



# **Gorffwysfa Chapel New Road Skewen**

**Issue no 08 February 2009**

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## **Editorial**

*'...They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength...' Isaiah 40:31*

God usually doesn't tell us how He will answer our prayers, or even when. But He does promise those who wait on Him one thing-strength. The word 'wait' in this Scripture pictures a Hebrew word used in the making of rope. Every rope that starts out as a thread, and every strand added just increases its strength. So each time you wait on the LORD you add another thread to the rope; you get a little stronger, a little more able to cope. Do you feel like you're just hanging on by a thread today? Spend more time in God's presence and God's Word, and watch your thread turn into a rope. But waiting is not always passive, sometimes it's active, like waiting on a customer, seeing that his or her needs are met. In this case, waiting is not so much a position as it is a focus. The Bible says, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee...' (Isaiah 26:3). whether it's sitting prayerfully in His presence or actively carrying out His will, you have God's assurance that your strength will be renewed.

If you are at the end of your tether today, grab hold of these 3 promises: 1) 'Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord' (Psalm 27:14) 2) '...wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him' (Psalm 62:5) 3) '...as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters...so our eyes look to the LORD our God...' (Psalm 123:2) (The word for today-winter 08)

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## **Preachers of February**

Morning

01= Mrs. Mairiona Davies

08= United Service(Horeb)

15= Mr. Brian Watkins

22= TBA

Afternoon

01= Rev. M.John

08= DNA Beddows

15= Mr. Brian Watkins

22= Mrs. Jennifer Holwill



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## **Penblwydd Hapus...**

01= Mr. Gethin Richards

09= Mrs. Sian Anthony



May the LORD bless you and have a great day!

## Persecuted but not forsaken

Every month a different Country- Pray for the Persecuted Church!

### LAOS

Christians in this desperately poor communist state are shown two faces by the government. In some places, restrictions on believers are being relaxed. In other areas, local government closely monitors church activity. Christians are considered enemies of the state, churches have been closed, and church leaders placed under surveillance. In July 2007 there was a major crackdown against believers in one village. Houses were raided, dozens were arrested, and 13 Christians were killed.

### PRAYER

> Pray that the Church would remain focused on the Lord and not change its message to suit the state.

> Pray for the government as it tries to raise awareness of its constitutional pledge of religious freedom among local officials.

> Remember those who are in Jail. It is estimated that 21 Christians are being held without trial.

### KEY FACTS:

Leader: President Sayasone

Population: 5.9 million (2% Christian)

Majority Religion: Buddhism

Type of Government: Communist state.

(Open Doors-2008/9 edition)

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WHO\*WHAT\*WHEN\*WHERE\*WHY\*HOW\*WHO\*WHAT\*WHEN\*WHERE\*WHY\*HOW

## THE LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

WHO were the recipients of the Letter?

First-century Christians. Though mostly Gentile, the Corinthian Church no doubt represented a mix of peoples from across the Greco-Roman world.

WHERE did the recipients live?

Corinth, the most cosmopolitan city of Greece.

WHEN did the Apostle Paul write the Letter?

Paul wrote First Corinthians perhaps in early A.D.55. Following a report from Titus that reassured Paul but also alerted him to further opposition within the Corinthian Church, Paul wrote Second Corinthians (perhaps late in A.D.55)

WHY did Paul write the Letter?

The Corinthian Christians were plagued with a pervasive worldliness that Paul attributed to carnality. This carnality produced serious discord in the Church along with challenges to Paul's apostolic authority. Paul wrote the Letters to deal with these issues.

WHAT are the major themes of the Letters?

First, Paul defends his divine apostolic authority against the attacks of those who did not want to submit to it. Second, Paul instructs the Church regarding the underlying issues of carnality versus spiritual mindedness. Third, Paul addresses the array of practical problems created by the worldliness of the Corinthian Church.

HOW are we to apply the teachings of these Letters?

We live in a culture that is increasingly similar to the affluent, worldly, immoral culture of Paul's time. Are we being shaped by the world's values and attitudes rather than by the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? The instructions and warnings in those Letters can speak powerfully to us in our time and place if we have ears to hear.

(Decision Magazine)

## NEWS-PRAYER REQUESTS-NEWS-PRAYER REQUESTS-NEWS-PRAYER

Sunday Services: Mornin 10:30  
Sunday School- 14:15  
Afternoon- 16:00



Monday Evening: Prayer Meeting at  
19:30  
Come and let us pray together!

\* COFFEE AFTERNOON- Every Tuesday at 2:30! Come and share some fellowship with us!

\* FAMILY OF THE MONTH- Every month a family will be chosen for us to pray for them...this month is **Mrs. Mairiona Davies and her family.**



VALENTINE'S DAY= Doing nothing from 10am to 12 pm?  
Come to the Chapel and enjoy a cup of tea and some company

Spread the word! So many people feel lonely and that is just the opportunity for some company and a chat!

\* FEBRUARY 28th- Paul is looking for some ideas for the 28<sup>th</sup>, where we will have a night of singing...reciting poems...jokes...fun...all this done in the Presence of God! So, if you want to contribute...give him your ideas and let us have a lovely time together!

\* PRAY FOR THE SICK- We need to keep praying for one another... Pray for the names you know, that God will give them His strength and grace to bear these difficult times.

\*UNITED PRAYER MEETING- Calfaria Chapel- 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Let us pray for our families, chapels, community, leaders of the nations and for a pouring of the Holy Spirit in Wales.

**"A GLAD HEART MAKES A HAPPY FACE" Proverbs 15:13**

\* A renowned rabbi was travelling on a train. Three impudent youths decided to intimidate the Jew. They each made fun of the rabbi:

"Good morning, Father Abraham!" "Good morning, Father Isaac!" "Good morning, Father Jacob!" "I am none of these. I am, however, Saul, the son of Kish, who was in a three-day search for the lost donkeys, and I am glad I have finally found them!" (1 Samuel 9)

\* After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?"

"You will know tonight," he said.

That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it- to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".

## THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT(EXODUS 20:12)

### *How do we honour our Parents?*

As Christians, we are familiar with the fifth Commandment that is the only one with a motivational promise: “so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you”. The honouring of parents was so important that God would not allow His people to live in the Promised Land if they failed to do it.

PRIMARY FOR ADULTS- Parents often quote the fifth Commandment to their children and teenagers as an incentive to obedience, and certainly the Commandment has implications for minors. But the Commandment is primarily for adults, not children. Adults are the understood recipients of all Ten Commandments.

The social reality in any culture is that parents, as they age, become less and less “useful” to their children. Ageing parents gradually need more help because of physical weakening, illnesses, loss of physical functions, loss of income or loss of a spouse. The tendency of human beings is to devalue that which has little tangible use to them. Indeed the Bible is full of examples of children dishonouring their ageing parents, such as Ham's shameful treatment of his father, Noah; Jacob's deception of his blind father, Isaac; and the disrespect that Hophni and Phinehas showed their elderly father, Eli.

THE MEANING OF HONOUR- The Hebrew word used in this command is *kabbed*, which comes from a root word that means “heavy, weighty”. The verb could be translated as “treat as weighty or important”. That verb is used in the Old Testament in 5 ways:

1. *To honour a person by showing him respect, by treating him with dignity, by acting toward him as one would toward an important person.* Saul, for example, when he had been humiliated by Samuel's announcement that Saul was rejected by God, pled with Samuel to honour him publicly by accompanying him back to his capital.

2. *To honour a person by verbally expressing one's respect or esteem for that person.* In Isaiah we read that God said, “These people...honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me”.

3. *To honour a person by behaving in a way that shows respect for the other person's principles and values.* Israel, for example, was to honour God by observing the Sabbath.

4. *To honour a person by giving to him financially.* The writer of Proverbs exhorted, “Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops”.

5. *To honour a person by elevating him to a position of respect and esteem.* The writer of Proverbs declared, “Esteem (wisdom), and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you.”

APPLICABILITY TO CHRISTIANS- The fifth Commandment reveals insight about God's heart and mind that should profoundly affect our behaviour as Christians. It reveals how God cares about the plight of ageing parents. It shows that God considers ageing parents worthy of honour-mothers as well as fathers. How should we respond to this Commandment in our own lives? As already suggested, we can begin by showing respect to our parents, treating them as important and supporting them financially or otherwise as needed.

We should treat our parents as we would like to be treated someday by our own children.

Because each person's circumstances is different, we should not make generalities, such as, “No one should put his or her parents into a nursing home”. God is the best guide for how we should honour our own parents.

What about cases where a parent is an alcoholic, or is emotionally absent, or is extremely difficult or even wicked- a physical or sexual abuser? How can God expect His children to honour such parents?

In cases like these, one should seek God's own mind and the advice of wise friends or a counsellor. Perhaps honouring might mean confronting the parent and holding him or her accountable for past destructive behaviour. Perhaps honouring such a parent is possible only from a safe distance, through letters or cards. Perhaps all that is possible, or advisable, is to pray faithfully for the parent. Here again, God is the best guide for how to apply the fifth Commandment in such difficult circumstances.

And what about those whose parents are no longer living? Because the fifth Commandment assumes that elderly people are highly valued by God, the Commandment has implications for our treatment of all elderly people, not just our own parents (and even if we haven't!), we should respond to this Commandment by showing honour and love to an elderly person-the elderly woman down the street, or an ageing uncle. Whatever our circumstances, one thing is certain. When we sincerely seek to fulfil the Commandment to honour our parents, we also honour and delight our heavenly Father by our obedience.

By David A. Dorsey