



Ebenezer News

July 2009

God's protection - Chester

"The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run in to it and are safe (set on high)" - Proverbs 18:10.

Whenever we go away on holiday I always try to find out as much as I can about where we are going, so that we can visit places of interest. Last week it was Chester! *"Let the ancients worship the Ancient of Days"*, taken from Daniel 7 is the motto of this city.

Most people we spoke to said that we should walk around the Roman city wall, which is still standing after 2000 years, to get a better view of the city and the surrounding countryside. It was well worth the effort. You had a feeling of height, safety, security and great advantage over any approaching enemies!

There are watch towers at strategic points which are much higher than the wall itself, each having a name like Water Gate, North Gate and Bridge Gate. These positions were manned by soldiers day and night, who watched those who came in and out of the city.

The Roman security was pretty impressive but what about unseen enemies - sickness, water pollution - that was to take the lives of many people. Man cannot plan for everything, our needs are greater.

There are many references to walls and towers in scripture. God knows what our fears are and He speaks comfort to us in ways that we can understand. Psalm 61:3, Proverbs 18:10, Micah 4:8 and Psalm 46:1 all contain promises about our protection and preservation. God promises to be a wall of defence, a strong tower and a shelter from enemies. His power lies in His name - "I am". When we trust Him abundant help is available and He always means what He says, nothing can take us from His great love.

During the 1647 outbreak of plague in Chester only one house was not affected - "God's providence house". This text is still over the door.

Pete Sheldon

In all Judea and Samaria

The last words of our Saviour whilst on the earth are, *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8.

In the missionary focus it is good to concentrate briefly upon “Judea and Samaria” which, for us, might translate into Wales and England. What is happening in these two countries? Perhaps the following may help you fix your attention on the “local” gospel effort, to pray for the work giving thanks for the wide range of current gospel activity. You can look up more information on the internet using the references in brackets.

Beach missions and camps will soon be in full swing. United Beach Mission (ubm.org.uk) will be working in 14 centres in Wales and England. They rely upon volunteer workers. Our own Becky, Leanne and Tammy are again signed up to support the beach mission work.

The Evangelical Movement of Wales, for example, runs camps (emw.org.uk/ministries/camps/en), both indoor and outdoor, in the English and Welsh languages. Camps provide an atmosphere where young people can, in an environment away from home, think through the gospel challenge. Many, including some in our own church, can testify to the help camps have been in their own walk of faith.

After the summer, education will begin again. Matt Lewis is the full-time worker for the Christian Council for the Schools of Wales (ccsw.org.uk). He visits many schools delivering assemblies and lessons; supporting Christian groups; advising RE teachers and helping to develop links between schools and communities. Some schools have very small Christian Unions which value Matt’s support.

The Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (uccf.org.uk) exists to help students to reach students. September will see new students facing a crossroads, many leaving home for the first time. Christians need help to stand for Christ in a very different world from home and non-Christians need to be challenged at a time in their lives when everything is new and they are more open to new things. From the student body will come the leaders of the next generation – in churches, in politics, in business.

Other work which you could look up on the internet includes Premier Radio (premier.org.uk) on Freeview channel 725; the Prison Mission Association (pmabcf.org.uk); Canal Ministries (canalministries.org.uk); Waleswide (waleswide.org) – a church planting network including Hill City Church, Trevechin.

Andrew Loose

“He knows the way He taketh and I will walk with Him”

A month before my 19th birthday, I left my home in Cardiff and went off to St Andrews University to study chemistry. I was not a Christian and was from a non-Christian home although for a number of years I had regularly attended the local Methodist church where I loved to sing in the choir.

Back at home, a few days after Christmas, my father woke me in the middle of the night to tell me that my mother had been taken ill. He went off to phone for an ambulance but before it arrived she had died. No warning, no illness, just a death as sudden as blowing out a candle.

It was a difficult decision for me to make to return to university. As an only child, it meant leaving my aged, sickly father alone. But he insisted that I return and when I did so I was much helped in my bereavement by friends who were Christians. Eventually they invited me along to the Christian Union where I soon realised I was hearing the Gospel for the first time. Sometime during my 2nd year, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and have been walking with Him ever since.

As the time drew near for me to leave Scotland, I became aware of the loneliness I would experience back home in Wales where I had no Christian friends. So I earnestly prayed that the Lord would provide me with a Christian husband.

You will all know of the Lord's answer to that particular prayer! I met Andrew in the Christian Union. We were also both involved in a Christian choir in which I sang and which he accompanied.

One of our wedding hymns was “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. As we approach our 36th wedding anniversary this summer, we can testify to the truth of the words of this hymn. The Lord has indeed been faithful, merciful and gracious to us and has guided us in so many ways.

Looking back I see how the Lord guided me to go to St Andrews where I came to know Jesus as my Saviour and where I met my life partner.

The Lord guided Andrew and me back to Wales and kept us here as the only Christian witness in the life of my elderly father. And in autumn 2000, in his 98th year and just weeks before his death, he finally gave in to the call of the One who never gave up on him and committed his life to Jesus.

I praise God for the way He has guided me thus far and I am confident that He will continue to do so until I reach the end of my earthly pilgrimage.

Francine Loose

Meetings and dates

Sunday services

	10.30	18.00
05 July	Pastor	Pastor
12 July	Steve Price	Dai Hankey
19 July	Pastor	Pastor
26 July	Pastor	Pastor

Tuesday prayer meetings

19.30

07 July	Matthew Lewis (Christian Council for Schools in Wales)
14 July	Pete Sheldon
21 July	Pastor
28 July	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 (26 July)
Senior Citizens' tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (11 July - Andrew Loose)
Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (19 July)

Tea rota for the month: Dave & Carole, Pete & Shirley

Cleaning rota

04 July	Edward & Tracy
11 July	Pete & Shirley
18 July	Lynne & Stacey
25 July	Bob & Judith

Other dates:

08 July at 19.30 Officers' meeting
15 July 20.00 - Quarterly Church Meeting

Sunday School minibus drivers

05 July	Gordon Matson
12 July	Ken Mitchell
19 July	Dave Jarrett
26 July	Phil Godwin

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