

# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley. Charity no. 1081321

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## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 4th February 2007

**This morning:** 10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Vivienne Evans; Preacher: David Cook.*

*We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today*

**This evening:** 7.00 pm Joint churches' meeting at Crawley Baptist Church

**Monday:** 8.00 pm Leadership Group meets at Irma's home

**Tuesday:** 7.30 pm House Group at Ian & Gunilla's home

**Wednesday:** 9.30 am Coffee Shop in the Social Hall (*until 11.30 am*)

**Thursday:** 9.30 am "Freedom in Christ" in the Social Hall  
8.00 pm Music Group in the Church

**Next Sunday:** 9.15 am Prayer meeting in the Social Hall  
9.45 am Set up Social Hall for Morning Worship  
10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

#### CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Whatever happened to church discipline - once a normal part of church life?

This is a controversial and sensitive subject on which pages could be written, and as I wouldn't presume to have all the answers or burden you with my own opinions I will instead list some questions for you to research or think about. I will be the "Devil's Advocate." Maybe it would be good to have some discussions or teaching on this, bearing in mind that we are living in rebellious and selfish times when people will resist strongly a "No!" or "You can't!" – How much authority does the church leadership have in people's lives?

1. We are God's Army. Do we compare ourselves to a military army with the same need for discipline? After all, an undisciplined army is sloppy, chaotic, and ineffective.
2. Should the leaders (or any of us for that matter) "speak out" to people about their life choices within the fellowship?
3. Do these life choices affect the other members of the church?
4. Some church members will feel strongly that discipline causes trouble and can affect the unity of the church; should this be considered?
5. Has church discipline declined considerably? Have we become seduced by this "tolerant" age?

6. Sometimes disciplinary action of the church is successful in bringing about godly sorrow and true repentance as seen in 1 Corinthians chapter 5. The early church would actually put a person out of the church (excommunicate). Can we do this in this time of "human rights?"
7. Those who lead, preach or teach must be "squeaky clean" and will be disciplined more severely by God as their lives will influence others more, do you agree?
8. Sin is like a cancer; if allowed to exist it spreads to those nearby just as a little yeast leavening a whole loaf of bread, so what are the "goal posts" as there will always be sin within the church?
9. Does discipline just have to be sins, can it be bad timekeeping say (yes, I know I am guilty!) or our manner, etc?

Let me just say this: "Judge not, lest you be judged" has been misused to avert rebuke or correction from other Christians - in fact "Go and sin no more" has been replaced by "Judge not, lest you be judged." You cannot confront me on sins you know nothing about (only God knows what we do in secret) but you can confront me if I am doing something that is obviously not pleasing to God and could affect other members of the fellowship, or that could confuse or influence "baby Christians" but, and this is really important, it must be after prayer or consulting the leadership and in the right attitude.

### Advance Notices

**Friday 9th – Sunday 11th March:** Church Weekend at Otford Manor, Kent (see below).

**Saturday 11th – Saturday 18th August:** Revive! 2007: "Faith, Hope and Love Remain" – annual Ichthus camp at Ashburnham Place, near Battle, East Sussex.

**Church Weekend payments:** We have now paid in full for the weekend, so it would be appreciated if you could give the balance of your payment to Irma as soon as you are able. If you are already saving regularly with Pat, that's fine – please continue. If you have any difficulty paying in full, please speak to Dave in confidence. We do not want anyone to be excluded because of the cost.

*Kenny would like to thank everyone for their support at her birthday party. The family thanks everyone who came and those who couldn't make it.*