

Messenger

June - July 2008

“Building Sand Castles”

I went for a walk on the beach last night, met a man with a plastic knife carving castles in the sand. He amazed me. I said, Hey, mister, man I need to know can you work that kind of magic on my soul? Can you heal a heart? Can you save me? He looked up and he shook his head, I'll never forget the words he said,

Sandcastles fall apart when the tide comes in, you can build them up with all your might, but in the end when you wake up in the morning it doesn't matter the shape or the plan, you just have to build them up again. He said, I'm pretty good at working the sand but there's only one who can take your hand and make you into someone good and strong, he's the Rock you need to build on. He won't be gone when the morning comes.



Like the wise man built his house upon the rock and the foolish man, well, we all know where he went wrong

Cause sandcastles fall apart when the storms roll in, you can build them up with all your heart, but in the end when the rains fall and the floods come it doesn't matter how perfect your plan, they wash away like the shifting sand. Sandcastles fall apart when the tide comes in...

By Hilary Weeks

So far - Just 10 has made a great impact on people who



have been, week after week new people are coming to here J. John speak about the Ten Commandments. On average 4,600 people have come each week to the Gateshead Tent and it's not too late to come and here what J. John has to say, each Tuesday, 7:30pm - with the last gathering on the 24th June. Two buses leave St John's at 6:30pm (£3 per person return) and a bus leaves from Christ Church / Baptist Church (bus is free) at 6:15pm.

At the half - way point of week 5 (20th May 2008) - we have had in total over 1100 people responding to J. John which includes over 286 people becoming Christians for the first time (*figures for Gateshead & Stockton*).



On week 3 - (6th May 2008) - the subject was titled 'Prosper With A Clear Conscience' based on the commandment 'Thou shall not steal'. As part of this

Amnesty Bins were opened around the tent site. After hearing J. John speaking on the commandment, people were encourage to think about times when they had prospered with an unclear conscience - items they had not return to their rightful owners, the proceeds of



crime, unreturned library books or even restitution for time when they had played hookey from work. If they wanted to - they could put these items in the bins with no questions asked, with any money going to local charities & goods to charity shops. By the end of week 6 - a number of considerable items - e.g. weapons, were still being placed in the bins & the bins will remain until the last week.

Each week we have great testimonies including:

Gram Seed - who was once a violent drunk and football hooligan who had served time in many prisons. But - after becoming a Christian he started to talk to all the estate kids to tell them there was a better way of life rather than stealing and taking drugs. He wanted them to know Jesus the way he had got to know him.



Gary Brotherston – when ages 19 took another man's life in a fight. He said God was the only one able to change him and has forgiven his sins, though he still has to live with the consequences of his actions. He said – "I wish each day I could make amends for what I have done. The life sentence isn't eleven years in prison, but waking up each day with the knowledge that I have taken a man's life and the pain I have caused his and



my own family. For this I am truly sorry, and I hope and pray other kids don't make the same mistake"

The Just 10 Teams are receiving great feedback from people who have been to Just10 here are a few stories:

Gloria - "I was at last night's performance in Gateshead (wk 2) and I felt called to come to the front in order to make a fresh start. After repeating the prayer with J John I was overcome with tears, which I felt were washing away past sins and I later felt like a great weight had been lifted from my shoulders."

Viv - let her light shine in her office at Team Valley and ended up crying tears of joy as her colleague gave her life to Christ at the first week of the series. Michelle from Chester-le-Street is bowled over by her new life. "I felt I

was on a roller coaster during the meeting and when J.John made the appeal I thought...oh yeah...then I just had to go out! I started to cry as I prayed. The next morning I woke up with such a peace ...it's been brilliant!" Michelle's so full of her new life, she's been sharing it with the colleagues Viv's been speaking to for years, and more have been coming along!

Stefan and Radu - two Eastern Europeans who are on big top security duty at Preston Park, committed their lives to Jesus during J.John's appeal. They say they're overwhelmed by the kindness of people offering them hospitality. People from local churches are intent (ha!) on loving them in word and deed! Both are convinced that numbers of people wanting to come to just10 will increase every week. Amen, as they say in downtown Romania!

Karin - can't stop smiling since meeting God at just10. Karin's daughters have been learning about the Gospel by attending the Kidz Klub at Westgate Baptist Church near their home in Newcastle. The club's leaders invited Karin to hear it for herself by attending just10 – and on the first week she went forward to commit her life to Christ. "Something was pulling me to the front," she explained. "I was crying, but not upset – I was overwhelmed. "Now I feel so fulfilled – I've been touched by God. "I've had a lot of problems and the last few months have been the hardest of my life, but since coming to just10 and going to church, nothing seems to worry me. "I'm now dealing with things that I was pushing aside before. And I'm constantly smiling – and making other people smile too!"

Be apart of it

These and many others are ordinary people who face everyday situations in their lives, who decided to come to the Just 10 event for some reason & have been changed by god's word having an impact on them and their lives. As the Incredible Hulk says on the big screen - "I'm going to Just 10..." The question is are you? The **last session is Tuesday 24th June, 7:30pm** (but don't forget June 3rd, 10th & 17th). I'll see you there!

AN INTERVIEW WITH RICK WARREN,

author of the "Purpose Driven Life."

People ask me, what is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body – but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act – the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys – you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life.

No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, 'which is my problem, my issues, my pain.' But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others. We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her.

It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people. You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year,

all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease.



So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72. First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church. Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation. Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)? When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

- Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.
- Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.
- Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.
- Painful moments, TRUST GOD.
- Every moment, THANK GOD.

God's Blessings on you today.

A Summer Review for St John's

At St John's we have a mission statement which appears on most of our publicity . . . **at the heart of the community sharing the heart of Christ** . . . It is a call for every Christian who worships at St John's to play their full part in building Christ's community, here in Hebburn.

Halfway through our **HOPE08** programme it could be a useful exercise to remind ourselves of our vision and values.

EXPECTATIONS

At St John's there is an anticipation that every member will grow in maturity in his or her discipleship. This will happen in three ways.

- *First* there is a necessity for people to be converted to Christ – to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour
- *Second* there is a need for an individual to be converted to the church – that is they will see St John's as their church and will be committed to regular worship
- *Third* there is a conversion to the cause – this means a commitment to what St John's stands for in the community, with each person exercising their own ministry within the Body of Christ.

THIS IS ME?

So what will a maturing Christian at St John's look like and how will they be involved? Something like the following:

- They will be regular in personal Bible study and prayer
- They will be regular at one of our weekly church services
- They will support the church financially through regular and prayerful giving
- They will be praying regularly with other Christians and be committed to the regular (Online) prayer fellowship
- They will be part of a small group like Emmaus
- They will know which direction the church is moving and prayerfully support the initiatives of mission and ministry

In other words they will be: working at discipleship; working on mission; and working to build the church

VALUES

There are a number of values we have as a church

1. Intimacy

We believe we can know God. We seek to encourage people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a relationship, which transforms a person. It is relevant to daily living and enriches our times of worship.

2. Freedom

We allow people the freedom to be themselves before God. Our worship expresses that freedom and we respect various styles and traditions. Freedom means we allow people to make their own decisions before God. We offer, suggest, encourage and support, but an individual makes his or her own decision.

3. Unity

We are together in this. There are no personality cults. We worship, pray and share together so that we may know God's purposes for our church

4. Integrity

We attempt to be the very best we can be with the resources we have. We hold fast to the authority of Scripture and seek to . . . "present Christ afresh to every generation." We are faithful to the gospel and faithful to our tradition as members of the Anglican Communion. We aim to pay our way and play our part in the structures of the Church of England.

OUR VISION

How do we live out our Mission Statement: ". . . at the heart of the community sharing the heart of Christ . . ." ? It is expressed in a threefold practical outworking of that vision that forms a framework for church life.

1. Vital Worship

We seek to embrace all traditions, cultures and age-groups. Our worship is to be vital, relevant, contemporary and life-related, especially in music and preaching.

2. Prioritise children and young people.

Children and young people are the church of today as well as the church of tomorrow. We seek to make sure they find their place within church life. Youth ministry is surely the cutting edge of mission as young people ask the searching questions about life and the meaning of it all! Questions the Gospel needs to answer.

3. Ongoing evangelism

We seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and show that Christianity is relevant today. This means a regular menu of activities, which share "good things" and "good news". For St John's this means that:

- At the heart of our strategy is Alpha-
- At the heart of our activities are opportunities for relationships to develop-
- And at the heart of our proclamation is the Cross of Jesus Christ

Annual Meeting Election Results

St John's

Churchwardens:

Gillian Melvin and David Profit

Deanery Synod:

Walter Armstrong, (Diocesan Synod) Pat Carey,
J. Coe and Stephanie Ford

PCC Members:

Justin Dummer, Dave McCormack, Richard
McIntosh and Thelma Pattison, (for 3 years)
Deborah Hastings, Arthur Pattison, Danny Smith
and Nancy Sutherland (for 2 years)
Ethel Laycock, Robert Plumley, Lynda Scott and
Nigel Thompson (for 1 year)
Jean Nixon and Gavin O'Doherty (co-opted for 1
year)

Christ Church

Churchwardens:

Marian Dick and John Holman

Deanery Synod (2 vacancies)

PCC Members

Samantha Bateman, Michael Bayles, Elsie Hardie,
Peter Kennedy, Mona Legg, Adalaide McGahey,
Jackie Sandford

DONATIONS - ST JOHNS

Restoration Account

In memory of Vera Bonham
Remembering Brian, Stan, Ian - Edith

TOTAL £150.00

General Account

TOTAL £7,040.00

Bible Society TOTAL £ 5.00
Leprosy Mission TOTAL £ 67.31
Special Concern - Anon TOTAL £500.00

Fair Trade Total £380.72

Youth Community

Knit & Natter Total £575.00
In memory of Vera Bonham Total £50.00

Church Flowers

In memory of Vera Bonham
Remembering Mum - Edith
Treasured memories of our dear Mother & Father
Sarah and James Porter and loved ones - sadly
missed

TOTAL £76.00



MOSES ABRAHAM

9t June - Monday - 14th July

3:45pm - 5:45pm

Christ Church

Ellison Street - Grange Road West
Jarrow

Crafts - Songs - Fun

For children up to the age of 8yrs old. A
responsible adult **MUST** accompany all
children.

Just 10.. What next?

*How can I help people get stuck into knowing Jesus, living
for him, committing to the church and enjoying the new life
He brings?*

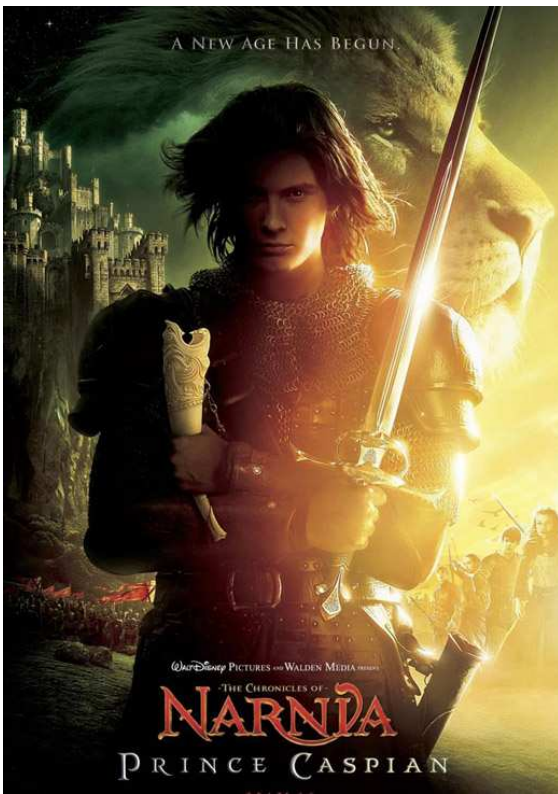
Go on Make A Disciple!

GO MAD: a half-day of discipleship training for churches in the
North East to help us follow up contacts and new Christians from
Just 10.

We're all called to be disciples and to make disciples. Jan McCuin
will take us through a practical, empowering and encouraging mix
of teaching, training and interactive workshops. This will be a
great morning for anyone who wants to grow as a disciple and
understand how to help others do so.

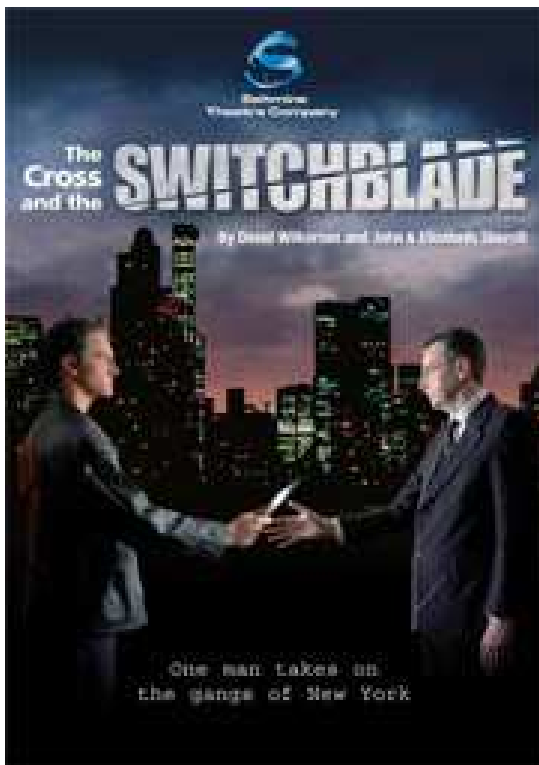
Sat. 28th June 2008: Emmanuel School, Gateshead. 9.30am-
1.00pm Cost: £3.50 to cover materials.

To book your place email: janmccuin@blueyonder.co.uk



OUT: 26TH JUNE 2008

**Prince Caspian Fun &
Book Night
Friday – 11th July**



**Customs House
1st & 2nd July, 7:30pm
£10/£8**

Refugee Week



16th – 22nd June

Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities. Refugee Week is important because it reminds us that refugees are not just statistics to be used or abused, they are living, breathing people.

The purpose of Refugee Week is to deliver positive educational messages that counter fear, ignorance and negative stereotypes of refugees, through arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and promote understanding about the reasons why people seek sanctuary.

When a refugee arrives in a new country, they are known as an asylum seeker until they are granted refugee status. If someone has fled their home in fear of their life but has not crossed the borders of their country, they are known as an internally displaced person.

Imagine how you would feel if tomorrow you had to flee your home and family in fear of your own safety. Who would you turn to? Where would you go? How would you cope?

For more information see:

www.refugeeweek.org.uk

SERVICES & CONTACTS

Worship @ Christ Church - Jarrow

SUNDAY: 9:15am – Holy Communion, **TUESDAY:** 9:15am – Morning Prayer
WEDNESDAY: 1:30pm – Holy Communion

Worship @ St John's - Hebburn

SUNDAY: 9:15am – Holy Communion, 10:30am – Holy Communion + The Hub
 The HUB is activities for children and young people including: Crèche (0-3s),
 Scramblers (3-5's), Climbers (5-7's), Explorers (7-11's), Pathfinders (11-14's)
 6:00pm – Evening Worship [except 1st Sunday on the month]
THURSDAY: 10:00am – Holy Communion

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Reverend David Osman (Priest – in – Charge) St John's Vicarage, 23 St John's Avenue, Hebburn, NE31 2TZ Tel: (0191) 422 7505 | | Reverend Barry Unwin (Curate) St Oswald's Vicarage, St Oswald's Road, Hebburn Tel: (0191) 483 3910 | |
| Readers Cyril Muddif, 53 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn Tel: 4832090 Ken Smith, 35 Coquet Street, Jarrow Tel: 4215269 Paul & Heather Stokes, 14 Carlton Terrace, Low Fell Tel: 4822454 Carol Unwin, St Oswald's Vicarage, Hebburn Tel: 4833910 | | | |
|  | ST JOHN'S - HEBBURN <i>at the heart of the community sharing the heart of Christ</i> |  | CHRIST CHURCH JARROW GRANGE <i>Christ Centred – Town Centred</i> |
| www.stjohnshebburn.co.uk admin@stjohnshebburn.co.uk | | www.christchurchjarrow.co.uk admin@christchurchjarrow.co.uk | |
| CHURCH WARDENS Gillian Melvin 89 Agincourt, Hebburn Village. Tel: 483 9691 David Profit 179 Wenlock Rd, Simonside S/S. Tel: 454 0728 PCC SECRETARY Ethel Laycock 29 Dahlia Way, Hebburn Tel: 4214726 | | CHURCH WARDENS Mrs Marion Dick 19 Gloucester Way, Fellgate, Jarrow. Tel: 483 8558 Mr John Holman 8 Oak Street, Jarrow, NE32 5JY PCC SECRETARY Mr Michael Bayles Christ Church Rectory, Clayton St, Jarrow. Te: 483 2305 | |