

Dear Friends

What is the greatest threat to the Christian faith today? One answer might be the growth of secularism and the popularity of atheistic theories of life represented by the likes of Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion". Another answer might be totalitarian communism – as in North Korea. *But there is a far more subtle threat to the Christian faith. It is religion.*

The heart of Christianity is a relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is beautifully expressed in a phrase in Paul's Letter to the Galatians: "Now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God" (Gal.4.9). I remember one elderly lady in a previous parish, who was a "royalist" through and through. She loved the Royal Family and knew so much about the Queen via books, TV programmes, etc. But there were two problems: she did not actually know the Queen, and Her Majesty did not know her. By contrast, through the Gospel, we come to know God and to be known by God. Yes, of course, God "knows" everyone and everything! But what we have here is the language of relationship and intimacy.

The Christian life is the life of sons and daughters. That is the message of Gal.4.4-6: God sent his Son into the world to rescue us, so that we might be adopted into God's family – and God has sent his Spirit into our hearts to assure Christian believers that this is indeed so.

Sadly, many people lose sight of this central truth of the Gospel, or have never seen it in the first place. They fall into *religion* instead of entering into a *relationship* with God. As a result they do not enjoy the privilege of being the sons and daughters of God – instead, they live as slaves. They choose bondage, rather than freedom.

Before his conversion to Christ, John Wesley was an ordained minister of the Church of England and a would-be missionary to American Indians. During his voyage to the States, he discovered that he had only "the faith of a slave". After his conversion, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738 in Aldersgate Street, London, he spoke of his heart "being strangely warmed" towards Christ and an assurance being given to him that he was a child of God.

A real, vibrant Christian faith must not descend into mere duty, drudgery and demand. Christians are not slaves – they are sons and daughters and need to live in the light of their privilege.

With warm Christian greetings,  
Yours,  
**Robert Bashford**

*P.S. The content of this letter arises out of the current evening sermon-series on Galatians.*

## **FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS**

**We extend our prayers and sympathy to the relatives and friends of those committed to God's care:**

**FUNERAL:**      9<sup>th</sup> June      Ron Macey, aged 78 years  
                     12<sup>th</sup> June      Roy Read, aged 59 years  
                     17<sup>th</sup> June      Louisa Sargeant, aged 88 years  
   Arthur Beach, aged 84 years  
                     1<sup>st</sup> July      Flo Phillips, aged 97 years

## **JUNE/JULY SERMON CDs**

All CDs of the sermons preached on Sunday mornings and evenings in June and July 2009 are available on request from Elizabeth and Nigel Hadley (Tel: 831067) as usual. If you have requested a CD please collect from the back of Church the following Sunday. CDs £1 each.

## **SERMONS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2009**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August    8.00am      “The true and the false” (Mt.7.15-23)  
                                 10.30am      “He casts out demons” (Mk.5.1-20)  
                                 6.30pm      “Paul’s great concern” (Gal.4.8-20)

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August    8.00am      “Hearing and doing” (Mt.7.24-28)  
                                 10.30am      “He heals the sick” (Mk.5.21-34)  
                                 6.30pm      “True sins of Abraham” (Gal.4.21-31)

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August    8.00am      To be announced  
                                 10.30am      “He feeds 5000” (Mk.6.30-44)  
                                 6.30pm      “True freedom” (Gal.5.1-15)

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	8.00am	To be announced
	10.30am	“He walks on water” (Mk.6.45-52)
	6.30pm	“Keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal.5.16 – 6.5)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am	“Jesus cleanses a leper” (Mt.8.1-4)
	10.30am	“He defies tradition” (Mk.7.1-23)
	6.30pm	“Glory in the Cross” (Gal.6.6-18)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	8.00am	“The faith of a centurion” (Mt.8.5-13)
	10.30am	“He saves the outcasts” (Mk.7.24 – 8.10)
	6.30pm	“Uzziah – strong but proud” (2 Chron.26)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	8.00am	“Jesus heals many” (Mt.8.14-17)
	10.30am	“Just one God” (Ex.20.1-3)
	6.30pm	“Jotham – obedient” (2 Chron.27)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	8.00am	“The harvest of our lives”
	10.30am	HARVEST FAMILY SERVICE
	6.30pm	“Harvest thanksgiving”
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	8.00am	“The cost of following Jesus” (Mt.8.18-22)
	10.30am	“God without rivals” (Ex.20.4-6)
	6.30pm	“Ahaz – unfaithful” (2 Chron.28)

## **CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED**

In the autumn we are planning a new course of “Christianity Explored”. This 7-part course, which originated at All Souls Church in London, is a most helpful way of investigating the Christian faith or of brushing up on the basics. The course is based on Mark’s Gospel and helps us focus in a fresh and stimulating way on who Jesus is and what he has done – and on why all this is so important. Each session consists of a video and discussion.

The first session will probably be towards the end of September on a Friday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 pm in the Church Centre. Each evening will begin with coffee (or tea) and cake – so that is an added reason for coming along! The course will continue on the following Friday evenings.

As the invitation leaflet says, “You don’t need to know anything about the Bible. You won’t be asked to read out aloud, pray or sing. You can ask any questions you want.”

If you are interested and want to find out more, or you want to enrol, please get in touch with me (832380).

**Robert Bashford**

## **HARVEST SUPPER QUIZ EVENING**

This year’s Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September (the day before our Harvest Sunday) at 6.30pm in the Old School Hall. By popular demand, it will again take the form of a Quiz Evening for all ages. As last year, we have in mind an event for all the family – the questions will be appropriate for the youngest as well as the oldest (and everybody else in between). Tickets will be available in due course - £3 for adults, £1.50 for under 12s. Please book the date in your diary now and plan to join us.

**Robert Bashford**

## **KENT WOMEN’S DAY CONFERENCE BIDDENDEN – 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

**Daylight at Midnight – Lessons from Esther**

**Speaker – Jane McNabb**

Seven ladies set out early on Saturday to go to the conference, some full of expectation having been before, others wondering if it was going to be as good as they had been told.

The day is quite relaxed starting off with tea, coffee and biscuits, then into the first session, “Setting the Scene”. Coffee break and a chance to visit the bookstall followed by session 2 “Rumours become Reality”. Book reviews followed, all available at the bookstall if your appetite was whetted and time to open the packed lunch, drinks provided. Whilst eating and drinking the opportunity to meet up with friends from other churches or make new friends, maybe a walk. The last session was entitled “For such a time as this” and completed a whistle stop tour of the book of Esther, in which she drew

our attention to Esther's obedience, Mordecai's faith and Haman's opposition whilst pressing home the fact that God's plans are greater than Satan schemes. All this was said in an easy manner with plenty of topical and practical applications to our daily lives.

Jane McNabb has written a book called 'Daylight at Midnight, published by Authentic which fleshes out the talks given. The book contains some very searching questions at the end of each chapter.

If you would like a CD of the talks please see Elizabeth Hadley cost £2.

Next year's conference is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010, watch the newsletter for more details nearer the date as it would be good to have a larger party next year.

## **AN URGENT PLEA FOR PIANISTS**

To play on Sunday evenings in the Church Centre during winter months – November to March inclusive – to smaller congregation in the comfort of a heated hall.

The more names we get the less frequent the need to play. Full service details, supplied by Robert, 2-4 weeks in advance.

Please let me know of your availability ASAP then a rota can be drawn up. Thank you.

**Peter Reed** (Tel: 01843 834638)

**Abridged Minutes of the meeting of the 2009/10 PCC of St James' Church, Westgate and Garlinge held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the Church Centre**

*(Note – Information available in the printed version of magazine only – Web Ed)*

## **THE SERVANT CHURCH TRUST – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Chairman's Report**

What amazing days! The world banking system brought to the brink of collapse... High Street names are being absorbed or disappearing altogether... the Government borrowing amounting to many billions of pounds... leaving a national debt which will take 25 years to repay.

Meanwhile we meet here in support of a Fund designed to support an additional worker for the next 3, 4 or 5 years! We only need £200,000.

The Charity Commissioners recognise that Trusts are in difficulty. Last September, 38% of Charities indicated they were feeling the pressure. More recently, this figure has reached 52%. The recommended solution is to 'collaborate with others', so sharing expertise and costs.

Christian Charities are not exempt from the situation. They have longed since joined the hard-sell band-wagon. Open your favourite Christian journal – and the appeals just tumble out! Guilt, pity and need on a vast scale are the currency of emotional persuasion so often. You may have seen unashamed examples of this:

*'She waited 100 years to hear the Gospel'* announces one appeal, above a photograph of an Asian woman. *'Darfur's desert is a vicious, lawless no-man's land. Just as well it's only women and children who have to come here'*, says another.

*'Will you help us reach out to more remote and hard-to-reach communities'* asks yet another mission in the same month's newspaper, *'So please send £25...'*

The apostle Paul was also concerned about fund raising. He appreciated receiving gifts for his own support as a prisoner (Phil.4:10-12) but he was more concerned about Christians in need elsewhere. Let me remind you how he handled a certain situation – 2 Cor.8:1-15. The recipients of his letter were evidently reluctant to give, so he reminded them of the example of churches in the Macedonian province.

Notice the key phrases: *'fierce troubles...pushing them to the very limit...they were incredibly happy although desperately poor...the pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and precious gifts...they gave offerings of whatever they could – far more than they could afford – pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians...what explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and then to us...'*(The Message)

The supreme example? The generosity of Christ: *'Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us – in one stroke he became poor and we became rich...'*

This was how the apostle broached the subject of giving with reluctant givers.  
May it not serve us no less today?

My sincere thanks to all who pray and give...

**Michael Toogood**

**A PRAYER FOR THE WISE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

Lord, Jesus Christ,  
by taking human flesh you sanctified material things  
to be a means of your grace;  
grant us wisdom in our attitude to money,  
and a generous heart in the use of the resources entrusted to us,  
that by faithful stewardship we may glorify you.  
Amen.

Adapted from a prayer from the C of E Central Board of Finance

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

**“Who authorised the Bible? If it was the church that finally decided which books should be included in the Bible, then isn’t the church the top authority?”**

No. The Bible produced the church, not the church the Bible. This is the issue: What caused a book to be accepted within the “Canon” of Scripture? (Greek: *kanon*, “standard” or “rule”).

**Regarding the Old Testament:**

**1. Books that were recognised by Jesus Christ** as infallible “Scripture” that could not be broken (Matthew 5.18). In John 10.35 Jesus didn’t have to explain what he meant by “Scripture”, though elsewhere he did refer to its different categories (law, prophets, psalms) as pointing to himself (Luke 24.44, Matthew 24.37). All was to be believed and obeyed.

**2. Books that were recognised by God’s people** because of their impact. God’s people will always recognise his voice (John 10.27). Jesus clashed with

the Pharisees for *adding* their traditions to the Scripture; yet all were agreed that the Old Testament Scriptures were God's word.

**3. Books that were recognised by the New Testament.** It is significant that the New Testament features hundreds of Old Testament allusions. Only two are from the body of books known as the Apocrypha (Jude 9, 14) – seemingly in similar style to Paul's quotation from a Greek poet (Acts 17.28). The Apocryphal books were perceived to be on a lower level. (Watch out for an article in a future edition of this magazine about the Apocrypha!)

**Next, what determined inclusion in the New Testament Canon?**

**1. Books that are Christ-centred in their emphasis.** It was inconceivable to the early church that the Gospels, for example, which focused so much upon the life and death of Jesus, could have any lower place than that given to the Old Testament Scriptures.

**2. Books that are apostolic in their teaching.** It was to the apostles exclusively that Jesus promised guidance "into all truth" through the Holy Spirit's inspiration (John 16.13). The result of this was the New Testament (1 Corinthians 2.12,13). Significantly, Peter brackets Paul's writings with what he calls "the other *scriptures*" (2 Peter 3.15, 16).

**3. Books that are faith-building in their effect,** and thus, to be read in the congregations (John 20.30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 5.27; Colossians 4.16; 1 Peter 2.2; Revelation 1.3). When the Christian scriptures take hold of the thinking of masses of people, they have the effect of "stabilising society, without sterilising it" (historian T.R. Glover).

The books of the Old Testament were becoming largely accepted by AD 70, those of the New Testament by the end of the second century. The drawing of a line around them discouraged forgers and religious pedlars.

So no one really "put" the books into the Bible; they put themselves in, because of their innate quality. No council by itself could have conferred authority upon the books; this, they possessed already. *It is an authority that is inherent, not imposed.* If art lovers say of a Renoir painting, "This is a genuine Renoir", their acclaim in no way invests the painting with authenticity; *it was already authentic.* It is the same with the Scriptures; we can only recognise them as such – and live by them.

**JESUS – THE GREAT ‘I AM’ - I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE (John 11:1-27)**

**A picture of despair**

The bereaved daughter arrived at our home to discuss arrangements for the funeral of her mother – a day earlier than we had arranged. That was an indication of the confusion caused by the tragedy of her loss. Pale and drawn, she said she couldn't imagine life without her mother, yet she was having to face the fact that her mother was dead, and that she faced the future *alone*.

**Checking our outlook on life**

Thousands face this apparently hopeless situation every day, suddenly discovering that their philosophy of life does not provide for *death* and all that lies beyond it.

**The claim that changes everything**

Jesus' claim to be the '**resurrection and the life**' is so outrageous that we cannot ignore it. His claim to be the '**resurrection**' implies that he has the power to **raise people from the dead**. And to claim that he is the '**life**' implies that he has authority to give **eternal life** to all those he raises up.

**Jesus also knew the pain of loss**

This stupendous claim was made against a background of the death of a much-loved brother and Jesus' own friend, Lazarus. Grieving sisters, Mary and Martha, were also part of the scene. They had lived in a village, not far from Jerusalem called 'Bethany'. Jesus and his disciples had every reason to be thankful for their loving and generous hospitality. They were always welcome there.

**There was a purpose**

But then Lazarus was taken ill. His anxious sisters sent a message to Jesus to come urgently. His response seemed to be careless. Rather than rushing to Bethany he told the disciples that Lazarus' sickness would *not* end in death but was for the *glory of God* and *himself*, God's Son. In fact he stayed where he was a further two days before setting off for the village!

On the way, Jesus explained to his disciples that Lazarus had '*fallen asleep*' and that he intended to '*wake him up*'. So why risk travelling through dangerous territory if Lazarus was just *sleeping*, they wanted to know. Jesus

explained that Lazarus was *dead* and that the situation was designed to strengthen their *faith* in him.

### **Learning to trust in a crisis**

On arriving in Bethany, they discovered that Lazarus had been dead and buried *four days* ago! Martha, one of the sisters, came out to meet Jesus, and couldn't help rebuking him for not coming at once. '*But*', she added, '*I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask*'. Martha's faith was rewarded with a mind-blowing promise, '**Your brother will rise again**'. She knew that there would be a resurrection of the dead on the great Judgement Day – but Jesus was promising something much more immediate! '**I am the resurrection and the life**', he said. '**He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.**'

It is easier to make a claim than to demonstrate the *truth* of that claim. Jesus did *both*! He asked to be taken to Lazarus' grave, where he wept. Then he commanded that the stone covering the entrance to the grave be removed – ignoring warnings about the decayed state of the body. Then he prayed and asked that through what he was about to do the gathering crowd might believe that the Father had sent him into the world. Then Jesus called in a loud voice, '*Lazarus, come out!*' and the dead man came out of the grave, still wrapped in his grave clothes! '*Take off the grave clothes*', Jesus said, '*and let him go.*'

### **Alive and well**

You may have seen this amazing scene re-enacted in the powerful (but blasphemous) film, '*The Last Temptation of Christ*.' Lazarus was raised to live from the dead – his sisters and a large crowd were witnesses to the fact. Later, Lazarus would be the centre of attraction at the Passover feast in Jerusalem – seen *alive* by thousands of people.

### **A miracle**

An amazing miracle had taken place. There is no other explanation. The event was a display of **divine power** to rescue a friend from the clutches of death – but it was also a *demonstration of the truth of Jesus' claim to be the 'Resurrection and the life'*. Later, there would be a further – even greater – demonstration of the truth of Jesus' claim, when he **rose from the dead** on the third day after his death on the cross.

As the '**Resurrection and the life**' Jesus is able to raise from the dead all those who put their trust in him. '**He who believes in me will live, even though he dies,**' he promised. Do you believe this?

**Michael Toogood**

## **ST JAMES' 'BOOKCORNER'**

Corrie ten Boom, the writer of books such as “The Hiding Place” and “Tramp For The Lord”, would have a small embroidery with her in her bag. On the one side was stitched a beautiful crown. The other side all mixed up, as it always is! At the appropriate moment she would hold it up showing the back and say: “Your life is like this. See how the threads are knotted and tangled, the colours all mixed up and there is no clear picture! But when you turn it around then you can see a beautiful crown. This is how your life is in God’s hands. He has a divine pattern for each of His children and although it looks all tangled and unclear to us, God is actually embroidering a crown for your life.”

She quotes this lovely anonymous poem:

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me,  
I do not choose the colours, He worketh steadily,  
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride,  
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.  
Not till the loom is silent, and shuttles cease to fly,  
Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful in the skilful Weaver’s hand,  
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

She says: “Faith is like radar which sees, through the fog, the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see”. And then reminisces: “Although the threads of my life have often seemed knotted, I know, by faith, that on the other side of the embroidery there is a crown. As I have walked the world – a tramp for the Lord – I have learned a few lessons in God’s great classroom. Even as I share these things with those of you who read this book, I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal something of the divine pattern in God’s plan for you.”

Both books mentioned above are in the ‘bookcorner’ at the back of the Church.

**C.C.**

Quoted passages are from “Tramp For the Lord” Christian Literature Crusade SBN900248-38-2

## **WHAT YOU SOW, YOU REAP**

**‘Let us not become weary in doing good...we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’ (Galatians 6:9 NIV)**

The name Corrie ten Boom is widely recognised in Christian circles, but few people know about her nephew Peter who was also instrumental in saving Jews from Nazi persecution. When Dutch patriots heard SS troops were sending Jewish orphans to concentration camps, they smuggled kids out of orphanages and brought them to the ten Boom house until they could be placed for adoption. At sixteen, Peter, a committed Christian, defied the Germans by pulling out all the stops on the church organ and playing the Dutch national anthem while the congregation stood up and sang. He was imprisoned for his defiance. After World War II he travelled the world with the same message as his aunt; that forgiveness is the only answer to hatred. On tour in Israel Peter had a heart attack and needed surgery. Talking with him the night before his operation the cardiologist asked, 'Are you by any chance related to the ten Booms of Holland?' Peter replied, 'Yes, that's my family.' The doctor responded, 'I'm one of the babies your family saved!' Next day the man whose life had been saved forty years earlier, repaid the debt by saving Peter ten Boom's life.

The Bible says when you, 'Cast your bread upon the waters...after many days you will find it again' (Ecclesiastes 11:1 NIV). What you sow – good or bad – comes back to you. So, 'Let us not become weary in doing good...at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' Remember, God is no man's debtor, and no matter how long it takes He will honour His Word.

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## **TRAVELLING TO HEAVEN – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

All those planning a journey to heaven should read this information before departure.

**Accommodation:** Arrangements for first class accommodation have been made in advance (John 14:2).

**Passports, Visas, etc:** Persons seeking entry will not be permitted to pass the gates without the proper credentials, and their names registered with the authority in their place of destination (Revelation 21:7)

**Departing time:** The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travellers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice.

**Luggage:** No luggage whatsoever can be taken, nor is required. Full provision is made on arrival (1 Tim.6:7, Rev. 21:4).

**Reservations:** Bookings are now open – applications should be made immediately (2 Cor.6:2)

**JUST IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES** References in brackets can be found in the Bible...

The above piece was given to us when we visited the stall of The Christian Motorcyclists Association at the recent weekend meeting of Bikers in Margate.

The CMA is a mission organisation which aims to reach out to all those involved in the motorcycle world with the message of the Christian Gospel and to offer friendship, support and practical help to bikers in any way they can.

Each year they give away thousands of “Biker Bibles” which also describe how the lives of bikers from Europe have changed since knowing Jesus.

CMA is established in over 26 countries worldwide. For more details contact CMA – Kent Coast, Paul and Dawn Baker, 07845 989281, e-mail: [gortonbaker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gortonbaker@hotmail.co.uk). They asked for our prayers in support.

**Wally and Teresa Merry**

**‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven...’** Matthew 19:14

In a recent report, **Action International** compiled shocking statistics regarding the plight of children in the modern world...

### **HIV/AIDS**

More than 38 million people live with HIV/AIDS worldwide, with over 2.3 million children under 15 living with the disease. Every day, more than 1,000 children are newly infected. At least 15 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS, most in sub Sahara, Africa. It is estimated that a child loses a parent to AIDS-related causes every 14 seconds. By 2010, the number of children orphaned by AIDS globally is expected to exceed 25 million.

### **War and its effects**

**ACTION** missionaries have ministered to the child soldiers who have been kidnapped in northern Uganda. It is estimated that at least 250,000 young people under 18 are exploited as child soldiers around the world.

### **Child labour**

Over 218 million children, aged 5-17, are engaged in child labour throughout the world. At least 216 million find themselves in the worst forms of child labour: slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, and other forced labour. Girls from northern India have been sold to families in the Middle East as house slaves. Many children are unseen, labouring behind the walls of workshops, hidden from view in plantations. Many are involved in trafficking of these young children to work as bonded slaves.

### **Sexual exploitation**

Over 1.8 million children are trapped in sex trades: prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities. The sexual exploitation of women and children is the third largest illicit industry on the planet (just behind the sale of illegal arms and drugs). Even though it is lucrative for many, it is life-shattering for others.

### **Poverty**

More than one billion people in the world live on less than one dollar a day. In total, 2.7 billion struggle to survive on less than two dollars a day. In these poverty challenged areas, population of children is often close to 50%.

### **Street children**

Some estimate that 100 million children live on the street, but they are nearly impossible to count. ACTION International Ministries, which has a special emphasis and concern for the street children of the world, estimate that there may be up to 160 million who try to exist on the streets with no parents, no care, no food and no compassion.

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According to Matthew 19:14, it is impossible to over emphasise the value the Lord Jesus places on children. He urges adults to point children to him, and not to build barriers to prevent them coming. The kingdom of heaven belongs to those with child-like faith, he explained. Given the world-scene, and the universal abuse of children, what tears Jesus must have shed on their behalf. We may not be able to go in support of those who seek their welfare, but we can pray for them, and make sure that children in our care receive the liberty and security of the Gospel of Christ.

### **It's all change at the Saturday Shop**

Anne Clark feels unable to continue running the Saturday shop., so all the team offer her our sincere thanks for being there every shop since it was first set up, starting off as a helper and then taking charge. Hers are very hard shoes to fill.

The Saturday Shop team have held a meeting to discuss the way forward and as a result several changes are going to take place as from the July shop.

1. We will no longer be selling any clothing, shoes, bedding, videos or tape cassettes. These all are items that are hard to sell and clog up our storage space causing inconvenience to other hall users. We also have to find ways of disposing of unwanted, unsellable items.
2. We would like donations of quality Bric-a-brac, jewellery, sealed beauty products and items for the handicraft stall
3. The cake stall is very popular and we would like more donations of homemade cakes, pies, jams, marmalades and pickles etc for sale.
4. We would also like to hear from anyone who would be able to run a stall or help set up or pack away on a regular or occasional basis.

In July and August, if the weather is fine, we will have 10p and 20p stalls in the car park to sell our surplus stock.

We would like to thank everyone who supports the Saturday Shop in any way and would like to encourage more people to come and support us by sampling the cake stall, finding the bargains, picking up your holiday reading, stopping for a coffee and meeting up with friends.

#### **The Saturday Shop Team**

Saturday shop takings are for May - £ 242.54 and June - £ 257.68. These figures include £79.96 from plants sales over the two months including tomato plants supplied by Mr Les Downs.

#### **JAM**

If anyone has any spare fruit, could they please see Ruth Carter, who will turn it into jam to be sold at the Saturday Shop. Thank you.

**Ruth Carter**

#### **CARD STALL**

The card stall at the Saturday Shop still offers a wide selection of greeting cards at very competitive prices. However we have changed our supplier and when Christmas comes along will no longer be able to provide the usual catalogue to select cards, calendars and other goods. We will do our best to have available such goods in stock especially if you request these in good time.

Thank you for your custom in the past and look forward to serving you again soon. **Miriam Plank**

## **SEARCH AND FIND THIRTY BOOKS IN THE BIBLE**

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi-Lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly put it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you to compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

**Submitted by Peter Reed**

## **FROM CONFUSION TO CONFIDENCE**

The story of Habakkuk, the 'whinging' prophet

We are living in troubled times: financial crisis, wars, disease and famine. Like the prophet Habakkuk we are perplexed over these events and the unpunished evil in the world. Millions are bewildered, they are not sure that the political leaders or the scientists know what they are doing.

So what can we in the 21<sup>st</sup> century learn from this story of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC? I call Habakkuk the whinging prophet, which sadly is a state that affects all of us at times. The Bible reveals how he moved from confusion to confidence and it is a lesson we can learn too.

How can God's people walk through life with confidence and assurance? Is there some formula we can discover, that will prevent our feet from slipping

and sliding on the rocky slopes of this sick and confused world? Let us follow in Habakkuk's steps.

To start with the prophet complains (whinges) to God that he sees sinful violence all around him, yet no punishment is inflicted on the evildoers, either by those in authority or by God. Perplexed and frustrated he asks "Why are you so slow to act Lord?" The first step is talk to God, and to be honest about how you feel: even if it is a whinge. Bring all your questions, doubts and feelings directly to God and talk to Him about them.

It was to Habakkuk's credit that after telling God what he thought about God's seeming delay that the prophet left time for God to reply. Then God revealed his divine plan for the punishment of the evildoers, by using the Babylonians (Chaldeans) as an instrument of judgement against the wicked nation. Now that was not what Habakkuk had imagined and the lesson here is that if we are sensible enough to ask the questions, are we not wise enough to receive the answers?

God's answer left Habakkuk with a dilemma. How can a holy god use those wicked heathen people to punish and destroy God's chosen people? As he ponders this he moves from looking at the problem to looking to God, reminding himself of God's attributes: His holiness, His eternal nature, His faithfulness, His justice and His omnipotence. It is only when we understand who God is that we will understand what He does.

The lesson Habakkuk needed to learn comes in Chapter 2:4, the watchword of the Christian church "the righteous will live by his faith". It is only when we understand that, that we can move from confusion to confidence. Gone is the whinging prophet; now we see a man of integrity and vision.

Living by faith does not mean that everything is fine and dandy, but we need to keep in mind that no matter how dark and difficult things may appear, God is always in control. Then like Habakkuk we can utter a sublime prayer, speaking of the majesty and glory of God and declaring his unwavering trust in His divine plans (3:1-19). This worship is the inevitable and spontaneous response to spending time in God's presence.

Having been closeted with God, Habakkuk's heart was filled to overflowing and that seems to be the response of all who have drawn close to God. Positive thoughts lead to positive feelings, gone is the whinging prophet and

instead we see a prophet walking by faith in the sure and certain hope that even in the worst of circumstances God is in control. May that be our experience as we seek to serve Him.

*John Martin, Zone 6 Trustee*

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## **THE WORK OF HIS FINGERS**

The illustrated rhyme below in praise of creation is taken from the book “The Work of His Fingers”. It is a children's book which I purchased at the Ladies Conference at Bethersden Baptist Church. It is published by The Banner of Truth Trust and is copyrighted material. Although the rhyme is written for children, it encouraged me so much in these days when evolution is pushed so much that I thought it was suitable for adults too. The words of the rhyme are printed here by permission of the Banner Of Truth Trust whose website is [www.banneroftruth.co.uk](http://www.banneroftruth.co.uk). God Bless, Doreen Dallison.

### *The Work of His Fingers*

by Alison Brown

When we pause to consider this wonderful earth,  
we see some incredible sights...  
a world full of beauty suspended in space,  
with billions of twinkling lights!

Perhaps you have wondered just how it got there,  
... perhaps you've been tempted to guess?  
(It didn't explode from a cloud of hot gas;  
explosions make only a mess!)

Instead it was lovingly made by our God,  
whose power and great understanding  
are far beyond anything thought of by man;  
no problem was found too demanding.

What distance to set from the earth to the sun  
was a very important decision,  
For only God knew what that distance should be,  
and he measured with careful precision.

If too near the sun then our ground would burn up,  
the grass would just wither and twist;  
yet if too far away....all our water would freeze  
and life could no longer exist.

But God knew exactly just how to create  
an atmosphere perfect for plants....  
and since it's still here after thousands of years,  
it could never have happened by chance.

Sometimes children ask us, “How long is a year?”

This blanket of ozone is wrapped round the earth  
ten miles or so up in the sky;  
if God hadn't thought about putting it there  
then everything living would die!

And then there is water ... we always need some  
for bathing or having a drink,  
and doing the jobs that we may not enjoy  
like washing those things in the sink.

But no other planet has water like ours,  
collected in oceans and seas...with vapour  
...and storm clouds...and rain pouring down,  
and taps running just where we please!

God created a world where seasons can change...  
new blessings are sent from above;  
through summer and autumn and winter and spring  
He dresses the earth with His love.

We have flowers and bees and fruit-laden trees  
in breathtaking colours and shapes...  
with things we can look at and things we can eat,  
like pineapples.... peaches ... and grapes!

Take a look inside these and you'll be amazed,  
by patterns of structure and line;  
They had to be planned by someone who thinks...  
such order appears by design!

Every plant carries seed, a true germ of itself,

And how will we know when it's done?"  
God ordered our years by the time that it takes  
the earth to go once round the sun.

Our planet spins round as it travels along,  
(each spin makes a night and a day);  
the side next the sun will be flooded with light  
while the other is gloomy and grey.

For people grow tired and their bodies must rest,  
so God planned our time with dark spaces,  
when shadows would fall and we'd want to lie down ...  
in cosy and comfortable places.

As well as the sun, our great energy source,  
God knew we'd need plenty of air;  
He didn't put any on Venus or Mars  
.... no men would be living out there.

(If you go exploring in those barren worlds  
you'll have to make up for the lack,  
by breathing some oxygen out of a tank  
you'll carry around on your back!)

And oxygen also protects us from harm  
by forming a dense ozone layer  
to soak up the deadly invisible rays  
that come from the sun's dazzling glare.

which will root and grow into another...  
so plums will grow plums... and peas will grow peas...  
baby plants all resemble their mother!

And animals too, as the Bible explains,  
will produce only "after their kind".  
"Like gives rise to like", as the scientists say,  
(that's exactly what God had in mind.)

Giraffes will give birth to ... baby giraffes...  
a chick is produced by a hen.  
A frog will have spawn... and tadpoles ... and frogs...  
... but monkeys will never make men!

For we have been made in the image of God  
with longings to find Him as friend.  
He gave us a mind that could study His Word ...  
and a soul that would live without end.

And let's not forget the great rule of science  
that, "Life can come only from life."  
The Creator must *live* who gave the first breath,  
to Adam and then Eve his wife!

There's no need to debate or question or doubt  
what God has so wonderfully done...  
for the evidence all around us agrees  
with Genesis chapter one!

**DEADLINE DATE:** Please may all articles for the October/November magazine be with the Editor by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Thank you.

**JESUS SAID:** "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled". Then everyone deserted him and fled.'  
**(Mark 14:48-50)**

### **THE POWER OF YOUR ACTIONS**

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.'

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I

jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.

As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks.' They really should get lives. He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!' There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived.

As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.

I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, 'Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!' He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem.

He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd.

He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, 'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!' He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. 'Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began 'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends... I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story.'

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. 'Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.'

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile... Not until that moment did I realize its depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions.

With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. You now have two choices, you can:

- 1) Pass this on to your friends or
- 2) Delete it and act like it didn't touch your heart.

As you can see, I took choice number 1. 'Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly...'

There is no beginning or end... Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. Show your friends how much you care.

## **WHAT LOVE MEANS TO 4-8 YEAR OLDS!!**

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling.

He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore'. Cindy – age 8

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones'. Lauren – age 4

## **LIFE IS**

**Life is love, love it  
Life is food, eat it  
Life is hate, despise it  
Life is God, worship it.**

**Life is work, take it  
Life is fun, laugh it  
Life is sad, cry it  
Life is happy, enjoy it.**

**Life is hurt, feel it  
Life is lazy, sleep it  
Life is death, survive it  
Life is life, live it!**

**Michael Aspinall (aged 14)**

## AUGUST 2009 DIARY

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.00 am	Morning Service
	10.30 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	"The Gospel in the Arab world": mission update from Mike and Debby Hulmes, Church Centre
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Saturday Shop, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Garlinge Lunch, Old School Hall
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting, Church Centre
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service

## SEPTEMBER 2009 DIARY

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	)	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	)	Home Bible Study Groups ( <i>whatever date and time have been arranged for your Group</i> )
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	)	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.15 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	"The Gospel in Mexico": mission update from JP Schroeder, Church Centre
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Saturday Shop, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Garlinge Lunch, Old School Hall
	7.30 pm	PCC, Church Centre
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Focus on Prayer, Church Centre
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Harvest Supper Quiz Evening, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Harvest Family Service
	6.30 pm	Harvest Evening Service with the Lord's Supper
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club: "Art Appreciation" (Robert Barrass), Church Centre
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00 pm	Bible Study: "Approaching God in prayer", Church Centre
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Living Stones Bible Study Group, Church Centre
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	God's Plan, Our Part (developing Gospel work in our church and lives, part 3)

We welcome into the church family:

**BAPTISMS:**

**THANKSGIVING:**

**WEDDING:**