

The Monthly Newsletter of Kimble Free Church

The BRIDGE

Oct 2008 Special Testimony Edition

...IN A FEW WORDS



*'the Church
by the Bridge'*



WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?



by Chris Hambrecht

www.emdoodle.com

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A member Church of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Dear Friends,

Recently, Jon (my husband) saw a question on the internet asking for Christian testimonies. He submitted the following that I thought you might be interested in reading.

"I (Jon) became a Christian 17 years ago. Before that if you had come to my door to talk about God I would have told you where to go in no uncertain terms. Val, my wife, and myself took our daughter Jenny along to the local Church of England vicar for him to perform the ritual christening. We were a bit stunned when Allan the vicar turned round and basically said we were being hypocritical in seeking a christening without a clue to what Christianity was all about. Allan visited us a few times after that. I don't know about you but I expected the local vicar to arrive on his pedal bike and to politely sip tea with you all the time keeping one finger pointed heavenward. I hope you know what I mean. Well Allan did arrive on his bike - a noisy growling motorbike roared up our drive and instead of a cup of tea he would happily enjoy a can of lager, if he had left the bike at home. Allan broke all the stereotypes.

Allan then invited us to have Jenny blessed not christened and he asked me to write some of the service. To do this I had to investigate the dusty bible that was in our house. I had to flick through it trying to make sense of the 'Thou's' and 'Thus'es' and 'Thus Saith the Lord'. Thankfully I have now discovered some of the more modern translations that make the Bible far easier to read. Anyway Jenny was blessed not christened and after visiting the church a few times we stopped going.

It took another 6 months before Val felt a compulsion to go to another church near us - It was wonderful - for me at least - because every Sunday morning she would disappear taking our two lively children with her. This gave me a lovely lie-in on Sunday mornings.

Then the Minister there visited us. Richard wasn't the stereotype from the TV either. He didn't drive a motorbike but he - like Allan - seemed to have something on-fire about him. These Christians weren't boring! They were far more alive than I was - but why?

I don't know why I went to church with Val and the children. I just found myself there on a Sunday morning. Again - I was surprised. This church didn't have pews - There were young people there - the women weren't all old - they didn't all wear hats! This wasn't the church I thought I knew!

We were invited to join a 'nurture group'. This was a place where I could ask all sort of horrible questions. It was a place where I could argue my point and prove to them that God didn't exist. I failed! One evening we were shown a video. It showed a young man running away and trying to hide from God. It contained the words from Psalm 139. I couldn't believe that those powerful words were in a dull book like the Bible.

Then one Thursday night many weeks later they asked us to pray that Jesus would come into our lives. The next minute I knew Val was in tears of joy having found something that obviously I couldn't. You might have thought I was happy or surprised at Val. Well I was neither. I was very angry! We had been having such a good time arguing with these Christians and now Val had switched sides and joined the 'happy clappies'. I wouldn't talk to her. - I went home in silence - went to bed in silence - went to work the following morning in silence. Then something strange happened.

I was interviewing people all through the following day for a job that my firm had on offer. But for some reason it had been advertised wrongly. The job wanted someone willing to work 7 days a week but it had been advertised as a Monday to Friday job. I had to ask everyone that turned up whether they had any objection to working Sundays. Out of 5 interviews 3 people had. We ended up talking about Christianity the majority of the time. At the end of the day I gave up running away from God - just like Psalm 139 says - I couldn't hide anywhere from him. At the end of the day I gave my life to Jesus. I had kept asking God to prove to me He existed with a miracle of some sort. You know what I think God's reply was - He thumbed his nose at me and said you don't need a miracle to believe. And you know what - He was right! When I got home Val just looked at me and knew what had happened. The following night - Saturday - was the first time we prayed together. One of the prayers was for a 4-year old lad who had been abducted 6 weeks earlier from Gadebridge Park in Hemel Hempstead.

The following day was Sunday and we went to church as normal. It was a communion service and Val and myself found ourselves in tears with the sudden realisation that Jesus had died on the cross - He had done it for me - for Val - and for you. The only experience I can compare my emotions with that morning was to when I saw both my children born. It's understandable really. I was seeing new life by seeing my children born and now I was experiencing being reborn. 'Born again' had suddenly become a term I understood. That afternoon God added the icing to the cake. The little lad that had been abducted was found alive and well.

Since then life is no longer boring or tedious. Most people think Christians as dull or wacky. Well, as in all walks of society, some are, but many are not. What I do know is that everyone is important in God's eyes. All Christians have a personal relationship with almighty God and an assurance that they will spend eternity in heaven. Jesus also wants to form that personal relationship with you. It's a challenge that many of us shy away from. Just try talking to Him - He will answer - but sometimes in the most unexpected way. You see my God is not predictable. He is alive and will talk to you if you really want to hear. Try it. He might surprise you! If you want help in forming that wonderful relationship with Jesus, feel free to give Val and/or myself a call. There's nothing to lose but everything to gain.

What's on at Kimble Free Church?

Our Sunday Services are at 11am and we seek to provide something for children and adults alike. We give a very warm welcome to any visitors. A Family (All-Age) service is on the 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month. If you are new to the village or would like more information about us then please contact our pastor, Val Pyper on 01844 346957.

Tuesday mornings 10am-12noon Bobtails Mother and Toddler Group. Contact Stephanie Ridley 01296 625741 & Elizabeth Clarke 01296 624589

Wednesday 8th Oct 10am - Arts and Crafts morning at the Church. For details, contact Vicky on 01296 612748.

Wednesday 8th Oct 7:30pm - Bible Study. Ring Val on 01844 346957.

Friday 10th Oct 6:30 - 7:30pm - KoolKidz (exciting children's club for 5 - 11 year olds). Includes fun activities, games, songs and DVD's. Please ring Val & Jon on 01844 346957 for details or check out our website at 'www.kimble-free.co.uk'. All adults have been CRB checked.

Wednesday 15th Oct- 10:30am - 'T4U' - This is our new fundraising event for local and national charities. It replaces T@3 and meets at the new time of 10:30am to enable more people to attend. The pie/cake and the bring & buy stalls will be open to raise money for **Water-Aid** this month. For details, please contact Doreen on 01844 344576.

Thursday 16th Oct 3pm - Reminiscence Group - A friendly and lively group for the over 60's. Please ring Val on 01844 346957 for details.

Sunday 19th Oct - Family Service about the charity 'SightSavers'.

Wed 22nd Oct 7:30pm - Bible Study. Ring Val on 01844 346957.

Saving Grace

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better programmer. This goes on for a few hours until they agree to hold a contest with Father God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours, lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and Father God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, "I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out." "Very well, then," says Father God, "let us see if Jesus fared any better." Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, "But how?! I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact! How did he do it?" God chuckles, "Don't forget - Jesus always saves."

