



Pastor's Page

"New Year's Revolution"

It was just a few days before Christmas that I decided to do some seasonal shopping. Armed with a little list I headed for the first shop and my first purchase of the campaign! I had been given a very specific request for this item from my niece and was quietly confident about this mission. Once inside the store I quickly found the item and queued up to pay for it. Transaction completed I headed for the nearest exit. As I did so I realised that I desperately needed the loo!! So off I popped thinking about my next port of call. When I left the Gents and the store I immediately headed off to embark on the rest of my Christmas shopping. At the end of the day as I carried my gifts into the house I realized that the first and biggest item I'd bought wasn't there!! I'd paid for it but walked out of the shop without it! I'd had a 'senior moment' and completely forgotten about it!! When as I went back for it the next day the man in the shop was very understanding and seemed to identify with my capacity to forget things!

Though absent-mindedness is often a negative experience the Bible does on occasions actively encourage us to forget things. A familiar passage of scripture says "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past see I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18.19. We can learn a lot from that as we enter into 2010. Firstly Let's resolve to not cling to the past, but to learn from it, lay it to rest (if needs be) then move on into God's future for us. Are there things that might hold us captive in 2010 and prevent us from moving forward? If so let's resolve now to let them go.

Let's also resolve to not grumble about the present. The children of Israel became bitter and resentful as God tested them in the desert. And a journey that should have taken about a year, (Egypt to Jordan) took forty years to complete by which time many of the original group had died. Clinging to the past or moaning about the present may prevent us from receiving the new things that God has for us.

Lets resolve to be full of faith about the future. God wants to do new things in us and through us, revolutionising our lives, but lack of faith can hinder this work. Pray therefore for the gift of faith, and the wisdom to choose wisely. As Clement of Rome said in AD 95 "This world and that to come are enemies. We cannot therefore be friends of both, but must resolve which to forsake and which to enjoy"

As a church we have prayed and sought God's will for us at this time and in this place (this is what the consultation process has been about) and believe that we have heard from him. All that we sensed God said during 2009 we are now seeking to implement in the coming days. We will need courage, resolve and faith to follow him but I'm sure it will be an exciting journey.

So at the dawn of another year let's stop and reflect and then step out with renewed faith in the One who came in order to reconcile us to our heavenly father and resolve to make him known to our friends and neighbours in 2010. It's a bit revolutionary I know, but God's good at turning things around so don't forget that!

3rd January 2010