

men@trinity

Newsletter

January 2007

Why Men Hate going to Church?

Come and have your say!!

**Friday 19th January at 7.30pm
In the Welcome Area**

2007 programme of events will be available on the night.

In a recent e-newsletter David Murrow author of "Why Men Hate going to Church" wrote challenging each reader to consider.

- 1) That the message of Church for Men would spread to ever-wider audiences.
2. That God would raise up champions in local churches.

Instead of making new years resolutions, why not take time considering how we can adapt these challenges to our situation as [Men@Trinity](http://www.trinitymethodist.org.uk) . Your input and feedback is important and will help formulate what we can do to take the message of Jesus Christ to men we meet who may not have heard the gospel.

Running the Race?

Who will pick up the baton?

Geoff Jones writes about the Men's Night at Trinity.

One Saturday evening in November in the company of 40 plus like-minded men was not the place you would expect a man from Airdrie to come and tell you that as a man my commitment to Gods cause is flawed as I sit in my comfort zone thinking of the good things I do, relying on my fluctuating levels of Christianity to justify my responses to the daily experiences in my life.

The evening contained two dramas by our own Dumb & Dumber reinforcing the message that the instructions on how to live your life contained in the Bible will enable you to climb higher in your quest to be more God like. Thank you Geoff and Shane.

Music and Song was provided by Phil Jones, a singer/songwriter from Haywards Heath. A man who has obviously experienced highs and lows in his Christian life, fully reflected in the words of his songs. It made you feel here is a man who knows what it is like and has made it his task to spread comfort and inspiration in his own way. Thank you Phil.

Now for the meat in the sandwich. As we into Church we were given a sheet of paper with statements on it. Initially I thought it was a multiple-choice question to try and put each man in a category and the explanation would follow. No, Jim Graham who speaks at events all over the world. He has a family, has been a pastor and a former president of YFC. Here he was explaining how the 7 statements were promises made by the promise keepers in America, and he was expecting us to take up the challenge and keep all 7 promises. I have no idea how long it took but from my fist reaction of Now? No way! I was relishing the task. Bring it on! There was so much he said that awoke your mind but the statement, men of this world need to be absolute in their commitment to God, not on fire today and simmering tomorrow, then and only then will progress be made in the race. The further we get the baton round the track the sooner the next generation will cross the finishing line in victory. The man was truly inspirational.

We have young people in our churches that burn with a passion for Jesus and all that he stands for. Lets get them off to a flier.

Thank you Jim.

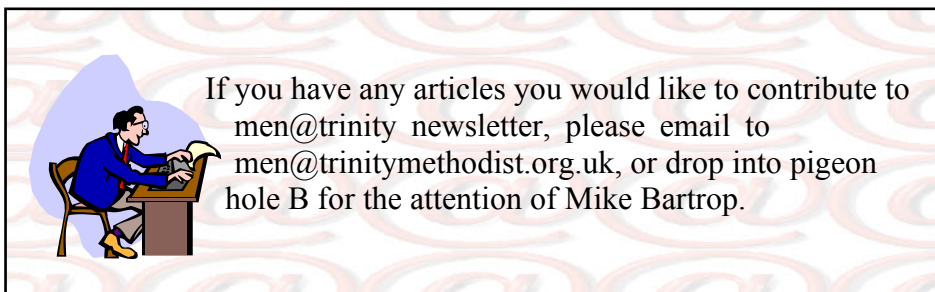
To conclude a big thanks to Mike Bartrop and who ever was responsible for the wonderful birthday cake.

Pat Morley C.E.D of Man in the Mirror wrote in of his weekly briefings in December;

Ideas That Have Guided My Life

Most of us will do some reflecting over the Christmas holidays. I started a bit early this year, and ran across a file named "Ideas That Have Guided My Life." I thought I would share some of those thoughts with you to possibly help you get in the reflective mood. They are reflections on my walk with Christ, not my work for Christ.

- 1.. I will do anything God wants me to do.
- 2.. I must each day come humbly to the foot of the Cross and there negotiate the terms of a full surrender of my life to the Lordship of Jesus.
- 3.. Lord, whatever it takes for me to be in right relationship with You, do it.
- 4.. "Letting it happen" versus "making it happen." Zechariah 4:6, 10
- 5.. All disappointment is the result of unmet expectations.
- 6.. Sometimes I must substitute discipline for a lack of natural interest.
- 7.. Because God is good, my life has not turned out like I planned.
- 8.. "Your system is perfectly designed to produce the result you are getting."
- 9.. I didn't get what I wanted. I spent the first 18 years of my adult life working and praying to achieve something that would have destroyed me, then was disappointed when I was spared. The Bible calls this grace.
- 10.. I have made many idols. Calvin called men "idol factories." An idol is anything I think I must have to be happy. An idol is anything of which I say, "Jesus Christ alone is not enough to make me happy. I need something else."
- 11.. Three ways God works on me: First, He withholds things I think I can't live without. Second, He removes things I think I can't live without. Third, He gives me so much of what I want that I gag on it. He has taken away, and continues to take away, my desire for idols.



12.. God did not force me to revere Him, but He made it impossible for me to be happy until I did. Ecclesiastes 3:1

13.. Futility is the chief tool by which God has sovereignly drawn me to Himself of my own free will. Romans 8:20-21

14.. God has sovereignly orchestrated all the seemingly random circumstances of my life, and it has been good.

15.. Where is the cloud leading me?

16.. I do not know where God is taking me. I no longer need to know. It is enough that He is the one I follow. I suspect that is precisely what Jesus meant when he said, "Follow me."

17.. I am a passenger. I have always been a passenger. I have no idea what happened. I have no idea what is going to happen. I am a passenger. Passenger is the word that best describes my experience with God in this life.

18.. What is the most positive possible way of looking at this?

Now is the time at the start of the year to stand aside and think when and how these apply to me?

RUNNING THE RACE - WHO WILL PICK UP THE BATON? SEVEN PROMISES FOR CHRISTIAN MEN

1. I am committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and obedience to the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. I am committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that I need brothers to help me keep my commitment.
3. I am committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
4. I am committed to building a strong marriage and secure family life through love, correction, and biblical values (If he is married!!).
5. I am committed to supporting the mission of the Church by honouring and praying for my Pastor, and by actively and creatively giving my time and resources.
6. I am committed to reaching beyond racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.
7. I am committed to influencing the world in which I live locally, vocationally, nationally, and internationally by obedience to the Great Commandment (Mark 12: 30, 31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19, 20).