

# ARM (Wales) Magazine

Spring 2012 Issue 61



**ANGELICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES**  
**ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU**

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

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LAST DATE for copy for the Summer edition - June 30th 2012

We welcome articles, letters and news of your Renewal events.

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Malcolm Dye

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by Dick Shenton  
Vice Chairman

## From the Vice Chairman

Recently I have noticed that there are a number of causes requesting that I take some action in support. The common factor in them is that they are from people concerned about the liberalisation of standards which increase the potential to be tempted away from the Christian ideal. A concerned friend sent me information about the govern-



ment's consultation about the definition of marriage, which is "the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others" which was speedily followed by a petition from the *Evangelical Alliance*. (two websites offer information <http://c4m.org.uk> or for further information visit <http://www.care.org.uk/news/coalition-for-marriage-launched>).

Then there is the cause of *Faithfulness Matters* which was launched as the result of a father being asked by his very young son "What is an affair Daddy?" when he saw a hoarding advertising a dating website for contacts between married people. (<http://faithfulnessmatters.net/>).

Further worry was aroused when I came across articles both in the Christian press, and a daily newspaper, about the latest film to be released for teenagers. "The Hunger Games" shows how 12 districts must annually offer up a young man and a

young woman, aged 12 to 18, who will be trained in the art of survival and thrown into an arena, to fight quite literally to the death, all in front of a live TV audience for whom watching is made compulsory. It has been described as reality TV, taken to a shocking, bloodthirsty extreme. The producers believe it will be as popular as the Harry Potter series.

Today a flier arrived from *Safety Net* ([www.safetynet.org.uk](http://www.safetynet.org.uk)) who focus upon the protection of children from internet pornography. They claim (I believe rightly) that technology on computers, televisions, games consoles and mobile phones is advancing more rapidly than the filters that are available in the home. We are all aware of the salacious advertising that appears and this is only the tip of the iceberg.

The erosion of morality in the name of personal freedom seems to be bent upon forming a guiltless society where anything goes. Selflessness becomes selfishness; community and codependence are overtaken by isolation and introspection. God in his wisdom gave us a set of rules for our guidance and protection and we all know how easy it is to slide sideways into sin, how the small slips can lead to greater ones if allowed to go unchecked. My grandmother used to say "The first lie is the easiest". The pity is that our government is also caught up in this

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by Irene Clegg



deception, easing the rules and weakening the structure of society. They say that it is what society wants; it is our right for everyone to be able to do what they want within reason. However what is reasonable to a few is possibly unreasonable for many and even worse, immoral in the eyes of God.

Each such organisation provides an opportunity to sign up to a petition of protest. Personally I try, when inspired to do so, not only to sign the form but also communicate with my MP personally, believing that 20 individual approaches have far more impact than one petition (usually they reply to you). Are you prepared to act to express your view?

### **A prayer from Thomas Wilson (1633-1755)**

Enlarge thy Kingdom O God and deliver the world from the tyranny of Satan... Bless the good endeavours of those who strive to propagate the truth, and prepare the hearts of all men to receive it; to the honour of Thy name.

### *Standing up for truth*

Watching the royal wedding on the 29th April 2011 I was impressed by the composure and dignity of the young bride. She walked with all the poise and assurance of someone who was well used to such a walk and it occurred to me that that is how we Christians should be. We know that in the scriptures Jesus has given us authority over all the works of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt us. We know too that we are being prepared to be 'the bride of Christ' and we read that 'the bride has made herself ready before He returns'. We have read too, the passage about the 'wise and foolish virgins' and know how very important it will be to be ready. So in view of all that (and there are many, many more passages in the same vein) we should, I feel, be standing up and exhibiting composure and dignity as we wait for that coming day.

All around us in the world there is chaos and unrest (in many places it would be true to say people's hearts are failing them for fear) and the enemy is charging about 'seeking whom he may devour'. But that is surely not the case for us; we have a calling and a purpose, to shine as lights in the world and to prepare the way for our coming King.

I once read an article by a prominent church-man (sorry that I cannot recall who he was) in which he said that the main weapon being used against us was the force of Secular Humanism. We needed to recognise that and be ready to stand against it. It more or less controls the media and has made huge inroads into our government and judiciary. It 'looks' to be unstoppable, but that cannot be the truth because one day it will be stopped and truth and righteousness will prevail. God

has said so. The only blip in the system is us. Will we continue to lie down and play dead or will we rise up and say, "No, thus far and no further', here shall thy proud waves be stayed". (Read Job 38 to renew your sense of God's power and authority). There is no doubt about it whatsoever, one day 'every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father'. The only question is how much longer are we going to put up with secular humanism calling the shots?

I was around (as an 11 year old) when Germany kept pushing the boundaries and invading other countries and many people here could not believe that Hitler was an aggressor. But when the penny dropped and we rose up as a nation (a seemingly tiny and weak one at that) we fought against him and soundly defeated him. It was just that we took such a long time to understand what was really going on! In many ways that is what is happening now. Many folk just do not see the connection between the permissive agenda of the humanists and the rising tide of degradation and despair that is swamping our once proud nation. They do not comprehend how forces are at work behind the scenes (like moles underground) working silently to eradicate goodness and wholesomeness from our society. Oh and let us make no bones about it, they have done much damage!

It is for such a time as this that we have been called. Do you doubt that? We, you and I, little insignificant you and I! But the beauty of that scenario is that it is you and I; but us filled with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. You and I clothed with truth and righteousness and wearing the whole armour of God. 'Faithful is He who hath called you, Who also will do it!' (1 Thessalonians 5: 4). That's the secret, He plans to do it and we are simply to be His mouthpiece.

The more I think about this the greater becomes my understanding of all that He has done in my life since I gave that life into His keeping. I used to be a fearful and insecure soul; but to know of His great love for me has changed that. I do not have a university degree or any real qualifications that the world system would recognise. But I have qualifications from the university of life and have the 'wisdom from above that is first of all peaceful then pure and easy to be entreated' (James 3: 17).

Remember the man with the talents who went off and hid what he had been given, and his master was very angry at that. We have been given 'talents'. What are we doing with them? Is the current dire situation a reason for us to get out our 'talents', dust them off, wipe off the mud and ask the Lord, "what wouldst Thou have me do?" That question to the Lord is the most important thing any of us can ask. But underlying that is the determination that we need, to stand for truth. When things are wrong we need to say so. We do not want to condemn anyone, but homosexuality is wrong, abortion is wrong, civil

All around us in the world there is chaos and unrest...

...how much longer are we going to put up with secular humanism calling the shots?

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partnerships are wrong, sexual license is wrong, adultery is wrong; all in the light of God's word! God says it. I believe it. That settles it for me!

We need to stand up and be counted and empower our church leaders to do so also. If they disagree with God's clear word, what does that make them? Empty vessels that make an uncertain sound!

There's an awful lot spoken about 'love'. Well if we love our children we do not let harmful things come their way. We protect and shelter them and instruct them (day by day and year by year; faithfully) so that by the time they are grown they have a good deal of common sense. To expose them to unsuitable things would be a travesty. Many in our nation have not been so taught and we can see the harm that has been done. We do truly live in the days spoken of in Timothy; just take a minute now to read that passage (2 Timothy 3: 1-5). My word that is happening today, right outside our doors, in our towns and even in our churches!

I do not suggest that we are unloving or judgemental, but if we are Christians then we must surely live as such. We must obey teachings that are clearly set out in scripture. Otherwise what or who are we? If people will not listen to us, well we are no worse off than Jesus. Not everyone who heard Him listened and obeyed; it has always been so. But His words go out to us, "you are My servants if you do whatsoever I command you". And then in another place He calls us 'friends' and, as we began this article, He also tells us we are part of His bride.

There are serious days ahead for us and all our loved ones, friends and neighbours. How should we be living amongst them? I guess the only real way is to walk the way of love, and that certainly does not mean adopting the humanist agenda to 'keep the peace'. We need to be able to say, in love, "I cannot agree with you because I live by the beat of a different drum and am under the authority of a different kingdom". No arguments, just a statement of fact. I once was lost but now am found.

I believe that as we declare the word of God and live by it, we shall see the powers of darkness tremble and eventually crumble. It will be a battle (hence the armour of God) but think of Aslan in the Narnia story and the coming victory. We couldn't do it without the Lord of course. But He has promised His power if we will but use it. May we seek Him for guidance and wisdom in our own particular sphere of influence.

## Prayer Corner

*Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision the people perish"*

Asking the Lord for guidance about this magazine's *Prayer Corner*, the verse above keeps coming to mind, so I make no apologies for starting with it. Can we prayerfully take it on board and ask the Lord just how He would have each of us apply it. Whether in our prayers for ARM, our individual lives, or in our contacts with others in our church fellowships.

The needs are still urgent, so let us keep on keeping on - in believing prayer for God to bless ARM in a new way, renew it's vision, and especially that those who serve on the executive will clearly hear from Him how we are to proceed in future days.

Having typed the above, I just referred back to the August 2011 Prayer Corner, amazed at how similar were the points raised there. If you re-read them, then compare with those to be listed for prayer here. I think you will also see how the Lord is guiding us to pray.

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

- That we know the Lord desires to, and will build His Church, granting us in some small measure the wonderful privilege of being co-workers together with Him in this task.
- For how He has used ARM in past years, together with many others, in this awesome role.
- That the Trefeca Retreat was a time of blessing and refreshment for all who attended.

### **Prayer Needs**

- We still urgently need a chairman, secretary, webmaster and editor for the magazine. If you feel only the slightest nudge to offer yourself for any of these roles, or could gently nudge another, please do not hesitate!
- The need for younger people to join ARM is still great, together with some younger members on our Executive Committee. We need people from across the age spectrum, with all the different gifts and experience they have to offer, and all will be most warmly welcomed, so please do not let age deter you!
- Let's pray that the Lord releases more clergy to join us as in the past – we sorely miss them – though very aware of just how busy they are in their parishes.
- There is a sense that more actual prayer is needed for ARM – may the Lord encourage us all in this by His gracious Holy Spirit.

by Pam Worsley  
(Prayer Co-ordinator)



We need:

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Webmaster
- Magazine editor
- Young people
- Clergy

For  
guidance  
and direction  
with renewed  
vision for the  
Executive  
when we  
meet.

by  
**Revd Gervais  
Angel**



- For His blessing on the Retreat at Bala; on Bishop Andrew John the speaker; and all who will attend, that the Lord would freely have His way among them and be glorified through them.
- For God to bless our praise gathering in May and that Andy Herrick, the speaker and worship leader, would be inspired and envisioned to lead us all nearer to our Lord.
- For guidance and direction with renewed vision for the Executive when we meet.
- That our Spiritual Advisors would know the Lord's rich blessing on their ministries and be sensitive to any prompting He wishes to give through them to ARM.
- For the Church in Wales across our land, that the Lord would bless us all with renewed vision, clergy and parishioners alike.
- Beloved – let us pray for one another.

Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to HIM be the glory in the Church..."

With grateful thanks and prayerful love

### Prayer Pointers 6

There's a couple who keep a home for 28 homeless boys in the Philippines. The wife is the daughter of a retired UK Vicar and she has been a strong Charismatic Christian for many years. She wrote this to me last month, and it should encourage us all; people are being awakened to God in the nations. Lesley Gomez writes:

'God has been speaking to us for some time about restoring those who have stumbled or walked away from their Father [heavenly] for various reasons. I recently read Andrew Murray's book, "Standing in the gap" [he was at the centre of a massive revival in South Africa in 1860, which as we have seen began in the New York prayer meeting and spread world-wide], and I have taken it on board 100%, devoting a lot of time and energy to praying for God's kingdom to come in people's lives. God has been speaking to me and directing me in amazing ways. It is very exciting to see Him at work in response to prayer, in agreement with Him! When you pray in the Spirit, He doesn't only answer what is on your heart but sends multiple answers in all sorts of directions! (Life and more abundant ministries, June 2010 [www.lamaministries.org](http://www.lamaministries.org).)'

What was the condition of your current church 40 years ago, and what is its condition today? The Apostle John was, according to tradition, a companion of Jesus, the author of the Fourth Gospel, the writer of the 3 letters of John, the visionary on Patmos who wrote

the Book of Revelation, and he died around AD 100 at Ephesus. Ephesus is one of the seven churches addressed by the glorified Christ in Revelation. Already we have seen that the church at Ephesus began through the two year mission of St Paul around AD 52-4. Paul wrote from prison his letter to Ephesus around AD 62, maybe later, and around AD 94 John the visionary delivers to that church a message from the Lord, 'I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.' (Revelation 2: 2-4). Because of suggestions in the Book of Revelation that the recipients are being persecuted by Roman authorities, the book is dated in the AD 90s, 40 years after Paul began his mission in Ephesus. The Ephesian Christians were still basically in good shape. What is the condition of our churches after their experience in the last 40 years? Are they a bit more like another church to which John delivered a message from the glorified Christ, the church at Sardis?

'I know your conduct that you have a reputation for being alive, but you are actually dead! Be vigilant [ie watch] and strengthen those who remain but are on the point of death, for I have found your conduct far from perfect in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey that and repent. If, therefore, you do not watch, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what moment I will come to you. ' He comes with the good news of welcoming his saints and he comes with the bad news of universal judgement. This is our passage from the Scriptures on awakening in this article.

How many years had the church at Sardis existed?

Sardis was a great place to go as a tourist. Some of you might have been to Ismir in Turkey, which in John's day was called Smyrna. Some miles east of Smyrna on the modern E90 west-east road lies Sardes. It's tucked at the northern foot of Mount Tmolus, and in ancient times its fortress was on the mountain and had a local reputation for being impregnable. But twice the crags had been climbed by enemy armies. So Sardis was a household name for 'pride comes before a fall'. But the site was so grand that successive conquerors built it up, the last being the Roman emperors who reconstructed the whole place following a devastating earthquake in AD 17.

Not only did it have a reputation for safety; it was accessible. Just as it lies on a major highway today from Ismir eastwards, so it was in John's day on crossroads of major roads. For that reason its conquerors made it an administrative centre and merchants a trading centre. Croesus, the wealthy king of Lydia, made it his capital. Alexander the Great developed it as a centre of Greek culture. The later Syrian rulers made it their capital. The even later Romans used it as a legal

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...the church at Sardis was about 40 years old when the glorified Christ warned them, 'I know your conduct that you have a reputation for being alive, but you are actually dead!'

The parallel between Sardis and the overall condition of Bristol or Bath or London or York today is so close...

centre, courts to which litigants from all around would travel.

Not only was it safe and accessible for administrators, it was traditionally wealthy. The river Pactolus flowed through Sardis down from Mount Tmolus on its way north to join the big river Hermus three miles away. The local legend was that Midas, the peasant who became king, had the ability to turn everything he touched into gold, an ancient Alan Sugar. But when he touched his daughter and turned her into gold, he asked to have this talent removed, and he was advised to bathe in the River Pactolus. He did and from that day the gravel of the river Pactolus contained gold dust.

It was a beautiful place, both from its position on the edge of Mt Tmolus, with the river Hermus not far away and also from the buildings developed there like a huge Ionic temple to the pagan goddess Artemis.

Not only was it safe, accessible, wealthy and beautiful, but it benefited from the input of wealthy Jews. A large influx of Jews settled there after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, and others came later when Syrians ruled. Diggers have found there the largest synagogue known in the ancient world, large enough to hold 1000 worshippers. And it is possible that the first Christians at Sardis were of Jewish origin, as they were in Rome. Or they were converts from Ephesus who had moved north east to Sardis. There is no evidence that Paul went there, but it is clear that one of his co-missioners, Epaphras, had evangelized Colossae in the same region in the AD 50s. So one of Paul's co-workers could have evangelized Sardis, in the AD 50s, as Epaphras had Colossae. If so, then the church at Sardis was about 40 years old when the glorified Christ warned them,

'I know your conduct that you have a reputation for being alive, but you are actually dead!'

Of course they were alive from a tourist's point of view – there was so much fame and glorious past to see. There was so much going on in trade, processing gold, civil and legal administration and religious tourism to the temples. But by the standards we saw in Paul's teaching to the Ephesians about godliness and Spirit-filled living, they were either dead or about to pass out. Christ's message was clear,

'Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die...Remember...what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent' (2-3 NIV).

And how was this to happen? The parallel between Sardis and the overall condition of Bristol or Bath or London or York today is so close, how IS this to happen? Let me share with you how it did happen 40 years after an earlier revival in the UK, 40 years after the revivals in 1858-60 which flowed from the New York prayer meeting.

In 1902, a month before he died, David Howell, Dean of St Davids

Cathedral in Wales, wrote this in a magazine, 'Take notice! If it were known that this is my last message to my fellow-countrymen before being summoned to judgement – the chief need of my country and my dear nation at present is a spiritual revival through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,' (J E Orr, 'The Ready Tongue', an account of the world-wide evangelical awakening of the early twentieth century, (1968), 35). The spirit in the pews was worldly and no power existed in the pulpits. Yet there were plenty of evangelistic missions in South and North Wales. The Keswick Convention for deepening the spiritual life, which had grown out of the 1858-60 revivals in the English-speaking world and began at Keswick in Cumbria in 1875 put on conventions in Llandrindod Wells in Wales to encourage the evangelists and those concerned about the decline in the churches. The national evangelist for the Welsh Presbyterian Church, Seth Joshua, was afraid of an emphasis on intellectual power rather than holiness and Christian service among young ministers in training and he asked God to provide a boy from the farms or mines of Wales to revive his work. Joseph Jenkins was appointed to the chapel at New Quay in Ceredigion. He was burdened by the lack of concern in his own heart and voice when he preached. He was helped by the Keswicks and challenged by reading Andrew Murray but he was upset by the apathy in his own young people. He challenged them to give testimony of their spiritual experience but they evaded the point until a young girl converted about three days before said, 'I love Jesus Christ, with all my heart.' This was the beginning. Young people's meetings went on into the night; month after month, and six months later the itinerant evangelist Seth Joshua visited New Quay and was amazed. He planned a campaign in a place called Blaenannerch on the coast road north of Cardigan. He called on his way at a ministers' training school in Newcastle Emlyn and in his audience was a young man aged 26. He had been brought up to pray, read his Bible, share in family worship and go to Sunday School. When his father was injured in a mine, he replaced him at the age of 12. An elder at his chapel in Loughor challenged him, 'Remember to be faithful! What if the Spirit descended and you were absent? Remember Thomas! What a loss he had!' He went to church meetings every day of the week. He told a friend, 'For ten or eleven years I have prayed for a revival. I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals. It was the Spirit that moved me to think about a revival' (Orr, 1968, 41). After 12 years in the mines, he became a blacksmith, but his conscience made him offer for the ministry in 1903. He sat his exams to enter the ministers' training school, but before he entered he had a spiritual experience which made him sleep till 1am every night, awake to commune with God and then return to sleep. In the training school he was afraid of losing fellowship with God because of the pressure of study. He heard Seth Joshua speak there and he joined his team for Blaenannerch. There Seth Joshua the

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I have a vision of all Wales being lifted up to heaven. We are going to see the mightiest revival that Wales has ever known-and the Holy Spirit is coming soon, we must get ready...

Springtime by  
Pam Worsey

evangelist closed the morning meeting with this prayer, 'Arglwydd, plyg ni..Lord...bend us.' Evan Roberts the miner-blacksmith – trainee minister went to the front and cried, 'Arglwydd plyg fi, plyg fi...Lord, bend me, bend me.' The intensity of his cry scared older ministers.' Later he testified to a great peace entering his soul and he said, 'I felt ablaze with a desire to go through the length and breadth of Wales to tell of the Saviour; and, had that been possible, I was willing to pay God for doing so'. Back in training school at Newcastle Emlyn he began to pray for his first team: himself, Sidney Evans and young women from the New Quay youth group. He emptied his savings of £200 to support them. He and Sidney spent time praying and reading, and they found studying Greek distracting. The college principal supported them. Now for our prayer pointers for tonight;

First, he wrote home to his brother Dan, 'I do not know whether you possess the joy of the Gospel, but if you are to have it, you must be willing to do the Spirit's bidding...You must put yourself entirely at the Spirit's disposal' (Orr, 1968, 44).

Second prayer pointer. Evan Roberts' words to Sidney Evans, 'I have a vision of all Wales being lifted up to heaven. We are going to see the mightiest revival that Wales has ever known-and the Holy Spirit is coming soon, we must get ready. We must have a little band and go all over the country preaching.' He asked Evans directly, 'Do you believe that God can give us a hundred thousand souls now?' (Orr, 1968, 44). He got the 100,000 in six months (Orr, Light of the Nations, 1965, 232).

Dare we go for that kind of vision of awakening for Bristol?

### Springtime

The daffodil, the crocus,  
The snowdrop shy and white,  
All heralds of the Springtime  
As earth moves from winter's night;  
So quietly they've been growing  
Beneath the frozen sod,  
But now they're shoots appearing  
Bravely point our thoughts to God.

Has life seemed dark and frozen?  
Have the days been long and drear?  
Has hope been sometimes fading  
In the ice-cold grip of fear?  
Take heart, your soul's been growing  
Beneath the chastening rod  
And soon new life emerging  
Will point others up to God.

## Losing Tom - Finding Grace

by Jackie Slough

'Walking through the aftermath of a son's suicide'

Don't be daunted by the title or the subject, I believe that each of us has something to learn from this book for at some time in our lives we all have to face bereavement. As well as being a fascinating book, this is a valuable aid to gaining deeper understanding of bereavement.

We came across this account when we visited a café for lunch in the middle of a busy Cotswold market town. Nobody pushed it at us but there was a synopsis on every table which sparked my interest so I purchased the book through the net when we returned home.

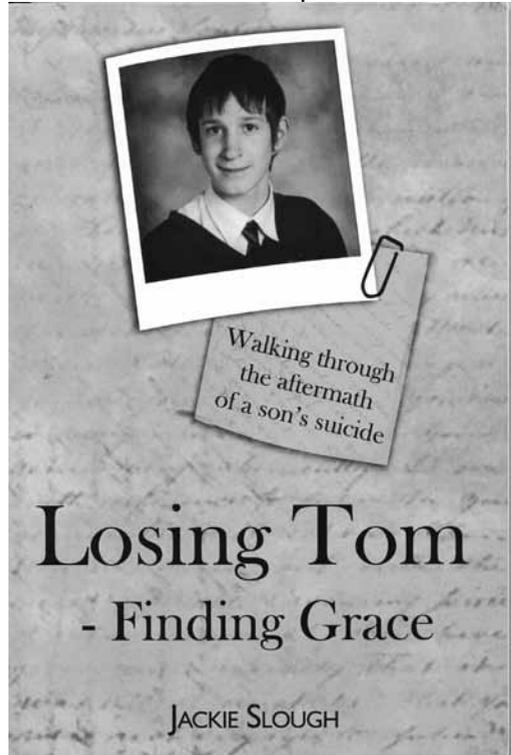
Jackie and Alan Slough are members of the Chipping Campden Baptist Church which provided strong support during the years after she discovered that their teenage son Tom had committed suicide in his bedroom. Their strong faith shines through every page as all the family has a real trust in God that he will continue to be gracious in the love poured out to all who seek it.

This book is not a slick professional work. It is not 'ghost written' and does not offer more than an honest account of life after the loss of a loved one being extracts from the journal written by Jackie together with a number of the poems that express her feelings at the time. Included are the letters and some diary entries of Tom which go some way to reveal his state of mind, which he had hidden from friends and family.

It is not always easy to read because you become caught up in the emotions of the author; however it is a valuable insight into how grief and depression works itself out. Most importantly it shows how with Jesus as guide and mentor a positive perspective of life emerges.

*Onward & Upwards Publishers (OUP) ISBN 978-1-907509-07-0*

Review by  
Dick Shenton



by  
 Revd Brian Favell

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 Lord.

...we end  
 up with a  
 situation  
 in which  
 those who  
 have never  
 yet met the  
 Lord regard  
 themselves  
 as the only  
 true Church,  
 while those  
 who have  
 had actual  
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 of the  
 Lord ... find  
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 increasingly  
 shut out of  
 the club,  
 ... which  
 churches  
 so often  
 become.

*This is an extract taken from a magazine called "The River" which was written and published periodically over a number of years by Revd Brian Favell (now sadly deceased) who was a founder member of ARM (Wales).*

### "The River" September 2002

"Problems arise because many even from infancy, have acquired a taste for worship, hymns, prayers and liturgy after the Anglican style. But at the same time they have for one reason or another never encountered the Risen Lord. And never having met him and known him, the Bible testimonies about him seem, once these have grown out of their original childish acceptance of them, to be utterly incredible, unbelievable; legends, fairy tales. Nevertheless they value the ethos, the teachings and traditions of this or that Church (because the Anglican Church is not alone in this matter). They regard themselves as the heirs of all that is valuable in the Church and think they are forced to restate, reinvent, even discard those parts of the Bible which testify to the truth of what they regard as unbelievable.

What follows from this is that we who still hold firmly to the general body of Bible testimony - Godhead, healings, miracles and all - must appear to them to be gullible, ignorant, out-of-date or round the bend. After all, no rational person in full possession of his wits could possibly believe all that in defiance of scientific discoveries, the Enlightenment and whatever! So we end up with a situation in which those who have never yet met the Lord regard themselves as the only true Church, while those who have had actual experience of the Lord and the things he does find themselves increasingly shut out of the club, the material organisation which churches so often become. And those who are so shut out become in the Lord's eyes and often in their own, the Faithful Remnant of Israel!

There is no help for it at least in my mind: either we are in Christ - and like it or not, increasingly the consequences of being in Christ become ever more unpleasant and even dangerous - or we cling to the name and the kudos and all the rest which sticks to it, and call ourselves Christian without any idea of what it means.

In the Middle East, Africa, India and Pakistan, and in the Far East, being a committed Christian already means for many, persecution or danger to life and limb. How many of those now claiming ownership of the Church in its present de-Spirited and social gospel form, will find it worth adhering to when that persecution and danger comes to the West - as it will?

#### WHOSE CHURCH IS IT ANYWAY?

Of course I mean the Church of England, or the Church in Wales where I spent much of my ministry. The Church which has tens of thousands of buildings filled (?) with faithful members; with all its little pastoral subdivisions called dioceses and parishes - where bishops

and incumbents and Synods rule unchallenged over the people, telling them where and how to worship, with what Prayer Books and hymn books. Who does it belong to? The Bishops, the Vicars? The PCC's and sub committees and teams etc.? The Anglican Communion worldwide?

### WRONG

It belongs to Jesus: Messiah, Lord of all Creation. And it does NOT consist of buildings or hymn and service books or Canon Law, Jesus died for it. He rose again for it, he taught it and poured out his Holy Spirit for it, sweated blood for it and suffered agonies for its people, men and women and children, people in Kenya and Uganda, born and brought up in poverty and danger - the very real danger of animism (the worship of spirits, demons, call them what you will), and set free from that danger by the power of his Spirit, their lives changed and renewed by that same Spirit.

People in Britain and the United States, in possession of luxuries, machines, hot and cold running water - even computers such as I am using now! - that were unimaginable as little as fifty years ago to the vast majority in the Western world and are still unimaginable to the East and Third World. People subjected to the dreadful pressures of advertising, fashion, cupidity and greed. People encouraged by the media - radio, TV, newspapers and magazines - to spend their substance on things which begin to lose their savour from the moment they touch them; clothes, houses, cars, caravans; pleasure, pleasure and more pleasures. People who are encouraged to believe that such things are the whole end and aim of life and get angry if they are denied them for whatever reason.

All these people Jesus loves; he rejoices in their joys, agonises with them in their pain, dies with them in their deaths. And he calls them, invites them to meet him, to be loved by him and healed by him and changed by him into new Life. He invites them to set all these things into their rightful place - second to him, for he is Lord.

Does this sound unfamiliar? If it does then all the machinery of religion, of churches and bishops and the rest - prayer books and hymns, liturgy, candles and committees - have failed to make him known. And if they go on failing then I am afraid we are in danger of being thrown with them on to the rubbish heap, because that failure is our fault, not his.

So here I am telling you again what I believe, with countless others over centuries: that what matters is getting to know Jesus as a Person as well as God, so that he can get to work on us, set right the things that are wrong in us, remake us like a car recalled by the manufacturers to put right the unintended but ingrown faults.

You don't have to believe this just because I say so: you must make up

...all the  
machinery  
of religion,  
of churches  
and bishops  
and the  
rest - prayer  
books and  
hymns,  
liturgy,  
candles and  
committees  
- have failed  
to make him  
known.

...any  
'religion'  
that tells  
us we need  
to fashion  
him to suit  
our own  
theories and  
desires and  
preferences  
is a load of  
dangerous  
nonsense.





Anglican renewal Ministries (Wales)  
Adnewyddiad Eglwyswyr Cymru

# PRAISE DAY

St Idloes Church Hall

Saturday 26th May 2012

10.30am - 3.30pm

with

Andy Herrick

*Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God*

Set your Satnav to SY18 6AN

Tea and coffee provided, but please bring your own lunch.

Llanidloes has plenty of places to eat and buy food.

Come into  
the presence  
of God.

Let the  
Spirit of  
God do  
His healing  
work in you,  
emptying  
your heart of  
things that  
are not of  
God. Let  
God refill  
it with His  
love.

## Prayer of Inner Healing

Find a place where you can be quiet and uninterrupted. Choose a physical position which is comfortable. Come before the lord in an attitude of humility and trust. Enter into this prayer in whatever way that you feel led to enter into it. Since healing is an ever ongoing process, this prayer will not solve all your problems.

Come into the presence of God.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being here, for the privilege of feeling Your strength and Your presence.

Lord, You can walk through my life, all the way back to the very moment I was conceived...

When I was formed within my mother's womb You were there: free me and heal me of any bonds upon my spirit which may have entered me through my mother or the circumstances of my parents' lives even as I was being formed. For this, I give you thanks...

I have come to understand and accept it, but a part of me never really felt complete, never really felt wanted. I ask today for a healing of that, Lord, let me know that I am Your child, an important person in Your family, a unique individual that You love in a very special way...

Heal me Lord, of the hurt that came because of the relationships in my family, the brother or the sister that did not quite understand, or didn't show me love and kindness as he or she should have. Part of me never felt loved because of it. Let me now reach out in forgiveness to that brother or sister...

Lord, as I went into adolescence, I began to experience things that frightened me, embarrassed me, and caused me pain. I have never quite got over some of the experiences I had as I was learning about myself and what it means to be a person. I pray, Lord Jesus, a healing upon all the experiences that I had as a teenager, for the things that I did and for the things that were done to me that have never quite been healed...

Lord, help me feel such warmth and such strength of love pouring into me that I will never again doubt the path I'm travelling is the one that You have called me to be upon. Give me courage and confidence in the work that You have called me to do...

Now take ten minutes of quiet. Let the Spirit of God do His healing work in you, emptying your heart of things that are not of God. Let God refill it with His love.

*This article has been reprinted from ARM (Wales) magazine issue No. 4 – Spring 1994*

## Spring 2012 Retreat at Trefeca

The retreat was led by Vicki and Robert de Hoxar who are based in Bala, where they have a retreat house, and who were speaking as part of the Fatherheart Ministry. This Ministry is dedicated to taking the reality of God's love to every corner of the world. Fatherheart Ministries was officially formed in 1997 when James and Denise Jordan (from New Zealand) joined up with Jack and Dorothy Winter from the USA. You can find more information about this organisation at [www.fatherheart.net](http://www.fatherheart.net).

To get more information about Father's House Bala look at [www.fathershousebala.org](http://www.fathershousebala.org).

The title for the retreat was 'The Father's Heart' and was about our relationship with God the Father. What was presented was just one way of thinking about that relationship; but a very powerful and effective way. But does it work? I had met Robert several years ago and he is clearly a very different person now, transformed by taking to heart the message he and Vicki were presenting. That encouraged me to take their teaching seriously.

What follows is simply some points that struck me; other people will have picked out other things. It's impossible to present here a whole weekend's teaching but Robert and Vicki do run courses monthly at

### Malcolm Dye

The retreat was led by Vicki and Robert de Hoxar... and was about our relationship with God the Father.



We know all sorts of good things about God in our minds, but do we know those things in our hearts?

Bala.

In many ways there was nothing new, but the presentation was unique and inspiring. Robert started by noting that the Kingdom of God is inside out, in that what is inside us should affect the outside. But for many of us events outside us influence how we feel and react. For example, our circumstances affect whether we are happy or not. But really what is in our hearts should dictate our happiness and so to be happy we need to change our hearts and not our circumstances.

We know all sorts of good things about God in our minds, but do we know those things in our hearts? It's from our hearts that our words and behaviour come (Luke 6: 45). And our anxiety, fear, anger, insecurity, unforgiveness etc show what we really believe in our hearts. Robert reminded us what God is really like (from Scripture) and made the point that He *needs* nothing, but does want our love. We can choose to give it, or not.

God gives, although often we don't recognise or accept those gifts. God speaks, even if we don't recognise his voice. And God, above all, wants a relationship with us. But so many of us want his benefits without the intimacy of relationship. Robert noted that Israel was like that; they had a 'slave mentality' - they rejected relationship in favour of 'being told what to do' (read Exodus). With God in our hearts we will act out of love and not out of duty or to please people. In fact there are



things we can do out of love which we can't (or won't) do from duty!

Vicki made some interesting comments about the parable of the lost son (Luke 15: 11-32). Robert followed this by talking about spiritual orphans. Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14: 18). A contrast was made between the 'orphan heart' and the 'heart of sonship'. Four orphan 'states' were outlined:

- 'Competitor' - always striving (eg Jacob)
- 'Survivor' - (eg Moses or King Saul)
- 'Broken hearted' - give up, want to die, isolates themselves, don't remember the good events (eg Elijah)
- 'Servant' - happy to do what someone tells them because that's not such a struggle, and they can feel good about it. But their world collapses when asked to do something they can't or don't want to do.

There is no love or lasting peace in any of these states. Competitors and survivors are never popular because they don't care for other people. Servants always invite more and more work until inevitably they can't do it. This can result in burnout.

We can be in more than one state at the same time, for example, a competitor at work and a servant at home.

During the final session we were introduced to a list of 15 contrasts between the orphan spirit and sonship, and were challenged to see where we belonged. A challenge indeed; all of us found we had orphan characteristics in one way or another!

And finally Robert defined a heart attitude which leads to sonship. John 5: 44 says, 'How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that come from the only God?' So here is the key - don't seek praise from people, as so many do, but seek praise from God.

Overall the weekend was one to look back on and take to heart.

Here are some other comments about this Spring's retreat:

'I have just returned from Trefeca in the Brecon Beacons where I have been pampered at the "3-in-1 Spa" weekend led by Vicki and Robert de Hoxar. The official title was "The Father's Heart", but my imagination has renamed it because that is how I felt - cleansed, pampered, renewed, refreshed, nourished and beautified, in and by the power of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We walked, we talked, we laughed, we cried, and, wonderfully encouraged by Greg Leavers, we sang and praised God spontaneously.

Some of us had the wonderful experience of God's amazingly beautiful perfume, a mixture of hyacinths, jasmine, narcissi and others - never to be forgotten.

A contrast was made between the 'orphan heart' and the 'heart of sonship'.

...all of us found we had orphan characteristics in one way or another!

**Kath Shenton**

We have been blessed in order to be a blessing to others and I pray that I won't forget the warning God gave to me, "Be on your guard".

The staff at Trefeca are always so welcoming and helpful, and the food prepared by Linda is delicious and very generous. We thank God for them all.

Don't feel that you've missed out. Remember that God loves you! Jesus says, "ask and it will be opened to you". Receive his love and enjoy the Father's in your life'.

#### Dick Shenton

We arrived in glorious sunshine having driven over the Brecon Beacons through a fairly low cloud base. It was just like summer. Upon arrival our small gathering greeted each other and for the first time met our leaders Vicki and Robert de Hoxar who run a Christian retreat centre at Bala called 'The Father's House'. The theme of their talks was 'The Father's Heart' which were interspersed with inspired worship lead by Greg Leavers who opened each session.

Overall it was a gentle journey pointing us to a loving Father God explaining that, no matter what our experience of our earthly father has been, God is only going to embrace us in his loving arms. I believe that every person was touched and blessed in some way during our time together and some had profound healing and affirmation. Time passed all too quickly but the location, accommodation and bountiful provision of the chefs meant that we left with a sensation of comfort and love both spiritual and physical. There were times when we were challenged and gently lead from our comfort zones by different approaches to draw closer to God, or stimulated by new songs.

Our final act of worship on Palm Sunday took place in the sunshine on the grass beneath the cross where we shared bread and wine together, something which will stay fresh in my mind for many months.

#### Joe Hague

I found the weekend a truly uplifting experience. It was good to have Greg with us again for our times of worship, his love and joy in the Lord is so infectious that none could fail to catch some of it. The teaching sessions gave me a new insight of what it means to have intimacy with our Father in Heaven. Trefeca is a very special place and the beauty and peace of the surroundings help to find the presence of God. I do wish more people could enjoy this same experience.



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES  
ADNEWYDDIAD ELWYSWR CYMRU

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

We welcome all Christians to join with us in supporting our work.

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Marina Kennard

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*We trust we may glorify God's name through our activities in Wales and we look to the prayer support of our members.*

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(please use 'ARM membership' as the subject)



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## Datganiad Adnewyddiad Eglwyswyr Cymru

- Llawenhau yn aelodaeth Eglwys Duw
- ac yn ein galwad i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru
- ac yn cydnabod mai drwy weithgareddau'r Ysbryd Glân cawn fwynhau perthynas personol gyda'r Duw Dad a Iesu Grist.
- Rydym yn ymrwymo'n hunain mewn aelodaeth ffyddlon i'n heglwys, yn ffyddlon i'w harweiniad a'l fframwaith.
- Dymunwn ymuno â llawnder rhoddion grasol Duw i'w Eglwys, i ddangos ffrwyth yr Ysbryd Glân, ac i ymarfer doniau'r Ysbryd a roddwyd inni yn ac yn freiniol er mwyn nerthu'r Eglwys.
- Ac idyfu fel unigolion ac fel eglwys i efelychu Crist.
- Drwy ddyfalbarhad i adnewyddu, gobeithiwn fel unigolion, yn gorfforedig ac yn undebol, cawn ein harwain gan yr Ysbryd i annog yr Eglwys mewn:
  - addoliad sy'n ein harwain wyneb yn wyneb â'r bywiol Dduw
  - deisyfiad i gael ymuno yng ngwir gymundeb â'r Ysbryd Glân, i'n galluogi i roi argraff gyhoeddus o eglwys fywiol, gariadus a gweithgar.

## A statement from Anglican Renewal Ministries (Wales)

- Rejoicing in our membership of God's Church
- and our calling within the Church in Wales
- and recognising that through the activity of the Holy Spirit we are brought into a personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
- we commit ourselves to be faithful members of our church, loyal to its leadership and structures.
- We desire to enter into the fullness of all God's gracious gifts to his Church, to display the fruit of the Spirit and to exercise the gifts of the Spirit as he sovereignly and freely distributes them for the building up of the Church
- and to grow as individuals and Church into the likeness of Christ.
- Being dedicated to renewal we hope that individually, corporately and by open gatherings we can be led by the Holy Spirit to encourage the Church in:
  - a worship which expects to encounter the living God
  - a desire to be caught up into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the communal expression of a living, loving and serving church.

[www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk](http://www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk)

