



Thanks to Patricia

03-30-2009

DEAR GOD, PLEASE GIVE ME PATIENCE ...
AND I NEED IT RIGHT NOW!!!

Weekly Meetings

Sunday

- 10.30 Communion Service
- 18.30 Gospel Service

Monday

- 19.00 Prayer Meeting
(Last Monday of each month is a mission prayer meeting.)

Wednesday

- 19:30 Bible Study
(Last Wednesday of every month is a Fellowship Meeting)

Saturday

- 18.30 Worship Practice

Contact Details:

Malcolm & Marion Macqueen Tel: 01793 695048

Malcolm: 07743 322781 / Marion: 07800824314

E-Mail: e.macqueen1@ntlworld.com

Website: www.aogswindon.org.uk

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2009



ASSEMBLY OF GOD

KING'S CHRISTIAN CENTRE

26a KING WILLIAM STREET

OLD TOWN

SWINDON

SN1 3LB

*"A Church - in the Heart of Old Town
with a Heart for Old Town"*

Surveying the Wondrous Cross

Understanding the Atonement is about more than grasping a theory.

Google the words atonement and emergent church together, and your computer screen will soon heat up a few degrees. A lively (and not always civilized) debate has broken out among those who defend classical theories of the Atonement and those who see them as some variation of the caricature Dorothy Sayers drew 60 years ago:

God wanted to damn everybody, but his vindictive sadism was sated by the crucifixion of his own Son, who was quite innocent, and, therefore, a particularly attractive victim. He now only damns people who don't follow Christ or who have never heard of him. Since Jesus' death nearly 2,000 years ago, theologians such as Origen, Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, and John Calvin have proposed ways of understanding it: as a Ransom paid to Satan, a Satisfaction required by God, a Moral Influence for humanity, a Penal Substitution for the punishment due to humankind. Some of these theories, referencing animal sacrifices and God's wrath, can make for a hard sell for many in modern times.



The Cross is the central image of Christianity, and gives us vivid proof that, in novelist Flannery O'Connor's words, the world "has, for all its horror, been found by God to be worth dying for." Yet theologians must somehow explain how Jesus' death differs in essence from the death of any great leader. What made it necessary, and exactly how did it affect our relationship with God?

During Holy Week last year, I found myself reflecting not so much on the theoretical rationale for the Atonement as on its practical outworking. Three insights from that week:

1. The Cross made possible a new intimacy with God. Three of the Gospels mention that at the moment of Jesus' death, a thick curtain inside the temple tore from top to bottom, exposing the Most Holy Place. Traditionally, only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), could the high priest enter the fearsome Most Holy Place. Preparations involved ritual baths, special clothes, and five separate animal sacrifices, and still the priest entered with apprehension about committing an offense. He wore bells on his robe and a rope around his ankle so that if the bells fell silent, other priests could retrieve his body.

The Book of Hebrews draws a vivid contrast: the author says believers can now "approach the throne of grace with confidence" (4:16). No image could be more shocking for devout

Invited Ministry and Meetings in June

Friday 5th	3.00pm	Kingsmead home
Friday 19th	3.00pm	Kingsmead Home

Further details of meetings will be announced during the month.

Chorus Leading in June

Sunday 7th	Morning / Evening	Ben / Steve C.
Wednesday 10th	Bible Study	Elroy
Sunday 14th	Morning / Evening	Ben / Vince
Wednesday 17th	Bible Study	Alaine
Sunday 21st	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Elroy
Wednesday 24th	Fellowship Meeting	Ben / Malcolm
Sunday 28th	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Steve C.
Wednesday 1st July	Bible Study	Ben
Sunday 5th July	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Elroy
Wednesday 8th July	Bible Study	Alaine

Happy Birthday in June

Tuesday 2nd Niyi Olamiyan
 Saturday 6th Edwin Rodrigues
 Monday 8th Marion Macqueen
 Thursday 11th Jogesh Rao
 Saturday 13th Franco Fernandes
 Tuesday 16th Vince Pomagalski
 Wednesday 24th Alfred Bower
 Tuesday 30th Peggy Pitt

If you have any birthdays, anniversaries etc. to put into future newsletters, please contact Malcolm



Sunday School in June

Sunday school takes place on Sunday mornings (during the time of ministry).

Sunday	7th	Marion Macqueen
Sunday	14th	Daisy Rodrigues
Sunday	21st	Mirelle Tchoyo
Sunday	28th	Marion Macqueen
Sunday July 5th		Daisy Rodrigues

Assembly Happenings

Gladys passed away

Our dear sister Gladys Bower passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday morning 31st May at Kingsmead Home after a period of intense suffering. What a comfort to know that Gladys is now in the presence of her Lord and Master, she loved and served so faithfully and fervently for many years. The families comfort at this time is knowing that although Gladys is now absent from them, she is present with her Lord!!

To Alfred, Gail, Jean, Neil and the family, we would like to express our deepest condolences to you all, at your loss, and may you all know the comfort and the presence of the Lord at this time.

The funeral service will take place on Friday 12th June at 12.30pm at the church with the burial taking place at the Whitworth Road cemetery immediately afterwards. There will be a celebratory tea served afterwards, the details of the venue will be given at the funeral service. For those wishing to give a donation, a retiring offering will be taken for "Incare" the Missions department of AoG at the request of Alfred.

Condolences to Hilda

Our sister Hilda Bushnell lost her daughter very suddenly recently, which understandably brought her great sorrow. Hilda we want to express our sympathy and support to you and your family at this time of great sorrow. The funeral took place on Friday 5th June.

Recovering

Our sister Joanne Thomason-Hyde was released from hospital on Friday 5th June after undergoing open heart surgery in Bristol Royal Infirmary to replace the aortic valve and have a bypass. Joanne we trust that after your recuperation period at home, you will enjoy a new lease of life and be physically able to do all the things that you want to do for the Lord.

Returning to Poland

Our brother Andrzej Spila is returning for a short trip to Poland to visit his family. He has asked us to particularly pray for both of his sisters, one has got cancer and is very sick. His other sister is broken hearted because of her sister's illness as only recently their father passed away.

Also away to Poland

Daniel, Janic and Rafael Widomski are going on Tuesday 9th to a Christian youth conference in Poland. They will be away for 2 weeks, have a blessed time. We will miss you!!

Welcome back to Steve, Sheena, & girls from holiday in Spain, hope you had a great time!!

Jews than charging boldly into the Most Holy Place. Therefore, concludes the author of Hebrews, "let us draw near to God" (10:22). Because of Jesus, we need no protective curtain; God has provided a sufficient Mediator for all time.

While visiting the United States in 1962, theologian Karl Barth faced a questioner intent on pinning down exactly when he had been saved. Barth replied, "It happened one afternoon in A.D. 34 when Jesus died on the cross." Love finds a way to overcome all obstacles to uniting with the beloved, no matter the cost.

2. The Cross reveals the limits of human achievement. Paul wrote, "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Col. 2:15). Pontius Pilate had Jesus' "crime"—King of the Jews—posted in three languages, in ironic tribute to the travesty of justice. A public spectacle it was indeed when the most refined religious authorities of the time ganged up on an innocent man, and the most renowned justice system carried out the sentence.

Writer Thomas Merton points out that "no one saw the Resurrection. Everyone saw the Crucifixion. Everyone does see the Crucifixion. The Cross is everywhere." It should give us pause, this sign of contradiction, when we are tempted to look to politics or science to solve the deepest problems of humanity. Christ exposed as false gods the very powers in which men and women take most pride and invest most hope.

3. The Cross brings to light an unexpected quality of the Godhead: humility. As Paul expressed in Philippians 2: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing ... he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (v. 5-8). The poor and disadvantaged respond by instinct to this personal identification: witness the sermons in Appalachia or the base communities in Latin America that center on the Cross. Novelists know it too: Graham Greene, Georges Bernanos, and Ignazio Silone all made the sacrament commemorating Jesus' death the centerpiece of their finest works.

Whatever else we may say about it, the Atonement fulfills the Jewish principle that only one who has been hurt can forgive. At Calvary, God chose to be hurt.

[Philip Yancey Christianity Today May 2009](#)

CROSS QUOTES

Christ did not bear the cross, He used it.

We do not need culture, but we need Calvary. *Vance Havner*

The Cross is God's plus sign to a needy world.

The Cross is the only ladder high enough to touch heaven's threshold. *G D Boardman*

After crosses and losses, men grow humbler and wiser. *Benjamin Franklin.*

Hitting a Baseball and the Other "Hardest" Things

Ministry has its own list

Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

USA Today ran an article once about the 10 hardest things to do in sports.

No 2 was to drive a race car at mega speeds and not die. At the Indy 500, they go more than 220 mph.

No 3 was to pole vault over 15 feet.

No 4 was hitting a golf ball long and straight, which strikes me as ridiculous. The golf ball is just sitting there. A child should be able to hit a golf ball.

But the **No 1** hardest achievement in athletics, according to the survey, is hitting a baseball.

When we moved to the Bay area, Ned Colletti—then a VP with the Giants—asked me to lead a chapel service. He also asked if I'd like to take batting practice. He said John Yandle, who threw batting practice for Barry Bonds, would throw me some pitches. John was a couple years older than I was and never actually pitched in the majors, so it was not like facing a young major leaguer in his prime; but it was a professional challenge.

I never played organized baseball, but we played on a vacant lot when I was a kid. The best pitcher in our neighborhood was Greg Clauson; when we were in fifth grade, I could hit him better than anyone else in the neighborhood. There were only two other kids in the neighborhood, and both of them were in the first grade. But I was still best. I thought: I did pretty well against Greg Clauson. Let's see how this goes.

So I went into the batting cage below the bleachers at AT&T Park. John wound up, let go, I heard the sound of the ball hitting the net behind me. I thought, He's not just lobbing them in there. He wants to see if I can hit his best stuff. He wound up again. This time I swung, but the ball had already been in the net several seconds by the time the bat got to the plate. So I kept starting my swing earlier. Eventually I would begin my swing about the same time I saw him start his windup. I got several foul balls. I was feeling pretty good.

Then he said, "Do you want me to put a little zip on one?" These had been his lobs. I said, "Sure. It's been harder to time these slow balls." He wound up. I never saw the ball. He actually sent a scouting report on me to Ned Coletti: "John Ortberg—bats right, throws right. Took ten minutes of batting practice. As a hitter, John makes a good pastor." Ned thought-



Mathew D. Staver, Dean of Liberty University School of Law, who argued the case at every stage of the litigation, commented: "The people of California have spoken by affirming traditional marriage. It is time to move on.

Mr Staver went on to say, "Today is a day of celebration. Political leaders who say that we should give up the battle on traditional marriage are out of touch with the American people. Our future leaders must be strong advocates of traditional marriage and family."

Source: Liberty Counsel

Christians in India are heaving a sigh of relief after the rout of a Hindu nationalist party at the recent Indian elections. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a secular coalition led by the left-of-centre Congress party swept the elections winning a second term at the national level. In State elections in Orissa state, a scene of anti-Christian arson and carnage last year, the ruling centrist party, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), won a second term, but concerns over persecution of minorities remain.

The election result is a strong rejection of extremist religious programs and persecution of non-Hindus according to commentators. Over 80 percent of the more than 1 billion people in India are Hindu. Christians form around 2.3 percent of the population, and Muslims about 14 percent. The BJP now faces a dilemma. Its appeal for Hindu nationalism stands rejected by the electorate. Where does the party go from here?

Source: Intercessors Network

Religious groups are to be forced to accept homosexual youth workers, secretaries and other staff, even if their faith holds same-sex relationships to be sinful. Christian organisations fear that the tightened legislation, which is due to come into force next year, will undermine the integrity of churches and dilute their moral message. It comes amid growing concern that Christians are being unfairly targeted by discrimination laws, following a number of high-profile courts cases against believers who stand up for their faith. Religious leaders had hoped to lobby for exemptions to the Equality Bill but Maria Eagle, the Deputy Equalities Minister, has now indicated that it will cover almost all church employees. "The circumstances in which religious institutions can practice anything less than full equality are few and far between," she told delegates at the Faith, Homophobia, Transphobia, & Human Rights conference in London. "While the state would not intervene in ritual or doctrinal matters, faith communities cannot claim that everything they run is outside the scope of anti-discrimination law. basis. Many churchgoers have expressed deep concerns about the bill and accused politicians of hypocrisy.

Source: Telegraph UK





World News

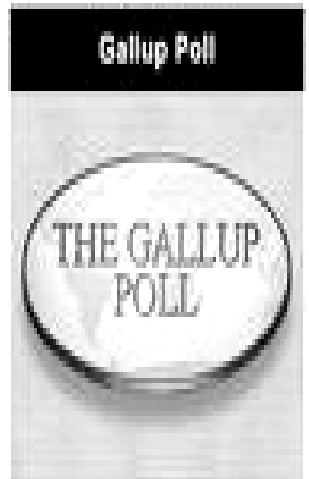
Somalia has been without a central government since 1991 when then President Barre was overthrown by rival clans. Decades of deadly conflict between opposing warlords have resulted in anarchy. Today, the capital city of Mogadishu is considered to be one of the deadliest places on earth. Ongoing violence has forced thousands to flee across the borders into Ethiopia and Northern Kenya. It is estimated that 1 million people have died in recent years as a result of famine and disease. A full third of the population is dependent upon international food aid.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia is a \$30 million a year business. The motivation behind these crimes is not simply greed, but a desire to escape from a life of insecurity and bloodshed. In Somalia there is no policing that could effectively disrupt pirate operations. Fueling this sense of lawlessness is Sheikh Aweys, head of the Islamic Courts Union. Re-appearing after two years in exile he is challenging the newly installed president, Sheikh Sharif. has publicly criticized the president and is reportedly conspiring with terrorist group to drive out the administration.



Source: [Windows International Network](#)

A new Gallup Poll has found 51% of Americans now call themselves "pro-life" against 42% who identify as "pro-choice". This is the first time a majority of U.S. adults have identified themselves as pro-life since Gallup began asking the question in 1995.



The results represent a significant shift from a year ago, when 50% were pro-choice and 44% pro-life. The source of the shift in abortion views is clear in the survey. All of the increase in pro-life sentiment is seen among self-identified conservatives and moderates; the abortion views of political liberals have not changed.

About as many Americans now say abortion should be illegal in all circumstances (23%) as say it should be legal under any circumstance (22%). The dominant position on this question remains however the middle option, with 53% currently say abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances.

Source: [Gallup Poll](#)

The constitutional amendment voted in by Californian constituents last year will stand. The state's Supreme Court ruled that the amendment which defines marriage as being between "a man and a woman" would remain, with the exception of allowing those same-gender couples who were "'married' under an earlier court opinion," to retain those licenses."

fully forwarded it to me.

All of this got me to thinking, What is the hardest activity in church ministry? What would it look like if I were to see a scouting report on my pastoring? It would be fascinating to do a survey and find out which aspect of congregational leadership is the single toughest challenge. Because church ministry makes hitting a baseball look easy.

There is the challenge of trying to preach fresh, creative, substantial messages that reflect the best in increasingly complex scholarship and are integrated into the preacher's soul. And to do this when people compare it to whomever their favorite international preacher is. And to do it again next week, and the week after that, until you grow old and die.

There is the challenge of casting a vision of what might be done tomorrow, when you feel the gravitational pull of human nature to slide backwards into less challenge, less sacrifice, more comfort, and more inward-focus.

There is the challenge of resolving conflict. People keep having problems with other people. They keep trying to assert influence, grab power, get their way, and resist change they did not initiate. There is the temptation to try to ignore it, smooth it over, stomp it underground, or run away. Having the patience and strength to untie the knots is a Herculean effort.

There is the challenge of acquiring and developing the right talent on the team. Finding the right people with the right gifts and putting them into the right lanes to run the right race in alignment with the big mission is a major league challenge. And the job is never done. Someone's always in the wrong lane or pulling a hammy.

There is the resource challenge, which is currently rearing its head in almost every ministry I know. There is the worship challenge, which involves not just worshiping God with integrity and honesty but doing it in a way that resonates with an increasingly niched and diverse population.

Then there is the volunteer challenge, the change-navigation challenge, the technology challenge, the evangelism challenge, the assimilation challenge, the infrastructure challenge, and the pastoral care challenge. There is the 1 Corinthians 9:27 challenge, which is tops on my survey: *"I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

So if you get tired every once in a while, don't be surprised. God knows what you face. God "remembers that we are dust." But not just dust. What makes it worthwhile, what keeps us going, is that we don't step up to the plate alone. The greatest athletes in the world fail at the toughest challenge more often than they succeed.

But every once in a while they take a swing and something goes right. And that something keeps them going. It's the not-giving-up that's the toughest challenge of all.

[John Ortberg is editor at large of Leadership and pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church](#)

Mission Trip to India

Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Ephesians 4:20 KJV

Our trip to India was truly a wonderful experience for us both. This was the first time that Marion was able to go with me and it was good that we could share the first two weeks together before she had to return to the UK. We arrived in Goa on Friday the 1st May after a good flight from London via Mumbai and were met at the airport by Pastor James who is the assistant pastor of the AoG church in Mapusa. We stayed at a holiday flat complex in Candolim, which was quite deserted as the official holiday season for overseas tourists had finished at the end of April. Many of the hotels, restaurants and curio shops were closed, so there was a certain deserted feel about the place.

Meetings and Places.

Our itinerary began immediately with an 8.00am Bible study on the Saturday morning. We in fact overslept because I had forgotten to alter the time on my mobile phone. We just got ourselves to the venue on time, having driven ourselves there and fortunately remembered the way from two years ago.

On the Sunday we ministered at two services at Pastor Matthew Kurian's church at Emerald Gardens on the outskirts of Mapusa. The first service was for the Hindi speaking congregation and then the English service. At both services there was a very good response to the ministry. A characteristic at each meeting wherever we went was the many people who came forward for prayer at the end of the meetings. The needs of people are so great in India, we are so fortunate to live in this country.

Trip to Karnataka

One of the characteristics needed in going to India is the ability to be flexible. Plans change frequently!! We left Goa for Hubli which is the second largest city in Karnataka quite late arriving there at 11.30 in the evening. The driving in India is frightening and we were convinced that our "guardian" angels were working overtime as we were driven from place to place by our young Indian driver Ibrahim. We spent two days in Mundgod with the church under the care of Pastor Peter Samson, who together with his wife have ministered there for eighteen years. They shared some of their experiences of how the Lord has provided for them over that time and it was truly amazing. The church redevelopment is underway and is 50% completed. The monies that our church has sent to help with this work have been greatly appreciated. We held two meetings which lasted from 11.00am till 3.00pm each day and the ministry was received readily.

The following three days we spent with Pastor Daniel Koti and his wife Bina who run the Hubli City AoG church. They have experienced much persecution in recent months and are meeting presently in a small basement hall, which is not suitable for the needs of a growing church. We had three meetings each day, two in the morning and an evening meeting. There

was a lovely spirit in all the meetings and the translators were so good in translating into the Kanada language. We also visited a centre outside Hubli called Equip India which teaches young disabled girls how to sew and earn an income for themselves. The testimonies of these young women left a lasting impression with us both as they also testified of how they had come to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and were baptized in water since coming to the centre. Once they are fully trained they go back to their villages, with a sewing machine and become part of a network that sell their handwork on the overseas market. A truly wonderful work.

On the Sunday we went to a wedding in a town called Belgaum, an hours drive from Hubli, Pastor Koti married the couple and I was invited to minister. Marion was given a sari to wear, as all the other ladies were so dressed. Quite an experience.

Back to Goa

We came back to Goa and Marion returned to the UK on Friday 15th May. That weekend I went to Panajim to hold a series of meetings at the AoG church run by pastor Stephen Mendes and his wife Cia. They had asked me to minister on the "End Times" and they had advertised the meetings in the local newspapers, hoping to draw in outsiders. Both the Friday and Saturday meetings were well attended and much interest was shown in what was presented. There is a clear persuasion in the hearts of God's people everywhere that Jesus is coming soon. I personally experienced a real attack on my health over that weekend, with laryngitis and vomiting and diarrhoea. Praise the Lord that He quickened me and touched my body.

Flew to Mumbai

On Thursday 21st, I flew to Mumbai. It was a flight into the unknown, as I had never been there before and did not know Pastor Philip John whose church I was going to be ministering in. Nothing could have prepared me for the experience of being in Mumbai, a city of 24 million people, all living within a fifty kilometer radius. Visiting one of the slum areas was an unforgettable experience, which once again reminded me of how fortunate we are to be living in a first world western country.

A highlight of the ministry over the weekend was to minister at a youth rally on the Saturday night to about one hundred young adults. The youth committee of the church had gone to a lot of trouble to organize and advertise the event, with a youth band invited from another church to play. Afterwards everyone agreed that the evening had been successful and that many decisions were made to serve the Lord with singleness of mind.

All too soon it was time to leave Mumbai and return to the UK. Spiritually it had been very stimulating, while physically draining due to the high temperatures and humidity before the approaching monsoon season.

Thanks to everyone in the assembly who prayed for us while we were away. The Lord did answer exceedingly abundantly. All praise and honour to our God.

Malcolm & Marion