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# Pershore Baptist Church



## Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

June 2009

[www.persshorebaptist.org](http://www.persshorebaptist.org)

### Dear Friends

This last week, I had the privilege of meeting with Tony Phelps-Jones outside Pershore Abbey. Tony is a director of Causeway-Prospects, a Christian mission charity which seeks to envision and equip Churches to:

- Present biblical truth simply and effectively;
- Enable discipleship and training;
- Lead inclusive worship;
- Experience church enrichment through inclusion.

Tony was about to complete the latest stage in a series of very special sponsored walks. Each of the 10, 100 mile stretches is being completed over a 5 day period. They are aimed at not only raising money, but more so raising awareness of an often marginalized and excluded group of people, namely those with learning disabilities. Prospects seeks to fulfil this missionary mandate by offering, among other things, opportunities for training, support and advice, teaching and worship resources, holiday weeks and weekends. More details can be found on their website [www.prospects.org.uk](http://www.prospects.org.uk)

The walks entitled '*Walk with Me*' challenge each one of us to take a walk in another's shoes and to thus help see more clearly the

world from another's perspective. The philosophy is simple yet profound: the best way to get to know someone is to proactively share something of their journey with them. This is a thoroughly biblical aspect of holistic and personal mission and is worthy of emulation in every area of our life and walk with Jesus. People with learning disabilities will often have difficulty with language, few will be able to read, concentration is often short and abstract thoughts and conceptual thinking are major barriers to understanding. In reality, leaves an estimated 1.4 million people in the United Kingdom feeling marginalized, ignored and excluded by a world that struggles to understand them. As this is all too often mirrored in the manner and approach of the churches, it sadly means that most of them have no opportunity to know God's love and to grow spiritually. They are an unreached group, neighbours who are all too easily unheard and unseen.

This raises questions which we ought not to duck out of and challenges us to take seriously the full extent of Jesus' disciple-making commission and of the life and Christ-like character

shaping nature of our fellowship together. This strongly echoes one of the five core values for a gospel people, adopted by the Baptist Union in 1996, to truly be an inclusive people. We are challenged to 'Follow Jesus in transcending barriers of gender, language, race, class, age and culture,' and to 'Identify with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.'

Baptist voices are being raised clearly in this important arena of reflective study and theological practice. My friend from College Andy Goodliff rightly suggests that 'ultimately being inclusive is about enabling everyone to participate.' Paul Fiddes also suggests that 'the concept of being an inclusive community is not about treating everyone the same ... instead it is enabling each person to be the different kind of person they are.' American Baptist theologian, the late Stan Grenz maintained that 'difference is a vital element in true communion.' So far from ironing out differences, there is a richness in the variety and diversity which each person brings to our fellowship.

When we welcome the young child, the young person with special needs, the adult with learning difficulties, as with every other, we are challenged to be actively and intentionally hospitable. This will require

courage and integrity, patience and sensitivity, creativity and imagination; and a willingness perhaps to sit more loosely to order and for the need to keep things clean and under control; in favour of celebrating the enriching presence and sharing diversity in Christ's multi-faceted and grace saturated body.

Your fellow traveller on the Way, sincerely, Mark.

### **Courage to die for You**

*There is brutal persecution of Christians today in many parts of the world. To them the prayer of a man who died nearly 18 centuries ago would be very relevant.... Cyprian of Carthage was martyred during the terrible persecutions of the Roman Empire in 258.*

We believe and trust, Lord, that at the time of terrible persecution, you will hear and answer our prayers with the utmost urgency. We pray with all our hearts that you will give us courage to remain true to the gospel, and proclaim your name right up till the moment of death. Then may we emerge from the snares of this world with our souls unscathed, and rise from the darkness of the world into your glorious light.

**Fear is** the sand in the machinery of life.

*E Stanley Jones*

**Remembrance** of past mercies is a great stimulus to present faith.

*Jerry Bridges*

### **On the Damascus road... with William Tyndale**

#### **A look at famous conversions in the history of the Christian Church**

William Tyndale: Every time we open and read an English Bible we should be reminded of William Tyndale (1494-1536) often rightly called 'the father of the English Bible.' Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire in England and had an excellent education in the local school. He went to Oxford University in 1508 and after graduation, he studied further in Cambridge University.

At Oxford he made great progress in languages and it was his study of the Greek text of the New Testament that led him to understand Paul's doctrine of salvation by faith. Although we can't be sure of the exact date, it was while he was at Oxford that Tyndale experienced personal conversion. This happened as he carefully studied the New Testament. He began to see how the Roman Church had substituted medieval doctrines and practices in place of the true gospel. Tyndale was captivated as he read the Greek New Testament and he wanted to share his great discovery with others. He spent time back in Gloucestershire as a private tutor, still studying the Greek Testament and finding his faith confirmed as he began to read the writings of Martin Luther.

Believing he had a call from God to translate the Bible into English, and

knowing the opposition he faced in England, he went to Germany. In 1526 his English translation of the New Testament was published and he began to work on the Old Testament. His enemies were still hunting him and he moved to Belgium. Betrayed, he was imprisoned and executed on October 6 1536 near Brussels. He was strangled and then burned, his last words being, 'Oh Lord, open the King of England's eyes.'

Tyndale had translated all the New Testament into English and much of the Old Testament. When the King James translators were working on the 1611 Authorised Version of the Bible, they used about 80% of Tyndale's Old Testament and about 70% of his New Testament - without a single word of acknowledgement! Tyndale was scholar, theologian, translator and martyr. He loved the Scriptures and all his great mastery of languages was put to use as he translated the English Bible.

His style was vivid and memorable and so many of his phrases have become part of the English language. To Tyndale we owe the familiar phrases, 'Let there be light,' 'Am I my brother's keeper?' 'The salt of the earth,' 'Fight the good fight,' 'Signs of the times,' and many, many more. Every version of the English Bible we have today owes so much to the learning and genius and skill and courage of William Tyndale.



### WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I wonder if your parents would have been allowed to choose your particular name in past? In Puritan times, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was thought wrong to call children with the names of saints or even an angel, so names like Angela and Michael were banned.

They solved the problem by choosing worthy phrases - how do you fancy being called **Zeal of the Lord Busy or Tribulation Wholesome**? The longest name I've found was when a leather worker called **Praise the Lord Barebones** called his son **If Christ Had Not Died For Thee Thou Wouldst Have Been Damned Barebones**. I wonder what they called him at home? Do you think they might have said 'Time for school, If' or 'Eat your porridge before it gets cold, Damned'?



**ANSWERS:** all are there, except for WHET and YOKE which are words in the Bible but not names.

### BIBLE NAMES

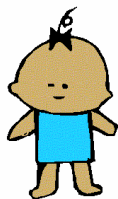
Even if you stuck to names from the Bible there are some very strange ones there! Out of this alphabet of names can you tell which ones aren't in the Bible? Answers at the bottom of the page.

- A is for ABEL
- B is for BALSHAZZAR
- C is for CLEMENT
- D is for DRUSILLA
- E is for EBED-MELECH
- F is for FELIX, G is for GAD,
- H is for HAM, I is for ITTAI
- J is for JERUBBAAL
- K is for KISH, L is for LEAH
- M is for MEPHIBOSHETH
- N is for NAPHTALI
- O is for OBED, P is for PEKAH
- Q is for QUIRINIUS
- R is for REZIN, S is for SISERA
- T is for THEOPHILUS
- U is for UZZAH, V is for VASHTI
- W is for WHET
- X is for XERXES
- Y is for YOKE
- Z is for ZIPPORAH



**1<sup>st</sup> 5 year old:** What's your name?

**2<sup>nd</sup> 5 year old:**  
Um, let me see.  
(Singing quietly...)  
Birthday to you,  
happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday dear Molly.  
Oh yes!  
It's Molly.



### News of the Family

**Ivy Winkett** died on 26th April, there will be more about her next month.

**Pat Hooper's husband (Mick)** died recently. Pray for Pat and all the family.

Pray for **Jean Gelaky** whose mother died recently.

**Tony Beaton** was 90 on 26th May. We pray that he had a very enjoyable day

**David and Vera Davies** need our prayers

**Diane & David McBride** are very grateful for all the cards, phone calls and offers of help over the last few months. They thank you for all the kindness you have shown.

We need to keep praying for **Claudine and Alan Mee** and **Jim and Grace Fasey** (Jim is not well).

**Sylvia Christian** and **John Gosney** are awaiting surgery.

We pray for the members of our congregation who cannot attend Sunday service. These include those mentioned above, **Les Brookes, Georgina Klee, Mary Pugh and Margaret Thomson**. There will be others you will know who have been omitted.

Remember those who are still coming to terms with the loss of loved ones.

May all these dear ones know the touch of God in their lives.

### God the three in one

This month we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The doctrine of the trinity is one of the most important of the Christian faith, for it goes to the very heart of what God is like. The Bible is quite clear: there is one God, but he is revealed in three 'persons' – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever wondered at what point in the Bible God is revealed as being more than one person? Well, you don't have to read very far: only to Genesis 1:26, where God (Elohim – a plural noun) says: Let US make man in OUR image. (Gen. 1:26)

The Bible reveals a pattern: God the Father lives in heaven and has never been seen. God the Son became the incarnate Jesus Christ, who made known to us the Father, and God the Holy Spirit, who is unseen, has been sent to live within and to equip his people, the Church.

The Trinity is basic to our salvation – for these three persons in the one Godhead have combined to save us from our sins: it is the WILL of the Father, the saving WORK of the Son, and the indwelling WITNESS of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16, 23-26).

**Forgiveness** from others is charity; from God, grace; from oneself, wisdom.

### Thursday Club

June 25th – There may be a visit to Cirencester. Pam Rayner will have more details

### Women's Own

June 3	Members' meeting All are invited to bring a favourite poem or piece of prose
June 17	Communion – Rev Mark Jennings

**At the last Church AGM** I was asked to let people know who the recipients of the monthly £100 donations from the church. The four donations this year have been to;

- 1) Open Doors
- 2) United Christian Voices
- 3) Lerwick Baptist Church
- 4) Smile Campaign (amongst the disadvantaged in Roumania, particularly split-up families).

*Andrew Sadler*

### Sorry about this...

An exasperated minister parked his car in a 'No parking' zone, with this message on the windscreen: "I have circled this car park 20 times. I have an appointment to keep – forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found this note: "I have circled this car park for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'm not doing the job I'm paid to do – 'lead us not into temptation'."

### Sleep or sneeze

People who sleep for less than seven hours a night are three times more likely to catch a cold than if they slept for eight hours or more. Sleep is closely linked to the strength of the immune system, which is why people feel tired when are ill or have an infection.

Prof Ron Eccles of the Common Cold Centre in Cardiff observes: "With our busy lives, particularly the young who like to stay out late at night, we are probably suffering more colds than we need to."

## Weekly Church Events

Sundays	
10.30am	Family service with Sunday School Communion 3rd Sundays
6.00pm (5.00pm in winter)	Evening Worship Communion 1st Sundays
Mondays	
1.30pm	Little Fishes playgroup
7.45pm	Prayer meeting at Church
Tuesdays	
7.30pm	House Group – Main Street , Pinvin
Wednesdays	
2.00pm	Women's Own – Lower Room
7.30pm	House Group – 46 Holloway Drive
7.45pm	Prayer and Bible Study 21Ganderton Court
Thursdays	
10.30am	Baby talk
7.45pm	Deacon's Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays

There is a **Monthly Communion service** on a Wednesday at 2.30pm

**Impact**- A generation Youth Event on 4th Sunday at 7.00pm

The **Thursday Club** meets in the Lower Room at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

**Church Badminton** is between 8-9pm on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in Pershore High School. Details from Anne Sadler.

The **Multiple Sclerosis Group** meet on Monday mornings in the Worship area.

The **St John's Ambulance** use the Upper and Lower Rooms on Tuesday evening.

**U3A Choir** uses the Upper Room on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm.

## The girl without a name

The early chapters of 2 Kings recount the death of the prophet Elijah and how he was succeeded by another prophet, Elisha. These were difficult times both in Israel and Judah. There was an uneasy peace between the two Hebrew kingdoms and both were threatened by hostile neighbours, especially Syria. A delightful story of a Hebrew slave girl is told in 2 Kings 5 and it is set in this context of war.

On Israel's northern border the Syrians had been strengthening their army and we are introduced to the Syrian commander, Naaman. He had a growing reputation as a successful soldier and even the Israelite historian describes him as 'a mighty man of valour' (2 Kings 5:1). But he was also a leper. That dreaded disease would have meant that Naaman had little personal contact with his family or the soldiers he commanded.

Then a young Israelite girl is introduced in the story. She had been captured by the Syrians on one of their raids in Israel and she was given to Naaman's wife as a servant. This girl, for whom no name is given, saw the pain and distress caused in the family by Naaman's leprosy and she proposed a remedy. Although she was now living in Syria, she had not forgotten her homeland or her religion. In particular she knew that in Israel there was a prophet called Elisha, a true man of God. She had

often heard of the miracles that Elisha performed, particularly the miracle of raising from death the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:18-36).

Finally the girl plucked up courage and said to Naaman's wife. 'If my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria he would soon be healed.' It was certainly a statement of faith! She was confident that Elisha, the true prophet of God, could do what all the medical skill available in Syria could not do.

Desperate, Naaman did go to Elisha for help. The prophet, through a messenger, directed him to dip in the River Jordan seven times. When he eventually did, he was instantly healed of his leprosy. His testimony was. 'Now I know there is no God in all the earth but in Israel' (5:1). He even requested that he should be given two sacks of Israelite earth to take back to Syria. He knew that when he returned home his duties included going with his king into the pagan temple of Rimmon. When he knelt in that pagan temple, in spirit he would be kneeling before the one true God, the God of Israel.

So Naaman was cured of his leprosy, and committed himself in his heart to Israel's God. It all came about because the Israelite girl had not forgotten her God and was enthusiastic to bear witness to her faith in the house of her owners. Let's encourage our children and young people in their Christian faith - even when they are in 'hostile' territory.

## Desperate plea from the bishops of Sri Lanka

As the vicious fighting in Sri Lanka continues, Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders in the country have united to appeal for an urgent ceasefire. Thousands of people are trapped in an area where there is fighting between the government and the LTTE, or Tamil Tigers. For several years now they have lived under severe deprivations, and in recent months been displaced several times over. Their situation is "absolutely desperate".

The bishops say: "We urge that all sides recognize the helplessness of these desperate Sri Lankans. We earnestly appeal to all concerned to take immediate steps to alleviate their suffering."

As the Church of Ceylon plans its long-term contribution to healing the wounds of a brutally divided country, CMS wants to be an active partner. CMS would be grateful for any donations which will go towards supporting the Sri Lankan church's response in the aftermath of the war.

## Ring

Young man just engaged: "How much is this diamond ring?"

Jeweller: "That is £1,000."

Young man: (whistles) "Well, how about this one over here?"

Jeweller: "That one is two whistles."

**Like a bee**, the flatterer has honey in his mouth and a sting in his tail.

*Anon*

## Worried that your life is changing beyond recall?

A wise farmer rotates his crops: no one thing should always be grown in the same place. Change and diversity are the key to long-term health. It is the same for us: for us to be at our most productive, we must not be surprised if God suddenly rests us from 'growing corn', and gives us something else to do. Often it is something we would never imagined!

Life is lived in seasons: in each of our lives, there is a time to do this, a time to do that. Too many of us lose our sense of self-worth and direction because we don't understand when we're leaving one season and entering another in life. We struggle and want to hang on to what we had. But sometimes God wants to give us something new, to make us productive at every stage of our life. God will never put you in a place too small to grow. You may be asked to grow in ways that seem uncomfortable at first, but he is out to develop you fully, in every aspect of your being – not just the ones at which you are already good!

## How can God be One and Three at the same time?

Perhaps the Father is like the sun in the sky – dazzling in majesty and glory, whose light, Jesus Christ, illumines all mankind; and whose invisible warmth, the Holy Spirit, brings us to life. Sun, light and warmth – eternally the same, but eternally different.

*Anon*

## Prayer: a beginner's guide

The good thing about prayer is that there's only one way to go wrong, and that's not to do it. The best way to do it is to just get on and do it. If prayer at its simplest level is listening to God and talking to him, you don't need long books to tell you how to do it, you just need a conviction that prayer is a good thing to do, that you're someone God wants to hear from and that he's worth talking to.

### Is prayer a good thing to do?

Never mind for the moment about whether prayer 'works' or not: Jesus prayed and he encouraged his disciples to pray too, so if we're following him, we need to be praying. Full stop.

**Are you someone God wants to hear from?** The message of the Bible is that however unworthy, sinful and useless we may feel as human beings, God can't wait to hear from us and is sitting on the edge of his seat like a lovestruck teenager, hand poised ready to pick up the phone the second it rings.

**Is he worth talking to?** He's the one person who knows us inside

out, the one person with infinite power at his fingertips, the one who has the true perspective on an entire world's story. Not a slot machine to pay into in the hope of one day getting 'an answer to prayer', but a person. Who likes us.

### How might you begin to pray?

What sort of a person are you? Do you like a good gossip? Then gossip to God. Are you the strong silent type? Then be silent in his presence.

Say hello...

say the Lord's Prayer ...

say 'Oh God' and mean it... deliberately be silent and still for one minute ...

read a story from a Gospel and imagine what you would say to Jesus if you were there...

tell him about what is worrying you or thrilling you ...

copy the great pray-ers of the Bible and of the Church...

write a letter to him ...

listen and look for a few moments in a place you consider holy...

You can't go wrong. Prayer is good. God longs to hear from you. He's worth it.

## Best for breakfast

Want your breakfast to make you feel full for longer? Eat porridge. Now scientists at King's College London have found that foods with a low glycaemic index (GI), such as oats, trigger the release of greater amounts of a hormone in the gut, which delays hunger pangs by creating the 'full' sensation.

**Gossip** is what no one claims to like but what everybody enjoys.

*Joseph Conrad*

**The reason** some people don't recognise opportunity is that it usually comes disguised as hard work.

**Enthusiasm** without intelligence is disaster.

## A ship of healing

Mercy Ships is a global Christian charity which serves the poor in the developing world. In almost 30 years of operation they have provided thousands of free surgeries and started many community development projects in the areas of health, education, water, agriculture and spiritual needs.

Now Mercy Ships have partnered with Trans World Radio, who will act as the media arm of Mercy Ships as they move along the West Coast of Africa. The ship, Africa Mercy, is currently docked in Cotonou, Benin, and will remain there for 10 months.

## Take the biscuit

At a children's party there were just enough biscuits for each child to have three. But young Charles snatched four. "You're supposed to get only three, Charles," said his hostess. "You ought to put the fourth one back."

"I can't!" protested Charles. "I ate that one first."

**Most people** can't save because their neighbours are always doing something they can't afford.

**The reason** some people don't recognise opportunity is that it usually comes disguised as hard work.

## Garden warning

This is good or bad news depending how much you like your garden: now doctors have warned that pruning, mowing and weeding can be just as dangerous as playing competitive sports.

Apparently too many of us rush at our gardens in a fit of mad enthusiasm... digging the whole allotment at one go, laying a lawn in a day, hauling the rocks for the rockery in a couple of hours. The results are a painful mix of gardener's back, weeder's wrist, pruner's neck, extensive damage to lower backs, and strains to ligaments and joints.

Instead, here's how to survive your garden this summer: do some gentle stretching to warm up muscles and joints; keep it to two hours a day until you are fit; kneel down when planting, with both knees on a cushioned pad; if digging, use a small spade, and move less at a time. When lifting anything heavier than a slug, bend your knees and keep your back straight. Finally, don't stick at any one thing for long – keep moving around. Repetitive movement can be dangerous!

On the bright side, medical studies also reveal that even half an hour of gardening a day can reduce blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and aid your mental health.

**O God the Holy Ghost** who  
art Light unto thine elect,  
Evermore enlighten us.  
Thou who are Fire of Love,  
Evermore enkindle us.  
Thou who art Lord and Giver of life,  
Evermore live in us.  
Thou who bestowest sevenfold  
grace,  
Evermore replenish us.

*Christina Rossetti 1830-94  
Be the Power of All Things Within us*

### **Cadbury Dairy goes Fairtrade**

The Fairtrade Foundation has announced that Cadbury Dairy Milk, the UK's top-selling chocolate bar, is to achieve Fairtrade certification. The move is expected to result in the tripling of sales of Fairtrade cocoa for farmers in Ghana.

### **Are you lonely?**

If so, no wonder: recent research by the BBC has found that Britain has become a much lonelier place than it was 30 years ago. Many more of us, it seems, are living isolated existences because many of the ties of family, work and community have been severed. Nowadays, far more of us live alone, and do not feel a part of our local communities. Indeed, we are often fearful of them. The 'social glue' that binds communities together is weakening, and we are paying the price.

### **Social Events**

June 7th – **Church Walk & Treasure Hunt** – Pershore

September 19th – **Barn Dance** – Peopleton Village Hall

October 17th – **Variety Evening** – Pershore Baptist Church

November 21st – **Quiz & Chips** – Pershore Baptist Church

For details of any of the above see Tracy Wheeler

**Badminton** June 26th at  
PERSHORE LEISURE CENTRE –  
check with Anne Sadler

**Single Christian lady**  
requires accommodation in  
Pershore or Worcester area.  
Please contact Emily Jones  
07854171540.

### **Cameo Group**

Planning Meeting to raise Funds for  
the St Richard's Hospice  
12th June at 1 Station Gardens,  
Eckington

Time 7.30 pm

All ladies are welcome.

### **Forth coming Event**

Saturday 11th July 2009

Strawberry Cream Tea

Venue - The Manse Garden

Funds raised will go to St Richard's  
Hospice

*Mary Taylor*

### **Prayer Calendar for June 2009**

- 1 Adrian & Ann White
- 2 Vi Wilcox
- 3 Tim & Emily Wood & family
- 4 Marc & Kate Young & family
- 5 Wesley & Muriel Adamson
- 6 Peter & Sheila Allies
- 7 Offer to God a sacrifice of praise** *Hebrews 13:15*
- 8 Mary Attwood
- 9 Betty Banbury
- 10 Tony Beaton
- 11 Stan & Joan Bell
- 12 Mary & Norman Bowley
- 13 Nick Bridges
- 14 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways** *Proverbs 14:8*
- 15 Les Brookes
- 16 Peter & Wendy Burfitt & family
- 17 Miriam Burton
- 18 David & Brenda Cameron-Mitchell
- 19 Eamonn & Kathy Canning & family
- 20 Ann Chaplin
- 21 If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to Me and I will give you rest** *Matthew 11:28*
- 22 Stephen & Cindy Chidlow & family
- 23 Sylvia Christian
- 24 Chessie Coakley
- 25 Brian & Frances Collingbourne
- 26 David & Vera Davies
- 27 Lorraine Dawes
- 28 Let the wise listen and add to their learning** *Proverbs 1:5*
- 29 David & Sandra Dixson
- 30 Hilda Everitt

### **Editorial**

1. Messenger material for the July edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 21st June**. Please observe this deadline.
2. If there are any serious errors/oversights, please tell me!
3. If you would prefer a larger print version of the Messenger, have a word with me.

**Thanks**

**Mike Taylor**