



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

(0845 22 66 498 – Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk – Web site: www.broadfield.org.uk

NewsFlash!

Sunday 9th September 2007

This morning: 10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall

Worship: Katie Johnson; Preacher: Derek Savage

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

Monday: 10.45 am Pastoral Group meets at Martin & Katie's home
8.00 pm Leadership Group meets for prayer (venue TBA)

Tuesday: 7.30 pm House Group at Mechelle's home

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

Saturday: 9.30 am Ladies' Morning at Crawley Baptist Church with Fiona Castle

Ends 1.00 pm – tickets £5 from CBC (01293) 546177

5.00 pm **Katie's 60th birthday party** at her house

7.00 pm Youth event at Holy Trinity School (*ends 9.00 pm*)

Music, food, games consoles, glow-sticks – see poster – entrance £3

Next Sunday: 9.00 am Open up and set up hall for worship

9.30 am Prayer meeting in the Social Hall

10.00 am Finish setting up Social Hall

10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion

Worship: David Evans; Preacher: Ian Johnson

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

An excerpt from "Love Beyond Reason" by John Ortberg

To say Jesus loves people is NOT to say he'll always do what they want him to do. Dan Allender writes: "If Christ had practised the kind of love we advocate nowadays, he would have lived to a ripe old age." He goes on to say that in many cases authentic love "will unnerve, offend, disturb, or even hurt those who are being loved."

Being FOR someone is deeper than just wanting to spare them pain. If I am really FOR a person, I am willing to risk saying painful things, if pain is the only way to bring growth. "For the Lord disciplines those whom he loves." True love is ready to warn, reprove, confront, or admonish when necessary. We are told that we should love each other as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her so as "to present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind – yes, so that she may be holy without blemish." Notice Paul doesn't say Jesus loved the church "and her spots and blemishes didn't matter." His plan is not just for a fifty percent blemish reduction. Love longs for the other to enter into the splendour God intended – no spots, no wrinkles, no blemishes. Removing spots and blemishes is almost never pain-free. Sometimes, love means getting in someone's face and on someone's back. But only humbly, reluctantly. True love never desires to inflict pain for pain's sake. All too often I'm not only willing to inflict pain on someone, I'm looking forward to it. Probably a safe guideline is, I need to be very careful of creating pain for another person if I feel a twinge of enjoyment in the process.

To be FOR someone means I identify with him, I'm cheering him on: I celebrate his victories and mourn his setbacks. It means I deeply and sincerely wish him well. This shows how difficult it is to love. It doesn't take much truth-telling for me to admit I don't want my enemies to succeed. More humbling is the fact that deep down I often don't even want my friends to succeed too much.

This is the truth that staggered the apostle Paul: for all his raggedness, God was FOR him: "If God is for us, who is against us? ... Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" God longs for us to blossom and flourish beyond our own longings for ourselves.

There will be a special offering this morning for Andy Slater towards the costs of his trip to Ukraine. Signed IOUs accepted, to be redeemed next week, please.

Heather and family are moving to Scotland this week. If you would like their new address, please see Kevin.

Advance Notices

Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 pm: Family, faith and freedom – Christian Institute meeting at Three Bridges Free Church.

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th March 2008: Church weekend at Oak Hall, Otford Manor. This is the weekend after Easter and a week before the end of the school term. If you would like to save towards the cost, please see Pat Hall.