

TEACHING & NEWS

Challenge Newsletter

From Barratt Ministries

Issue no. 81 July 2008

Cultivating Compassion

"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.
Psalm 145:8

*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.
Matthew 9:36*

*But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, how can the love of God dwell in him?
John 3:17*

If compassion is the key motive to all our ministry and lifestyle then how do we cultivate and increase our compassion? I believe we first have to understand the intensity and cost of this motive for it is not for the faint hearted. It drove Jesus through Gethsemane to the cross and it will be no less costly for us in the sphere that God has called us to.

I have two illustrations that may help us. The first is a story that I heard many years ago and, although the details may have dimmed with the passage of time, the facts will serve us well.

This happened many years ago before the advent of transatlantic air travel. A widow with three sons encouraged the eldest to be a missionary in Africa. He responded to his mother's exhortation and made the long journey by boat and preached the gospel to the natives. News came back a few years later that he had been killed and eaten by cannibals. His mother, far from regretting that she had encouraged him

Radical Christianity Series

to go and risk his life, spoke to the second eldest son and told him he should follow his brother to Africa and fill the shoes that were empty. He responded to the call and made the same trip to that dark continent. It was



Maurice Barratt

only a few years later that the word came back that he had also been a martyr for Christ in the jungles of Africa.

The youngest son then filled the shoes that his brothers had walked in and made the same journey with the encouragement and blessing of his mother. It sounds incredible, but he also met the same fate for preaching the word of God to those steeped in voodoo and animism.

Many years passed and the story somehow caught the attention of the media and this lady was interviewed on the radio. She was asked if it was true that she, a widow, encouraged her three sons to go as missionaries to Africa who were all, at different times, martyred. She admitted that these were the true facts. The interviewer then asked her if, after many years had passed, and with the advantage of hindsight, she had regrets for what she encouraged her sons to do?

She answered that she did have one regret, and she shared it with the listeners. She said, "My one regret is that I did not have another son to send to Africa to fill those empty shoes."

There is no in-between emotion in that statement. Either the lady was hard, callous, and without a mother's feelings, or she was filled with compassion for her Lord and for the natives of Africa.

The second illustration is a vision that my wife, Joanna, had many years ago when we were praying and at a time when God was challenging us on this very subject. I will relate it in the first person. "I was sitting in a small boat on a narrow canal and moving towards a closed portcullis. The gate was not the entrance to a castle but to an open and large lake. My boat stopped at the gate and I noticed an angel at the side who was obviously the gate keeper. I asked if I could go through and the angel asked my reason for wanting to enter the lake. I told him that I wanted to fish, for that was my duty. He surprised me for he said that my motive was not good enough and he could not let me pass. I thought for a while and then asked again if I could enter through the gates into the lake. The angel again asked me my reason and I told him that I needed to catch fish, for many people were hungry and needed food. I felt that my reason was good and expected the angel to let me pass, but the reply was the same. He said that my motive was not good enough and he would not let me pass.

I thought long and hard, and I was thinking of what would be a good enough reason to be allowed into the lake to fish when I noticed an ugly oil slick moving across the lake. I realised that all the fish would be contaminated and I shouted to the angel to let me through the gate. He again asked my motive and I shouted that if I didn't get through the gate to rescue the fish they would be contaminated and all die. The angel quickly jumped into the boat with me, the portcullis opened and the angel said that he would help me to rescue the fish!!"

I find this vision extremely challenging for, as a teacher of

the word of God, I realise that it is not enough to do my duty and fulfil my calling and ministry. I realise that it is also not enough to teach because people need good food and God has blessed me with good food to feed people. My only motive must be that I have compassion for the people that I minister to. I must be willing to give my life for the sheep and not just feed them. To fulfil my ministry and calling is to do God's work, but to have compassion is to fulfil God's will and I am aware that the question Jesus will ask me is, "Have you done the will of your father which is in heaven, or have you just done his work?" My place in the kingdom of heaven will depend on my answer.

How do we cultivate this motive in our everyday lives? This is the all important question and the answer is not a simple formula, but nevertheless, we can understand the things that will help the process. The simplistic answer is to become like Jesus for, if we are like him in character, that is, if we have the fruit of the spirit and live the beatitudes, then we will naturally have the compassion of Christ. It is often not what we do but how we think that helps us the most and I will list three areas where our thinking must be right for us to progress in this vital area of compassion.

1 Learn to love our trials

Jesus told us to leap and dance for joy when the trials come, and James tells us to count it all joy. This is because they know that compassion, and indeed all character, is made in the crucible of our trials. Trials make us meek - teachable, and humble us. A proud

It is not what we
so that matters,
but how we think

Our actions do
not always
match our motives

person will never have compassion. If we blame the devil or people for our trials we will never progress and compassion will never be formed. How can we love and have compassion for our enemies if we are finding fault with them? Jesus asked God to forgive his enemies at the time they were crucifying him. I would call that compassion.

2. We must see ourselves

Unless we have been exposed to ourselves we will never have compassion. We will be judgmental and self righteous, for only when we see ourselves and our weaknesses as God

The order is:
exposure,
confession and
then change.

sees them can we have compassion on other weak people. God can not change anything in my life until I accept that it is there and that it is a problem. For example; how can God deal with my pride if I believe I am humble? The answer is obvious - he can't. I have to be exposed as a proud teacher, I have to confess the fact, and then I be changed. That is always the order - exposure, confession and then change. We must ask God to search our hearts and show us what he finds. The truth about ourselves is the most painful and humiliating experience that we can ever go through, but is a prerequisite for change in our lives and nothing else will achieve it. We will continue to act in a humble manner to cover our pride, not only to others but to ourselves. This is true of all our weaknesses, and the hardness of our hearts will never change to compassion without this process.

3. We must expose ourselves to needs

The last aid is not about attitude but is about action, and unless we combine the attitude with the practical outworking we will not have the balance to achieve what we are seeking - compassion.

It is imperative that we expose ourselves to the needs of others. It is all well and good to see starving children on television and hear their cries for help, but, after we have been moved by their affliction we retire to our warm beds and the safety of our society. We have actually been moved to **do nothing**. Their cries will carry on long into the night. We have to be **moved to do something** if we are moved at all. It is the same when someone tells me that my teaching has challenged them. I feel like asking them, "Challenged to do what?"

We do not have to go to the far reaches of the world and risk our lives to be exposed to the needs, for they are all around us if we care to look. What about visiting a mental home and seeing deranged people? It will give you something to pray and cry about. What about prisons, or a visit to the red light district? There is one in every large city. Have a look at young teenage girls standing on the corner of the street, probably on drugs, selling themselves to any dirty old man who cares to pay the price. No child of four dreams of this career. She has aspirations of being an air hostess, or a nurse, or teacher. These scenes will do more than just give you feelings. They will challenge you to do something at a cost to your comfortable church life. I am not saying that we should visit places that would stumble us, I am just saying that there are always means of exposing ourselves to the needs of others, and if we will not do this then we will never have compassion.

The needs are all around us. When Jesus **saw** the multitudes he was moved with compassion (see Matthew 9:36). I am so glad that I go to the third world and see the poverty and needs. I am so glad that I have ministered in prisons all over Great Britain, for it has changed my outlook and ultimately my actions beyond anything I could have imagined in my proud, arrogant, selfish youth. If you are not a friend of sinners then you are not following Jesus. Other self-satisfied Christians can never motivate you to compassion. They may motivate you to works, but they will never motivate you to God's will, that is the correct motive.

A full version of this message is available on
CD, price **£4.50**, code **SOMCD25**
Ring **0161 224 2620** to order

Projects

Barratt Ministries supports missionary projects & work amongst the poor in several countries of the world



It is a constant challenge for Frank and Louise to feed, clothe and provide schooling for the orphans in their care. But by God's grace we continue to sustain them and are so grateful for all the prayers and financial support that you send to us for this project in Uganda. We will report on the building progress next issue.



Frank Musoke

Report from Martine Kerremans



In one of the projects that "Ayude For A New Day" supports, the Breakthrough Christian Academy is born out of a deep concern for the plight of the poor and needy children of families living in Sitio Veterans and Payatas B3. Impoverished and barely making ends meet, most of the children in these economically disadvantaged families barely make it to school, let alone get a decent opportunity to make a difference in their lives by getting a good and solid Christian education. The influx of almost 1000 children into the children's Christian education of the church in Sitio Veterans has presented an opportunity to make an impact, not only in the spiritual and physical well being of the children, but also prepare them to become God-fearing members of society. Through the help of the Lord, the community-based church in Sitio Veterans opened a scholarship programme. A total of 36 students in both elementary and secondary levels are now able to attend school.

Attending:

Feeding programs: 1st degree malnourished 381, 2 and 3 degree malnourished 544.

JKC kids club: 2730 children.

Grocery packages (Christmas, sponsored by Ayude): 1197 families, and toys to 1883 children.

Medical program: 154 children.

Families ministered to: 1225.

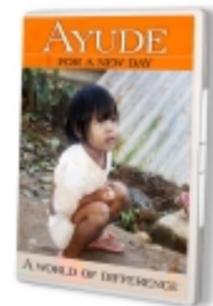
Thanks for all the help,
Sister Martine.

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Steve Mipuri is now director of Ayude. He recently visited Belgium where he discussed setting up a foundation, Ayude Philippines.



A video of Ayude's work in the Philippines is available on request.



If you would like to help with any of our projects, cheques can be made payable to:

Barratt Ministries Uganda, Barratt Ministries Nigeria, or Project India.

Or just make a cheque to **Barratt Ministries** and specify the project you wish to help.

Address and bank details on back page.



Respected and dear Rev. and Sister Maurice Barratt and Saints

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. All is well here and we trust the same with you also. Thank you for your precious prayers for the ministry here. We appreciate your love for us.

We have been experiencing immense heat during the summer this year. The temperature has already reached 49 degrees Celsius and still we have one full month for the rains to come. It is only God's protecting hands on us that we all are well when around us so many people are dying due to heat and its effects. A generator is very much needed in the School campus. Please pray for this need.

God has been blessing the ministry. A few hindus are attending our church, one family has believed that Jesus Christ is the only living and true God and boldly removed all the idols from their house and threw them in the river. We all went to their house and prayed and strengthened them. We look forward for them to be baptized. They were very strong hindus. All glory to God. Please pray for them.

As we have started conducting street meetings every Tuesday and Friday and God's words are being preached, many are showing interest to come to the church. After the meetings many invite us to their houses to pray for them and we invite them to the church. Seed of the word of God is being sown and we need your prayers.

One of our senior pastors has slept in the Lord last week. God willing, me and my wife plan to visit USA in the month of July.

Please continue to pray for us. You are in our prayers.

With regards,
Humbly in Jesus Christ.

A.S.W. Jaikumar.



On Friday 4th April, 2008, we got an Inspection Notice from the Ministry of Physical Planning and Development that the Officials of the Government Agency were coming to visit the Orphanage Building site for inspection to verify how far we have complied with the State Building Codes.

The Agency has absolute authority in the state to order that building projects be stopped temporarily, indefinitely, or marked for demolition whereby they feel such structure could cause hazard to the public.

However, to the best of our knowledge, we have complied with the laid down state's Building Codes, but we still needed to call on friends to join us in prayers as we were patiently waiting for the visit, as the officials could give whatever comments they feel like.

The following Wednesday, which was 9th April, at about 10.35am, four officials from the Agency showed up at the site where we were already waiting to receive them. They thoroughly inspected all parts of the building and to the glory of God; they found no faults, but rather commend our efforts.

They further advised that we should build concrete slabs in the roof for the **WATER TANKS** before we put the roof on the building instead of using the usual **METAL SCAFFOLDING** that is predominantly used here considering the safety of the children.

We however, thanked them for their visit and assured them that we will make use of their professional advice.

And finally, we are thanking God and also those who fervently prayed with us for the success of the inspection.

To God be the glory!



Surakat & Nike Nuradeen



Recent photos of the building progress.

When The "Need" Becomes Personal, It's A Call

Funny how things happen, isn't it? You make an unpremeditated decision somewhere down the line and you end up doing something completely different to what you first had in mind when you started out.

Maurice is not an evangelist so he doesn't lose sleep at night crying about lost souls. His heart cries for those in the church who call themselves Christians and yet live just like the world, because he is a teacher. These Christians wear the same fashion; listen to the same music; participate in the same activities; talk the same talk; walk the same walk and have the same life style as the very people who oppose God, and Maurice yearns to teach them the difference between - Christianity (as a religion) and discipleship (the need to be separate and holy for God's purposes). Maurice knows his calling and so never accepts invitations to preach the gospel, only to teach.



by **Joanna Barratt**

already made a promise to God that, if asked to teach and not preach, we would go wherever we were invited, so we gave him our word.

Ministering to people in the Third World was not what we had envisaged doing, it was certainly not something that appealed to us. Nothing really prepares you for the incessant heat and putrid stench of those dusty roads. You can't get away from it. But God was very gracious and our host knew how to look after Westerners. We were provided with air-conditioned accommodation which housed a fridge and a western toilet, this was such a blessing. Samuel apologised for the fact he didn't, as yet, have hot running water for our shower, but we stressed over and over again how grateful we were for the cold water which hit us every day ... And we meant it!

Because people are poor we tend to think that they are also uneducated and simple, but I was very impressed by the tremendous hunger these people had for the word of God. They soaked up everything Maurice had to teach them. They wrote pages and pages of notes because they wanted to make sure they remembered the teaching to pass on to their own congregations. It was wonderful to minister to these people, it's no wonder Jesus told John the Baptist's disciples to tell John that the poor had the gospel preached unto them. As we fellowshiped, shared meals

and warmly hugged these 'untouchables', our hearts opened up to them and both Maurice and I learned to truly love and appreciate them. Their simplicity was so refreshing. God notices and cares about poor people even though others with better social status often ignore and abuse them.

Some time after our trip to India we were contacted by a man from Nigeria. We had received many invitations from that country asking us to preach the gospel and hold mass crusades, but this was different. For some time, apparently, this Nigerian brother had been translating our newsletters into local dialects, duplicating, and sending them out to neighbouring countries at his own expense. Because of this he was requesting that he could call himself 'Barratt Ministries Nigeria' and be our representative. We felt we could not permit this unless we had met him personally so made arrangements to pay him a visit. We said we wouldn't stay in a hotel or guest house, we would very much like him to accommodate us in his home. We didn't say so, but we really wanted to vet him.

The plane landed in Lagos and Surakat rejoiced when he saw us at the airport. He and his family were so happy to have us in their car with them. What first hit us was the oppressive heat plus the roads - or should I say potholes connected with tarmac. The ride was terribly bumpy and took ages because we had to go so slow to avoid the suspension being completely ruined. But it was when we turned off the main roads and began to drive down the dirt tracks that I really began to fear. I looked at the tiny shacks we passed to the right and left and wondered where on earth we were being taken. Surakat lived in the poor district so that he could help those with needs. He actually had a good job and could live in a nice area, but this is what he felt Christianity was about, so he was putting his faith into practice.

I thanked God from the bottom of my heart when we arrived at his home for he lived in a brick building which had a western toilet. What a blessing! No running water, we had to fill the tank every time we wanted to flush the loo,

but we didn't have to find a hole somewhere outside. Surakat gave Maurice and I his family bed and he and his family slept on the floor in the living area. They had worn out furniture and a thin carpet which had been given to them before being thrown out by people Surakat worked for. They even had a fridge and an overhead fan, but as their share of electricity was only 1 or 2 hours per day due to 'power sharing' we didn't manage to enjoy the benefit of these luxuries very much. When the electricity went off the main room was lit by a single torch bulb which had been rigged up to a battery. All we could see was the whites of our friends' eyes and their teeth when they smiled. When we moved to other rooms we had to take a torch with us. Yet Surakat and his family felt so blessed because God had given to them things that others around them didn't have, and they did what they could to relieve the suffering of their neighbours by giving them food and other aids. What we hadn't been aware of was that Surakat had been really glad of this opportunity to host us as he had wanted to see if we lived what we preached ... He had wanted to vet us! How grateful we were to hear that we had passed the test. Nike, Surakat's wife, even went so far as to say that we had been far less trouble than her own family, and that was praise indeed.

As Surakat was a police detective, a year prior to our visit he had been sent to investigate some riots which had taken place in Kaduna, in the north of Nigeria. There had been some terrible tragedies when militant Muslims had persecuted Christians. Churches had been destroyed and many pastors and believers had been killed or badly mutilated. A youth choir had been practicing in one of the church buildings when the Muslims had locked the doors and set fire to the place. They had all been burned alive. Surakat saw the results of the massacre and had been burdened to help the children who had seen their parents butchered. As it happened, we had already seen video footage of what had taken place because a missionary had asked us to help him make a film of the incident, so we had a keen interest. Surakat had a strong desire to build an orphanage in Lagos for these traumatised children where it was safe from Muslim persecution and we decided to help him realise his dream. We came home to England and got a friend to draw up plans for the proposed orphanage, put out the word that we needed financial aid, and the project got under way.

The very next year we were approached by Frank, a young Pastor from Uganda, who wanted Maurice to teach discipleship in his local churches. We again responded positively to the request and told the man we would like to be accommodated in his home during our visit. Unfortunately, he said his house was too small, and nobody in his church had room either. He booked us into a very modest bed and breakfast guest house and came to meet us each day, sometimes 2-3 hours before we were due to leave for the meetings, just so that he could listen to us and glean as much as possible whilst he had the opportunity. He was hungry, not only for spiritual food, but he was very thin and very hungry for natural food. I wasn't used to eating a breakfast so I would pack up the things I would have eaten in serviettes and passed them on to him. He took these home to his family and was very grateful for them.

One day he invited us to visit his home to meet his family and share a meal with them. His wife, Stella, was pregnant with her first child and was cooking our food out on the tiny porch on a little camping stove. She didn't have a kitchen, indeed she didn't have a lot of things! Frank's house comprised 2 rooms, the lounge and bedroom. No bathroom, toilet, kitchen, but he felt very blessed indeed because the house was made of brick which meant that it was watertight in the rainy season, and rat free. We sat on the sofa in his lounge and his wife brought our food, then a little group of children gathered around and stared at us as we began to eat. I thought these were children from the neighbourhood who had been inquisitive and come in to stare at white faces as they'd never seen them before. But I was amazed to learn that these children belonged to Frank. His wife had taken them under her wing and was already supporting them before she was married, so now Frank had

inherited them when he took on his new wife. He had taken in 10 orphans, the parents of whom had either died from AIDS or were too poor to feed them. I was astounded! "Where do they all sleep?" I asked. He just moved his hands round in a gesture to say, "Anywhere!" They weren't particular. Wherever there was space, there they slept.

This was so new to me. In the West we give to the poor from our excess, but here they were helping the poor because they had experienced poverty themselves and knew what it was like. Frank was so thin. Everyone knew Pastors were amongst the poorest of the poor and didn't earn much money, yet his heart couldn't refuse to help when asked, even though he was in such a desperate situation himself. Maurice and I knew we had to help. We had no money of our own as we also were in the ministry, but we had friends, and a voice, and opportunities to make our voice heard. We promised Frank that we would do what we could to help and so far we have been able to raise the funds to build him a temporary half way house which was twice as big as the house we visited. We are in the process now of building a proper orphanage right next door to the half way house which will give the children space, and no doubt Frank will crowd it with even more of the children he finds on the streets.

Just this week I was talking with a policewoman who was sharing with me some of the every day problems she meets with in her job as she 'walks the beat'. She was telling me how she listens to some very tragic stories and witnesses some very awful things, but at the end of the day she can put it all behind her, and when she leaves the Police Station, she leaves the worries of the day behind her. They are professional worries, not personal ones. Often we can become hard to the heart cries of other people. Seeing so many desperate needs on the television has in fact desensitised us to the horrors of what they experience because they are just shadows on a screen which we can shut off by pressing a button - they are not really our concern. Surakat could have felt the same way about the children up in Kaduna, Frank could have felt the same way about the orphaned children left to fend for themselves on the streets, but somehow God had given them a revelation of the **needs** of others, which ended up as a '**call**' for help. If your heart is open you can guarantee that God will fill it ... Often to overflowing. It can be very painful sharing someone else's problem, but 'a problem shared is a problem halved', and your care could be the means of lightening someone else's very heavy load.

A problem
shared is a
problem halved

EVENTS DIARY

Maurice Barratt's Regular Teaching:

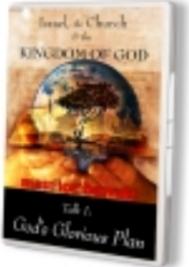
Mon	Eagley Bank, Shawforth, Rochdale, 8.00pm (Geoff Bates every other week)	☎ Gail Barrett	0161 224 2620
Mon	2 Springfield Way, York YO31 1HL.	☎ Maggie Redpath	0785 545 2617
Tue:	14 Perth Avenue, Higher Ince, Wigan WN2 2HJ, 8.00pm	☎ Geoff Hemersley	0194 223 0845
Wed:	3 Pavillion Court, Earlstown WA12 9GD, 8.00pm	☎ Steve Pilkington	0194 267 4519
Thu:	66 Hartwell Road, Stoke on Trent ST3 7BD, 7.45 pm	☎ Mark & Ilsa Jordan	0178 233 0309

Coming Events:

Sat 5th July	Barratt Ministries Joint Fellowship The Disbury, 825 Wimslow Road, Manchester M20 2SG	☎ Barratt Ministries	0161 224 2620
Sun 6th July	M : At New Beginnings Church St. Cuthbert's Close, Preston	☎ Solomon	0177 276 1055
Sat 14th June+ Sat 12th July	M & J : At IMF. Unit 5-6 Mulberry Business Centre Quebec Way, Surey Quays SE16 7LB	☎ Leonard Amechi	0794 701 4969
Thu 26th June+ Thu 31st July	M : Teaching at the Methodist Church Main Street, Dorrington, Lincs	☎ John Parks	0152 683 0737
Fri 8th - Tue 12th August	M : Teaching and bookwriting in Belgium	☎ Barratt Ministries	0161 224 2620

first barratt ministries conference

We held our first ever conference at the end of April and we were very encouraged with the attendance and from the comments after the conference had ended. The subject was "Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God" and Maurice managed to complete his first book in this series for the conference. People reported that they had been encouraged and motivated and many testimonies were given of healings, restored marriages, and a better understanding of God's plan. We filmed the conference and the 6 teachings are available on DVD and CD. We thank God for the way everything has worked out to plan and we are holding a second conference in October to continue on the subject of "Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God". More details will be available in the next issue.

<p>Israel, the Church & the KINGDOM OF GOD</p> <p>DVD'S £7.00 CDS: £4.50</p> <p>Each DVD/CD contains a 60 minute message</p>	God's Glorious Plan.....	ICKD1	ICKCD1	
	Finding A Wife	ICKD2	ICKCD2	
	Marriage & Divorce	ICKD3	ICKCD3	
	Israel In Babylon	ICKD4	ICKCD4	
	Jesus - Prophet, Priest & King	ICKD5	ICKCD5	
	Jesus & the New Covenant	ICKD6	ICKCD6	

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