

## **EDITORIAL - GLOBAL WARMING**

Australia - going through the worst drought for 100 years and churches holding a national day of prayer for rain. We've just had the hottest summer on record. Then such a mild winter spring flowers are already appearing. Global warming seems to be having a marked affect and is slowly but steadily getting worse.

Do we see all of these changes as signs of the end times? If so do we take the approach of ignoring the problem and concentrating on bringing people into the kingdom of God? Or do we take seriously our responsibilities as stewards of God's world and take action?

Nationally we are all being encouraged to reduce our own carbon emissions. What should we do as a church? Should we be taking action to reduce our own use?

We are given responsibility for the stewardship of our world. So should reducing energy use become part of our witness in a worried world? *Simon Lloyd*

## **FORTY DAYS OF COMMUNITY**

A major feature of our life together during the next couple of months will be the "40 Days of Community" campaign. This campaign called 40 Days of Community is about "What on earth are we here for?" It expands the purposes locally in our church community, our small group community, and the local community around your church.

The intent of 40 Days of Community is to water the seed of the purposes of worship, ministry, discipleship, mission, and fellowship, that were planted in our lives through 40 Days of Purpose. It answers

the question, "What on earth are we here for?"

The primary purpose is focusing on fulfilling God's five purposes together — that we're better together — by deepening the sense of community, fellowship, oneness, harmony and unity in our church and then reaching out to the local community.

Everyone needs to be loved. Love must be the motivation behind all of our purposes, our acts of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission. It is our love for God. It's love for one another and love for the lost. But love can only be developed and expressed in community. You have to be around people. You can't learn to love by yourself. Love by its very nature is built in community.

There are two main goals of 40 Days of Community: The first is to raise our valuation of, and commitment to, the local church. The second is to help us as a church to extend our influence on the people in the community around our church. We're going to do that through some individual and small group outreach projects.

The important principles of 40 Days of Community are:

### **1. THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIFIED PRAYER**

The Bible says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain." So we need to keep praying for our 40 Days of Community right through these next weeks

### **2. PRINCIPLE OF CONCENTRATED FOCUS**

Our entire church—every age group, every ministry, every small group, and every worship service— will focus on the same thing together: God's five purposes for our lives. This undistracted focus is the reason why the journey works so well.

### **3. PRINCIPLE OF MULTIPLE REINFORCEMENTS**

The components of this campaign are built around the five vital habits that everybody needs to grow spiritually. These are the habit of weekly worship attendance, the habit of a daily quiet time, the habit of a weekly small group experience and study, the habit of a weekly Scripture memory verse, and the habit of acting on what you've learned.

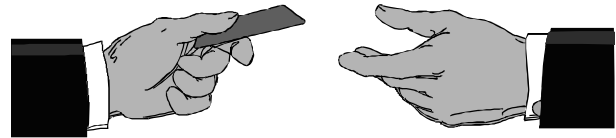
### **4. PRINCIPLE OF BEHAVIOURAL TEACHING**

The messages are specifically designed to cause us to act on what we hear. To become "doers of the Word, and not hearers only." Beginning with the first week of the campaign and culminating with the Celebration Service, all of our small groups are going to be encouraged to take part in the local mission outreaches into your community. This is something new, but it's really at the heart of the message. We want to get the groups doing something, not just studying. And these mission or outreach activities, acts of kindness in your community, will deepen everybody's sense of community as we live out God's purposes together in their small groups.

### **5. PRINCIPLE OF EXPONENTIAL THINKING**

This is thinking that is so big that you're forced to completely depend on God. This is the faith factor that causes churches to explode with new renewal, new revival, and new growth. If we only think in terms of what we think we can handle, or we think,

"We'll just repeat what we did in 40 Days of Purpose," we're going to limit what God wants to do in our church and in our community. I want you to think exponentially and believe God in greater ways than you've ever believed him before. This is not an easy thing. Believe him for more small groups, for increased attendance, for greater offerings, for more people coming to Christ, and let this campaign stretch our faith. *Paul Merton*



### **THESE HANDS ... THESE EYES**

There are things only you have seen  
There are lives only you have touched.  
Only you can touch and see in the way you do....

These eyes.....have looked at the sun bathing the Grand Canyon in hues of red and gold as it slipped reluctantly away for another day.

These eyes.....have seen a life given and a life taken.

These eyes..... have gazed in horror at mangled bodies on dusty African roads.

These eyes.....have looked into the smile of child

These eyes.....have seen celebration and despair.

These eyes..... have cried a million tears and never run dry.

These eyes....have met the gaze of God .....

These hands.....have helped new life into the world

These hands ..... have held a life as it slipped into eternity.

These hands....have cleaned and cleared debris and body parts.

These hands....love to get grubby - especially if I'm trying to help my Dad mend a car or fix something/anything!

These hands....have held and been held.  
These hands....have grown weak and numb.  
These hands..... are held by God.

These eyes have seen what God sees through me.

These hands have touched what God touches through me.

In a way no one else can.

That's God. *Sandra Wheatley*

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP**

The discipleship group has been meeting since October on Tuesday and/or Thursday lunchtimes in room 1. We are just a small group comprising of Jan McCuin, Peter Johnson, Geoff Telford and Janet Wilkinson .

We have been studying *Growing In Christ*, which is a Navigator study.

It has been an exciting group to be part of as we have had some really good discussion times, laughter and a sense of belonging to each other. It's been amazing how everyone in the group has grown in confidence since we first started meeting.

The most encouraging aspect has been how all the group has developed in the short time we have been meeting together. All the group have taken on some aspect of serving in the church - Janet has become Part time receptionist, Peter has taken on foyer duty, Teresa is helping with the Wednesday coffee morning and Jeff has taken on temporary caretaker duties as well as foyer duty.

We are hoping to start 40 Days of Community in February, which we are excited about.

It's been really good in the group to pray for each other and see how God has been answering our prayers.

We look forward to more of God's blessing as we meet in future weeks.

*Diane Taylor*

### **MARK SUREY'S NEWS**

Over the last few months Mark would like to praise the Lord for the following students, Piero from Sardinia, Umberto from Sicily, Karolina from Prague, Ramon and Joel from Haifa and Daniel from Enfield!

May they continue to be active disciples and to grow in their faith.

As well as being involved in his core ministry of evangelism among students and young professionals in London, Mark has just returned from a week teaching Christian Doctrine in the college at Rome and Palmi, Calabria, and before that spent the new year period in Haifa, where he is a consultant for an Israeli messianic student movement. He will soon be going to New York to teach at a Masters program at a seminar there.

Please pray for him to have stamina and wisdom. Also, that the Lord would continue in his mercy toward Marie. Her back pain is not as bad as it has been, but the sensory loss and pins and needles in her hands are worse then ever, and we could either do with an accurate diagnosis and effective treatment or better still outright healing.

Mark Surey

### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

To paint a local lady's living room. Speak to Shelagh Garry.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** of tinned food, toiletries, tea, coffee, Cereal; etc. would be

gratefully received to increase our stock in the food cupboard for people in the community seeking help. See Shelagh or Heather Morton.

**'THE DIGNITY OF DIFFERENCE'**,  
exhibition at The Art Works Galleries:  
January 26th to February 24th.

**KAREN STATE**, Burma 1947 - 2006,  
exhibition at libraries between January  
29th and March 25th.

**6 MILLION+ EXHIBITION** at The  
Guildhall Visitor Centre: until March 11th.

### **"A HEART FOR THE CHILDREN"**

New Life Baptist Church & International  
Gospel Outreach International Weekend

**Friday, 16th February:** Hollybush  
Christian Fellowship - 7.30 p.m.

**Saturday, 17th February:**  
Children's/Youth Workers seminar - 3.00  
p.m.

Evening Celebration - 7.00 p.m.

**Sunday, 18th February:** Morning  
Worship - 10.30 am

There will be an exhibition by missions  
organisations from around the world.

Entry to all events is free.

For more information: 01609 775396.  
info@nlbc.org.uk

*Talk is cheap because supply exceeds  
demand*

### **MEN'S GROUP**

Monday 12th February

**Where does self-esteem fit in?**

Manhood and Christ's humility. Christian  
Lombe

Monday 12th March

**Superman? What is really expected  
from us husbands.** Keith Morley

Monday 23rd April

**Prayer time - are you kidding? Practical  
steps to improving your prayer-life.** Ron  
Wilson

### **SUPPORTING NBA CHURCHES**

Those who go out from our fellowship to  
lead services or preach at other  
fellowships often go to churches that don't  
have a minister. There are quite a few small  
fellowships that need this ministry and we  
are very grateful to the prayer support we  
get from this fellowship.

We are also asked to support other  
churches within the Northern Baptist  
Association. This month we include details  
of four of these churches. *Simon Lloyd*

### **HEADLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, HARTLEPOOL**

Praise:

- For steady growth in the fellowship
- For recent baptisms and new believers

Pray:

- For guidance for the leadership as  
they implement new and varied  
formats for the Sunday evening  
services.
- For the '40 Days of Community'  
starting this month

### **ROWLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Praise God for:

- The Drop In Centre that the church  
runs for the local community;
- The two young lasses from Faith  
Mission who take meetings there with  
children;

- The nine children who come to those meetings and explore what it means to know Jesus as a friend.

Pray that, in the power of the Spirit:

- The Church may discover new ways reaching out the people of Rowley;
- The increasing number of Family Services may attract and draw more people into worshipping our Lord.

### **CROSBY GARRETT UNITED CHURCH**

Church life seems a struggle at the moment, due to some of the elderly members being in poor health and unable to turn out to church because of the bad weather. Three quarters of the congregation are aged over 75. Some Sundays there have been only two members in church, on other occasions worship has had to be cancelled.

The small congregation at Crosby Garrett (which is near Kirkby Stephen) asks for and values your prayer support, that they may continue to carry on worshipping and praising God in their small village.

### **ENON BAPTIST CHURCH, SUNDERLAND**

Prayer for:

- The health of John Prothero (Pastor)
- The need for more youth leaders.
- That local people who attend weekday meetings should have the desire to join the church.
- That Mother & Toddler group members may feel ready to come to services.

Praise for:

- The good spirit of co-operation and giving.
- The computer installed for audio-visual work.
- That the housegroups are flourishing.

- That the "Together in Mission" course continues.
- That the major part of the church refurbishment, inside and out, is complete.

### **ARTWORK PLEASE**

"Now that they have moved into their new office upstairs, Heather Morton and Carol Taylor are looking for original artwork to decorate the walls. Paintings, drawings and collages are sought from anyone of any age on any theme in any media. Prizes will be available for outstanding pieces. Please submit your entries to either Heather or Carol, including your name, age (if under 16) and contact details by 21st February."

### **SHEPHERD'S CORNER - RECOGNITION**

I enjoy going to see my sheep on the farm across the road. They are roaming over four fields and I check them over daily. What I like about it is that I can get really close to them. So I sit the dog down at the edge of the field and walk over to them. They know me well enough to let me walk up close and stand among them. There's not that many shepherds can do this.

Some years ago we went away on holiday leaving my son and his family taking care of the place and the sheep. They had an elderly collie from the pound that had never worked sheep. The instinct was still there but not the control so the flock got chased a fair bit, while the dog got trained to quieten down. When I got home and went to see the sheep they were nervous and flighty. However the next morning they were completely different. As they knew me they were quiet and relaxed.

This reminds me of Jesus describing himself as the shepherd whose sheep trust

and follow him because they know his voice.

*Simon Lloyd*

*Near the end of a particularly trying round of golf, during which the golfer had hit the grass more than the ball, he said in frustration to his caddy, 'I'd move heaven and earth to break a hundred on this course.'*

*'Try heaven,' said the caddy. 'You've already moved most of the earth.'*

### CONTRIBUTIONS

I am very grateful to all those who have written articles as well as those who check each edition, correct errors and then get each edition printed.

I am always on the lookout for articles, photos of events, personal testimonies etc. If you would like to contribute could you please see me.

Please get articles for the February edition to me by **Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

. You can contact me direct at church or e-mail me at [lloyds@uku.co.uk](mailto:lloyds@uku.co.uk) *Simon Lloyd*

### RECORDINGS OF SERMONS

Sermons are being recorded onto computer. There have been some technical problems in converting these files into the right format to be put on the website and to record onto CDs. When this has been sorted you will be able to listen to recordings on the website if you have broadband. Each recording will be kept there for a month.

If you do not have broadband you will be able to get a copy on a CD via the Church Office.

A notice will be put into the Sunday Bulletin once the system is up and running properly.

### CHURCH CONTACT

Angela Wilson, Church Office

Tel: (0191) 272 0647

E-mail: [info@westgatebaptist.org.uk](mailto:info@westgatebaptist.org.uk)

### AND FINALLY JUST FOR FUN:

*Stupidity got us into this mess - why can't it get us out?*

*'Somebody has said that there are only two kinds of people in the world - there are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord' and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning.' - Unknown*

*An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true*

*We have stopped having favourite hymn services in our church. People used to come out, pick a hymn, and say why it was special. Last week one of the teenagers came to the front and was asked to pick a hymn. She pointed to a fit lad in the congregation and said 'I'll have him*