



Youth and Children's News Update

To: All Churches, Ministers, Children's and Youth Workers, Safeguarding Co-ordinators September 2013 Issue 18

WELCOME

I am writing this editorial piece on the 11th September and I am reminded that today is [9/11](#). Currently the news is also focusing on the tensions in Syria with regard to chemical weapons. Other places, such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia have drifted from our news headlines but they are not experiencing life that is peaceful. I am sure you can think of many other places that have popped up on our news screens for a few days and where pictures of war, unrest and the resulting suffering are there for all to see. What do our children and young people make of this? Have you asked them?

How do we help our children, young people and families to understand a God of love in the midst of all these examples of war, fighting and terrorism etc?

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus preached: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matt 5:9) We may feel overwhelmed in a world full of conflict that we cannot do anything to make peace. On the contrary we are called to be peacemakers both in the community and in the church.

We are called to live in peace, we must seek peace and pursue it, we must make every effort to live in peace with everyone, and as far as it depends on us we are to live peaceably with all (1 Cor 7:15, 1 Peter 3:11, Heb 12:14, Rom12:18)

If we lead by example others around us will see lives of peace, churches of peace, and communities of peace and slowly bit by bit a world of peace is a distinct possibility. Our children and young people will have ideas of how to make peace in their families, their schools and their churches. Go on, ask them!

Let us also ensure that we do not forget to pray for peace in the World, our communities and our churches not just in the intercessions of our Sunday

worship but also when we meet with our children, young people and families at other times.

Some of you will remember John Lennon's hit song "Give peace a chance". May we in our ministry with children, young people and families "Give peace a chance"? The hymn "Peace, Perfect Peace" reminds us that one day Jesus will call us to 'heaven's perfect peace'. In the meantime let us remember 'Blessed are the peacemakers'.

Nicola Briggs

The Apostle John knew the value of written communication. He wrote 1 gospel, 3 New Testament Letters, the Book of Revelation and yet it is clear that he preferred face to face communication: 'Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face so that our joy may be complete. (2 Jn 12)

I too enjoy writing to you via newsletters and emails but would love to have more face to face communication with you. Some of you worry that because I live in the Wild West of the district I may have to travel some time to see you. Thank you for your concern, it is appreciated. Please be assured that when I have travelling to do I do my best to collect visits together in a similar area so I may only be down the road from your church!

How can I offer time to your church or circuit? Here are a few ideas, but not an exhaustive list:

- ❖ Core training for new workers or as a refresher
- ❖ helping you to hear the voice of children and young people through their participation in meetings or forums
- ❖ visiting one of your groups and providing constructive feedback
- ❖ preaching appointment - a special occasion such as junior church anniversary, education Sunday are all possibilities

- ❖ time with the church or circuit leadership team to hear your visions and dreams for the work with children, young people and families, perhaps I can help you find the direction to move in
- ❖ assistance with a vision if you are considering employing someone to work with children, young people or families
- ❖ are you thinking about how to reach out to the missing generation (those aged 20-40)? I spent a considerable amount of time researching this area for my Masters Degree last year so please do ask questions, or read the recommendations from my research.

Just a few ways in which I may be able to offer you encouragement, support, training or practical resources. Please do contact me.

SAFEGUARDING (SG) UPDATE

John Marshman our District Safeguarding Officer writes:

'There is a great deal of new material emerging from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). Updates are circulated to the District SG Group, Circuit SG Coordinators and Superintendent Ministers. If you feel left out, please ask me to add your details to my circulation lists.

Please don't feel threatened by these changes; there is more information on the Methodist Church website and feel free to phone or email me with queries. If I don't know the answer, I'll find out and get back to you. Please don't speak to the Connexional SG Office directly but contact me on 07747 613 407 or john@marshman.co.uk

Enquiries about specific disclosure applications are best directed to CAS at Methodist Church House 0207 467 5216 as they deal with all the admin etc.'

'All enquiries concerning training should be directed to Maureen Hudd, Chair of the District SG Group.' 016 3530 108 (yes, that's right - only 10 digits) or maureen.hudd@btinternet.com

3GENERATE

15th – 17th November 2013

3Generate is the Children's and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church. There are a few places left at the time of producing this newsletter in the School Year 4-6 age group and the 18-23 year olds. There is one weekend ticket for a worker to attend 3Generate+. More details can be found at:

<http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/3generate/>

Core Skills Training for Children's & Youth Workers is an ecumenical course for all those who work with children & young people.

Details of forthcoming courses near you:
26th October 2013 at **St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD, 9.30am to 4.30pm**

Programme Planning, Leadership Skills & Spirituality and the Bible

16th November 2013 at **Fareham URC, 18 Osborne Road South, PO16 7DG 10am to 3pm**

Child Development & Programme Planning

Light Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch with you. **Bookings for both of these courses: development@urcwessex.org.uk**

SPECIAL OFFER The Southampton District will pay for one young person from each circuit to attend this year's 3Generate!!!!!!! We currently have only 5 circuits making use of this generous offer. Please don't let cost be the only reason for not attending. Contact Nicola if finances are an issue.



Dorset Nightstop provides emergency overnight accommodation for young homeless people (aged 16-25), in the homes of volunteer hosts who have been trained.

Young people only stay for one night at a time, and will have to be re-referred for a subsequent Nightstop. The maximum number of nights a young person can stay on the scheme is 3 nights within any given period of homelessness.

Nightstop volunteers are ordinary people who want to reduce the problems facing young homeless people. Our hosts have a spare room in their home, which can be used to keep a young person off the streets one night at a time.

A full volunteer information sheet is available on the District Website. For more details please contact Kevin Mounce, Nightstop Co-ordinator on 01305 820783 or kevin.mounce@actionforchildren.org.uk



Methodist Youth President 2014 – 2015

Each year 3Generate, the annual assembly of children and young people in the Methodist Church, elects the new Youth President for the following academic year: could this be you?

**Thinking of taking a year out?
Do you want to make a difference?**

**A full-time paid post, employed by The Methodist Council
from 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015.**

**Have you got what it takes to enable, encourage and
enthuse children and young people, inside and outside of the Church?**



3GENERATE
CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2013



For an application pack,
email.recruitment@methodistchurch.org.uk

Closing Date: Friday 27 September 2013 at noon.
Interview Date: Wednesday 23 October 2013

Salary: £16,985*
(London Weighting is applicable if based in London)
*Salary to be reviewed in September 2013.

**Candidates must be aged between 18 and 23 years of
age as of the start date of their contract.**

Applicants must be available to attend 3Generate 2013,
Fri 15th to Sun 17th November, Pioneer Centre, Cleobury
Mortimer, nr. Kidderminster.

This post will involve some travel and require some
public speaking and committee work. The post-holder
will be required to work from home as well as from
Methodist Church House in London. (All necessary
travel will be funded.)

All applicants must have the right to live and work in
the UK and must hold a current NI number and valid
proof of ID.

This appointment will be made subject to a satisfactory
enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring
Service (formerly CRB).

This post holds an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be
a young person within the age range of 18-23 and a member of the
Methodist Church- Standing Order 250:20(iii) and 250:20(iv), Section 25
Methodist Children and Youth Assembly.

Visit <http://www.southamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/youth/newsletter> to download this newsletter as a PDF document.

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