



Pastor's Postcard

Hi Everyone, hope you're all well. I'm having a good time here in Samos (I'm at home really I just didn't have time to write it there so I'm doing it now!) The flight out (Thursday 25 June) was fine although I didn't know which terminal I was flying from at Manchester Airport so nearly missed the plane! Anyway met quite a few of the Richmond Holiday guests at the Airport and was 'dead chuffed' to discover that there was a group from Oldham - I don't mean the "Oldham Tinklers" (who're a group from Oldham!!) but a few people from my home town. One of them, Ben, is the brother of my God daughter. He's got a 15 month old son who's gorgeous! Then there's a girl called Hannah whose Granddad used to teach me in Sunday school (she thinks that's hilarious) who a couple of days ago got engaged to my God daughter's brother's wife's brother!!!! (Confused?...I am!!) Anyway, he's called Paul. Now a few days into the holiday Paul asked me what I'd think about baptising him here in Samos! As I was trying to give a measured answer Ben, (God daughter's brother) asked if he could get baptised too!! I said I'd like to have a private chat with both of them. I did this and we arranged a proper Baptismal service. So on the Tuesday evening (30 June) in front of about 25 official witnesses (there were many other sunbathers watching from a distance!) I baptised Ben & Paul in the Aegean sea! It was a really wonderful moment particularly as I've known Ben (who's now 27) from the day he was born. And no disrespect to Edwin's wonderful baptismal tank but there's something very special about baptising people in the sea. (I know that's a bit tricky in Stirchley!) I also realised again what an amazing thing it is to die to self and rise to new life in Christ. Our faith is really radical you know! Anyway must go, the tide's waiting to come in!

Love and late post cards, Mark

5th July 2009