



Ebenezer News

March 2010

Proverbs 20:29

²⁹The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendour of old men is their gray hair. (ESV)

The book of Proverbs tells us that being older isn't something that is to be looked upon as a bad thing. The old men are known for the wisdom of trusting in the Lord and also their wisdom in thinking through any plans of younger people.

The younger men have great enthusiasm and want to use their strength to push ahead. But both are essential. There is to be the older man guiding the younger in his ways, and the younger man talking into consideration what he is being told.

However, as Paul said to Timothy, let no one despise your youth, so we must do the same. It seems that in our world that people have totally changed their thinking about wisdom coming from old people.

The world is anti-history. Consumerism, technology, science, even the media try and take away the past and those who are wise and replace it with a youth culture. Instead of children and young people coming to the older person to ask questions they find answers among themselves. No longer does an adult teach a child but the child teaches the adult.

In this post-modern world everyone has been told to strive for better, strive for more money, strive for a more youthful look, skin and all sorts and we buy into it. When we look into history we can see this wasn't just a problem for our day.

Martin Luther in the 16th Century had the same fight; people said the world is progressing and moving forward independently of God and that God rewards the good and punishes the bad. Luther told people that the world is not progressing it is ending and God is in control making a new heaven and a new earth. He even said that men aren't saved by works but by Christ.

"Out with the old and in with the new" is the saying. But as Christians we need to keep from the god of this world, and remember if we are Christians then we don't follow the world. We first of all pray that God will set our hearts on fire to go and change the thoughts of this present evil age.

A youth culture with no direction is going nowhere except a lost eternity. A Christ-centred culture will radically change our land and also give the promised rest to our souls in heaven that God brings.

Darran Dowey

TIME IS A GIFT

An article in RBC Ministries on a recent survey tabulated the approximate amount of time an average person will spend in their life time doing daily activities. The writer of the article questioned how he spent his time. How much time watching TV, reading newspapers/ books and work on the computer etc? Asking was he using God's gift of time well.

Eleanor Roosevelt said *'Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it is called the present.'*

I ask three questions, how much of my present time do I give the Lord.

1. Do I share my faith & witness to my immediate unbelieving family, friends, neighbours, and also others who presently are destined for a lost eternity? I have to be honest and say 'infrequently'.

2. Do I pray for my brothers & sisters who face regular harassment, discrimination, violence in other lands? - Yes, frequently.

3 Do I pray for my church, the sick, & needy and against this evil world? Yes, every day.

Prayer is extremely important, the Scriptures remind Christians in Luke18: that *"men always ought to pray & not lose heart."* But there are times when we should be seen & heard. Warren Wiersbe's commentary on Psalm 94:16 explains it far more eloquently, he writes: *"There are times when we only pray about a problem. There are times when we wait. But there are times when we must ACT."*

Psalm 94:16 is not a passive verse it's a verse full of verbs. God's asking, *"Who is going to rise up, who is going to stand up against sin?"*

My hopes & prayers are, when the church decides to go out and witness & declare the gospel to the people of Pontnewydd, I will gladly give my time. Not being a passive spectator watching the same 'willing horses' faithfully going out. It would be wonderful if people began to recognise those from the church and say *"They are Christians from Ebenezer and they love Jesus and are seeking the lost."*

Brenda Pattimore

A change of direction

Ephesians 2 v 1-5

*“And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”*

This describes how my life has turned around since becoming a Christian. Years ago, before I became a Christian, I used to belong to a pub skittles team and would have a match once a week. I really enjoyed playing skittles as in the past I've never really had a hobby. After becoming a Christian I found it harder and harder attending the matches as most of the men there blasphemed a lot, they had no consideration for God at all. Each time I attended, the more God was telling me not to, so I at last decided to stop going, it was obviously not the place God wanted me to be. There was something else God wanted me to do. It was put on my heart to get involved with the youth club on a Friday night at the church, so I just turned up one Friday and really enjoyed it. I knew that this was the right place for me to be. I am now part of the team running the youth club. God has taken me out of a situation I shouldn't have been in and placed me in the youth club to do work for him and to glorify him.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

We all have different abilities for various tasks that God has given us, we just need to let Him lead us in His way.

Edward Metcalfe

Meetings and dates

Sunday services	10.30	18.00
07 March	Pastor	Pastor
14 March	Pastor	Pastor
21 March	Pastor	Pastor
28 March	Pastor	Pastor

Tuesday prayer meetings

19.30

02 March	David Bond (Christian Witness to Israel)
09 March	Pastor
16 March	Chris Pegington
23 March	Pete Sheldon

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

Senior Citizens' tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (13 March)

Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (21 March)

Fellowship Lunch - Fourth Sunday after the morning service (28 March)

Tea rota for the month: Dave & Carol, Edward + Tracey

Cleaning rota

06 March	Phill & Chris, Dianne
13 March	Steve & Fay
20 March	Dave & Carol
27 March	Andrew & Francine