



# Ebenezer News

## April 2009

### **An Easter Thought**

The Christian Year revolves around the two great Events of the incarnation and Easter. At Christmas we celebrate the voluntary humiliation and condescension of the Son of God who came into our world to be our Saviour. It involved the laying aside of His glory and Majesty to become man so that as man, He could save His people from their sins.

Easter remembers the extent of the suffering He was prepared to endure in order to be our Redeemer. He accepted the scorn and rejection of human beings; embraced the Cross with the agony of crucifixion and above all the horror of desertion by the Father as He carried our sins – and all motivated by love to sinful, rebellious, lost people. He died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God.

But if Easter is the story of sacrificial love as the Lamb of God took the burden of our sin upon Himself, it is also the story of triumphant love. The battle seemingly lost – as Satan and sin seemed to have triumphed over goodness and God- was in reality the winning of the War! He rose in triumph and power, nevermore to be humiliated by the powers of darkness. His is the name high over all. His is the eternal victory and the everlasting crown and glory.

When the path we tread sometimes seems hard and difficult and we have to walk indeed by faith and not by sight – think of Easter. Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning. We will not regret one burden carried for Christ; one moment of trial and difficulty endured in His service; one step taken along the road of faith and obedience to His will and command.

2 Corinthians 4:17 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”. There will be no regrets in heaven; No tears for the path we trod. Only joy, as we are lost in wonder, love and praise, in the presence of our Saviour and His people for all eternity.

**The Pastor**

## The needs of Sudan

In a communication from Andrew and Janet Persson regarding Wycliffe work in Sudan they asked prayer for two situations:

Firstly the pending International Criminal Court's decision whether to arrest the President of Sudan in connection with events in Darfur. Now we hear on BBC news that he is to face charges. It would seem that the country as a whole is not pleased with interference from other countries. Please pray for the Sudanese translators, and others who are helping to train them.

The second situation involves the new translation groups that Andrew and others taught previously. One of the language group's involved has been attacked by a neighbouring tribe in the town of Wulu. Some of the inhabitants were killed, all the rest fled for their lives. This included two of the translators for the group, EZEKIEL and GIDEON. Ezekiel is also the senior pastor for the churches in the language. Eventually Sapana, Andrew and Janet's Sudanese helper managed to contact Ezekiel who had fled to another town taking the language/bible translation computer with him. Gideon was also found. He is in a camp set up for displaced persons.

Andrew is due to return for another workshop in Sudan at the end of March, but there is concern that these men may not be able to attend. Another translator, Sister Mary, has had some difficulties over the running of her literacy classes, and she also may not be allowed to attend.

PLEASE PRAY: That the Lord will overrule the situations and that His word will be available for these people groups, that many will come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord. It is not known how the situation regarding the President will affect those working in the country as a whole.

**Margaret White**

## THANK YOU

Margaret White and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, encouragement, help and concern over Den's long illness and his passing on to that "far better place" with his Lord. We have so much appreciated your love for us.

Missed a Sunday Service? Want to listen to the sermon?

So blessed by a sermon you want to listen to it again?

Want to read a back issue of the Newsletter?

Now you can you can .... on the church web site !!

<http://www.ebenezer-pontnewydd.org.uk/>

Save it in your Favourites/Bookmarks so you don't have to read it on the minibus !!

## Memories of God's faithfulness

I have been a Christian for many years, sometimes too many to remember. The night I was converted it was no great dramatic occurrence just a quiet realisation that I was a sinner and needed Jesus to forgive me. Having always gone to church and Sunday School it's hard sometimes to realise that you need forgiveness, however being saved is the only the beginning of ones testimony, although the most important part.

We all have an ongoing testimony as to how God has kept and guided us through our lives.

The date March 11<sup>th</sup> is a very special but sad date for me. This year on that date I have been a widow thirty years. Sometimes it seems a long time ago, other times only yesterday. I was privileged to be brought up in a Christian family and as the "baby" always had people around me, and even in my marriage I had family around. Then suddenly it was just me and God! I can truthfully say that He has never left me one moment. There have been times of loneliness, and still are, but He is faithful. A few times I've thought of moving to live nearer one of my daughters and on two occasions put my house up for sale but every time God closed the door and in His wisdom He showed me that my home is here in Ebenezer, which as well as being my spiritual home is also my family home.

There are many scriptures that I hold dear but here are two from Isaiah that have been, and still, are a great strength to me. One is Isaiah 30 the middle of verse 15, and also Isaiah 43 verses 1, 2 and the beginning of verse 3.

*"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength".*

*"Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name you are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the  
fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.  
For I am the Lord your God , The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour".*

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those who over the years have shown me such love and have always been there for me.

Whatever we go through in life we have a great God who walks with us every day and a Saviour who never leaves us or forsakes us. May we trust Him above all others. To His Glory.

**Betty Jones**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

To Fred and Edna Postlethwaite  
Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 2 April

## Meetings and dates

### **Sunday services** **10.30** **18.00**

05 April	Pastor	Pastor
12 April	Pastor - Easter family service	Pastor
19 April	Pastor	Pastor
26 April	Pastor	Pastor

### **Tuesday prayer meetings** **19.30**

07 April	Clyde & Janice Briggs - Open Doors
12 April	Pastor
19 April	Pastor
26 April	Pete Sheldon

**Good Friday** 10 April - 12pm Communion Service at Ebenezer  
19.00 Joint Service at Pontrhydryn: Speaker Andrew Holland

### **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)

### **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 (26 April)  
Over 60's tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (11 April - Easter Senior Citizens' Tea)  
Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (19 April)

### **Tea rota for the month:**

Steve & Fay, Janet & Margaret

### **Other dates:**

08 April at 19.30 - Officers' meeting

### **Cleaning rota**

04 April	Edward & Tracy
11 April	Peter & Shirley
18 April	Lynne & Stacey
25 April	Bob & Judith

18 April - Ladies Rally  
Malpas Road Evangelical Church  
22 April at 20.00 Quarterly church meeting  
25 April at 19.00 Spring Guest Meal,  
(speaker Colin Berg)

### **Sunday School minibus drivers**

05 April	Dave Jarrett
12 April	no Sunday School
19 April	Bob Metcalfe
26 April	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**