



Week beginning February 14th, 2010.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Lord, send the rain!

Locally we've experienced so much rain over the last few months that a water shortage in 2010 is most unlikely even if we have a scorching summer. At the end of January Bewl Water's level was well above average, and is currently 95% towards its total capacity of 6,900 billion gallons.

Contrast this with Israel where people keep a nervous and watchful eye on the level of the Sea of Galilee which is looked to as the supply for around 25% of the country's fresh water needs. In recent years the level of Galilee has fallen year on year so that it is 4 to 5 metres lower than 20 years ago, and the lake is correspondingly much smaller.

This has caused serious concern. However, at the end of January there was heavy rainfall and massive floods in the south of the country. Further north the rainfall has been sufficient so far to cause the level of the Sea of Galilee to rise 94 centimetres between November 2009 and February 2010, which is good news indeed.

Living where we do, rain is largely taken for granted, and the occasional drought only causes us the inconvenience of not washing the car, or treating water in the baptistery to make it last a whole summer rather than filling it fresh each time.

Because of its general scarcity, rain in the Bible is sometimes equated with the blessing of God. In the opening weeks of 2010 Isaiah 43:18 has been brought as a promise to three of our congregations: "*Do not remember the former things nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth. Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*"

For God to do something new and wonderful we sometimes have to lay down or let go of things. The Lord is promising that part of His new thing is to *continues...*

Published by Battle Baptist Church, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Fax: (01424) 775875. • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • This week our office will open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be *clearly* written in the special office book, or typed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday*.

bring refreshment to places that are dried and parched. Many people feel like that. They need a touch from the Lord, and a season of refreshing. God never comes to dirty vessels. In order for us to be useful to the Lord, and to know the fullness of His blessing, we may need to be made clean, and ask forgiveness of people we've upset, even unintentionally.

Lent begins on Wednesday, and whilst Christians in Baptist churches don't make much of it normally, I want to ask you to examine yourself, and make every effort to get right with God as He shows you things which may be spoiling the relationship He wants with you.

We've had a difficult three years, and many need healing from emotional wounds. Sadly, there are those like Sanballat and Tobiah in the book of Nehemiah who, outside the church, try to discourage. However, we have a choice whether or not to believe them. Nehemiah didn't. In short, the need of the hour is for us to get right with God, and expect the rain of God's blessing to come to a dry and thirsty people.

Your friend and pastor,
Dennis

News, notes & prayer opportunities

Please pray for **Monica Cook**, preaching today at Llay Baptist Church. •

Thank you those who have made cakes for tomorrow's **Holiday at Home** reunion at 3pm. •

Over the next few weeks, we are unable to provide recorded sermons or add to the stock of sermons on our website during this period.

Please be advised that the church office opening hours are normally 9am to 1pm weekdays. **Andy, Dennis** and **Mary** cannot always be there in the afternoons. **When phoning** the office, please use our telephone number, 774825, *not* our fax number. Thank you.

• *Book early.* There will be a **banner and flag-worship workshop** at Crowhurst Healing Centre on Saturday, March 20th. *Open to all, booking is essential* on 830204.

Thursday, February 25th, 2 to 3pm: **a little light gardening** in the church grounds. *Help appreciated.*



WHAT'S ON DURING HALF TERM

This week, in line with local schools, we are taking a half-term break from many of our usual activities, including Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Soup-and-roll lunches, Tuesday Fellowship, Caterpillar Preschool, Prayer for Middle East and Israel, Thursday After School Club, Friday Lunch at The Manna, and Homegroups. Also please note:

Sunday, February 14th. 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham (North Trade Road), plus Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments before.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club and crèche. • 6.30. Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30 the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for personal prayer.

Friday. Early Prayer at the Chapel, followed by a do-it-yourself breakfast. *Everyone is welcome.* • 9.15am: "Chatterbox" for parents, carers and young children. • 10.30am: Coffee Club.

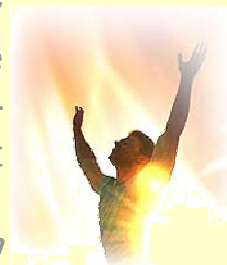
Saturday. For football details, see our website.

Sunday, February 21st. 10.30am: CHURCH TOGETHER AT CLAVERHAM — OUR ONLY MEETING TODAY, TO CELEBRATE OUR 230th ANNIVERSARY.



Pentecost!

I owe everything to the gift of Pentecost. For fifty days the facts of the Gospel were complete, but no conversions were recorded. Pentecost registered three thousand souls. It is by fire that a holy passion is kindled in the soul whereby we live the life of God. The soul's safety is in its heat. Truth without enthusiasm, morality without emotion, ritual without soul, make for a Church without power.

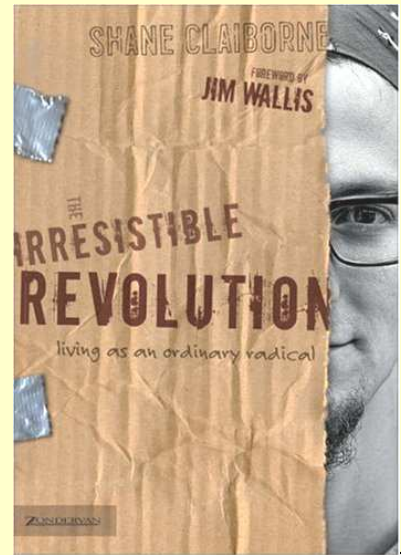


— Smith Wigglesworth

The Irresistible Revolution by Shane Claiborne.

Francis Willoughby says: "A challenging book. The author proposes a lifestyle that prophetically proclaims what he thinks it means to follow Jesus in the 21st century.

"It may at times make the reader feel uncomfortable, but we sometimes need to be shaken out of our comfort-zone. He says that as we dare follow the One we claim to worship our evangelism will acquire power, and our actions will impact a broken world. *This book is desperately urgent, and profoundly biblical.*"



In Brief – Some News from the Church Meeting

Rob Duffill, our Treasurer, will write to all Members shortly. • We have recommended that **Dominic Cooper-Fowler** be interviewed by the Ministerial Recognition Committee. • **Alan Whitehead** has decided not to proceed with lay-pastor recognition. • We were informed of a generous legacy from **Reg and Eva Booman** which will bless several projects, including Obambo, the Halliday Fund, Holiday at Home and our General Fund. • No further action can take place with our building project until the Baptist Union considers our case in June.

VALENTINE'S DAY



BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T QUITE
COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.

On Friday, March 5th, the **Women's World Day of Prayer** will be held at St. Mary's at 2pm. Focus: Republic of Cameroon. Speaker: **Dorothy Vaughan**. Frank and Dorothy (former Members at Battle Baptist Church) plan to visit Battle from March 2nd to 5th to speak at our Tuesday Fellowship. •

The **Tuesday lunchtime group** meeting in our Mount Street premises would love to hear from you if you can help with the crèche held between 1.20pm and 3 o'clock. Please speak to **Esther Dunn** (777849), or contact the church office for further details. Thank you.

Dennis Nolan (pastor); Francis Willoughby (associate minister);
Our other elders: John Southam (church manager);
Rob Duffill (treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick.
Contact details (church office number): (01424) 774825.