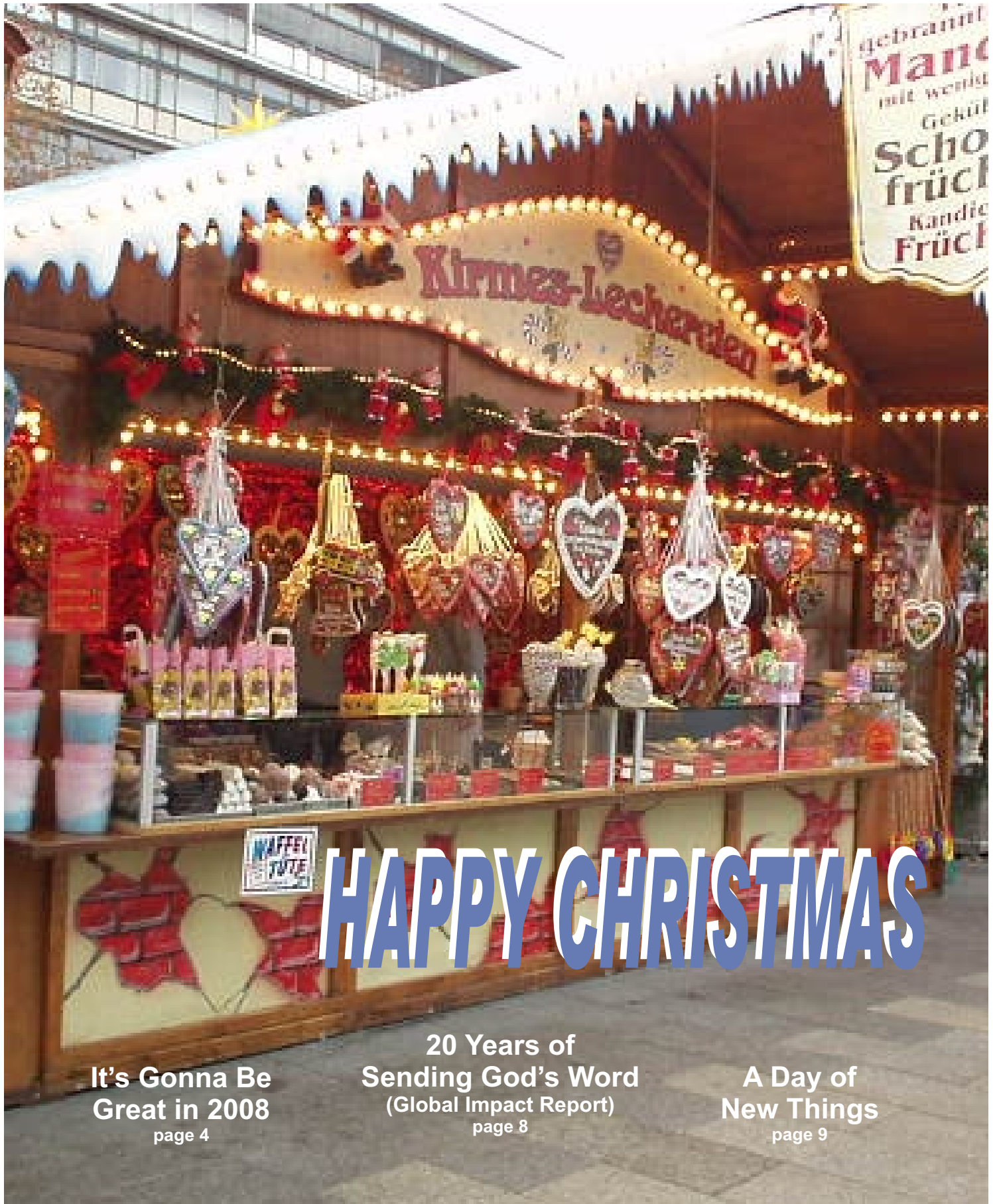


Voice of Faith



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2008

Ministry Publication of Voice Of Faith Ministries International ISSUE 7



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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The Voice of Faith is a ministry publication of Voice of Faith Ministries International and incorporates the work and ministries of Full Gospel Fellowship Wisbech, Book Aid, Global Impact and other associated ministries.

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Regular Services at Full Gospel Fellowship

If you are in our area, why not join us for one of our services

Christian Centre, High Road, Gorefield, Wisbech. PE13 4NZ

Sunday @ 10.30am - Worship
Sunday @ 5.00pm - Praise & Celebration
Tuesday @ 7.00pm - Bible Study
Wednesday @ 7.00pm - Prayer
Friday @ 7.30pm - Ministry Meeting

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Jesus - The Reason for the Season

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" Luke 2.11

Christmas is here once again. It is a really wonderful time. Several years ago I used to work for a major chain of supermarkets and although it was a very busy time of year, I used to look forward to when the popular music was taken 'off-air' and the Christmas songs and carols would be played. No matter how much noise there was from the bustle of the shop floor or the tannoy announcements calling staff, I could listen to the songs, many of them giving praise to Jesus. Can you imagine the events of that first night, the shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem, doing the same things that they did every night, watching over the flocks and herds, talking and sharing among themselves, when suddenly, above the sound of their voices and bleating sheep, came a host of heavenly angels singing the words of the very first Christmas carol - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men". The angel of the Lord preceded this chorus with the important news that Jesus had been born, the Saviour, the Messiah - God Himself had come to earth.



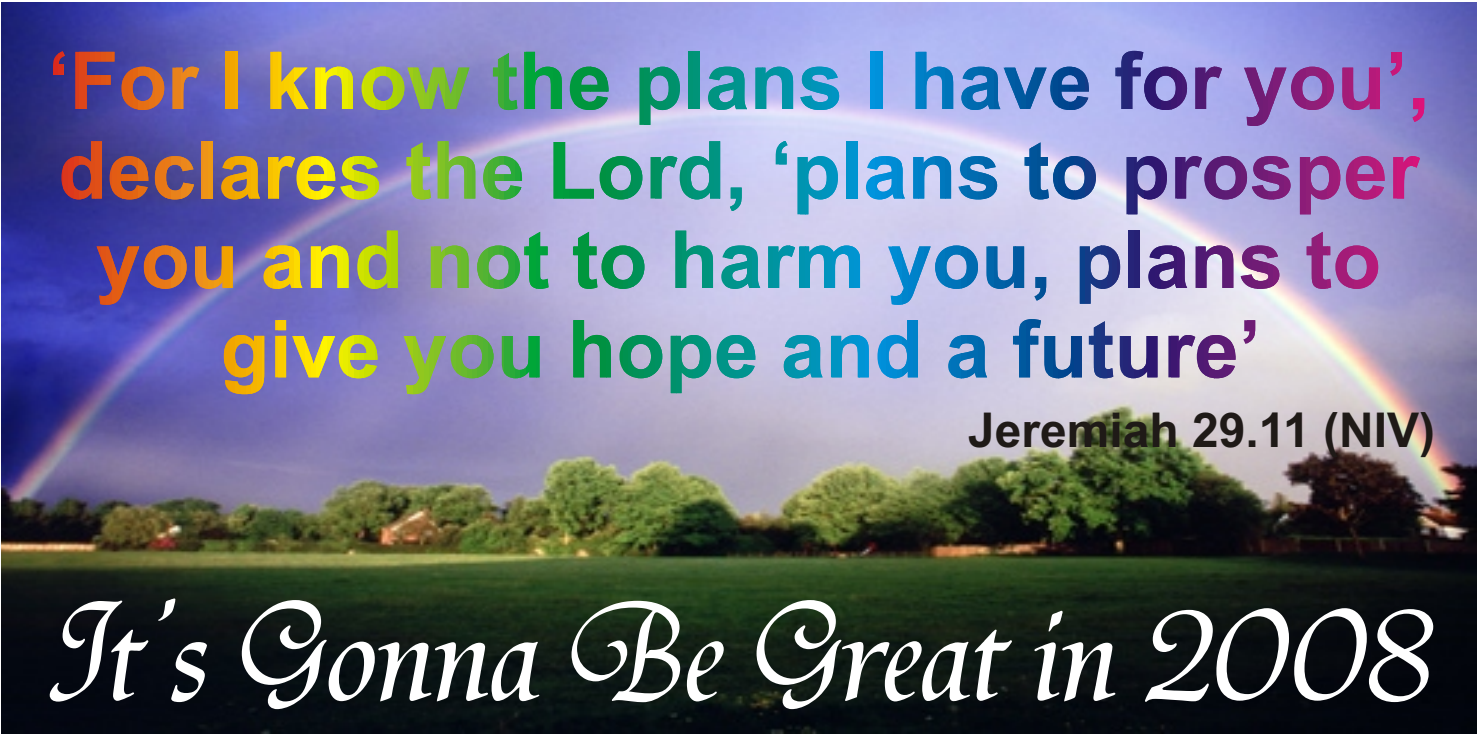
Today we live in a society that wants to remove Christ from Christmas - the media replace Christmas with 'the festive season', Christ is replaced with an 'x' to become xmas, the traditional school nativity play is being replaced with other events with no bearing on Christmas at all.

The words of the angel of the Lord tell us the reason for Christmas, 'Unto you is born this day... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord' - Jesus is the reason for the Season, let's celebrate Jesus this Christmas.

There is a Christmas song which says 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday' - well it can be with Jesus, every day we can celebrate Jesus, every day God can be born in us, everyday we can receive His gift of life. Don't lose sight of Jesus this Christmas, it's all about Him.

***We want to wish all our readers a very blessed Christmas
and a prosperous and great 2008***

Peter & Jayne Warren



**‘For I know the plans I have for you’,
declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future’**

Jeremiah 29.11 (NIV)

It's Gonna Be Great in 2008

Please forgive the title, but it is true. It will be great this coming year. How do I know that, well God says so in His Word. He has plans for you, plans of prosperity, goodness and blessing, plans of hope and a future that's certain. He is a great God and He has great plans for you.

The other day I was sitting in a service listening to the preacher. Now the Lord had already put this message into my spirit, and the preacher began to read a verse from the Bible. Immediately the Spirit of God started to prompt me about the word 'great'. This word is an adjective which expresses a large, extensive or unusual degree of any thing, considerably more than the normal or average. As I began to consider and study this through, I found many things in the Bible that God gives or does, to which this adjective is attached, and there are more than I have listed here:

Great Love - Ephesians 2.4
Great Mercy - Psalm 145.8
Great Grace - Acts 4.33
Great Power - Acts 4.33
Great Things - Psalm 126.3
Great Works - Psalm 92.5
Great Glory - Luke 21.27
Great Joy - Nehemiah 12.43
Great Salvation - Hebrews 2.3
Great Peace - Psalm 119.165
Great Blessing - Genesis 24.35
Great Victory - 2 Samuel 23.12
Great Deliverance - Judges 15.18
Great Goodness - Psalm 145.7

Great Kindness - Joel 2.13
Great Wonders - Psalm 136.4
Great Faithfulness - Lamentations 3.23

Just spend some time going through this list and meditating on the greatness of God, we see everything He does is great - of a large, extensive and unusual degree, considerably more than the normal or average.

Now we can truly state with all confidence that 2008 will be GREAT. As God moves in our lives bringing us the things we need, it will be great. Even if we didn't experience just one of the things listed it will still be a great year if God is in our life because He is great.

"Thou art great and doest wondrous things: Thou art God alone" Psalm 86.10

PLANS OF PROSPERITY

The verse above tells us that God has plans for us. Do you know God's plan for you? It's a great plan, a plan that always comes together. How many times have you made plans that haven't quite worked out the way you envisioned them?, probably a few. God's plans always come together, in the right way, at the right time. In fact the only thing that can stop God's plans is you. We all can prevent them from coming to pass in our lives: No devil in hell can stop them, no man on earth can stop them, just you.

God wants to do us good, and He wants to do it for us today, here and now.

God's plan is to prosper you. That's a strange word isn't it, the moment anybody mentions prosperity, we automatically think of money - that's because we are so tuned in to the world's system. That's also the reason why so many Christians make a big song and dance over prosperity. They think as man thinks not as God thinks. In fact, money is the lowest form of prosperity. Men strive and chase after money with everything they have in them, working all hours, holding down 2-3 jobs, trying just to get a little money. In the light of God we see it's true value, man rates it number one, God uses it to pave the streets of Heaven.

So what is the Bible talking about when it says that God's plan is to prosper us. Let us examine the Bible definitions of the word 'prosper'.

The Greek word used in the New Testament for prosper is the word *euodoo* and it literally means "to help on one's way". In the Old Testament the Hebrew's used the word *tsalach* which means "to advance or push forward". If we combine the two definitions this should give us an understanding of prosperity throughout the Scriptures - "help given to advance or push someone forward on their way".

Prosperity isn't just about money, that's just one aspect of it. Prosperity is about your whole life, God gives help in order to advance you in every area of your life. If we look at the structure of this verse we will see that the word Jeremiah uses is the word *shalom*, which is most often translated peace but can also be translated as prosper. Shalom is a total life prosperity - having nothing missing, enjoying wholeness in every area - physically, spiritually, materially and emotionally.

God's plan for you is that you might come to that place where you enjoy total life prosperity. Every help will be given from God above to push you forward and advance you to that place where you are whole and complete in Him. Where you enjoy wholeness in your health, your finances, your mind and emotions, and not forgetting your spiritual life.

PLANS TO DO YOU GOOD

God's plan for you in 2008 is to prosper you. He also adds in that promise that His plans for us are not to harm us, in other words His plans are to do you good. Part of the message of

Christmas is that God came to bring peace (prosperity) and His good will (goodness) toward all men. Jesus came to earth as part of the good will of God, that we might know His goodness and prosperity.

The only one who has plans to harm you is the devil. He only has one plan for your life - to steal, kill and destroy (John 10.10). Your total destruction is his main priority, so if God's plan is not to harm us then He must have plans for our protection from evil and to do us good.

Part of the prayer that has been called 'The Lords Prayer' petitions God to "...deliver us from the evil one"

How does God protect us from the evil one - He has broken the chains and fetters by which we can be bound, that was done through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He does not allow anything that we cannot bear to be put on us and gives us a way out of sin (1 Corinthians 10.13). He has shown us in His Word how to deal with the devil, and continually gives us revelation of His Word so that we remain effective.

Secondly, His plan is to do us good. God manifests His goodness toward us through His wonderful works, His acts of loving-kindness, He stretches forth His hand to save, heal and bless. He ministers provision for all of our needs. The Psalmist could only stand in awe of God's goodness because four times in Psalm 107 he writes the same words:

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men" Psalm 107. 8,15,21,31

What frustrates me is those Christians that seem to think the blessings of God are only available to us after we die and are enjoying Heaven. God wants to do us good, and He wants to do it for us

today, here and now. The Psalmist knew it, and he could say:

"[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living!"
Psalm 27.13 (Amp)

He knew that if he had not believed that God would manifest His goodness to him, he would have quit a long time ago. The word faint used in the old King James Version of this verse literally means to lose heart, quit and give up. He also believed that he would see God's goodness in the land of the living, in the here and now as well in the sweet by and by. Yes it will be wonderful then but we can enjoy the blessings now. Actually we will not need the 'blessings' then, for there is no lack or want in heaven, there is no sickness there, there is nothing of the curse there at all. His goodness and wonderful works are for the now.

PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE

Let's continue by looking at the next verse from the Psalmist:

"Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord" Psalm 27.14 (Amp)

This brings us on the next part of the plan of God for you - to give you hope. Hope is earnest expectation. We use the word too often today to express something which is just a bit above doubt. I have been ministering in a prayer line many times and have asked folk if they believe that God will heal them or minister to their need, only to hear their response: "Well I hope so"- that's not a faith response, that's not the response of someone who is earnestly expecting God to touch them. Hebrews 11.6 tells us that 'those who come to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him'. If I were to say that we treat God like a lottery or a roulette wheel, there would be some that might get offended, but the reality is that when we come to God with the 'I hope so' attitude we are treating Him just like that.

God's plan for us is that we might have true hope - earnest expectation that He will do for us just what He says in His Word.

Have you ever been around an expectant mother, who is eagerly awaiting the birth of her child. Everything she talks about is to do with



Her whole language and life revolves around her baby

the progress of her pregnancy. She will show you the picture of the ultrasound scan, she talks of painting and decorating the spare room, she has great delight in giving you details of the size of the 'bump' - it's the size of a nut, an orange. She also mixes and talks with other pregnant women. Her whole language and life revolves around her baby. That's how we are meant to be with the things we believe God for - we should talk about it, mix with like-minded people, and live out our life in the earnest expectation that we are about to 'give birth' to our miracle. That type of earnest expectation soon sees the manifestation.

PLANS TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE

The fourth part of God's plan is not just to give us hope, but a future that's certain. We have a great future - the Bible says that it hasn't even entered the heart of man the things that God has prepared. Then it goes on to say but God has revealed them to us by His Spirit.

There was a television commercial a few years back for a telephone company and the tag line on the commercial was this, 'the future's bright, the future's orange' - the future's bright but it certainly isn't orange or any other worldly thing. The future's as bright as the promises of God.

What does the future hold? For the Christian the future is great but for those who have never accepted His gift of eternal life it is not so good. Every single person will one day stand before Almighty God to give an account of their works. Those who have not received Jesus and had their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life

will be cast out of heaven and thrown into the lake of fire which has been prepared for the devil and his demons.

For the Christian the eternal future is great, but what about the immediate future, the time we still have left on earth. I said a minute ago, the future's as bright as the promises of God. The Bible contains 7000 of those promises, Peter in his letter calls them exceedingly great and precious promises, and these have been given to us that we might enjoy the divine nature of God, which gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness.

"May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in [the full, personal, precise, and correct] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue).

By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rotteness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature."

2 Peter 1.2-4 (Amp)

God's plan is to give us a future, a life lived in and through the precious promises of His Word. Everything we need for our life is to be found in the Word of God, it's up to you to receive those promises and believe God for them. ♥



Make plans to be at the 2nd

Fens Faith Convention

24th~26th May 2008

Saturday 24th May ~ 7pm

Sunday 25th May ~ 5pm

B.H. Monday 26th May ~ 2.30pm

B.H. Monday 26th May ~ 7pm

**CHRISTIAN CENTRE,
HIGH ROAD,
GOREFIELD, WISBECH,
CAMBS. PE13 4NZ**



Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession Psalm 2.8

20 Years of Sending God's Word

In 2007 BOOK AID celebrated 20 years of serving the African church with Books and Bibles. The ministry which began in the summer of 1987 was only expected to last about 10 years, but 20 years on is still going strong and still helping Christians in Africa and Asia with much needed Christian literature. We hope to have ready the new 'Update' to send out soon, if it comes before this magazine is mailed we will include a copy. To date BOOK AID have sent 240 containers of books and Bibles, with approximately 100,000 books in each container - that brings the total number of books to about 24 million. On top of that we regularly send out other smaller shipments, from a box up to a pallet to other destinations, so really the total number of books well exceeds 25 million for which we give all the praise and glory to God. Countries that have received containers from us this year include: Cameroon, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe - we have also sent regular smaller shipments to Turkey.



Above - Peter receives a cheque from the Head Girl at a Teesside school. Below - Loading the van

At the beginning of the year we were able to send out 86,000 Gospels to a group in India who were going to use them as part of their outreach to the rural villages. We reported on this in one of earlier magazines. These Gospels had been saved from being pulped at the last minute and within weeks were shipped out to Chennai.

A month or so later we received a call from a school on Teesside, who as part of their curricular activities had made a special collection of books which they wanted to donate to Africa. Peter made the trip to collect the books in the BOOK AID van and was also presented with a donation towards the ministry. These books were soon on their way to Malawi.



We receive many letters and e-mails from people requiring our type of help, but unfortunately we are unable to respond to them all. It is disappointing when we have to say NO to these groups. However on the other hand we also receive many letters of thanks from those that we have been able to help, and we do enjoy reading these.

New Staff

In May we welcomed two new staff members to join the team, Declan & Heather Healy. They initially came to BOOK AID in 2006 to see what we were all about and to meet the team, after prayerful consideration they applied to join us and spent a month, at the beginning of the year, working in the London warehouse and bookshop. They eventually joined us on a full time basis in May. Declan & Heather bring to BOOK AID a wealth of book experience and are now based and serving at our Retford warehouse. Their coming has released Peter to establish a new centre closer to his home, which has been his vision for the last 2-3 years.



Above and below - Wisbech Warehouse. Newly opened in October 2008

New Premises

Peter having been released from the Retford centre has enabled BOOK AID to open up a brand new warehouse in Wisbech, while we are still very much in the early days of setting it up and becoming established, it is already proving to be an asset. Wisbech is located half-way between our other two main warehouses in London and Retford, and has become a valuable storage place for both of the other warehouses in moving books between the two. It is located on Wisbech's main industrial estate in a fairly new business park. Peter is now able to walk to the warehouse and get some much needed exercise, it also means that he is able to get home earlier.



A DAY OF NEW THINGS

A short while ago, I asked the Lord about this coming new year and for a particular word for it. The word the Lord gave me was that it would be a year of NEW THINGS and then He brought to my attention the verses found in Isaiah 43.

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43.18-19

God says that He will do a NEW THING - He is always that way, it's in His nature. When we first came to Him, we came loaded with sin, loaded with baggage from the past and the guilt and shame that went with it all. In His mercy He received us, washed us clean in His own precious blood and made us NEW. That's something that many Christians forget - or don't even know. Have you heard them pray words like, 'O Lord I am so unworthy...', or another one that you often hear them say is, 'I'm just a sinner saved by grace'. They use those words because they don't fully appreciate what Jesus has done for them. **You are not unworthy**, Jesus blood has made you worthy. You have been made righteous by that same blood, Jesus took your sinful nature so that you could take His righteous nature. The Bible says:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" 2 Corinthians 5.21

Paul also writes that those who are children of God are 'heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ' (Romans 8.17). If we are heirs of God and a joint heir with Jesus then how can we say that we are unworthy. We may have been 'unworthy' once but even then God counted us as worthy recipients of His love and mercy - let's remember it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us (Romans 5.8).

Neither can we say that we are sinners saved by

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43.18-19
(NKJV)



grace, acknowledging that we are sinners belittles the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary's cross. Paul writes again to the Corinthian church:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" 2 Corinthians 5.17 (NKJV)

If we are in Christ we are a NEW creation, not the old sinner patched up, repaired or made-over - a brand NEW creation, we've been born-again, **we were sinners but no longer**, we've been saved by the grace of God. We used to sing a song many years ago to remind us of this, 'Once I was a sinner, now I am a son'. We are a NEW creation, God is in the business of doing NEW THINGS.

FORGET FORMER THINGS

Look what He tells us in our verses from Isaiah, "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.." Don't remember those old days, don't remember those days of past sin and failures, God doesn't and neither should we. Paul writes once more,

"..forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on..."

Philippians 4.13-14 (Amp)

He could say I forget the things that have passed and press forward to the things that are ahead. I used to sit for many hours listening to my grandparents recalling events and things from what was often referred to as 'the good old days', some were good memories of how God brought them through certain situations, or how particular changes affected society e.g the advent of the motor car, washing machines and air travel. Other memories were not so good as

they longed for the things of the past. God doesn't want us living in the past, He is a God of NEW THINGS and will do NEW THINGS this year. Was 2007 not a particularly good year for you, does it hold unhappy memories for you, do you feel that you have failed or let God down in some area. Then deal with the past - repent of sin, forget what lies behind and press on into 2008 with the God of NEW THINGS.

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Are you facing a seemingly impossible situation, then look at what God promises -

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? **I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**"

Isaiah 43.18-19

God says that He will do whatever it takes to get those NEW THINGS to you, even if it means making a road right through that barren wilderness, or causing a river to flow through the desert. In order to bring His people out of Egypt, He opened up a dry path right through the midst of the Red Sea - now that's a miracle indeed. Not only did He make a way through the sea but the path was bone dry, no chance of getting stuck in the mud. Just look at some of the other things He did:

- He provided fresh drinking water from the heart of a solid rock.
- He caused ravens to bring bread and meat to His prophet
- He shut the lions mouths when Daniel was cast in their pit and kept Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego safe through the fiery furnace
- He caused an iron axe-head to float.
- He fed 5000 hungry folk with just 5 small bread rolls and 2 fish
- He provided taxation money from the mouth of a fish
- He healed the sick, raised the dead and set free those held in captivity to the devil

What a great and mighty God He is.

GOD IS WILLING AND ABLE

One difficulty that many face isn't that God can do these things for them, they have difficulty believing that He is willing to do it for them. But He says in this verse 'I WILL DO a new thing'.

Oh my friend God is willing and He will do NEW things for you. There was a leper that came to Jesus saying, 'If you are willing, You can make me clean' (Mark 1.40-41). Listen to the response of Jesus to the leper, 'I AM WILLING, be cleansed'

Another issue facing some Christians is this - while they believe that Jesus is able and willing to do things for them, they keep on pushing it off into the future, 'one day it'll happen'. Yes it will happen one day, but can you believe God for that day to be today. 'NOW it shall spring forth..'

This coming year can be your best year ever, God will do NEW things for you and you will see them with your own eyes. What do you need God to change this year, your health, your family, your finances, your job. Are you struggling with old habits, or living in the shadow of past failures. These things will not just happen for you, that's a common mistake many make, they believe that if it's God's will it will automatically come to pass. That's not the case, you need to believe that God will do it, expect Him to do it, stand in faith for it. Invite the LORD OF NEW THINGS to do for you what He says He wants to do. 2008 is going to be really great, so keep believing and expecting for NEW things. This is a year of NEW THINGS.

*God will
do whatever
it takes to
get those
NEW things
to you*