



## Pastor's Page

### ***"Vision Express"***

Well, I never found out if the phone call from *Age Concern* was genuine or not, still I'm more cautious now when climbing stairs! (See last week's Pastor's Page) Anyway having put the experience behind me I answered my phone on Friday to hear a strong male voice say "Good morning, this is *Vision Express* in Cambridge, your contact lenses have arrived" Now if the caller had been female I would have been convinced that Lisa from *Age Concern* was stalking me! However, the voice was definitely male and the call sounded so professional that despite never having worn contact lenses, or even been able to handle the thought of wearing them, I almost said "thanks very much, when can I collect them?!" I didn't; but rather established quickly the fact that a mistake had been made. Soon after this I received a text message (the third in this vein!) addressing me as David and 'wishing me well during my hospitalisation!' (I'm now suffering from an identity crisis!)

Later reflecting on these things (in the hope of turning them into a "Pastor's Page!") I began to wonder about the people for whom the messages were intended. Would they get them? Will the person needing help up the stairs get it? Will the man with the poor eyesight get his contact lenses? Will David ever know that people didn't forget him whilst he was in hospital? There's something sad about not receiving a message especially when it's intended just for you.

Last summer I visited the Greenbelt Christian festival and there I heard an American speaker called Mark Yaconelli, talking about the church. In his address he told the story of a native American pastor who'd never visited a city before and another minister who, during a conference in Atlanta Georgia, went for a stroll during one lunch session. As they walked through the city centre with cars roaring past and people rushing everywhere the native American suddenly said, "Hey, did you hear that?" "Hear what?" asked the other pastor. The native American then walked over to where some trees had been planted in the middle of the pavement and reaching down into a cluster of flowers pulled out a tiny cricket. "Look at that" he said. "How on earth did you hear that?" The other pastor asked? The native American then pulled out a handful of coins and threw them up into the air. As they landed, people all around stopped and turned to look. The pastor then said; "It depends on what you're listening for?"

What are we listening for? The bible tells us that God has spoken to us by his Son (Hebrews 1:2) and we should listen to him. (Matthew 17:5) To this end Mary of Bethany set us a good example as she followed Jesus (Luke 10:38-42) Reading the bible is the way that we can hear Jesus today. But a crucial aspect to hearing God's voice is wanting to obey him. As the prophet Samuel said to King Saul "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22)

So are we listening for God's voice? Do we want to obey him? It would be very sad if the wonderful words of eternal life for us became lost messages due to our spiritually deaf ears. Only God can open our eyes to see 'the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ' So look to Him.....no contact lenses required!

13<sup>th</sup> April 2008