

THE MAGAZINE

Nº 288



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

Pastoral Letter – February/March 2012

Two Captains

The big ship is still the big story. That is because there are still people unaccounted for. Frogmen lay explosives and swim into the darkest pools to find missing people. The ship still lies half-submerged and at an acute angle off the coast of Italy. Fuel has to be taken from her in case spillage and pollution occur. The number who have lost their lives is likely to exceed thirty. The captain has come in for a lot of criticism, yet one has to feel sorry for him and his wife, as up to that point he was recognised as a good, though flamboyant captain. All of us have ‘feet of clay’ and so we should not judge too harshly and yet, with the reports we have, we can compare this human sea captain with the “Captain of our Salvation”, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The captain of the Costa Concordia sailed too close to the island of Giglio, thus putting the passengers in immediate danger of hitting rocks. He was distracted by friends who were with him on that deck. He was a very experienced man, but experience can make one complacent and unaware of danger.

Secondly, the crew were authorised to give the passengers ‘misinformation’, that the problem with the ship had to do with the power system, as the lights had failed. Passengers were urged to get back to their cabins, but soon the listing of the ship showed that the problem was far greater. The real truth, that the ship had hit rocks, was hidden from them.

Thirdly, the captain left the ship well before many of the passengers, claiming that he fell into a lifeboat and couldn’t get back on the ship. You might have listened to the recorded conversation between the coastguard and the captain, in which the captain was urged to get back on the ship and count how many men, women and children still needed help to evacuate the ship. The captain did a lot of defending himself.

By happy contrast, we have the ‘Captain of our Salvation’. He would not be distracted by other things to put us in mortal danger. He is always alert and watchful for His people. We read in Psalm 121: 3,4 — *“He will not*

allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep". If we are in danger (as no doubt there would be some who have faith in Christ on the Costa Concordia), then our Captain uses it for our final good, and God's glory.

Secondly, our Captain never gives us misinformation. Indeed, He is the Truth. He cannot tell us lies. He is loving enough to tell us about our sins, and the danger to our souls. The Bible is crystal clear on our true situation, ie. safe if we have faith in Christ, and "*condemned already*" if we do not have faith in Christ (John 3: 18). "...*for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4: 12). In fact, we ourselves would be unloving if we did not make this clear.

Thirdly, the Captain of our Salvation did not abandon us to our fate. We know that a captain of a ship traditionally should be last off a ship which is in danger of sinking. He takes full responsibility for the safety of his passengers, putting himself in the worst danger so that all the people on board can be safe.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not called "The Captain of our Salvation" for nothing. We were saved by Him not being saved. He died physically and bore Hell for us while on the cross. Yet, He rose, and lives today. "*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings*" (Hebrews 2: 10).

He is the watchful, truthful, sacrificial Captain.

With love in the Name of this Captain.

Glyn Williams

Bibles for every School

The Education Secretary, Michael Gove, has decided to send a copy of the King James Bible to every school in Britain to mark its 400th anniversary. The estimated cost (£377,000) will be met by individuals and organisations and the remainder will be underwritten by the taxpayer. Please pray for this initiative.

What a friend we have in Jesus!

I've sung "What a friend we have in Jesus" countless times through my life so far, but it has always been just one of those "golden oldies" that I could sing from memory. Recently, however, it has come to mean more to me as lines from the song have sprung to mind in various situations and really encouraged me. I hope that if you read through the song and some of my thoughts on it you might be encouraged too...

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!

There is no sin that is too great for Jesus to forgive! In his letter to Timothy, Paul wrote that "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst*" (1 Timothy 1: 15). Paul felt that because of his great persecution of Christians, and through that his persecution of Jesus, he was the worst sinner ever to have lived. Without wanting to start a game of spiritual "Top Trumps", we could add a few more contenders to the category of "Worst sinner" – what about those who crucified Jesus, or who mocked, scourged and humiliated Him before that? What about Barabbas who was sentenced to death for rioting and murder? The point is not to get us ranking sins against each other, no matter how heinous they might be, but to see how they were treated by Jesus. Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who were so mistreating Him, "*for they do not know what they are doing*", and he took Barabbas' punishment for him, dying in his place – a very literal representation of what Jesus was doing for us in dying on the cross. The message, then, is this: no matter what we might have done wrong or how many times, we are never too bad to be forgiven. Jesus has already paid the punishment for us; all we need to do is turn from our sins with real sorrow, put our trust fully in Him and He will take all our guilt away. We no longer need to be haunted by past sins and failures — He has forgiven us!

What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

All too often we use God much like we might dial 999 – only in

emergencies. These two lines remind us that praying is something we should grow to love and value, and that we shouldn't just pray about the great burdens or as a last resort, but about everything. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17 tells us to "*pray continually*". Our lives should really be an open line of communication with God. If we spend time with a friend we will most likely spend much of the time talking – there will be times of silence, but the communication channels will be open throughout the time that we spend with them. When we are further away from that person we would need to make a phone call to speak to them, or arrange a time to meet with them. All too often we only talk with God every now and then, as we would to a distant friend; however, God is always with us, and our communication with Him should be the same as when we are in the company of a friend, where we talk openly, gladly and almost constantly with them.

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

When something is troubling us, when we are going through a difficult experience, the natural human response is to dwell on it, and worry about it. Jesus spoke about how our Heavenly Father feeds even the birds of the air, and reminds us that if birds are under God's care, He will care for us even more since we are worth far more. In other words, we have a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and wants us to share our troubles with Him. And what is more, God can do something about our troubles, something that we are completely unable to do. He doesn't promise to take our troubles away, but He does promise that He will strengthen us through them – "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*" (Psalm 46: 1). However, all too often we cling onto our worries, causing ourselves needless anxiety; if we really believe that God is able to bring us through the difficult times in our lives, to give us peace that we could never otherwise find, then we will carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Our natural reaction when going through testing times is to become discouraged because we are unable to do anything about our predicament, and perhaps feel that God has abandoned us to those troubles. It is then that we need to pray and ask God for His help. He may take us out of those troubles, or He may not, but what we can be sure of is that He will strengthen us and perfect us through our difficulties. Paul prays this wonderful prayer in Ephesians 3: 16-19: *“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”* This is available to us, if only we ask.

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Hebrews 4: 14-16 reminds us that Jesus suffered while He was on earth just as we do. He was tempted (but didn't fail, unlike us), and He experienced life as a human in just the same way as we do; therefore He can empathise with our weakness. What's more, He is always faithful – there will never be a time when He cannot listen to us because He is too busy with His own problems, but will always share our sorrows with us.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1 Peter 5: 7 instructs us, *“Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you”*. We have a God who not only cares for us, but is also able to carry our

burdens — *“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... for My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* (Matthew 11: 28-30). How much better to give God our cares, since He is more than able to bear them for us, rather than holding onto them ourselves in futile determination.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

We all know what it is like to have friends that let us down, and we have probably let our friends down just as many times. But in God we have a friend who will never fail us – He has promised never to leave us or forsake us, He will be especially near to us in times of trouble, and will be the refuge that we need.

Ben Henry

Teach core values the army way, says former Chief of General Staff

A friend recently passed on to me a copy of the “British Church Newspaper” containing an article about General Lord Richard Dannatt, GCB, CBE, MC who is the President of the Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Scripture Readers Association. He is a man for whom I have the greatest admiration and not just because I was saved through the ministry of SASRA and represent that work in Leeds. With the kind permission of the editor of the newspaper, I reproduce the article below.

“Society should follow the example of the army in teaching moral and ethical standards, General Lord Richard Dannatt argued in the Theos Annual Lecture on 8th November 2011.

General Dannatt, Former Chief of General Staff makes no secret of his Christianity. He is President of the Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Scripture Readers Association (SASRA).

He believes that “In past generations, it was often assumed that young men and women coming into the Armed Forces would have absorbed an understanding of the core values and standards of behaviour required by the military from their family or from within their wider community... I would suggest such a presumption cannot be made today.”

Lord Dannatt argued that “given that much of our society is pretty unstructured these days, and given that the military has the unique opportunity to educate its own into the importance of a proper moral understanding, then perhaps the military community may have a wider contribution that it can make to the Nation.”

He defined the core values as “Selfless Commitment, Courage, Discipline, Integrity, Loyalty and, perhaps most critically, Respect of Others?”, adding, “And like any ethical creed, these values must be learned and followed for their own good, and not just as a means to another end”.

He also quoted another Christian man, Field Marshall Lord Harding, who said “a good leader needed: Absolute Fitness, Complete Integrity, Enduring Courage, Daring Initiative, Undaunted Will-Power.” And, interestingly, he stressed the Adjectives, as well as the Nouns.

This means that the army must focus as much on mental and moral preparation of soldiers as they do on physical training.

He said that the moral and even spiritual dimensions are as crucial as the strategic and operational dimensions of warfare, and essential for winning wars. He thinks this moral training can make it possible for soldiers to show loyalty and integrity, and even to “kill and show compassion at the same time”.

The example of Christ Himself

He added, “there is one obvious role model to look to as far as I am concerned, and, in my experience, that is to look at the person and example of Christ Himself – because in my opinion, He, and only He, has the answers to the key questions in today’s and tomorrow’s complex environment.”

“Christians quite rightly put huge emphasis on the death and resurrection of Christ, but His life also provides the model and that we will do well to try to emulate.”

“The motto of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is “Serve to Lead”. Christ, in His lifetime was a very clear example of that maxim. He was a true Servant Leader. When Christ washed His disciples’ feet, He was doing the most menial and humble task – and by serving His disciples He was earning the right to lead them. He would ask of others nothing that He would not do Himself.”

“And His style of leadership? It was to say quite simply “Follow Me”. It was not said in a macho way, but it was said in a way that gave people the opportunity to look at Him, to look at what He stood for, to look at what He promised and to decide for themselves to follow Him – and this is the key, since the flipside of Leadership is Fellowship, and the real trick of being a successful leader is to make people, out of their own free choice, follow – not out of curiosity – but out of a belief and confidence that the direction of travel is right, and that the objective is worth the cost along the way, and that the leader is a person of both character and integrity”.

These comments followed a series of cases in which the army was found to be acting improperly, including the Baha Mousa case. He called these “unforgiveable” and said, “All our soldiers must know that collectively and individually, we can, and should, and will be called to account when things go wrong”.)

I also found the editorial comment on page 12 of the same newspaper instructive:

“General Dannatt has a point. We believe that a person’s behaviour cannot be pleasing to God until they are born again with a new nature and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We therefore tend to preach the Gospel rather than teach morality.

But it is our duty to teach God’s laws. Sixty years ago unconverted people had a clearer idea of right and wrong than many Christians have today. It may not have taken them to heaven but it produced a society more

honouring to God than our current one. The Bible, especially the Old Testament, emphasises what God expects not just of individual believers but of society as a whole.

General Dannatt is right. It is our duty to teach core values, God's rules of upright conduct, His law, to all.

We are pushing at an open door. Ordinary people are interested in morality not theology. And the law is then their schoolmaster to bring them to Christ."

Both articles are from "British Church Newspaper" dated 18th November 2011 reproduced by kind permission of Dr Napier Malcolm, MA, FRCP (Honorary Editor).

Paul Crossley

MAF News to Share

Hope in Lesotho

Lesotho, a small landlocked country surrounded on all sides by South Africa, doesn't often hit the headlines.

Yet the needs in this mountainous nation are enormous. Up to 23% of the population is HIV-positive and many live cut off from any kind of medical care.

MAF has been operating there since 1980, providing support to numerous organisations, including the Lesotho Flying Doctor Service and the six clinics operated by Partners in Health.

Life is challenging, but there is much hope. Pilot Justin Honaker gives a recent example:

'I was heading to Methaleneng with a full load of passengers. As I was closing the rear cargo door, a vaguely familiar face grinned back at me. I didn't immediately recognise the man, but he did me. He rattled off something in Sesotho and I gathered, as he pointed to his ten-year-old son, that he was asking if I remembered him.

‘Only five days previously, I had been to Methaleneng twice in one day — a miracle for this kind of airstrip, which is often affected by strong winds.

‘When I first met Motlatsi he was lethargic, incoherent and barely conscious after being hit on the head with a stone the day before. His father had made a 2½-hour trek to the nearest clinic — at 7,200 feet — but the clinic had sent him home, telling them to return if Motlatsi’s condition didn’t improve. A day passed without improvement.

‘I remember buckling Motlatsi’s nearly limp body into the back seat of the Cessna 206, his jerky movements hampering my efforts. I remember the boy’s father peeling back the edge of his hat to reveal the huge knot forming. I remember Motlatsi’s eyes darting aimlessly about the cabin and wondering if he would make it.

‘I remember that evening commenting to my wife that I had flown a boy, his head badly injured by a stone, who was just two months too early for the grand opening of a new, better equipped hospital in the capital city. I remember telling her that I didn’t hold out much hope for him.

‘I was caught off guard by the question, “Do you remember us?” from Theboho, Motlatsi’s father. First, we fly a lot of patients and regrettably I don’t remember them all. And secondly, next to Theboho sat a bright-eyed boy, grinning up at me from the same back seat of the 206 with the same maroon hat that had covered his badly injured head.

‘Motlatsi was nothing at all like the boy I remembered. The details of his seemingly hopeless story came flooding back to me — yet here he was, happy, coherent and excited to be heading home. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing!’

Nearly 200,000 people depend solely on the Flying Doctor Service and on Partners in Health for medical care. Praise God for their work and others like them.

To find out more about Lesotho and MAF’s involvement, please visit www.maf-uk.org

Prayer Please

Remember those who continue with illness & those who are older and frailer.

Particularly pray for Gordon Chell and for Colette Hickman's father who have important surgery in the second week of February.

Pray for Andy Fothergill and Mary Anne as Andy takes up his first ministerial role in the Church of Scotland at Strichen in rural Aberdeenshire in February.

Also remember Paul Crossley in Nigeria which has known much difficulty and internal conflict in recent months – Paul is there through February and is due to return to Leeds on 8/9th March.

Pray for those away at University/College and for Tim Hilton in Southampton and Andrew & Jill Lolley in London as Tim and Andrew continue with their training.

Tim Hilton writes "...the next two weeks are likely to be the busiest of the year. Next week (beginning Mon 6th Feb) I'm helping at the Southampton CU mission week, which will take up the entire week (i.e. I won't do any other work Mon-Fri). That means that this week I need to prepare the Bible study I'll be leading on Sunday 12th Feb, as well as the study for the 5th. I'm also starting two new one-to-one Bible studies this term looking at Colossians, and recommencing meeting with another student to look at Malachi. These are both books I wrote studies on last year, but I'll obviously still need to prepare and refresh my memory. A few extra meetings also mean I don't have any time off in the evenings this week, so Saturday will be my only time off for the next two weeks.

Most of all, please pray that God will guard my heart from temptations which arise during busy times. I know how easy it is to let time for God get squeezed out of a busy week, or to become bitter and resentful about having so little free time. It's easy to let friendships slip, and see people as a nuisance rather than brothers in Christ/objects of wrath who desperately need the good news of a Saviour. Please also pray that I'll make good use of the time, and have energy for the next two weeks."

Please invite your friends, especially football enthusiasts to

**an evening with
DAN WALKER**



Dan will be speaking about Football, TV
and his Christian Faith.

Dan hosts BBC's 'Football Focus' on Saturdays
and has appeared on other TV programmes

The event will be hosted by a group of Leeds churches

on

Saturday 28th April, 2012

7.30pm

at

West Park Centre
Spenn Lane
Leeds
LS16 5BE

For more information, please contact
Glyn Williams on 0113 2672680

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
February	5	Glyn Williams	Martin Sellens
	12	Alan Brearley	Glyn Williams
	19	Nigel Westhead	Glyn Williams
	26	Erroll Hulse	Erroll Hulse
March	4	Glyn Williams	Andrew Binns
	11	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
	18	David Gregson	David Gregson
	25	Glyn Williams	Alan Brearley
April	1	John Harris	John Harris
	8	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams (EASTER)

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our Pastor Glyn as he ministers outside the fellowship in the coming months:

February

Mon 13 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee

Thu 16 10.15am Coffee morning (Nancy Bynon)
“Learning from the Past”

March

Mon 5 7pm Wakefield Evangelical Church Holding Trustee

Wed 7 7.30pm Phil May Court, Armley

Mon 12 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee

April

Sun 1 am/pm Bethel Free Church, Armley

Remember our other Elder, Martin, as he preaches out on Sun 19th Feb am at Bethel, Armley

Coming Soon Buckets of Love March 2012
An initiative by Blytheswood to support people in India and Pakistan.
Details soon from Gill Almond who has agreed to
co-ordinate the project at the church.

DIARY

February

- Sat 4 9am Annual Trustees' Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
- Thu 9 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Peter Atkinson
7.30pm Followers Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Fri 10 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 175 Tinshill Lane
- Sat 11 10-12am Concert of Prayer for Outpouring of God's Spirit
(Regional Meetings) – at the church
- Sun 12 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Tue 14 10.15am Second Tuesday
7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Wed 15 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study. Speaker: Ben Henry
- Tue 21 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Wed 22 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Thu 23 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Rich Owen
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group
- Fri 24 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Tue 28 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group

March

- Thu 8 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Tim Mills
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group
- Fri 9 Evening) North of England Church Officers' conference
- Sat 10 am/pm) at Mirfield
- Sun 11 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Tue 13 10.15am Second Tuesday
7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group
7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
- Thu 15 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane

- Tue 20 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Thu 22 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Eric Holder
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group
- Fri 23 am "What is Easter all about?" at church for local schools
7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Mon 26 7.45pm Members' Financial Planning Meeting
- Tue 27 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group
- Wed 28 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
Speaker: Martin Sellens

April Advance Notice

- Thu 5 1pm Thursday at Two Easter Special
- Fri 6 7.30pm Good Friday Service with integral Communion
led by Martin Sellens
- Sun 8 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Sat 28 7.30pm An Evening with Dan Walker at West Park Centre

The next edition of the church magazine is due out at the start of April and will cover April and May – any items and contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday March 21st please.

Good News Holiday Bible Club — Easter 2012

Likely to be the second week of the holidays.

Please pray for wisdom in planning and preparation, for the children and for the helpers.

If you can help in any way please speak to Jenny Leng or
Deborah Williams

ROTAS

Week ending		Cleaning		
February	4	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	11	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	18	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	25	Ruth Holder	Beccy/Ben Henry	Carole Brearley
March	3	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	10	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	17	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	24	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
April	31	Ruth Holder	Beccy/Ben Henry	Carole Brearley
	7	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley

For Sunday		Flowers		
February	5	Margaret Williams	12	Mabel Simpson
	19	Eva Ng	26	Carole Brearley
March	4	Angela Mathers	11	Colette Hickman
	18	Kathryn Hibbard	25	Anne Sellens
April	1	Beccy Henry	8	Christine Crossley

Library

		Morning	Evening
Feb	5	Nigel Hibbard	Christine Crossley
	12	Rosemary Hilton	Mavis Mathers
	19	Angela Mathers	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	26	Christine Crossley	Nigel Hibbard
Mar	4	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers
	11	Paul Crossley	Rosemary Hilton
	18	Nigel Hibbard	Jack/Ruth Rozday
Apr	25	Christine Crossley	Angela Mathers
	1	Paul Crossley	Rosemary Hilton

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) venue as announced	7.30pm
	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
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