



Rehoboth Baptist Church
New Street, Horsham RH13 5DU

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Newsletter
December 2007



**When the kindness and love
of God our Saviour
appeared, he saved us.**

Titus 3:4

Visit our Website -
www.rehoboth.org.uk

I came, I saw, I conquered!

So wrote Julius Caesar in 47BC—although he actually wrote it in Latin, of course: Veni, Vidi, Vici. He evidently included the statement in a report to the Roman Senate describing his recent victory over Pharnaces II of Pontus at the Battle of Zela in the north of present day Turkey. He was very proud of his own achievements and wanted the Senate to know who was in charge!

Interesting, then, that some 43 years later one who was to be a greater conqueror than Caesar or any other great leader, was born. Of him, Jesus of Nazareth, the same ascription could be made, but perhaps in a different order and as describing a far more significant victory. Let's put it like this:

He saw, He came, He conquered!

God had seen down the history of mankind the utter sinfulness and degradation of people's hearts. In Genesis 6: 5 we read: *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.*

a condition that deserved, and was ripe for judgement. **He saw** it alright—and he sees our hearts today—sinful, wayward, selfish and deserving judgement. Yet **he came**. Unlike Caesar, who couldn't 'see', couldn't weigh up the situation till he arrived on the scene, Jesus Christ, God's Son came into the world that he'd already seen and understood.

As this month we focus on a Baby born miraculously 2000 years ago, may I suggest we try to shift our thoughts beyond that - a virgin conceiving is not an impossibility for the Creator to enable; but beyond even the fact of God becoming man—again, not too much for the One who made man. Can we approach the wonder of all wonders—that even as God saw and was saddened by, our sinful depravity—my sinful depravity, he loved me so very much and in his mercy and grace, rather than condemning me, he came to be my Saviour. (Sorry, I've gone personal, because even as I write this I've felt overwhelmed at the thought)

And the powerful thing is that in bearing my sins in his own sinless body, dying in my place, he conquered death and its awful sting—sin.(1 Corinthians 15:56) for me.

Yes, he saw, he came and, praise Him! **he conquered** death and sin. And I need him, you need him, to conquer that sin in our hearts so that he can reign supremely over them. Nothing less will do.

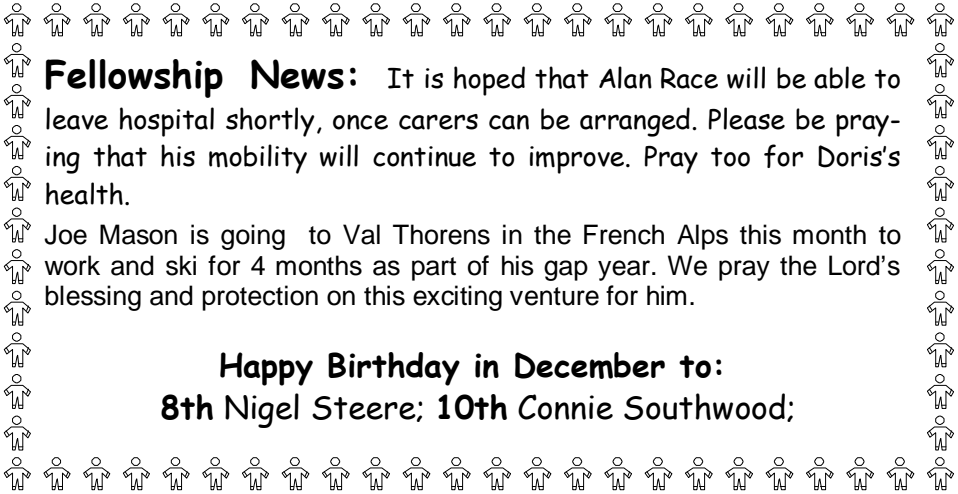
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me. Captivate my heart, Let your kingdom come, establish your throne, Let your will be done.

Chris Bowater © 1984 Thankyou Music

Steve Piggott

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Fellowship News: It is hoped that Alan Race will be able to leave hospital shortly, once carers can be arranged. Please be praying that his mobility will continue to improve. Pray too for Doris's health.

Joe Mason is going to Val Thorens in the French Alps this month to work and ski for 4 months as part of his gap year. We pray the Lord's blessing and protection on this exciting venture for him.

**Happy Birthday in December to:
8th Nigel Steere; 10th Connie Southwood;**

DON'T FORGET...
To set aside Saturday 1st March 2008 in your diary
 Fellowship Day at Pilgrim Hall. More details shortly.

Please do be in prayer
 for our Christmas services and activities. Support them where you can by being there and bringing your friends along. May our desire be that this month becomes more than just a material celebration—presents, food & drink, family etc., rather that we may see the joy of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ changing hearts and lives.

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord
1 Peter 3:15

Keep Believing!!

By John Polson

In writing these words to you it comes with an apology - that I haven't been around you all much for a while, so when Steve suggested I share with you what's been happening in my life over the past year I realised it would be a good chance to say 'Hi' and catch up with you.

As to the title of this piece, as you would expect, it is from an album of mine. Not only is it my favourite song of all time but the title reflects something I have had to hold onto as I stepped out into the unknown world of my new business, Sanctuary Dental.

Being made redundant was a journey in itself but when I had regrouped I knew that I must take the opportunity again to "make a difference" in something that I knew something about; dentistry. God has given us many gifts, one of them being our smile. We should look after it, invest in it. I do find it funny that people will spend wads of cash on everything they want but moan at the price of toothpaste or toothbrushes. These are simple tools that are designed to protect one of your prized assets, "your smile."

"The shortest distance between two people is a smile." ~Author Unknown .

My business idea is to make someone's smile much more affordable and give people the confidence to smile and make a difference to someone's day.

It has been an incredible journey of self discovery and has led to a new awareness that God has indeed had his hand on my life. As I have spent many solitary hours researching, planning, buying my first dental practice in Hove and implementing a low cost option for the patients, I have been able to reflect on how I got to this place. In essence I have been able to reapply the principles taught to us by Jesus as I try to build something new.

I have also had a huge amount of challenges but with each challenge I gain confidence that there is a solution just around the corner. It may not be what I expected but it will be for the best.

So what has come out of the dark days of redundancy? That my God is faithful. His word is true and what he's promised I know he'll do. The Lord took me out of a work situation because he knew it was in my best interests. Sometimes we don't want to let go of what we have because we think it's what defines us but sometimes God takes things away from us to show us who we can be when it's all stripped away. I guess it's about learning from life's journey.

The Dental Practice is building slowly and the word is spreading and other opportunities have appeared that will allow the business to grow. Praise the Lord!!

As for my other activities I have been away for the last while singing around the country and will be for another few weekends. It's a bit mad all round at the moment but I know I'll be fine if I just...Keep Believing...

Little Verse Update

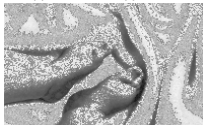
Gill Burley, Heidi, Jan, Katie and myself have been running Little Verse since September. This is a weekly session, every Monday morning, when we invite parents and babies in to the church and share nursery rhymes together, followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

We had a slow start, with no-one joining us for a number of weeks. We had publicised the sessions, but decided to leaflet some of the roads near the church. We also gave out some leaflets to parents outside the library following a Rhymetime session there.

Since the end of October we have seen a steady increase in the numbers attending, and last Monday we had 15 babies and toddlers with various accompanying carers. One mother who first came at the end of October has been very enthusiastic and has brought a number of friends along. In addition, a number of parents have come as a result of receiving a leaflet through the door. The majority of those who have come live in the roads near the church and appreciate being able to just walk down.

All the parents and carers who have attended seem to really enjoy the time and thank us for providing the sessions. We would ask for prayer as we continue Little Verse, that we may be able to get to know the parents more and have opportunity to share the love of God with them. We plan to have a special session on 17th December, singing carols, and we will invite them to come to our Christmas services at Church.

Hazel Smith





PRAYING AND CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Roads for prayer this month are:
Cambridge Road and Devonshire Road

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday	1st	8.30am	Early Prayer
SUNDAY	2nd	10.30am 6.30pm 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Steve Piggott + Communion David Ansell Bryce Lodge Service
Monday	3rd	10.30am	Little Verse—Rehoboth
Wednesday	5th		Bible Study Group meal
Thursday	6th	8.00pm	Banner Group—Rehoboth
Friday	7th	10.00am 8.00pm	WAM : Coffee — 18 Swan Close, Southwater Pathfinders & HighWay
Saturday	8th	8.30am	Early Prayer
SUNDAY	9th	10.30am 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Rowland Fidge (Axminster) Rowland Fidge
Monday	10th	10.30am	Little Verse — Rehoboth
Tuesday	11th	2.30pm	Afternoon Fellowship—Christmas Thoughts— Pauline Jepps
Wednesday	12th	10.30am 8.00pm	Gillett House Carol Service Prayer & Bible Study : 70 Blackbridge Lane
Friday	14th	10.00am 8.00pm	WAM : B/S — 9 Macleod Road Pathfinders
Saturday	15th	8.30am	Early Prayer
SUNDAY	16th	10.30am 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Steve Piggott Matt Steel + Communion
Monday	17th	10.30am	Little Verse—Rehoboth
Wednesday	19th	10.30am 8.00pm	Greenways Carol Service Prayer & Bible Study: 5 Mallow Close

Thursday	20th	7.00pm - 8.00pm	Carols in the New Street Garden	
Friday	21st	11.00am	Page Court Carol Service	
SUNDAY	23rd	10.30am 5.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Kevin Borrett Carols by Candlelight	
Christmas Day	25th	10.00am	WORSHIP the new born King	
Saturday	29th	8.30pm	Early Prayer	
Sunday	30th	10.30am 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Steve Piggott Stuart Beadle	
New Year's Eve	31st	11.30pm - midnight	Thanksgiving & Prayer	

Preaching out this month

(as advised by 28.11.07)

- December 2nd:** D Ansell—Charlwood
- December 9th:** S Piggott—Shrewsbury Rd
Redhill (am)
- December 16th:** D Ansell—Reigate (am)
Charlwood
- December 30th:** D Ansell—URC Horsham (am)
S Piggott—Alfold EFC (pm)



Please advise Steve or Elspeth of any future preaching out dates by the 25th of each month for the month ahead.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday Morning Worship

Our young people join us for the first part of our Sunday morning services and then have their own groups:-

Crèche: Babies and Toddlers
Primary: Pre-school, Reception & Years 1 & 2
Junior: Years 3, 4 & 5
Intermediate: Years 6, 7 & 8
Senior: Years 9, 10 & 11

For further information phone 01403 250021

Prayer & Bible Study meetings

These meetings are held on a Wednesday evening at 8pm, either at the church or in various members' homes.

For further information phone 01403 266193

WAM—Young Mum's Group

This group meets at 10am on Friday mornings in various homes and a crèche is provided for children.

For further information phone 01403 241067

Afternoon Fellowship

This group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm.

For further information phone 01403 263397

Little Verse

For parents with babies or toddlers. Meets Monday mornings at 10am. Singing & action songs followed by coffee or tea and chat

For further information phone 01403 255055

Pathfinders

This Group, for young people in school years 6, 7 & 8, meets at 8pm on Friday evenings.

For further information phone 01403 250021

HighWay

This Group, for young people in school year 9 upwards, meets at 8pm every first Friday of the month.

For further information phone 01403 256525

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Secretary: Kevin Borrett, 8 Uppark Gardens, Horsham, W. Sussex. RH12 5JN

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