

Indian Summer - September 2010

How was your summer? Don't mention August's weather but apparently September is supposed to be better! I had a really good summer, Cathy the girls and I stayed on a child friendly farm with chickens and a pig at the end of our cottage garden and the chance to visit different parts of Somerset. The following week we attended 'New Wine' – camping with a baby is certainly brave or mad – I'll let you decide! New Wine was like an extended version of Spring Harvest but everyone was camping or caravanning and it was cheaper – bonus! Cathy and I weren't able to go to much of the main teaching and seminars but what we did see was really impressive. Five thousand Christians worshipping God in a massive big top is always going to get my pulse going!

Cathy and I were doing a lot of tag team baby sitting with the girls and one night there was an opening for me to get to one of the evening meetings. The Bishop of London gave an inspiring key note address about the power of Christ's resurrection. At New Wine there is often prayer ministry and as I walked into the venue I said, 'God if you want me to have prayer ministry, please make it really clear – I'm not going up if it's just to go through the motions.

After the inspiring worship and stunning address the service leader bluntly said, 'Would all Church leaders please come to the front for prayer now!'. No messing from God on that one then! I duly went forward for prayer and the next I knew I was on the floor with a tremendous sense of God's love for me. Things that had bothered me and been playing on my mind fell away and I felt that I was at the base of a waterfall which was God's love just pouring onto me. The ministry was really powerful and took me back to when I first encountered the Holy Spirit in a vision when I was 16. Time seemed fairly irrelevant as I just soaked up God's presence and love, after what was probably 20 minutes I had an awareness that maybe I was sober enough to be able to get up off the floor and walk. I made my way back to a friend and couldn't stop beaming. God understood my needs exactly and on the one occasion I made it to the big top there was a clear call for me to have prayer ministry where God blessed me tremendously.

Why share all this? When we offer prayer ministry at the end of a service, you don't have to be at death's door to go up for ministry! It might be for something really small that niggles or a desire to simply know more of God's love. We do our part and God does the rest. Have you ever gone forward for prayer? If not, why not give it a go. Sometimes people get scared that God might do something that they don't want but God knows how we tick and won't force us into anything that we don't like or aren't comfortable with. God is gentle, loving and kind as well as being holy, awesome and mighty! We thank God for our, skilled and sensitive prayer ministry team lets also be open to God's prompting to use them!

As we enjoy an Indian Summer, may we know the love of God enfold us, the presence of Christ beside us and the Holy Spirit within us as we grow in our love for each other and the lost!

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