



CYTŪN Llandudno Churches Together LLANDUDNO

Newsletter No. 36 February 2006

Dear Friends,

For the first President's letter of 2006, I humbly offer the following – an "Epistle" for the 21st Century, that I happened to come across recently:

To those who are called Christian Followers throughout Britain, Greetings!

At the outset of my letter to you I find myself in a difficult situation. There are some things I want to say to a few of you and there are other things I want to say to many of you. My Son made it clear that this situation would arise when He said 'Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leads to life, and few there be that find it'.

First of all, let me encourage the few. But who are the few? Each of you are so convinced that the 'few' are your particular group - so that if I just write to the 'few' each will apply it to their particular clique and become prouder than ever.

No, the 'few' I have in mind are those who meet Me early each day and we have an important conversation before the day begins - then they knock at My door from time to time during the day as problems arise - and from time to time they bother Me repeatedly about the needs of others (I just love being bothered by such people!). Most people don't like being talked about, but you people whom I have called the 'few' never lose a chance to talk about Me, or to put My point of view in situations which arise, and with things as they are down there, this isn't easy. But most important of all, these people remind Me of My own Son from time to time.

You 'few' find so much to discourage you, don't you, and this discouragement often comes from those whom you expected to be helpful when you committed yourself to Me. My Son had exactly the same problem, if you remember. Can I remind you of His words, spoken some time ago - 'Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom'. Surely you remember how He repeatedly made it clear that, in the Kingdom, so many things are going to be completely reversed. It is still true that the humble will inherit the earth.

Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit even more - oh, I know that you have been ensuring that His particular department has been busier in recent years - but His department is still very much under-used - some of you have hardly begun to appreciate the services which are available - if only you could rely on them more and more, and rely on your own resources less and less, you'd be amazed at the things which the three-in-one team could do!

And now a word to the many - although I cannot rid Myself of the feeling that it may well be a waste of time in most cases. After all, you don't spend much time taking notice of the other epistles which were delivered during the Great Advance 2,000 years ago. It amazes Me that you just sit there bewailing the fact your church buildings are almost empty, yet take such little notice of the writings of those who saw My church multiply so fast that it changed the world's history.

But surely you realise that you can't go on like this? - surely you cannot contemplate living any longer in this ridiculous situation? Just look at yourselves. You have done your utmost to minimise the clear distinction between Christians and non-Christians by calling it 'tolerance' - yet you retain the divisions within your company by calling them 'denominations'. You try and live with this situation by having occasional joint services and annual exchange of pulpits - and call this 'unity'. What a travesty of what I mean by the word 'unity'.

You have so watered down the meaning of 'discipleship' that in a world where human devotion to causes knows no bounds - even leading to vicious terrorism - in such a world you have often made membership of My church a mere formality. In this connection I feel I must, in all fairness, point out that the last census showed marked discrepancies between our membership list up here and yours down there. Need I remind you which list will be accepted by headquarters at the final census.

You have wasted many, many hours (which could have been spent profitably in advancing the real work of the church) in money raising efforts, and have ignored My declared plan in this area. I repeatedly made it clear in what you now call the Old Testament, and then confirmed it in My Son's words in the New Testament, that My people respond to all that I have done for them by giving one tenth of their possessions to my work. Apparently some members feel that this is expecting too much - maybe they have not yet recognised all that I have done for them. By the way, do you know of any church which preaches and practices 'tithing' - yet suffers inadequate funding?

You have opened up access to My table carelessly by ignoring the words - 'Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup . For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself'.

Yet it is not too late - how I long for the revitalizing power of the Holy Spirit to activate the dry bones of your dying organisation. If only you would confess your need - and return to the only place where I can meet you - not at the dizzy heights of your religious pomposity - but down at the foot of My Son's cross - then I can start again with you - and you can bring an end to the age of the compromising, failing church - and enable My Son to 'see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied'.

My second intervention into the world's history will not be long delayed - the 'few' will be looking forward to this event with eager joy - some of the many are not interested in the subject, but most don't really believe it will happen, anyway.

My closing message to the 'few' - - - **MARANATHA!**
But to the many - - - **SPEND TIME AT THAT CROSS UNTIL IT'S REAL MEANING OVERWHELMS YOU.**

Christian Aid and HIV/AIDS

An Afternoon with a Christian Aid Partner from Malawi at St David's, Craig y Don on Wednesday November 30th 2006.

On the eve of World Aids Day, December 1st, we were privileged to hear a presentation by Pastor Ephraim Disi from Malawi. He works for **ANERELA** (African Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected by **HIV/AIDS**).

Pastor Ephraim was introduced by Branwen, Christian Aid's Youth Worker in Wales. We heard that 42 million people are living with **HIV/AIDS** in the world today. In Malawi life expectancy is down to 38. 15% of the population of 12 million are HIV positive. There are 1 million orphans in the country. We also heard that the incidence of HIV in Wales has risen by 16% in Wales in the last two years. Pastor Ephraim and Branwen were to be at a 6th Form conference at Ysgol Trefor in Bangor that weekend. There are so many factors common to both countries.

ANERELA has a network of 40 ministers and it is an Inter Faith support group. Pastor Ephraim spoke of the six challenges, **Stigma, Silence, Denial, Discrimination, Action, and Wrong Action.** The Pastor was living

testimony having been HIV positive for many years before he was honest with his congregation about his situation. He certainly looked strong and moved tables and chairs both before and after the meeting. We were very grateful for his sharing. He said it was important to live positively and to be an agent of change. In Lesotho 30% of the population of 1.9 million are HIV positive, in South Africa with 36 million the figure is also 30%.

In Uganda the **ABC message** (Abstinence, Be loyal to your partner, and use a Condom if you must) has had considerable success in reducing the incidence of HIV. There is a need to empower women who are faithful but still are affected. Young people are encouraged to be faithful, but are often enticed into casual sex, particularly by older men, who tempt girls with 'cash, cell phones and cars'. The young are told that they have only **ONE LIFE** and to make it count. However it is stressed that there **CAN** be "**Life**" after an **HIV** positive diagnosis; after acceptance and treatment the young can be a force for change.

Very relevant at this time of the campaign to 'Make Poverty History' was the link between Poverty and **HIV/AIDS**. Mothers whose children are starving are tempted to sell their bodies to get food for their family. They need empowering to get work. There should be stiffer sentences for rape. Sadly incest is on the increase to avoid infection from outside the family. Churches taught the importance of abstinence, but "there was a monster at home". For some women the choice was between saving your life or your marriage.

In Africa 1% of those HIV positive have access to drugs that are available here in Wales, where pregnant mothers HIV positive will have a Caesarian birth and be told to bottle feed their baby, so that it is not infected. This is not the culture in Africa. We were told that in Lesotho the King was leading a campaign to get all the population tested. In Uganda they are forming 'Post Test' clubs to support those who were tested positive.

As a retired teacher I felt I had been on a steep learning curve that afternoon. With many thanks given to Christian Aid and particularly to Pastor Ephraim and Branwen.

Patrick Rhode

Cytûn Council Meetings in 2006 – April 25th, July 25th and October 10th – Stella Maris all at 2 pm.

Cytûn Newsletters will in future be published quarterly, immediately following the Cytûn Council meeting. Therefore, members are asked, in future, to bring all Newsletter articles and other contributions to the Council meetings, please.

Llandudno Cytûn Conference

At Saint Paul's Church Craig-y-Don
Saturday November 19th 2005

The theme for this year's conference was:

***Rhythms of Healing:
Ransomed, Healed, Restored, Forgiven.***

We were greatly privileged to have our annual conference led by two experienced speakers, well qualified in their field: The Revd Dr. Russ Parker, Director of The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation at Bordon, in Hampshire and the Revd Canon Roy Lawrence, an Honorary Consultant to the Foundation (who lives on The Wirral and was accompanied by Mrs Eira Lawrence). Both speakers elaborated on the conference theme.

Dr. Parker spoke of the ***Rhythms of Healing*** and of Christ meeting us at our point of need. He quoted from St. Mark 1:40-43 (New International Version – New Edition) which recalls the healing of the leper, and shows both the indignation of Jesus at the existence of sickness and His immense compassion. In a very deep and moving talk the ***Rhythms of Care*** were highlighted as ***Compassion, Touch, Prayer and Wholeness.***

The conference then split into two groups. Dr. Parker led a workshop on ***Listening***, which is the core of the Acorn Foundation's work. Canon Lawrence led a workshop on ***Finding God in the Darkness.***

After everyone had enjoyed their packed lunches, the speakers repeated their workshops so that all present were able to attend both.

At 3pm the conference moved from the hall to the church for a Healing Service at which Dr. Parker spoke of everyone's need of ***Healing and Wholeness*** and led communal prayers for personal healing, for help and support for the clergy, and for the healing of world situations. Canon Lawrence spoke on the introduction of healing services in our churches, on making the ministry of healing an integral part of our worship, and on the formation of house groups. The healing service concluded with the ***Laying on of Hands*** and all who had attended left the conference refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

What a pity only 39 people were there.

Betty Mills

SHELTER CYMRU

Homelessness Seminar – 'Great Expectations'

As CYTUN representative I attended the SHELTER seminar on **Friday December 9th 2005**, with little experience of homelessness strategy, and not knowing what to expect of the day.

The programme was highly structured, focussing on the November 2005 document from the Welsh Assembly Government, 'National Homelessness Strategy for Wales 2006-2008.' This is too detailed even to outline here; please ask me if you would like to borrow my copy. Six speakers addressed about 50 delegates mainly from Shelter Cymru, county or borough councils, and housing associations. Only toward the day's end was there much opportunity to put an individual point of view or ask questions, and by then as a newcomer I had quite a number. The whole thing seemed to be a 'done deal' and all we were really encouraged to do was approve the strategy as a new approach to an old problem. The whole day seemed to me to be more about talking and less about getting on with the job with the maximum of cooperation and the minimum of fuss. I was able to offer a few ideas during the discussion, from a Christian viewpoint, wanting to look more closely at the broad underlying social and moral climate that currently exacerbates homelessness, but didn't feel this contribution particularly welcome!

Networking was more fruitful. I spent lunch talking with Janet Murfin from the Salvation Army at Rhyl; and made a really useful contact with Nikki Burns, programme coordinator of 'Touchstones12', who are compiling leaflets of health-care information to be handed out free to all addicts, homeless and rough sleepers. She would like all the Churches to carry stocks of these leaflets and distribute them at every opportunity. She is based in Colwyn Bay, and can be reached by email at nikki@touchstones12.org.uk, or the website www.touchstones12.org.uk or by phone: 01492-534090. The other role the churches might have is to help monitor the numbers of homeless rough sleepers through our packed lunch programme, though exactly how would need to be discussed.

Do call me on 01492-875685 or email me at RevCrane@aol.com if you want to take a closer look at the WAG's plans for the next couple of years.

Revd Pam Crane

THE BIBLE SOCIETY A.G.M.
Wednesday February 15th at 7:15 pm
in Gloddaeth United Schoolrooms

SERVICE TO CELEBRATE MARRIAGE

Sunday February 19th at 4:30 pm
at Our Lady Star of the Sea

Led jointly by the Revd Jane Allen and Fr Antony Jones
Followed by refreshments at Stella Maris.

LLANDUDNO PEACE GROUP

Open invitation to everyone to attend next meeting on
Thursday February 23rd at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship
Room (on right of church) St. Johns, Mostyn Street.

VICKY & UGANDAN GOSPEL BAND

For young people 10 to 18 years
Saturday February 25th from 5pm to 7:30 pm
Gloddaeth United Garage – Praise and Worship Party
with Food – Numbers please to Revd Tim Hall (581224)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 10th

Services: (Welsh) 2:30 pm at Seilo
Preacher: Parch Nan Powell Davies
(English) 3:00 pm at St. David's
Preacher: Mrs Frances Williams
7:30 pm at St John's
Preacher: Mrs Desiree Blease

Programme for CYTÛN Lent course 2006

5 meetings on Tuesday evenings at Stella Maris

Coffee will be served from 7:00 pm.

Sessions will start at 7:30 and finish by 9.00pm

The theme is the CTBI Lent book with the title:

**“Easter People in a Good Friday World –
Witnessing Christ in the conflict of Life.”**

The course explores issues surrounding anger; violence
and conflict. Each week looks at incidents in the Passion
to help reflect on the different themes being addressed.
Each session will be led by a local member of the clergy.

March 7th Be angry, be violent?

led by Fr Antony Jones

March 14th Punish, repay, reform?

led by the Revd Nick Sissons

March 21st Forgive, forget?

led by the Revd Neil Kirkham

March 28th Losing our humanity?

led by the Revd Jane Allen

April 4th Moving on?

led by the Revd Dr Nigel Dilkes

GOOD FRIDAY

WALK OF WITNESS

**In which all friends of Cytûn are invited to join, as a
silent act of witness to our Crucified Lord.**

**Beginning outside the Town Hall at 11:45 am we walk
in total silence along Mostyn Street to Holy Trinity
Church for an outdoor service at 12 noon.**

**As many people as possible are urged to stay behind
for at least a short time afterwards to join the Vigil
round the Cross – a very strong witness.**

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

Sunday May 7th at 7:45 pm

in St. John's Methodist Church

Preacher: The Revd David Halstead

CYTÛN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday Evening – May 16th

(details later)

CYTÛN TOURIST LEAFLET

A good supply of this leaflet remains from last year
and consequently it will not be reprinted this year. An
amendment slip will be prepared if individual
churches will inform the secretary, as soon as
possible, of any changes to service times etc.

**PLEASE NOTE – SECRETARY'S NEW
ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER**

Mrs Arline Griffiths (Phone: 870051)

11, Duchess Close

Llandudno LL30 1UZ

**Advance Notice: PROM PRAISE returning to
Llandudno at the North Wales Theatre on
September 16th – with the Orchestra of All Souls,
Langham Place, London. Tickets: £12, £10 & £8
(contact the Revd Neil Kirkham - 878056).**

**A Reminder: The Cytûn Monthly Prayers at the
Emmanuel Centre, Lloyd Street, Llandudno on
Second Saturday every month – from at 8:30 am.**

AND FINALLY

**A Warm WELCOME HOME to Fr Andrew
recently returned from studies in the U.S.A.**