



# Our Messenger

No 108 May 2012



Sheffield Park in spring

**“The joy of the Lord is your strength”**

**Nehemiah 8:10**

## What's gone wrong?

No doubt this is a question we are all asking one way or another. It is a question that deserves and demands an answer as we look out on our western world and society that seems bent on self-destruction. What is the role of the church and individual Christian in our present confused and morally bankrupt society? This is a question that Pastors have a duty before God to address in their congregations. Let me try to bring some biblical principles to bear on it from two angles. First 'What is the real issue?' and second 'How should the church react to the situation?'

## What are the real underlying issues?

Historically in the west there has been a very close relationship between the church and politics. At the Reformation a separation between church and state began to take place. For many that separation did not go far enough and therefore the events of the Great Ejection took place on that momentous 24th August 1662 when over 2,000 ministers were ejected from their livings for not toeing the line demanded by the state. As time went on their stand became forgotten and the state church with its close ties with politics continued to be an increasingly dominant institution. That link has been perpetuated even among many non-conformists who have not maintained a clear divide between the church and state. When we move on to the Great Awakening of the 18th century we find the tension continuing with George Whitefield and others taking a clear and costly stand by putting the Gospel before state church. The issue still continues. Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones (ML-J) saw it, especially in the 1960's and made it very clear that the function of the church is not political but spiritual. Even non-conformists seem to have lost sight of that in the 21st century. It is well said that 'those who ignore the lessons of history are destined to make the same mistakes'.

By doing so the church has lost its impact and its light has grown dim in society. No longer is the church a *'city set on a hill [that] cannot be hidden'* but a lamp under a basket (Matthew 5:13-16). Furthermore many ministers of the Gospel have become *'entangled with the affairs of this life'* (2Timothy 4:2) with disastrous consequences. It has meant that we increasingly try to use political methods to do spiritual work. Basically the two do not mix.

Do not misunderstand me, the state and church are both essential for the good of society, but as soon as they become bed-fellows problems arise. This is what the reformers saw as they endured persecution and death for the cause of the Gospel. What puzzles me is why we, whose very existence as non-conformists is because we believe that there should be a separation between church and state, should become so enmeshed in state affairs. It is almost inevitable that the state, which always has majority, should have a greater influence on the church than the other way round.

Basically I believe that the church has lost her holy distinctiveness and is dabbling in things where she has no business. As the Dr said, 'the great contemporary problem is not in society as such but in the church'.

## How should the church react to the situation?

We need to draw a distinction between what is appropriate for the church as a body of believers, the individual Christian and the preacher of the Gospel. My concern for now has to do with the Church of Christ as a body.

First of all we must beware of falling into the trap of preaching a social Gospel whereby a gospel is presented whose main function lies in changing society. The church then just becomes just another pressure group on government. To quote ML-J, 'the church's great business is not to be lobbying, signing petitions, etc, but to be awakening the dead'. Her main business is spiritual not political or social. Of course we gratefully acknowledge that history is full of great Christian philanthropists having a dramatic impact on society but notice that the church's work, when she has been healthy, has always been focussed on the salvation of souls. Historically and biblically social improvement has always been the work of individuals, in many of whose hearts the Holy Spirit has been graciously working. It has not been something organised by the church.

Second, we are all aware of so called para-church organisations, many of which have done, and are doing, a great work. The danger arises when they become the only public face of the church in society. Many excellent ministries have failed by becoming their supporters 'church' or by losing a biblical and balanced approach to their work. The reforms and work they have done has usurped the place of the Gospel in moulding their supporters' outlook. Also in many such organisations the Gospel is compromised for the sake of the good cause. So much for the negative for we must be positive. What should we positively do?

Pastors and preachers must rededicate themselves to their calling. They are to bring the Gospel of grace to the lost that they might be saved, and equip the church, that is Christians, to be effective salt and light in the sphere in which they live and move. What is needed is a greater degree of spirituality and holiness of life in the church. We need to pray and labour for two things which will be costly and unpopular—but when has the church ever been popular? Read your Bible and you will find that God's order and pattern has been reformation and revival within followed by awakening without. Social reform and improvement has followed. We are in danger of reverting to good works coming before salvation. Scripturally it is always the other way round. The need of the hour is a holy and vibrant church that does not engage in politics but in the preaching of the Gospel. Only changed hearts and lives will result in a changed society.

With prayerful concern for the progress of the Gospel,  
Pastor

# Take off your crown!

A brief extract from the highly recommended book *'Hit by friendly fire'*—see recommendation on page 12.

We need the courage from God to say with Jonathan Edwards, 'Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God...it has often been my delight.'

During a conference I attended recently, I listened to a well known pastor of a large American Presbyterian congregation. The minister, addressing other pastors, spoke with great transparency about his struggles with applying God's sovereignty to his own life. He said that there was a time when his wife grew tired of his supposed sense of control and put a sticky note on the bathroom mirror that read, 'When will you stop trying to be the general manager of the world?'

Ouch! Any 'general managers of the world' out there? As one recovering controller to another, you know there is only one. And that is good news. Because the crucial step in coming to terms with any pain that has come against us, including being hurt by someone close to us, is to say, 'God. You are in control. What do You want me to learn?' This releases people to let God deal with them. It focuses your pain, not on someone who hurt you, but on God who has led you to your own Calvary. Or, as Malcolm Muggeridge once put it, 'Every

happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message.'

Years ago I heard Dr D James Kennedy preach on the doctrine of God's sovereignty. I was a young man at the time, who had been hurt by a childhood as an orphan, through abuse and through a host of other things—many of them including believers who hurt me. When Dr Kennedy preached of a God who 'turned

*'God. You are in control. What do You want me to learn?'*

it to gold', it changed my life. The doctrine of God's sovereignty became the balm that led me to praise Jesus as the Lord of my life. His sovereign reign over all things, even the hurtful things,

brought me closer to Him. I have learned that without the pain I would not have gone to Him in prayer. Without the prayer would have been no healing. Without the healing there would be no abundance of eternal life.

Thus, in a strange, upside down, Gospel way, I can 'bless' the circumstances of life, even the evil actions of others who sought to hurt me, as being the resources of this loving, sovereign God who used all things to bring me to Him! It can be so in your life.

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*Jehovah Ropheka—I am the Lord who heals you Exodus 15:26*

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# Mission



*It...comes down to spiritual economics*

*A challenge from our friends Jason and Andie Murfitt in Brazil*

In the sixties there was a phrase bouncing around some Christian circles posed as a question, “Why let the devil have all the good tunes?” It was referring to the tension between modern music and traditional worship. In our circles, with a similar vein of thought, we hear people saying, “Why does the devil seem to have all the money?” This honest question comes from viewing many a wayward church who gather in glittering palaces with state

of the art equipment, white-suited pastors with gold sown into the hem, private jets and million dollar smiles... whilst legitimate Christian ventures to reach out to the lost, build up the faithful and support those unable to support themselves almost always seem to be compromised by lack of funds. What’s going on? It really comes down to spiritual economics. Satan wants his disciples to invest their money into a project then to trust in that investment while God wants His disciples to invest themselves as “living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God” and trust in Him. This is our spiritual [reasonable] act of worship (Romans 12:1; 2Corinthians 8:5). Our attitude changes towards God and His people once we have bled, sweat and cried over them. Recently in the heat of the day as I was painting the new path leading to the rustic building where our little river fellowship meet, I saw through the window men, women and children



working together to fix new panes of glass in the windows. Without funds to pay someone to do the work, the fellowship set themselves to serve together regardless of the lack of experience to do a professional job, purely for the love of God. Each time we think we have arrived at a spiritual stalemate and wonder if there is anywhere to go from here we get little shimmers of light and hope to keep us keeping on.

As a fellowship our pulse is weak, some are still resisting the need for the centrality of God’s Word in our lives, just one of the bitter fruits from a fragmented leadership. Now we have just found out that our fellowship are to be disowned by the mother church in Manacapuru, they have had almost nothing to do with us since the church was planted 11 years, but now it’s official. I once heard these condemning words spoken to the 60’s youth in a film made in that era: “The tragedy of your time is that you may just get exactly what you want.” Now as much as ever we must cry out daily to the Lord for His merciful hand to patiently form us into the likeness of His Son, as we confess that it is beyond our ability to transform ourselves. Pray that we may spend and be spent as we invest ourselves in the Church of Jesus Christ, trusting wholeheartedly that He will visit our creek with an outpouring of His renewing grace.

*...brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run  
swiftly and be glorified... 2Thessalonians 3:1*

***Important information regarding GBM Hot News***

We regularly receive the audio news each month from the Mission and would like to increase its circulation in the church. I put it on to CD for that purpose and if you would like to be added to the circulation list then please let us know. A couple of folk have been having it forwarded by me by email. However for security reasons this will now stop. However you will be able to listen to an edited version on the Mission's website each month. Just go to [www.gbm.org.uk](http://www.gbm.org.uk) and follow the appropriate link. The news is generally uploaded shortly after Council meetings on the second Monday of each month.

***Important Note***

We regularly receive newsletters from our missionary friends in different situations and parts of the world. They are freely available for you all in the mission rack in the small room at the rear of the church where we hold our prayer meetings and after church fellowship. One or two receive them direct by email from either myself or Martin but we are concerned that perhaps a number of folk may not be aware that they are there for you. Do please take them and use them to inform your prayers and so that you can be encouraged by the good news that we receive in this way. If you would like them to be forwarded by email then please let either Pastor or Martin know and we can arrange it for you.

We hear regularly from the following missionaries amongst others:

*David and Liz Anderson & family, Kenya*

*Sukesh Pabari, Kenya*

*Graham and Sally Jones, Kisumu, Kenya*

*Andrew and Danielle Gullett & family—Kenya*

*Matt Gamston, the Philippines*

*Aries Liboro, the Philippines*

*Jason and Andrea Murfitt & Lucy, Brazil*

*Fiona Steward, France*

There are also magazines and prayer lists from the following for you to read and return:



**Grace Baptist Mission—Herald  
together with a monthly Prayer Diary**



**European Missionary  
Fellowship—Vision for Europe**



**Mission Aviation Fellowship—  
Flying For Life**

# Simeon, who looked, longed, was loyal to and a lighthouse for Christ

Luke 2:21-40

## **SIMEON LOVED THE LORD AND DESIRED TO SERVE GOD.**

Simeon was a lowly and humble man, just and devout. He was God-fearing and sought to live his life according to the teaching of Holy Scriptures. He knew God's word which was a lamp to his feet and a light to his path. We need to turn to the Word that it might shine on each step that we take. Our steps are ordered by the Lord as He shines on our pathway and helps us day by day. He is light; He doesn't tell us all the steps but shines upon our life. Simeon proved this and lived accordingly. He came to the temple often, was diligent in prayer and worshipped God. He was humble, upright and honest before God. Can this be said of us?

## **SIMEON WAS LOOKING FOR THE MESSIAH- THE LORD JESUS CHRIST v29.**

God had told him that he would not die until he had seen the promised One. When the Lord gives a promise in the Word we look for its fulfilment. Simeon didn't know how or when this would be but wondered and looked. This speaks to us as we should look for Christ in 3 ways.

- i] Have you looked to Christ as your Saviour? Is your faith and trust centred in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary?
- ii] Do we look for Him in His work of saving precious souls. There is joy in heaven as He does so, so we should rejoice. God has a great concern for these things and we should look for this John 10:16. He has those 'other' sheep and they shall hear His voice. Look for evidences of Him calling them into the fold.
- iii] We should all be looking for His second coming. Paul writes to Timothy '*Henceforth there is a crown of righteousness laid up for me...to all that love His appearing*' for '*He will come without sin, for salvation*' (2Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 9:28).

Like Simeon we should look for Him in these ways.

## **SIMEON WAS LONGING FOR THE SAVIOUR v25**

Simeon knew that the Messiah would be the consolation of Israel and would come for all who would believe on Him. He had a wider vision than just Israel (v32). This Saviour would be a '*light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel*'. Simeon had a good knowledge of prophecy and was longing for Him to come. Have we that same longing in our heart? – that spirit of expectancy and longing for Christ to work and His power to be seen in the salvation of souls as was seen in the Outer Hebrides in the late 1940's. '*Even so come, Lord Jesus.*'

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**... are you looking for the Saviour?**

## **SIMEON WAS LOYAL TO GOD, JUST AND DEVOUT IN HIS ATTENDANCE ON THE TEMPLE.**

He came with a spirit of anticipation and may well have been looking for a long time and may have been disillusioned or mistaken? We may have similar thoughts but there are so many things to encourage us to pray. God can save souls in their last years so never give up praying. Simeon had a settled faith – God had said it, he believed it and expected it and so came again and again to look for the Saviour. May God give us that same spirit of faith as nothing is too hard for Him.

- i] Simeon was led by the Spirit into the temple at the right time (v27). There were Joseph and Mary with baby Jesus about 6 weeks old in her arms. He may have expected to see a grown man but when he saw Jesus he didn't doubt that He was the Lord's Christ. He believed and took the babe in his arms and what joy and faith was in his heart. Do we feel a thrill here and are we filled with thanksgiving that God so loved the world that He sent His Son? Simeon saw God's salvation and believed God's word, promise and plan. Can we say the same? God will save a great number and it will go on until Jesus comes again in great glory.
- ii] Simeon had amazing light on the purposes of God (v30ff). He was ready to die when he had seen Jesus, in full assurance of faith of what God would do in saving His people. What amazing things he went on to say (v34) before speaking of Mary's sadness (v35). What wondrous joy was filling his heart as he saw God's salvation.

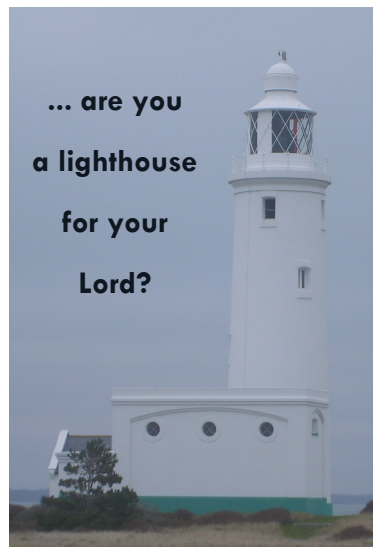
How important is this personal knowledge and need of Him! Only as we trust in Jesus can we be ready to die.

## **SIMEON WAS A BEACON OR LIGHTHOUSE SHINING FORTH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE.**

As Gentiles we should be thankful that the Gospel shone forth to the ends of the earth. Has the light shone into your heart? Do you look and long for the Saviour? Is all your hope and trust in Him? Are you ready when He comes for you? *'These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name'* (John 20:31).

May we be more like Simeon who was led by the Spirit of God, taught by the Word of God, obedient to the will of God and seeing the salvation of God.

*[Notes of sermon on Simeon by Mr Leslie Jarvis taken by Rachel Sayers on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at Hailsham Baptist Church]*



# What is the Word of God?

*A question answered from 'A Scriptural Exposition of the Baptist Catechism by way of question and answer'*

*The following was written in 1752 by Benjamin Beddome, pastor of the Baptist Church in Bourton on the Water for over 50 years and the well known hymnwriter. It is as relevant to day as when it was written.*

The Holy Scriptures of the old and new Testament are the word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience...

- Is the word of God a rule?  
Yes. *It is a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path Psalm 119:105.*
- Do we need such a rule?  
Yes. *For we all like sheep have gone astray, Isaiah 58:6.*
- Is the word of God a sufficient rule?  
Yes. *The law of the Lord is perfect, Psalm 109:7.*
- Is it a plain rule?  
Yes. *The words of his mouth are all plain to him that understandeth, Proverbs 8:8.*
- Is it an extensive rule?  
Yes. *The commandment is exceeding broad, Psalm 109:96.*
- Is it an abiding rule?  
Yes. *The word of the Lord endureth for ever, 1 Peter 1:2-3.*
- And is it the only rule?  
Yes. *For if any man shall add to these things, God will add to him the plagues written in this book, Revelation 22:18.*
- Are not unwritten traditions a rule?  
No. *Ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your traditions, Matthew 15:6.*
- Is the authority of the church a rule?  
No. *For our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, 1 Corinthians 2:5.*
- Are the sentiments of great men a rule?  
No. *The prophet and the priest have erred, Isaiah 28:7.*
- Is the light of nature a sufficient rule?  
No. *For it is said of those that were guided by it, The way of peace they have not known, Romans 3:17.*
- Is the light within a certain rule?  
No. *The way of man is not in himself Jeremiah 10:23.*
- Are not the examples of many a rule?  
No. *Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil, Exodus 23:2.*
- Are not the examples of the good a sufficient rule?  
No. *We must be followers of them only as they are of Christ, 1 Corinthians 11:1.*
- May not what angels say be depended upon as a certain rule?  
No. *Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you, let him be accursed, Galatians 1:8.*
- Or a voice from heaven?  
No. *For we have a more sure word of prophecy, 2 Peter 1:19.*

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*



## THE FORGOTTEN SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF SCOTLAND

At the February Grace Baptist Partnership training day in London those of us who attended had the privilege of being taught by Ali McLachlan the General Secretary of the newly formed Grace Baptist Partnership Scotland.

One of the things that struck, and indeed moved, me the most, was when he opened up about the real spiritual needs of Scotland, particularly as they pertain to the Reformed Baptist churches and he did this by citing the following statistics: -

- There are just 12 independent Reformed Baptist churches in the whole of Scotland (population of 5.2 million)
- There are no wholly indigenous Scottish men between the ages of 15 and 35 in these churches
- There are no men in the Reformed Baptist churches in Scotland training for the ministry
- If nothing changes by 2020, 8 out of 12 churches were not confident of continuing pastoral care
- If nothing changes by 2020, 7 of the 12 believe they will not exist

This is the backdrop against which Grace Baptist Partnership Scotland was established and launched on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012. There are 3 main areas of ministry.

- **Growing Leaders** – Training classes for those men interested in church planting work. One-day evangelism projects in areas where new churches are being planted...

- **Planting Churches** – Bringing together representatives of the various Grace Baptist churches for concerted prayer and joint endeavour in the area of church planting...
- **Reaching Nations** – Helping churches plant churches, clarifies that GBP itself will not plant churches. Rather, it will use its experience to help churches plant churches in their respective areas and beyond...

These statistics surely provide much food for thought and should move us to pray for the spiritual needs of Scotland. Ali McLachlan confirmed that things are not much better, and indeed may be worse, amongst the Scottish Presbyterians and the Church of Scotland Continuing or otherwise!

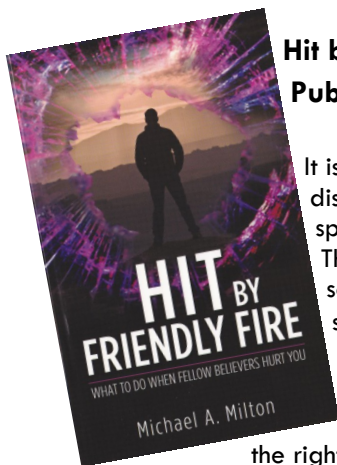
With these statistics to drive us to prayer we can also pray for the work of the Grace Baptist Partnership Scotland, that...

- ...the Lord may establish them and greatly use them to turn the tide
- ...that through them and their help, men particularly Scottish men may be raised up to preach the Gospel
- ...that new churches might be established where God's Word is faithfully taught and Christ is proclaimed.

For further information on Grace Baptist Partnership Scotland please visit their website – [www.gbpscotland](http://www.gbpscotland).

*Martin Cook* (published with the knowledge of GBP Scotland)

# Book Recommendation



**Hit by Friendly Fire by Michael A Milton**  
**Published by Evangelical Press [91 pp]**

It is a sad fact that even Christians at times disagree and that painful and unwise words are spoken accompanied by wrong behaviour. Things which inevitably leave a scar which can sometimes take years to heal and sadly sometimes never does.

Without doubt we can all identify in some way with this and struggle at times to show the right spirit and attitude to those who have sorely grieved and hurt us to our own detriment.

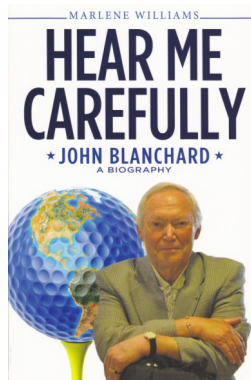
Michael Milton is an experienced pastor and teacher from the USA and has written this little book out of his own life experiences both personally and pastorally. It is highly recommended and has been a great blessing already to many as it deals with the nitty gritty issues that affect us all. If they have not yet done so they will at some stage and this book will both forearm you and help in the healing process.

This is a book to keep by you and read regularly to help yourself and to help you help others. You can only benefit by reading it! **Hit by Friendly Fire** is available on the bookshelf at the back of the church and highly recommended. If you would like a copy for yourself please let pastor know and he will obtain one for you.

*Pastor*

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I have recently reviewed this short biography (it's only just over 140 pages long) for Grace Magazine and want to encourage you all to read it. John Blanchard is the well known evangelist noted not only for his faithful evangelistic ministry but the many books he has written including **Ultimate Questions** and **Does God believe in Atheists?** Literally pocket sized this book is eminently suitable for holiday reading and will encourage and challenge you as you read about the boy from Guernsey who had to leave home at 8 years old during the Nazi occupation of his island and grew up to be the great preacher and writer we know today. Written to commemorate his 80th birthday this year do borrow it from the church bookshelf and read it.



*Pastor*

# The Holy Spirit

**'He will guide you'**

**'He shall glorify Me'**

We hear much in some quarters of the guidance of the Holy Spirit yet I wonder whether those who so glibly use the phrase are really guided by Him. How can we distinguish between the guidance of the Spirit of God and the guidance of a false Spirit? Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will always guide us in certain ways. Any spirit that guides us differently is not guiding us aright and is not the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit always guides us into 'all truth' (John 16:13). I infer from that phrase that He will primarily guide us into the Holy Scriptures. Jesus is clear that He sees God's Word as truth (John 17:17). This important verse shows us that the prime means of our sanctification is the Scripture of truth. A God honouring and glorifying life is a sanctified life. Since it is the Holy Spirit's work to sanctify us clearly He will do so by the Word. Any Spirit therefore that guides without the Scripture is not the Spirit of God. Furthermore the Holy Spirit always and only speaks what He hears (John 16:13). As the third person in the Holy Trinity he will speak what the Father and Son will have Him say. Those words are communicated to us in the Bible.

We need no extra biblical revelation but simply the right application of the Word of God to every area of our life. It is the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to see that application.

May we find our guidance by bringing every decision to the touchstone of Scripture, seeking the aid of the Holy Spirit to help us in our application of it.

*Pastor*

Sometimes we see historic buildings or great cathedrals beautifully illuminated at night by the use of floodlights. For the



purposes of salvation the relationship of the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ is similar to that of floodlights. Jesus said of the Spirit, 'He will glorify Me.' Just as the bright beams of the floodlights cut through the surrounding darkness to reveal the glories of the beautiful building, so the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to us the glories of Christ. If the floodlights could speak they would say, 'Don't look at us, look at the building!'

There is a dangerous tendency today among some Christians to be so preoccupied with the manifestations and gifts of the Holy Spirit that they lose sight of the centrality that should always be given to Christ both by the Holy Spirit and by the Scriptures themselves. The church at Corinth had fallen into this modern error, so when Paul visited them in order to regulate their life he had to say, 'I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified' (1 Corinthians 2:2). The Holy Spirit is given us to glorify Christ, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence' (Colossians 1:18).

*Roger Weil, 'Foundations of the Christian Faith'*

# The New Look

*God is Light, God is Love, Christ came down from above;  
To a world of lost sinners He came.  
By His grace I now see that His love was for me;  
By His death I have life through His name.  
Oh! What can I do, as one now born anew,  
That will show that I love Him indeed?  
His will I would know, then obedience will show  
That I love Him who met all my need.*

*Ever true to His name He is ever the same,  
But in me can men see ought of Him?  
Do they see in my walk, do they note by my talk,  
That His joy fills my heart to the brim?  
Am I walking in love with his strength from above?  
For 'tis living the life that will tell.  
If with unveiled face I'm reflecting His grace,  
They will long to know Jesus as well.*

*I must walk in the light, doing that which is right,  
Ever seeking His will to obey.  
Then my heart will rejoice at the sound of His voice  
As to me He doth speak by the way.  
Oh! What can I give unto Him while I live,  
Unto Him who is made Lord of all?  
If for Him set apart, He must have all my heart,  
Then for service I'll wait for His call.*

*Verses by the late John S Foley.*

# The Sunday School Page

***“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit” says the Lord of Hosts.  
Zechariah 4 v 6***

At a recent Boy’s Club I spoke on Jesus’ Parable of the Sower or the Soils. You will recall that Jesus describes the seed, which is the Word of God, the Gospel, falling on four different types of ground which describes how people receive this Word. As I spoke to the four boys I felt from a human point of view that the Gospel I was seeking to impart was falling on stony ground and was being immediately snatched away by the birds of the air, the Devil himself.

This often seems to be the case as well with the Sunday School children but we would not want the superficial commitments to Christ described by the seed falling in stony places or among thorns either. We desire rather that the seed fall on good ground, that Christ is believed upon and that fruit be borne.

However as we sow the seed each Sunday and on Fridays once a month at the Boy’s Club we are reminded not to be despondent at the apparent reactions and responses but rather to be reminded that we are to be faithful and bold and clear because the work itself is the Spirit’s. We certainly do not feel mighty or powerful but rather weak and powerless but whichever it might be it is the Spirit’s work to bring conviction, repentance and salvation. If we are mighty or powerful then this verse should humble us, if we are weak and powerless then this verse should encourage and strengthen us.

Join us in continuing to pray that the seed will fall on good ground prepared by the Holy Spirit and that real salvation might follow.

*Martin and the Sunday School Team*

## **Upcoming Events**

- Sunday School outing (Rachel’s Class only) 12<sup>th</sup> May
- Sunday School outing (Martin & Catherine’s class) 16<sup>th</sup> June
- Prizegiving Service 8<sup>th</sup> July
- BBQ 14<sup>th</sup> July
- Sunday School breaks up for the Summer 15<sup>th</sup> July

## **Please pray for**

- Safe delivery of Catherine’s baby and for help and strength to continue the work in her absence
- The Holy Spirit to work as the Gospel Seed is sown
- The Devil to be kept at bay so as not to snatch away the Word proclaimed