



Pastor's Page

Lord of the Dance

As I approached the village hall I could see a few young people milling around outside and others, of the "steward" variety loitering with intent. I knew that this was the right venue, judging by the music blasting out of the building, so I approached a man who seemed to be "on duty". "Is there any room inside for another wrinkle?" I asked. I was hoping he would say something like "Yes, but I can't see one with you!" What he actually said was "Yes you should be able to get in ok!" So, slightly discouraged by this stark comment regarding my youth deficiency, I headed to the appropriate door. As I did the music got louder and the temperature rose significantly until I was absorbed into the crowd crammed into the hall. I tried to separate myself slightly from the very young teenagers so as not to be mistaken for anyone's Grandfather! For the first few minutes I just watched the crowd as they mimicked the band and threw themselves into the whole experience with unadulterated enthusiasm. I saw some of my nieces but hoped they wouldn't spot me (not too cool to have your uncle "getting down and getting with it" at a trendy gig) However, once I felt fairly sure that I wasn't going to be thrown out for being "born so early" I started to relax and actually watch the band. On stage there were four attractive young women generating incredible energy as they danced and sang. Not only was their dancing and singing superb they had a great ability to connect with the crowd. Each number was greeted with screams and cheers (and that was just the parents!) as they had the audience "eating out of their hands". Young girls were trying to be "Rachel" Young men were wishing they could be with Rachel and the grown ups were trying to work out which one was Rachel!

However, at about 8.30pm an amazing thing happened. Following another high energy number, three of the young ladies left the stage leaving the fourth member alone on the platform. The young singer then asked everyone to be quiet for a few minutes as she wanted to tell them something important. The vociferous audience soon quietened down. She then began to talk about her life and how it had been going along great until two incidents happened to her; firstly she was in a road accident in which her car was written off, and secondly her best friend died. This brought her whole world crashing down. In her despair she turned to God for help putting her trust in him. Her life was transformed. (You could have heard a proverbial pin drop.) She spoke clearly and simply about the reason for Jesus' death upon the cross, and the reality of the resurrection. "Jesus died for our wrongdoing" she said "in order that we might have a friendship with God" She then challenged the listening crowd with these words; "You can make one of three possible responses to this message – Firstly, you may write it off as a load of rubbish, or secondly, you may say, I believe it all but I'm not going to do anything about it, or thirdly you may say, I believe this and I want to commit my life to Jesus tonight" She then encouraged anyone who wanted to do this to talk with a team member or band member after the concert. I don't know if anyone did but I was certainly praying for my nieces. She and the other girls then concluded with a powerful gospel song. I was almost moved to tears to see these four young Christian women using their remarkable talent for God's glory.

This concert, which was part of the Scripture Union Beach Mission that I was attending last week in North Wales, was later described as "the most exciting thing ever to have happened in the village!" It probably is and it excites me to know that God is raising up young women like these to reach other young (and not so young) people with the good news of Jesus.

12th August 2007