



**ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES**

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## **If you love me.....you will.....**

This year's Flames of Fire seemed to be taking us deeper than ever before into the love of God. We were becoming aware of just how much we need Him. I was thrilled, this is what we have prayed for for so long. But I came away asking questions of myself and my motives, I came away asking even more questions of God. It was back in 1996 that God laid on my heart the need to pray for a Holy Church and for our willingness to surrender to His will in all things. I soon realised that if I was to pray that, then I had to change, for I personally could make no difference except by allowing Him to have His way. I felt that He wanted my space, that somehow seemed more than just my hands and voice, it was not just echoing the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila. Although not yet in the place that God intends I dare to continue with the prayer.....but I came away wondering if I had the authority to pray for others to travel this same road.

When I looked at the bargains in the book shop, one book "Surprised by the Voice of God" by Jack Deere seemed to be the one I should buy. I remembered reviews of it back in 1996 and now it has been reprinted ten times. I opened it a few days after returning home and started to read, but it was familiar, I'd read this story before! I vaguely remembered that I had previously bought the book under similar circumstances in 1999. It looked different the new copy had a blue cover, the earlier one was brown but the words were the same. I had never finished reading it, my bookmark was at the start of chapter 16, the section headed "Why doesn't God speak to me like that?". Clearly there was more to learn and so I turned to chapter 20 to discover "The Kind of People Who Hear the Voice of God". I then read the concluding three chapters before returning to fill in the gap from chapter 16-19.

This book is indeed a blessing but it took me again into realm of Holiness of being willing to become like Jesus, humble and totally available to God. My thoughts went back to Christina Baxter's talk when someone had asked a question about the best time and indeed how much time we need to spend in the presence of God. This book was reordering my thinking, it was not a matter of finding time for God but reminding me that all my time belonged to God. Jack Deere was pointing out that God often spoke at the most inconvenient times, even after we have wasted time, money and energy organising an event or mission for Him! He reminded me that when Jesus first called the twelve he made it clear to them that their first task was to be available for him, not ministry. "And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons." (Mark 3:14-15) God has spent years turning me from an "active" to a "contemplative" Christian. We all love to serve Him and in our enthusiasm can so easily start organising Alpha Courses and other activities at the wrong time and for the wrong reason - like bringing people into our church. Through just sitting in his presence, praying and reading I have learned that our service must come out of obedience not out of our love for Him.



So “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

I loved these verses and promise long before I realized the full implications, verse 23 adds a further insight “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them”.

Not only are we promised the Holy Spirit but the whole of the Trinity living within. This is mind blowing.

Although I was excited when I saw people wanting more of God I was reminded that we are not all ready. Will it always be so? Am I “anxious” to drag the church into the presence of God? God is longing for His church to respond, to move on from the excitement of a wonderful conference into the intimate presence of God. Are we afraid that intimate contact could bring pain because God would take control? But we have a loving gracious God who will never push us, He will wait patiently for us to respond. He loves us so much that He has put Himself into the vulnerable position of being rejected or of being wanted for the wrong reasons.

Yes we want his healing, we want the release from our fears and problems, we want revival... but do we really want Him? We saw miracles of healing and we all rejoiced in that, we want them to become every day occurrences in our churches, we have a great and powerful God so why not?

When Jesus was on earth he preached the Kingdom and his preaching was accompanied by signs and wonders, it was an essential part of the message. In 1998 we went to the Holy Land and there were several occasions when I was unexpectedly overcome by the presence of God. One significant one in Capernaum. I found myself weeping and God reminded me that Jesus had cursed Capernaum.

’Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.” ‘ (Matthew 11: 20-24)

I felt then that we have to want God more, we have to love him more and until we do we shall fail to obey Him. I pray that having recognised our need of God we shall start wanting Him. When we become the Holy Church preaching the Kingdom in obedience to the Spirit working within us, we shall see His power.

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This issue contains the first conference reports. I hope that they encourage you to come next year. If you have received from it in any of the past years we need you to help make it a place where others can receive. But God has so much to give that you will be blessed just being there.

In my last editorial I quoted 1 John 2:6. A friend alerted me to the fact that Mary Pytches had used this text for a talk at New Wine so not wanting to miss out on her insights I wrote to Mary. Her article appears next.

I am also grateful to Bruce Collins for his contribution on the progress of New Wine Ministries and to Geoff Waggett for a challenging article on the destructive influence on our moral standards by the media. That should make us think!

I often look on the Internet for items on Renewal and through that met a young man from Canada who runs his own web-page. I found it so refreshing to find his articles written for young people. His article "Calling Young People to Renewal" encouraged me so I contacted him. I hope that it will encourage you and you will check out his web-page.

So it's rather a mixed bag this time but the overall theme I hope is still to go deeper, to draw nearer to Jesus. I have given you an outline of Archbishop Rowan's conference talk as he points out to us exactly what we were asking when we said, "We Need You Lord". I urge you to buy some of this year's tapes

Mary Newsom

## **A Letter from the Chairman Phil Rees**

Dear Friends

We always look forward to the Conference at Builth with the expectation that it will be the "best yet" and that each year it will get better. I am sure that we again felt this year that the Conference was "the best".

But while in past years we saw many people who said they had met with the Lord, that they had been blessed, and had their needs met, this time it seemed different. It was as if many of us were taken deeper into the heart and purposes of God. Perhaps it was that this year we were willing to exchange our agenda and needs for that encounter with God that humbles us, drives us to repentance on our knees and in which something of the Glory of the Lord impacts us. It is what we prayed for when we said, "We need You Lord". We are so

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grateful that God did what He did, and that it was no one-off experience, but rather a part of an on-going process in us.

During the week I believe the Lord spoke to several of those who were leading about the future of our event at Builth. And the message seemed to be something like this - "The event is strategic for the future of God moving in Wales. It is only one strand of course. It has no life in itself, only if it serves the whole church in all its forms in Wales. As networks grow all over the land, so many will focus once a year on Builth for envisioning and encouragement. So it is meant to grow that it may serve its purpose in Wales."

I and others have been negative when thinking about growth, for such a process has many pitfalls, and we are determined to safeguard many of the emphases which we have learned to value at our event.

But we must be obedient, and so I believe the next two years will see changes in several areas, which will begin to produce growth.

Every Blessing. Book your dates for 2003 now.

Phil

Flames of Fire 2003 Saturday 2nd August Friday 8th August 2003

## **Walking as Jesus Walked by Mary Pytches**

I remember, many years ago, watching my brother-in-law walking in the garden deep in thought. His head was down and his hands were clasped behind his back. In his wake walked his two year old son, head down, hands behind his back – a miniature replica of his father. God, our Father has called us to 'walk as Jesus walked'. St. John, in his first letter, challenged his readers to do this in no uncertain way. "Whoever claims to live in him (Jesus) must walk as Jesus did." (1 Jn.2:6). This verse usually pops into my head at most inconvenient moments, when I least want to be challenged by it. But it is a verse that has far reaching implications for our lives and if we took it seriously would radically change us. We would be more fruitful, more fulfilled, more effective for the Kingdom of God, and in this pressurised and stressed society we would find ourselves functioning more peacefully.

We have a tendency to view Jesus as a 1st Century person who did not have to live with the same pressures as ourselves. Therefore it wouldn't be relevant to try and walk as he walked. In many ways that is true. His life and ours differ greatly. But let's think about the life of Jesus just for a moment. He spent three years bombarded by people. He was constantly confronted by crowds with heart breaking needs. He lived with the urgent



expectation that he would meet those needs. The religious leaders criticised him and plotted against him. He lived in community - always stressful. He was let down by those closest to him. On top of all this he was working towards a horrendous dead-line, which he alone knew about. Yet he walked calmly through it all. What was his secret?

First of all Jesus walked 'full of the Spirit'. Without a constant filling of his Spirit we can never be anything like Him. Having said that what sort of life did he live?

### **Jesus Limited Himself**

When he was twelve years old he made an important statement.

"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49 KJV) and then later he told his disciples that 'the son could do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing because whatever the Father does the Son does also. Jesus limited himself to doing His Father's business. Our problem, so often, is that we so rarely stop to ask the question, "Should I be doing this, or going here?" Instead we respond to pressure; Outside pressure from other people's expectations, hopes and demands, and inside pressure, to please, to be accepted, to live up to expectations, to meet the needs of others and not to disappoint our family and friends.

Then we become like the chameleon when placed on a multi-coloured cloth. It becomes so stressed it just can't cope. We do have a call upon our lives to serve. But those pressures can drive us to go beyond the call of God and then we are in trouble, because the strength God gives us is for doing His will.

### **Jesus walked in dependence.**

In John's gospel Jesus said that by himself he could do nothing.(Jn.4:30) Self-sufficiency was foreign to Jesus. For us it is as natural as breathing. Our society encourages and endorses it. Besides that science and technology have almost taken away our need for God. There is nothing wrong with our technological advances, except when these take the place of God. He has to be our primary resource; the first to whom we turn in our moments of need. We need to cultivate a mind-set of dependence, because this takes away the stress of having to try and do it all ourselves.

Knowing the truth about ourselves will help. Jesus said to his disciples, "Without me you can do nothing."(Jn.15:5). "But," we argue, "surely we can do something?" The fact is we can't add one hour to our existence. Our lives are totally in the hands of God. He has our days numbered. Besides this, we can do nothing of eternal value unless God inspires it. We can't heal the sick. We can't bring the prodigals home. We can't conjure up that prophetic word that will go straight to a person's heart. We can't answer our own prayers. And we can't convert anyone. Once convinced of this truth dependence on God becomes a must.

### **Jesus was constantly alert and expectant.**

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The fact that Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing implies that Jesus was always alert to what his Father wanted him to do next. In fact Jesus was completely hooked on his Father's will. He said that his food was to do the will of him who had sent him and to finish his work. (Jn.4:34) He was hungry for the Father's will, and it was that hunger that kept Jesus alert and watching for what God wanted to do next. If we are travelling on a long journey and we become hungry, instead of dozing in the back of the car we begin to sit up and watch for a sign that tells us there is a service station with food ahead. We need to whet our appetite to see God at work. One of the ways we can do it is by recounting stories of God's mercy and power to one another. A friend calls these, 'Holy Ghost stories'. Excitement about God can be caught from other people, so it's worth visiting places where God seems to be moving in power. We all know that if you want to get a sun tan you have to sit in the sun. It's no good sitting under an umbrella. Similarly if you want to be blessed by God go where there is a move of His Spirit.

Stepping out in faith and taking risks for God is something else which whets our appetite. A friend of mine worked in a rather up-market ladies' dress shop and one day a woman came into the shop looking for a new outfit. While she was in the shop she began to feel faint. My friend took her to the back of the shop and sat her down. She fetched her some water and then she felt God prompting her to offer to pray for her. To her surprise the lady agreed to have prayer, so my friend gently laid her hand on the woman's shoulder and prayed a short prayer for healing. The lady eventually felt recovered enough to leave. The next day she came back in to thank my friend for praying for her. She said she had experienced an extraordinary peace. My friend's life was changed. Suddenly her job ceased to be hum-drum and ordinary and she found herself going to work feeling excited at what God might do that day.

### **Jesus was focussed**

In one place the crowds came looking for Jesus and he wouldn't see them because he said that he must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why he was sent. (Luke 4:42). And the writer to the Hebrews encourages us to "fix our eyes upon Jesus who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2) Jesus' whole life was focused on the Kingdom of God. It is what he lived for. He taught about it, ministered in its power, and all the time anticipated the moment when he would once again sit in the Kingdom at his Father's right hand. Every miracle, every healing, every prayer he prayed, every word from his Father reminded him of what he could look forward to. Jesus was a man anointed with the oil of gladness because he never lost this focus.

Of all people we should be happy. Joy will come as we make the Kingdom of God our focus; as we pray for God's Kingdom to come; as we have foretastes of the Kingdom, and as we anticipate the day that awaits us, when the Kingdom will come in all its fullness. The



charge that we are in it just for 'Pie in the sky when we die', has robbed many of their legitimate joy. Why shouldn't we look forward to what is to come? Jesus certainly did!

The facts are the Kingdom is here already – and we can experience the future breaking into the present even now. But one day the Kingdom will come in all its Glory. We have a fantastic future ahead of us and we will have the privilege of taking part in the great celebration, which the Bible calls the Wedding Feast. The other day I heard the story of a little boy who set his heart on being in the school play. His mother thought he was much too young to be picked. The day the parts were to be given out his mother went to meet him from school with a heavy heart. She knew she would have a job to comfort her disappointed son. The children came out of school and suddenly she heard a little voice shouting her name. "Mummy, Mummy, guess what? I've been chosen - I've been chosen to clap and cheer." Well, friends so have we. We have been chosen to clap and cheer, and we've even been chosen to sit down at the marriage feast of the Lamb. What a day that will be!

## **New Wine sees encouraging growth in England by Bruce Collins**

New Wine saw its largest ever gathering of Christians and Church leaders at the Royal Bath & Wells Showground at Shepton Mallett in August this year. Over 18,000 delegates came there to two gatherings in successive weeks, and nearly 20,000 came there to the three follow-on gatherings of Soul Survivor, New Wine's sister organisation for young people.

New Wine was started by Bishop David Pitches and his wife Mary in 1989. David had been a missionary Bishop in Chile with the South American Missionary Society, and returned to the UK to become Vicar of St. Andrews Church in Chorleywood, near London. St. Andrews soon entered a period of significant renewal and growth, and many people started visiting St. Andrews to learn from what was happening there. It soon became clear to David and Mary that they should start up an annual event at which St. Andrews could pass on to others something of what the Lord had been giving them, and this is how New Wine came into existence.

New Wine seeks to "equip Churches to see Jesus' Kingdom grow", and all its events and activities are designed to enable Churches and their members to reproduce Jesus' ministry and His focus on living and revealing the Kingdom of God in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit – in their own local community.

In March 1990 leaders' retreats were started at Chorleywood to enable more and more leaders to catch the vision for renewal of their Churches, and to equip them to be able to



lead their Churches into this reality. More than 1000 UK leaders have now been on one of these retreats.

But it became clear that leaders were going to need a great deal more personal support, training and encouragement if they were going to be able to persevere in seeing their Churches thoroughly renewed. In 1996 the Lord started speaking to David and others in the New Wine leadership team about the need for a support network for leaders around England. The New Wine Network was launched in the summer of 1998, and it has already grown to a membership of over 700 Church leaders around England. John and Anne Coles, who have taken over the overall leadership of New Wine from David and Mary Pytches, now lead this network.

In addition to encouraging local groups of like-minded leaders to network together for mutual support and encouragement, New Wine now holds an annual National Leaders Conference for Church leaders, and many regional training events all around England. These activities have had a marked impact on numbers coming to the New Wine summer gatherings at Shepton Mallett, which have nearly trebled in size since the network was launched!

More and more Church leaders from other parts of the British Isles and other countries have shown interest in the work of New Wine, and there are now regular New Wine events in Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, and in countries all over Scandinavia, western Europe, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, the USA and Canada. Many UK leaders in the NW network are now taking faith-sharing teams out to these other countries, and it has also been heartening to see growth in the number of teams now going out from other countries in the network to faith-share in the UK or yet other countries.

New Wine's vision and longing is to see the development of a truly international network of Churches and their leaders who share a similar vision of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, and who want to encourage and support one another in propagating ministry as Jesus taught and modelled it.

This is why we are also thrilled to see how "Flames of Fire" has taken root and grown in Wales. May you flourish and prosper in the years to come!

Bruce Collins Overseer – New Wine International Networks



## **Congratulations to our Archbishop Rowan**

It is with mixed feelings that we look on Rowan's appointment to Canterbury. We are all so sorry to lose him as our leader in the Church in Wales, but so thrilled that he has been chosen to lead the world -wide Anglican Communion.

We in ARM (Wales) have been greatly blessed having him as one of our advisors. We have appreciated having his input to several Flames of Fire conferences. This year as he was welcomed to the platform there was a standing ovation which lasted a long time. We acknowledge that Canterbury is gaining someone very special, not only a learned theologian and caring shepherd but a humble and holy man.

May God use this man for his purposes in the difficult task he has been given, we shall count it a privilege to pray for him and his family and rejoice that he still wants to be associated with ARM (Wales) even though he will have a London address.

This year his Monday evening talk was about our real needs. He spoke on our conference theme " We need you Lord ", taking as a text Matthew 6:7-13, which starts by reminding us that God knows our needs before we ask.

He focused on our recognising that our need was to become what God had made us to be. But we need to be set free to be God's children. We are made so that we will grow into the stature of his fullness, we are made for intimacy with God, made for Jesus, made to say "Our Father".

And so he reflected on the Lord's Prayer showing our need in every line. Our need to see God's name hallowed - until His name is hallowed I am not complete.

Our need for obedience and our need to worship - Your Kingdom come, Your will be done as in heaven. Our primary need is not for our security or welfare or even for our salvation, but for us to be brought to our created destiny as his sons and daughters and for creation to be made new, surrounded by worship as in heaven.

The second part of the prayer, our need for peace and protection depends on the first part. If we are to grow in prayer we must see our needs, our hunger, our emptiness and our created nothingness in the context of God's glorious purpose of praise and worship for all He has made. It is the Bread of Hope, that carries us forward, the Bread of Life - Jesus Christ - the Bread of tomorrow that we need.

We ask for forgiveness but we need to be "forgivers" as well as to be forgiven. If we don't forgive we are holding away the fullness of God's purpose, we are blocking what God wants to do. Rowan acknowledged the difficulties of giving this message but reminded us

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that there is work to do and if we did not forgive then it was as if our flesh was eaten away. Remember what it cost God to forgive.

At the time of Jesus people were expecting a time of tribulation. So speaking of "trial and tribulation" he suggested that it needed to be as if when the test comes, we won't notice it. Can we pray that we are so faithful that we will just do what has to be done, just the next thing. We need a steady walk forward, a little at a time. We need to walk with our eyes on our Saviour not ourselves.

Protection from the evil one is from his lies, his untruth. We need to know the difference between truth and falsehood. "Tell the truth and shame the devil". We must keep before us the truth that this prayer has taught us

It is a prayer about the cross - it requires the cross. We pray in the shadow of the cross and need to walk the way of the cross. For, "we need you crucified Lord" we need you to lead us in the way of the cross, the way of light and life.....

We need the power of the Cross. In every line of the Lord's prayer we see that the Cross and glory go together.

Abba Father we NEED YOU, and Need is a big word - He made us to need him.

(This is a very brief summary of Archbishop Rowan's talk. Tapes of all the talks can be obtained from Nam's Tapeaway Details from the secretary

## **Pornography and the untimely death of our children. By Geoff Waggett**

When previously respectable national newspapers succumb to the publication of half naked females something undoubtedly has changed within our society.

For years, decades and indeed centuries the titillation and excitement gleaned from the portrayal of nudity was seen for the most part by society in general as nothing more than a temporary aberration of the moral standing of the individual and essentially part of growing up. Forty years ago the furtive glances of teenagers through "Health and Efficiency" (the magazine of nudist societies) in W.H. Smith's newsagents, did little but cause shyness and the occasional act of sexual bravado The gradual progression to 'top row' magazines containing explicitly sexual photography has been so furtive that few would have guessed its outcome and effect across the whole of 21st century United Kingdom society today.

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The decision, by at first one national broadsheet to become a tabloid with an infamous page three pin-up, is surely one of the poisonous roots of today's pornographic culture and where one paper goes, others, regrettably follow. Again a process so gradual and furtive that we take for granted a media machine that on one page criticises sexual abuse of children, on another publishes pictures of naked females and on yet another advertises sexually explicit chat lines. "Talk through your wildest fantasies" encourages the story line, whilst the editor rails against the latest sex scandal in his comment column.

A Sunday newspaper can use acres of news space examining the most intimate details of a film star or politician's life and not see the connection with the moral, sexual and emotional degradation that is occurring within the nation today. News media seem less interested in reporting than examining, commenting upon and directing than ever before. We have to ask the question as to whether they are giving news rather than controlling, manipulating and leading society down the path of sexual corruption and despair.

Why do ordinary women allow such sexual exploitation into their homes? Why do we pore over explicit material which is simply appealing to our baser instincts? How does such pornography feed the minds of people to such an extent that gradually they are no longer immoral but amoral? How far is the media responsible for the sexual corruption, exploitation and abuse that they themselves so earnestly criticise?

The self-righteous attitudes of newspaper editors is sickening beyond belief. The Scriptures warn us on numerous occasions of the end result of such activity. Direct reference is not easy when news media as we know it today (press, television, radio and internet) did not exist in biblical times. However, press moguls, despite their innocent protestations will one day be answerable to God. "Better a millstone be hung around their necks and they be cast into the midst of the sea than they lead one of these little ones astray".

## **REFLECTIONS from Flames of Fire**

### **The CONFERENCE OFFICE**

Another year, another Fflamau Tân/Flames of Fire, more friends, more excitement, more memories. What a storehouse to stash away in my already overloaded brain! Each year has been special, to see the efforts of Satan defeated and the Lord graciously prevail through the outworking of His Holy Spirit. So many people touched by the love of Jesus, so many lives transformed and so much love poured out.



Every year I come in the expectation that Jesus will already be at Builth Wells, and then...just before we leave I wonder if I dare believe it.....yet when we arrive there He is, the ground prepared ready for the harvest. Thank you Lord!!

It is such a joy to see so many giving so generously of their time and talents in helping many more to benefit more fully. Through their efforts all the preparations come together to produce almost seamless combination which ensures that the whole week runs smoothly. Without our Staff Team nothing would happen, and this year we say goodbye to Val Rowlands (Bookings), Ray Smith (Administration), Cherril Watts (Crèche), and a part of Paul Thompson (you'd better ask him which part!): all key figures in the development of our family festival. Our most sincere thanks to them.

Most of these posts are vacant, as of course is my rôle as co-ordinator, which provides an excellent opportunity for moving forward to encompass new talents, new ideas and new concepts of spreading the load under different structures. If God has prompted you to become involved in some of the preparatory work then please write to Phil our Chairman giving information of your background, skills, age and the amount of time you could make available.

For me the years have been memorable, filled with challenges, friendships, close fellowships and more support and goodwill than could be hoped for (although not always of the right sort in the right places!). Taking a back seat will be very enjoyable for one thing I will be able to hear some speakers live instead of on tape.

Fflamau Tân/Flames of Fire has been prophetically described as becoming a "significant event in Wales". We look forward to the future with excited anticipation.

Finally as I say adieu (but not goodbye) I would like to thank each one who has contributed practically and with prayer but most of all my thanks to my wife Kath whose long suffering patience has been tested to the limit, but she has always been a stalwart supporter of everything that I have undertaken.

Dick Shenton

### **Crèche now called Tiddley Peeps**

This year our theme was "Parables" well some of them, and as usually we started with singing and dancing, the children are so good at this and love making a noise. We then had story time, and craft time, and play time, which is very important as God loves to play.

The team and I just hope that the children enjoyed themselves. and the parents were happy with what we did.



I would like to thank all the staff and all who helped run Tiddley Peeps it is a privilege to sever God in this way.

Cherril Watts,

### **Messengers**

I had a dream! A few days before the conference this year, I dreamt that I had completed and been discharged from an assignment and so I was proceeding on my way. I came to a river, which I was determined to cross, even though the river was quite full. I started to wade in and then realised, that I was out of my depth and the force of its current was potentially overwhelming. My first reaction was to strive against it, to avoid drowning and reach the other side at all costs. It was then that I realised, that the water was not overwhelming me, but supporting me, carrying me downstream. I wasn't sure why I was prevented from reaching the other side, but in the days that followed, I realised that being carried was preferable to going it alone and downstream, to who knows where, can be quite an adventure!

The theme of this year's conference was 'We need You Lord' — and we did! Each day we had over one hundred children and we started with less staff than last year, yet every area of need was covered. Both staff and gophers worked extremely hard, yet there was a sense of peace and also of joy. It has been wonderful to see how God has ministered to the members of the team in the preceding months, both individually and collectively. As I said on the Tuesday night, it is our task to try to walk in Jesus footsteps and to encourage the children to come alongside. We can't do this without Him. Praise the Lord.

By the end of the week, several people had come forward to enquire about joining us. I still haven't told you much about what we did, but maybe you could, like them, come and see for yourself. Yes, we do have worship, Bible study, prayer, ministry time, seminars, workshops, talks and a lot more, but you just may not recognise the format in which they come.

Just an afterthought - isn't it in giving that we receive? See you next year?

Penny Williams

### **and from a regular**

"It was amazing, as usual, I enjoyed every second of it. It moved me so much."

Of the all age worship sessions she says, "They were JUST PERFECT for me because I'm Eleven" She also enjoyed being interviewed on the stage.



**More from Flames of Fire - gleanings from the questionnaires.**

It has been most encouraging to read the many comments from the questionnaires.

So many delegates had a really wonderful time with the Lord. Many commented that it was the best conference so far, this year taking them closer to God. Never before have we had so many reports of healings of emotions and indeed of physical healing. Throughout the week there were testimonies to backs, knees and shoulders being restored after people attended Mike Endicott's sessions. He is raising the expectation of all who listen to him. His words were, "our gracious Lord touched so many - there were times when gifts of physical healing seemed to flow almost like water! Most of the team came home zonked out with the excitement of it all. God is so good!"

The week was described as "one of the best of my life", as "inspiring and helpful", as "awesome", as "gentle, sound based and full of the presence of God", as "refreshing and encouraging", as "a little bit of heaven", as "a safe place where God touched me deeply" and "I could never put it into words". So many were deeply moved and witnessed to a growth in faith and to the joy of having all-age worship. The music led by Bob Pitcher and Rachel Halstead's signing were much appreciated and we thank the Lord for providing us with such a wonderful environment in which to praise Him. Someone said, "I arrived crushed and go leaping and praising the LORD!"

Lis James' singing of "Mi glywaf dyner lais....." moved many and there were requests for more Welsh. This indicates a move forward in unity, we pray for Renewal to touch all the churches and chapels in Wales. When the vision for Flames of Fire was first given it was hoped that we would provide a festival in Wales that everyone could be a part of, gradually we are touching the other denominations and we hope that we can be seen as "All One in Christ Jesus". Some of us have not been in Wales long but we have come to be a part of what God is doing here, we welcome too those that come just for the conference, it is good to know that people want to join us, not only from England, but from Scotland and several parts of Africa too.

We do appreciate the return of the forms as they help us to improve arrangements each year. Unfortunately there are some things that we are unable to alter. We have for the last six years been able to have the August Bank Holiday weekend but now the Showground needs to rearrange its programme. It suffered financially with the loss of the Royal Welsh Show and other events in 2001 due to the foot and mouth epidemic, and needs now to maximise its profits. We are fortunate that they can still offer us a week in August in 2003 and 2004. So we regret the clash of dates, we are aware but trust that we are in the Lord's will with any new plans. We also acknowledge that the campsite is far from Ideal but we endeavour to provide the best we can. We are also limited both by financial restraints and the need for more helpers.

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Regarding helpers we value every offer of help and ask now for more volunteers for next year. Although there is a cost for each volunteer we all have a great time, it is a privilege to serve in this venture. Any volunteers can contact us on our web pages.

### **Ignite at Flames of Fire 2002**

We had an awesome summer this year at Flames of Fire. God always blows me away - when I think that it can't ever get any better unless I was in heaven, God flippin does his stuff and goes one better than the year before!

This summer was the sixth Flames of Fire I have attended and looking back, every year has been amazing and each better than the one before it! HOW INCREDIBLE WILL IT BE NEXT YEAR...???!!!

This was the first time we brought Ignite to Builth, as a week long program. God challenged so many young people. I was incredibly moved on the last night of Flames of Fire when almost all of the young people responded to Nigel's talk about being a farmer and sowing the seed - "those who sow with tears will reap with joy"! ALL THESE YOUNG PEOPLE DESPERATELY WANTING THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES TO BE SAVED! God is rising up, preparing and equipping a generation of young people to live for his glory and to serve him with all their hearts. It's so exciting!! Our program in general was packed full with vibes of laughter and chilling in the morning with the breakfast show, wise teaching in both the morning and in the evening, quality worship all through the day and laughter and chilling in the late-night slot too. Most of all, our venue was exploding with God! People felt the Spirit of God as they walked in the door!! THAT'S FLIPPIN MASSIVE!!!!

Here's some words from the young people themselves...(for those of you who are not used to internet/text language, now's your chance to learn - a challenge but you will get there!)

Hi guys just 2 let u no im in agreement with all said on Flames this year it was truly lush! God moved so powerfully and now im totally on fire with all the things hes got planned for me, if a little scared!!

:)...praying for u all keep in touch Cheryl <> xxx - Cheryl Rowlands

Flames of Fire 2002 was gr8 you could really feel the Holy Spirit as you walked thru the door into big ideas and the sighting of angels really got me praising the lord. The worship band were the best thnx guys/jessa. the same song gets me every time and if it wasn't for the band I would of given up hope. thnx to all the leaders you done a gr8 job from Gareth (the 1 with the flag)



I just got back from an amazing week at F.O.F. and I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone on da team for their love, encouragement and support during the week and especially to Gill my pastoral group leader. u guys are amazing. see u all at da reunion. - Jess Wilson

To Lois and co at Ignite, Cheers for helping me become a Christian. Best decision of my life! Love Beccy - Beccy Coster

To everyone at Ignite God Bless all my new friends. Thankyou...this is a hug for you all love from Leighton - Leighton Parry

So there it is, all good, all round, LUSH!!! Au revoir amigos x Lot's of love x

Lois Richards

## **Calling Young People to Renewal by Bart Byl**

### **Recovering Our Lost Focus**

“Getting drunk and stuff once in a while is not wrong. As long as it’s not all the time and it doesn’t rule your life and stuff.”

Sound familiar? That sentiment (candidly expressed by one 14-year-old girl in a recent survey at a local Christian school) is the creed governing the lifestyles of all too many of us young people. God, we think, has no right to be unsatisfied with a little bit of fun. We’re only human, after all - and really quite decent kids once you get to know us. As long as you don’t disagree with the church doctrine or have a kid out of wedlock (the unspoken assumption is) you’re doing admirably well.

How radically different is the spirituality of the New Testament! Look at the saints of the early Church - filled, Peter says, “with a joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pet 1:8). Is that our experience? Who of us can say, even for a moment, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me?” (Gal 2:20).

That’s the ideal we must pursue. God means us for greater things than this lukewarm and shallow formalism of ours. Our generation desperately needs to admit its failure and rededicate itself to pursuing God. In the end, nothing else will matter.

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This is a challenge to re-evaluate our goals and really dedicate ourselves to stimulating our fellow young people to true spiritual growth and reformation. But also individually, let's each make it a personal goal to deepen our faith life. Why be content with 'religion' when Christ offers you the power of it - His very self? If we seek Him sincerely, He will surely find Him (James 4:8).

The first step is to recognise our spiritual shallowness and inadequacy. This might be painful - you might even discover you're not a Christian at all. Before He shows us the comfort of the cross, the Spirit first opens our eyes to the incredible depths of our own misery. Once we've honestly confronted and confessed our guilt, we can turn to God properly.

If we're serious about obtaining a deeper relationship with Him, we'll have to work on the three central elements of true spirituality: living faith, loving fellowship and total commitment.

### **Element #1 - Living Faith**

Few of us really grasp the absolute necessity of faith. Unconsciously we expect our church membership, correct doctrine, or moral decency to pull us through. But these things have no more power to prevent your and my natural plunge into hell than a spider's web has to stop a falling boulder.

True faith goes straight to Jesus. The Christian sees himself for what he really is: a filthy sinner who has rebelled against the infinitely holy God of the universe. Despairing in himself, he clutches at the gospel of forgiveness. He falls at Christ's feet and entrusts himself to Him. "Jesus died for me," he realises, "even my sins are forgiven." What peace! What relief! That God would show mercy to such an undeserving person amazes and overwhelms him. That is saving faith. Never rest until its elements - repentance from sin, surrender to Christ, trust in God's promises, and joy in your forgiveness - are living realities in your life.

Faith, that wondrous gift of the Spirit, eventually comes to govern our whole life - but not without difficulty and constant struggle. Many times we have to pray, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

Remember, though, that while essential to our salvation, faith is only the instrument. Our confidence is not in our feeble belief (thank God!) but in the power of Jesus' blood. If we look always to Him, He will never fail us.

### **Element #2 - Loving Fellowship**

The very essence of being a Christian is having a vital relationship of love with God. Without it - as 1 Corinthians 13 demonstrates - the best doctrine and the holiest lifestyle are worthless. The strength of our faith is directly connected to our love for Jesus. That,

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unfortunately, is where we are so very weak. Isn't this the reality: we easily become passionate and excited when debating changes to the Book of Praise ... but remain cold and unmoved when contemplating "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" (Eph. 3:18)

Something is terribly wrong. Why aren't we experiencing God's love and nearness? Why aren't we consumed by this passion and this desire for Him?

The first key to finding God is simple obedience. Probably the greatest reason we find it hard to be serious about our faith lives is because of this fundamental element of dishonesty in it. If we want communion with Jesus, the first thing to do is stop running away from Him!

Personal devotion is no less important. If you want to know God, go to where He has chosen to reveal Himself - read and meditate on the incredible riches of His Word. The other side of devotion is prayer - not half-hearted generalities but fervent and humble cries from your heart to your Father. When God is thus pursued, He will

become more to you than an irrelevant doctrine. Turn from your empty religiosity! Instead, walk in the sunshine of Jesus' presence and enjoy the only life that really satisfies.

### **Element #3 - Total Commitment**

True faith and love inevitably express themselves in a life totally committed to God. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt 16:24). We can't serve both God and our fleshly desires. If even the tiniest sin is an act of cosmic treason, how about our private lifestyle of pride and worldliness and lust?

Is your old, sinful nature hateful to you? Do you long to crown Jesus King and Lord of every aspect of your life? Or are you content with just enough religion to make you a respectable church member ... but not so much that you can't have fun whenever you want?

Are you feeling spiritually depressed and unfulfilled? Somewhere you're holding back from throwing your whole being into God's service. If you're resisting Jesus' call to discipleship in some way, of course your spirituality will suffer. But Christ promises that when we forget ourselves and let Him live within us, we will find "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt 11:30). The only true liberty is found in enslaving our wills to God's.

### **Achieving the Impossible**

I feel as though I'm describing some exotic foreign island which I've heard rumours about but never actually visited myself. Perhaps you feel the same. But though, our faith is mixed with much doubt, our love is feeble, and our periods of real commitment all too rare and brief, it is never too late to turn to the Lord and rededicate ourselves to Him.

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I challenge all young people to confess their failures to God and plead for a greater filling of His Spirit. No true child of God can be content with anything less than the best Jesus has to offer. Are you?

(Editors note: see [www.bartbyl.com](http://www.bartbyl.com) I recommend this web-site especially to the young)