

GOSPEL SINGERS CELEBRATE WITH MASS CHOIR



Gospel record

GOSPEL singers from various choirs broke a record for the world's largest gospel choir singing together in concert conditions when they took part in an event at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

The concert was part of the London Community Gospel Choir's 30th anniversary celebrations.

An adjudication team from Guinness World Records watched on as 1,169 people sang the classic 'Oh Happy Day'.

LAW ON ASSISTED DYING

Peer, priest and palliative carers debate

LORD FALCONER called the present law on assisted dying 'ridiculous' when he took part in a Westminster Faith Debate.

The former Lord Chancellor said he supported a change in the law to allow people to take their own life when they are faced with a terminal illness. He pointed out that, even though it was a criminal offence to assist someone to kill themselves, guidelines meant that authorities did not prosecute people who acted out of compassion to help a loved one travel to Switzerland where they could legally take their own life, but they would prosecute a doctor who assisted a suicide. 'So you have this ridiculous, hypocritical law which says amateur assistance in this country is allowed but professional assistance is not,' he said.

Palliative care professor Rob George said that, while society as a whole may favour a change in the law, clinicians were generally against assisted suicide, partly because 'we know how complex and difficult and subtle it is to manage someone as they engage and struggle with the issues around death and dying'.

Baroness Finlay, a palliative care expert and clinician, argued that the law as it stood was working and that proposed safeguards would not succeed because clinicians 'can't really define who is terminally ill'. She explained: 'Most conditions in medicine

are incurable, most conditions in medicine are progressive and we don't know how rapidly they're going to progress.'

Church of England priest Dr Giles Fraser expressed concern that 'the individualism we have in our society is now beginning to infect even the way we think about death'. He argued that the right to choose was not 'the ultimate moral value' whereas acceptance of suffering, loss and vulnerability 'is a crucial part of how we care for each other'.

He said: 'I want to be a burden to my family, and I want them to be a burden to me.'

FOOD, MEDICINE AND SUPPORT SUPPLIED

Salvation Army helps after factory collapse

THE Salvation Army in Bangladesh provided medicines and other supplies to hospitals treating people injured when a factory building collapsed in Savar. Tackling a shortage in the immediate area of the disaster, it sourced first-aid supplies, antibiotics, pain medication, intravenous equipment, gloves and masks.

More than 1,000 people were killed in the collapse of the building, and Salvation Army personnel helped at a temporary morgue set up in a school, where bodies were taken for identification. They sprinkled bleaching powder on and around bodies that began to decompose because of a lack of refrigeration.

When family members went to the school to look for loved ones, The Salvation Army provided meals and emotional support.

Becoming a Christian

There is no set formula to becoming a Christian, but many people have found saying this prayer a helpful first step to a relationship with

Jesus Christ,
I am truly sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. Please forgive me. I now turn from my sin, knowing that I know it is wrong.
I believe you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.
I believe you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Holy Spirit.
I believe you come into my life by your Holy Spirit to live in me for ever.
I believe in you, Jesus.

PRAYERLINK

YOUR prayers are requested for Tony, who is struggling with health problems.

The War Cry invites readers to send in requests for prayer, including the names of individuals and details of their circumstances. Send your requests to PRAYERLINK, The War Cry, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN. Mark your envelope 'Confidential'.