



Ebenezer News

August 2009

Welcome to a new pastor and his wife

Hopefully Darran and Helen will soon be moving to Cwmbran. At the time of writing the exact date isn't fixed. But we anticipate their coming with thankfulness to God and expectant faith as Darran joins the church and begins to give himself full-time to the task of pastoral oversight and work. What can they expect from us as a church?

They are joining a ***Family of believers***, with different personalities and experiences, yet united together because of the Love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that they may quickly feel at home among us and be part of what the Lord is doing in all our lives. We welcome them in the name our Saviour. Like all families there will sometimes be tensions and problems between the family members, but we are all called to endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace and love. May we be great peacekeepers and love-givers!

They are joining a ***Serving community of believers*** with different gifts and abilities, but seeking to obey and honour the Lord Jesus Christ. They will both bring new gifts to our church life. We don't expect them to do everything themselves, but we pray for them that the Lord will guide them into those aspects of the work where they can best serve the Lord together with us. The coming of a new pastor is not a reason for others to do less. One of the main tasks as pastor that Darran has is "to prepare God's people for works of service" – so we can all be involved in some way. "Every member serving" is a good motto for any church, even if sometimes the main service for some will be behind closed doors as they pray for others, - but all are called upon to serve.

They are joining a ***Witnessing group of believers***. Christ left his disciples on earth to be a light to the world and the salt of the earth. May Darran and Helen know much joy in future years in bearing their testimony with us to the gospel of Jesus Christ and may they see much fruit from their labours. We are thankful for all that the Lord has done in the past in and through the church, but we long to see greater things in the future. Pray for them both as they settle among us and give them all the support and encouragement you can as they begin to share their lives with us in Christ.

Chris Pegington

WORKING HERE HELPING THERE!

Last January in a Missionary Prayer Meeting, I explained about the difference between Wycliffe Bible Translators and Wycliffe Associates. You may remember me telling of the work of keyboarding, proof reading and editing that Wycliffe Associates do in their own homes here in the UK for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

A situation has arisen through natural wastage whereby the work is being held up for want of more proof readers. This is an important job where a sight check is made between the original paper copy and the keyboarded paper copy in order to find as many errors as possible so that we can correct them before it goes to print or on to the Internet.

Below is a challenge for you to have a go and see if you can find all 17 errors in the keyboarded copy.

Original from Mexico	Keyboarded in the UK copy
\v 9 Sya, mnibdi's Jesús loo mènà. Ndxab Jesús loo mènà: \p —¿Xá nee gu'? ¿Cón li mbi' co' nac xuan' xyòn lus uva con mènà, à'? Na nii loo gu' cón li mbi'. Mbi' yi'th. No guth mbi' mènà. No ta' mbi' xyòn mbi' co'te' nzo'f lus uva loo tedib cua' mèn co' ndli leque zin'a, ¿lé'?	\v9 Sya, mnibdi's Jesùs loo mÉna. Ndxab Jesús loo mènà: \p —¿Xá nee gu'! ¿Cón li mbi' co' nac xuan' xyòn læs uva con mènà, à'? Na niii loo gu' cón li mbi', Mbi'yi'th. No guth mbi' mènà. No ta' mbi' xyòn mbi'a co'te' nzo'f lus uva loo téedib cua' mèn co' ndli lequè zin'a;, ¿lé'?

If you enjoyed that or found it a challenge, I would love to encourage you to think about volunteering as a Proof Reader. Please come and have a chat with me if you are interested in helping Wycliffe Associates to get the scriptures ready for people groups all over the world who, as yet, don't have a Bible or New Testament in their mother tongue or have an ancient translation which needs updating.

Janet Roberts

John Calvin, born July 1509

Guidance - Sometimes friends tell us what we don't want to hear

John Calvin was expelled from Geneva in 1538 for continuing to preach in defiance of the Council's prohibition and he dreaded the thought of returning, writing "Rather I would submit to 100 other deaths".

"When he was finally invited to return he wrote "I was thrown for two days into such perplexity and trouble of mind that I was scarcely half myself". Whenever he remembered his misery in Geneva, he "could not but shudder with all my heart" at the thought of returning. He doubted his effectiveness if compelled once more to lead the Genevan church, since in Strasbourg he had "somehow become oblivious of the arts required to guide and direct the multitude." He distrusted his own feelings on the matter and yearned for guidance by others, who might be "safe and prudent guides," lest relying on his own instincts, he make the wrong decision.

"He meant that he was prepared to accept Bucer's judgement (Bucer was a leading Reformer in Strasbourg who Calvin respected and regarded as an older brother), and Bucer told him to go back. On September 2, 1541, Calvin accordingly returned to Geneva, where he continued to look for Bucer's paternal guidance, encouragement, and, above all, approval.

Calvin's dread of returning to Geneva was more than justified by the long ordeal that followed. ... He proposed to reduce Geneva to order. "It is only when we live in accordance with the rule of God that our life is set in order," he declared a decade later; "apart from this ordering there is nothing in human life but confusion." ... His first concern was to set the Genevan church to rights in accordance with the principle that "the church cannot stand firm unless a government is constituted as prescribed to us by the word of God and observed in the early church."

In November of that year the Geneva Council enacted the *Ecclesiastical Ordinances* "which spelled out what he believed necessary for a well ordered church. These regulations vested the administration of the church in four groups of officers: pastors, elders, teachers and deacons, generally specifying the duties of each ...".

In fact Calvin spent the rest of his life in Geneva and laid the foundation for reformed theology and non-conformist church government for a half a millenium, including preparing the final draft of the famous *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, published in 1559.

Based on extracts from the book *John Calvin: a Sixteenth Century Portrait*
by William J Bouwsma

Meetings and dates

Sunday services

	10.30	18.00
02 August	Pastor	Pastor
09 August	Pastor	Pastor
16 August	Pastor	Pastor
23 August	Pastor	Pastor
30 August	Pastor	Pastor

Tuesday prayer meetings

19.30

04 August	Missionary Prayer meeting with DVD presentation
11 August	Pastor
18 August	Pastor
25 August	Pastor

Every week

Saturday morning prayer meeting at 8.00
Men's Fellowship - every Wednesday at 10.00
Sunday School - every week at 14.30
16+ Youth Group – every Saturday 19.30

Every week in term time

Mothers and Toddlers - every Tuesday and Friday at 9.30
Wednesday - The Ark (4-7) 17.45 to 19.00 // The Rock (8-12) 19.00 to 20.15
BYY Youth Group – Fridays at 19.00

Every month

Fellowship Lunch - Fourth Sunday after the morning service (23 August)
Senior Citizens' tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (08 August)
Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (16 August)

Tea rota for the month: Gordon & Lynne, Bob & Judith, Tony & Linda

Cleaning rota

01 August	Gordon & Lynne
08 August	Ken & Julie
15 August	Chris & Angela, Pat
22 August	Dave & Lynette
29 August	Lyn & Helen

Other dates:

12 August at 19.30 Officers' meeting

Sunday School minibus drivers

02 August	no Sunday school
09 August	Gordon Matson
16 August	to be announced
23 August	to be announced
30 August	to be announced

Please Note

If you are unable to drive on your Sunday please make arrangements with one of the other drivers to ensure children are not abandoned

Thanks