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**Newslink
Easter
2018**

From The Community Coordinator:

Writing this Newslink as we approach Easter and in the aftermath of the news of the decision to sell Barnes Close leads my mind to death and resurrection. At Easter we celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Son of God, Our Saviour. We celebrate because it reminds us that death is not the end but because Jesus conquered death there is assurance of life for all eternity for those that believe in Him.



News from Barnes Close

The decision to sell Barnes Close will have come as a shock to many people and as inevitable to others. Within hours of making the news public we were contacted by a Christian couple who would like to continue Christian work at Barnes Close. It is early days yet and they have much to pray about and work out before deciding if they wish to go ahead. However it does look as if resurrection could come and Barnes Close remain as a valuable resource for the Christian community. Furthermore the potential new owners would welcome CfR retaining an office at Barnes Close and using it for Reflection Days and Retreats so the place that is so much at the heart of CfR would still be there for us to use but without the financial responsibility. Meanwhile Sarah, Lisa, Mike, Robert, Ian and the International Volunteers continue to make guests welcome and maintain the buildings and grounds. Help with grass cutting season or generally in the grounds would be very welcome.

CfR Programme (at Barnes Close)

Reflection Days Thursday 19th April, 10th May, 7th June, 12th July. Learning from Women in the Bible.
Cost: £15 per day (includes lunch)

Community Evening at Barnes Close

6.00pm Prayer 6.30pm Meal 7.15pm Meeting

Monday 14th May with Membership, Programme & Marketing Groups

Monday 11th June with Trustees

The Bundle Sunday 8th April 3pm

This was postponed due to snow in December

Based closely on the story of a real woman and her three young children, The Bundle follows Adilah's domestic persecution and denial of human rights in Chechnya. Removed from her Russian homeland by her Chechen father, abducted into a forced marriage and then subjected to a life of servitude, she takes the ultimate risk in plotting her escape to the UK.

Members & Friends Week Monday 18th to Friday 22nd June

A time of relaxation and rest with God and with friends at Barnes Close. Enjoy our convivial hospitality, good company and conversations.

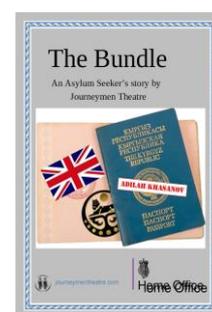
Cost £200 waged, £170 unwaged

CfR Members & Friends Cheese & Wine Evening Wednesday 20th June 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy an evening at Barnes Close with other members & friends, trustees & committee members.

Cost: free but donations welcome

Please contact Ian for booking forms and further information



CfR East Africa Update from Jan Scott

On 7th April each year, Rwandans observe **Genocide Memorial Day** which marks the beginning of the Rwandan Genocide that took the lives of 20% of the country's population. A period of remembering and working for reconciliation lasts a further 100 days. We know the story, but it is good to be reminded of the reason we pray and work for peace and reconciliation in Rwanda.

The Tutsis and Hutus, Rwanda's two large ethnic groups have always suffered conflict. The Hutu used to be the unprivileged majority, while the Tutsi minority had all the political power. On 6th April 1994, Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana was killed when his airplane was shot down and crashed. His assassination sparked the notorious Rwandan Genocide. The following day Rwandan soldiers, police, and militia started to execute key Tutsi and moderate Hutu leaders. The genocide lasted for approximately three months. During this period, an estimated 500,000–1,000,000 Rwandans were killed, most of whom were Tutsi.

The people who are left live with loss - loss of friends and family, loss of homes and economic stability, loss of health both mental and physical, loss of security. Their neighbours will have killed each other and many women will have been raped and are now living with HIV/AIDS.

PHARP Rwanda supports reconciliation workshops and community development. You may have supported our appeal to buy goats - their young are now multiplying your donation and benefitting the community. You may also have supported our appeal to buy pigs for another community - if not, there is still time to do so. We have not yet reached our target and we would like to transfer the money to PHARP before the end of the Memorial Period.

In Nairobi, **Maji Mazuri** continue with their fund raising for the construction of a new school in the Mathare Valley. Recently I watched the film 'Eye in the Sky' with Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman. The Kenyan scenes in this film are set just across the road from the Headstart Academy - a violent flashpoint. The team that work in this area would appreciate your prayers. Your donations help to support them in their everyday work.

Look out for a focus on PHARP Kenya and ICRP Burundi in the next Newslink. Many thanks for all your support.

News from Other Organisations

Christian Aid Week 13th to 20th May 2018 - Together We Are Stronger Than The Storms

Marcelin lost his home and livelihood when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016. 'I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,' he says. He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a tiny space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on. Marcelin has shown incredible resilience in the face of such hardships and is working hard to raise his children alone. **Will you #StandTogether with your global neighbour Marcelin by giving a donation to help build a disaster-proof home in Haiti?** Every day he gets up at dawn to work the land but he's struggling to support his family. The changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and his family often go hungry. He can no longer afford to send all his children to school and is unable to save any money for a new home. So, this Christian Aid Week, will you build hope in Haiti? We know how to make it happen – of the 700 houses we built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed to be repaired after Hurricane Matthew. But we're relying on the kindness of people like you to be able to do more, and reach more of our global neighbours in their hour of need

Contacting the Community for Reconciliation:

🌐: www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk

✉️ cfrpeace@gmail.com

☎️ **01562 710231 (answerphone available)**

✉️ **CfR, Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0RA**

Barnes Close Office hours: Monday - Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm