



## Pastor's Page

### The Price is Right?

Ricky is an evangelical Christian who enjoys gospel music and names the bible as his favourite book. He also loves sport and is a member of an organization called "Athletes of Christ". However at the age of eighteen Ricky suffered a career-threatening and possibly paralysis-inducing spinal fracture as a result of a swimming pool accident, but remarkably made a full recovery. He attributes his recovery to God and has since tithed his income to his church. He is a gifted footballer - so gifted in fact - that a British club this week are reported to have offered to pay £108 million to have him play for them! His full name is Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite and his nick-name is Kaká! Yes this deal will be the most expensive transfer (by a mile) in the history of the game. I love football and I would love Kaká to come to Manchester City (well United preferably!) just so that we can see this amazing Brazilian sportsman in action. What a blessing he could be too if he attended an Evangelical church in Manchester and tithed his income to them!! But, talented as he is, and great as it would be to have an evangelical Christian playing here in Britain, we have to ask; Is it right to pay £108 000,000 (one hundred and eight million pounds) for a young man to kick a football around? Has the world gone mad? And if this Brazilian superstar Kaká is worth £108,000,000 how much is the pilot Chesley Sullenberger (also in the news this week) worth?

On Thursday the US Airways Airbus A320 took off from LaGuardia airport New York heading to Charlotte, North Carolina. Just minutes into the flight the plane hit a flock of birds damaging both engines. The airbus was diverted to the nearest airport but the pilot soon realised that they weren't going to make it. So using New York's Hudson River as a 'runway' he brought the plane (which was now gliding) safely down into the icy waters. The passengers walked out onto the wings as the plane was sinking and waited to be rescued by lifeboats. One pilot gave a freezing cold passenger the shirt off his back. Captain Chesley Sullenberger who had landed the plane walked right through the half submerged craft knee deep in water making sure that every passenger had got off the plane. All 155 passengers and crew were rescued and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg praised Captain Chesley Sullenberger for his "masterful" landing and hailed him a hero.

What an amazing story and Captain Sullenberger, a former Air Force fighter pilot, is truly a hero responsible for saving the lives of 155 people. Now I know that Mr Sullenberger's wage packet won't be in the same league as Mr Santos Leite's (aka Kaká) but no amount of money could reflect the importance of this pilot's actions! As I see it Chesley Sullenberger isn't just a hero he's a saviour too. And those 155 people on board the US Airways Airbus A320 last Thursday would have chosen a saviour over a superstar every single time in their hour of need. That's why I'm so glad that Jesus Christ isn't a superstar but rather a saviour - The Saviour. The bible says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

That's the price that God paid for us, because incredibly, he thinks we're worth it!

18<sup>th</sup> January 2009