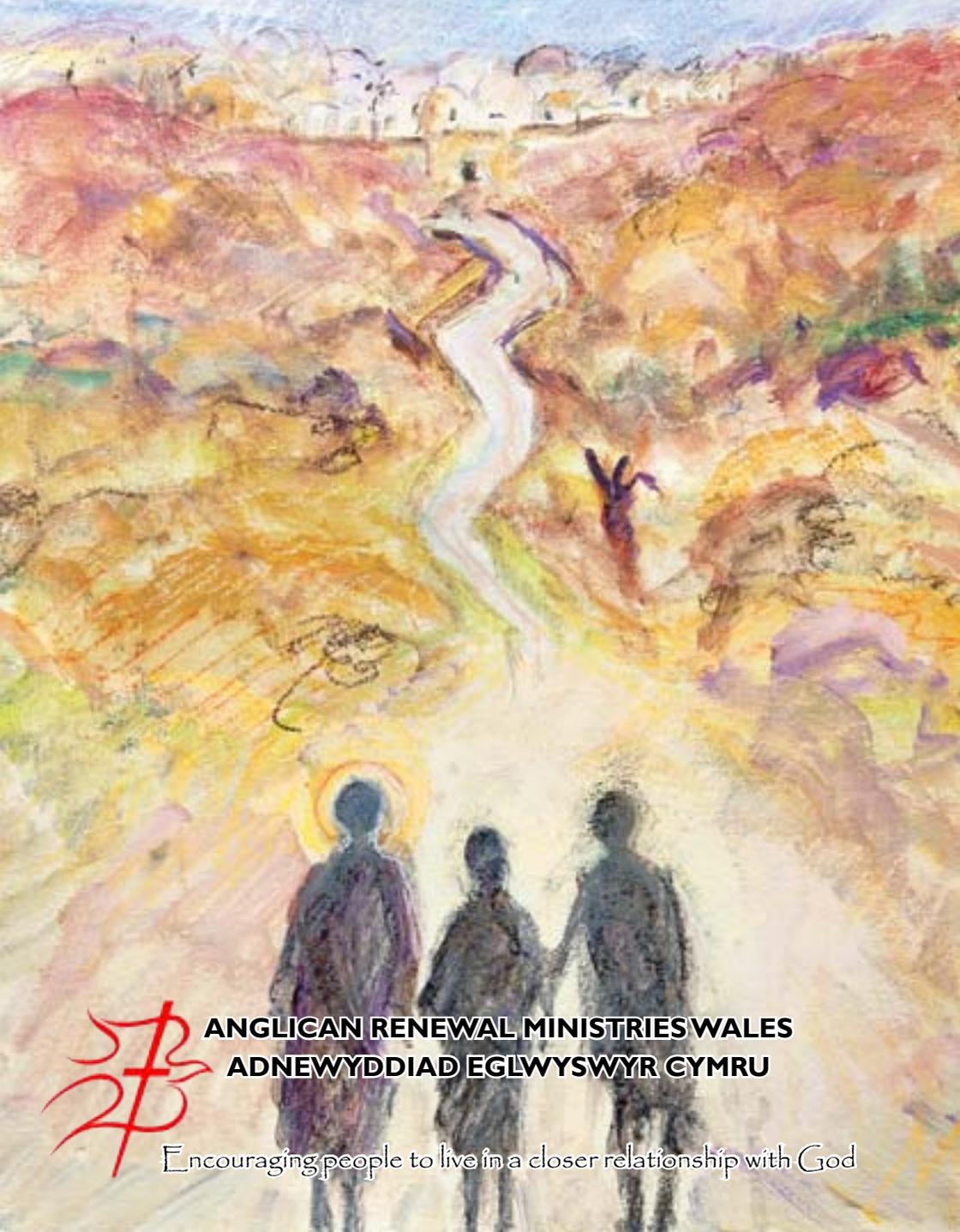


ARM (Wales) Magazine

Spring 2015 Issue 70



**ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES**  
**ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU**

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

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Cover picture: 'The Road To Emmaus' by Marcia Gibson-Watt

LAST DATE for copy for the Summer edition - June 26th 2015

We welcome articles, letters and news of your Renewal events.  
Please send to me at: Ty Capel, Rhos-y-Garth, Llanilar, Aberystwyth SY23 4SE  
or email: malcolmdye@gmail.com  
Malcolm Dye

by Dick Shenton  
Vice-chairman

From the Vice Chairman

### Acting upon God's word

In the book of Micah it is written - 'Many nations will say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob."' (4: 2) This is an action of unity; a common voice, a common purpose, a common belief, a common desire to hear from God.



Then, 'he will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths' (4: 2). We must listen, obey and act, and then God will clarify his plans for us.

This is how the day of *Flames Rekindled* came into being. At first there was an inspired idea which was expressed in the company of others. This received initial confirmation and was endorsed by similar thoughts that God, through his Holy Spirit, had implanted

in other people's minds. The idea grew into action and was refined and implemented. Many foreseen problems disappeared like smoke in the wind, doubts were discarded, God was in control. The path was not totally smooth but it did not prevent the plans from coming into fruition. Prayer, patience, persistence and consultation with others resulted in a time of hope for the future to inspire the prospect of renewal in the hearts of God's people. Another aspect of our time together should be an encouragement to those who are flagging. Frequently we are unaware of how the Kingdom is growing in other places. We become disillusioned that because we do not see signs where we are, nothing is happening elsewhere. Perhaps we become jealous that the resources in larger churches or communities are not afforded to our patch. This is the time to seek out the Lord and ask how we can achieve at least a small step forward. It could mean that we need to express our thoughts in the company of others, for God may well be planting similar ideas in another's mind. And don't be disappointed if it

**We must listen, obey and act, and then God will clarify his plans for us.**

**Prayer, patience, persistence and consultation with others resulted in a time of hope for the future to inspire the prospect of renewal in the hearts of God's people.**

falls on deaf ears, try again and next time the seed could germinate.

Talking of germination, whilst we were planning our day at BUILT Wells God was at work in another household, Martine Lewis was enthused to plan a weekend family event at Cefn Lea in the summer of 2017 and plans are well in hand for this. This resonated with me because Cefn Lea was where ARM Wales held it's first conferences and the venue has undergone considerable refurbishment in recent years. Furthermore I have just been told that Resource-ARM which was formerly ARM England is planning a Church renewal weekend at Beulah, Llanwrtyd Wells, led by Martin Cavender, on 29-30 August 2015. We will update you with information about this via our magazine and website.

Prayer Corner

by Pam Worsey

### Praise and Thanksgiving

'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands' Psalm 19: 1.

'Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name' Psalm 100: 4.

- As we approach the *Flames Rekindled* event on April 11th, with excited anticipation, let us praise God for the privilege of being involved with what he is graciously doing in our land in these days.

- Maybe it would be good to mentally step aside for a moment from the prayer needs of ARM Wales and just look up to the skies, either in reality or imagination, and allow the Lord to speak to us through the wonder of His creation. It is difficult sometimes to really be still and know that He is God in the busyness of daily life. Yet we know that it is only when we do, that we are really able to hear Him speak to us by his Spirit, and so guide our praying aright.



- From this place of quiet worship, we remember that God has promised to draw near to us when we draw near to Him, so let's just praise Him for the wonder of that experience! Frail, imperfect man, able to draw near and experience heart communion with the King of kings - and as beloved children too! Wow!
- God moved in amazing ways to reveal His purpose and desire for us to hold this event, and confirmed it too in many surprising ways, so let us praise Him for such clear guidance.

'May the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer' Psalm 19: 14.

### Prayer Requests

- Let us pray that God alone is glorified through the Flames Rekindled day; His perfect purposes outworked, and His Kingdom extended by leaps and bounds!
- Please pray for His special anointing and guidance on the preparation by the main speakers, Bishop Andy of Bangor, Canon Dr Ron Allen and Canon Stuart Bell. May the Lord keep them in good health, while not being overtaxed in their daily duties.
- May all the preparation behind the scenes be done with skill and efficiency in a spirit of unity, selfless love and humility.
- May the weather be favourable, and all travel be easy and safe.
- May any fearful of dipping their toe into the water, as this day could be uncharted and strange to them, be encouraged by the Lord, and through His people, to trust Him and take the plunge.
- May we all be free from the fear of being catapulted by God out of our comfort zones, and into something - maybe strange - and very probably new! Being 'catapulted by God out of our comfort zones' can also be a scary thought, yet we know it is only as we are truly open to what the Lord wishes to do in and through us, that we can

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May we all be free from the fear of being catapulted by God out of our comfort zones, and into something - maybe strange - and very probably new!

May the Lord find us available and open to all He desires to do through us individually and corporately for the extension of His Kingdom in this land we love, and may he alone be glorified through it.

Thank you for your loving support which we appreciate more than you can know!

by Marcia Gibson-Watt

The Christian Centre for Rural Wales (CCRW) has had a presence on the Royal Welsh Showground at Llanelwedd for 12 years or so now.

the new premises ... were opened with a ceremony in the foyer of the Clwyd/Glamorgan building ...

receive the fullness of His blessing, His perfect love casting out all fear.

- May the Lord find us available and open to all He desires to do through us individually and corporately for the extension of His Kingdom in this land we love, and may he alone be glorified through it. Quoting John the Baptist - "He must increase, I must decrease" John 3: 30.
- Please pray for the RWAS and the area around, that the Presence of the Lord will continue to hover over the area long after we have gone.
- May the God-given unity between CCRW (Christian Center for Rural Wales) and ARM Wales continue to be a blessing to all concerned, and our unity with diversity be used by Him for further extension of His Kingdom.
- Please pray for all connected with ARM Wales who are in special need at this time.

Thank you for your loving support which we appreciate more than you can know!

### The Christian Centre for Rural Wales

The Christian Centre for Rural Wales (CCRW) has had a presence on the Royal Welsh Showground at Llanelwedd for 12 years or so now. It is very much an Ecumenical Centre and last December the new premises, right in the heart of the Showground, were opened with a ceremony in the foyer



of the Clwyd/Glamorgan building, next door to the Old Food Hall, where Flames of Fire held their conferences.

The Directors of the Royal Welsh Show have allowed us to rent the offices above and a room attached to the foyer as well as permission to use the foyer for larger gatherings.

On December 18th, with the backdrop of a wonderful

display left over from the Winter Fair, enhanced florally and with a borrowed Nativity Scene complete with silver star, 50 people attended a short opening prayer and welcome and were then shown around the meeting rooms upstairs. Pam John, widow of the late Canon Elwyn John, who had the original vision for this Centre and served as a Trustee, cut the ribbon at the foot of the stairs to complete the simple but profound ceremony.

In keeping with our normal practice, this was followed by Christmas Carols and Nativity readings in Welsh and English, supported by staff from all the organisations on the Showground and led by the Revd Richard Kirlew with refreshments and a sip of mulled wine!

Now the Centre is being used by the Rural Life officers and Chaplains of all denominations. The *Ten Commandments* course by J John is being run one night a week for local followers and a regular audience of over 20 have been attending. Further meetings are anticipated.

As we have, over the last dozen years, we continue to welcome approaches from all Christian groups from all over Wales and the Border Counties who wish to hold their meetings on the conveniently-placed Showground. Our rates are very low and generous and the rooms are warm and comfortable with a small kitchen which is so helpful for hospitality, as well as toilets being nearby.

### Teaching on Prayer

Unusually, I am writing this in the middle of the Snowdonia mountains in the middle of a much-needed break. Yesterday Daphne (my wife) and I were walking in a particularly remote area amidst snow-covered peaks when we came across an unexpected stretch of single lane road. We wondered where on earth it went and when we had followed it to the end, there was nothing there. Not even a turning circle., "What's the point of that?" we asked.

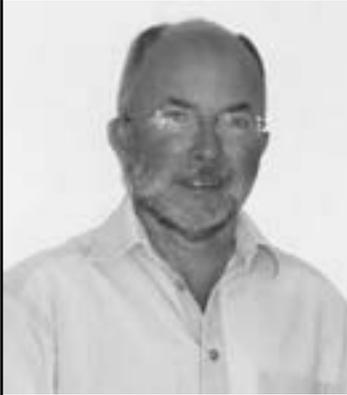
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by Roy Godwin  
Executive Director  
Ffald Y Brenin

## Why Pray?

So with prayer. Just what is the point of praying? The longer I walk with the Lord and grow in experience, the more often I need to check myself by going back to fundamental



questions and reminding myself of the basics of faith and life. If I didn't do that, the building of my life might start to slip off its foundations without me recognising it.

God's word teaches us that one of the reasons to pray, is that we might receive what we ask for. When Jesus taught about prayer invariably He spoke of bringing requests to a heavenly

Father who delights to answer his children by giving good things, including the coming of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13). In Luke 18, with the parable of the unjust judge, Jesus taught that we should persist in our requests and not lose heart. James reminds the believers that very often the reason that they do not have, is that they do not ask!

One of the prime purposes of prayer is that we might receive what we ask for. In which case, we need to be very careful indeed about what we request! I get so concerned when I hear Christians commonly using the Eastern religious tradition's phrase, 'if it's meant to happen, it will. If it doesn't happen it wasn't meant to be'. That philosophy is sheer escapism and a denial of the truth found in Jesus Christ. As a follower of Jesus you are given the enormous and challenging responsibility of seizing hold of heaven, speaking words and not letting go until you have received on earth according to your requests. You are called to be a world changer in Christ! Eastern passivism stands in opposition to the power of the gospel.

When the disciples experienced the prayer-life of Jesus, they asked him to teach them so that they could walk in

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the same effective life with the Father as Jesus in the world. His reply is known by all of us. 'This then is how you should pray: Our Father...' etc. In this teaching lie the fundamentals about Christian prayer. We are taught to bring ourselves into agreement with heaven's purposes which are eminently practical. We are to invoke the coming of the Kingdom so that the rule of God may hold sway over the life and locality of wherever we are, liberating our neighbours and neighbourhood to such an extent that it looks like heaven. And we are not to stop asking until we receive.

What does the coming of the kingdom look like? How will we know whether our prayers are being answered?



## Answered Prayer at Ffald-Y-Brenin

At Ffald-y-Brenin, we have had the privilege of establishing a kingdom-focussed cycle of Daily Prayer over a number of years and are able to observe the results. Scores of visitors have met the Lord in dreams or visions; hundreds have made new commitments. Broken people have experienced deep healing. Some who have been locked in grief for many years, have been released into hope, faith and trust again. Broken relationships have been restored. Leadership has arisen. The materially poor have found practical blessing and provision. The blessings of the kingdom have spilt over into the local community. All this while we earnestly cry out that the Kingdom might come (without neglecting our other areas of prayer).

## Some helpful advice to help us all, in our prayers...

All of us have probably found ourselves wondering why we

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Our forefathers knew a thing or two about effective prayer. (By effective prayer I mean those prayers which produce the asked-for results.) Here are some of their pointers which might aid us.

...

The Lord is raising an army of prayer warriors who are becoming effective at releasing heaven on earth wherever they are. You are invited to join them!

don't seem to be able to specify exact results of our praying. How are we to pray if we are to receive? Are there tools, tricks, short cuts to effective prayer, or wisdom to be had?

Our forefathers knew a thing or two about effective prayer. (By effective prayer I mean those prayers which produce the asked-for results.) Here are some of their pointers which might aid us.

- Be absolutely clear, practical and specific with your requests
- Check your motives. Who is going to be blessed the most if our petition is granted? Who will gain fame? Is there anything selfish motivating this request?
- Is your request supported clearly in scripture? If so, where? Are there connected texts that build the case? Put it together and lay it before the Lord. 'You have said ... in your word and now I ask you to give what is promised.'
- Ask in faith. James 1: 6-7 says that if we do not ask in faith with no doubting we need not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
- Has the Lord, to your knowledge, ever answered this prayer before? If so, remind him.
- Bring your requests with thanksgiving. Even while you cry or weep for your answer remember the good things that the Lord has already done.
- Persevere. Do not lose heart, do not give up. Just how committed to receiving your answer are you? If it isn't even worth persevering, why should God take you seriously?
- And having persevered, still keep persevering. 'I will not let you go until you bless me.'

The Lord is raising an army of prayer warriors who are becoming effective at releasing heaven on earth wherever they are. You are invited to join them!

### Local Houses of Prayer

Sometimes the Lord takes hold of crumbs and uses them to feed a multitude. At Ffald-y-Brenin it seems as though he has

done just that with what we call Local Houses of Prayer, a quickly multiplying movement which has now encircled the globe.

Following our structured training and backed up by our resources, ordinary Christians across the UK and beyond are excited to see their communities being transformed and spiritual life break out. In some cases churches of different denominations and streams are uniting together to build joint networks. In other places it is often individuals who are connecting with us.

Both individuals and Church leaders tell us that the teaching is life-changing. New Christians are springing up in unlikely places and winning others to the Lord.

### A terrific definition of a Christian

At the beginning of January a friend sent me an email with the subject shown above.

It was sugary and a bit flowery 'literally' with the instruction to send it to all beautiful people to celebrate 'Christian Person Week'. So I immediately forgot about it and got on with life ... but I kept returning to it and thinking about the definition and came to the conclusion that the words were in fact steeped in truth and answered a question I had been troubled with. Here is the definition ...



When I say I am a Christian,  
I am not shouting that 'I am clean living.'  
I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now I am found  
and forgiven.'

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by Annette  
Francis

... but I kept returning to it and thinking about the definition and came to the conclusion that the words were in fact steeped in truth and answered a question I had been troubled with.

When I say 'I am a Christian'  
a Christian'  
...

These are not my words and I would have used different ones but you cannot deny their truth ...

The question that was answered for me was about Humility ...

When I say 'I am a Christian'  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to  
to be my guide.

When I say 'I am a Christian'  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength  
to carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian.'  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to  
clean my mess.

When I say 'I am a Christian.'  
I'm not claiming to be perfect.  
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes  
I am worth it.

When I say 'I am a Christian.'  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon  
His name.

When I say 'I am a Christian.'  
I'm not holier than thou.  
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's  
good grace.

These are not my words and I would have used different ones but you cannot deny their truth ... and I did send them on to friends, flowers and all!

My Priesting verse is very important to me and it is Micah 6 verse 8b ...

' and this is what God requires of you,  
to do Justice, to love Mercy,  
and to walk Humbly with your God.'

The question that was answered for me was about Humility

- walking humbly with our God, what did that mean for us as individuals - I had been content to think of it as knowing who we are in the light of who God is, and that is right but I think that is too vague. It's also a bit of a cop out because that 'definition of a Christian' says it much more in real terms. I think it's about a gift of self awareness, a self knowing and acceptance of ourselves warts and all, knowing and acknowledging our failures, darkness and our need of Him. As human beings we all have a dark side, all of us. Sometimes that's hard for Christians to accept and acknowledge to each other, let alone before a perfect God. We don't like our dark side but we need to acknowledge it is present. Remember self awareness is the beginning of the Holiness path, it gives us the opportunity to change, repent and be forgiven. What a joy to be accepted by the Creator and Sustainer of the universe as worthy of love even when we don't deserve it. When we succeed and are the best we can be, we expect to be loved, but when we are weak and failing, then to be loved is truly divine.

Part of the healing Ministry taught at 'The Well ' by Mike Endicott was that the factors that needed to be present, in those that minister, for healing to take place were ... Expectancy, Persistence and Humility. Humility/self awareness before God reveals that it is God alone who heals, for in Him there is no darkness and all Glory and honour belongs to Him. There is no place for ego in healing, only Humility.

When we practise humbly walking with our God, self awareness is the gift that travels! And it must always be packed for the adventure because when we truly know ourselves we might just catch a glimpse of how great our God is.

### The Empty Chair

A man's daughter had asked the parish priest to come and pray with her father. When the vicar arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

I think its about a gift of self awareness, a self knowing and acceptance of ourselves warts and all, knowing and acknowledging our failures, darkness and our need of Him.

When we succeed and are the best we can be, we expect to be loved, but when we are weak and failing, then to be loved is truly divine.

Humility/self awareness before God reveals that it is God alone who heals, ... There is no place for ego in healing only Humility.

When the vicar arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed.

... my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest: Sit down in a chair and place an empty chair in front of you. In faith see Jesus in that chair.'

"So I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. ..."

"I suppose you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?" said the father.

The vicar told him his name and then remarked, "I see the empty chair; I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the priest shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray.

At church I used to hear the vicar talk about prayer, but it went right over my head.

"I abandoned any attempt at prayer, until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest: Sit down in a chair and place an empty chair in front of you. In faith see Jesus in that chair. It's not spooky because he promised: 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now."

"So I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm

careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her daddy had died that afternoon.



"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The priest wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

### Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you.

So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger.

Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger.

It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the Prime Minister, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger.

Surprising to many is the fact, that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need

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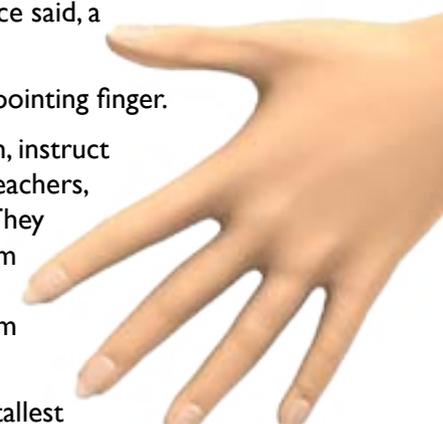
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... we should place ourselves in relation to God and others.



By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Phil and Kate have been in ministry, in many places, for over 50 years.

They came to Wales in 1996.

... Phil carries on a teaching ministry in many places, including camps, conferences and house parties.

your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all.

Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself ... By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Some Thoughts from Phil Rees

Phil was elected to the ARM Wales Executive Committee at the last AGM. Here is some background information about him and some thoughts from him.



### A Brief Summary

Phil and Kate have been in ministry, in many places, for over 50 years. With four married sons they have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild! They both became Christians in their 20's and have always been involved in evangelism, mission, and church planting. There have been six parish jobs, five years with the

Church Missionary Society and, in London, five years with the Ichthus Fellowship, led by Roger Forster. They came to Wales in 1996.

Phil was Chair of ARM Wales and led *Flames of Fire* for six years. Official retirement came eight years ago, but Phil carries on a teaching ministry in many places, including

camps, conferences and house parties. He has just completed a biography of a Welsh evangelist and plans to write more.

For over 30 years Kate and Phil have worked to help children and orphans in Africa, especially in Uganda. They continue to administer a charity - the *Ugandan Child Development Fund* - which is currently building a large school and their latest orphanage.

Phil reads a lot of history, plays snooker and is a multi-eventer in veteran athletics.

### Talking about 'God'

I always seek, as a Bible student and teacher, to begin my reading not from any other place than that shown by Jesus in the New Testament. We are all to be New Testament people, in whatever age we live. So when we talk to people of 'God', we need always to be thinking and speaking from accurate definitions.

In Britain, in the 21st Century, things are difficult for our testimony because of hundreds of years of usage. Currently, the word 'God' can cover many interpretations in different groups of people and religions. Many would reject the idea of a loving creator, and at large the word 'god' can be a swear word. When people exclaim, "Oh, my god", they do not mean what they say!

And so, as you and I give an account of the wonderful things given and guided by 'God', it is best instead, always, as Jesus taught us, to say 'Father'.

I also want to point out two things about our use of 'Jesus', the second person of the Holy Trinity.

Firstly, it is customary in many places to call Him 'Jesus Christ', as if that were a name like yours and mine. In fact we should always add 'the' between Jesus and Christ. As a man in His earthly ministry, the Son of the Father is Jesus. And then we describe Him as the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah. Using His name correctly is a great way of teaching others about Him.

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Realistically, after two thousand years, we probably have to continue using 'Jesus'.

And as we encounter the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus, we also meet with our Heavenly Father.

by Graham Chadwick (1923 - 2007)

Secondly, I have to use the name 'Jesus' for the Messiah and Saviour because that name has been accepted in the Church and in the world for so long. In the New Testament churches when the first documents were circulating, the common written language used was everyday Greek, although Latin was also in use. No doubt some of the text would be a translation from Aramaic, spoken by Jesus and his disciples, and with frequent reference to the Hebrew scriptures.

In Greek 'Jesus' is Ἰησοῦς, which we might pronounce 'Eesus'. However, those more aware of the Hebrew background, including Jews who have found Jesus to be the Messiah, might use Y'shua which is like Joshua. Realistically, after two thousand years, we probably have to continue using 'Jesus'.

Everywhere in our lives as Christians, as we seek to be under the influence of our Lord, we refer to, and seek, the Lord, the Holy Spirit. In our lives, He shows us Jesus, in experience, in prayer and in the Word. And as we encounter the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus, we also meet with our Heavenly Father.

### Authentic Charismatic Renewal

This article was first published in *Colomen Renewal in Wales* in the summer of 1983. Much that was written is still as relevant today as it was then, 32 years ago!

*Bishop Graham Chadwick was ordained in the Church in Wales in 1950 but spent most of his ministry in southern*



*Africa. He was Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman from 1976 until 1982, when his application for permanent residence was refused by the South African authorities.*

**Universal** is the only word to describe the extent of the renewal that is happening in the Church in these days. All over the world and in all parts of the Church, people are experiencing that God is their Father, that Jesus is alive among them and that the power of the Holy Spirit is for real. An overall survey of this renewal has been made by no less a body than the World Council of Churches. Popes and archbishops have welcomed it and countless Christians and congregations are finding new life and power.

The pattern of development is not, of course, everywhere the same but some common difficulties do emerge wherever renewal occurs. I shall comment on some of them:

### Gifts for their own sake

There is often a tendency at the beginning to focus on the gifts of the Spirit for their own sake. It is all so exciting. God is seen to be at work. Things are happening. And we thank God for it but may be more concerned at first with receiving the gift of tongues, for example, than using it to praise God and to pray for people. A group received a prophecy for the first time. A member told someone about it the next day, who asked what the prophecy was. "Oh, I don't know but we had a prophecy!" The gifts are given for the glory of God and for ministry to people and the building up of the Body of Christ.

### Supposed exclusiveness

Whether or not it's true, people who are not yet into the 'new' experiences sometimes think that those who are consider themselves superior. This calls for special sensitivity to those whose experience of God is different from our own. Some precautions can be taken. For example, care should be exercised to avoid forming or giving the impression of an inner circle of those who know all the right choruses, use the special jargon and expect everyone who's in or around to conform to certain patterns of behaviour and posture!

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Unresolved differences between leaders make for weakness and stunted growth. The devil does most damage when he gets between the big joints of the Body!

### Stay in or get out?

Lack of support or understanding from official church leaders can put individuals or house-groups into a dilemma about whether to stay in communion with the local church or to opt out and into a more 'charismatic' fellowship. Recently the leader of a non-denominational group (actually it is yet another 'denomination') told me that Christians of institutions like the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church who have experienced renewal in the Holy Spirit will eventually go out or be forced out of their denominations. He denied that he invited them to 'come out' but his attitude seems to me to be an implicit invitation to do so. The influence of such a pessimistic, negative opinion of the Church (born, I would say, out of lack of experience of the strengths of catholic structures and tradition and sound theology of the Church as the universal and not only local People of God and Body of Christ) will do untold harm to Christians and to the renewal of the Church at large and should be strongly resisted.

### Leadership

Strong and humble leaders, themselves willing to submit to authority and constantly looking, with others, for what God wants and where he wants to lead, are necessary for on-going renewal in a congregation or small group. The right selection, training and constant supervision of leaders in essential for true development. Everyone needs to be answerable to someone else. There's the story of Pope John XXIII who, from the age of 14, realised that the essence of the sanctity to which he aspired was obedience. Even from that age and at every stage of his life from then on, he was obedient to those superior to him. Then he became Pope: and he called a Council!

Unresolved differences between leaders make for weakness and stunted growth. The devil does most damage when he gets between the big joints of the Body!

### 'Pietist' – 'Activist' polarization

Prayer and praise on the one hand and, on the other, concern and care for those in need and for social and political issues are two parts of Christianity, loving God and loving neighbour. Yet these are sometimes put in opposition one to the other and 'charismatic' groups are often accused of being 'pietistic'. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son and he wants all things renewed, even the way society is structured. The power of the Holy Spirit is available for that too as well as for what some people would more easily term 'spiritual'.

### Purpose of renewal

Difficulties such as these can be worked through as we keep in mind the purpose of renewal. It is the renewal, by the power of the Spirit, of the People of God in a place so that they may be truly the Body of Christ through which Jesus may do now what, by the power of the same Holy Spirit and through his physical body he did in Galilee and Jerusalem.

Jesus wants to proclaim God's sovereignty, to call people to turn to God, to bring them to complete trust in God; he wants people to know God as their Father, to experience for themselves his love, forgiveness and power. He wants to heal the sick, to care for the poor and outcast, to reconcile people to one another; he wants God to be praised and he wants to pray. And he wants a body of people in and through whom to do it.

So he needs a body of people – a worshipping, teaching, healing, forgiving, praying, praising, willing-to-suffer, ever-being-renewed body through which he can serve people now as he did way back and as he has ever since when his people have let him.

As in Galilee he gathered people into fellowship for ministry, and as at Pentecost he filled his disciples with the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witnessing, serving, ever-expanding fellowship, he works now as we become such a fellowship, as we grow in love for one another, as we acknowledge and

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All the gifts are for the common good. So yours are for me and mine are for you and for the whole Body. He allots different functions and provides the necessary resources to fulfil them.

God reigns! The power of the Holy Spirit is available to overcome all difficulties, ...

thank God for other people's gifts and our own. All the gifts are for the common good. So yours are for me and mine are for you and for the whole Body. He allots different functions and provides the necessary resources to fulfil them.

Everything that love means in mutual respect, acceptance, support, challenge, wanting what God wants for each person and for the whole group, is of the essences of this fellowship.

#### Marks of authentic renewal are

1. a growing unity in which differences are worked through rather than shelved or ignored;
2. the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit as well as the gifts – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;
3. deepening concern for those in need and for social/political issues;
4. increasing desire for what God wants and waiting on him.

God reigns! The power of the Holy Spirit is available to overcome all difficulties, to make them into opportunities, to lead us into all truth and to bring us to that "unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ".

Alleluia!



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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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)

