

FOCUS



the
magazine
of

SANDES

Soldiers' & Airmen's Centres
July – September 2019



Inside this issue of **FOCUS**:

- ◆ Reports from the Centres
- ◆ Prayer notes
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The situation on our front cover this issue is one that many of us would hope to never have to be in! Would we have the courage to step out of the plane, trusting that our parachute would open in time to enable us to safely land on solid ground? Would we have faith in the person who packed the parachute for us? Would we have faith in our own ability if something went wrong? What awaits us when we land?

The writer to the Hebrews said in 11:1-2 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for." The incredible thing about faith is that spiritually speaking, it grants us the capacity to step out into the unknown and experience a future reality which we will not see unless we take that initial step of faith. Faith therefore allows us to experience the joy of God's promises here and now, long before they ever take place. The vision becomes so real in our minds that it can seem we are already there.

Abraham had incredible faith as he stepped out on that long road from Ur of the Chaldees all the way to the promised land. Without a doubt it was the vision of what God had revealed to him that kept him on the right path. Even when Abraham arrived in the physical land of Canaan, we read how Abraham kept seeing new visions. He could see that this amazing land that he was standing on, wasn't the totality of God's blessings that were in store for him. God had revealed another land to him and without a doubt this vision totally altered how he lived out his life on Earth. The Bible says "By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

What motivated Abraham to live the way he did? Was it because he enjoyed camping? Of course not. It was because he could see that there was no point in gathering up too much baggage along the way because by faith, he had already seen the eternal city God had prepared for him.

Faith is all about seeing things that have not yet come to pass. It's all about revelations and dreams. Like Abraham, Joseph also was a man of vision and dreams. God continually revealed the future to him and he persistently believed it to be true. It was this conviction that kept Joseph afloat throughout many hardships. The writer to the Hebrews also listed Joseph among the heroes of faith.

contd. over.....

"By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones." Many might have said, "he is just a dreamer. Nothing will ever come of his dreams! He spends his life dreaming." Most of the time dreamers don't go very far in life. They live their lives retreating into imaginary places to escape the painful reality of a fallen world. But the difference between a dreamer and a visionary is that the latter does not just create wishful situations in his mind. But he sees real events, places, situations and people, that today others around him can't imagine in their wildest dreams. What have you put your faith in, the temporary dreams of this world, or the permanent things of the next?

This year we celebrate 150 years since a faithful young lady called Elise Sandes stepped out in faith to realise her vision to care for the young soldiers in Tralee, which led to the Sandes mission to soldiers and airmen being formed. Her vision grew from a room in her mother's home to at one time having 70 centres across the world. Wherever the British Army served, there was a Sandes home for soldiers to relax and unwind, experience loving care and to have the Gospel shared with them. That vision is carried on today currently in five centres across the United Kingdom. One hundred and fifty years later, soldiers of all ages come to their local Sandes Centre for good food and hospitality, a chance to have a break from the rigours of Army life and to experience the warmth of Christian love.

Sandes is unique in what it provides for today's soldier and in this changing world, we do not know what lies ahead, but we continue to pray in faith that the vision of Miss Sandes will continue to shine the light of Christ into the lives of our Armed Forces here in the U.K. Please continue to support this mission prayerfully and practically.

Gary Robb

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

If you are hoping to join us on September 28 for the Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service it is essential that we know you are coming!

Places are strictly limited and we must have a record of the names of those who wish to attend.

Please confirm with Donna in Head Office that you require your name to be on the Guest List either by calling on 028 9050 0250 or via email on admin@sandes.org.uk

FOCUS

on

Hollywood



Malachi 3:6 – I am the Lord I change not

Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

Our world and everything in it is constantly changing. Political leaders change and governments change, clothing styles and trends come and go, friendships wax and wane our bodies mature, and even the earth itself shifts and moves constantly. You have guessed it; we live in a world of change! That can be frightening. Therefore, in the midst of this ever-changing world, it is a real comfort to know that I have a never changing God.

Change continues to be part of the ongoing life in the Army and it is during these times of change that some of the lads and families come to Sandes and invite us to become part of their ever-changing lives. Change regarding health issues, relationships and family concerns. As part of the ongoing work of Sandes we seek to encourage and bring comfort to them by being that all important listening ear, offering prayer and Christian literature. How humbling it is to be part of their lives and to be taken into their confidence.

It is also very encouraging to see that Sandes has become the meeting place for many of the



Soldiers relaxing in Sandes

events that take place on camp. It's during such occasions that sometimes we are able to spend a few moments of quality time with the lads of 1 Scots, as well as those from other units. We make them aware of all that Sandes has to offer. Very often, we are asked the cost of buying a Bible and they are surprised when I tell them that the literature is free and they are very welcome to help themselves! Pray with us for wisdom and sensitivity as we talk with the soldiers and that these relationships would grow and bear fruit to the glory of God.

In changing times, in faith, we continue to look to God for those all-important divine appointments. During April, I had the privilege of once again officiating at the U.D.R. Day Remembrance Service . At the end of the service, over a cup of tea I was asked for several U.D.R. Bibles and dog tags. Old Soldiers Day was another day of opportunity as I talked with some of the men. For most it was a time they recounted how it was in days gone by, how much they had appreciated the old Sandes Centre (the old timber building). It was a place to unwind and get away from the tension of street patrols. This was another opportunity to give out several Bibles and dog tags. In these days of change, let us pray together for the boys and girls. Time passes so quickly; Good News Club has long since finished for the year, but the work still goes on. We had the opportunity to hold two Easter Specials with the youth club. Our thanks go to Julie and Roberta (both full time C.E.F workers) for giving of their time to this annual event.



U.D.R. Day Remembrance Service

Pray also for the Holiday Bible Club, which will be held during the last week of June. This will be held in the Centre. Again, we are grateful to Joyce and Stephanie who have been ministering faithfully to the boys and girls for the last ten years.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. May the Lord continue to bless and encourage you in all you do for Him. It is such a comfort to know that God is constantly and consistently the same, therefore let us together thank Him for the security that He brings to our hearts and minds as we experience the many changes of day to day living.

Chris & Marlene

FOCUS

on

Harrogate



There is a wonderful song around at the moment called "Where no one stands alone". It is very beautiful, and the words will touch your heart. That is very true for us, we are never alone...but we do deal with lonely people. Even being in a room full of people one can still feel alone, and that's where we come in.

It is always a blessing to see people who have gone on to pastures new returning to Harrogate. Indeed, they still have a place in their hearts for Sandes and remember it as a good place that helped them through their time here.



Over these last few months we have seen a few return, some just for a visit and some who are back on posting. Whatever the reason

we are always glad to see them and to hear how life has been treating them over the years and they don't seem too surprised to see that we are still here and still loving the work. Our young soldiers have been on many adventures to Normandy, South Africa and many other places. We always look forward to welcoming them back from their travels.

Wonderful news is the Centre is busy! Even in the quiet times on camp, Sandes is still busy and we thank God for answers to prayer that the footfall is going in the right direction, but more than that we feel blessed that so many soldiers are using the Centre, including our wee daily ones who support Sandes 100%. One of our Bombardiers even has his own wrap named after him! When we get a call for a "Martin" or a "Johnman" wrap that makes us smile and I have to say they are very popular among the junior soldiers and permanent staff. The Johnman wrap consists of "cheese, chicken, pepperoni sausage, onion and sweet chilli sauce", The man himself likes it popped into the oven just to crisp it up!

But you know, these soldiers care for all of us too. Our little grandson Miles aged 7 was telling me "Granny, my friends at school don't believe you look after the soldiers and that you have tanks on the camp. They just tell me "whatever". Well I told Miles "Next time you're off school we will get a photo of you with real soldiers for you to take to school and then they will see". So a big "thank you" to Martin and Chris for making my grandsons' day. Miles could not wait to get to school to show his picture. I know he will treasure the memory.



This being the 150 year anniversary of the Sandes mission, we as a team feel blessed and privileged to be part of the work and we all have been sharing with people about the work and how long it has been THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND. People have been genuinely surprised at the longevity of Sandes. It's still surprising how many soldiers have never heard of Sandes but once they have been with us for their posting, they are sad that Sandes will not be there on their next camp in most cases.

When we hear the soldiers saying we make them feel special that's because they are special. We are here to look after them and this Centre is their home from home for everyone from near and far. These wee soldiers keep

us on our toes, they make us smile and sometimes cry when we hear their story. For us, as a team, it is good to be able to say just sometimes we know how that feels.

Our Padre Paul is a real blessing to us and the college. He is a bundle of fun, has a big heart and it is lovely to see his rapport with the soldiers. He is a great support to Sandes. Padre Hall (who Padre Paul Green replaced) is out in Sudan, and we were able to send him some goodie boxes from Sandes. It was great to hear back from him and that the boxes were enjoyed and shared out. We have a couple more boxes almost ready to go to him and some to my nephew who passed through college in Burma Company and is now in Afghanistan with the Royal Irish. We know the goodies will be well received and I know for sure the Padre especially enjoyed the biltong that Mark and Sally put in for him and other goodies too.

The team are all good and we are very blessed to have them. Everyone works hard and goes the extra mile to make sure it is done right, and we hope that in the busyness of the Centre that we still get around to chat to the soldiers. Sometimes we hold a little impromptu quiz. There may only be 7 or 8 soldiers there. The numbers do not matter, even if it's only one they love to win the pizza and it is lovely to see them happy sharing together.





This is a very special year in the history of Sandes but then every year is special! We look forward to the anniversary service in Lisburn in September to celebrate 150 years of the Mission, and as a team we look forward to all that the Lord has in store for Sandes Harrogate in the future. If the past is anything to go by, we are in for a roller coaster ride of blessings!

Thank you so very much for your prayers and wonderful support to us all.

Jim & Maryjane

PLEASE PRAY!

The Army has kindly invited SANDES to explore an opportunity to open a new Centre in the Aldershot Garrison. They have offered the use of an Army owned Community Centre that they intend to develop into a welfare hub for the whole Garrison.

Please pray:

- for guidance that this would be the right opportunity for Sandes to grow
- for the right couple to manage a new Centre
- that the finances required will be secured in God's will and time
- with thanks for this opportunity to reach soldiers and their wives with the Gospel

**"And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him?
And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?"**

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

FOCUS

on



Lisburn & Ballykinlar

But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. John 4:14

Those who know me know my liking for jokes, here's one I've been telling recently "My friend gave me a new boomerang the other day, the only problem is trying to throw my old one away." (Boom boom!) Did you know that God can speak to us through jokes? While I was thinking about this joke it made me think of trying to get rid of a bad habit and how difficult it can be, the more we try and throw it away, by trying not to think about it, the more we think about it and just like the boomerang it just keeps coming back. Part of the welfare work we are involved with in Sandes Lisburn is chatting with people who have a gambling addiction. When I am chatting with those affected by this problem one of the pieces of advice I give them is that the activity of gambling needs to be replaced with a positive activity, i.e. sports, family, education etc. It is easier to give a boomerang away than to throw it away, likewise it is easier to give a bad habit over to

doing something positive rather than throw it away by trying to forget about it.

This last quarter has been a very busy one in Lisburn, with all the "2 Rifles" returning from their exercise in Kenya. The Centre has become busier and busier with footfall increasing greatly. The new staff have really come on well and are rising to the challenges that a busy centre brings. In the last edition of the Focus magazine we introduced you to the Andriychuk's, Jason and Collette. It took a little time to go through the application process for a new house for them but Praise God they started work on the 10th of June and are learning the ropes. We are already feeling the blessing of having them working alongside us and we are excited for what God has in store for us as a team here in Lisburn and Ballykinlar.



Jason & Collette
dressed for action!

With the increase in busyness we are also seeing an increase in requests for bibles and daily reading books and it is always a privilege to give them to those who ask for we know that God has said in the Bible that "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." One young girl asked could she take a copy of the "Our Daily Bread" booklet. Her father sent me a picture of her at home reading it which really warmed our hearts. We are also continuing to receive prayer requests, whether it is via our "Prayer Request box" where people can post their requests in written form or by people verbally asking for prayer. This is a very important part of the work as well as a massive privilege. If people are willing to open up and trust us with their problems it is imperative that we treat these requests seriously and we do, and although we may not be able to help directly we trust in God's sovereign power.

Our ladies' prayer group is continuing to be a blessing and we will be starting up a bible study very soon which we are excited about. It is really good to share in fellowship with other Christians on camp and to get alongside and encourage each other. While there may not be many "practising" Christians on camp we are definitely seeing an increase in the desire to know more about God. We recently had a visit from a former regular visitor who is now posted to England and it was great to hear how his faith is developing and he is seeking God's guidance for his future which may lead him into full time ministry work.

We also had had a visit from the now former Moderator of the Presbyterian

Church in Ireland the Right Reverend Dr Charles McMullen. He was able to spend time with us and the Padres based on camp. We really had a blessed time and we are looking forward to hearing him speak at the Sandes 150th Anniversary service in September.



Very Rev. Dr. McMullen with Rev. Desi Paul, Trevor, Jan and Padres Francis and Linton

In Ballykinlar we have been getting more and more bookings too, mainly with the Army recruiting team. They bring groups of children in for a "look at life" in the Army and they bring them into the Centre in the evening for some down time where they can get burgers and chips and enjoy a game of pool or table-tennis. During the next quarter we will also be having 350 children in for 11 nights for a cadet summer camp. This will be the 4th summer camp that we have catered for and although they are busy nights they are always good fun and a blessed time.

There is a lot happening between the two Centres with even more in the pipeline and we are really excited with what God is doing and really looking forward to this next season in Sandes Lisburn and Ballykinlar.

Trevor & Jan

Prayer Diary



20th September
28th September

Sandes Prayer Meeting
Sandes 150th Anniversary and
Thanksgiving Service

Prayer Requests

Pray for divine wisdom for the way ahead following an invitation from the Army to explore opening a new Centre in Aldershot

Pray for the Head Office team as they provide support to all the Centres

Give thanks for the life of Mrs. Norma Elwood who was called home on May 17, 2019. A long standing friend, prayer partner and supporter of Sandes, Mrs. Elwood will be greatly missed.

Please pray for our Superintendents and Support Workers:

Jim and Mary Jane McCracken
Mark and Sally Nieuwoudt

Harrogate
Harrogate

Chris and Marlene Wilkinson

Holywood

Trevor & Jan Pinkerton
Jason & Collette Andriychuk

Lisburn/Ballykinlar
Lisburn/Ballykinlar

James and Michelle Loubser
Besim & Rhonda Haxhija

Pirbright
Pirbright

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

July 2019



Please pray for:

1. Chris & Marlene and their team in Hollywood
2. a potential new Centre in Aldershot, that God would lead and guide this process
3. the new Support Couples as they settle in to their work in Sandes
4. the value of Sandes to be recognised and supported by all of those within the welfare elements of the Army
5. opportunities at the upcoming Cadet Camps at Ballykinler
6. opportunities with recruits coming into Sandes on Saturday evenings
7. divine inspiration for Padres taking services today
8. people to prayerfully consider Sandes in their legacy planning
9. a fresh anointing as we face the challenges of this age
10. James & Michelle and their team in Pirbright
11. new opportunities for Sandes to grow and to share the Gospel
12. rest and restoration of all the Sandes team
13. a breakthrough as we see people being saved within the military community
14. local fellowships and spiritual support for all the workers in Sandes
15. a new generation of Sandes supporters to arise
16. the safety of our troops on deployment
17. the planning for the 150th Anniversary Service
18. the still on-going review of the CVWW Charter
19. Trevor & Jan and their team in Lisburn
20. a sense of freshness and newness for those who encounter the message of hope in Sandes
21. thanksgiving for our Superintendents and Support Couples
22. encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to share their faith
23. growth in the support base of Sandes
24. increased usage of the Sandes Centres, and opportunities to share the Gospel
25. the right people to come forward as volunteers in all the Centres
26. Jim & Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
27. those in the Sandes family who need a healing touch
28. Sandes to be relevant to today's Army
29. wisdom for new initiatives
30. the funding applications that have been made and are under consideration
31. encouragement for all the Sandes teams

**Then He spoke to them, that men always ought to pray
and not lose heart. Luke 18:1**

Please pray for:

1. courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Army
2. Bibles, literature and dog tags being distributed through our Centres
3. opportunities at the upcoming Cadet Camps at Ballykinlar
4. spiritual refreshment for all the Sandes team
5. our Vice Presidents and others working behind the scenes to create the platform for Sandes outreach
6. the planning for the 150th Anniversary Service
7. encouragement and blessing on those who faithfully support Sandes
8. those coming into Sandes with life issues
9. Jim & Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
10. opportunities with recruits coming into Sandes on Saturday evenings
11. divine inspiration for the Padres taking services today in the Garrison Churches
12. the existing staff and new members who start back in Pirbright today after annual leave
13. God's leading for the future of Sandes
14. Chris and Marlene and their team in Hollywood
15. fresh ideas and effective ways for outreach within and beyond the Sandes Centres
16. Trevor & Jan and their team in Lisburn
17. breakthroughs as we see people in the military being saved
18. all the little seeds of faith planted through Sandes, that they would grow and bear fruit
19. protection for our troops serving and training throughout the world
20. relationships with Army Welfare and closer working relationships with them
21. new opportunities to grow the number of Sandes Centres
22. good rapport with all soldiers coming to the Centres
23. increased footfall in all our Centres
24. the planning for the 150th Anniversary Service
25. protection for the Sandes Mission against spiritual attack
26. those representing Sandes at the Bangor Missionary Convention this week
27. encouragement for Sandes workers as they see people being saved
28. people to consider Sandes in their legacy planning
29. success in bids for funding from trusts to help Sandes
30. opportunities to reach out to military families
31. Sandes to be effectively led and empowered by the Holy Spirit

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16

September 2019



Please pray for:

1. Divine inspiration for the Padres taking services today in the Garrison Churches
2. settled and committed teams in Sandes
3. Jim and Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
4. the well being of all of the Sandes family
5. Sandes to remain financially solvent and spiritually effective
6. encouragement for all the Sandes staff
7. the financial needs of the Mission
8. a Harvest of the seeds of the Gospel that have been planted through Sandes
9. protection and promotion of Christian values within the Army
10. the Commanding Officers and their teams in our Camps
11. Chris and Marlene and their team in Hollywood
12. the final preparations for the 150th Anniversary Service
13. growth in the support base for Sandes
14. Godly volunteers to supplement and support our workers in all the Centres
15. all Christian agencies working within the military
16. James & Michelle and their team in Pirbright
17. new initiatives taking place in Pirbright
18. growing relationships with the Padres on Camp
19. the work of Sandes to bear fruit with lives being changed and people being saved
20. the Sandes monthly Prayer Meeting at noon today
21. the continued commitment of all the Sandes family to the work
22. courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Armed Forces
23. the team in Head Office
24. wisdom and grace for all our workers in how to deal with the various agencies and ranks within the Army
25. that all the seeds that have been planted through Sandes would grow and bear fruit
26. Trevor and Jan and their team in Lisburn
27. new initiatives taking place in Lisburn
28. The 150th Anniversary & Thanksgiving Service today
29. the kitchen staff who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour
30. those in the Sandes family with health issues

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

FOCUS

on

Pirbright



LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING ...

As the winner of Britain's Got Talent, Colin Thackeray, sang the winning song, LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING. We have been reminded about how LOVE does change everything...



... and as if this has been confirmation, we got to see Colin here at Pirbright at a passing off parade!



L is for LIFE

In Pirbright we embrace all life: children, mums, families and even pets. We don't only have regular visitors as humans but we also have regular visitors as animals. Arthur loves his cooked sausage, Max always comes running in for his biscuit and so many more frequent the Centre and are all loved. They even have their own drinking bowl, at the entrance of the Centre.



O is for Opportunity

We love having opportunities to show God's love. We recently hosted a Christening tea combined with a 1st Birthday celebration. Being invited to share in the ceremony, was such a blessing, but even more to host the tea afterwards.



V is for value

We want to value everyone for who God made them to be. God has no favourites and loves us all. It is such a privilege to serve all the recruits that come into the Centre from all walks of life and show them that God loves them all.



We love having the opportunities given to us by their leaders to share the mission and vision of Sandes, to share the value that God has placed on their lives.



These are recruits from Fiji. They love coming into the Centre on Saturday evenings to just praise the Lord. We love seeing Michelle's guitar being put to good use.



Some recruits asked us to be early at the centre on their last day so that we could watch one last time as they practised before their 'Pass off' parade. We always feel like proud parents as we watch them leave.

We so value these recruits as we witness the training that they are going through. We love being there just to encourage them on this journey that God has planned for them.

E is for eternity, a love that has no end.

Our prayer is that all who come through the doors of Sandes, Pirbright will know that GOD is LOVE. We can only do what we do, knowing how much God loves us all and that there are no boundaries to that love. In the Centre we love to portray that kind of love.



**We love because He first loved us
1 John 1:19**

James & Michelle

18/04/19
Since coming to Pirbright for my Phase 1 training, Sandes has always been the place to go to just wind down and feel yourself again, being able to eat the greatest food on camp, having wonderful conversations and story telling with all of the staff. This place is honestly a blessing for the recruits here in Pirbright now, and for as long as this place stays open on camp for recruits and even staff on camp. A second home for me and the lads and will always be remembered.
- RCT Baker

I love this place its like been at home the staff make you feel Really welcome I could as for any thing better they are Really polite and helpful I'm Really gonna miss them all you're all amazing and want to see you all again! Rct Fox

xxx
Thank you for making me feel like a human again x
Morale booster.
If it wasn't for Sandes I would of DAOR'd by now x

Just three of the comments left by recruits in Sandes Pirbright

Meet the Haxhijas!

the new Support Couple for Pirbright



Besim is from Kosovo. He came to faith in Christ when he was 16 years old. For 12 years in Kosovo he has seen God use him in many amazing ways whilst serving Him through the local church and working as an interpreter and youth coordinator with Christian organisations from 1999. A lot of this ministry was with an American organisation called 'Lift Kosova' and whose ministry was mainly focused on helping widows and orphans of the war in both practical and spiritual ways. It was during this time when Besim felt called to dedicate his life to serving God and reaching out to people through the gospel. In 2011 Besim came to study theology in Belfast Bible College. Upon graduation, God led Besim

to Newry to work as a Youth Leader. It was during his time in Newry that Besim met Rhonda and after a year and a half together they got married in August 2016.

Rhonda is from Kilkeel, Northern Ireland and has mainly worked in the retail and care sectors, and she has a lot of experience in helping with the children's work in her church especially the annual holiday Bible club and later as a volunteer at the youth centre where Besim was the leader. Rhonda has been blessed to come from a Christian family and gave her life to the Lord as a young child when she was 6 years old. Through her upbringing

Rhonda has developed strong Christian principles and values and clearly reflects this by her caring and kind hearted personality. She has a strong family link to the Sandes ministry as her aunt and uncle May and Roddy McLeod worked with Sandes for many years in Ballykinlar and Guildford. She is excited to follow in their footsteps as she has heard many great stories of Sandes ministry.

Following our two days in Pirbright during the application process we felt very much at home. James, Michelle and the team made us feel very blessed and we came back to Northern Ireland very much at peace that this is the ministry God is calling us into. We are both very excited to start the work soon, and we cannot wait to see how God will

use us in the years to come. We feel very humbled that God has trusted us with this role and will be honoured to serve the soldiers and their families.

We would appreciate your prayers through this transition as we leave Northern Ireland and settle in England.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3 v 5.6

We look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Many blessings,

Besim and Rhonda Haxhija

Please remember Besim and Rhonda in prayer as they move to Pirbright in July, and hope to start work in the Centre on August 12. Pray that they will settle in to life in England easily, and that they will be encouraged and blessed through their work in serving the Lord in Sandes.

Please also remember Jason and Collette who have now started work in our Lisburn Centre. Pray too that they will settle into living in Northern Ireland, their daughter Nicole will settle in a new school, and that they too will be encouraged and blessed through their work in Lisburn as well as Ballykinlar.

SANDES CONFERENCE 2019



This year's Conference saw all of the Sandes staff and many many friends and supporters join together in a sunny, but very breezy, Newcastle Co. Down. The weekend gave everyone who attended the opportunity to hear of how all the Centres are doing, and we heard reports that were very encouraging and uplifting for all those who are involved with Sandes. God has really blessed us, with some amazing stories to tell of the work in all of the Centres. Pastor Val English was our speaker, and his theme for the weekend was "Back to the Future".

On the Saturday afternoon,

we all headed to Tyrella to visit the grave of our founder, Elise Sandes and her successor Eva Maguire. Flowers were laid on both graves and Rev. Desi Paul gave a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the vision of Miss Sandes and for the work that still continues under her name to this day.

The 2019 Conference saw several new faces join with the more familiar ones, and a time of great blessing was had by all. Will you join us in 2020 (DV) when we have our Conference in Rydal Hall in the Lake District?

Some photos from the 2019 Conference

With thanks to Megan Pinkerton for the photographs!



Pastor Val English



The Three Degrees?



Enjoying the craic!



Listening to the great reports from the Centres



Vice Chairman, Will Johnston



The break times were always looked forward to!

LEGACY PLANNING

As Christians we believe, and live our lives according to the principle, that everything we own comes from God and is entrusted to us for our life on earth. We are stewards of our family, property, belongings and finances.

We know that this earth is not our home and so we endeavour to steward our possessions in such a way as to leave a lasting legacy. That legacy will first and foremost be a gospel legacy – a godly life lived to the glory of God and so we employ our resources to that end.

We all know that at some stage we will leave this present world and enter our eternal rest and will no longer have need of our earthly possessions. What a joy it is to know that even after our death we can still be a blessing to those we leave behind!

We can use our possessions to make provision for our family and friends, but we can also utilise our possessions to leave a legacy in providing for the furtherance of Gospel work.

Sandes has benefitted in immeasurable ways from individuals who have left a legacy in their wills for a specific project or the wider work of the mission. This giving is not budgeted for and can be utilised in a way that can propel and fuel some previously unplanned aspect to the ministry. In the past, legacies have been used to assist with running and core costs and the purchase of important and necessary items for the Centres.

No matter how large or small, each gift can and will make a significant impact on the work of the mission and ministry for the glory of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to find out more or if you would like to leave a gift in your will to Sandes, please contact the Mission Director who would gratefully speak with you in confidence.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a tax relief allowing UK charities such as Sandes to reclaim an extra 25% on every eligible donation made by a UK tax payer.

For every £1 that is kindly and generously donated to further the work of Sandes, HMRC will increase the value of your donation by 25p (25%). This extra amount makes a huge difference to the work of Sandes.

When you donate, please circle "YES" on the donation page to confirm whether or not you are a UK taxpayer. Please note that Gift Aid can only be reclaimed on donations made by individuals who pay UK income or capital gains tax at a rate at least equal to the amount reclaimed on their donations in the current tax year.

If you have any queries, please contact Sandes Head Office on 028 9050 0250 or via email on admin@sandes.org.uk



SANDES

The Soldier's friend since 1869



As a Christian Mission we depend on your prayerful and financial support to sustain our work. Please consider making a donation or joining our mailing list. Stand with us as we seek to bring Christian love and witness to those within the military and help us secure this foothold for the Gospel.

Name:

Address:

.....

Town/City: Post Code:

I would like to help and support the work of Sandes and enclose a donation to the value of:

£ _____

Q319

Please treat this and any future donations to Sandes as Gift Aid – Yes / No

We can claim Gift Aid on your donation if you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. For every £1 you donate, the Inland Revenue will give us 25 pence back, effectively increasing your donation by a further 25% !

(It is important that we keep our records up to date, so please advise us if there is any change in your tax status or address).

You can also donate by:

- Direct Debit
- Standing Order
- Payroll Giving
- Bank transfer
- Leaving a Legacy

Please contact us if you would like more information on ways to donate.

I would like to receive copies of Focus at the above address.

If you would like to arrange for a speaker from Sandes for your Church Group, please contact Sandes Head Office on 028 90 500 250.



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