans concluded it was a peace offering to the Goddess Athena. They were warned by a priest, *“Beware of Greeks bearing gifts”* but they brought the horse into the city anyhow. After a party the residents slept. While they slept the 100 men left the horse signaled the ships and they overran the city.

We must stay on guard. Satan wants nothing more than to derail us in our Christian life. We must remain vigilant. We must continue in the Word of God. We must stay alert.

### [3] LENGTH: OUR ACTION.

*“Always abounding in the work of the Lord.”*

Christianity is practical, not merely theoretical. We have the truth – and everything we do must be according to the truth – but the truth calls for action ... .

We are not wasting our time when we care for others; when we share our faith; when we absorb the pain of past hurts to forgive; when we give of ourselves and our resources to minister in His name. No, we are not wasting our time ... we are investing it.

Neal McAulay posed the question:

*Will I empty-handed be, When beside the crystal sea  
I shall stand before the everlasting throne?  
Must I have a heart of shame, As I answer to my name,  
With no works that my Redeemer there can own.*

NO! ... because ... *“your labour is not in vain”* – vessels that contain nothing / empty handed.