



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES

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Let go.....and let God.....

How many times will I have to hear that message or a variation on it? Yesterday was the Staff team day for Flames of Fire and I was tired before we set off. I want to go up to Keswick for the Convention on 17th July and I need to get the magazine posted and a banner finished before then, to say nothing of a meeting to arrange and lots of personal stuff. Why do I find so much to do when the garden needs attention and the whole point of having a garden is to enjoy it?

So many times I've heard God tell me to rest in Him and enjoy the love and peace of His presence and yet I still fall into the trap of service on my terms. When things start to go wrong we blame the enemy, but perhaps the real fault is tiredness and forgetfulness. I lose things and waste hours searching for them, then the computer plays up, probably due to my haste, and I really do want to serve the Lord with every ounce of my body but that is not what the Lord wants. I enjoy the time I spend at the computer and making banners so I am my own worst enemy and I need to remember that, before I get tired.

So to my shame it took a dear sister in Christ to give me a word from the Lord when she prayed for me yesterday. It is so subtle the way we listen to our own anxieties and desires to do a good job instead of listening to the Lord. I did not recognise the word given me until I prayed again after returning home to do some preparation for a family service. "Hands off, let God do it". And He did. Now I return to the magazine knowing that there is a lot to write but knowing that He will do it, I've just got to press the right keys!

John 6:28-29 has more significance that we easily take on board.

'Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." '

What does it mean in practical terms to believe on Jesus? It means that we have to live our lives with a certain knowledge of the Holy Spirit within us and act on all His commands and believe all His promises. If only we did, what a Church we should be, knowing His love and living in joy and certainty. Passages like John 14 :12-14 would change the world:

'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.'

So how can we move into that place of faith? Certainly not by trying but by resting in God and allowing Him to do it. I know this is what our Lord wants and I know that if we are willing then we will be used to show God's glory to the whole Church and to the world. We are still

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asking about the future of ARM(Wales) and Flames of Fire but it comes down to demonstrating the truth of our Lord's words in our lives and giving Him the glory. Just be available to Him and let Him have His way. Total surrender does not mean trying to serve as I have been doing recently, but more time resting in Him.

So this issue may not have a recognizable theme but is about faith and prayer and worship, about God's plans for ARM England and our hopes for ARM (Wales), about listening to His voice and responding. In fact it is about the Church as we are and about what we could be. Michael Bennett reminds us of the value of pilgrimage and Arfon Jones tells us of the new Welsh Bible. Charles Owens has given us an update on the L.O.S.T. school building project – it is thrilling to hear of visible work being done to the glory of God. Only He knows how it will be used to further His Kingdom in that war torn land, but Jesus said,

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” and we also know from Roman 8:19 that “... the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;”.

It is indeed the Kingdom that we must proclaim and we need to think what this means to us, especially as we look at the future of Flames of Fire and ARM(Wales). I had been sent a review copy of Mike Endicott's new book on Healing. I have only read a part of it so I handed it over to Brian to review but well aware that he has not yet received his healing. He questions Mike's theology but is not denying that the Kingdom is already here and that we can be a part of it now.

I have already quoted John 6:28-29 and I believe that “believing on Jesus” in the way He intended is entering into the Kingdom that is available to us. Either the church does not understand this or is not willing to accept the conditions or cost. Also much of our Anglican Church does not like words like “Charismatic” or “Renewal” and I am questioning how we can talk about these things without turning people away? My response is to start writing a series of articles and look for opportunities to talk about it. It is all about our relationship with God, and God as Trinity. It means starting where people are and letting God do it - which is how I started this editorial. I've put a few thoughts into print under an invitation to draw near to God but I also invite you send me your thoughts on these topics.

Please meditate on some of the verses I have quoted here. We need to hear from you what God reveals. Matt 11:25-25; “At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure”, encourages us all.

Mary Newsom



A Message from our Chairman Nick Jones

Just last Saturday my wife, Chris, and I got up early to travel to Southampton to help our youngest daughter move from one flat to another. Ceri is just coming to the end of her third year as a medical student and needed help to move just before her end of year exams start in earnest. Glad to have helped, we returned home tired after climbing up and down stairs with heavy loads and then to get ready for Sunday. In the midst of all this Gareth and girlfriend arrive for a chat and a pizza. That didn't help my preparation much but it was good to spend time with them. It is one of those human failings of mine; I haven't yet grasped the technique of being in more than one place at a time.

I guess it is not just a failing of mine. For some years now much of the focus of ARM (Wales) has been on the Flames of Fire Conference. This has led to debate on what other work ARM(Wales) should be doing. The trouble is that the conference does take a lot of time and energy to organise and that doesn't leave a lot for other works that might need to be done. Volunteers, who also happen to be quite busy in other ways too, undertake the organising and running of the conference and so are limited in terms of what extra can be carried out. They can't be in more than one place at a time either.

There has been an awareness that ARM(Wales) has, for some time, not been focussing on anything more than the conference and that this needs to be addressed. Over this last six months or so this has been the subject of much debate at the Executive Committee. We recognise that there is a big gap between what happens at the conference and the experience of people in the parishes of Wales. I have a picture of stepping-stones across a river, on one side the parishes, on the other the Flames of Fire Conference. But the stepping-stones are falling into decay because there is no maintenance and some seem also to have disappeared. In setting up the conference the steps, in terms of spiritual growth or pilgrimage, which have helped many to cross the gap, have been forgotten.

This is an important realisation, which should I feel, shape the way that ARM(Wales) operates in years to come. To enable that process we need first of all to reflect on the steps of our own spiritual journey; what are the important experiences that have led to greater freedom in our relationship with God? How can we make them available to others to help them also to grow? One of the responses to receiving under the "Toronto Blessing" was to "give it away". If God has blessed us, then how can we give it away to bless others? Secondly, to explore with the local church, the diocesan Renewal Teams and the Provincial groups, what they feel is needed and how ARM(Wales) can best help to meet those needs.

I was speaking with Martin Cavender at a recent conference. Martin is the new Director of what was called ARM, in England. Many people will know that ARM has been going through a process of waiting and listening. The result, they now have a new title, ReSource, which reflects something of their new vision for their work. The public re-launch of ARM/ReSource

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is to be in the autumn. Please keep ReSource in your prayers along with prayers for ARM(Wales) as we seek to hear God for the way forward in Wales.

Nick

Pilgrimage - A Reflection by Michael Bennett

It was a cold wet day, not like June, though perhaps we can say it might be typical of a British summer. I was sitting on a seat outside the shrine church at Pennant Melangell in Powys some twenty miles from Oswestry. It didn't matter that the wind was cold or that there were frequent showers somehow I didn't feel the cold or the wet, but I felt the presence of God.

There would seem to be some places where heaven and earth seem to meet. They are places of prayer and pilgrimage and it seemed that St. Melangell's prayers were still being answered after fourteen hundred years. She was a woman of great holiness who lived as a hermit at the top of the Tanat valley. It is said that she was the daughter of an Irish chieftain who left Ireland to escape an arranged marriage. She lived in a cave and devoted her life to prayer.

One day the local prince Blochwel was out hunting and a hare ran and hid under Melangell's robe. It is said that when the hounds saw Melangell they turned and ran and that the huntsman was unable to blow his horn. The prince seeing that he was in the presence of a very holy lady promised to protect her and gave her the top of the valley as a sanctuary. She gathered other women around her and formed a community. After her death Pennant Melangell became a place of pilgrimage until the shrine was destroyed at the Reformation.

In recent years the shrine has been restored and Pennant Melangell is once again a place of Pilgrimage.

Another ancient place of Pilgrimage which has been restored in the last hundred years is Walsingham in Norfolk.

At this point those of you who are convinced evangelicals, may be having a few doubts about what I am going to say. John Wycliffe, a noted forerunner of the Reformation had no time for Walsingham or what went on there, but I suspect that this was because of the abuses so often associated with the medieval Church. I believe that the restoration of these shrines is part of the renewing hand of the Holy Spirit as people are being led to a new understanding of God and His ways. Pilgrimages are very valuable, but I would be the last one to say that they should be a compulsory part of our religious devotion or that going on a pilgrimage conveys any kind of merit in getting into heaven. What it does do so often is to strengthen faith.

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Some years ago I was in Walsingham and I prayed that I might understand how the Virgin Mary fitted into the scheme of things. I felt the Lord say to me not to worry about some of the more exotic things I might see, the important thing was that He loved His mother and wanted me to love her too.

Love I believe is what pilgrims should experience. I have been to Fatima, Lourdes, Medugorje, Częstochowa and the Holy land on pilgrimage. All the time in these places I am reminded of the Lord's love for His people. We may not feel that we can agree with a particular theological viewpoint and Protestant Christians may well have problems about appearances of the Virgin Mary, but when I see the love for the sick at Lourdes, my heart is very moved. It is a very special place, one feels the love of God. There are many other places around Britain and the world, some of which I hope I might visit before the greatest pilgrimage of all, to the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is no doubt that there were abuses which led the Reformers to destroy shrines and discourage pilgrimages but in our own time God is doing a new thing in showing us the real meaning of these things. Shrines can point us to the love of God and in pilgrimage we can experience His love and hear His voice more clearly.

Pilgrimage to shrines has certainly helped me greatly and I trust that a journey to a shrine may help you on your earthly pilgrimage.

Beibl.net - An Invitation to read the Bible in Welsh from Arfon Jones

2004 is a year of celebrating both the Word and the Spirit. It's the 100th anniversary of the last great Welsh Revival when God's Holy Spirit moved through this land in extraordinary ways. It's also the 200th anniversary of the Bible Society, and one only has to mention the names of Mary Jones and Thomas Charles to be reminded of its significance in Wales. It is also the 400th anniversary of the death of William Morgan whose Welsh translation of the Bible appeared in 1588. William Morgan said that, "religion will remain hidden and unknown, unless it is taught in the language of the people." How true! For the good news of Jesus to spread and touch hearts, there must be meaningful communication. In the words of the crowd that gathered together on the Day of Pentecost, "how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?" The Holy Spirit touched the people's hearts through meaningful communication. And that is the vision of beibl.net.

If you don't speak Welsh you might not have heard of beibl.net. beibl.net is an original paraphrase-translation of the New Testament in simple Welsh. It's not a revision of any previous Welsh version, and neither is it a translation of any of the English versions.

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beibl.net is part of the ministry of GiG. GiG (Gobaith i Gymru – Hope for Wales) was set up in 1999 to promote evangelism, support local churches and encourage vision and growth, particularly amongst the Welsh-speaking churches. GiG was established to serve the churches and encourage missionary vision and activity. The focus is not on being a ‘para-church’ group that does particular work on behalf of the churches, but on serving and resourcing, and working in co-operation with local churches. Our two key concepts are servanthood and co-operation.

With these principles in mind, GiG was very aware of the need for a simple, colloquial translation of the Scriptures in Welsh. The New Welsh Bible is an excellent translation; however the language level seeks to be of the highest literary standard, and unfortunately that is a problem for many ordinary Welsh-speakers. Many young people find it hard to understand, and the same is true of adult Welsh learners that have only been taught ‘spoken’ Welsh on Wlpan courses. So beibl.net started as an attempt to convey the message of the New Testament in simple colloquial Welsh. It is targeted primarily at young people (especially those who have no church or chapel background), and also at adult Welsh learners who have completed the Wlpan course. However, since its launch on the internet at the end of March 2002, there has been an incredibly positive response to beibl.net, and we have found that it has a much wider readership, including primary school children, first language Welsh-speaking adults, and many Church leaders.

Beibl.net is an attempt to express the meaning of the original text in language that’s familiar to ordinary people, so it tries to avoid vocabulary and idioms that are unfamiliar outside ‘Christian’ circles. Our hope and prayer is that it will act as a ‘bridge’ to help many Welsh-speaking people understand the message of the New Testament. It’s an oft stated fact that the New Testament was written in what is known as ‘koine’ Greek. This was not classical Greek, but the ordinary language of the marketplace, and this is what beibl.net seeks to do in Welsh – an ‘easy to understand’ New Testament.

But why has beibl.net not been published? The internet was initially chosen as its means of distribution for several reasons:

1. IT (Information technology) has become a crucially important means of communication in our day, and is increasingly used in education.
2. there is vast potential for continuous revision and development of the translation, and the rest of the website’s content. The internet is very versatile.
and
3. it means that beibl.net is available free of charge to anyone that has access to the internet. e.g. schools will not have to incur the expense of buying ‘hard copies’.

The only part of beibl.net that has been published so far is the Gospel of Luke. Scripture Union, Coleg y Bala and GiG worked together on the publication of an attractive full colour version of Luke’s Gospel for young people. This was published last year under the title Luc@Beibl.net, and 18,000 copies were distributed free of charge to year 6 and 7 pupils in

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Welsh schools. The response was so positive that there are now moves towards publishing a printed version of the whole New Testament.

But beibl.net is more than a translation of the New Testament. It is a project to develop a modern interactive website with extensive resources on it to help people read and understand God's Word. So far, it includes simple articles on the background of every New Testament book, notes on every single chapter, Bible meditations, short biblical sketches, and resources for Schools such as assembly ideas and RE lessons. The text is fully searchable, and there are information boxes that give you the source of every single quotation and many other allusions to the Old Testament that are found in the New. And there's much more on the way, including fymeibl.net (which means 'my beibl.net'). fymeibl.net will offer people Bible reading plans and daily meditations that are totally personalized. People will be able to 'log on', choose their preferred Bible reading plan, and add their own personal notes as they read the Scriptures every day.

Although there is a host of material planned to be included on the Website eventually, the Scripture text itself will always remain the backbone of site. We eventually hope to include a similar paraphrase-translation of the Old Testament scriptures on the Website. However, in and of themselves, all these much needed resources in Welsh are not enough to ensure 'meaningful communication' of the gospel. For the gospel to touch lives, 'meaningful communication', must include the touch of God's Spirit. That touch is needed in the translation process as well as when an individual reads the Word. It has to be Word and Spirit together every step of the way!

So, please do pray for beibl.net.

The Future of ARM (Wales) by Brian Newsom, Secretary

First some history; Anglican Renewal Ministries in Wales grew out of a group of like-minded Anglican ministers, that used to meet at Llanidloes. They were linked with an ecumenical group that held conferences at Aberystwyth and a Renewal Day at Brecon Cathedral. At the 1985 Renewal Day the speaker was David Pawson who driven by the Spirit, told them that they had to stop messing about enjoying themselves and get down to the real business. That same afternoon the ecumenical steering group for both these events felt they had to shut the whole thing down at once. Everyone felt shattered and abandoned. However the Anglican group felt that it was time to concentrate on Renewal within the Church in Wales.

After prayer the name the group felt was given them was the Welsh one: Adnewyddiad Eglwyswyr Cymru, it means: The Renewal of the Church in Wales, that is the Anglican Church in Wales. The English name came later as an addition to come into line with ARM in England. It was initially a discussion group until in 1987 the first conference, for church leaders, was held at Cefn Lea, Dolfor. Subsequent conferences increased in size and in 1994

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the Executive Committee of ARM (Wales) was given a vision to expand their horizons to set up an event which could offer a programme for the whole family of the Church. As a result the 1996 Fanning the Flames conference was held in June at the Royal Welsh Showground. Then in 1997 this format was enlarged to include a programme of events for children and youth under the title of Flames of Fire. Since then it has continued each year and grown from strength to strength. Unfortunately for us, the RWS has refused to let us have the August Bank Holiday week-end because they can get more revenue from other, bigger events. As a result we have been landed with the same week as the National Eisteddfod.

In the meantime, the Executive Committee has been praying and listening to the LORD in order to discern the best way forward; posing questions like: is Flames of Fire viable under these conditions, and how can ARM (Wales) pursue its proclaimed mission to advance Christianity through the promotion and encouragement of spiritual renewal? One way would be to allow the Conference to be adopted by New Wine Cymru (NWC). So who are they, and what does this mean and what difference will it make?

NWC is an organisation which is managed by Welsh church leaders for Welsh churches, and is in the process of being set up as a charity. It is entirely separate from New Wine – England which holds an annual conference at Shepton Mallett. New Wine is in effect a brand name which encompasses a particular way of doing things like conferences, and there are New Wine organisations in England, Scotland, Scandinavia and the U.S. which are each independent and self-managed, just as ARM (Wales) has been independent of ARM- England.

New Wine and NWC are both run by Anglicans, and in Scotland the New Wine conference is called Clan Gathering and is run by Presbyterians, but people have learned that the New Wine brand name means that the conferences are not restricted to or biased towards one denomination, rather they are trans-denominational, they welcome all kinds of Christians.

If the Conference were handed over to NWC it would mean that our Executive Committee would not have to spend time worrying about it and could concentrate on other matters, and ARM (Wales) would not have the financial responsibility. Also it would mean that the Conference organisers would be able to draw on the experience and expertise and the body of speakers contained in the New Wine mother organisation. Flames of Fire has in fact been doing this anyway, but the link would become stronger. In addition, with the marketing and publicity generated by the New Wine organisation, numbers would increase just as they did for Clan Gathering. We know that many people in Wales take the New Wine magazine and also attend their conference and they may well transfer their allegiance to Flames of Fire, which would be a conference within Wales, run by Anglicans, and there would be a Eucharist at which Christians of all denomination would be welcome.

We have no doubt that people coming to the Conference would notice no difference. The style would be the same, so would the worship and ministry. We have in fact been largely following New Wine procedures except for the selection and management of speakers. Some procedures would be tightened up because of regulations about Data Protection, Health & Safety and Child Protection. Thus the only grounds for rejecting this change would be if the New Wine vision,

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values and practices which govern the running of the conference were unacceptable, and a document laying these out will be made available to Members before a final decision is made.

So be assured that the Executive have not yet decided on how we move forward, and we want to be transparent and open on this issue. We are proceeding carefully and prayerfully, and this article is to prepare you for what may be ahead. Please pray and think about this situation and write in to us if you have any pertinent thoughts or revelations.

Stepping into the future By Martin Cavender

The way forward for ARM in England – an edited version of an article from Martin Cavender, the new director of ReSource

After a long period of waiting and listening, I am delighted to let you know that ARM will relaunch in autumn 2004 under the new name ReSource. I write this to tell you about progress so far, and to invite your prayers and support. We believe this is an exciting and God-given vision - not just a matter of “same again”, but a deep refreshment a new calling. We haven’t seen or heard all the details yet; but we do have a strong sense of the Lord’s leading, step by step.

The Vision

Resource will be a ministry with an Anglican distinctive, working with all traditions, Churches and Denominations. Our vision is for individuals and churches renewed for mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are convinced that God wishes to offer his love, nourishment and care to his Church, to cleanse and renew her in hope and bring healing and restoration both to her and through her. Our calling is to help build his Church for his world.

- We will work and pray for all people to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit. That means radical change; and the same is true for the Church.
- We long to see the local church transformed, part of a patchwork of diverse and local expressions of what it means to be the body of Christ in a changing world.
- We support the creation around the country of small missional communities. These go with fresh expressions of being church, and the spiritual renewal and refreshment of the known and the traditional: in a ‘mixed economy’ which celebrates and reflects the diversity of our culture. We believe God works in a myriad of different ways.



We want to build on the foundations of charismatic renewal in people and churches - to develop the relationship with mission so as to work for the transformation of our communities. We will act, alongside others, as a catalyst in this.

The new name

- ReSource: helping us to reconnect with God, the source of our being
- ReSource: seeking streams of living water, the holy Spirit who brings us life
- ReSource: offering resources to help individuals and churches fulfil their calling as part of the body of Jesus Christ in the community.

The Strategy

Prophetic — overturning tables

Communicating the Gospel afresh means taking seriously our engagement with the changing patterns and values of the world. This means a constant process of discernment, of analysis of trends and assumptions in the Church and the world, and seeking to match that from Scripture and the leading of the Spirit. It is about creative exploration, a holy dissatisfaction with the ways we currently do things. It means being prepared for challenge and moral confrontation as well as sensitivity and pastoral care. We shall offer ReSource papers and articles on key issues, training days and conferences; and dialogue and debate as we think theologically and prophetically about the task of presenting the Gospel to a world in transition.

Pastoral — mending nets

The local church has within herself everything needed for the fulfilment of her life and ministry. We believe that God wishes to rebuke and admonish his Church; but also to speak tenderly to her, to renew her confidence and sow in her seeds of hope for the future. We know that fatigue and discouragement can be a common experience for Christians who seek to serve others in a complex society. Our pastoral ministry will therefore be one of encouragement, support and healing, especially for leaders. The word 'encouragement' in the scriptures is 'parakaleo' from which the Holy Spirit takes his name.

Missionary — fanning flames

We want to encourage and resource culturally relevant forms of evangelism, to help bring the renewal of the Holy Spirit into our communities. We need to look again at our ways of doing mission. Drawing upon wide experience in the team and working in partnership with others who know about the transformation of communities here and abroad, we will offer encouragement and help to individuals, churches and dioceses who want to communicate the

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Gospel afresh to a new generation. The flames of our faith are fanned by the Holy Spirit, who blows like the wind, equips and empowers in unpredictable ways using unlikely people.

We are excited about all this, and hope you may be, too. Lots of questions remain to be answered, but the core sense is one of God's clear call and leading. An essential text for us has been Isaiah 43:19

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" Amen

Like a Healing Balm (Your Word is a Lamp) by Chris Daniel

Like a healing balm,
Words so sweet and clear,
Your still voice of calm,
Soothing all my fear.
Light to guide my tread,
On this dusty road,
Shows the way ahead,
Bears my heavy load.

Lord, I'm a long way from my home,
Your words of comfort light the way up to Your throne.

(Chorus)
Your word is a lamp unto my feet,
Your whisper of tenderness, music so sweet,
Light up my path, make my journey complete,
Beacon for my soul,
Beacon for my soul.

And I praise You, Lord,
That You sent the Word,
To become the light
Of this fallen world.
And Your Word made flesh,
Then and now the same,
Is my lamp today.
I Praise Your holy name.

The road is clear, the way made known.
The word of God is still the lamp that leads me home.

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(Chorus)

Your word is a lamp unto my feet,
Your whisper of tenderness, music so sweet,
Light up my path, make my journey complete,
Beacon for my soul,
Beacon for my soul.

Chris Daniel 2004

ALONE WITH THE ALONE by Pam Worsey

Lonely heart, take courage, I know the path you tread,
Remember, I am with you, your ever-living head;
I trod the path before you, right onward to the grave,
You will never know My anguish, as I died your soul to save.

Remember dark Gethsemane, beneath the silent trees -
My dearest friends were lost in sleep, while I was on My knees;
My lonely heart would fain have had them watch one hour with Me,
But human friends were unprepared to share My agony.

Could man betray the Lord of Love? He did, and with a kiss,
They all forsook Him then, and fled, the final heartbreak this;
Denied three times and spat upon, scourged, mocked, nailed to a tree;
Oh hear the cry, "My God, My God, have You forsaken Me?"

I know it is a lonely path, dear child how well I know -
The human friendships and the love you feel you must forgo -
In order that no rival claim may creep into your heart,
For souls united with their Lord, no earthly ties must part.

But while you tread this lonely way in answer to My call,
Your every need I will supply, I am your All in All;
Forsaken you will never be, I am your faithful Friend
The heartbreak and the tears of earth will one day surely end.

Pam Worsey



Book review “Salvation’s Song” by Marcus Green - Survivor, Kingsway 2004

This is a book about worship. Marcus Green is the Vicar of Pontypridd in South Wales and is passionate about worship. He has been and still is a worship leader, in the sense that he leads worship in song using a guitar and/or keyboard but this book is not about that. This book is about what worship means and what it means to be a worshipper. Of course one way or another everyone is a worshipper. We all worship something.

This book examines these issues in two parts. Part one deals with the theological issues of sin, the cross, the Lordship of Jesus and the grace of freedom. The key for the Christian is whether or not the real object of our worship is God, if He is not then the object of our worship is an idol and we are involved in false worship. Getting this fundamental thing wrong is the ‘common condition of humanity in a fallen world’ (p.38). Sin is wrong worship. Looking to Jesus and especially the cross as our example of perfect worship we learn that right worship changes our hearts because it encounters Jesus and his forgiveness. The empty tomb really does show us that Jesus is Lord of all things and recognising that he is Lord gives Him his proper place in our lives and so in our worship. Recognising these two things changes us and changes the values of our lives so that we really do discover what it means to live in the freedom of the Gospel.

Part two looks at worship especially through the eyes of Matthew’s Gospel and most especially through Matthew’s use of the Greek word *proskuneo*. Here he examines the themes of worshipping the King, saying what you mean and meaning what you say, worship stories in scripture and in the lives of living Christians – including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams – and worship as the big picture or main thing in the life of the Christian.

There is a clear teaching in this book that worship is really about the whole of your life and Green is able to communicate this message in a conversational style which is both engaging and helpful, especially when it comes to explaining difficult theological ideas in simple language. One comment by a friend of mine is typical of my reaction to this book – ‘Started Marcus’s book, Wow – why didn’t I think of that!’

This really is a book for everyone who is serious about living out their Christian faith in obedience to God’s command to worship Him.

Paul N Thompson



“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” by Mary Newsom

Some thoughts to encourage prayer and meditation.

God created man in order to have a relationship with him for he created man in His image. This does not mean that man looks like God but rather that he has the potential for all the qualities or properties of God. It is God’s intention that we should become like Him, loving our fellow human beings because we love God. Jesus, the Son, was sent because of God’s love for his creation to make it possible for us to become like Him.

If we meditate on the implications of this then we of necessity think of those qualities of God that should be attained, not only the fruit of the Spirit (Galations 5:22-23) but holiness because that is God’s primary attribute from which His love and mercy flow. We must reply with “Show me Lord, and make it possible”. This is of course where the Holy Spirit becomes central, for nothing can happen to change us except by and through the Holy Spirit.

Those in Charismatic Renewal have tried to influence the Church and have so often made a mess of it. We shall never persuade others by talking, about it anymore than we can argue the logic of Christianity to an unbeliever. It seems to me that we have been attempting to do “God’s work” for Him instead of allowing Him to do it through us and in us. It comes back again to believing on Him,

So how can we acquire that faith?

It is a free gift to those who know the Lord. For we cannot believe Him unless we know Him, - His claims are quite outrageous to non-Christians.

So how do we get to know Him?

We have many images but only one God, three Persons but only One God, so where can we start?

We might long to approach the throne room of God and sing “Holy, Holy, Holy, Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory”. We need to be Holy to do that, but we have no need to envy Isaiah (see Isaiah 6) for it is possible through Jesus and the Cross. We cannot take any sin, bitterness, resentment into the throne-room, it has to be left at the cross.

So let us think more of prayer for it is the means for developing our relationship with our MAJESTIC, LOVING, HOLY, MERCIFUL, FATHER,



with JESUS, our SHEPHERD, HUSBAND, FRIEND, our PROPHET, PRIEST and KING, with JESUS as SAVIOUR, and as the true INTERCESSOR at the right hand of the Father.

BUT it is the Holy Spirit within us who communicates with Jesus - this means that we become the place of prayer. Is there need for words?

Can you echo Psalm 27:4, to find contentment just being able “to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD” ?

I expect to hear from God. Listening needs training but the HOLY SPIRIT is a wonderful teacher. He brings to mind verses of scripture, lines from a hymn and I eagerly look them up. He encourages me to meditate and trust Him to give me understanding. The joy of the LORD is my strength (Nehemiah:8:10)

But is getting to know God any different from getting to know anyone?

Both need time and a desire. But God led me to consider the purpose of prayer and gave me a wonderful analogy that is the purpose of marriage.

Consider the following.

Purpose of marriage. (1662 B.C.P)	Purpose of Prayer
Procreation of children	Answered petitions - i.e. results
Mutual companionship – union	Union with God
Avoidance of sin	Holiness

And rejoice in Ephesians 6:25-27

‘Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.’ (NRSV)

So rest in the Lord and He will do it.



News from our Members MYNYDD BACH SCHOOL, L.O.S.T. - UGANDA

CHARLES' AND STAN'S RECENT SITE VISIT

We arrived on site on Monday 10th May. For the last six months we have only been able to see progress of the building works via e-mail photographs. What a joy it was to see at first hand the main school building standing where only a concrete floor slab was when we left last November.



I am pleased to report to all our generous friends, that the brickwork is now 95% completed and on Tuesday 18th May, the day we left Lira, the roof timbers were in place to over one third of the building.

When funds allow, we have around forty workers on the project - joiners, bricklayers, general labourers etc. The income our workers are receiving is making a difference to their living conditions in this tragic time in Lira,

The roof covering material has now been delivered from Kampala and work to complete the roof to the first section of the main building is underway. We have placed orders and paid for the windows and doors for this same section, classrooms 1, 2 and 3, along with the w.c. block and the library.

The whole site has been secured with the perimeter fence completed. It is hoped to plant a screen hedge to this fence in the very near future.

All in all, the project is coming along very well. It is generating much interest and excitement in Lira that Christians in Wales have a love and care for them and are putting bricks and mortar in place for their future.

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Please do continue to support us.

Without your help none of this would have taken place.

Thanks be to GOD.

Charles E Owens