

February 2009 at CHRJST CHURCH

Dear friends at Christchurch

As we have studied the Exodus over the last few Sundays, I've been struck again by the way in which what happened to Moses over 3000 years ago speak to our lives today. And that was particularly so with Moses' experience of following God's call to lead the Israelite slaves to freedom.

Moses' call was one of the clearest in scripture – when God has spoken to you out of a burning bush, you can be certain of your calling! Moses felt inadequate for the task, but God overcame Moses' objection, reassured him, equipped him for the task, and sent him to Pharaoh. And the immediate result of Moses obeying God's call was ... that things got worse!

I think it overturns all our expectations. Surely if we are following the Lord's leading, we should expect to see success, to experience his blessing. And I think that what Moses' experience shows us is that we will know those things, but not necessarily straight away.

What has made this event from the Bible strike me so forcefully is that in the last few days I've had conversations with people doing different things in a variety of churches, who all are going through the experience Moses had. They have responded to God's call, and now find themselves struggling with opposition, or with problems, which humanly speaking could make them wonder whether they really are doing what God wants. How wonderful that in such a situation God's word can provide reassurance by showing us that what is happening to us is no different from what happened to his people through the ages.

All of which makes spending time reading and being taught the Bible so important – because there we find not only God's great promises to us, but also his encouragement to press on despite circumstances around.

Yours in Christ

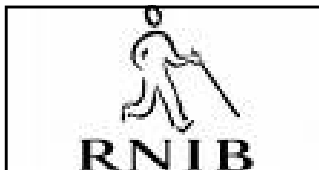
Regular weekly activities:

Monday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm TLC
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.15 pm Art Group
	-	4.00 pm Shine
Wednesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group
	-	1.30 pm Toddler Group
	-	4.00 pm Rainbows
	-	5.15 pm Rainbows
Thursday	-	1.00 pm Craft Group
	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit
	-	5.30 pm Brownies
	-	7.30 pm Guides
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls



Ash Wednesday 25th February

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday in Lent we will be having a 9.15 am Holy Communion Service in Church. On Ash Wednesday only there will also be an evening Communion Service at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre.



RNIB volunteers

RNIB's nationwide network of volunteers are available to support blind and partially sighted people in their own homes with a range of services:

- ◆ home technology support)
- ◆ IT home support) Tel: 0845 604 2341
- ◆ Talking Book home support - Tel: 0845 762 6843



Come to a Pancake Party!
Fun, games, and loads of pancakes
Shrove Tuesday
(24th February)
Christ Church Parish Centre
6 - 7pm



Shared Tea

Sunday 8th March - 4.30 pm (Parish Centre)

At the shared tea we will be launching our support of the project in Ipusuklilo. This will be followed on by our evening service which will be held in the Parish Centre.



Can you find 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found in an airplane seat pocket by a gentleman on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The Books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.