



Ebenezer News

February 2009

Isn't it strange ?

I came across the following recently and thought it was worth passing on to think about and even act upon!

Isn't it strange how £10.00 seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good film?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel or a whole newspaper at one sitting?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others; but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

I wonder why it's so?

Pastor

In their own language - Christmas Past , Present and Future

Christmas Past was lonely for the first messengers of the gospel on arrival in Supyire country in Mali between the two World Wars. They found no welcome for their good news. Then, a Supyire leader had a dream which convinced him of a need to listen to the newcomers. The whole village decided to burn their fetishes and turn to Christ! However, most Supyire villages resisted the message, one reason being that it often came in the trade language. As a result, the Supyire, being proud of their language, got the idea that the Christian message was for other groups, not for them. It took a concerted effort for a team of five Supyire, a British, a Dutch and an American family to analyse the tones, devise a workable system to write the tones down, produce a reading book and translate the New Testament.

This year's Christmas Present is God's written Word, the Good News in their language. On 20 December they celebrated the launch of the Supyire New Testament. Then on Christmas morning, in the 14 villages where there are now churches, Supyire Christians took their New Testaments with them, and read in their own language about their Saviour's birth!

Recently the team has recorded 30 minute radio plays, using the translated Scriptures to address everyday problems like greed, love triangles and sacrifices to appease spirits. A village 50 miles into the bush was visited where no Christian evangelist had been, but people were able to recount some of the plays. They had obviously been paying attention! A listener in another village asked the team to teach them.

In Christmas Future DV, we look forward to Jesus' birth being celebrated in all 800 villages. Praise God for leading the way!

Jan Roberts

Guidance: Trusting that God will guide, one step at a time

I finished at Swansea University in June 2007 with a law degree. I was unsure what was going to be the next stage in my life but I knew one thing, I did not want to go back to university to do my Legal Practice Course which would qualify me as a solicitor.

I started to apply for jobs, nothing in particular, graduate jobs, jobs which may require a law degree etc but I didn't have any response. As the months went on I was starting to feel quite down about not having any path to follow. All my life I had gone through the education stages, GCSEs, A-Levels, university and then I seemed to have come to a stand still with no aim.

After a few months of being unemployed I managed to secure some voluntary work experience with RCT Council, working in their legal department. I decided to persevere with this as although it did not pay, it was something extra to put on my CV and something to keep me busy. I was put in a child care department where I helped out in the office for the majority of the time but also had great experiences where I was able to attend court cases and meetings. I thoroughly enjoyed it but still believed being a solicitor wasn't for me.

One day whilst at a court hearing, I met a lady from another firm; she approached me out of the blue and offered me paid employment with her firm. She gave me her contact number and within 2 weeks I started with the solicitor's firm - Legal Services for Children.

They initially employed me for one month but after that month offered me a years' contract to which I happily accepted. I was treated like a trainee solicitor at the firm and was given a lot of responsibility; I attended court cases on the solicitor's behalf, visited clients and attended meetings. It was then that I realised that my thoughts about becoming a solicitor were wrong and that it was something I could see myself doing long-term.

I have since started my Legal Practice Course in Cardiff University and will hopefully be finishing by the end of June. As I get closer to finishing, I have this worry in me about whether I will be able to get a job especially with the economic climate the way it is as the moment. But reflecting on the way in which God helped me decide the right way to go last year I know that with every letter of application I make over the next few months, His hand will be in it and he will guide me in the direction to find a firm where I can work for Him

Abigail Price

Meetings and dates

Sunday services

	10.30	18.00
01 February	Gareth Davies, Cardiff	
08 February	Pastor	Pastor
15 February	Darren Dowe, from Leeds and Northern Ireland	
22 February	Pastor	Pastor

Tuesday prayer meetings

19.30

03 February	Mervyn Coulson, Mission Aviation Fellowship	
10 February	Pastor	
17 February	Pastor	
24 February	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

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 (22 February)
Over 60's tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (14 February - speaker: Pete Sheldon)
Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (15 February)

Tea rota for the month:

Becky, Tammy & Leanne

Cleaning rota

07 February	Ken & Julie
14 February	Chris, Angela & Pat
21 February	Dave & Lynette
28 February	Lyn & Helen

Sunday School minibus drivers

01 February	Gordon Matson
08 February	to be arranged
15 February	Bob
22 February	Ken

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

Visit our website at: www.ebenezer-pontnewydd.org.uk