



## Pastor's Page

### **“A World of Difference”**

Dressed in a trench coat, glasses, jeans and smart shoes Alfie McKenzie, walked into his local polling station on Thursday and voted for the Liberal Democrats. Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire police were later contacted and are now both investigating!! Now if you voted for the Liberal Democrats but didn't realise that it was a criminal offence – let me assure you that (to the best of my knowledge) it isn't. The problem with Alfie wasn't who he voted for, or where he voted but rather the fact that he was only 14 years old!! Alfie from Poulton-le-Fylde, voted in the Wyre and Preston North constituency, after erroneously being sent a polling card. He was only caught when he confided in a teacher at school whose superior called the local council and police. Alfie said he was "very serious" about politics and socialism, but decided to vote Liberal Democrat as a tactical option. He continued: "There's not a socialist candidate in our area and unfortunately even if there was it would be a wasted vote. I've looked into it and the best option for a socialist is the Liberal Democrats. Alfie's mum, Nadine Wiseman, said she had asked him not to vote, after he received the polling card, but she "wasn't surprised" when he did. And the reason that Alfie didn't take his mum's advice but went ahead and voted was because, in his own words. " I wanted to make a difference"

Well whilst I can't approve of Alfie's action (I'm a Baptist minister!) I do admire his passion. It's great for a 14 year old to have the desire to make a difference in the world and the belief that he can. God calls Christians to make a difference in the world by being 'salt and light' (Matt 5:113-16) and sharing with people the truth about Jesus. God's plan is to change our lives for the better and use us to bring about change in other people's lives thus changing the world. But it takes faith and courage and I fear that I often lack both.

However I don't want to miss out on God's best for my life through fear or apathy. John Ortberg warns about regrets in one of his books as he makes the following remarks; "I know a woman who was in a dating relationship with a man although she knew it wasn't right. There were serious unresolved sinful patterns in his life. She knew what was at stake. But if she broke up – she might be alone. She didn't think she could handle that so she married him. And she is more alone now than she was when she was single. What kept her in a relationship she *knew* she should break free of? Fear. She was afraid that God would not be adequate to protect her from unbearable loneliness – and now she is headed for a mountain of regret. She wonders, "what if I'd trusted him?" You will never know God is trustworthy if you don't risk obeying him. When you come to the end of your life – all those *what ifs* become *might have beens* What might have been if I'd trusted God? If you give in to fear and find yourself one day at the end of your life filling in days in a comfortable chair in front of the TV set, the thought will come: What might I have done? What might I have become? It's a price too high to pay"

So let's pray God will give us the courage to 'go for it' for him whilst we can. To serve him today with passion and faith being the witnesses he called us to be. And believe it or not, you, me and God can make a big difference in this world.

9<sup>th</sup> May 2010