



**ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES**

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## **We want to be healed.....**

Is this our desire as Christians, our desire as the Church in the twenty first century? Recently I have found myself looking at the subject of physical healing and asking again why it is that many are not being healed. Is it that they are, for one reason or another unable to receive the healing that God has for them or is there something much more fundamentally wrong in our approach to God and our expectations?

It is now four years since Brian's cancer was diagnosed and it is what the clinicians call a "well-behaved" tumour. Surgery was not an option and chemo-therapy did nothing for him. The insertion of a stent (a tube to allow bile to flow) into his bile duct has given him relief from the jaundice and pain that were the presenting symptoms. Several changes have been necessary and he has enjoyed reasonable health for most of the time. However the last six months have not been so good and they have just agreed a repeat of the procedure. Now we have total faith in this being a success and freeing Brian from problems for another couple of years or so. God after all works through doctors, and we praise God for the way He is looking after us. Many of you have prayed for Brian and because you think He looks well assume that he has been "cured" as a result of prayer. Yes it is right to thank Him for this healing, during this time we have both received much from our Lord but I want to raise a number of issues that have a wider bearing on our relationship with God.

When Brian first became ill, things were desperate, but I could hear God saying "Trust Me." My only prayer was "May your will be done and your name glorified." I praised God that so many of you were praying when we didn't get to Flames of Fire in 1999. I had to hand Brian over to the Lord and I knew that He was in charge. I have come to realise that I really do believe that God has given Brian his healing but for one reason or another we have not yet received it. Since March he has had jaundice ten times, just for short periods, and because I was usually the only person who knew he was in pain I had to ask the Lord firstly, if I could now pray and secondly how to pray. Mostly the prayer has been simply the "Prayer of Love" with no words just allowing God's love to flow through us, His stream of living water. Without fail this takes away the pain and brings us into peace, calm and surrender but it has not yet brought physical healing. It has though taught me something about praying for the sick. When we pray for a loved one there is inevitably an element of selfishness in our prayers. I believe that is why I was told not to pray four years ago, only to trust and give Him the glory. Now I know that my prayer for Brian must be no different to praying for any of you or indeed for someone I do not know. This is because God loves us all equally, He has no favourites. But this is the awesome thing, it is not about me loving Brian less but being available to love others with the love of God. This is a major factor when praying for healing but it has a bearing on the way that God wants the Church to be, that is holy and available for His purpose.



I have thought and prayed more about being filled with “the fullness of God” (Eph.1:23; 3:19; 4:13) because I believe it to be the key we need. It is about love and holiness and all the other qualities of God that Jesus exhibited on earth, that is the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal.5:22-23). We rejoice in the fact that God loves us but we need to be so aware of that truth that we become willing to receive an abundance of that love for his purpose, for the benefit of the world (Rom. 5:5). It is through the Holy Spirit that we receive this gift of love, the most excellent way, as St.Paul describes it in his teaching on the “gifts of the Spirit” (1 Cor. 12-14).

Here we are on familiar ground, being an organization which acknowledges the importance of both the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit, but do we really understand and accept all the implications? Baptism in the Spirit is about being filled with the Spirit of God, it is so often misunderstood and the expression has caused a lot of pain to many sincere Christians. Firstly we must remember that all Christians have the Holy Spirit within them (Rom.8:9), but not all Christians are filled with the Spirit and very few are “full” of the Spirit all of the time. Why is this? It is what Christ intended for His Church. Stephen and the other deacons were chosen because they were “full of the Spirit” (Acts 6). We are happy to soak up any outpouring of the Spirit at Flames of Fire but if we were already full on arrival any fresh filling would bring the overflow which God can use – His power, the promised Streams of living water will indeed flow.

We must realise that we can be filled not only with the Holy Spirit but with Jesus and the Father (John 14:20,23; 17; Rev.3:20-21), and then ask ourselves why we are not; for this is why the church is weak today.

Do we have the desire to be filled? Are we willing to surrender all and let God have control of our lives? Do we really believe that God lives in each one of us and can work through us? These are all blockages to His power and reasons why we do not see the miracles and healings that we want so much. I leave this editorial with the reply I hear from God; it is that we must go to Him and say “We NEED to be healed...” But that is about much more than physical healing.

In the last issue I asked you take notice of Romans 11. This time our friends from Northern Ireland, Niall and Gerry Griffin, have elaborated on it. It is all part of the healing.

Other articles encourage us to look again at ourselves and how we respond to God’s plan.

Mary Newsom



## A Letter from our Chairman Phil Rees

Dear Friends,

Flames of Fire looms ever closer, and we had an excellent preparation day at Builth a little while ago. As always we trust the Lord for His grace and His own Presence by the Holy Spirit. We are also pleased that the change of week does not seem to have reduced the bookings to date, though some very good friends will not be able to be with us this year.

The programme has been finalised and the office at Pencoed is up and running in the mornings. We have said a “thank you” to Dick and Kath Shenton for all they have done to make the event happen over so many years. We will also be saying something at the event next month and at the A.G.M. of A.R.M.(Wales)

As you probably know, I also am standing down this autumn, and I am sure it is the right time. I have been a member of the Executive committee since 1997, and Chairman since 1999, and have wonderful memories of all that the Lord has done during that time. All the thanks and praise to Him, and He has given me such a super large team to work with. Nick Jones is to be responsible for next year’s Flames of Fire. We have always worked very closely together, gradually handing over. I know that Nick will continue to receive the support that I have enjoyed.

We have always tried to keep the family feel of the Conference and much that happens is based on relationships which have grown over the years. We have not looked for people with great gifts to work with us, but those with servant hearts. I have been so blessed with the site and admin. teams who have been such “givers”.

We have never wanted the event to become a “Large successful event” as a project. Rather we felt it right to build good foundations and excellent relationships. I believe that the Lord will now increase the pace of growth, and we look forward to closer links with the New Wine movement.

Above all, the Lord wants to use the Builth Event to equip and enthuse lots of little churches up and down the land of Wales. May we see a lovely harvest,

Every Blessing.

Phil



## **CHALLENGES FACING THE CHURCH TODAY by Niall and Gerry Griffin**

In January's edition of the Reader's Digest we read about the Portsmouth inventor, Mike Gill who has invented a life-sized inflatable Church. It has an altar, steeple, organ and room for 100 guests and "it is available for weddings anywhere in the country". There was a picture of a bride and groom standing in front of a clergyman inside this "church" and you could see a stain-glassed window, the altar and two drunken candles in leaning candle holders - all inflated. It made us both laugh and groan. Is this symbolic of how the Church is in the West? Will we have inflatable clergy next, and inflatable Christians on inflatable pews?

We have also read that in this age of stacks of information on every subject the church remains uninformed, misled and wrongly taught about Israel, Islam and what is going on in the Middle East today. In a recent edition of "Prophecy Today" Tony Pearce wrote about something that another writer has called today's disease i.e. political correctness. Pearce says that biblical Christianity is considered to be wrong by the politically correct world. As Christians we are accused of being "homophobic" if we say that homosexuality is wrong and the assumption is made that Christians hate homosexuals. As Christians we are accused of being "Islamophobic" if we say that Islam is wrong and the assumption is made that Bible believing Christians hate Muslims. It is becoming increasingly difficult for people to get it into their mind that Christians love the sinner but not the sin. We are not "allowed" to say that people are wrong in their thinking and we are rapidly losing our liberty to do so.

In our ministry, under our charity name Colann Ministries (Colann pronounced Cullin is an Irish word meaning Body - living body, and we use it to mean the living body of Christ) and its adjacent ministry S.O.M.A Ireland (Sharing of Ministries Abroad and the Greek word for body) we have been blessed since late 1988 to travel as a couple or with teams to many countries around the world. The majority of churches in which we've worshipped and worked have been Anglican/ Episcopalian and in only a few of them have we ever heard informed, biblical based prayers about Israel and the Middle East. We have on the other hand been very humbled to find that people all over the world have persevered in praying for Ireland and N Ireland, but we have been concerned for some time now that as the Body of Christ, the Church in all its branches, rarely obeys God's commands in Scripture to bless Israel, not curse her (Genesis 12:2-3) and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps.122:6). (Shalom meaning many things like wholeness and the completion of God's plans and promises); to recognise that God has not finished with Israel, the Church has not replaced Israel (Romans 11:2; Isaiah 44:21; Ezekiel 36:24-27); to realise that as Christians we depend upon the past, present and future of Israel (Romans 11: 17) that we have all benefited from her fall (Romans 11:11); to face the fact that since God loves Israel we ought to also and we need to repent for our past and present attitudes, ignorance, apathy and hostility towards her (Romans 11: 28; Jeremiah 31: 1-3); to hear God's call to us to show mercy to Israel (Romans 11:31) by praying, supporting

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financially and by visiting to show support (Romans 10 :1; 1 Samuel 12 :22; Psalm 122 :6, Isaiah 62:1-7; Romans 9:1-5) and to look to the future when, according to God's word greater blessing will come to the world through Israel (Romans 11:15).

In his book "Hastening the coming of the Messiah" Johannes Facius uses 2 Peter 3:10-12a "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming," to challenge the reader to consider four main conditions which have to be met before the Lord can return.

These are :

- 1 that the great commission as in Matthew 24 v 14 has to be completed.
- 2 "the Bride will have made herself ready" (see Revelation 19:6-8;)
- 3 the Jews will have returned to Israel - aliyah ['aliyah' - means to go up, to ascend, to go from a lower place to a higher place. It is associated with the journey three times a year to Jerusalem by Jewish people to celebrate the three major festivals. Psalms were written for the journey - the Psalms of Ascent – (Psalms 120 to 134). As time passed this returning to Jerusalem came to mean the restoration of man's spirit to God - so it came to mean a return, like revival to us.] (Isaiah 43:5-6, Isaiah 49:22-23)
- 4 God's prophetic word in the Old and New Testaments will be understood, recognised by the Church and fulfilled by Him as in Ezekiel 36, 37 and 47.

More than 700 scriptures deal directly or indirectly with the Lord's plans for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem and the return of the Jewish people from all nations to the promised land. (Isaiah 60: 4 and 8-9; Jeremiah 31: 8-9; Deuteronomy 4:39-40). Miracles have happened and are happening in our lifetimes. We note the miraculous recognition by the U.N. of Israel's right to renew statehood in 1947, after a worldwide dispersion of 1900 years, and the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. The nation was regathered (e.g. 1 million Jews from the former Soviet Union have made aliyah since 1991) in spite of unspeakable persecution in the nations to which they were scattered (this persecution is on the rise again especially in Europe) and in spite of several wars against her including the present intifada since 1948. All of which aimed and still aim to destroy her and wipe her off the map altogether. In the Old Testament God says, more than 70 times, through the prophets, "I will bring them home." He promises to do this physically first and then spiritually. Ezekiel 36 makes this clear. In 47 passages God has given His oath concerning the land of Canaan, renamed Israel. In every case God's commitment is to give His land to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants. In three places God's oath is joined with His covenant (1 Chronicles 16: 15-18; Psalm 105: 8-11 and Joshua 21:43). In three places it is clearly stated that Israel's possession of the land is to be for ever, or everlasting. (Exodus 32:13, 1 Chronicles 16:15-18 and Psalm 105: 8-11).



There are 77 instances where 'Israel' or 'Israelite' occur and the apostles never used Israel as a synonym for the Church. Some of the early Church fathers developed a doctrine that the Church had replaced Israel in the purposes of God. They taught that the Church was to be known as the 'new Israel'. Justin Martyr did this from AD 150. Later Irenaeus, Origen and Augustine adapted this teaching so the doctrine of the Church became corrupted and changed from the simple revelation of the apostles (all Jews) as in the New Testament. From about A.D.400 Israel has regularly been used by Bible teachers, commentators and even translators as a synonym for the Church e.g. K.J.V. Bible in the headings above later chapters in Isaiah. The Church needs to repent of this doctrine of replacement theology. Israel is Israel and the Church is the Church. The word "remnant" is applied to Israel 40 times in Scripture and in the majority of them the word refers to the time just before the end of the present age. (Romans 9:27 quoting Isaiah 10:22; Romans 11:1-4 & 5-6 and 26)

The "all Israel" who will be saved will be "the remnant" whom God has chosen and kept for Himself by His grace (Zephaniah 3:12-13). Jesus, Himself, says in Matthew 23:39 that he will not return until there is a worshipping community able to say "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

It seems to us according to what we've read and learned over the past years that the Holy Spirit is directing us to His prophetic word, and the present day battle for believers which is the battle for truth - the truth of God's word. In this battle Israel's identity, Israel's destiny and the Church's part in all of this are being highlighted. Johannes Facius says that the main part of Satan's strategy against Israel is to hide the truth of the Bible. The answer to the question: "Why is Israel the focus of world attention?" is, the Bible.

Johannes says that God's prophetic word shows us that this age will end with the restoration and redemption of Israel. As we come closer to the end of the age the pressure on Israel, her existence, her identity and destiny will increase and that pressure on the Church will increase too. This is already happening and there is more to come as David Pawson warns us in his excellent teaching entitled "The Challenge of Islam to Christians."

David Stern who translated the Complete Jewish Bible, wrote into that Bible: "I am Jewish, was raised in the Jewish religion by Jewish parents and did not come to faith in the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, until I was 37 years old. As a Messianic Jew, I saw that the greatest schism in the world is the separation between the Church and the Jewish people; and I experienced it as God's will for my life that I do what I could to resolve this."

If we believe that God is speaking to us in the Bible, we will want to take the promises the threats, the suggestions and commands contained in God's Word very seriously. When Jesus came to the earth the first time he fulfilled every prophecy which God intended to be fulfilled. When He returns in glory the rest of the prophecies in the Bible will be fulfilled.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy in Chapter 3:16 he says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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Why don't we let God's Word inform us about His purposes for Israel, both land and people, instead of allowing only the biased, anti-Semitic world and Christian media inform us - otherwise we will be merely an inflatable Church without steadiness in this troubled world?

## Here I Am by Chris Daniel

(Chorus)

Here I am, Father here I am.  
How can I contribute to Your great eternal plan?  
Yet what I am I offer for the glory of the Lamb.  
I give my life in service to my King.

We're all part of the body of our resurrected Lord  
Each one an essential part to play.  
And gifts flow from His Spirit 'til the Kingdom is restored  
If only we acknowledge them today.  
Some with gifts of healing,  
Some with words to prophesy.  
Some will teach, while others through their song will glorify,  
Some will speak in strange ways  
Some interpret what they say  
Each one shows the Kingdom now is nigh.

(Chorus)

So here I am available, I kneel before Your throne.  
Concede to You my each and every part.  
Pour out Your gifts and set me free, Your will for me make known.  
Unblock my well and let revival start.  
Revival comes when all Your people  
Listen, watch and pray,  
Then make themselves available and act on what You say.  
The body acts in unity  
For ever from that day.  
So here I am, I offer You my heart.

(Chorus)

Chris Daniel 2003



## **The Power of God in us..... by Mary Newsom**

This is a thought that has promoted prayer and action. It is behind all our healing services and attempts to allow God the freedom that Jesus had whilst on earth. Time and again I've come back to the fact that it is God's power and He does not give it away. Yet at the same time I think of the gifts of the Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men .....(4-6)

The Spirit is given for the common good and different gifts are distributed to each member of the Church according to His choice. Listed are: the message of wisdom, the message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing and of miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

We were all baptized by the same Spirit but verse 12 also says, "...and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." As I write this I am reminded of John Chapter 4 when Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

He then adds, "...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

This is the Gift of God Himself within us and it is for all Christians not a privileged few. But we need to understand that we are offered this drink, how much are we willing to drink of it. We shall not drink much when we are full already of what the world offers.

There are signs that this living water is beginning to flow but is it flowing in us? In prayer God has assured me that it will, so we need to consider what effort or otherwise we need to make. Christ needs every one of us to be a fruitful member of His body, else we will have to go through extremely painful pruning as described in the story of the vine in John 15. It was to this chapter that God directed me in the early 1980s, at that time I was not used to hearing God's voice clearly, but it was like an audible voice. Although I knew exactly what was in some chapters of John, I was not sure about 15. I went to the Bible in awe. It was later that I came across Colin Urquhart's book, My Father is the Gardener and saw how essential it was "to abide in the vine", to abide in Christ himself.

So what does it mean to be "in Christ", for we should all be in Christ that is how Christians were described in the New Testament. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17)



But remember "...we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:1) Does that immediately set us on the road to service? Beware lest we proceed in our own strength for it is only that which God has prepared for us that we should be doing, just as Jesus only did what he saw "the Father doing", but more than that he made it clear that he could do nothing on his own.(John5:19) But then look at verses 20 and 21.

"The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes."

Is there a parallel for us here? John 14:12-14 says, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

It is therefore clear that Jesus intended the Church to continue his work under the same conditions. The power of God that worked in him is available to the Church but he has safeguarded that power to work under his control. If we expect to see these great works then we must be totally surrendered to Him, He must be in control of all that is done "in his name", that is both prayer and actions.

The theme of this year's at Flames of Fire is "Here I am". It is intended to be an opportunity to offer ourselves to God afresh, dare we make that total surrender this year and allow Him control?

Since 1995 I have been involved with A.R.M.(Wales). God has led me in prayer for the Church and for our part in it. I have kept a diary of all that I feel God has said to me relating to A.R.M. (Wales) and its activities. One of the first was that we must mean what we sing! Now we have sung some very powerful stuff, e.g. "Let your glory fall on this room, let it go forth from here to the nations....." That means that we have to be prepared to take it, just as the Welsh missionaries did after the 1904 revival.

On March 9th 1996 during the singing of the chorus "Reign in me", actually at the Well Centre, the Lord challenged me. He showed me that it meant Gal.2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." and walking the way of the Cross.

It led to prayer for a Holy Church. Each time I felt the Lord show me from scripture what His expectations were I strove to incorporate that into "my prayer". I felt that this was identifying with His will and assumed that this was how He wanted me to pray. Time and again He brought me back to sitting in His presence to do nothing. Often I wrestled as I constantly questioned if I was wasting my time, but all God wanted of me was to concentrate on Him and allow Him to do the praying. Although I knew this for a long time it was still a temptation to resort to praying "my prayers". I have learned something of letting the Spirit pray in me but it

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is not as easy in practice as quoting scriptures like “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.”(Eph.6:18). We are frequently commanded to be strong and stand firm but that must not become a struggle either with the enemy or with our flesh. For the Holy Spirit is the means whereby we can rest in the presence of God, he enables us to feel at peace and know that nothing matters except He have His way. Without uttering any words our hearts are conformed to the will of God, it is His prayer and we have been privileged to be a part of it.

You may be asking how we know that we are not being deceived. God has shown me through scriptures He has given me that I am safe in Him, that is where we must remain. So encouraged by some inkling of how it can work out in prayer, for the unexpected vocal prayer sometimes comes when with others, I push on to believing that it should happen in other activities. We are told that our work as Christians is “to believe on the one whom he sent”(John 6:29). To me that must mean that we have got to believe that we are in Christ and he is in us and he can work in power if he has control of our whole being - body, soul and spirit. Although my mind might just get to grips with the idea it needs much more prayer and submission before my heart can hold on to it. I’ve had only fleeting glimpses of the reality but I am convinced that this has to be true for the Church. It is the realisation of Galatians 2:20.

However it has made me aware of a sin, perhaps even worse than pride, a matter of “unbelief”. But there are two ways in which I could sin here, firstly the not believing it possible at all under any circumstances, and secondly continuing to think that God needs my help, i.e. of my doing the job.

So I know that it is about dying to sin and dying to self as St. Paul said, “I die daily....” (1 Cor 15:29) and letting go of control. – Yes but how? The only answer I can give is by being willing because that is the Lord’s answer to me. Know that He will give me all the help I need, but perhaps there are difficulties in actually receiving that help. He has given me help only this week and I praise Him and thank Him. One morning I was led to my bookshelf to look for this help, I had no idea what I was looking for but I pulled out a slim volume which has been there for 2-3 years, perhaps longer. I hadn’t read it because of its small print, it was something that I had bought second-hand at the Keswick Convention when looking for the origins of Keswick. It also had the uninspiring title of *The Law of Liberty in the Spiritual Life*, by Evan Henry Hopkins. I had not heard of him but I had missed a gem. Written over one hundred years ago it covers much of the ground that I had been struggling with. Bishop Handley Moule, of whom I had heard, said of the author, “a life so rich in influence for God and holiness” The book was reprinted in 1952 and my copy is the 7th impression of that edition. So I guess you will be lucky to find a copy - but I can recommend it and you can read it for I looked Evan Henry Hopkins up on the Internet and straight away found his book available free since it is actually a Christian Classic. Go to [www.gracenotebook.com](http://www.gracenotebook.com) and find the section Classics. But I am sure that some of you will also find it on your bookshelves having already discovered it.

I find myself writing this article, as an extension of the editorial. I first felt inclined to quote liberally from Hopkin’s book but have taken the easy way out and just shared what is on my heart as we approach *Flames of Fire* and dare to say, “Here I am”.

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I have already stressed the importance of “the fullness of God”.(see Editorial) But St.Paul in his letter to the Colossians (2:9-10) said, “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” Can we all pray that we might believe that we have been given that fullness and be willing to receive it?

Some of what I have said might worry some of you, it might make you feel that you have so much to give up, so much that you enjoy – you are not alone. For that reason I want to share a vision that the Lord gave me for A.R.M. (Wales) a couple of years ago when praying. I shared it at the A.G.M but I now have a much clearer understanding of its meaning. When I shared it I got very emotional, tears coming to my eyes. “In the vision I found myself being drawn into a large empty space, it was dark but comfortable and I wanted to go on. However on my right I saw another attraction that was drawing many people, they were having a good time and there were bright lights.” Because it disturbed me and I didn’t know what it meant, I got up and walked round my room asking the Lord if this was from Him. I settled back to pray and the vision returned. But now I knew that this large apparently empty space was in fact the heart of God. I was very aware that it should have been full of Christians and I wept as I felt pain that so many did not want to enter into that close communion with Him. I wanted to encourage them to come in for it was warm and comfortable, it was the place we were meant to be. Instead we so often choose the “fun” place where we can see what was going on, where we feel safe in the company of others. But the really safe place is the heart of God, I want to suggest some reasons for the apparent darkness. The glory of God is in fact so bright that it would dazzle our eyes and we would see only blackness, it is a protection. But secondly we do not understand the heart of God and seek instead places where we can understand, we fear the unknown and the implications. But what of the bright place, I no longer think it is the world but rather a worldly church. At last year’s Flames of Fire I could even see the conference as that light place, knowing that afterwards some move willingly to the heart of God but many are afraid, not yet ready or unwilling to go deeper. I just want to say that God loves you and wants to draw you close, even into His holy heart.

A thought from St Bernard of Clairvaux ,

".....we should seek to become reservoirs rather than canals. For a canal just allows the water to flow through it, but a reservoir waits until it is filled before overflowing, then it can communicate without loss to itself. In the church today (i.e. twelfth century), we have many canals but few reservoirs."

Things have not changed but they will if we are prepared change.



## **FLAT ON MY BACK: SOME REFLECTIONS FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT Elizabeth Parry**

It is no secret that the things we do produce results, our actions have consequences.

My enthusiasm for DIY meant that I was involved recently in an accident at home.

As a consequence of enthusiasm I spent several weeks in hospital. Furthermore I will need to spend some considerable time having physiotherapy to help me walk again unaided. However, another consequence is that I now have time (albeit imposed) to follow the old Green Cross Road Safety slogan; STOP LOOK AND LISTEN.

### **STOP**

So many of us are busy people- I pretend I'm not – I tell myself I'm disciplined and that I take time for prayer and Bible study. I always take my annual leave and days off, and to show how balanced I am I will admit to watching East Enders. Reality of course is something quite different. I have always worked full- time and full- time today usually means much more. I had worked along side my husband in ministry for 40 years and raised three energetic sons and three months prior to my accident I had just completed a long and demanding academic project. My husband had taken early retirement and with the completion of the project at Christmas, I was now free to do all the things I had put off for so long. WRONG. At the time of writing this article I have to depend on my husband for most activities I had previously taken for granted, like making a cup of tea or driving into town. I have to use a wheelchair to go any distance, although I'm becoming increasingly proficient at tottering around on elbow crutches!

### **LOOK**

So, one moment I am planning to dress ceiling beams with linseed oil, take the dog to the vet, collect my husband from a meeting and get some gardening done before preparing a meal. The next moment I am flat on my back and my right leg crushed.

What did all this mean? Things like this happen to other people, not me! I am the person who does for others! Where was I going to get my sense of value now that I could no longer 'do'?

My inquisitiveness demands that I ask questions and look at events as they unfold. So I asked how and why did this happen to me? The short and simple answer was that I was too busy and preoccupied to prepare properly My pride in my ability to undertake and accomplish tasks was in overdrive.



Where was my God in all this? The longer answer to this question was He was there before I fell, when I fell and is with me right now. How do I know this?

- A telephone call from our daughter-in-law minutes before I fell meant a hand set was unusually right beside me so I could ring 999 (usually we are hunting the house for it when the 'phone rings);
- A superb crew of the Paramedics, cared for me with great calmness, confidence and superb skill;
- A hospital chaplain who always seemed to appear at the right time;
- An unforgettable Easter Day service made possible by people who willingly gave up part of their Sunday to push me – and others like me - to the hospital chapel;
- Brothers and sisters in Christ who provided for us with lots of 'Cottage Pies' and home cooked meals, prayer support and visiting;
- Last and by no means least being able to come home to a loving family;

When will I be able to walk again? I do not know, this is in God's hands. How will this healing process come about? Again, I do not know. However, I feel there are three scary, yet vitally important components to my healing. One is that I cooperate with His healing process. In addition to prayer, this also means cooperating with the skills of the various professionals. The second is by asking God what He wants me to learn at each stage of my recovery. Does He for example, want me to get rid of things He finds unacceptable and make room for that which is pleasing to Him? Is my pride in my ability 'to do' high on His list? I think this is more than likely. The third is trusting that He knows and loves me and will do what is good for my ultimate well-being. Whilst I may say "Of course I will trust and obey", nevertheless, I think these things are scary because it means letting go of the familiar and moving into unknown territory. For so many of us a familiar renewal experience.

## **LISTEN**

What is God saying to me at a result of my reflections? As a consequence of my accident I was provided with an opportunity to listen to what God was saying to me. This was on two fronts. One was in terms of my own personal awareness, and the other was restating the needs. At the beginning of my accident I was very strongly aware of the Presence of God. So much so that I did not want to leave my 'mountain top experience'. I had 'permission' to reassess my own lifestyle but not yet launch into activities to meet the needs of others. By the very nature of my situation I am unable 'to do' but more importantly I have not been told how or when 'to do'. Patience must replace pride.

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My admission to hospital was just before Holy Week. Clearly, I was not going to spend Holy Week and Easter in my usual way. I found that very hard to accept. I wanted to be with my brothers and sisters in Christ singing full tilt "Jesus Christ is risen", yet in an incredible way my needs were met.

My insight into the physicality of the Crucifixion was astonishing. I had nails and rods through one leg, His wounds were multiple. I had effective and expensive pain relief, what did He have? I had caring family, friends and professionals. He was virtually abandoned. When we are in trouble we cry for help, the Spirit within us intercedes and Our Father responds with love to our situation. However, we are His hands and feet here on earth and as he is sensitive to our needs so too we strive to be sensitive to His directions with His timing for the furtherance of His will.

## **MYNYDD BACH PRIMARY SCHOOL IN LIRA, UGANDA**

- A Report from Charles Owens - Project Co-ordinator

Many of you who have been kind enough to support us in building a new school for L.O.S.T. (Lango Orphans Scholarship Trust) in Lira will, I am sure, be wondering how it is going. I am pleased to be able to report that it is going very well.

You have all been so generous and encouraging in the gifts you have sent to us. It is through this wonderful response to our appeal that our team in Lira has been able to make a start on site.

A further donation from a local construction firm has enabled us to purchase the remainder of the land, bringing the school site area well within the government's requirements for a residential primary school. Our Father is so good. He provides all and even gives us more than we ask for.

We decided to build the main school block in its entirety and to use only four of the classrooms as classrooms and the remainder as temporary dormitories, kitchen, dining room and assembly room. This will allow us to take on our first hundred children on completion of the main block

Work on the site clearance was completed last month. The playing fields and the main building area were levelled and the excavations and strip foundations start this week. (Report received 24th June 2003)

We have secured a clay deposit not too far from the site and I am assured that it has more than enough good quality clay for our brick making operation. The brick-making machine purchased in the UK arrived safely in Lira despite the mountain of paperwork. The machine is now in daily use employing four boys and one skilled man producing eight hundred bricks per day. We will have the first kiln firing next week and take delivery for the foundations mid July.

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I am frequently asked the same question – how can we build a school in Uganda that is many thousands of miles away. My answer is always the same – we don't. It is not us that are building this school, but the team from Lira under the supervision of an engineer and the control of the Rev Johnson and his wife Vicky.

For my part I have produced the drawings for the Lira local authority and the provisional government requirements, along with all working drawings. We have a team here in Wales that meet on a regular basis to promote the funding, the existing arrangements within L.O.S.T. and take care of all the finances.

There is an on-site labour force of around thirty. We provide each worker with a main meal and pay the going rate for this area every day. This allows them to purchase food for their families on their way home each night.

Our policy is to employ unskilled boys that can be trained with construction skills. Likewise when we have a good stock of bricks on site, the machine can be used to generate income.

We have a very good e-mail connection with the site and can have instant communications to solve any problems that can and do occur. So far all has gone well. The building programme is dictated by the gifts that we receive so please do remember us in your prayers. This school is desperately needed in Lira and the local work force desperately needs the work that the site is able to supply.

I will be in the village display area for most of this years' Flames of Fire conference at Builth and would welcome the opportunity to bring you up to date with the latest news.

Many thanks again for all your support. May God bless you all.

(Editor's note: A previous report of the work of L.O.S.T. appears in Issue number 22. ARM (Wales) and Flames of Fire are happy to support this work.)

## **A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRY. by Pauline Jens**

Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being praise his holy name, Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.  
(Ps.103.v.1-3. NIV)

Wonderful words from the Old Testament; and from the New Testament:

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“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues: they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (Mark16.v17-18. NIV)

But it's personal experience that makes me even more excited. I have been healed of sciatica through prayer, and seen many healed of more severe conditions, - some instantly, some after more persistent prayer - Jesus still heals - the same yesterday, today and forever!

It wasn't always so for me. Healing was something that might happen through doctors, hospitals, medicines, depending on the condition. Prayers for the sick were sometimes said in church and prayer meetings, and people were not really surprised if they were unsuccessful. After all 'Suffering is character-building', 'God has a reason for it', 'We all have a cross to bear'; or, in the event of death - 'God needed more angels in the heavenly host', and so on.

Then in 1999 everything changed for me. I went to Flames of Fire.

There I heard an address by Bishop Graham Dow. I don't remember much about it, only the effect it had on me. At the end he asked us to stand in various areas of the hall, according to how we felt called to serve, and I was drawn to the one for the healing ministry. I was given a form of application for a course on this led by him, and went off to the coffee bar with it, where I sat in amazement - is this me? A few minutes later my Vicar joined me, and before I could say anything asked me to join a healing ministry team he wished to set up! With his blessing I went to Willesden (one of 72) for Bishop Graham's course.

So began my journey of discovery in the healing ministry, first in a church in Willesden, then in my own and local parishes, and later at Flames of Fire.

I found how immense is the need for healing, how immeasurably damaged people can be by the words and actions of others, the bitterness, fragility, anger, unforgiveness and hurt people can carry in their minds and hearts; and also inflict on those around them through both words and actions.

This drew me to Jacob's Well Ministry of Healing and Wholeness and I was eventually licensed into the Order about 15 months ago.

Through ministry both with my Vicar, and when ministering within Jacob's Well, I have seen God's Healing Grace in many ways - tears of joy from people on their release from, for example, the bondage of bitterness or unforgiveness. Others equally moved by discovering God actually loves them personally and heals.

Meanwhile wonderful things were happening - people were being physically healed, and I have seen many instances of this; joy on the faces of those released from the immobility of frozen



shoulders, arthritic knees and hips, instantaneous healing of severe asthma (verified by a doctor), and many other wonderful instances of healing.

I not only believe from the Bible that God still heals today, I KNOW. Like Thomas, I've experienced it, seen it. "Don't wait for God, He's waiting for us!" It's exciting, wonderful, awesome, humbling.

I also believe that God wants to do infinitely more than we can ever ask or imagine; that he is always ready, waiting for us to come to Him in expectancy and humility.

There are many instances in the New Testament of Jesus healing - none of Him withholding it. Think of the woman with the issue of blood - she approached Him with persistence, humility and expectancy - she received healing - we can too.

"Although I am less than the least of God's people, this grace was given to me; to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God in freedom and confidence." (Eph 3.v.8-12)