



Week beginning March 7th, 2010.

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

---

## *Hands that shed innocent blood . . .*

Observing Lent (like New Year resolutions) is great for a week or two, but by week three you could be forgiven for feeling a bit jaded by the idea of another month of soul searching before Easter! This year I have suggested that we use Lent for a bit of spiritual spring cleaning by focussing on Proverbs 6:16-19: "*Six things the Lord hates*" Already we've considered pride and the evils of telling lies. Today we come to "*hands that shed innocent blood.*"

Here you might breathe a sigh of relief. "Well, at least that one doesn't apply to me!" *What does it mean?* The teaching of Jesus is that we don't have to have fired the bullet to be guilty of murder! The Lord makes it clear. In His Sermon on the Mount (in Matthew 5) He says: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. . . . Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Can you enjoy  
the success of  
others, or does it  
rub a raw nerve?

The teaching of Jesus is stunningly clear, with, apparently, no "wriggle room." Believing it, *and living it*, are really hard in a society where it is still all too easy to give way to passions and emotions which cause harm to others. In 1 Kings 21 it was unchecked selfishness which ultimately caused the innocent blood of Naboth to be shed.

*continues . . .*

---

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, 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 and signed in the special office book, or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*

---

Selfishness in the workplace leads to workplace bullying. One person will constantly put down or undermine another in order, perhaps, to curry favour. It is sad when in the churches or in the family people try to denigrate someone else in order to make themselves look good. The shedding of innocent blood, whether literal or figurative, is often brought about by selfishness and backstabbing.

Jealousy, too, causes many problems. King Saul was jealous of David. It started with a song. (1 Samuel 18:7-8.)

Can you enjoy the success of others, or does it rub a raw nerve? Christ calls on us to die to self and to love others as ourselves. It's the kind of love that leads to self-sacrifice.

The teaching of Jesus is stunningly clear, with, apparently, no "wriggle room."

In this short letter it isn't possible to include issues like euthanasia, assisted suicide, abortion and war. The Bible teaches that life is sacred. *People are created in God's image.* Perhaps all of us need to ask for His forgiveness where we feel we have acted wrongly, or have had, or have, wrong attitudes.

*A prayer:* Dear Lord: grant us the grace to see ourselves as You see us, and help us to be lovers of life. Amen.

Your friend and pastor,  
*Dennis*

---

## News, notes and prayer opportunities

This month **Monica Cook** will visit Obambo with a Member of the Friends of Obambo Committee. They seek the Lord's plans for the future there. Monica asks: "Please pray for us as we make changes so that the work of the Lord may go forward."

**Money matters.** You may support the work of our fellowship in several ways. (1) Standing order; (2) offering baskets during services; (3) the wall-safe in The Manna House foyer. (4) If you pay income tax, you may put your gift in an envelope, with your name and address on the envelope. *Doing this increases your gift by 28 pence in the pound.* As well as supporting our own church, we have budgeted to give £2,250 per month to other Christian ministries this year.



*9 O'clock Sunday Club are invited to come and cook for Jibin!* Friday, March 19th; 4pm to 5.30pm at The Manna House.

On Sunday, March 21st, the nine o'clock Sunday Club will decorate the cakes to sell after the service, raising funds for the young lad Jibin to attend school. He lives in India.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Homegroups, Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool, Prayer for Middle East and Israel (second and fourth Thursdays at 2pm), Thursday After School Club — all as usual, plus:

**Sunday, March 7th.** 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. *Come if you can.* • 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. • Twelve 'til One: Soup-and-roll lunch. • Tuesday Fellowship, with Michael and Yvonne Hedges (Missionary Aviation Fellowship). *All are invited.*

**Wednesday.** 7.30am: Prayer led by Young People, followed by breakfast. • 12 noon to 2pm: LENT LUNCH at St. Mary's Hall (hosted by the Methodist Church). • 7.30pm: Bible Study at The Manna House. *All are welcome.*

**Friday.** 7am: 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. • 12.30pm: Lunch at the Manna for retired people. (Advance booking *essential* on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.)

**Saturday.** For latest football fixtures, see our website.

**Sunday, March 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.) • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

To celebrate  
the 25th anniversary of  
**Christian Friends of Israel**  
there will be a conference in Israel  
from May 26th to June 4th  
Details from Chris Corin  
(01580) 830834

## UNLOCK LONDON WALK

**Saturday, April 24th**

This year's nine-mile route  
passes the new Olympic Stadium  
and West Ham Football Club's Upton Park.

Those going will leave on the 07.05 from Battle  
& return on the 18.45 from Charing Cross.

*Groups of four travelling together  
are charged as two!*

## The highest wisdom . . .

A true understanding and humble estimate of oneself is the highest and most valuable of all lessons. To take no account of oneself, but always to think well and highly of others is the highest wisdom and perfection. Should you see another person openly doing evil, or carrying out a wicked purpose, do not on that account consider yourself better than him, for you cannot tell how long you will remain in a state of grace. We are all frail; consider none more frail than yourself.

— Thomas Kempis, *On Personal Humility*.



**Our thanks** to all who have said they'll help with "SportsReach." *We still need three more people* to help with catering on Tuesday, April 13th (evening), and Wednesday, April 14th to Saturday the 17th (daytime). Please speak with **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p. •

**Our Youth Football Team** needs a **Christian Helper** for the 2010/2011 season, starting in August. Please see our poster, and speak with **Gary Walsh** or **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p. *Thank you.*

**Until April** we are unable to provide audio sermons or add to the stock of sermons on our website. Also, please note that the church office opening hours are normally 9am to 1pm weekdays. •

On Fridays, March 12th, and May 14th, **Bible readings** will be held at **Hastings Town Hall** (TN34 1QR). Beginning at 1pm (the Book of *Hebrews* on the 12th, & the book of *Revelation* on the 14th). Frequent periods for reflection will be included. Readings will end by 3.45am *All are invited*. Details: (01424) 715327; email: keith@spi1066.fsnet.co.uk

## What do you mean, "forgive"?

We think that if we harbour no evil thoughts against people that is the same as if we had forgiven them. And in so doing we completely fail to see that we don't have any *good* thoughts about them. Forgiving: *that could indeed mean having only good thoughts about them, supporting them whenever we can.* Yet it's just that which we avoid. We *don't* support those others, but become accustomed to their silence. Indeed, we do not take them seriously at all. *But it's precisely the supporting that counts.*

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer; *edited.*

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.