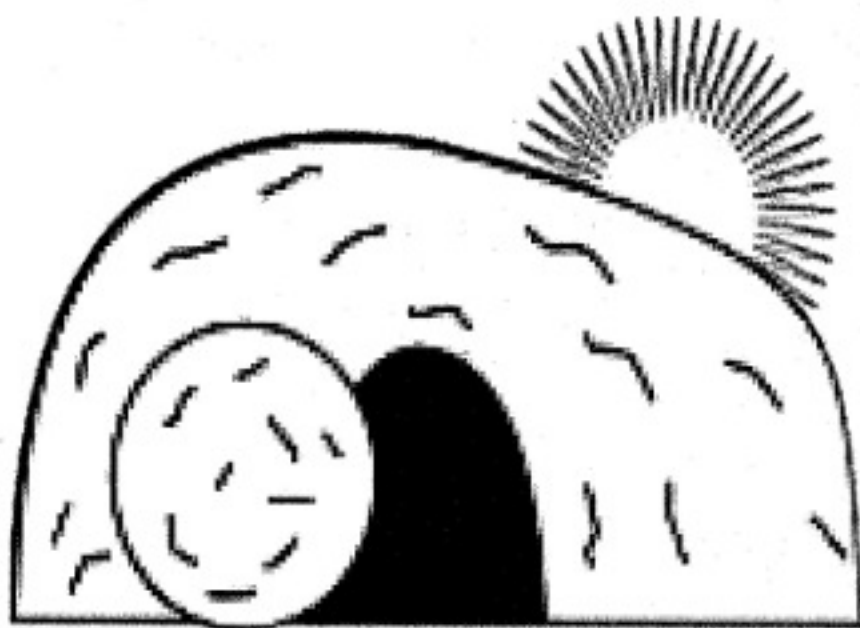


Barnoldswick Gospel Mission

2011 No. 1

April



For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures

1 Corinthians Ch15 v 3-4

www.barnoldswickmission.org.uk

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PASTOR'S LETTER

The night before He died.

(What did Jesus want his disciples to know?)



It might surprise you that when I first read one of the Gospels I did not know how the story ended. I was genuinely upset when they crucified Jesus, so reading on to discover that Jesus rose from the dead was amazing. Easter is a season of remarkable contrasts: evil overcome by good, despair followed by hope, death giving way to life. There is no more important story than the death and resurrection of Christ. It speaks into the despair of many lives not just as an example of hope but as a real event that changed the course of history. Jesus was a real man who faced the horror of crucifixion with the same fears as any man would. He asked his father if salvation could be won in any other way, "if it be possible he said "let this cup pass from me, but not my will but your will be done." Yet despite his fears Jesus spent many hours teaching his disciples. Recently I have been studying what Jesus said on that night. This can be found in John's Gospel Chapters 13 to 17. Jesus was very aware of the fact that he was going back to his father and that the way there was through the cross. However, his primary concern was for his disciples. He wanted to prepare them for what he wanted them to do when he was gone. He told them how important it was for them to "remain in Him" because although he would not be physically present he would be with them by his Spirit. He also told them that they had a work to do to show the world that he is the Saviour. Let me quote some of the things Jesus said

"By this shall all men know you are my disciples if you have love one for the other" 13:35. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit", 15:16. "And you

also must testify about me", 15:27.

Jesus' concern before he died was that his followers would show his reality by their love and tell the world about him. Jesus then adds a promise, "the father will give you what you ask in my name", 16:16. Many Christians are puzzled by the fact that Jesus gives such a blanket assurance that prayers will be answered. The observation that helps us understand this promise is that Jesus gives it in the context of mission. If we want to make Jesus known, and to be the kind of people that reflect the life of Christ, then the resources of heaven are open to us. What mattered to Jesus on the night before he died was that his disciples would know that the Father would make available to them all they needed to continue his work. The same is true for us. Jesus wants us to be lights in a dark world and if we ask him he will give all the spiritual and material resources to fulfil that call.

BUILDING UPDATE

This is the 80th Anniversary of the Mission, a great time to be able to open the new building.

The leadership met with the building committee at the beginning of the year to discuss progress. An estimate was made of the cost of completing the work and a gift day was planned.

We are so grateful to God that he has moved people to give so generously that the cost has been covered by an offering of £39,043.

Downstairs reception area 05/04/2011



Main room upstairs 05/04/2011

SAINT OR SINNER

How would you describe yourself, saint or sinner?

We can say we are still sinners, but saved by grace. Well, that seems to have a ring of truth about it.

Maybe we feel that we are still prone to sin, but are trying to improve since we became Christians. That sounds admirable and committed.

Perhaps we say that we are definitely saved and God is helping us to change so that we don't sin as much as we did and we are getting better at not sinning. Excellent!

Or it could be that we dare to say that we *were* sinners, and we were saved by grace, but now we are saints whose nature is Godly and whose heart has been renewed so that we no longer sin habitually.

Does that sound outrageous? Maybe, but the gospel is outrageous to the natural mind. That God can freely forgive all my sin because Jesus died in my place and took God's wrath upon himself so that I can go free; is that not outrageous? Yet it is true! When we come in repentance and faith, and declare that Jesus is Lord, we are saved in that instant. That means that we *'have passed from judgement into life'* (John 5:24) and *'as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us'* (Psalm 103:12). And, *'there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ'*, (Roms 8:1) We know that God has forgiven our sin and we know lots of scriptures that tell us so, and we believe it, and that is wonderful.

Being forgiven of our sin is only the beginning. Being a Christian is not all about being saved and knowing we are forgiven and that we will go to heaven when we leave this life. There is so much more!

God saved us so that we can enter into a personal and intimate relationship with Him; a relationship that is developing and growing in love and openness.

Jesus said, *'I have come that you might have life, and life in all its fullness'* (John 10:10) He also said, *'And eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ whom you have sent'*. (John 17:3) Much of the rest of Jesus' prayer in John 17 is

about being one with the father as He is one with Him. God's heart for us is to know Him intimately – he longs for us to give ourselves totally to Him.

We cannot know God intimately if we believe we are sinners because we know that sin separates. What if, as part of our salvation, God has removed our sinful heart and replaced it with a heart that delights in Him and loves Him and obeys Him? Wouldn't that be amazing?

Incredibly, that is exactly what he has done! *'Those who are children of God do not continue to sin, for God's very nature is in them; and because God is their Father, they cannot continue to sin'* (1John 3:9) *'Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come.'* 2 Corinthians 5:17) *'....but if we sin, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf – Jesus Christ the righteous one.'* (1 John 2:1) Note the passage says, **'if we sin'**. **Sin is no longer our basic nature! We have been changed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. God's Spirit in us cannot sin!** Of course we are not sinless because we still have our will and we sometimes choose self instead of God, but God no longer sees us as sinners, He sees us as righteous through the blood of Jesus. God holds nothing against us, there is nothing keeping us apart!

God will never be angry with you or punish you ever again. The evil one doesn't want us to know that because if we really believe that, he can no longer deceive us so easily with the lie that we are failures and useless and God is angry with us because we have let Him down – again.

Believe it because scripture says it and *'the Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God'* (Rom 8:15) God is our Father and He knows that we are dust, but He loves us and gave Himself for us, He will withhold no good thing from us.

As we really get a hold of this truth, it will transform our walk with God and draw us ever deeper into intimacy with Him, and our assurance that we are loved and precious becomes a reality that brings the pure joy of knowing and loving our father in Heaven.

May He help us to know the truth that will set us free and bring us life in all its abundance as He has promised to those who love Him.

Geoff Gedling



BOOK REVIEW

"A LIFE LESS LOST", by K B Walker

ISBN 978-1-872955-31-5 Published in 2009 by Pog Hall Books.

In May, Kimm Walker is coming to speak to our Ladies Group by Jane's invitation. When I heard, I thought I had better read her book. It was in a pile of 'Christian books to read'. I was excited to hear Kimm was coming to the Mission as I had met her at a Christian Writers day in September 2009 at a church in Burnley. The day was being led by Adrian and Bridgit Plass.

Kimm is a tall lady with hair similar to mine! She had a soft American accent and a gentle manner. I bought her book and she offered to sign it. My Christian books are usually read during my quiet time, 6 or 8 pages at a go. I read Kimm's far more quickly because I couldn't put it down.

'A Life Less Lost' takes Kimm and her family on a journey through life which includes every single human emotion. Kimm and Howard's oldest son, James, was diagnosed with cancer in his leg in his teens. The book takes us through the journey of hospitals, diagnosis, despair, hope and a clinging on to her faith as she battles every day to live as normal a life as possible, encompassing her work as a teacher, school for the boys, Howard's demanding job, extra curricular activities and so on.

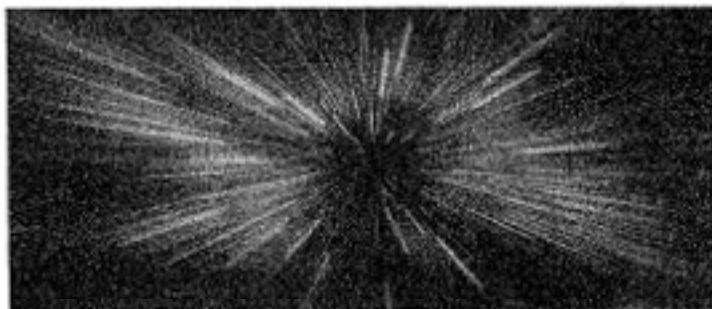
Kimm is from the U.S.A. and the book is full of stories of her life in the States. She lost her own mum whilst in her teens through a road accident. Kimm came over to the U.K. on an exchange teaching practice trip and met her husband to be, a Yorkshire lad, Howard. They had two sons, James and David, close together.

The book is unusual as it takes us on the journey of James, his fight with cancer and the trials of that time and also of the many and varied happenings, joys, sadnesses, trips and everyday life. It then intersperses with stories from Kimm's American childhood and after. It is cleverly written and a page-turner, making me in turn, weep and laugh out loud!

This book is so real that it is not easy for me to review. I myself am going through the trauma of my brother's recent death and the stress that has followed. In these pages it brings home how many families are living with their own personal traumas and tragedies. Through it all we have a life to live and a need to carry on. We need to hang on to our faith and learn to give Him our burdens. We tend to weigh ourselves down with our worries instead of sharing them. Kimm has shown through her pages how she clung on to her faith in sickness and health, in sadness and joy.

The Answer is 42

It might surprise many but the pin up scientist Professor Brian Cox is forty two. He is a great communicator and has brought astrophysics to a new audience. I heard him recently on a Radio Four programme discussing matters cosmic. One contributor majored on the theory of multi universes. His reasoning was that if this universe is infinite then at some point there must be a repetition of the arrangement of atoms in our part of it. The result is that there will be somewhere versions of ourselves living in parallel universes. Brian Cox was wise when he said we can't be sure of anything in science, the whole scientific endeavour rests on questioning previously held assumptions. Hopefully the multi universe idea will be included. What struck me most forcefully, however, about the programme was it's total silence on one topic. There is one thing that cannot be mentioned in such programmes. Despite the fact that the order, beauty and complexity of creation screams at us to believe in a creator, His name cannot be mentioned. Men would rather believe in absurdities and call them science than ground their thinking in a God who has given meaning to the Universe. The scientific endeavour rests on a theistic world view because it assumes that there is a knowable order to the things we investigate. I for one will say the heavens declare the glory of the Lord. Let's not be afraid to speak his name as creator as well as redeemer.



It's colouring time again. We had some great entries for the Christmas competition. Joint first prize goes to Elizabeth Holtom and Matthew Lund with commendations to Jo Southern and Isaac Southern.

Palm Sunday



Name

Please hand to Paul Standley



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Good Friday April 22nd

**Good Friday Walk
of Witness** **10:30am**

Independent
Methodist Church

**Pendle Summit
Praise** **3:00pm**

There will also be a
service at 3:00pm at
Barley Methodist for
those unable to
climb Pendle.

**Good Friday
Meeting** **7:00pm**

At the Mission. A
reflective service
including
communion and a
Fellowship Tea.

St George's Day. April 23rd

This community event will include a HOPE BARLICK stall for which volunteers are needed. Barry Matthews would also like people to give him their names if they can help in stewarding the event as a whole.

Easter Sunday. April 24th

10:30am Easter Sunday Family Service. Please make use of the special invitation leaflets to invite friends and neighbours to this service.

6:00pm Easter Praise at the Mission.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Anniversary

For everyone's diary

Anniversary Celebration 4:00pm Saturday 21st May

This year is the 80th Anniversary of the Mission

In addition to our usual Anniversary Sunday and the Anniversary Picnic we are organising a special event to which previous pastors and members are being invited. The pastors will share about their time at the Mission. The purpose of this event is not only to give an opportunity to meet old friends but also to give the present congregation the awareness that we are part of an ongoing story. We believe this will be a significant time and would encourage everyone to come. There will be a Tea and activities for the children. It starts at 4:00pm with Tea, this will be followed by a Praisetime and then a time of sharing. The venue will be the Majestic Church Centre. It would be great to meet in the new building but that celebration will have to wait until later on in the year.

Anniversary Sunday 22nd May Our speaker is Rev John Fisher

Anniversary Picnic Monday 30th May 10:30am at Bolton Abbey

(Note we have moved the date to the second Bank Holiday in May in the expectation of better weather)

WHAT'S ON

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:30 | Family Worship & Sunday School (at the Civic Hall). |
| | 6:00 | Evening Praise. |
| | 7:30 | Young People's Fellowship. Discussion topics, Bible Studies, prayer times, games and social evenings (academic years 7 to 13). |
| Monday | 10:30 | Home Group. Come along for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship. (Varying venues as announced, or ask for details.) |
| Wednesday | 7:45 | Home Group. |
| Thursday | 6:15-7:15 | J Club. Games, crafts, and Bible stories for children from 6 to 11. |
| | 7:45 | Home Group. |
| Friday | 7:30-9:30 | kn3kt. The Youth Club for Year 7 onwards, providing a mix of games, activities and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere. |

CONTACTS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Paul Standley | 01282 814705 |
| Secretary | Christopher Jackson | 01282 844472 |
| kn3kt | Christopher Jackson | 01282 844472 |
| Young People's Fellowship | Rachel Waddington | 01282 816006 |
| Sunday School | Chris Waddington | 01282 816006 |
| J Club | Paul Standley | 01282 814705 |

Why not pay us a visit on the worldwide web at <http://www.barlickmission.org.uk>? You will find lots of useful information, including email contacts and this newsletter! You can also send email to our info@barlickmission.org.uk address.