

Grace Bulletin March 2010

Grace Baptist Church Dorchester

Fishers of Men

*And he said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make you fishers
of men."
Matthew 4:19*

I have been reflecting on this verse recently. We sing it frequently in Sunday School, and my son loves the actions. We hold our rod and cast it out, reeling in those little fishies as quick as we can. I think most of us have similar images as we read this verse. It is how many of us evangelise. We bait our hooks, cast it out and wait patiently, assuring ourselves that this is how Jesus planned evangelism to look. He did, after all, compare it to fishing.

But then I watched a video we have from "Follow the Rabbi.." In one of the faith lessons, a man is depicting fishing just as fishermen in those days would have done it. He casts his net (quite an interesting sight in itself), and pulls in nothing. Also a common occurrence, both in fishing and evangelism.

What strikes me is that there is no bait. You cast out the net; you pull it in. Cast it out; pull it in. There is no idleness. You do not sit back and wait to see what will take the bait. Net fishing is hard work. Once you throw out the net, you start pulling it in for another attempt. Finally, making a catch has more to do with knowing where and when to throw your net than what kinds of things the fish eat. Fish are in the shallows in the cool parts of the day and in the deep through the heat of the day. You row your boat out to where there are likely to be fish, and cast your nets.

What does that have to do with how the church evangelises? And how is that really any different from how we currently "fish?" I think fishing in the sense of today's rod-and-reel fishing effectively describes "seeker sensitive" evangelism. You throw out your bait: children's



Professional fishing is hard work

programs, accomplished author's and speakers as pastors, family life centres and the like.

I believe, however, God brings those to us who have hearts to hear His message. We need only to continue to cast out the nets. It is not so much about us and our skill at baiting the hook as it is about doing what we are called to do on a continual basis so when the fish are sent our way, we are not sunbathing in the boat with a pole resting on the edge.

Anon. Fishers of Men Website

**Pray for our local evangelists
Tim Serjeant and Jim Henry**



Thought for the Month

And he said to them, "Go
into all the world and preach
the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

March

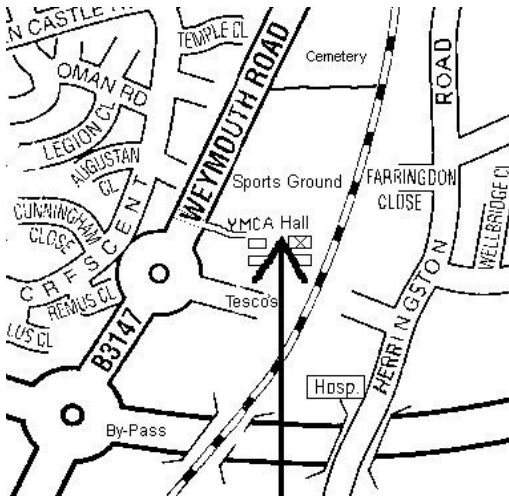
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Note: 7th Meeting at Sydling NOT YMCA
27th CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR

The Grace Baptist Church, Dorchester

A church in Dorchester, where the Bible is accepted as the Word of God and where the Gospel of Grace is proclaimed.

We meet for worship on the Lord's Day (Sunday) at 11 a.m. in the Y.M.C.A., Sawmills Lane, off Weymouth Road, Dorchester.



The YMCA is one of four Halls beside the Sports Ground behind the Car Salesroom next to Tesco's - (Ample free parking. Turn into Sawmills Lane by the pedestrian traffic lights.)

All are welcome.



Thursday Evenings 7.30 – 9.30
Bible Study -we meet in one another's homes. Phone for location. Bibles provided.

Minister: Pastor Frederick Serjeant.

3 Church Hill View, Sydling St Nicholas, Dorchester.
DT 2 9SY tel: 01300 341670

Home Evangelist: Mr Tim Serjeant tel: 01300 341670
We are pleased to call on you at your home at any time at your request. Free Bible Study materials are available and also a free Bible for anyone who does not have one.

E-mail: pastor@gracebaptistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.gracebaptistchurch.org.uk

For Your Diary

Wed 3rd Jim Henry OAM Dorchester
Sun 7th 11a.m. AT SYDLING VILLAGE HALL
(the YMCA is not available)

Mon 15th Ministers Fraternal at Honiton
Sun 28th Communion Sunday
Communion offering for the Open Air Mission supporting Jim Henry.

Remember night of Sat 27th-28th CLOCKS GO FORWARDS
ONE HOUR to BST.

NEXT MONTH NOTICE:
GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April Devotional Hour
10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
EASTER DAY 4th April

Pastor's Letter

Dear readers,

Our theme for this month's Bulletin is "Evangelism". We have been commanded by our Lord to witness to Him and to proclaim the good news of salvation to every man woman and child on this planet in our day. (Mark 16:15 Acts 1:8) As with the first disciples, we are to begin with our own locality and to endeavour to include more and more of whole population of the world. What a tremendous challenge this is!

We are privileged, as a small church, to take part in local evangelism with Tim and Jim, speaking with individuals from door to door and in the Dorchester shopping precinct. Each month in the past few years we have been able to distribute gospel tracts and literature to hundreds. Over the past few years thousands have been reached in this way with the gospel.

No doubt the question arises in our minds, "What is the result of all this effort?. We see but a tiny number professing faith in Jesus Christ as a result!"

As a church, we maintain that salvation is ALL of grace. Only God can regenerate sinners and bring them to repentance and faith. In His plan and purpose, none for whom Jesus died will perish. All will come to salvation.

It is solely in God's electing purpose whether few or many are added to the church in our day - **our task is to go and proclaim the gospel!**

When we see such darkness and hardness of hearts all around us here in this land - a land that has been so blessed in past centuries, it should stir us to pray more fervently for the salvation of souls and especially for our loved ones, friends and neighbours.

We may take encouragement too from the way in which the gospel is spreading in many other countries around the world. When we get to heaven, we may be greatly surprised at who has arrived there through the grace of God bearing fruit in our lives and our little church.

Let's continue to GO and continue to PRAY!

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Frederick
Pastor