

THE MAGAZINE

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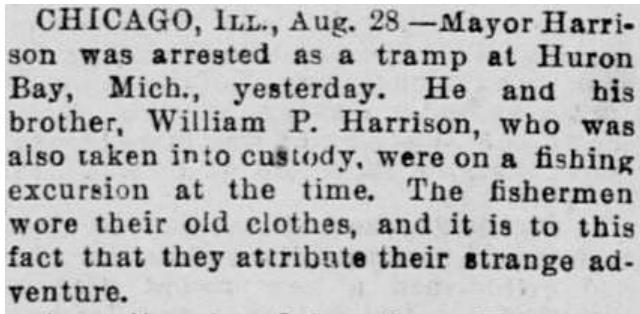
TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2015 /
JANUARY 2016

Pastoral Letter December 2015

A Lesson in Humility

I recently came across an interesting true story about a former Mayor of Chicago called Carter Harrison, Jr. Although he was from a respected political family, on August 29th 1897 the Mayor was making the news for the wrong reasons. In the papers that day there was an account of what had happened to him the day before. Under the headline “ARRESTED AS A TRAMP” the following report was given:



CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 28 — Mayor Harrison was arrested as a tramp at Huron Bay, Mich., yesterday. He and his brother, William P. Harrison, who was also taken into custody, were on a fishing excursion at the time. The fishermen wore their old clothes, and it is to this fact that they attribute their strange adventure.

It turned out that the two men had been passing through a small town where the Police Chief had been bothered incessantly by troublesome vagrants and tramps. The paper went on to report that “When he laid eyes on Mayor Harrison and his brother, he is said to have rejoiced greatly, and hastened to take them into custody.” Not believing the unlikely story that the scruffy-looking man in front of him was the mayor of the great city of Chicago, the Chief was minded to lock the men up in the village jail. It was only after a messenger returned who had earlier been sent off to confirm his identity that the Mayor avoided a night behind bars: although he received no apology. All in all, it was probably a most humiliating encounter for the politician!

However, we have a much more profound example of a reduction in circumstances set before us in Scripture. One not imposed upon the recipient who was humbled, but willingly chosen by Him:

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the

form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2: 5-8).

Our Lord Jesus was not just one of the “high and mighty” who found Himself humbled: as happened to Mayor Harrison. Christ “*made Himself of no reputation*” when He came into this world as a human being; and “*He humbled Himself*” in obedience to His Father, even though the cross awaited Him. He willingly stepped down from the heights of glory to be born as a baby; and in the most humble of circumstances too. He wasn’t just a mayor of one of the greatest cities of America: but the Son of God.

Why did He choose to do this? Well, I hope we can all answer that: it was for us! For sinners such as you and me He displayed the most sincere humility ever known. It was that we might live forever with Him, that He lived amongst us here on earth. Wesley’s carol “Hark! the herald angels sing” expresses this well:

Mild, He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

As someone wisely said: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” This is the humility that Christ embodied perfectly when He came into this world to save us.

Joseph Cresswell

Remembering Vi

Vi Archer was a true “mother in Israel” at Tinshill — particularly concerned to bring her grandchildren to Sunday School and church so that they would be able to hear the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

She herself was faithful in various departments of the church — Tots Club, and Thursday at Two (for older people), besides regular attendance at

church morning and evening — all this despite many disappointments and shocks healthwise in her family — she lost a daughter, Michelle, in a tragic car accident and lost her husband, Raymond, five years ago.



At the Thanksgiving Service on 5th November, I emphasised Vi's main characteristic — devoted service springing from a heart of love. Most of her employment days were spent in domestic service, including a period at Cookridge Hospital. But, away from work, she gave herself voluntarily to caring for members of her family and serving where she could in the church. Vi had six children (Michelle is sadly deceased), ten grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren, so there was plenty of scope for serving there! And each was loved individually.

The church was truly packed for the service on 5th November — it was standing room only, and many were young people who had responded to Vi's warm heart and friendship.

Her loving, serving nature reflected the loving, serving Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, and she is now in His glorious Presence.

We already miss Vi's joyful, caring smile which lit up every time you met her.

We send our prayerful thoughts to all her family.

Glyn Williams

The Bread Of Life

For a recent ladies "Making" Evening, Jenny asked if I could give a short talk to round the evening off. My brief was 'bread.' This gave me a vast choice of avenues to explore! Bread has ancient roots and is a staple of many diets throughout the world, whether you live in a developing nation where bread in one of its many forms is a cheap and readily available source of nutrition, or you live in Leeds and enjoy a visit to an artisan bakery at

the weekend to sample one of the many different loaves available now.

Not only is bread critical to life itself but it is also culturally important in many places. In Mediterranean countries bread and wine is often brought out to welcome guests. And of course bread is religiously important. Amongst the many things that the Ancient Egyptians revered, wheat was one of them as it was believed to guarantee the survival of the dead in the afterlife. It has been found on pictures on temple walls as well as in clay statuettes found in excavated tombs.

Bread is particularly important in the Jewish and Christian faiths. The Israelites even made bread before their escape from Egypt, although of course they didn't wait for it to rise. Bread is often associated with miracles in the Bible. For example, when Elijah arrived at the home of the widow of Zarephath. This poor woman was about to prepare a last meal for her and her son but agreed to make a small loaf for Elijah first. As a result there was enough oil and flour every day to sustain them until the famine was over. Perhaps most importantly, the body of Christ is represented by bread and is something we remember and are thankful for regularly at Tinsill.

None of this helped me to narrow down my choice of topic for the talk though, until I decided to make a loaf of bread to see if this made things become clearer. As I got the ingredients ready I realised there is more to baking bread than just mixing dough and there are many lessons to learn for the Christian.

The first ingredient needed to make bread is flour, which is made from grain; typically wheat in this country. Grains of wheat are sown by the farmer and then take on a new life as they grow on fertile ground. Similarly God has sown a seed in every believer's heart and has nurtured it until it has come to bear fruit. Once a crop has grown and ripened the wheat is harvested. In this state the wheat is indigestible and needs to be sorted from the chaff and then ground into flour to make it edible. Christians need to allow God to grind away the things in our lives that make us unpalatable such as selfishness, pride, anger etc so that we become useful to Him.

Another vital ingredient in bread is yeast. Several times in the Bible yeast is

used as a metaphor for sin. Just as only a small amount of yeast affects the dough, causing it to become larger, so even the smallest amount of sin can affect our lives and the lives of those around us and can cause big problems if not dealt with.

Sugar is added to the mix as the yeast needs food to enable it to work. We not only need physical food but also food from God in a spiritual sense allowing ourselves to be nourished by spending time talking to God and reading His word.

Salt is added to make bread more flavourful. As a Christian we should add a good flavour to the lives of others. Salt also acts as a preservative, keeping it from spoiling. Our trust in God should help us to keep from spoiling.

Oil is added next. This is sometimes used in the Bible as a symbol for the Holy Spirit and for healing. God's Holy Spirit brings healing into our lives.

Water is added to make the dough the right consistency or the finished loaf will not be good. We need the living water that only Jesus gives us to make us a better person.

Once all these ingredients have been mixed, the dough needs to be kneaded. This can be hard work but it is an essential part of the process if the dough is to rise. We need to allow God to knead us, to work out what shouldn't be there. We can sometimes feel like life is pushing us around, pounding us but that kneading is essential.

Once kneaded the dough needs to be allowed to rest and grow. We also need to rest each day physically and spiritually. We need time out from our busy lives to spend time with God, reading His word and praying. He wants us to rest in Him, or rely on Him, taking all our worries to Him and leaving them with Him. I don't know about you but this is an area I need to work on. I share my troubles with the Lord but I'm not very good at leaving them with Him!

After resting, the dough is shaped. No two loaves are ever the same just like us, but we are all special and worth having in God's world. Finally the loaf is baked. The warmth of the oven turns the dough into something that

looks, smells and tastes good. When we stay close to God His warm love turns us into something that looks good because we look more like Him. We become people who leave a good taste in the lives of those around us because we show them God's love and kindness. There is nothing quite like the delicious aroma of a freshly baked loaf of bread and we can give of that pleasant aroma of a life lived for God, one that will hopefully entice others to Him too.

Bread is something that I enjoy, maybe a bit too much! Far more important to me is Jesus, the Bread of Life. He has given me so much in this life and also the promise of a home in heaven for eternity.

Carol Getzels

22 Years on!

Most of the time, when I come to church, I use a church Bible because my own personal one has so many precious things in it — letters, cards, notes slotted into appropriate pages and the like, that I fear dropping it and losing something. (I've not moved to a Kindle yet, I love holding a book.) Recently I went through a worn out older Bible which I'd had before my current one and came across a poem I had written on 25th August 1993 — it was written linked to Hebrews 4:14... *“We have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God”*.

A lot of things have happened to me and my family since I penned those words — had I changed my mind about how I felt about the Lord Jesus, had I changed my views about these thoughts about Him over 22 years? No, I haven't! Only that I am more thankful that He came from heaven to earth and returned to heaven again in triumph; that I can know forgiveness for sin; and that He can sympathise with my weakness and I can trust Him and find mercy and help.

I share the poem as a word of testimony to the Lord's keeping power and His utterly faithful covenant of love.

Descent into Darkness

He passed through the heavens, the dear Prince of Light —
Descent into darkness begun;
And Heav'n held its breath
As the baby was born,
Emmanuel had come.

Cradled so frail in the young Mary's arms,
Unspeakable, wonderful love,
Flesh like my flesh
How far down my God came,
To lift me to His world above.

He grew and moved on, heading into the night,
The core of the darkness in view —
The garden, the cross;
Face like flint, heart on fire...
Beating strong for the unborn He knew.

They scourged and they spat, and they plucked out His beard,
They forced Him to carry His tree.
O what terrible shame,
With His garments withdrawn,
O what love, in His silence for me.

Alone in earth's dark and severed from Heaven,
As the Father's wrath fell from above.
And my sin, laid on Him
Caused the Father to turn.
Face away from the Son of His love.

And hell did its worst to deny my soul life,
Foulest pressures and taunts on parade.
Through the merciless depths —
"Come down if you're God!",
But He saw me, and loved me, and stayed.

And He paid all my debt and He rose from the dead,
And He saved me and called me by name.
And there will be a day
When I see for myself
Emmanuel who came.

Margaret Williams

GROWING OLD

It isn't easy getting older as we find we are no longer able to do the things we used to and we have a lot more aches and pains. I'm already well aware of this and I am only in my 50's. Over the years it has been a privilege to know a number of aged "aunties" who have suffered greatly through the infirmities of later years but who maintained a Christian witness to the end. Many of you, as you read this, will be able to call to mind similar influences on your own lives. This poem is dedicated to the memory of those blessed saints.

My knees aren't what they used to be
There's corns on all my toes
My eyesight's failed so badly
I can't see past my own nose.

But I still see morning's glory
And my heart still kneels to pray
And, really, that is all I need
To see me through the day.

I don't always remember things
Like people's names an' that
And when to take my tablets
Or if I've fed the cat.

But I recall the Scripture's verse
And all the hymns of old
And they're more precious to me
Than all of this world's gold.

My poor old ticker's winding down
Like an ancient clockwork toy
The fading pleasures of this world
No longer bring me joy.

But one day I will leave this realm
When the Lord calls for my soul
And I'll live with HIM in heaven
With a body that is whole.

Angela C Mathers October 2015

New Books for the Church Library

Input Output by Jo Boddam-Whetham.

Jo Boddam-Whetham has written this book to get you into another book — the Bible. There are some great Bible reading notes available now for young people but this is the first book I have come across that explains why it is so important to spend time reading the Bible and talking to God each day. In every chapter Jo points us to the Bible and challenges the reader to take time with God seriously but she writes in a very engaging, clear and easy to understand way. Jo also acknowledges how difficult it can be to put time aside each day to spend with God, describing us as worms rather than deep sea divers! In other words we sometimes try to wriggle out of reading the Bible rather than diving straight in because we think it's going to be too difficult!

I really enjoyed this book and although it is aimed at young teenagers I gained a lot from reading it. I would recommend it to anyone who sometimes struggles with putting time aside each day to spend with God. It is also good if you are a parent trying to support your own teenager as they begin to explore the Bible on their own.

Gain the Whole World? By CB Martin

What is your greatest desire? Is it the latest gadget or gizmo or maybe something a bit more long term like a great job / house / husband / wife? This book helps us to spot the hidden idols in our hearts and “shows how Jesus is way better”

This is a brilliant book; funny and very readable. CB Martin helps us to work out our own obsessions which distract us from the one true God. Each chapter has questions to help you reflect on what is really important.

Awesome on the Inside by Tim Hawkins

In this book you will discover how the Bible shows we can grow....a heart that is powerful, a heart that is prayerful, a heart that is passionate, a heart that is pure and a heart that is positive.

“Image is everything” according to the adverts — and we believe them. But God wants to do something amazing with each one of us. He wants to break through the shallowness of looks and image and change us deep down — in our hearts. This book challenges the reader to live for Jesus in a wholehearted way and let Him change you from the inside out.

All of these books are aimed at teenagers but I found them all really helpful and challenging to me personally. They are all written in a style to engage young people so if you think Christian books should use lots of big words that have you reaching for a thesaurus, then you will not like them. If, however, you like short chapters which are easy to digest, and very practical help on how to improve your relationship with God as well as plenty of humour and advice on how to get rid of bad breath (Input Output) then I would recommend them to you.

Carol Getzels

A Christmas tale of faith

He was very small, very innocent and most anxious to contact the universal friend of children. His parents were ill, his parents needed comfort especially as Christmas was fast approaching. Surely Father Christmas would be sympathetic, willing to help a little boy to cheer his Mum and Dad.

Guarding his secret well he took paper and pen and slowly wrote his message. “Dear Santa Claus, My mummy and daddy are unwell and I want to buy them a present for Christmas. Would you please send me ten pounds.”

In due course the letter reached the Post Office and was opened by the Postmaster. He smiled as he opened the envelope. The appeal was irresistible — it won his heart and he decided to show it to the members of his Rotary Club. The kind fellows were charmed by the boy’s innocence and taking a collection raised eight pounds. The Postmaster volunteered to deliver the gift to the boy’s home. He said to the shy boy “Santa Claus was very pleased to receive your letter. He is sorry your parents are poorly and hopes they will soon be well. He asked the Rotary Club to bring this money to you.” The boy was very pleased and asked the gentleman to thank Santa very much.

The Postmaster later received the boy’s ‘thank you letter’. It read “Dear Santa Claus, Thank you very much for the money but next year do not send it by the Rotary Club as they took two pounds out.”

Now that is faith! The boy asked Father Christmas to send ten pounds and as he would not refuse the request it must have been the Rotary Club who were responsible. His faith and trust in Santa was unshaken and he needed to warn Santa to prevent it happening again. The question is whether we too have an unshakeable faith in our Lord Jesus Christ “*for without faith it is impossible to please Him*” (Hebrews 11v6). Faith never fears that it will overdraw its account on the Bank of Heaven.

Anon
Submitted by John Lewin.

MAF’s newest programme is finally operational!

Declared Ebola-free in September, and with an economy finally on the way up, Liberia can add MAF’s 70 years of remote flying expertise to its growing list of blessings.

MAF’s Liberia programme was due to begin in 2014, but was delayed because of the country’s Ebola crisis. After many months patiently awaiting developments, the relevant licences and permissions finally came through — with MAF’s first aircraft arriving in August this year.

It was a milestone in MAF’s preparations to serve around 80 NGOs and

mission groups as they bring hope to Liberia's poorest, including those living in refugee camps along the country's borders.

Launch attracts praise from aviation officials

Max Gove, an early pioneer of MAF's Liberia programme, spoke at the official launch at Spriggs Payne Airport, Monrovia, where the new MAF aircraft is based.

Liberia's Transport Minister Angela Cassell-Bush praised MAF for investing in Liberia's aviation sector, saying, 'Our investment is another means to alleviate hardship as it provides options for us to access rural communities.'

The minister also announced the establishment of 17 weather stations, a new meteorology centre and a study scheme for 50 Liberians to learn meteorology in Nigeria, to help revive domestic transport.

Highlighting the aircraft's benefits, MAF Programme Manager Emil Kündig said, 'Our aircraft has comfortable leather seats that can easily be removed to convert the cabin into a freight area that carries up to 13 passengers or 1,100kg of payload.'

Wilama Bako Freeman, Managing Director of the Liberian Airport Authority, promised the authority's full support and described how MAF's operations will greatly encourage the renewal of rural airstrips which can be used to airlift patients and provide disaster relief.

Five-day ferry flight

After service in Tanzania and maintenance in Uganda, MAF's Cessna Grand Caravan was ferried for five consecutive days, crossing the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Republic, Cameroon and Ghana, before reaching Liberia on 17 August.

Emil Kündig and Arjan Pass, who co-piloted, are now serving as the programme's first two pilots, with their wives Margrit and Aartje.

Emil, also the Programme Manager, summarised the journey on his blog: 'We thank the Lord for good weather, permissions on time, fuel when needed and an aircraft that performed without a glitch.'

‘Thanks also to you, our praying MAF friends, who interceded for this ferry flight. Let us begin now to join in the rebuilding of this country.’

Let the rebuilding begin...

Delivering 60 ingenious worm-powered toilets to improve sanitation in Monrovia’s slums, Oxfam is just one of several dozen agencies bringing about a better quality of life to Liberia’s poorest. The MAF Liberia team cannot wait to be of service to Liberians through projects like these, particularly in the remote south-eastern areas.

Supplied by MAF

Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Laying aside all the glory of heaven,
Choosing a life of shame,
Taking upon Him a servants form
Into the world He came.
Glad day for all humanity,
Steeped in the vilest of sin;
Jesus was born in Bethlehem
That men may be born again. (repeat)

God of the very God was He,
Laid in a manger low,
Tempted in all points the same as we,
Who could have loved us so?
O what a wonderful day was this
That dawned on Judea’s plain
When Jesus was born in Bethlehem
That men may be born again (repeat)

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Jesus shall be His name;
Leaving the splendour of heavenly bliss,
Seeking lost souls He came.
One day He’s coming to claim His throne,

And in His great glory shall reign
For Jesus was born in Bethlehem
That men may be born again.

*Submitted by John Lewin
who can provide the music!*

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
December	6	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	13	Daniel Grimwade	Gordon Frame
	20	Joe Cresswell	Martin Sellens (Carol Service)
	27	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell (Communion)
January	3	Joe Cresswell	Roger Barden
	10	Andrew Lolley	Martin Sellens
	17	Jonathan Chell	Jonathan Chell
	24	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	31	Wes Johnston	Wes Johnston
February	7	Gordon Frame	Gordon Frame

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do remember Paul Crossley in prayer as he ministers in the following places in the coming months:

- Sat Dec 12 am Men's breakfast — Chapel Allerton
Sun Dec 13 pm Bethel, Armley
Wed Dec 23 pm Bible Study at Bethel, Armley
Sun Jan 3 am Garforth
Sun Jan 24 pm Bethel, Armley

The next edition of The Magazine is due out for Sunday 7th February so all items for inclusion to Martin Sellens by Wednesday 27th January 2016 please.

DIARY

December

- Tue 8 8pm Carols by Candlelight Speaker: Joe Cresswell
- Wed 9 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Glyn Williams
- Thu 10 1pm Thursday at Two Christmas Special
Speaker: Graham Wray (Crossgates)
- Fri 11 6pm Good News Nativity
- Sun 13 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Special
- Wed 16 1.20pm Tots Club Christmas Party
- Fri 18 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Wed 23 7.15pm Carol Singing (meet at church)
- Fri 25 10.30am Christmas Day Service Speaker: Joe Cresswell

January

- Wed 6 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Glyn Williams
- Thu 7 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Barry Hall (S.Leeds)
- Sun 10 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Mon 11 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane
- Tue 12 10.15am Second Tuesday Speaker: Glyn Williams
- Wed 13 1.30pm Tots Club restarts
- Fri 15 6pm Good News Club restarts
7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Sat 16 9am Annual Trustees Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
- Tue 19 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Wed 20 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Thu 21 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Chris Haley (Otley)
- Tue 26 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies

ROTAS

Week ending

December 5	Gill Almond
12	Natalie Sellens
19	Jenny Leng
26	Ruth Holder
Jan '16 2	Mavis Mathers
9	Gill Almond
16	Natalie Sellens
23	Jenny Leng
30	Ruth Holder
February 6	Mavis Mathers

Cleaning

Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley

For Sunday

December 6	Colette Hickman
20	Anne Sellens
Jan '16 3	Christine Crossley
17	Deborah Williams
31	Ruth Holder

Flowers

13	Kathryn Hibbard
27	Rosemary Hilton
10	Ann Mountain
24	Jenny Leng
February 7	Mavis Mathers

On Sunday

December 6	Mavis Mathers
20	Nigel Hibbard
January 3	Angela Mathers
17	Mavis Mathers
31	Nigel Hibbard

Library

13	Paul Crossley
27	Rosemary Hilton
10	Christine Crossley
24	Paul Crossley
February 7	Angela Mathers

Oh the love that heaven sent down
 To that little Bethlehem town
 Enter every heart we pray
 This Christmas Day.

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
	Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month	
	*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.	
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15am
	Making and Thinking (for ladies — monthly) venue as announced	7.30pm
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45pm
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00pm
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45pm
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens — fortnightly)	2.00pm
	Followers' Prayer Group (as announced) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30pm
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00pm
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45pm

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