

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
	Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month	
	*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.	
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15AM
	Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)	7.30PM
	venue as announced	
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45PM
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00PM
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45PM
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly)	2.00PM
	Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30PM
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00PM
	Friday Youth Night (Ages 11-16)	7.30PM
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45PM

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH
 HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL
 Registered Charity No. 511933
 website: <http://www.TinshillFreeChurch.org.uk/>

Pastor:
 Mr Glyn Williams, 87 Tinshill Road, Leeds LS16 7DN
glynwtr@aol.com

Elder:
 Mr Martin Sellens, 68 Moseley Wood Walk, Leeds LS16 7HG
martin.sellens@o2.co.uk

Deacons:
 Mr Graham Leng, 383 Otley Old Road, Leeds LS16 6BX (267 2395)
 Mr Nigel Hibbard, 26 Woodlands Avenue, Harrogate HG2 7SJ (01423 888246)

Tel. No.
 (267 2680)

THE MAGAZINE

Nº 284



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

JUNE/JULY 2011

Pastoral Letter – June/July 2011

Lord, Thy Word Abideth

When we go to the Lake District for a holiday, as we have done for several years now, we can expect to be in the middle of nature close-up and see some surprising things. For example, last year, our place of stay was directly under the “flight path” of an osprey flying to Buttermere lake and back from Bassenthwaite to catch fish for his new fledglings, and therefore we got a good view of this magnificent bird. This year we went a little earlier in the year and, against the wind and rain that has occurred in May, amazingly an osprey was successfully hatched on the day we returned to Leeds! This chick has a brother who is currently in Gambia, West Africa. How great is God’s design of nature, and the instincts for travel and survival He has given these birds.

We can add other delightful creatures which we came across; the sound of a cuckoo, which is now an endangered species in Britain – rather surprising as they don’t bother to build their own nest but commandeer other birds’ nests, pushing out the resident’s eggs, and even the chicks. The sound of an owl nearby was so distinctive; and we saw red squirrels in the Whinlatter Forest Park, after years of hoping!

What we did not expect to see was something entirely different – a touch of history about God’s book, the Bible. The 400th anniversary of the Authorised Version, initiated by King James I and completed in 1611, has been well written about this year, but we had the opportunity of going one step back to the “Bishop’s Bible” of 1568. On a visit to Hawkshead, I had an opportunity to visit the Tudor Grammar School founded by Edwin Sandys in 1585. The wooden desks and seats are original, and the scratched signature of “W Wordsworth” can be plainly seen on his desk, dating from 1778, protected now by a glass covering. In reading the history of the school and its founder, in the museum upstairs, I came across the fact that Edwin Sandys was a translator of the Bishop’s Bible. He first had to escape to Antwerp during the persecution of the protestants by Queen Mary, but returned after her death to be Bishop of Worcester, then Bishop of London, then Archbishop of York (1577-1588). He had his own first edition of the

ROTAS

Week ending		Cleaning		
June	4	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
	11	Ruth Holder	Beccy/Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
	18	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	25	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
July	2	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Natalie Walker
	9	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	16	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
	23	Ruth Holder	Beccy/Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis
August	30	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	6	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain

For Sunday		Flowers		
June	5	Rosemary Hilton	12	Lai San Hamilton
	19	Mavis Mathers	26	Margaret Williams
July	3	Anne Sellens	10	Carol Getzels
	17	Jenny Leng	24	Ruth Holder
	31	Angela Mathers	Aug 7	Colette Hickman

		Library	
		Morning	Evening
June	5	Rosemary Hilton	Mavis Mathers
	12	Christine Crossley	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
	19	Angela Mathers	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	26	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Rosemary Hilton
July	3	Paul Crossley	Christine Crossley
	10	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers
	17	Christine Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	24	Paul Crossley	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
August	31	Rosemary Hilton	Christine Crossley
	7	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
June	5	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	12	Mick Lockwood	Mick Lockwood
	19	Nigel Westhead	Douglas Young
	26	Robert Jeffrey	Robert Jeffrey
July	3	Glyn Williams	Martin Sellens
	10	Bill Dyer	Bill Dyer
	17	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	24	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
	31	Glyn Williams	Alan Brearley
Aug	7	Malcolm Peters	Malcolm Peters

We welcome Robert Jeffrey for the first time on 26th June. Robert is currently undertaking a two year course at London Theological Seminary which ends in July 2012. He is a deacon at his home church, Thornton Heath Evangelical Church in Surrey.

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our Elders as they minister outside the fellowship in the coming months as follows:

Glyn Williams

Mon	June	27	7.15pm	Leeds City Mission Committee
Sun	July	10	am/pm	Roundhay Evangelical Church
Tue	July	12	12.30pm	City Evangelical "Food for Thought"
Sun	Aug	7	am	Swinton Evangelical Church, Rotherham

Martin Sellens

Wed	July	20	7.30pm	Bethel, Armley Mid week meeting
Wed	July	27	7.30pm	Bethel, Armley Mid week meeting

Bishop's Bible (1568) and this was on display in a case which could not be opened, but the front, thick, cover could be seen as ornate. The curator could see that I had a real interest in the Bible which I was longing to handle and look through, and he suddenly appeared with another first edition Bishop's Bible. How fascinating that was! There were many inky margin notes of a personal nature which dated back hundreds of years.

But what I did notice whilst reading briefly was the similarity between the 1568 translation and the Authorised Version only 43 years later! The Word of God does not change! We know that James I initiated the new translation as a unifying attempt between the Church of England bishops and the Puritans, who favoured the Geneva Bible. Yet honest translators in writing the AV came up with not only a beautiful piece of literature, still the bestseller in the world, but also with the **truth** which no version can hide. Of course, I had no opportunity to make a proper comparison between the Bishop's Bible and the Authorised Version, but praise God for His unchanging word.

When you think that there was a day when any translation into English was counted as illegal, and worthy of death, we have come a long way with all the modern translations to hand, and the increasing number of translations into other languages throughout the world. All so that all people might read and obey the Word of God, and trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgements". Psalm 119: 7

With love in Christ

Glyn Williams

Thought for the Months

Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can,
for all the people you can, while you can.

Ladies Day — Bethel, Ripon

Lessons from the life of Helen Roseveare

Saturday 21st May 2011 had been written on the calendar for many months because Bethel Evangelical Church in Ripon had sent an open invitation to all Ladies for a special meeting for a time of fellowship, a talk by Jean Brumby (Whitby) and a meal. After a warm welcome, we watched a challenging DVD about Helen Roseveare's work in Congo (now Zaire) and then Jean Brumby directed our thoughts to consider lessons that we can learn from her life and work. We were told many stories of incidents that happened during her life as a missionary and here is one of them – The Hot Water Bottle.

One night, Helen had worked hard to help a mother in the labour ward; but sadly she died leaving a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old little girl. It was difficult keeping the baby alive. There was no incubator, no electricity to even run an incubator and no special feeding facilities. Even though she lived on the Equator, there were draughts and it got cold during the night.

A student-midwife went for the box that was available for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly, in distress, to tell her that in filling the bottle, it had burst. Rubber perishes easily in tropical climates.

“...and it is our last hot water bottle!” she exclaimed.

They could not go to the local supermarket to buy one.

“All right,” she said, “put the baby as near the fire as you safely can; sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from draughts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.”

The following day at noon, she went to pray with many of the orphanage children who chose to gather with her as this was their usual routine. She gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told

Sat 25 7pm Leeds City Mission Summer Praise at Bethel, Armley
Speaker: Thomas Truman – LCM Team leader

Tue 28 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group

Thu 30 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Tim Mills
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group

July

Fri 1 4-6pm Asda chaplaincy

Wed 6 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Speaker: Ben Henry

Fri 8 Year 6 Schools Meeting at church “Moving On“ (Transition)
7.45pm Elders/Deacon meeting at 26 Woodlands Avenue

Tue 12 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group

Wed 13 1-3pm Last Tots Club meeting before Summer break
(Fruit picnic and presentations for leavers)

Thu 14 1pm Thursday at Two Summer Special
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group

Fri 15 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group

Mon 18 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane

Tue 19 7.45pm Men's fellowship

Thu 21 11am Asda Chaplaincy

Tue 26 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group

Thu 28 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group

August

Fri 5 4-6pm Asda chaplaincy

The deadline for items for the next magazine (Aug/Sept) edition will be Wednesday 27th July – all contributions to Martin Sellens by then please.

Forthcoming event

Do pray for Matthew Sellens and Natalie Walker as they prepare for their wedding day on Saturday September 3rd. The service is at Tinshill at 2pm

seeking the forgiveness and cleansing, He alone can offer. We need **Enduring Faith** see Romans 3: 21-28. Justification before God and acceptance by Him is through faith alone in Jesus Christ and His blood shed for us. We receive His righteousness as a result and the great exchange takes place – to all and on all who believe. God puts His robe of righteousness on us – we can't remove it! As He endures, His word endures and His kingdom endures; so does our faith because it is placed in Him and what He has done and it is His gift to us.

Martin Sellens

DIARY

June

- Thu 9 7.45pm Annual General Meeting
- Fri 10 7.30pm Elders/Deacon Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Sat 11 11am Concert of Prayer for Revival at City Evangelical
- Sun 12 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Tue 14 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Wed 15 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Thu 16 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Peter Atkinson
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Fri 17 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Mon 20 - 9-3pm "Life of Christ" Bible Exhibition at church
- Fri 24 Guide: Douglas Young (Open Air Mission)
2 sessions per day at 9.45am and 1.15pm apart from Friday when 1.15pm only. Daily prayer meeting 9am Monday to Thursday and 1pm Friday
- (No Tots Club on Weds 22nd)
- Tue 21 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Speaker: Douglas Young
- Wed 22 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Douglas Young

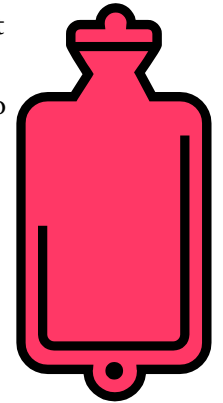
them about the tiny baby. She explained the problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle. The baby could so easily die if it got chilled. She also told them about the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died. During the prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt consciousness of children.

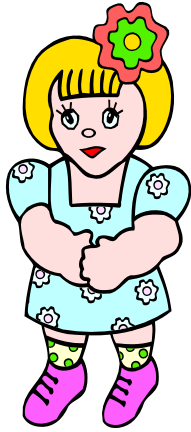
"Please, God," she prayed, "send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, the baby'll be dead; so, please send it this afternoon."

While Helen Roseveare gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, Ruth added "...and while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, Helen was put on the spot. Could she honestly say, "Amen"? She just did not believe that God could do this because the only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending a parcel from the homeland. She had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and had never, ever received a parcel from England. Anyway, if anyone did send a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? She lived in Africa and on the Equator!

During the afternoon, while she was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a vehicle at her front door. By the time that she reached home, it had gone, but there on the veranda was a large parcel! Tears came to her eyes; she could not open the parcel alone, so she sent for the orphanage children. Together they pulled off the string and paper. Excitement was mounting as some thirty or forty orphans had their eyes focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, she lifted out brightly coloured, knitted jumpers and cardigans which she distributed among the orphans. Then, there were various medical supplies and food. As she put her hand in again, she felt and then grasped ... A brand-new rubber, hot water bottle! Ruth was in the front row of the children, rushed forward, shouting out, "If God has sent the hot water bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!"





Diving her arms into the box and rummaging around the bottom, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her face shone: she had never doubted! With great excitement she asked

“Can I go over with you (Helen), and give this dolly to that little girl, so she’ll know that Jesus really loves her?”

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by Helen’s former Sunday School class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God’s prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. One of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child — five months earlier in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it that afternoon! God’s timing is perfect.

Throughout the day we were challenged. Helen Roseveare was unique but we are to be who we are and let God use us. She relied on The Word and was ‘Never out of her Bible’ (John Bunyan). She had strength for the task, character, determination, commitment and high standards. She was a woman of calibre – a midwife, surgeon, teacher and trainer for the natives to become medical professionals, conference speaker, builder, author of several books.... She fixed her eyes upon her Saviour, made great sacrifices but had the privilege and joy of serving the Lord.

The day concluded with a time of fellowship over a tasty lunch and it was great to see old familiar faces as well as meet new friends. The generous hospitality was much appreciated by all. The Lord was really with us and I left refreshed and challenged by the life and work of a dear Christian lady who served her Lord with vigour, joy and purpose. Keep your eyes fixed on the Saviour and serve Him.

“If Christ be God and died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him.”

WEC motto

Ruth Rozday

ever changing world where people are living longer with medical and health improvements. There are some things, however, which **do not change** and **endure** – on which we can rely both now and the future.

(1) Enduring God

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” Hebrews 13: 8.

His character, nature, purposes, covenant and will remain sure and steadfast. He is our **rock**. If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father. The Holy Spirit was sent after the ascension of the Lord Jesus to point us to Christ. The context of Hebrews 13: 8 is seen in v 9 – we do not want to be carried about by strange doctrines but to be established and focussed on the truth and the truth is found in Christ (John 14: 6).

(2) Enduring Word

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”. Matthew 24: 35. The context here is the second coming of Christ when there will be huge changes in our natural world (see v 29). God’s word is enduring and eternal – holds good now and in the future because God Himself does not change. He will keep His promises (see Matthew 28: 20 for the last promises to His disciples before His ascension). This year is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible – it is God’s great word and it will endure even into eternity. In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1: 2).

(3) Enduring Kingdom

“Now to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever” (1 Tim 1: 17). The Lord Jesus said to Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18: 36). He came to save sinners into His kingdom and so ensure they have everlasting (eternal) life. This was His message to Nicodemus in John 3 where He speaks of such things and of the need for a new spiritual birth to enter into this spiritual kingdom.

Are we sure we belong to Christ and are in His kingdom with that certainty of everlasting life? To be so we must have experienced a spiritual birth, turned from our sin and turned to Christ as our only hope and Saviour



How thankful we are for this lovely gesture of care and love by the parents and carers. Long may Tots Club be a living, creative and happy outreach to parents, carers and tots in our community.

“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Ephesians 5: 20

Carole Brearley

Enduring

I attended Torch Trust for The Blind on Saturday 21st May when they were celebrating their 37th birthday. Following is a short summary of the talk I gave that afternoon.

So much has happened in 37 years – both personally and in the world. 1974 was the year I left to go to University in London and the year of Local Government re-organisation when Leeds City Council (as we know it today) was created. The fall of Communism symbolised by the demolition of the Berlin Wall and huge advancements in technology (e.g. mobile phone, internet, social networking) have occurred since then. We live in an

Second Tuesday – 8th March 2011

Should all Christians be joyful, whatever?

These notes form the basis of the Second Tuesday Seminar.

1. Introduction

The ‘whatever’ in our title means ‘whatever the circumstances’ – perhaps we are being persecuted for being a Christian, or having to endure pain, or seeing the pain of others, or seeing the unsaved plight of others. The actual question suggested to us for today was:-

“Can the Christian, who knows he/she has been saved by grace alone, and therefore has the hope of Heaven, ever be truly joyful in this world, in the light of the terrible end awaiting those outside of Christ?” We can think of the apostle Paul in Romans 9: 2-3 where he says:

“I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my relatives according to the flesh”. Paul’s heart is grieved for the spiritually lost Jews. He is not joyful about it. He would even be willing to give up his own salvation so that they could be saved instead, but of course this is not possible. Paul’s sacrificial love is of the same type as the Lord Jesus Christ. But does this mean that Paul was not “truly joyful in this world?” Our Lord wept at the death of Lazarus, probably because he saw the sin of man which results in death. Does that mean that our Lord was not otherwise joyful? No, it doesn’t mean this.

2. What is joy?

The Greek word gives rise to cheerfulness, calm delight, and gladness. It does not specify whether it is experienced as a brief event, or whether it is long-lasting. It does not specify how obvious this joy should be, as expressed by a person, but there should clearly be some evidence. For example, John the Baptist comes across as very serious and quite dour. He came “neither eating bread nor drinking wine”, whereas our Lord Jesus Christ did. He is the subject of our Lord’s vivid illustration of children playing in the market place and acting out a funeral.

“We mourned to you, and you did not weep” (Luke 7: 32). But surely, John the Baptist had joy in the Presence of the Living Christ? Indeed, he leaped in the womb when he sensed the Lord’s unborn Presence in Mary, 30 years before!

Christian joy is based on our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. I’m reminded of a rather quaint and cringy song on a vinyl record many years ago:-

‘I’m bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling in my soul;
I’m bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, Christ has made me whole’.

Cringy it might be, but it is based on the work Christ has done for us and in us. Perhaps the cringy bit is the idea that the bubbling joy is always there on the surface, and in this world I’m not sure that it always can be – but it can be sometimes! We rejoice in what Christ is and what He has done for us.

Where does our Lord’s joy come from in John 15: 11? *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full”*. Christ’s joy is rooted in his love relationship with the Father. It is a deep-seated love and joy which is always there. Similarly, our joy is based in our love relationship with the Saviour – hence our Lord’s words *“these things I have spoken to you”* namely, *“abide in My love”* (v 9). The joy which Jesus has in the Father is reflected in the joy we have in the oneness with Christ our Saviour. But other emotions can be felt at the same time:- grief, pain, fear for example.

John 17: 13 says a similar thing – *“...these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves”*. It is not the temporary joy you might feel when your sports team wins! It is permanent, but not always brought to consciousness.

3. Sadness and Joy?

So, we are coming to the idea that we can feel great sadness for others in our conscious mind, at the same time as having joy deep within which still expresses itself in how we come across to other people. Human beings are complex creatures! Can we be truly joyful in this world? Most certainly. A new Christian is normally very joyful when initially converted, and thus

MAF has been operating in Madagascar since 1988 and flies one aircraft, helping to support the work of missions, NGOs and local churches.

Poor roads and weak infrastructure coupled with poverty leave many communities isolated. The island is also heavily exposed to tropical cyclones which bring torrential rains and destructive floods.

In recent years, political instability has weakened the already fragile economy, leaving an estimated 50% living below the poverty line.

Please pray for this nation. Pray for peace and stability, and for a government that wants the best for its people. Pray for the organisations involved in sharing the Gospel and in helping with development. Pray for MAF.

To find out more about the MMR and MAF’s work in Madagascar, please visit www.maf-uk.org

New Toys for Tots Club

Our parents/carers delighted and surprised us at Christmas, yet again, with a generous gift of a £100 voucher to spend on some new toys. A catalogue was also provided, which contained a variety of toys of a different and specialist nature.

After some time of looking we settled upon three choices. The first choice, which is pictured overleaf, is a fishing game which we use in the water tray. The tots recently enjoyed playing with this and loved the colourful fish and magnetised worms at the end of their rods. Such happy worms, and cheerful fish which are happy to be caught.

Our next choice was a selection of ‘Chunky People on Wheels’ i.e. skateboard, racing car and a motorbike with sidecar.

Our third choice was a “Hospital Bear”, complete with sling, plasters and bandage. This particular toy is to be named ‘Rose’ and she will be the resident patient in our expanding idea of creating a hospital area during our play times.

MAF News to SHARE June 2011

Madagascar Mission Run

One of the regular features of our flying in Madagascar is the Madagascar Mission Run (MMR), which carries a variety of passengers from different organisations to reach the projects where they work. These include medical, Bible translation projects and development work.

MAF pilot Josh Plett shares a report from the latest MMR:

‘This last trip we enjoyed a full and varied MMR through the northeast of Madagascar with a diversion to the west.

‘As of late, we have been helping out more and more with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Again this time, there were two passengers from this mission who joined the flight to Mananara where they will work with their partners for one week. Their plan for the week is not only to encourage the ongoing work but to also sit with the team and push hard to get as much done as possible.

‘We also flew two medical workers to Mandritsara who will be spending the next couple of months working at Good News Hospital. One, a gentleman from Canada, is doing an internship to learn more about doing medicine in remote areas, while the other, a doctor, has come to take over for Dr Mann (who usually runs the hospital) while he is in England.

‘There, we picked up one of the hospital doctors along with her parents-in-law as she was accompanying them to the capital Antananarivo (Tana) to see them off as they headed back to England. As well, we picked up a priest who works in Mandritsara but was travelling back to Europe for a small break.

‘From Tana, we carried three men from SALFA, a Lutheran-run mission that has set up medical clinics around the country. On this visit, they were meeting with their team in Besalampy to talk about the community health programme they are setting up. One of them was going to stay to do ten days of community health training with their local staff who in turn will teach the local people.’

begins the deeper, stable joy. This true joy, however, often experiences a cloud, or even a thunderstorm, passing by. The sadness for people spiritually lost can be eased by the fact that many of them will yet be saved! We don’t know which of them. We have real hope that what is a hopeless situation in a loved one can be suddenly turned round. We can remember that Christ will complete the church, in this land and overseas, possibly by more revivals which will sweep through the world and save thousands. We can and must pray for such outpourings of God’s Holy Spirit.

Joy and concern for the lost are not mutually exclusive. To grieve for the world is better than to judge the world, because it was by free grace that we ourselves were saved. We received the word (the Bible) with joy. It was not a temporary thing. It remained and brought fruit.

Biblically, joy is both an unsought-for emotion and a command to be joyful. The unsought-for joy has a reason behind it. We hear of somebody we know who has become a Christian. We are joyful when it happens, though that joy may tail off. We have joy in reading a verse of scripture which is helpful to us. Eventually it tails off, even though the effect of that verse is still powerful. We read in Galatians 5: 22 that *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...”* and 7 other attributes. They are evidences of the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart. But it is also our responsibility to show these things. So, besides being naturally joyful about something, we are urged to show Christian joy, even if we are going through a sad time – it is a command – **rejoice**.

So, *“but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy”* (1 Peter 4: 13). By faith, we can find joy in being in God’s purposes, particularly identifying with Christ, even though our actual experience might be painful. It must be said that a perpetually miserable Christian cannot be a good witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and, in any case, such a Christian will not want to reach out to others with the love of Christ. Nevertheless, Christians do differ in their temperaments both in feeling and showing joy. Internal and external pressures are handled differently by different Christians.

So we can experience true joy and true sadness at pretty well the same time!

4. Future Joy

Future joy is the joy of Heaven. It is the joy of seeing Christ come in glory for us, if He comes before we pass away. It is undisturbed joy.

You say, how can it be fully joyful in Heaven, when some of our friends and family are not there? We have to remember that relationships are different in Heaven. Even our Lord put the emphasis on His spiritual family rather than His natural family in this world. We will be aware in Heaven that the Kingdom of Christ is thoroughly complete. Will we even remember those we loved on earth who are now lost forever?

When our Lord said “*enter into the joy of your Lord*” in the parable of the talents, the faithful servant represents the faithful Christian entering Heaven. That joy is a permanent, unspoilt joy, whereas ours is spoilt today, even by the knowledge of our own sinful nature.

Our Lord knew continuous joy by the oneness with His Heavenly Father, but He also had joy to come. Joy to know that He was to return to the glory of Heaven after the Resurrection, and joy to come having paid the penalty for our sins. Thus:-

“...*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God*” (Hebrews 12: 2). even our Lord as Human had further joy to look forward to.

The references in Revelation indicate the end of all sadness and grief for the Christian, even for the lost. Revelation 7: 17 tells us:

“*The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes*”.

And then Revelation 21: 4 – “*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain* (note: physical or mental), *for the former things have passed away.*” The resurrected body will give us no capacity for sin, shame, and sadness about former matters. Let us rejoice in that!

5. The apostles and joy

When the apostles were “*filled with joy and the Holy Spirit*”, it was related to a particular event, namely the ability they had to preach the gospel in difficult circumstances and then even to be ejected from the city (Acts 13: 50-52). The joy was to do with the gospel and being opposed for Christ’s sake. No doubt that immediate joy settled down, to leave the underlying joy untouched, or perhaps enhanced.

Paul indicates that it is possible to lose some of his joy, even when the hope of Heaven is undiminished, when he writes “*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy*” (Acts 20: 24). If he let circumstances affect him he might lose some joy in Christ. Actually, the hope of Heaven and the certainty of it should increase our joy, the more we think about it. But we are still sad about the unsaved, whom we can at least bring to God in prayer.

The type of joy which is deep and on-going is also expressed by Paul when he says “*we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation*” (Romans 5: 11).

6. Conclusion

Can the Christian be truly joyful in this world? Yes, but sometimes the brightness of that joy can be marred by pain, disappointments, and concern for the state of the lost. The hymn writer says:-

“I thank Thee more, that all our joy is touched with pain,
That shadows fall on brightest hours, that thorns remain;
So that earth’s bliss may be our guide and not our chain”

But the next verse points to unspoilt joy in Heaven:-

“For Thou, who knowest, Lord, how soon our weak heart clings,
Hast given us joys, tender and true, yet all with wings,
So that we see, gleaming on high, diviner things.”

(New Christian Hymns, 111, Adelaide Procter)

Praise God for the prospect of unceasing and unspoilt joy in Heaven, through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Glyn Williams