



## Pastor's Page

### ***"The Father Heart of God"***

The scene begins in a smart hotel where people are gathered for a business conference. A voice then announces; "Let's hear from our new director" The small crowd applauds as a distinguished looking middle aged man rises to address the meeting. Just as he begins his speech his mobile phone rings - it's his daughter. Through her tears she explains that her boyfriend has just finished with her and its left her absolutely devastated. Then with his work colleagues looking on the Father apologises and leaves the hotel. We next see him hastily making his way to his daughter to comfort her. As he embraces her in the car she says "you weren't doing anything were you Dad?" to which he gently says, "No" ..... and then adds "just emptying the dish washer!"

The voice-over then says; "People depend on our network - Power to you"

It's the first time I've ever cried at a mobile phone advert (and it wasn't at the price of the tariff either!!) I know I'm just an old sentimental Baptist minister but the advert really did get to me. Why? - Because I felt it conveyed a very deep and moving message, namely that "A father's love for his distressed daughter is more important than anything else" And at the risk of you thinking I'm stretching the point beyond what is reasonable I think it parallels the 'father heart of God'. The bible tells us of a God who loves his children more than we can imagine. One of Jesus' most memorable stories is of a father who runs out to welcome his son home after he's taken advantage of his generosity and made a mess of his life (Luke 15:11-32.) In this parable we get a wonderful insight into the character of God who is a forgiving Father. Jesus also promises that God will provide for our needs. He says "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matt 6:26) And in the Old Testament God says; "Since you are precious and honoured in my sight and because I love you I will give men in exchange for you and people in exchange for your life." (Isaiah 43:4) And ultimately God gave Jesus in exchange for us - his life for ours - because he loves us. He created us, he cares for us and he makes us his priority. On Easter Sunday when Jesus had risen from the dead and was now Lord of the Universe he spent a large part of the day with two disciples, one of whose name we don't even know. Perhaps Luke who wrote about them didn't think that this disciple was important enough to name. However Jesus considered this person and his companion, Cleopas important enough to spend at least 3 hours with on that resurrection day. They were discouraged, disappointed and downhearted - their hope was gone - their dreams were shattered. They were (like the girl in the advert) broken hearted - and Jesus cared. He cared enough to make them his priority to spend time with them, listening to them, talking with them, and revealing himself to them. This is the Father heart of God full of love for us his children and nothing "in all creation will be able to separate us from this love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39)

So on this Father's day let's rejoice and thank God that he is our loving heavenly Father who considers us precious and honoured in his sight. And let's thank Him too that he has all the time in the world for us his children.

20<sup>th</sup> June 2010