

Jan-Mar 2006

# Newsletter



## Thought - "What would it take to change your life?"

What would it take to change your life?

There's a lot on TV at the moment about transforming your life – by changing your clothes (What Not to Wear); your house (How Not to Decorate) or your lifestyle (Honey, We're Killing the Kids). These programmes all follow a similar format; they work on the assumption that we, ordinary human beings haven't got a clue how to live our lives. However, after the 'miraculous' intervention of an expert, be they super-designer or fashion guru, all we must do is follow a simple set of rules, place our complete trust in them and a life enhancing transformation will be achieved.

For me there is an obvious similarity between this concept and the Christian message. Ok, the rules may not always be so easy to follow, but I have a great deal more faith in the judgement of our 'expert' – God, after all, is our original designer!

I have no doubt that genuine life changing stuff can happen; you only have to look at the overjoyed faces of the people in the final reveal to know that this has all had a real effect upon them. There are some serious questions to ask though about this change: how deep does it go and how long does it last? God offers us a changed life through his miraculous intervention – his son, Jesus. And unlike house prices, fashions or food fads, his love does not grow stronger or weaker with the economic climate nor does his grace depend on our will power.

As we head into a new year, why not take a moment to ask yourself the question I began with and to consider this Bible verse:

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Romans chpt. 12 vs. 2)

**1 minute interview** ... with Jack one of the Friday Youth Club leaders

**Q:** What made you decide to become a Christian?

*"Back in around 1947; I had already been coming to the Church for some time and I also had a Green-Grocery delivery round in Old Trafford. I was shocked by the appalling loss of life due to the war; in particular I can remember that every family I delivered to on Premier Street had lost a Son or Father or Brother. I also knew about the peaceful way of Jesus teachings and I knew that this was the right way. It's always been a very real thing for me, going down Premier St. today brings it all back"*

**Q:** Why do you come to the Bethel?

*"The Bethel was the Church that gave me Bible based answers. The people I spoke to didn't recite teachings to me, they gave me Bible passages to go away and read and think about. I still feel that the Bible being at the centre gives meaning to everything else we do, the fellowship we share etc."*

**Q:** Why are you involved in running the Senior Youth Group?

*"When I first came to the club when I was younger, I was given a way of life that I didn't have before. There were so many social activities, for example walking and rock climbing and this was all done with a perspective that put God at the centre. Now I feel that I want to put something back of what was given to me."*



## What's On?

(At Henrietta St. unless otherwise stated)

Sunday evening Services at 6:00 pm (unless otherwise stated)

DATE	SUBJECT	DATE	SUBJECT
1 Jan	A meal with Jesus: "Tea with Zacheaus"	19 Feb	Pure religion – The letter of James for today, Part 2 – <b>(Time 2:45)</b>
8 Jan	How the Bible fits together	26 Feb	When everything you ever wanted isn't enough <b>(Time 2:45)</b>
15 Jan	God makes the news headlines	5 Mar	The Second Coming <b>(Time 2:45)</b>
22 Jan	Guest speaker	12 Mar	Guest Speaker <b>(Time 2:45)</b>
29 Jan	"New lives for old" Pantomime <b>(Time 2:45)</b>	19 Mar	A meal with Jesus: "Breakfast on the beach"
5 Feb	God's priority is people <b>(Time 2:45)</b>	26 Mar	Guest speaker
12 Feb	Pure religion – The letter of James for today, Part 1 – <b>(Time 2:45)</b>		

### Regulars:

- Sunday
    - Breaking of Bread Service 10:30 a.m.
    - Sunday School 2:45 p.m. (From Kids aged 4, up to Adult Discussion Group)
    - Evening Service 6:00 p.m. (See above for details)
  - Tuesday
    - Junior Youth club 6:45 p.m.
    - "The Bible Course" 7:15 p.m. at Chorlton Adult Education Centre.
  - Thursday
    - "Playtime" Parent & Toddler group 10am-12pm
    - Bible Class 8:00 p.m.
  - Friday
    - Senior Youth Club 7:30 p.m.
- Web site: [www.thebethel.org](http://www.thebethel.org) Email: [info@thebethel.org](mailto:info@thebethel.org)