



Northampton Unitarian News

Number 10, October to December 2005

OUR FAITH (taken from our website)

We believe that:

- everyone has the right to seek truth and meaning for themselves.
- the fundamental tools for doing this are your own life experience, your reflection upon it, your intuitive understanding and the promptings of your own conscience.
- the best place to do this is a community that welcomes you for who you are, complete with your beliefs, doubts and questions.

We offer:

- liberty of conscience and freedom from imposed creed, confessions and dogmas.
- a fellowship where people come together to worship; to share times of celebration and trial; and to help each other in the quest for a faith to live by.

We affirm the universal values of love and compassion, peace, truth and justice.

We welcome all who come to us in the spirit of goodwill and enquiry, regardless of ethnic or religious background, age, gender or sexual orientation.



SERVICE TAKERS FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2005

We meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 10.30 a.m. Except where indicated, service takers are members of the congregation. **(note that our 2nd December service is on 3rd Sunday, not 4th)**

9 th October	Ted Bray (guest service taker)
23 rd October	Family Service, led by Sue Woolley. Theme: Harvest
13 th November	Frank Field – Remembrance Sunday
27 th November	Mark Beaumont
11 th December	Jon Small
18 th December	Family Service, led by Sue Woolley. Theme: Toy Service
25 th December	Christmas gathering at Frank and Marie Field's

All are very welcome!



FAMILY SERVICES

As you may see from the service takers' details on the front page, we have decided to run a Family Service six times a year. This is a new departure for us, and the idea is to have a shorter, child-friendly service, so that those members of the congregation with young families can come along and join in.

The theme of the first service (on 23rd October) is Harvest. We would like all members of the congregation to bring along some item of tinned or dried food, that we can pass on to a local charity in Northampton.

For the second service, we are pinching a leaf out of Unitarian New Meeting Birmingham's book, and holding a Toy Service. This time, we will be asking you to bring along a toy (or toys) in good condition, that can be donated to a children's charity to bring some Christmas cheer to children less fortunate than ourselves.

We would really love these Family Services to become a regular part of the congregational calendar, but their success will depend on YOU, the people with young families.

So please, come and join us! We would love to see you.



KOFI ANNAN AT ST. PAUL'S

The Global Poverty Meeting held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 6th July was truly memorable. 4500 attendees, including 2000 turned away, had been attracted by the Bob Geldof Campaign and the desire to be involved in an historic process.

Keynote speaker, Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, and one of the fathers of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) spoke of his great happiness "very heaven" to be part of this gathering "brought together under God, under one roof and under the banner of the white band of poverty." The period before the G8 meetings at Gleneagles was, he said, a "make or break moment for the MDGs... and for the world's poor."

He gave four reasons why the MDGs made in 2000 had become different from “the broken promises over the past fifty years.”

“For the first time, rich countries have accepted their share of responsibility to support the efforts of poor countries, through more and better aid, debt cancellation and fairer trade”. At the same time developing countries “have accepted their share through improved governance and better use of resources”. Second, “the Goals are people-centred, time-bound and measurable.” We have “clear benchmarks of progress, both globally and on a country-by-country basis”, to track progress and combat corruption and mismanagement. Third, the MDGs have unprecedented political support. They have been endorsed by all (189) Member States of the United Nations, approved by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Fourth, “and most important”: “the MDGs are **achievable**.”

For the purposes of the Goals “extreme poverty” refers to individuals having less than one U.S. dollar a day in order to survive. The first Goal was to halve the estimated number of **one billion people, one in five of the developing world, who exist in extreme poverty**. Over the past 15 years, the number of people in Asia, living in this state, has been cut **by more than a quarter of a billion**. Even in Africa, some countries have sustained growth rates which make the attainment of the main Goals, when combined with better governance and better targeted expenditures on health and education, achievable by 2015. “Yet the very poorest are getting poorer: sub-Saharan Africa is falling seriously short on most of the Goals. In Asia, 700 million people still live on less than a \$1 a day. “Friends, how can anyone sit back knowing this to be the case? **There is no autopilot, no magic of the marketplace, no rising tide in the global economy that will lift all boats...**” “If current trends persist, some of the poorest countries will not be able to meet many, or perhaps any, of the Goals by 2015.”

Dr. Annan reminded his audience that two thirds of the world’s poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture. “That means that we have to end agricultural subsidies in rich countries to give farmers in the developing world a fairer deal...we have to end trade and non-trade barriers that stifle progress towards the MDGs.” “For too long some of the world’s poorest countries have been obliged **to write off their people’s lives in order to service their debt.**”

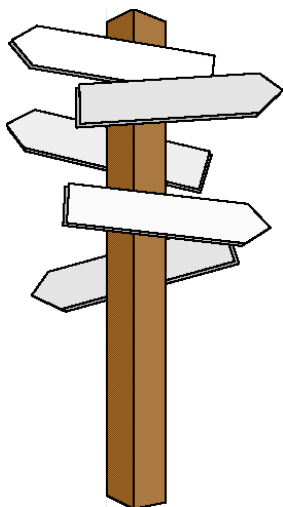
“Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and 2015.” “That is why the mass mobilization we are now seeing is so important.” “There are encouraging signs that the critical ingredient, political will, is emerging.”

“Ladies and gentleman, we have a once in a generation chance to bring about historic, fundamental change....Let history not say about our age, that we were those who were rich in means, but poor in will.”

Space does not permit reports of the outstanding contributions made by the Right Reverend Richard Chartres, Bishop of London; Wahu Kaara, representing African Christian NGOs; Alison Marshall, representing UK NGOs; Paul Myners, representing “the City” and the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer all expressing in powerful and even passionate words, the need to aim for greater Goals than the MDGs and to truly end all poverty.

May I conclude with a personal thought that if this great aim were realized, it would be the greatest achievement in the history of humankind.

SIGNPOSTS BOOK GROUP



Are you on a spiritual journey?
Are you looking for companions along the way?
Would you like to share ideas and insights?

Come along to the Signposts Book Group,

WHERE: 31 Hazelwood Road, Northampton
WHEN: 1st Tuesday of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm

BOOKS FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER MEETINGS
October: *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* by Richard Bach
November: *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot
December: *The Te of Piglet* by Benjamin Hoff

For further information, please ring Sue Woolley on
01604 870746

PLEASE NOTE:
OCTOBER MEETING OF BOOK
GROUP IS ON 11TH OCTOBER,
NOT 4TH



MEDITATION GROUP

There is more than one way of making a spiritual
journey

Come along to the Meditation Group
Led by Northampton Unitarians

WHERE: 31 Hazelwood Road, Northampton

WHEN: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm

THEMES FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER MEETINGS

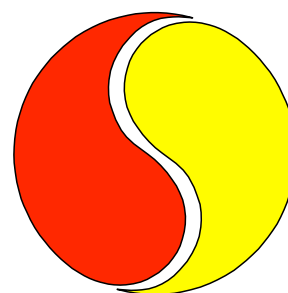
Pathworking through the Psychological Triangle of the
Qabalistic Tree of Life

October: Path 28 Yesod – Netzah

November: Path 30 Yesod – Nod

December: Path 27 Hod - Netzah

For further information, please ring Sue Woolley on
01604 870746



Please send any contributions to
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