

# Good News Messenger

formerly Church News

*"Return  
to me,'  
declares  
the Lord  
Almighty,  
'and I will  
return to  
you"*

*Zech 1:3 NIV*

Life without Mom 2

Our Pastor 3

Testimony 4

Grandad the Gardener 4



## Farmers Boy from North Carolina

**S**ome years back the great evangelist Billy Graham said 'someday you will hear the news that Billy Graham is dead - Don't believe them, I will just have moved to a different address'

The world has just celebrated the life of this great man who was known and admired by great leaders as well as the ordinary men and women, yet started life as a rebellious son of a humble farmer. His life changed at the age of 16, after hearing an evangelist in his local town.

He is best known for the big rallies he held around the world, including Harringay in 1954 and Mission England in 1984 where he preached in several football stadiums around the country including Anfield in Liverpool.

**H**is funeral service was broadcast on national television stations and was planned by Billy himself a decade ago to capture the feeling of the crusades. In it his family testified to the fact that his life at home was no different to his public life - he lived what he preached! Anna his daughter also said:

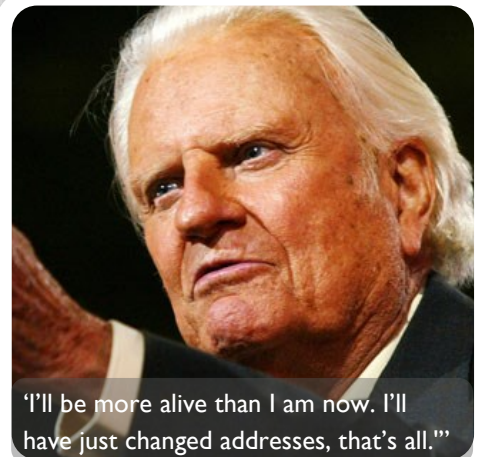
"I believe, from Heaven's perspective, that my father's death is as significant as his life. And his life was very significant. But I think when he died, that was something very strategic from Heaven's point of view," later adding: "I believe God is saying: **'Wake up church! Wake up world!'**"

Billy Graham didn't believe that death was the end of life. As it says in Hebrews 9:27-28

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and



he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."



We are about to celebrate Easter, a National Holiday and a time of family fun, but many forget the true meaning of Easter. Easter proves to us that there is a resurrection for it is the time that Jesus came alive after being dead in a tomb for three days when the Roman soldiers cruelly murdered Him on a cross. Jesus Christ died in our place as the only perfect person, for 'we have all fallen short of God's Glory'

Billy Graham firmly believed that God would welcome him into Heaven as a forgiven sinner, his funeral service soundly confirmed this and Easter is a celebration of that future event when Jesus will return for his people, that is all those who have repented of their sinfulness and accepted Him as God.

**W**e hope that you have a lovely Easter, enjoy giving each other presents and Easter Eggs and have fun with the 'kids', but do think about the true meaning of Easter and whether like Billy Graham your life needs to change by hearing the real meaning of Easter.

*Bill Graham died on 21st February 2018 at the age of 99*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16-17

LIFE

# WITHOUT MOM

He  
has  
been  
my  
Rock



**I**n 2013 at the age of 97 my Mom fell and broke her hip and had to go into a nursing home. In all of my then 70 years it was the first time that Mom and I had not lived under the same roof

In my teens and early twenties I never felt the urge to fly the nest, probably because the company I worked for was just down the road – so no early morning rush for the bus!

Dad died when I was 27 and by then both my brother and my sister were married – so it was just Mom and me at home, and that's the way it stayed.

In 2001 I was able to take early retirement and the following year we moved from Warwickshire to Southport to be nearer to my sister and her family. And here we were until Mom broke her hip.

**I** missed Mom so much, the flat was now so quiet and although the nursing home was only a bus ride away, I hated leaving her there and I often poured out my frustration to the Lord because I couldn't care for her at home.



But gradually over the months I got accustomed to being on my own.

Someone once said to me "Because you and your Mom have been together for so long when she eventually dies you are going to find it very hard" I had nodded and said "yes I know" – but I had no idea just how hard it was going to be until that morning in June 2015 when Mom passed away.

Grief is a natural process that we go through when we lose someone that we love – but it is also totally illogical at times.

One of the worst emotions that I experienced was fear – the fear of living in this world without my Mom, the knowledge that no matter where I travelled on this earth she would not be there. She had gone from the earth. I thought that I must be going mad – but the Lord is so tender and gracious – in a book about grief written by a Christian I found the following prayer

"O Christ, someone I love very much has died and there is an empty place I cannot fill. My heart aches and inside I feel stiff and tired. Help me to remember that she is with You, and O Christ help me to be unafraid to walk the earth without her and to take strength and comfort from Your love.

Avery Brook \*

Those words that I have underlined helped me to understand that the fear I was feeling was part of grieving and that other people had felt this way too.

There were times when the pain of losing her was almost physical.

Pouring my heart out to the Lord in my journal was one way of dealing with it, and so often when I could cry no more His peace would enfold me.



**M**embers of my church family would ring me or invite me out for a coffee and give me permission to 'unbottle'. One friend in particular often reminded me that at the moment I was viewing everything through the spectacles of grief.

Times spent with my sister, who is also a Christian, were precious because we had so many memories of Mom to share. It was the times when I was alone in the flat that were the hardest to bear and I never felt that I could burden my sister with my grief because she was grieving for Mom herself. But whether we were together or apart both of us knew that we had Someone that we could turn to in our pain – The Lord Jesus.

He has been my Rock.

It will be three years in June since Mom died I still miss her terribly – the pain lessens but there are often times when I can be doing something and not consciously thinking of her and a little "ball" of grief will hit me in the chest. But it's getting easier.

Being a Christian doesn't lessen the pain of loss, we still have to work through our grief, but the Lord is with us through it and in the darkest moments we have access to the only One who can minister peace to our aching hearts, the One who loves us beyond our understanding.

I don't think that I shall ever "get over" losing Mom but I am learning to come to terms with life without her and moving forward.

I am just so grateful to God that all those years ago Mom and I turned to Christ and asked Him to come into our lives – because of that I know that one day I shall see my Mom again.

\*From the book "When Your Parent Dies" by Ronald Klug.



## CONVERGING?

**T**here seems to be a lot of things happening in the world. I hear people talking about this all the time. Most of the things we see occurring in many places have happened many times before, so is it any different today?

The Bible identifies issues such as wars and rumours of wars, earthquakes, adverse weather, collapse of morals, civil unrest, breakdown of family life, the foundations of society being undermined, famines, sicknesses, drug use, financial upheaval and moves to a universal world religion which will assist in the introduction of global government. Accordingly we would expect to see a decline in the traditional Christianity that we have known for some time.

A separate matter affecting the whole world is the re-establishment of the nation state of Israel, predicted initially to be secular in nature. Only a minority of Jews are involved in some form of Judaism. Old Testament prophecies indicate that Jerusalem in particular will be a world-wide stumbling block to the nations. Jerusalem is in the news almost every day. This is an issue which has happened for nearly 2,000 years.

The re-instatement of Israel as a nation state is a clear sign that the current order of things in the world is about to be changed. Many bible passages explain this. There is a sequence of events which are clearly described although exact times are frequently not revealed.

This is concurrent with all the other previously mentioned world-wide events which are increasing in quantity and scope. Both Old and New

Testaments tell us that just prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ the world will be like it was in the days of Noah.

**I**n Noah's day the whole world had become evil, even possibly to the point of human nature being modified. Hence the only option available to God was to eliminate all but the few righteous. This was necessary to ensure the Earth's survival until the Divine plan for later Earth dwellers could be completed. We are included in those future generations.

### Our Pastor Writes

When Noah's flood occurred the climate and many other things were changed including the water vapour in the atmosphere which is why rainbows are visible. However future judgement will be through fire as the New Testament reveals.



**B**ible teaching has varied from time to time in the Christian churches. It would seem that within the last 300 years bible teaching is at an all-time low today. The church appears to present little challenge to our nation, seemingly wanting more to be like everyone else than setting out Christian standards to be followed. Political issues appear to receive more attention than the issues that Jesus addressed. He set standards but didn't get involved in politics.

Christendom as we call it often looks to have merged

with aspects of humanism, evolutionism and even other faiths. Few seem to know what biblical Christianity is any more.

If this were not a matter of Eternal life it wouldn't be as serious as it is, even though it is submitted that following the teachings of Jesus in this life would be best for all.

**S**everal civilisations and nations have gone through these cycles before. Ancient Rome is one example, being destroyed more by internal corruption than external attack. Israel has been effectively persecuted for 2,000 years since it rejected Jesus as the Messiah. However the bible describes Israel as the "apple of God's eye" and the nation is prophesied to return to being a nation in the "last days" when Israelis realise their Messiah is Jesus. Eternal life depends upon knowing Jesus for both Jew and non-Jew.

Putting world-wide issues aside, the only way to personal Divine forgiveness, according to the bible, is to commit to following The Lord Jesus Christ. We need to assess the evidence and then make a step of faith. Just knowing about Jesus is not enough. God is both Holy and loving. In order to accept His loving forgiveness we have to submit to His Righteousness.



The personal urgency for us all is that the issues described earlier are converging. Jesus will return! The command to all is to Repent and Trust in Jesus before it is too late. The command to those who already believe is to continue in the faith and "Look up", AWAITING HIS RETURN.



**"The  
command  
to all is to  
Repent and  
Trust in  
Jesus  
before it is  
too late"**



**"In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me." — Psalm 120:1.**



Come and join us for

## Sunday Worship

at

Recreation Centre  
Orchard Lane  
10.30am

Biblical Worship  
and Teaching

Children's Church  
& Crèche

Pastor: Geoff Farnell



We're on the  
web

Phone: 01704 574282  
[www.ainsdaleevangelical.org](http://www.ainsdaleevangelical.org)



for Preachers and latest  
information! or to download a  
recent message.

Registered Charity No.  
1075011

Please send me more information on  
finding a personal relationship with  
God.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to;

117 Cornwall Way, Ainsdale, PR8 3ST

Or email to [admin@ainsdaleevangelical.org](mailto:admin@ainsdaleevangelical.org)

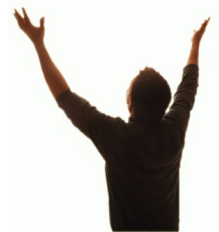
## Personal Testimony

I finally went to a tiny prayer meeting last Monday with Naomi and her parents. It was difficult getting there because I got very lost on the way, but in my heart I knew that God could see I was making the effort to put time aside to pray. A few days later I was looking through Christian music on 'U Tube' and noticed three mixed race and black young men playing a guitar and singing. One of them reminded me of my eldest son a bit and when I played their song it really reminded me of him. It was a song called "Come to the Altar", and I thought Cameron (my son) would really relate to these guys. He has not spoken properly to me for a year now, our relationship had been under a strain from his father and I breaking up seven years ago. I decided to send him this song even though he might be annoyed at me. I think it was about an hour later that he called me on the phone and chatted to me for over an hour as though we had never 'fallen out'. He was really nice. I could hardly believe it. It was a miracle!

Then I remembered that I had been to the prayer meeting two days before and also that it says in the bible, "If you pray in secret, the Lord will reward you". I felt so blessed.

Matt 6:6-7

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."



## Grandad the Gardener

I once read of a little boy whose Grandad had just died. He had been told that 'Grandad was now in heaven helping Jesus in His garden'

Sitting with his Grandma, who was sad, he jumped up, and looking out of the window, suddenly exclaimed: "Its ok Grandma, you know how much grandad hated gardening, Jesus is bound to send him back!"

Well it made me smile, but it also made me think..if Grandad **had** asked Jesus to forgive him for his sin (all he'd ever done or thought which didn't please God), then he **would** be in heaven, but good at gardening or not, Jesus would **never** reject him..... and he certainly wouldn't want to come back! This is the assurance we can have if our loved ones are with Him... though we are sad and miss them, they are happy with Jesus.



**'ACORNS'** Mother and Toddler Group at  
Recreation Centre, Orchard Lane

off Sandbrook Rd, Woodvale. PR8 3RG

Thursday mornings from 10 till 12. during school term times.

Contact: Esme at 01704 533489, or Pat 01704 513726