

Here is a photo of our little smallholding. As you can see there would be no neighbour problems!

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Blocks mix When my Dad wanted a smallholding he did not buy one that was already in existence; he purchased an empty field of two acres for £50. (About the size of three football pitches.) He had a bungalow built but otherwise erected all of the buildings himself. He began with one about thirty feet long that comprised of a fairly large garage, a coal-house, wash-house and a toilet. It was built of concrete blocks like this



one but without the holes in it. Before he went to work in the morning he tipped a pile of fine gravel, sand and cement onto the drive and we had to take it in turns to mix it all up ready for him to use in the evening. It had to be shovelled at least three times from one pile to another and then back again until it was properly mixed. He had a metal mould on a stand and some of the mix was put into the mould and

stomped down with a wooden stomper. The four sides were then unclipped and the block on a metal plate was placed on the drive wall to dry ready for use. The wall ran down the length of the drive so for a number of years it was continually covered in blocks! When Dad added the water



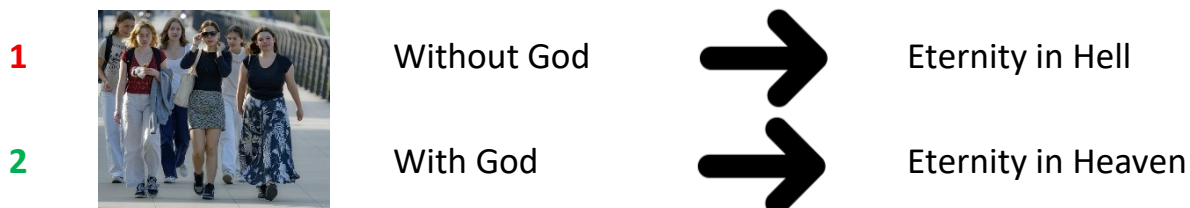
the mix had to be just right. Too much water and it would be too sloppy. Too much gravel and it would easily crumble to bits. Always our fault though if the mix was not right! He



arrived home from work about 5.00 pm, had his meal, snoozed for half an hour on the armchair then went out and made the blocks until all of the mix was used up, which was usually about 10.00pm. As children we most certainly did not appreciate all of his hard work.

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Questions: This block mix turned my mind to church. Why does God want us to meet together? Why Church? What is the main aim of Church?



It is God's desire that **EVERYONE** goes from **1** to **2** and He uses Church to help to achieve this.

Church Events: Services, Sunday schools, Luncheon clubs, Games nights, Trips, Fund-raising events, Social evenings, Cafes, Rent out building, Sports events, Curry nights, Phone calls, Visits, Youth groups, Camps, Toddler groups, Prayer meetings, House groups, etc., etc.

The idea of each one of these is to draw others into the Church community so that they can hear about Jesus. For instance, Luncheon Clubs are very nice but it is not the food that is the most important thing, it is an opportunity to bring people into the church. Fund-raisers are needed to keep things going, but, it is not about the money, it is about ensuring that God's target of **EVERYONE** can be met.

Who does God use? He uses all of us who say that we are Christians. Every single one of us is a bit of gravel, sand or cement, in place for a specific purpose. A grain of sand is just as important as a bucket full of gravel. Some may be getting on a bit and are only able to sit and chat with someone for a few minutes or give someone a phone call. That little part is needed as much as the Minister preaching the sermon. (Hope I hear Ministers saying “OK” to that comment!) Looking at that list of church events I am sure that everyone who is reading this Doodle can think of a part that they can play in one of those things that are listed. It is the combination of all in the Church that will help to take non-Christians from **1** to **2**.



What about the blocks mix?

Sometimes when Dad looked at the mix he said that it needed to be turned over another 2/3 times. Now that really used to annoy me. I would think that my part of the job was finished and then would have to go and do it again. I used to think to myself, “Why didn’t he say “six times” in the first place?” If there was an imbalance it meant that the mix would be no good. It had to be right for good blocks to be made.

What about the Church mix?



The principle is the same as for the blocks. If there is someone who is not filling in that little slot how God intends, then someone else has has to fill in for them. This can mean that the person filling in is then on overload which maybe causes them not to function properly. Church is very



much a team effort needing every individual to share God’s goal regardless of the event. The mix has to be just right. We are all needed to help transfer folk from **1** to **2**. This is the main aim of God. It is the main aim of ‘Church’. Church is not just about sitting and enjoying singing the songs or listening to the preacher. God wants the whole team of Church to pull together to create conditions where the good news of Jesus can be shared.



*Pull
Together*

Church equals Team

