



Pastor's Page



"A word in Season"

In case you hadn't realised, due to the excitement surrounding the last Bank holiday weekend before Christmas, the new football season has already begun! Oh yes, and my team are currently heading up the premiership! I know that the beginning of a new soccer campaign will cause many of you to sigh with resigned acceptance exclaiming; "Did the other one ever end?!" But for the football fan this is where the New Year begins and fresh hope dawns. Where all the failings of last season are put behind us as our beloved teams start again with a clean sheet.



I appreciate that it must be difficult for those who are not football fans to understand the supporter's great joy at this significant time, but trust me (I'm a Man. Utd. supporter!) it is monumental! But of course for those of us who are Christians we have a much greater joy - the joy of life in all its fullness as promised by Jesus. This gift of life is for all who will trust Christ who alone can forgive us all our past failures and sins. This is the greatest hope for mankind; because it meets our deepest need, namely that of "forgiveness". An anonymous poet summed it up this way;

**If our greatest need had been information - God would have sent us an educator
If our greatest need had been money - God would have sent us an economist
If our greatest need had been technology - God would have sent us a scientist
If our greatest need had been pleasure - God would have sent us an entertainer
But our greatest need was forgiveness - So God sent us a Saviour**

On Channel Four last week Terry Christian hosted a programme called "It's my Life". The topic for this particular episode was religion. There were Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and also a committed atheist (Professor Richard Dawkins) in the studio. The debate was fascinating, and as the programme neared its end Terry Christian put the final question to a Christian minister, saying; "*Why doesn't God just come in the sky and let us all know – put us out of our misery?*" The minister answered, "*Well when I see him –that's one of the first questions I shall ask!*" He went on to say some other things too, but I felt it was a missed opportunity. The great and unique truth about Christianity is that "God has come" He didn't appear in the sky, better than that, he came down to earth and lived amongst us. He became one of us. God took on human flesh in order that we might know him. The invisible God became visible; the almighty God became vulnerable, even onto death, in order that unrighteous people might be reconciled to a righteous God. Jesus came to reveal God and to rescue man. The evidence (which Professor Richard Dawkins kept asking for) is Jesus Christ; His life, death and most importantly, His resurrection. C.S. Lewis said; *God has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form.*" And he did that in order to save us from the misery of living and dying without God.

Now, this is good news for all people. Do you know Jesus as your own Saviour? If not you can know him, by trusting him today. If you do know Him are you making Him known to others? This is the task to which God has called us all.

Beginning next Sunday (3 Sept-3.00pm) we are starting a new season of evangelism in the shape of the "Jesus Video Project". Why not join us? It will be great to have you on the team and remember with God on our side, victory is guaranteed.