



A fun summer...

As promised, here is issue 2 of CCN News - your chance to catch up on the latest news from Community Church Northampton. We have slowly emerged from various summer activities unscathed! By all accounts lots of fun was had by all, with many a trip to France to enjoy good weather, good food [and apparently they sell wine...]. The Whites somewhat bucked the trend here by taking their holidays in Zambia, see Catherine's report below. Over the Autumn we are looking forward to more **JFC** and the launching of "Interest groups". Let us know if you fancy joining in!!

My Holiday in Zambia by Catherine White, age 12

I visited Zambia in Southern Africa with my family this summer. We went there because my parents sponsor a child through World Vision called Enerst Mwanza who is 10. I didn't want to go at first because it is not the usual sort of place for a holiday and although I hate to admit it, I was a little bit scared. However, it was seriously much better than Spain or somewhere like that. When I visited Enerst, something inside me was saying oh my gosh, this is not fair. His family had about 15 - 20 children and they were living in a hut the size of someone's living room. We sat outside on straw mats when we first met them because they had no chairs. When we gave them their gifts, the babies especially, their faces lit up with this gorgeous little smile.

We also visited a school there where we stayed for a couple of hours and it was the best ever time. The children there were of all different ages and they were all dressed in rags and none of them had shoes. Some of them had large bellies and little stick bodies (signs of malnutrition) and others were painfully thin. However, it seemed like they had everything in the world because they were so happy. They never stopped laughing or smiling. We had running and jumping races with them and it was so different to England. They have no worldly possessions to call their own but they seem to be happy. Everyone in Zambia is so friendly and open, it was a nice place to be.

However, there were exceptions, as always. Whilst in Zambia we visited Livingstone, where they have the amazing Victoria Falls. Although it is Zambia's only tourist town, there was still so much poverty. We were in our hired car once whilst dad and our driver were changing money, and arguing, with some dodgy people who had given him a fake \$100 note. Then this boy of about 12 or 13 walked past begging. He looked so weak and he was alone. He brushed his fingers against the window and leant on the car. He must have known some English because he was mouthing 'Please'. I looked at him and I saw desperation in his eyes and in his whole body. He looked desperate and so hungry. I actually wanted to cry. Anyway, the dodgy men yelled something at him in African and he drifted away. My sister said that he looked dead which just about describes it. There is seriously something not right about some of that poverty which is why me and my sisters are raising money for World Vision who will help people like those. Children just like me who deserve to have a life.

Before we know it...

Before we know it Christmas will be here. Already the shops are edging Christmas goods onto the shelves! CCN is planning an alternative build-up to Christmas thro' December so we don't get swept along helplessly through the season, but make the most of it! Watch out for details in November.

*Next CCN Family Meeting: 6th November, 10.30am, Parklands Community Centre. ALL WELCOME!
"A relaxed family worship gathering with provision for all ages"
Get more news and information at www.ccn-online.org.uk*



Our Friday evening club for 5-11 year olds has re-

commenced. At the end of last term we said a sad farewell to Colin, who has been part of the team for 3 years. However, we have taken the opportunity to involve the older youth in the running of the evening and involve others in helping. This gives us great opportunities for the future. Thanks to all those involved!

INTEREST GROUPS

Now, don't get me wrong here, all the groups we run are 'interesting'! However we thought that we would make some space over the Autumn to develop these interests a little more and take the opportunity to make some new friends. These are the groups we are planning so far:



5-a-side Football: Thursday, Benham Sports Arena. Mixed ability, good fun competitive kick around.



Card-making: express those creative talents by making greetings cards for many occasions (eg Christmas) using different techniques.



Painting: it doesn't matter whether you think you can paint or not, everyone can with a little tuition. Go on, give it a shot!



Media: come and enjoy (projected) films & music and talk about what we do and don't like about them. Oh and eating popcorn.



Badminton: come along for a knock around with people of varying skill levels. See website for more details.

The groups will be running through October and November. Everyone is welcome to any evenings they can make, so if you fancy them, give Mark and Maddy a call on 646393 or see the church website for more details.