



# Ebenezer News

## May 2009

### **Blessing from Persecution**

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven - Matthew 5:10

Persecution is a subject we dread to think about and it disturbs us to know that so many of God's dear people are suffering for their faith at this present time.

Inevitably questions arise in our minds - Could it happen in the UK? Will we have to pass through such times in the coming days? Why does God allow His people to go through persecutions?

We know that persecutions have a purifying effect, and at such times God acts in unusual and even supernatural ways to show His power and sovereignty.

During 1660 Vavasor Powell spent many years in prison for preaching the gospel here in Wales, even being described as a "most factious and dangerous minister". His friend and disciple Henry Williams tells how he was also carried off to prison after being attacked in his home. His father was beaten to death for resisting arrest, his home was burned down and his crops destroyed. Nothing was left but a field of wheat newly sown. But that field in the spring became a wonder and the talk of the whole district.

The stalks in many cases produced as many as nine heads of wheat and the yield of the whole field was so rich as to recoup Williams for all his losses. The field was called the Field of Blessing - some of the ears were kept as heirlooms and some of the grain was re-sown but never again yielded more than a single eared stalk.

The Field of Blessing also became a picture, for throughout the Principality many souls were saved from what had been a period of great suffering.

So, whatever the future holds we can trust God for His grace.

**Pete Sheldon**

## Israel

*If their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? Romans 11:12,15*

The State of Israel's was founded in 1948, just over 50 years ago. It is a testimony to God's faithfulness, who has kept his covenant not to "*cast away the descendants of Jacob and David*" (Jeremiah 33:25-26). Since then thousands of Jews in Israel and around the world have come into the New Covenant established by their Messiah, our Lord Jesus. A vibrant, thriving Israeli church, though small, is now in its second generation. However, the growth of the church in Israel has not been without problems. Congregations in the land are often isolated and lacking in mature spiritual leadership. Numerical advances have not always been matched by spiritual growth.

The next generation of believers needs to be helped to witness with a confidence and an authority born out of a deep acquaintance with the Scriptures. The greatest need of the churches is to understand the Bible better and to be able to apply its message to every area of life. However, there is a great dearth of solid Christian literature, no commentary on the whole Bible, few books on essential doctrines and literally nothing in terms of historic Christian biography in Hebrew.

There is a need for sensitive, bold, grass roots evangelism conducted by local believers in the country. Praise God for the growing number of Israelis who have put their trust in their Messiah Jesus and who now serve him and their people in the fellowship of local congregations, but the need is still for well-rounded and biblically orientated outreach to the Jewish people that includes evangelism, the encouragement of local congregations, biblical and theological education, and an active practical concern for people. Pray for those missions seeking to help the local Israeli churches to fulfill their God-given task of being a light to their own nation and people in these difficult and dangerous days. It is in the interest of the whole world that the Jewish people hear and believe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Chris Pegington**

Now we have a new audio system in the chapel, CDs of complete services can be produced. The Bible readings, prayers and hymns in addition to the sermon are all included as separate tracks. If you would like a CD of a service you have missed please contact Andrew Loose ([andrew.loose@ravenshaw.net](mailto:andrew.loose@ravenshaw.net)) or the person on audio duty. If you are unable to attend services, and would like a week-by-week supply of the CDs then this can easily be arranged. If you are a user of MP3s then this format is available also – just let me know your requirements!

## Memories of God's faithfulness

We moved from Cardiff to Cwmbran with two small children in 1971 to a new housing estate. We were soon to be blessed by a new baby in our new house in 1972.

I could not drive and there wasn't a church near that preached the gospel, so I did not go to church for almost two years. I prayed for guidance and asked God to help me find a church. Until I learned to drive I went to Hebron Pentecostal Church when I was able to.

I was a young Christian and I prayed earnestly for friends. Rev Jim Cannon was minister at Noddfa and he told me that a couple with three children were going to the church who had recently moved into a house at the top of the hill from us. I met them and we became friends. Chris then invited me to a meal with three of her Christian friends, one of whom was Paddy. What an answer to prayer this was. We all still meet every month for food, fellowship and friendship thirty five years on. When I passed my driving test I travelled to Noddfa for ten years until the Lord guided me to Ebenezer, in His time.

The verse that I love from Ephesians tells us that God "*is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*". Ch3 v20

**Dianne Lewis**

### **Psalm 23 - A new take**

The Lord is my Shepherd - *That's Relationship!*

I shall not want - *That's Supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - *That's Rest!*

He leadeth me beside the still waters - *That's Refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul - *That's Healing!*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - *That's Guidance!*

For His name sake - *That's Purpose!*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - *That's Testing!*

I will fear no evil - *That's Protection!*

For Thou art with me - *That's Faithfulness!*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - *That's Discipline!*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies - *That's Hope!*

Thou anointest my head with oil - *That's Consecration!*

My cup runneth over - *That's Abundance!*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - *That's Blessing!*

**Spotted by Carole Jarrett**

## Meetings and dates

### Sunday services

	10.30	18.00
03 May	Mark Thomas	Mark Thomas
10 May	Tim Curnow	Tim Curnow
17 May	Pastor	Pastor
24 May	Pastor	Pastor
31 May	Pete Sheldon	Steve Price

### Tuesday prayer meetings

	19.30
05 May	Steve McReedy "Action Partners"
12 May	Pastor
19 May	Alan Davey (UFM missionary in Bordeaux)
26 May	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 (except Easter Sunday, 12 April)

16+ Youth Group – every Saturday 19.30

### Every week in term time

Mothers and Toddlers - every Tuesday and Friday at 9.30

The Ark - every Wednesday at 17.45 & 19.00

BYY Youth Group – Fridays at 19.30

### Every month

Fellowship Lunch - Fourth Sunday after the morning service (24 May)

Senior Citizens' tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (09 May)

Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (17 May)

**Tea rota for the month:** Dave & Carol, Barry & Enfys

### Cleaning rota

02 May	Gordon & Lynne
09 May	Ken & Julie
16 May	Chris & Angela, Pat
23 May	Dave & Lynette
30 May	Lyn & Helen

### Other dates:

06 May at 20.00	- Special Church Meeting
13 May	- Officers' Meeting
16 May at 15.00	- Welcome Service for Colin and Joy Berg at Little Mill

### Sunday School minibus drivers

03 May	Ken Mitchell
10 May	Dave Jarretti
17 May	Phil Godwin
24 May	Bob Metcalfe
31 May	Gordon Matson

### 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**