



# Ebenezer News

## March 2009

### **The True Christian Experience: A Radical Cleavage**

I well remember these words being spoken by AN Martin at the Aberystwyth Conference some years ago and have never forgotten them. He was speaking on the subject of 'sanctification' which he described as nothing less than a split from the World, the Flesh and the Devil ..... not a split from one another.

The Devil hates sanctified believers. Such are a danger to his kingdom. Yet that's what all Christians are called to be.

Paul reminds Timothy how to maintain a sanctified life and to be in constant use in God's service. – 2 Timothy 2 vs20-26. That's our responsibility and in a coming day God will reward faithful service accordingly.

Only the love of Christ shed abroad in the heart can produce true worship and acceptable service. God's love is radical and so must ours be. Anne Graham Lotz says in 'Radical Love':

*"We love others who meet our needs, whom we get along with, who make us feel good. In essence our first concern is for our own well-being and having our own needs met, and we love others in proportion to the extent they fulfil those purposes. Our second concern is that others respond positively to our overtures; if they don't, we refuse to continue to love them. But Jesus outlined a radically different kind of love – a love that puts the needs of others before our own to the extent we would sacrifice our time, our energy, our money in order to demonstrate it. We are to love others we may not like, or who respond negatively, or who may never do anything for us in return!"*

Now that's radical!!

**Pete Sheldon**

## Mission Home and Abroad

God has chosen to save sinners by faith in the perfect & completed work of Jesus Christ. Normally the way that God brings people to faith is through hearing the gospel, from someone who is already a believer. Therefore, all believers have a responsibility to pass on the message to those who have not heard. The Lord Jesus commanded His apostles and His church in all ages 'to make disciples of all nations.' But many Christians in thinking of missionary work may ask the question, "What right do we have to send people to other countries when there are still great needs at home?" That is certainly true! Our country is rapidly sinking into unbelief & ungodly behaviour, Paul's words in Romans 1: 24-32 are becoming more of a reality - recently a Christian nurse was suspended, and may even have been struck off for offering a prayer for an elderly patient—that's reality! But we must consider our country was once completely pagan, worshipping various gods & nature. God in His infinite mercy sent missionaries to preach the gospel here. Therefore, now the true established church has the responsibility of maintaining that witness home and abroad. This does not mean it will be easy, as in some countries – particularly atheist & Islamic where there is fierce resistance to the gospel. Many missionaries have to work in secret and are in constant danger.

Finally, to ignore the cause of mission is to deny our Lord who said 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you'. I hope and pray Ebenezer will always have a heart for mission for countries abroad & also here in the UK & we continue to pray for souls to be saved that "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life

**Brian Pattimore**

### Martha, Martha

*I can't help being a Martha sometimes, Lord  
When there's so much to do,  
I worry and hurry*

*to get the jobs done,  
Yet the gentle call to sit at your feet  
is always in my mind*

*Help me to trust you enough  
to turn loose the broom and the spoon  
and rest in your presence  
for a while each day,*

*Lest when I see you face to face,  
I learn my striving counted for nothing.*

**Martha Maughon**

(suggested by Judith Metcalfe)

## **When the Gospel gets personal: Laura Metcalfe's testimony at her baptism**

All my life I've grown up in a loving Christian home, so for me, because I'd already heard about Jesus, it was accepting & realising that I needed him. As I grew older I rebelled. I doubted God & thought that we were like robots that he wanted to control & that was when I contemplated he was even real.

2 years ago, myself & a friend babysat for my brother & sister-in-law whilst they went to church. Each night they'd return home & we'd end up talking about the service & about Jesus, when normally if God came into a conversation I'd walk straight out of the room. One night my friend decided to go to church instead of helping to babysit & when she came back she was grinning & wanted to go again. This confused me & made me curious as I thought "what is so great about church?" so I decided to go & find out for myself & found I too wanted to go again & find out more.

I think the night I really realised God was working in my heart was when I was sat in the garden & my friend said to me "just think, all your family are Christians, so when they die they will be going to heaven, but you wont, you'll be going to hell". Normally this wouldn't have bothered me at all because I already knew, but instead of saying "so, I already know", I got really upset.

I finally called out to God when Chris was preaching at Leanne's baptism. It felt as though he was talking directly to me. When Chris was talking about Jesus dying for us & how to be saved, I had an overwhelming feeling & couldn't stop thinking "I believe, I want to be saved". The next thing I knew I couldn't stop grinning & felt so happy and peaceful.

Since I've been converted I've been so much happier in life. I'm so grateful to God for opening my eyes to the sin around me & helping me realise we all need God's free forgiveness. I now know that we're not robots, we're God's children & all he wants is the best for us. He's our Father & doesn't give us rules to follow for fun, they're to protect us & help us stay clear of the evil in the world. I now know that we are all sinners & all do wrong & living in this world isn't easy, that's why he's there for us, to guide us every step of the way. I also realise now that giving his only begotten son for a sinner like me is the most incredible thing anyone has done for me & how could I or anyone possibly ignore that!

**Laura Metcalfe**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To Olwen Filer

90 on 7 March

## Meetings and dates

### Sunday services

	10.30	18.00
01 March	James Allan	James Allan
08 March	Pastor	Pastor
15 March	Darren Dowe, from Leeds and Northern Ireland	
22 March	Pastor	Pastor
29 March	Pastor	Pastor

### Tuesday prayer meetings

	19.30
03 March	David Young, Albanian Evangelical Mission
10 March	Pastor
17 March	Darren Dowe
24 March	Pastor
31 March	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 March)  
Over 60's tea - 2nd Saturday 15.30 (14 March - speaker: to be arranged)  
Service at Thistle Court - Third Sunday at 15.00 (15 March)

### Tea rota for the month:

Dave & Lynette, Ken & Julie

### Other dates:

11 March at 19.30  
Officers' meeting

### Cleaning rota

07 March	Phill, Chris & Dianne	
14 March	Steve & Fay	26 March 18.00 - 21.00
21 March	Dave & Carole	EVCW Seminar at Pontymoile Mission
28 March	Andrew & Francine	(details on notice board)

### Sunday School minibus drivers

01 March	Dave Jarrett
08 March	Phil Godwin
15 March	Bob Metcalfe
22 March	Gordon Matson
29 March	Ken Mitchell

### 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**