



Week beginning May 30th, 2010

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Change?!

Several times this year, God has, through various people, given the church Isaiah 42:9, "Behold, I am doing a new thing."

The Lord is going to do a new thing.

I have some thoughts to share over this verse from Scripture.

When God told Abram that he was going to do a new thing (Genesis 12), it took several years.

When God told the Hebrew slaves in Egypt that He was going to lead them into the Promised Land (Exodus 6), it took 40 years.

When God gave Isaiah the vision of Jesus coming into the world, (Isaiah 11), it took more than 600 years.

To bring it up to date, when God called me into full time service, I expected things to happen quickly. They didn't. It took three years.

I took comfort from the fact that when God called Saul (Paul) to serve Him, Paul needed three years preparation. It was a humbling thought for me, that if Paul — that great evangelist — needed to wait three years, I needed *at least* three years!

It seems to me that when God is going to do a new thing, He tells His people in advance, so they can prepare themselves for the change. People need to be prepared *in their hearts* for change. It is only when the time is right that God seems to act "suddenly."

My conclusion is that God likes His people to be prepared, *so He gives us time to prepare.* When the time is right, God acts "suddenly."

I also believe that when God calls for a change, before He acts, He likes His people to be "open to change." If there are those who have "precious areas," and are unwilling to consider change, God will not act.

continues . . .

Battle Baptist Church is Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Fax: (01424) 775875. • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • This week our office will open from Tuesday 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.*

In summary: God gives us *notice of change*, and He gives us *time to change*. If we delay, God waits; His *plan* does not change.

His plans are always perfect. If we drag our feet, and are unwilling to be open for change, He'll just wait until the time is right.

His timing – in hindsight! – is always perfect.

We are called to live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

When His people are open and ready for a new thing, God acts “suddenly.”

Your friend and pastor,

Francis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

Phil Lee was welcomed into Membership on Sunday 30th May •

Jim and Brenda Picknell thank all who have helped them over the past few difficult weeks. “Words cannot say how much this is appreciated, and because of it we are now back to what is ‘normal’ for us!”

Good home wanted for: **desk** (suit child 5-10 years; **small radio with separate speakers; small practice amplifier**, suitable for guitar. Contact **Les Terrell**: 892546.

Next Saturday, June 5th: **Girlie Day out!** by train, visiting Roman Road Street Market, Oxford Street, and maybe Westfield Shopping Centre. Details: **Catherine Nolan, Catherine Watson** or **Janet Walsh**.

To receive the *Weekly Bulletin* by **email**, please email your request to the church office. The most up-to-date *Weekly Bulletin* also appears on our church **website**, usually from Friday.

• Our Editor, **Keith Nolan**, will (“if spared” — his words!) reach his 70th birthday this Thursday, June 3rd.

**A lot of our activity
often mistaken for revival
is just the church turning
over, but not waking up.**

— Vance Havner —

**Revival
is
a divine attack
on society.**

— Ron McIntosh —

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WE ARE TAKING OUR CUSTOMARY ONE-WEEK HALF-TERM BREAK from most of our usual activities, in line with local schools, including: Homegroups, Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool, Prayer for Middle East and Israel (second and fourth Thursdays at 2pm), and Thursday After School Club. For football updates see fixtures on our website. If in doubt, please contact your usual group-leader.

Tuesday and Wednesday

Holiday Club

for children aged 5 to 11
10am to 12.30pm for all who have booked

Thursday and Friday

24 hours of prayer and worship for all
1 pm Thursday to 1pm Friday.
Organised by our young people.

Sunday, June 6th. 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.) • **3pm: Battle Churches and Civic Service at St. Mary's.** • NO 4pm: Chapel Meeting. • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

“The Land Cried Out for the Blood that was Shed” — a DVD on abortion, with particular reference to modern Israel. (Produced by the Hatikvah Film Trust.) Ask **Derek White** to lend you a copy.

It's half-term! Be sure to check What's On

Applications for Membership have been received from **Johan and Karen Brussée, Ted Webb, Daisy Grove-Lafarge and Catherine Nolan**. Observations are invited to an elder in the usual manner. •

Lettuce plants, ready to plant out; from **John Harmer: 773998**. Donations, please, for **Obambo Orphans**; will be sent via **Monica Cook**. *Thank you.* (Last year's plants raised £60 from several sources.)

Summer focus on Battle's churches

Shared morning prayer as follows:

Monday **June 21st to Friday June 25th inclusive**: 7.30am to 8am *prompt* at the Roman Catholic Church. (Led by the Catholic Church on Monday and Friday, Methodist Church on Tuesday, Baptist Church on Wednesday, and St Mary's on Thursday.) Simple breakfast to follow at 8 am in our Youth Room. **Dennis** needs some offers of help to prepare the breakfasts on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

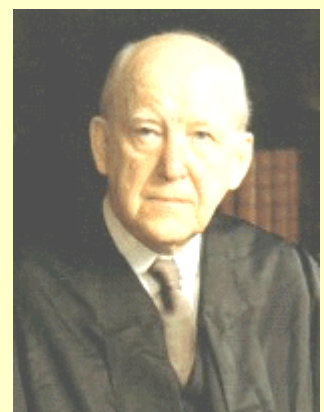
Saturday June 26th: "Here for Good" on the Abbey Green. *Let David Walker know you'll help.*

Sunday June 27th: Churches Together Picnic, Abbey Green; 12:30pm, followed by outdoor Songs of Praise at 2pm. (Both at St Mary's if wet.) Our fellowship is to organise a BBQ. *Offers of help to John Southam for this, please.* (NO 4pm Zion meeting.)

a BLAST from the past . . .

We cannot organise revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.

— G. Campbell Morgan



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.
