



Focus on Hethersett Reformed Baptist Church

Issue 4 – August – September 2011

**News, Views and
Prayer Requests**

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A Word from the Pastor

On behalf of Chris and myself I would like to express our very grateful thanks for the love, care and compassion shown to us both by members of the fellowship, as well as many outside the fellowship, as a result of my recent stay in hospital due to a heart attack. The church has continued to run smoothly in my absence, and it is good to see that the standard of ministry from the pulpit has been maintained, despite some of our regular preachers being laid aside. I am sure that it is due to the measure of our faithfulness to the gospel and to our stance to uphold the purity of the church that the Lord has, and is blessing us at this time. Thank you all once again.

Let us pray for the People of Norway

Every time we tune into the news or read our newspapers what we see appears to be getting worse and worse. Famine is spreading like wildfire across the horn of Africa, there is continued unrest in many of the African countries with both of these situations creating more and more refugees. But nothing could have prepared us for what happened in Norway in the closing days of July.



To hear of such carnage caused by one man with a deranged mind affecting not only the families of those who were killed, but affecting the whole nation, it turned my stomach, however, it is not my purpose to comment on what drove this person to do what he did, but to ask that you remember in your prayers all who lost loved ones and sons and daughters as a result of this tragedy, pray that out of it all may come a victory for the gospel, that many will come to see that only Jesus Christ can fully meet their needs at this time

Church Discipline

Robert Murray McCheyne is fondly remembered as a young preacher and evangelist who saw great blessing on his short ministry in Dundee. He was a man characterised by a great love for Christ and for perishing sinners, and his sermons are still read and appreciated by people all over the world.

What is not so well-known is his view on the important place of church discipline. Let us hear what he said on this subject in some of his last words to his people:

“When I first entered upon the work of the ministry among you, I was exceedingly ignorant of the vast importance of Church discipline. I thought that my great and almost only work was to pray and preach. I saw your souls to be so precious and the time so short, that I devoted all my time, and care and strength, to labour in word and doctrine.

When cases of discipline were brought before me and the elders, I regarded them with something like abhorrence. It was a duty I shrank from; and I may truly say it nearly drove me from the work of the ministry among you altogether. But it pleased God, who teaches His servants in another way than man teaches, to bless some of the cases of discipline to the manifest and undeniable conversion of the souls of those under our care; and from that hour a new light broke in upon my mind, and I saw that if preaching be an ordinance of Christ, so is Church discipline.

I now feel very deeply persuaded that both are of God, that two keys are committed to us by Christ: the one the key of doctrine, by means of which we unlock the treasures of the Bible; the other the key of discipline, by which we open or shut the way to the sealing ordinances of the faith. Both are Christ's gift, and neither is to be resigned without sin”.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2011

Tuesday 2 nd	7.30pm Prayer Meeting
LORD'S DAY 7th	10.45 am & 6.30pm Mr Paul Austen (Communion - Morning)
Tuesday 9 th	7.30pm Focus on the Word Speaker; Dr John Belham
LORD'S DAY 14th	10.45 am Mr Maurice Keatley 6.30pm Mr Simon Gay
Tuesday 16 th	7.30 pm Focus on the Word Speaker: Mr John Vinookumar
LORD'S DAY 21st	10.45 am Mr Richard Freeman 6.30pm Mr Paul Austen (Communion - Evening)
Tuesday 23 rd	7.30 pm Focus on the Word Speaker: Rev Colin Vincent
LORD'S DAY 28th	10.45 am Mr David Moore 6.30 pm Mr Steve Myers
Tuesday 30 th	7.30 pm Focus on the Word Speaker: Visual Presentation - Jonathan Bevan

COMMUNION

As a church we operate an open table for the purpose of communion, to which we invite all who love the Lord in sincerity and in truth to join with us. If, however, you do not feel able to take an active part in the communion service you are welcome to stay and pass the elements by.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

LORD'S DAY 4th

10.45am **The Pastor**
6.30pm Mr Joe Hart
(Communion - Morning)

Tuesday 6th

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday 8th

2.45pm Women's Fellowship
Speaker: Mrs Yvonne Wicks

Saturday 10th

10.00am - 12.00noon Joint Churches Prayer Meeting
Venue: Hethersett Reformed Baptist Church

(Tea & Coffee will be served prior to the start of the meeting from 9.30am)

LORD'S DAY 11th

10.45 am & 6.30pm **The Pastor**

Tuesday 13th

7.30 pm Focus on the Word
Speaker: **The Pastor**

LORD'S DAY 18th

10.45 am & 6.30 pm Mr Charles Scott - Pearson
(Communion - Evening)

Monday 19th

7.30 pm Visit of Protestant Alliance
Speaker: Mr Charles Scott - Pearson

Thursday 22nd

2.45pm Women's Fellowship
Speaker: Mr Peter Baldwin

LORD'S DAY 25th

10.45 am Mr Owen Greenard
6.30 pm **The Pastor**

Tuesday 27th

7.30 pm Focus on the Word
Speaker: **The Pastor**



A New

Religion

In its July 15th edition of this year, The British Church Newspaper ran an article called “A New Religion”, something I have to admit I knew nothing about. The article stated: “The new religion is Chrislam. We are assured that it is not really a new religion, but rather a belief that Christianity and Islam are compatible with one another and can be mutually edifying.” Yet it must be very evident to those who have the very simplest understanding that the idea is quite incompatible with either of these religions, therefore it can only be considered as yet another false religion put together by the dreamers of this world.

Far from being new, Chrislam has its roots in Nigeria about 25 years ago and has gained much ground in North America. Many hundreds of churches are said to have embraced it, now we find it drifting into the UK, as these things eventually do. Chrislam is in fact the natural development of the ecumenical movement and it will inevitably spread in this country, as it has done in the USA, especially with those who promote Inter-Faith Worship.

The BCN continues: “Some see Chrislam as a step toward the One World Order and the One World Religion. Chrislam will also be popular with ecclesiastics. It is lonely at the top. Where the bible does not rule and Christ is not honoured and there is no gospel to preach, it is refreshing for the leaders to meet others with like problems. Put another way, the sin of officers is fraternising with the enemy. They often find that they have more in common with enemy officers than their own men”.

The fact is that Jehovah and Allah are not the same God. Their natures, their scriptures, their view of sin, their mode of forgiveness, their concept of holiness, their expectations of man, their ideas of heaven and hell, are wholly different. Salvation is by faith according to the Bible. Islam reaches that salvation is by works. The one consolation we have is that the Gospel of Christ will prevail over Chrislam as it will over the other assaults on Biblical Christianity.

(With grateful thanks to the British Church Newspaper for their willingness for us to use this article)

Matters for Prayer during August and September

- ❖ Pray for all those laid aside by illness at this time, give thanks for the on-going recovery of our Pastor; it's good to see him back at church more often as time goes by. Maureen Lincoln is home from respite care following her broken leg, remember Maureen in your prayers as she comes to terms to having to cope on her own again.
- ❖ Pray for all those who under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are seeking a new spiritual home, pray that they may find blessing and renewed fellowship with other believers. We continue to pray for such in their endeavours.
- ❖ Continue to remember our brother Barry Davidson as he continues his recovery from recent surgery, it is good to hear that progress is being made and that Barry is regaining his strength. Remember also our dear brother Joe Hart as he continues to recover from knee replacement surgery, pray for both Margaret's, and Christine come to that, that they may be given patience as they seek to guide the recovery of their husbands.
- ❖ Give thanks to the Lord for the way His hand has been upon the church during this time of David's absence, we are thankful to those who have willingly taken on extra duties and to those who have been so willing to assist in other areas of the work.
- ❖ The time has come for us to lay aside the difficulties of the past months, we respect and pray for those who found it difficult to accept the church's ruling and as a result no longer worship with us, however, those of us who remain must now go forward in unity in order to fulfil our aim of bringing Glory to God and to faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Salvation. Pray that the Lord's hand may continue to be upon all that we seek to do for the Kingdom of God here on earth.
- ❖ Pray for all Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith, especially those in predominately Moslem countries where the persecution is the fiercest. Ask the Lord to sustain them, grant them strength and courage and an awareness of His presence with them every step of the way.

Prayer is the hearts sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed



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