

From the editor

JIMMY Savile. Lance Armstrong. Kings of their respective genres, now with reputations forever tarnished. A question relevant to both is, 'How did they get away with it for so long?'

Times journalist David Walsh, author of four books on the cyclist, has spoken of the general bewilderment at Armstrong's dramatic transformation from also-ran to mountain king in 1999. He went on to win the Tour de France on seven consecutive occasions.

The allegations against Savile now span six decades. It has emerged in both cases that there was widespread suspicion around their respective actions.

People knew, and were either complicit, or chose not to raise it. And for those who attempted to lift the lid, it's clear that both Armstrong and Savile used bullying tactics to silence them.

How many could have been spared Savile's advances had he been brought to account?

Justice is now catching up with Armstrong, thanks to a small number of people brave enough to testify against him.

The Bible speaks regularly of justice, of standing up for the oppressed, of seeking the truth. It is often the most difficult path, but it's the one we must follow.

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Europe church plants

ONE hundred and fifty Baptist churches with 7,000 members have been planted in Europe in the last ten years, through the church planting program of the European Baptist Federation (EBF).

The figures for the Indigenous Mission Partnership (IMP) were announced at the recent EBF Council in Berlin by Daniel Trusiewicz, the coordinator of the work. The majority of these have been in Easter Europe.

The IMP currently supports 60 church planters in 25 countries, ministering to 2,500 members.

A review of the work found strengths and weaknesses. Every

church plant had a social project connected to it, which supported the locals and increased the credibility of the Christian witness, but the church model was heavily marked by the Baptist tradition of having a mother church plant a daughter church. Though successful in many places, the partnership was encouraged to explore new, modern ways of planting churches.

Originally heavily subsidised by Baptist unions in the USA, now more and more European Baptist unions have contributed to the financing, Mr Trusiewicz also revealed.

DEATH

AMIES – Revd Peter: Beloved husband of the late Stella and devoted father to David and Paul, passed away suddenly on 28 September aged 85. Peter's ministry included churches at Beaconsfield, Arnold, Clevedon, Melksham and, for the Baptist Missionary Society, Young Peoples' Secretary in the 60s and, much later, South Western Area Representative until his retirement in 1992.

He loved passing on the Good News through activities, summer schools, holidays and conferences across Europe. Peter's pastoral work continued after his retirement at Dundry Baptist Church and as hon chaplain to the Romahome (motor caravan) Club. Captain Peter F E Amies met Stella while they were both on National Service in the Middle East. They truly had a joint ministry and a love which survived sixty years of marriage.

After just a year, they are reunited and are now resting in peace, together once more. Following the cremation, there will be a thanksgiving service at Clevedon Baptist Church on 24 October at 3.15pm. For full details, and to leave messages and memories, please see www.amies.tel.

BAPTISMS

Barnstaple (Roundswell): Brian Maggs, Johnny Maggs 2
Caerphilly (Mount Carmel): Bill Organ 1
Nottingham (Mansfield Road): Marcus Garvey, Melissa Richards, Callum Watson 3
Oxford (Headington): Yvonne Niyigena 1
Penarth (Tabernacle): Jack Hayward, Daniel Harvey 2
Telford (Dawley): Jessica Newell 1
Thatcham: Lucy Beach, Neil Taylor 2

Total notified 12

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to editor@baptisttimes.co.uk

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A missing generation

TO ATTRACT the missing generation of young adults, churches have been encouraged to be more flexible and show more support for that age group among their congregations.

These are some of the messages that have come out of the inaugural event of the Younger Leaders' Forum of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The Missing event took place in Birmingham on Saturday, aiming to look at why there is a missing generation of 18-30 year olds in our churches, and how to help.

One of the speakers was Dr Rachel Jordan, the associate adviser for Mission and Evangelism for the Church of England and an Associate Missioner with the Fresh Expressions team.

Dr Jordan said the challenge was a daunting one, as only 20 per cent of 20 year olds in the country have had any meaningful relationship with the church.

She spoke of the cultural differences between the church of yesterday and of today, and the need to tap into this generation in a different way.



said, include being more flexible. 'There is a great belief that people need to come to our church, but it's often at a time that doesn't fit, and in a style that's not relevant to the younger generation.'

Churches can also offer prayer, support, encouragement to affirm what the younger people are doing – and 'stop trying to keep them so busy with

church they don't have the time to develop relationships outside of it.'

Hope's youth director Phil Timson was another main speaker. Writing on Twitter, he said, 'What an amazing group of young leaders @missingGen. Inspired by their faithfulness for Jesus. Lord may your Kingdom come.'

Ben Christine of Andover Baptist Church, the current moderator of the YLF, was delighted with the event. 'A lot of people were prayed for, a lot of people came to the event not knowing what to expect, but have gone away encouraged.'

She later praised the YLF and those present as a 'called' generation, who needed much support and encouragement.

'It was a privilege to be there with a wonderful group of young adults,' she told *The Baptist Times*. 'They are the ones who have been called to reach out to their generation.'

'The decline in church across all denominations gets more serious with each generation. Their generation has a daunting challenge – and they need encouraging and resourcing to be fit to make the call.'

The Revd Ian Bunce, head of the BUGB mission department, described it as an 'inspiring' day, adding that the YLF members were 'phenomenal'.

Ways in which churches can help this generation, Mr Bunce

• The YLF will now report its findings, both from the Missing event and www.missinggeneration.com, to Baptist Union Council November.

220 up for the church that almost became a kennel

ONE of the largest and oldest Baptist churches has celebrated 220 years of meeting on its site – despite facing closure just a few years after it was founded.

Gold Hill Baptist Church was established in Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, in 1774 by a Mr Woodward, but his sons did not share their father's faith and planned to turn the chapel into a kennel when he died.

Understandably this unsettled the church members, one of whom decided to build a new chapel on his own land, where the current church now stands.

The cost of this build was high, but after a public appeal, a new chapel was officially opened in 1792.

On Sunday the Revd Malcolm Duncan, current team leader at Gold Hill, preached during the 220-year celebration on Acts 1:15-26, and encouraged the congregation to be thankful to the previous generations of worshippers at Gold Hill, who had combined sacrifice and vision in investing for future generations, and to do likewise



themselves.

Malcolm emphasised that Gold Hill wished to remain at the heart of the local community, serving and fully playing their part.

A celebration cake was part of the proceedings, from Stratton Bakery of Chalfont St Giles, while Terry Cox (pictured with Debbie Duncan, Malcolm's wife) produced a brief history of the church especially for the occasion.

BTG finalist at concert

A GIFTED musician who impressed on *Britain's Got Talent* will be one of the attractions at a youth concert at Barking Baptist Church.

Pianist Paul Gbegbaje reached the final of the show in 2011, stunning judges and audiences alike because he had only taken up the instrument five years previously.

Paul also revealed his interest in music stemmed from avoiding people who were bullying him

for his Christian beliefs.

The concert on 28 October has been arranged as a follow-up to the successful youth concert organised in 2011 in the aftermath of the London riots to draw attention to the more positive aspects of youth culture.

Performers will be drawn from churches and communities in Barking and Dagenham and neighbouring boroughs. The concert will include gospel, jazz, R&B, the spoken word and more.

Filling the shoeboxes

A CHURCH in Kent is in the middle of record-breaking efforts to send gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world.

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) campaign is hoping to reach its 100 millionth child this year. It was launched in the UK at the end of September by Franklin Graham, chief executive of Samaritans' Purse, the charity which oversees OCC.

As it has since 2005 Willesborough Baptist Church, in Ashford, is playing a major role.

Church members Charles and Carolyn Pickford are OCC area co-ordinators for Kent and East Sussex, with responsibility for finding a warehouse and checking more than 20,000 shoeboxes.

The link began in 2005 through Jim and Nicki Archer. The congregation of more than 200 members has been at the forefront of running the warehouse each year, with many people volunteering their time throughout the year to help. The church's craft group meets each fortnight to make additional gifts for the boxes, while the church has been involved in overseas missions with Samaritans' Purse.

Charles said, 'Every year there is a buzz around the church as we approach OCC. It is a wonderful opportunity to actively demonstrate God's love, with outreach into the local communities.'

New Baptist photo-sharing group

PHOTOS of Baptist churches and events can now be shared more freely following the creation of a new group on the photograph sharing website Flickr.

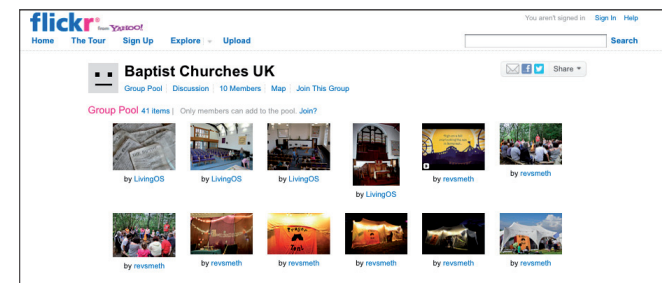
Baptist Churches UK allows photographers to join and share images from their churches on the group page that anyone can access.

Anyone uploading photographs to Flickr has three options to how they are then used by others:

They can give complete access so anyone can download them for free and use them as they wish.

They can assign a Creative Commons Licence to each image which states certain conditions on their use.

Alternatively they could make each photo copyright protected so permission would need to be sought in writing before



reproduction.

The group has been set up by Ian Britton who attends Beacon Lough Baptist Church in Gateshead. Ian is a professional photographer and owns photo website Freefoto.com which allows individuals and charities to download stock images for free.

'This Flickr group is an opportunity for us to share

images of Baptist life that others can use,' says Ian.

'We hope this will help us identify a group of photographers who attend Baptist churches so we can potentially work collaboratively in the future.'

• To visit the Flickr group go to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/ukbaptistchurches>

A NEW global Christian campaign taking a stand against corruption has been launched in London.

EXPOSED – Shining a Light on Corruption has been described by organisers as an 'historic event as it marks the first time in history that leading Christian agencies and organisations have united against one of the major factors contributing to global poverty'.

The launch at Westminster Central Hall,

marked the start of a 12-month campaign of awareness-raising and action.

In the next year millions of people will be mobilised to commit to and promote practical steps for ethical behaviour in business, government, the Church and society as a whole.

It will culminate in a vigil and global call.

• For more visit <http://www.exposed2013.com/>

From the www. baptisttimes.co.uk

Recent stories and comment pieces on *The Baptist Times* website

> Pastoral visitation can be a source of tension and

misunderstanding between minister and members. John Rackley reflects

bit.ly/S37TB8

> Are we in danger of greeting God with a cheery hello on a Sunday, without really getting to know him during the rest of the week?

bit.ly/Tuz4ld

> If we embrace truth without accepting mystery, we risk missing out on all God has to offer

bit.ly/R9mTf

> A small delegation of British Baptists have visited Jamaica to attend a conference on Sam Sharpe

bit.ly/RBDdUH