

# Imagine!



May  
2015

**I**magine the pride you feel as a mother when your daughter gets married, and then imagine the grief when that same daughter dies giving birth to her first child. Imagine your parents want to marry you to an older man and to escape this you leave the family home in search of protection, but because your parents have stripped you of your clothes, you have to go naked. In both these cases the daughters are still children, 12 and 13.

Imagine you are the widowed mother of six children, who every day spends eight hours collecting firewood, which you then carry on your back to the town. With the £4 you earn each week you have to feed, clothe, educate and medicate your children.

These are real stories, which describe the lives of women in cattle-rearing pastoralist communities in the south of Ethiopia, where the status of women is that of second-class citizen. But for many of these women their lives have already been changed by an organisation called HUNDEE, which is supported by Christian Aid. Elema Dulacha, whose daughter died in childbirth, is now campaigning against the practice of early marriage and is offering girls a refuge in times of need. One of these girls is Bikiya Gooloo, whose marriage to an older man was prevented, and who is now continuing her education.

Even the men are changing! Galgalo Sora used to beat his wife and would never ask her opinion on anything, but since he has attended HUNDEE training sessions he realises her value, and is ashamed of the way he used to treat her.

Loko Jarso and other widows like her are being given a cow and two goats by HUNDEE. The milk both nourishes the children and can be sold as milk or butter. The women meet weekly to run a loans and savings cooperative, using money from the sale of milk and butter.

Owning a cow in their name confers status on a woman. They are also learning to read and write and to learn about the running of small businesses, their rights and responsibilities. It is these Ethiopian women and many more like them that the money collected in Christian Aid week will support. Thank you for giving them a better future. Come and hear more stories like these at the Churches Together in Stansted Christian Aid Service on Sunday 10th May at 6.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House.

*Catherine Dean*

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions  
10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Rev'd Charles Martin  
17<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion  
24<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Julie Finbow  
31<sup>st</sup> 10.30 am Tearfund Service

### Other Activities

- Sat 9th 10.00 am Silent Prayer Day at St John's Church  
Sun 10th 6.30 pm Christian Aid Service - Quaker Meeting House  
Mon 11th 8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens  
Sat 16th 10.00 am Inviting Workshop at B S Methodist Church  
Sun 17th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Wed 27th 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study at Newport URC  
Sat 30th 11.00 am Quiet Day at Newport URC

### Be Still and Know that I am God (Silent Prayer Day)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am - 3.30 pm at St John's Church led by Magdalen Houlihan from Clare Priory. Please bring a packed lunch - hot drinks provided.



Kathy West



## **Shalom** 8 pm Mon 11th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Linda Smith will be giving a talk about her trip to Cuba taking in bibles, medicines and money. This promises to be a very interesting evening. All are welcome - please join us.

Marion



## WEBS Bible Studies led by Roy

### Three Passionate Prophets

Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 pm (coffee at start)

Newport United Reformed Church

29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Amos</b>	A passion for justice
27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Hosea</b>	A passion for faithfulness
24 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Micah</b>	A passion for true worship

Come and see what the Bible says to us ~ All welcome

## Inviting Workshop Saturday 16th May

10 am – 12.15 pm (coffee from 9.30 am)

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Bishop's  
Stortford  
Methodist  
Church

***This event is for all churches in the Circuit***

For more information contact

Stuart Veitch on 815819 email: [stuart@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:stuart@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## **REGIME CHANGE!**

### ***The Kingdom of Heaven has come near***

Morning - Iona Style sing

Afternoon - Reflection on God's Kingdom, with Quiet Time

**11.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturday 30th May**

**Newport United Reformed Church**

Please bring a contribution for a simple 'Bring and Share' lunch  
Tea and coffee will be provided.

***Come for the whole day or just for the morning or afternoon***

No charge but donations welcome for the upkeep of the church

Contact Grace Baldock email: [colinrbaldock@btinternet.com](mailto:colinrbaldock@btinternet.com)

**Stansted Free Church**  
**Methodist / URC**  
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Marion Pretty

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**Sunday Service**

10.30 am Morning Worship.

1st Sunday of each month - New Directions (Informal)

**The Place on the Hill Drop-In (Everyone Welcome)**

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)