

PRAYER MEETING (Seven:14):
Every Wednesday Evening at 7.14pm

BOY'S BRIGADE:
Tuesdays: Anchors 6.00pm - 7.00pm (In church)
Juniors 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Madeley Rest Room (Church Street)
Company Section (11-15yrs) Fridays 7-9pm in church
Contact: Wayne Trumpeter - 07824 618061

COFFEE MORNINGS:
10.30AM Every Monday and Thursday in church

MBC

Newsletter for w/c 3rd January 2010

www.madeleybaptist.org.uk



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (John 1.1-3)

Welcome to our services today, 1st Sunday in the New Year 2010.

Services today:

10.30am: New Year Service

6.30pm: Holy Communion led by Keith

Next Sunday: 10th January

10.30am: Ministry Sunday (bring a testimony, a song, a poem....)

6.30pm: Preaching Evening.

Looking Forward:

Monday 4th Jan, 7.30pm: Church Officers' Meeting

Saturday 9th Jan: Prayer Meeting (for MBC and its Mission)

Monday 11th January, 7.30pm - Church Members' Meeting

Sunday 17th January: Beginning of week of prayer for Christian Unity which will involve a 'pulpit exchange' at MBC.

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things
The things of this past year
The Lord will do new things in us
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

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Check out our website for lots more info and the Minister's blogspot.



'SOFA SURFERS' VARIETY NIGHT 2010



The **Salvation Army Oakengates** are currently organising its 5th Sofa Surfers Variety Night in aid of The Salvation Army Kip Project, Telford.

They are looking for musicians from local churches to take part and would appreciate hearing from anyone interested. In particular those playing string and wind instruments would be most welcome to join with a variety of other artists in taking part free of charge to support this vital work with the homeless in the borough of Telford and Wrekin.

The event is to be held at The Salvation Army Halls in Lion Street, Oakengates on Friday 29th January 2010 at 7pm. Admission will be by donation ticket (£4 or a family ticket for £6). All those interested are invited to contact Alan on 01952 506234.

Question: "What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

Answer: The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st. The Bible does mention the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's resolutions are: to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: *"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."* The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be. Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honour God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honour God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honour yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."* John 15:5 declares, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* If God is the centre of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfil it. If a resolution is not God honouring and/or is not in agreement in God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfil the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God's strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6, *"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."*

A Final, final thought on Christmas!

The gift of Christmas may look like a tiny baby in a manger, but that infant was only the package – the real gift was inside. The real gift was eternal life. The reason behind the gift – why the Giver gave it in the first place, was because He loved us. When a teenager looks at his new car, does he see a cool new ride, or does he see his parents' love for him? When we look at Christmas, do we see a tiny baby with a promise of everlasting life, or do we see our Father's love for us?

When Mary caught a glimpse of what God had given her, her entire being focused solely on the love of the Giver. Instead of trying to figure out what this gift was, or what it could do for her, she saw only what it meant that she had received it. It meant that God loved her. Should we not see that first Christmas in the same light? The babe in the manger would one day die for our sins and open the door to eternal life... and we should rejoice in that gift. But what matters most is what the gift means – it means that God loves us. Where is our focus? Do we magnify this gift of eternal life, or do we magnify the One who loved us enough to give that gift at Christmas? God knows how to give the perfect gift. It's up to each of us to know how to receive it.

Sometimes you can look at an unopened gift and tell what's inside. The gift of the baby in the manger, left unopened, may be nice to look at, but it's not worth anything. Until we begin to tear away the paper we'll never catch a glimpse of what is contained in that gift – we'll never truly see the magnificence of what God has done for us.

God so loved that world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. What a glorious gift we have received. What a glorious giver. Let my soul magnify the Lord!

