



# Quon Stothers Journey

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Newsletter August 2011



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## Outreach time again. . .

We continue with our visits to the elderly in our community. We recently learned they don't use and don't like the term "shut-ins" as it implies imprisonment against their will. The people enjoy the visits. They get visits all the time from us monthly, the minister, their assigned elder and committee member, their friends, their neighbors, and their relatives. In some churches people decline to become Elders because they don't want "to visit." How sad when we allow this basic consideration of the elderly amongst us, to be avoided. The concept of



the good Samaritan is strong and local people rush to help people in need. We attended Ella's funeral, sister of May Hall, the lady we pick up for church, and the whole extended family welcomed us into their grief with grace and hospitality.

The Kids outreach is the biggest event of our church year. We deliver handbills around the neighborhood and hang a handmade sign on the side of the church and 40 children show up on Monday afternoon and another 10 in the evening. We personally dread the event but afterwards we find it very satisfying.

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Belfast Home Address:

227 Crumlin Road  
Belfast BT14 7DY  
Northern Ireland UK

Berkeley Address:

2600 Warring Street  
Berkeley CA 94704 USA

Donations/Address corrections:  
CTEN

PO Box 291307

Kerrville, TX 78029-1307

Crumlin Road  
Presbyterian Church  
292 Crumlin Road  
Belfast BT 13

Hm ph: (028) 90.291986  
from US

01144.2890.291986

Mobile ph: (075) 99.852567  
from US 01144.7599.852567

Email:

wardstothers@cten.org

Email:

mQstothers@gmail.com



This lesson was about sight. Do you think the kids "got it"?

## *...then Marda's away on a trip*

Our dread is of the energy and unexpected which children bring. This year the theme was the Scripture Union curriculum Xpedition Force. We set up a big tent and the kids loved sitting in it to watch videos.

Great things happened. On the first day a boy of about 9 came in with his aunt and small cousin. He was looking about and would have chewed his fingers off if that could happen. I asked him if he planned to stay and he shook his head

*Special prayer points*

**PRAISE** for special gifts that make up our budget.  
**PRAY** for sustained monthly support.

**Crumlin Road missionaries:** Mark, in Sierra Leone, Peter in Seattle, and Rachel on home leave

**College Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Oakland, Pastor Monte and congregational growth**

**PRAY** for Jack's health which is still troubling him and Gillian caring for her aging parents.

**PRAY** for enablement and inspiration. For poetry which is slow in coming and access to a kiln

**PRAISE** for new friends and weaving relationships.

**PRAISE** for the health system which will send home help to assist us.

**PRAY** for visitors in Sept and Oct. Beattys, Jack Bookwalter, Carolyne Gibson and others.



Deborah with some of the younger kids

called the Vine Centre. Her granny lived around the corner. This visit routine will give structure to the two weeks Marda is away.

Lastly after only one set of visitors this year, we finally have a line-up of people coming from mid September to mid October. First our long time friends and former minister Bill and Beth Beatty after their trip to Scotland, then Jack Bookwalter will return with Terry Ryder from Westdiv and his wife Judy, another Irish Catholic from the Bronx!, and Carolyne Gibson will come to celebrate our wedding anniversary. The rest of you are all welcomed to visit and experience for yourself because being here is different than photos and words. **Come and see!**

no. I stayed with him and told him to try it because it would be fun. He finally agreed and within an hour he was smiling and having a good time. On the last day he said "oh yes I loved it and I'm coming back next year".

The second great thing was our friend Deborah persisted and insisted that we have an evening program for the 10-14 year old kids. She wanted it to run all week because last year they only did one evening. She took responsibility for a sleep over on Saturday in the church so that the children would be there for the Sunday worship service. She also persisted with suggesting and organizing a community BBQ on Friday nights

which we set up outside the back of the church and invited the local neighbors. Money for burgers materialized and neighbors came. This is leadership development. Deborah has taken the three younger members and encouraged them to make things happen. One of them, Danielle has brought her mother to our summer Bible studies.

More about this next month but suffice to say Marda is going on a TRIP. You know what to do. The Belfast Health Trust is providing what they call "respite care". They came and did a carer's assessment, a respite need's assessment, and the diabetic clinic will send a district nurse to administer Ward's insulin. They

apologize that the visits are limited to 15 minutes but from our perspective they are a Godsend. Ward can manage on his own but not as well as we together. The main worker Elaine who comes morning, noon, and the last visit in the evening said her first pregnancy, 18 years ago, was diagnosed here in The Loom, when it was



Danielle had those girls wrapped around her finger