

ARM (Wales) Magazine

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ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES
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Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

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LAST DATE for copy for the Spring edition - March 15th 2013

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

by Dick Shenton
Vice Chairman

From the Vice Chairman

Age seems to compress time and make the pages of the calendar appear to turn over at an ever increasing pace. Already we are contemplating another new year when the present one feels fairly young. Within the world of ARM Wales progress has been made in spite of our active members having to engage in multiple roles. More details are accessible in the annual report which was circulated and appears on the website.



At our meetings there is frequently mentioned a prophesy given some years ago when small fires were pictured starting throughout the Principality. This was reawakened in my mind when I read Pam Worsey's article in the Summer Edition (No. 62) for, as a result of previous teaching through our organisation, in dioceses and parishes prayer ministry, healing services and charismatic worship are occurring naturally in many places. Generally speaking there is more acceptance, openness and practice of the use of spiritual gifts in Anglican churches in Wales than there was even one decade ago. All very encouraging you say, and so it is. However it is no use starting fires unless they are constantly refuelled. I am delighted that within the Church in Wales Review there has been recognition of

...it is up to the leadership...to give individuals authority and encourage the distribution of what God has blessed us with.

the worth of the laity within its spiritual life. Time has been given to training both clergy and laity in the use of spiritual gifts such as prayer ministry, prophecy, healing but I do detect a lack of opportunities to put them into practise. If women and men have been discerned and identified as possessing a gift then it is up to the leadership from top to bottom of the church to give individuals authority and encourage the distribution of what God has blessed us with.

Prayers for love and light

- Lord we implore you in the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, that love which can never cease, will kindle our lamps but not extinguish them that they may burn in us and enlighten others.
- Will you, O Christ, our dearest Saviour, yourself kindle our lamps that they may evermore shine in your temple and receive unquenchable light from you that will lighten our darkness and lessen the darkness of the world.

By Dan bright

Two Foundations of Ministry

I would like to begin this article by thanking ARM Wales for the very generous ways in which they have supported me over the past couple of years. The support of ARM Wales has allowed me to graduate from Cliff College with a Diploma in Youth work, Mission and Ministry. Throughout the diploma I learnt many valuable lessons that have all shaped my youth ministry and had the opportunity

to develop my understanding of the theory behind youth work. I am very grateful for this opportunity to study and am sure it has significantly contributed towards my ministry with young people.

Below I will share a couple of lessons I have learnt from my ministry amongst young people and hopefully apply it to our everyday lives as Christians. The first of these is that everything starts with God's love, and to illustrate what I mean I'm going to share the story of my calling into youth ministry.

I was in my third year of uni, considering what to do next, when I went to see the Rector in Aberystwyth about getting a reference for something called Relay. Relay was a year-out opportunity with UCCF where I would be working with university students in Aberystwyth and the Christian Union there. As I was speaking to the Rector to get this reference I was about to leave when he said there was something he wanted to ask me about. It was then that he asked me to consider working for the Church as the youth pastor.

My initial gut reaction was a big no. I hadn't been involved in youth work at all and I had no real desire to work with people younger



Greg Leavers praying for Dan Bright at the Winter Praise Day

...everything starts with God's love...

than university students so it wasn't on my radar in the slightest. I went away for a while and prayed about it and really started seeking God's heart. I then went to the final youth meeting before Christmas, where they were having a Christmas party, to help me make up my mind. This was going to be my only experience of youth work before having to make my decision. The group was awful. It was painful. I hated nearly every moment of this Christmas party and did not understand why others my age were there helping. I thought it was terrible and I was really put off.

But God had other plans. After that Christmas party I went down to the seafront in Aberystwyth and I told God that I didn't want to do it and that I really didn't know where I was going next. I walked along the seafront and got to the point where I said, 'God, if you want me to do this, you need to make it clear. You will need to equip me, train me, give me new gifts, give me patience and simply help me do it.' I asked God to make it clear and that's exactly what he did. As I was walking along he poured out his heart of love for these young people into me. He helped me see them the way he did. He simply made me love these young people. He didn't give me amazing teaching gifts that evening and he didn't equip me like I wanted him to, he simply made me love young people. I wept and I wrestled with God but I was so overwhelmed with love for young people that I had to say yes and accept the job. God called me to where I am by showing me his love and putting that in my heart. 1 John 4:19 says 'We love because he first loved us' and Romans 5:8 says 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Everything needs to start with love, and not our love but God's love for us. My calling into youth ministry didn't start with my love; it started with God's love being poured out into me. We know God's love for us because he showed it to us by sending Christ to die in our place. Jesus took the punishment of death that we deserved by dying in our place on the cross.

Our call every day is to live gospel-centred, cross focused, lives of love. We need to focus on Jesus, spend our time being soaked in his love and in his presence, being filled to overflow with joy because of the love God has for us, shown in Christ.

This has implications for all of us in every part of our lives. Our motivation for ministry should not simply be duty. Sometimes it's so easy to slip into this – our role at Church or in our ministry. We do things because we should. I have it in my work – there are days where I only lead a youth group because I have to. It's normal yes, but it's not right. How different would it be if we were to fulfil our roles in Church or committees because of the love God has for us?

Or our motivation for evangelism? Do we want to get out there

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Just imagine how things would change if all of our actions were motivated by God's love for us.

The second lesson I have learnt from my ministry is simply about being secure in our identity.

Simply having a clear understanding and deep heart-knowledge of who we are in Christ can change life.

and tell people about Jesus because it would look great on us? Do we want to do it simply because we are commanded to? Or do we want to do it because we are so overwhelmed by God's love that we want to desperately share it with others?

Or the giving of our money? Do we give because we should? Do we give because we have plenty? Or do we give because God has given us so much of himself and we are so grateful for his love that we just can't help but give?

Just imagine how things would change if all of our actions were motivated by God's love for us. If we truly loved because he first loved us. If we were so overwhelmed with gospel-centred, cross focused love that it simply poured out of us then I believe we would see whole communities around Wales completely transformed and renewed, and many would put their hope and trust in Jesus as their Saviour.

The second lesson I have learnt from my ministry is simply about being secure in our identity. I've found that getting this part of life right can completely change a person's life, no matter what stage they're at. This is particularly relevant to the work I do with teenagers because adolescence is a crucial time in life where young people are searching every possible avenue to discover who they are. To 'help' them work it out there is the media putting them under immense pressure to look a certain way, there are 'friends' applying pressure to do certain things to make them 'cool' and fit in, there are parents and teachers pushing them to do well at school, and then there's the Church encouraging them to be different and follow Christ. They are searching for an identity, trying to work out who they are and where they fit into the world.

John 8:32 says 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'. Throughout my ministry I have seen many examples of young people discovering the truth about who they are in Christ and then allowing this to change their hearts, minds and actions. Through this they have been set free – set free from low self-esteem, no self-worth or even a dependence on make-up. Knowing the truth brings freedom.

I think there are times when all of us need to know the truth about ourselves, where we would really benefit from knowing our true identity in Christ. And I don't mean simply knowing it in our head but actually knowing it in our heart, deep down where it matters, so that when situations change, when the storms come, when pain surrounds and we feel we can't find the presence of God, we know who we are and who God has made us to be. Simply having a clear understanding and deep heart-knowledge of who we are in Christ can change life.

Nothing we do can make God love us less. Nothing we do can make God love us more. An old Christian cliché but still true none-

theless and if we really grasp that, how much would our heart be changed? Our sin, though offensive to God and to be avoided at all cost, does not take God's deep love away from us. The mistakes we've made, our actions and our behaviours will change our relationship with God, our intimacy with him and our ability to hear him but they won't change how he feels about us. We can be secure in the knowledge that he won't stop loving us. Romans 8:1 says 'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'. Standing before the Father, we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ and always will be. No situation or circumstance can take that away from us – there is never condemnation from the Father because we are in Christ. That's our identity, that's who we are.

I was set free from guilt in my own ministry when someone told me that God allows me space to make mistakes. Not to sin, but to sometimes make the wrong choice and to learn from it. He doesn't expect me to be the perfect youth worker that makes the right choices every single time; he gives me the freedom to make mistakes.

I think the disciple John was very sure of his identity in Christ. I see it in the language he uses throughout his gospel and the letters he wrote. He talks a lot about being sons and daughters of God, being children of God and us all being brothers and sisters together. He sees the family connection as a strong one – he knows that no matter what happens, your family is your family. You can't change who your parents are or who your brothers and sisters are. It's possible to drift away from them but family will always be family. He knows that he is a child of God and that because God is his Father and Christ is his brother, that won't change. Maybe this is why he was the one given the honour of caring for Mary whilst Christ was on the cross; because he knew his identity as a child of God. We are in this place too, we are children of God and no matter what we do or don't do or forget to do or can't do, this isn't going to change. There are a couple of ways that this really works itself out in my ministry and it's at these times where I need to be reminded of my identity in Christ.

The first is when things are really dry and difficult. Recently I went through a really barren spell where I was simply not inspired by anything, I had no vision. I was moving from one youth group to the next just trying my best but not really getting anything productive done. It was a really dry time. I would be looking for inspiration for talks, passages to speak on, ideas to make things more visually stimulating, all of these things but nothing happened. It was a desert season. I had several weeks of feeling useless at what I do and I felt like whatever I did just kind of let God down.

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...I went through a really barren spell...of feeling useless at what I do and I felt like whatever I did just kind of let God down.

But I was reminded by several people and ultimately by God that what mattered more to him than my ministry and youth groups was my relationship with him. I was more important than what I was doing.

I was starting to reshape my identity around this, I would believe that God was disappointed with my last talk or that he wasn't impressed with the way I handled this teenager or that pastoral situation. But I was reminded by several people and ultimately by God that what mattered more to him than my ministry and youth groups was my relationship with him. I was more important than what I was doing. God cared more about how I was feeling than about what I was teaching. Remembering this, sorting out my identity and who I was in Christ completely changed my mindset and my approach to my work and my life. Knowing that I am more than what I do changed how I approached what I do. Rediscovering my identity in Christ as a child of God set me free from presuming God was judging me by my actions. This stopped me from trying my best to impress him with eloquent words or teaching methods and helped me to remember who I am in God's sight and that I am more than simply a youth worker.

Here is a short story from Acts 14:8-20 to illustrate the final point regarding identity:

⁸In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. ⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

¹¹When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"

¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. ¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.'

This is a story that I can fully relate to. One minute the crowd love Paul and Barnabas and are offering sacrifices to them, the next min-

ute they are stoning them. Now, the young people I serve don't call me God and they've never stoned me (yet!) but they can be just as fickle as those in this story. They can change their mind about Christ so easily, and sadly I've seen it happen. Young people who are absolutely on fire for God then turn around and don't want to know any more – it's heartbreaking. You do your best to point people to Christ, as Paul was doing, and you feel you're making a breakthrough, and then suddenly things completely turn around and they're off the radar.

Thoughts creep in – what did I do wrong? Where wasn't I obedient? What could I have done better? Guilt slips in, you feel responsible. Maybe if there was a group where they could discuss these things together. Maybe if I wasn't so pushy.

It's at these moments we have to really remember who we are in Christ. People change, their hearts change, their responses change. We face rejection where we don't expect it. We have no success when we've prayed long and hard about it. Friends or family die without knowing Christ. It's at these moments that we have to remember that God is God and He doesn't change. We remember that we are in Christ. We serve him as best we can but he is the one that produces the fruit. His Spirit works to change hearts, not us. Christ is the saviour, not me.

Two final challenges:

1. Rest in God's love so you're overwhelmed by it and can't help but share it with others.
2. Know, deep down, in your heart, who you are in Christ. I genuinely believe that Wales would be a different place if all Christians, myself included, managed to totally grasp these two points.

Testimony

This is from one of our members who has been travelling from Wales to see her ailing father:

Visits to Yorkshire haven't stopped yet but I'm sure they will soon....dad, a non-Christian has been seeing the chaplain in hospital and told my sister that Jesus had been in his room, just standing there and looking at him.....he says a man can change his mind if he wants to! (or God can change it for him!)

(Quoted with permission)

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Rest in God's love... Know... who you are in Christ.

by Pam Worsley

“Now the Lord has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land”
Genesis 26:22b

...He graciously came to reinvigorate and confirm His calling for ARM Wales to be a definite part of the Church in Wales...

Praise to You Lord for Your unfolding and changing purposes for ARM Wales and revealing them - little by little.

Prayer Corner – Autumn 2012

“Now the Lord has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land” Genesis 26:22b



We have just returned from a very blessed retreat in a setting of indescribable beauty right on the edge of Bala Lake (Llyn Tegid). The theme chosen for the weekend by Bishop Andy John, who is one of our spiritual advisors and led it, was *“Fruitful in the land of suffering”* Genesis 41:52b. Following a time when we on the Executive Committee of ARM Wales had been wondering just how and where the Lord wished us to move forward after an apparently rather fruitless period, He graciously came to reinvigorate and confirm His calling for ARM Wales to be a definite part of the Church in Wales, this being strengthened by the verse above. So, knowing we are going to be ‘fruitful in the land’ again, and with wonderful support and practical help from Bishop Andy, this ‘Prayer Corner’ will be guided accordingly.

Praise and Thanksgiving

- *“May the peoples praise You O God, may all the peoples praise You!”* Psalm 67:3 Let us indeed praise our awesome God, Who continues to answer His children’s prayers in wonderful ways!
- Let us also praise Him for the times when He appears to hide Himself, to teach us more of His ways through struggle and [apparent] darkness.
- Praise to You Lord for Your unfolding and changing purposes for ARM Wales and revealing them - little by little.
- *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 We do indeed have so very much to be thankful for in ARM Wales, not least the blessed and inspiring Retreat which some of us have recently been privileged to attend, where the Lord graciously came, refreshing and inspiring us once again.
- We thank God for giving us such a supportive and committed Spiritual Advisor in Bishop Andy, and for the time and effort he had put into preparing all he shared with us, while unselfishly offering himself for any need that should arise during the weekend.

Prayer Needs

- That we really LISTEN to God and His way forward for us in ARM Wales, especially those on the Executive.
- We still have a need for younger people to come onto the Executive and for long vacant places to be filled – for a chairman, magazine editor, webmaster and secretary.
- Please pray that we encourage one another to tell all our story as Bishop Andy exhorted, telling us the Church is suffering from corporate amnesia, with the danger that some of our story may be lost, when we need to keep alive the story of God.
- Following on from this, let us pray we seek to do this by speaking often of the Lord to others, and also to ourselves, as we were urged.
- Please pray we seek and receive the ‘big picture’ for ARM Wales as Bishop Andy encouraged, receiving fresh vision, which will give rise to energetic mission.
- Let us pray for one another, that our prayer lives be reinvigorated; our dependence on God increased; and our waiting for His will and His will alone be cultivated, as we continue to walk in the Spirit.
- Let us pray for our Spiritual Advisors that they receive from God all that He wishes to impart through them to ARM Wales
- Please pray for those of us on the Executive, that having had this fresh impartation from the Lord, the momentum be maintained and that we move on together into His purposes for us.
- Let us also pray for eyes to see those to whom the Lord would draw us to be channels of His blessing - in our churches - and outside.
- Let us pray for true humility, selfless service, unflagging zeal and overwhelming love.
- Let us pray that God be glorified through ARM Wales, His perfect will be done and His people be truly blessed.
- *“Now to Him Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to HIM be Glory in the Church.....”* Ephesians 3:20-21

May I conclude by thanking Malcolm for stepping into the breach while I was ill, and while doing 101 other things for ARM Wales it seems, ensuring at least something was included in the Prayer Corner of the summer edition of the magazine. Body ministry as

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Let us pray that God be glorified through ARM Wales, His perfect will be done and His people be truly blessed.

the Lord intended for sure! Thank you Malcolm, and thank you everyone who faithfully continued to pray. We surely needed it!

Praise Day and AGM 2012

Vice Chairman Remarks on the AGM

Once again during the past year the Executive Committee has worked hard on your behalf and I thank them for their inspiration and dedication. I particularly thank Malcolm Dye who has continued to fill many roles those of Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Magazine compiler and for overseeing the website. Each of these jobs is large enough on its own and it has put increasing pressure upon him and his life outside ARM Wales.

Now we are turning to you, our members, to step forward and be counted. All of us sometimes believe that we have done enough, or are too involved with the local scene and that is also true of those on the Executive who serve you faithfully. Everyone has other interests, family, church, work, hobbies and so forth, but once we turn to God we find the time, the energy, and the inspiration to further his kingdom. From time to time He gives us words of encouragement from the mouths of those who are inspired by the actions of that organisation with which we have become involved.

When asked "How are you" one of my stock answers is "Older and slower" and most days that is how I feel especially when I have walked a mile or so uphill! However that is the physical story; in my head thoughts, prayers, words, ideas, memories are buzzing, all influenced by what I read, see, sense and hear. Frequently these dreams of an elderly man are woven into conversations and actions and sometimes they resonate with whoever else is on the receiving end. All too often I never get to hear the outcome and when I feel that what I have said or done is worthless God drops a small jewel of recognition in front of me to restore my belief.

So many tasks these days can be accomplished without travelling great distances, although face to face encounters are valuable and appreciated greatly. Editing the magazine is essentially a desk job as is that of updating the website, also the role of Secretary.

Apathy and lack of self worth are the tools of Satan so I charge you to turn your back on him and ask the Lord what he is saying to you about your place in the situation in which we find ARM Wales.

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Elections

Those elected to the Executive Committee were Malcolm Dye (Treasurer), Marcia Gibson-Watt, Joe Hague, Rev. Marina Kennard, John Meason, Kath Shenton, Dick Shenton (vice Chairman), Steve Waters & Pam Worsey.

We usually meet 4 times each year and under the constitution are still able to co-opt more people which we are very anxious to do. Are you hearing the call?

Report on the Praise Day

As usual the meeting was held in the hall of St Idloe's Church at Llanidloes. The day was led by Greg Leavers and the speaker was Daniel Bright from St Michael's Aberystwyth. The article on page 4 is based on Dan's talk.

Greg did his usual mix of songs; traditional, contemporary and his own composition. But we also had times of prayer, sharing and less conventional prayer and worship.

The prayer exercise involved everyone writing on large sheets of paper. One sheet for thanksgiving about the good things happening in our churches and communities. And another sheet for the things less pleasing to God in our churches and communities.



The day was led by Greg Leavers and the speaker was Daniel Bright from St Michael's Aberystwyth.



...this naturally led to thanksgiving and prayer.



We all gathered round the tables and read what was written and this naturally led to thanksgiving and prayer. I felt it was a good way to encourage people in prayer even if they would normally be reluctant to pray out loud in a group.

In the afternoon Greg led us into another approach to worship. We were asked to write in large letters words describing Jesus.

Of course this again led into prayers of worship and adoration. We collected the sheets and below are the words people had written:

Accepting (x5)	Constant
Alive and doing well thank you	Creative
All in all	Dearest friend
All powerful	Dependable
Always available	Didn't come to call the 'good enough', but those who don't think they are good enough
Always has the right word at the right time	Discipling
Always present	Dove
Always protecting	Encourager
Always there	Encouraging
Amazing (x3)	Ever present
Amazing love	Ever true
Ancient	Everlasting
Best buddy	Expresses good news
Bold	Fair
Caring	Faithful (x3)
Caring for disabled and learning disability	Forever
Cheerful	Forgiving (x6)
Comforting	Friend (x3)
Compassionate (x3)	Full of fun
Consistent (x2)	Full of unconditional love and

...this again led into prayers of worship and adoration.

truth	Never surprised by what we do
Generous (x2)	Not expecting perfection of us
Gentle (x3)	Open hearted
Gives lives a purpose	Opens my eyes
Gives true identity	Patient (x2)
Goleuad	Patient listener
Great	Peaceful
Great company	Powerful
Guide	Presence
He cares	Priest
He is panic proof	Provider
Healer (x3)	Purest love
Helper	Reliable (x2)
Holds my plot even when I've lost it	Sacrifice
Holy (x3)	Safe
Humble	Saves
I am	Saviour (x2)
Infallible	Servant king
Inspirational (x2)	Sets me really free
Is a kool dude	Shepherd
Jesus forgives	Shows the right way to go
Joy	Spirit
Joy giving	Storyteller
Joyful	Strong (x2)
Just	Strong and faithful
Keeps his promises	Such joy
Kind	Supporting and helping
King	Supportive
Knowing me just as I am	Supports
Knows me	Teaches me by being with me
Lamb	The key of life
Learning things	The life
Life giving (x2)	The same day after day
Lifts us up when we're down and out	The Truth (x2)
Light	The Way
Looking after people and animals	The way of life
Love	The way to peace
Love and relationship	Totally king
Lover	True
Loves the unlovely	True right through
Loving (x3)	Trustworthy (x2)
Master builder (Lego and let God!)	Truthful
Meek	Unchanging
Merciful	Understanding (x2)
Mercy	Understanding - "been there, got the T shirt"
Mighty (x2)	Understands
Missional	Universal
My best friend	Unstuffy
My saviour	Welcoming (x2)
Never gives up on us	Where everything connects
Never rejects or accuses me	Wise
Never runs out of ideas	Worthy (x3)
	Wow man!

by
Revd Gervais
Angel

...if Jesus began to do and teach in the Gospel of Luke, then he must be continuing to do and teach in this second book. Luke is making a deep but simple point, that Jesus works in his apostles.

Paul saw himself as someone closely involved in what Jesus was doing but in the role of assistant.

Christians assist Jesus in the work he does like servants and they share in his experience of suffering and glory like family.

Prayer Pointers 8

Gethsemane I (Read Mark 14:32-42 NIV)

Watching and praying is sharing in the work of God

When Jesus entered Gethsemane, the oil-press garden, an olive grove, he took people with him. All his disciples were asked to sit and wait as long as he prayed, his leading disciples he took with him, to be with him. Jesus began to be terrified and deeply upset, 'My heart is so sad it's killing me. Stay here and keep awake.'

Luke the Gospel writer begins his second book with these words, 'In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus *began to do* and to teach until the day when he was taken up;' (Acts 1:1-2). His second book has been given by others the title the Acts of the Apostles, but Luke clearly thinks of it as the 'acts of Jesus'. For if Jesus began to do and teach in the Gospel of Luke, then he must be *continuing to do and teach* in this second book. Luke is making a deep but simple point, that *Jesus works in his apostles*.

Paul the Apostle thinks in the same way. Writing in the mid-50s AD to Christians at Corinth who were putting ministers on pedestals, Paul, Apollos and Peter, he writes 'men ought to regard us as servants of Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:1). His word for 'servant' here is used in other places of a pharmacist's assistant, an attendant in a court-room or a synagogue verger. Paul saw himself as someone closely involved in what Jesus was doing but in the role of assistant. Writing in the late 50s AD to Christians at Rome he says of people who are filled with the Holy Spirit, 'Now if we are God's children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we *share in his sufferings* in order that we may also share in his glory (Romans 8:17). Again the point is deep, yet clear. Christians assist Jesus in the work he does like servants and they share in his experience of suffering and glory like family. So when Jesus in the olive grove took Peter and James and John with him and asked them to stay there and keep awake, he was giving them a part in the experience he was going through.

And this raises a question for us. Do we see our presence at a prayer meeting as a commitment to 'keep awake and pray' in the company of the glorified Jesus as he does great things on this globe today?



The work of God is awesome

Jesus moved forward a little and started falling on the ground, and kept on asking his Father to let the moment pass by if at all possible. His actual words were, 'Daddy, Father, you can do anything. Take this cup away from me. But it's not about what I want but what you want.'

Jesus asks the disciples to be awake and pray while he faces a fearful task. As he thinks about the task he collapses and pleads for an alternative. He is facing the cup of His Father's wrath. Six months ago in a *Watch and Pray* meeting we read of the call to the Church to awake, 'Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of His wrath... See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again. I will put it into the hand of your tormentors...' (Isaiah 51:17,22-23). The cup of the Lord's wrath in this Bible text from the prophet Isaiah was the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Lord's people as punishment for their unfaithfulness to Him. Now, in the olive grove, His Father's cup is his wrath on the sum total of everybody's sin. His Father's will is that Jesus, the sinless One, should take on himself the sins of all people for all time, in order that the Father can redeem, release sinners from their sin, those who look to Jesus for their release. Jesus collapses - whether in fear or in humble prayer is not clear – as he faces both the physical agony of the method of execution Romans used to terrorise their subjects and the mental strain of bearing your sin and mine and everyone else's. And he accepts His Father's will to save people through sacrificing himself. That was his task; facing up to it was terrifying. He was not asking the disciples to endure in that task, but *he was asking them to support him* through it, to suffer with him by keeping awake when they were sleepy and by praying. We are not being asked to do the Lord's part in His work of awakening the Church and the World to Himself today, but we are called to do *our part* in what *He* is doing. Where awakening is concerned, we are called to watch and pray, to keep awake – which we have seen from our studies in 1 Thessalonians, Ephesians and Revelation and to be alert to His Coming now and in the End time, to live a God-like life and stay washed clean in his blood! – and to pray for God to do His awesome work, of giving new life to spiritually dead people and of transforming society.

And here is a second challenging question for us. Does our presence in a prayer meeting signal to the Lord that we are up for this, up for being alert, being pure and continuing in prayer for as long as Jesus is at work?

The 1904-05 revival in Wales was only one among revivals hap-

He [Jesus] was not asking the disciples to endure in that task [to sacrifice himself], but he was asking them to support him through it, to suffer with him by keeping awake when they were sleepy and by praying.

We are not being asked to do the Lord's part in His work of awakening the Church and the World to Himself today, but we are called to do *our part* in what *He* is doing.

What excites me is that Wales was only part of a much larger programme, and we can only give credit for that larger programme to the work of the Lord himself.

...we must, all of us, be alert to what the Lord is doing now; keep our eyes and ears open to news of awakening in other places than Bristol now, and pray for Him to act in our situation.

All the revivals we have studied, ...occur when there are Christians praying for it to happen.

pening world-wide at that time. But the Welsh revival did encourage revival in other parts of Britain, parts of mainland Europe and parts of the world such as India, Korea, China, Argentina and West and East Africa, and it re-kindled revival fires in Japan and South Africa. Not many people in the UK know of these revivals around the world from 1900 to 1910, apart from the one in Wales. One reason is that when World War I broke out in 1914, that was the most memorable event in the early 1900s, and for most Evangelical Protestant Christians the beginning of Pentecostal churches in Los Angeles and Oslo in 1906 capture our interest most in what happened among Christians at that time. What excites me is that Wales was only part of a much larger programme, and we can only give credit for that larger programme to the work of the Lord himself. That is why we must, all of us, be alert to what the Lord is doing now; keep our eyes and ears open to news of awakening in other places than Bristol now, and pray for Him to act in our situation. We watch for his Coming. Amy Carmichael, who set up an orphanage ministry to rescue children caught up in horrid Indian temple rituals, wrote this when revival broke out in India in 1905: 'On October 22nd, to quote one of the little girls, Jesus came to Dohnavur. He was there before, but on that day He came in so vivid a fashion that we cannot wonder that it struck the child as a new Coming'². I can watch in my study listening to news, reading reports in Christian journals, and searching the Internet. If we all engage in this watching, then we would have much more to share and our group experience would be richer. When you discover something that the Lord is doing, awakening people to Him, please send me an email or letter, and I can share it with all of us.

Because it is clear from the story of revivals that there was no human factor co-ordinating the various outbreaks of revival in 1900-10, then commitment to praying continually is our major way of co-operating with the Lord in His work. In the olive grove Jesus asked Peter and James and John to watch and pray, while he took the crucial step that saved the world. In Bristol and all over the world his word to Christians as he does his massive work of sending the Holy Spirit in a fresh outpouring is 'keep watching, keep praying.' All the revivals we have studied, those I have brought to you and those I have not, occur when there are Christians praying for it to happen. For example there is a clear connexion between John Hyde, 'praying Hyde', and revival in North India, and between R J Ward and revival in South India. They prayed for years and with missionaries in India mobilised prayer groups in Britain, America and Australia for awakening in India. In response to this call, 5000 Christians at the 1902 Keswick Convention resolved to form prayer groups for India; over 300 people joined from different churches at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in 1899, and lay-

men and ministers met for 11 years in a Saturday afternoon prayer meeting in Melbourne, Australia. And the outbreak in India was massive, triggered by an Indian lady who had heard in Melbourne about revival in Wales and by a Welsh missionary in Assam who had been to the Welsh revival when he was on home leave. The revival in India lasted from 1905 to 1907 and again in 1913 and again in 1919. When there was an anti-revival persecution in 1911-12, a plague of rats followed. The Welsh sent aid and the Christians shared their relief with the pagans. This brought an end to local pagan opposition. Revival might not always happen immediately where praying people expect it to, but it does come, and then, when it comes, they are all caught up in the fire. Our prayer needs to be regular, systematic and focussed, like Praying Hyde and the others.

Footnotes

¹Ephesians 4:17-5:17; Revelation 3:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 17; cf. 1 Corinthians 16:13; Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:8

²Orr, 1968, 165

Our prayer needs to be regular, systematic and focussed,...

Testimony from Peter

(via John Meason)

It's been a difficult time since my wife passed away last year.

The first few months were a blur but I remember very vividly the warmth I felt the first time I walked into Guilsfield Church. The people here and the place have been a great support since I joined this year – so welcoming and friendly.

I was never a church goer before. Being a member of Guilsfield Church has given me a sense of belonging. Gaining my faith here has given me more perspective and a meaning to life and my experiences.

Since being encouraged to join the choir I've also met lots of friends and felt very much at home here. I've also really enjoyed bell ringing here. It's such a down-to-earth and a fun place to be part of.

Thanks to all for their help and support and making me feel welcome here.

by Kath Shenton

...“Depression is what results when you have impression without expression”...

As long as I put my trust in Him [Jesus] I don't suffer with depression. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

‘10 Hours To Live’...is a true story of how he was healed of a stage 4 Burkitt's lymphoma, a rare fatal disease.

Not only is it the testimony of a man miraculously cured, ..., it is also a well presented manual on healing ...

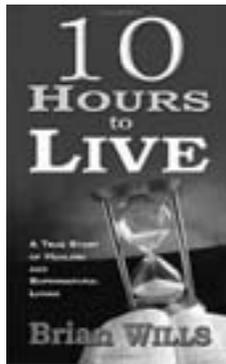
Depression

Before I became a fully committed Christian I did my best to fight my way through a period of depression by reading a book about the power of positive thinking. (My doctor had prescribed strong anti-depressant tablets which I tolerated for only a very short period of time because I disliked feeling ‘out of it’ while raising a young family). The book advised how to practise the art of seeing a glass ½ full instead of ½ empty and when struggling in a prison of despair, to see past the bars at the cell window to the stars outside. It gradually became more effective so I felt quite proud of myself until the next setback.

Many years later I read a book by Gerald Coates in which he wrote, “Depression is what results when you have impression without expression” or words to that effect. That thought helped me greatly. It is not good to bottle things up.

When I became ‘born again’ I found the real answer to the problem of my depression. The Apostle Peter says “Cast all your cares upon Him who cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) and Jesus words, “Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) are integral to my healing. As long as I put my trust in Him I don't suffer with depression. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Recently I read an inspiring book by Brian Wills called ‘10 Hours To Live’. It is a true story of how he was healed of a stage 4 Burkitt's lymphoma, a rare fatal disease. From childhood he had witnessed many times the truth of God's power, being nurtured by gospel-believing parents. All believed and lived by the word of God and so prayer was their natural response to the diagnosis given by doctors. The book is a well written and inspiring account of how Brian and his family faced the progress of the disease after he was ‘promised’ 10 hours to live, by believing and acting upon God's promises.



Not only is it the testimony of a man miraculously cured, therefore giving encouragement to others in need of a miracle, it is also a well presented manual on healing for anyone interested or wanting to be involved with the healing ministry.

I heartily recommend this book to you and your church if you need encouragement to grow in faith.

Published by Whitaker House ISBN 978-1-60374-2434-6.

Underwriting Renewal Events

An offer from ARM Wales

Anglican Renewal Ministries (Wales) encourage renewal in the Church in Wales. If you wish to stage a Renewal Event we may be able to underwrite it so that you can plan in the knowledge that you will not be financially embarrassed.

Renewal Events would most commonly consist of worship and teaching; worship and teaching in which participants are so aware of the presence of God that they are led into a renewal of their own discipleship.

In light of this offer please tell us briefly what you would like to plan. Your information should include the date, type of event and proposed venue. Most important of all, please say why you hope to stage your Renewal Event, your prime objective. It would be helpful to know something of the Christian standing of those who will be taking a leading role.

A few brief notes are enough for an initial enquiry. We will reply to all enquiries, and we will seek further information about Renewal Events we expect to support. At that stage we will ask for overall projected costing and for additional sources from which it is proposed to fund the event.

Please send your initial enquiry to the Secretary.

Please pass this information on to anyone you feel may be able to take advantage of the offer. This offer is in addition to our existing Bursary scheme, details of which are available on our web site.

Pentecost Prayer

Fill me again with rivers of praise to you, that will spill out into the world.

Help me to tell it like it is...and loudly!

Don't let me be swayed...keep me firmly rooted in your truth.

Help me not to dry out and wither away.

Call me to you, and often—(you may have to shout sometimes!).

Bring me to that place of refreshing and ask me to linger awhile,

Help me to hold nothing back—to wallow...

by Sandra Jones

(written during the Praise Day at Llanidloes in May 2012)

If you wish to stage a Renewal Event we may be able to underwrite it so that you can plan in the knowledge that you will not be financially embarrassed.

Advance Notice of Events

Praise Day

Saturday May 18th 2013 (Pentecost weekend)

Probably at Llanidloes, but the web site will have details when they become available.

Summer Retreat

7th-9th June 2013

at Coleg Trefeca

To be led by Hugh & Hilary Kent

Worship led by Gill Williams

Please keep an eye on the web site to see when we start taking bookings.

Praise Day & AGM

Saturday 16th November 2013

at Llanidloes

The web site will have details when they become available.

CREATOR GOD

Little bird singing in yonder tree,
Knowest thou Him Who didst fashion thee?
Gave thee that voice so melodious and sweet,
Taught you with worship each morning to greet?
Little bird, He is our Father,
Little bird, He is our King.

Little lamb frisking on yonder hill,
Knowest thou He Who all life doth fulfill?
Made thee so pretty, appealing and white,
Brought thee through darkness to safe morning light?
Little lamb, He is our Shepherd,
Little lamb, He is our King.

Little child playing beneath the sky,
Knowest thou Him Who for thee didst die?
Gave of Himself on stark Calvary's tree,
Died, that His children may ever go free?
Little child, He is our Saviour,
Little child, He is our King.

Creator God
by Pam Worsey



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES

ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

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

Membership fees per annum (minimum):

Individuals—£10

Families—£15

Organisations—£25

Benefits of membership include receipt of the Magazine (3 issues a year), the Annual report and voting rights at the AGM. The AGM is where you can express your opinion and elect the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee 2012-2013

Chairman: Vacant

Vice Chairman: Dick Shenton

Treasurer: Malcolm Dye

Secretary: Vacant

Committee members:

Pam Worsey

John Meason

Joe Hague

Kath Shenton

Marina Kennard

Marcia Gibson-Watt

Steve Waters

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

For all enquiries contact:

Dick Shenton

☎ 01656 665368

To join or renew your subscription contact:

Malcolm Dye

☎ 01974 241410

✉ or visit www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk

(please use 'ARM membership' as the subject)



Registered Charity Number 1053180

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

