



Pastor's Page

“A Brighter Outlook”

The meteorological office announced last week that Britain was witnessing the worst snow for 18 years. However, I agree with a listener who phoned a national radio station to say that “This was the best snow for 18 years!” It’s really all a question of perspective!

I think you know that I love snow and I was hoping that all the promises of last weekend (“Heavy snow on the way”) weren’t false forecasts – they weren’t! The snow really came and many parts of the country grinded to a halt. Roads were closed, schools were closed and even banks were closed (well mine was anyway!) And when I rang to tell them that all my plastic cards (credit and debit) had been declined at a local Pharmacist’s, they put that down to the weather too!! Though I fully appreciate the dangers of snow and the anxiety it can cause to the elderly or less-able bodied in society let me tell you why I love it;

- It is Beautiful. We have seen some amazing sights this week and the sheer exhilaration of the idyllic winter wonderland that we have experienced has been awesome. Snow is beautiful and it reminds me of our wonderful creator God who brought this incredible world into being The bible even likens snow to the cleansing work of God in our lives. (Psalm 51:7)
- It is Disruptive. I hope that this isn’t a perverse side of my nature but I love the disruption that snow causes! It reminds me of who is in charge (God) I love the fact that last week ‘fluffy white flakes’ knocked the ‘world financial crisis’ off the top spot of the news! Writer, and broadcaster Simon Fanshawe, says “the wonderful thing about heavy snow is that turns all the normal rules of society on their head: children who would normally avoid even speaking to adults suddenly feel it is okay to throw projectiles at us. "Snow temporarily undermines the normal structure of authority, which means it is perfectly acceptable for children to throw snowballs at strangers because normal activity" is disrupted anyway, and the "rules change".
- It is Fun. I drove past a local park this week and observed scores of people (children and adults) sledging, building snow men, having snow ball fights – and having a great time. My moving car was even hit by a snow ball yet I managed to smile! (Honest) I also heard a story of two female pensioners who had a snowball fight! Let’s pray that we never lose the ability to experience sheer joy even if we have to become like little children to do so!
- It is Dangerous – but it’s not all bad to have hazards in life. Heavy snow and the dangers of it often bring people together in acts of compassion and kindness. (No bad thing) People this week have gritted roads and paths, helped others with shopping, offered hospitality, and showed love. I even called in to see my neighbour who (to my shame) I haven’t spoken to for weeks to check that she was ok. We had a good hour-long chat about things (mainly the weather) and I even sensed an evangelistic opportunity!

So, I for one am certainly glad that we had the best snow for 18 years this week. I love it and I think there’s something quite ‘gospel’ about it! (Isaiah 1:18)

8th February 2009