

## Items for Praise and Prayer

A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12: 39, 40

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.

Psalms 117

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6: 27-31

- Pray for those who experience conflict, in whatever form it may take.
- Pray for those at sea or in the air that they may avoid bad weather and other dangers.
- Pray for those who serve their country that they may return home safely.
- Pray for the strangers in a foreign country that they may find friendship and peace.
- Pray for families left at home, that they be freed of worry.
- Pray for the leaders of the nations, that they may seek peace.
- Offer thanks for those that share the LORD's Word and for those who have yet to know the LORD's Word.

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“Serving those who serve”  
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Dear Christian Friends,

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this edition of the newsletter. We have been very busy in the office over the last month and this has dropped to the bottom of the work-list.

What have we been doing? We are supporting British troops on United Nations peacekeeping duties in South Sudan, sending out New Testaments for their own use and for them to pass on to the local population, including both sides in the conflict. I have also been re-formatting a Bible Study guide written in Roman Hindi, ready for use by troops in India – Hindi is not my first language so this has been a difficult but rewarding project.

#### **ARMED FORCES COVENANT – NMAFBS OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF SUPPORT**

The Armed Forces Covenant came into being in 2000. Though the underlying principles behind the Covenant have been at the core of military thinking for generations, formally declaring support for our Service personnel is surely a proper way to acknowledge the courage and commitment our Armed Forces are called on to display in both peace and war.

It was with this intention that NMAFBS registered its allegiance to the Covenant and our certificate of membership was officially presented to the Ministry of Defence at a special ceremony at St Margaret's Church, Westminster on 10 November 2016.

Vice President, Venerable (AVM) Ray Pentland CB RAF (Ret'd) presented the Certificate to Earl Howe, Minister of State (Defence) watched by representatives from all three Services, including Capt Kevin Shaw RN, Rev Ruth Hake RAF and Sgt Sarah Komen AGC.

In this simple gesture, the Society has pledged to support our Armed Forces in whatever way we can and in whatever circumstances we as a

nation are placed. As an indication of our intent, Lord Howe was shown a copy of the “Veteran’s Bible” which the Society plans to publish in 2018 as part of commemorations for the end of WW1. Our hope is that this may be presented on retirement or other special occasions. We are delighted that General (the Lord) Dannatt has agreed to write a Foreword for this special Bible and thank him for supporting NMAFBS in this way.

## SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES



In these changing times it is encouraging to find that God still stirs hearts with a desire to bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to both military and seafaring communities.

Three new Trustees have recently been voted onto the governing body. All bring valuable knowledge from their respective constituencies, which will surely help the Society fulfil its ministry of sharing God’s word.



**Reverend Karen Bassett.** Changing times indeed! And what a privilege to announce our first female trustee! Karen is CEO of Naval Christian Fellowship, a trustee of AFCU, an Honorary Chaplain to Sea Cadets and to Air Cadets in Portsmouth. On top of that she holds a commission in the RNR. She and her husband, Nick, live in Southsea and we look forward to having her support.

**Squadron Leader Philip Lucas MBCRB RAF .** Until recently Phil worked at Brize Norton as part of the RAF’s Aeromedical Evacuation organisation. In joining our Board, he brings over 20 years of experience as a doctor and also as a pilot. Phil is married to Clare and

they have two school-aged children. It’s good to have more “light blue” representation!



**Stuart Rivers.** An old friend of NMAFBS, Stuart is known to many of our supporters as CEO of Sailors’ Society. In that role he has overseen several major changes that have helped transform the organisation’s standing within the seafaring community. We are very grateful that he has offered to bring his expansive knowledge of seafaring and its challenges to help our Society serve this unique industry. Stuart is married to Carey and they live in Salisbury.

Please pray that as well as helping guide our Society, our new trustees will feel blessed through their involvement with NMAFBS.

## NEW CHAIR

At our Board meeting on 10 Feb 17, trustees unanimously nominated Reverend Simon Springett RNR as Chair of NMAFBS after Squadron Leader Paddy Gallagher stands down on 1 Apr 17.



Simon’s pedigree is unimpeachable: as a long-standing RN Chaplain he served in many roles both at sea and ashore. Prior to retiring from regular service, he was Senior Chaplain at the Royal Marines Training Centre at Lympstone and in that capacity was a consummate user of the Society’s scripture-based material. Over the years, Simon has

been a valuable source of feedback for our staff at Castaway House and it is a delight to think he will continue supporting the Society as he leads both trustees and staff at this exciting time of change. Simon is married with 4 grown-up children and lives in Plymouth.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Matthew