

THURSDAY NAGGING PRAYER!

Here's a story about a couple of teenagers.



Two 16 year old girls told us they were going to start a youth group for 11-15 year olds. And they told us adults were no good at doing things for youth, so we were to be banned! The church found a dilapidated, damp building they owned for them to use – Choppards Mission - on a remote hillside nearby. The church insisted an adult was present but we were banished to an adjoining room by the young people.

A typical session would start with games. One of the games I remember them telling me about was **After Eight Mint Melt**: Melt an After Eight Mint a little so that it will stick on your forehead. Then it will melt further sliding down your face. The winner was the one who ate their mint fastest. No hands allowed!

Then they'd look at a Bible story and talk about it, finishing off with a prayer and a song (one of the group learnt guitar so they could do this).

When the two girls went off to university others took over. A man who walked the dog every morning and could see Choppards Mission would pray, "Lord, bless those young people. May they flow out of there like a Pennine spring of living water into here and **all the world**."

After 6 years the group folded. About thirty young people had passed through in that time. However, those who took part over that period took gap years and spent time serving in Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Malawi, Ruanda, Philippines, Nepal, Mozambique, Kazakhstan, and India. **(In all the world!)** Two are Anglican priests, one is a pastor in a large city centre church with a congregation of about 700 and one worked for Christian Aid and is now director of Tearfund in Northern Ireland.

Prayer works. Let's pray for our young people:

Father God, We pray for your children. Keep them safe in this time of crisis. Please give them peace, comfort and relief from anxiety.

Help families to cope with stress over the coming weeks.

And as the Bible tells us that Jesus grew in stature, wisdom and favour on earth and in heaven, so we pray our young people will grow in the same way.

Amen