

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah and all the people cried out to God because a vast army was coming to invade them. Despite the terrifying prospect of invasion, they *fell down in worship before the Lord* (v 18). The next day *Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: " Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever."* These worshippers had no weapons; they were human, vulnerable and probably very afraid but *as they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes* against the enemy. Jehoshaphat had commanded the people to have faith in God's prophets. Prophecy is important; we need to listen. God has his ways of dealing with the hordes that come against us and we need to see his ability and capacity in our lives.

2. **Exousia:** a Greek word meaning privilege, right and authority. See John 1:12 ~ *..to all who received him (Jesus), .....he gave the **right** to become children of God.* Children have the right to enter their home. They have parental authority to do so. Likewise we have the right to use the power our heavenly Father has given us.

Matthew 28: 16-20: **all** authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Jesus. He now delegates that authority to us: *Therefore go.....*

Simon, the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24) thought he could buy the gift of authority. He was told by Peter to repent and get his heart right with God.

Through Jesus we have been **given** authority ~ see Mark 16: 15-18.

After Jesus exercised his authority over the fig tree (Mark 11: 20-21) Jesus talked about faith and forgiveness, both key to walking in power and authority. *If someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.* (Matt. 5: 40) Do not seek revenge but take authority over the situation by overcoming evil with good. (Romans 12: 21)

3. **Dunamis:** a Greek word from which we get our word dynamite, an explosive. The dunamis of the Holy Spirit breaks situations. Romans 1:16 ~ *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the 'dynamite' of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.* 1Corinthians 15: 42-43 ~ *....the body is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.....* When someone dies as a believer in Christ, they are raised by the power of God into glory. That same power of God came into the tomb of Jesus. We do not need to be afraid. In Ephesians 1: 17- 23 Paul prays that *for us who believe,* we may *know God's incomparably great power.* In all circumstances of life, in all the mundane things, God can reveal his power.

In closing Sue read Ephesians 3: 20-21 ~ see front cover.

**Thank you Sue, for reminding us of the power God has made available to us in Christ. We need to realise and exercise all that God has given us.**



## The King's Church Swanage

Bulletin  
February 14-March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably  
more than all we ask or imagine,  
according to **his** power that is at work within us,  
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am  
United Service at the United Reformed Church  
**(There will be no afternoon meeting at the Salvation Army)**

Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 4pm  
Informal gathering at the Salvation Army  
Terry and Jan, Ray and Ann  
from King's Church, Poole will be giving a lead  
Many thanks to all four.

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 4pm  
Informal gathering at the Salvation Army  
A warm welcome to Bali from King's Church, Poole

### ***For your diary:***

- **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10,30am:** Mike Warnke at King's Church, Poole. We'll be joining folk there for morning worship. If anyone would like transport, please phone Mike and Ann after March 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will be leaving from the health centre at 9.30am. **There will be no afternoon meeting at the Salvation Army.**
- **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 4pm:** 'Waiting on God': an afternoon of prayer to be led by Veronica at the Salvation Army.

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### ***Jonathan and Matty***

Send thanks for prayer support and for the gift sent recently from the church. Continue to uphold them and Tom and Joel in your prayers. Danger is very real on many sides. But our God is mightier.

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### ***Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February***

It was cold ~ again, but not as cold! Good to welcome some visitors from Oxfordshire, who had found us via the website, as well as our friends from King's Church, Poole. Jaxon ~ Sebina and Darrell's little one ~ made a star entry and received a lot of attention! He's gorgeous!

Our thanks to the worship team who lead us again in an uplifting time of praise and worship to our glorious Lord. Jesus' supreme sacrifice for each one of us was remembered in the Breaking of Bread, led by Derek.

There was then a time of prayer for those going on mission trips. Derek is off to Kenya and Uganda on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, returning March 8<sup>th</sup>. He'll be one of a team of 7, under the leadership of Tim Grant. Keep Derek in your prayers. There was a word for him from Bill that he, Derek, would be an armour-bearer to Tim ~ an important role, one of serving, looking after the protection and best interests of another and always alert to what needs to be done and doing it. There was also prayer for Bill and Sue, Mike and Ann who will be visiting churches we have contact with Sri Lanka from February 15<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. Bill outlined the busy schedule of conferences and seminars in both the south and the north. Please pray for the Lord's insight at all times, for strength and energy.

P.S. for anyone wondering: Mike, Ann and Derek are all self-funding. There is no cost to the church.

Olive shared words of prophetic encouragement, as follows: *Fear not, little flock; you are very special to me. Just because you are small in number doesn't mean I cannot use you. It is time to go outside the Fold ~ you don't have to wait until you are larger. The boy with the loaves and fishes was very small in a large crowd but he was willing to help. No one gets anywhere without taking the first step.*

*Believe that things will happen. I've done it before when you were few in number and I can do it again. Remember the promise I gave you when you*

*first started: I have opened a door in front of you which no one can close. (See Revelation 3: 7-8).*

These words re-iterate words we have had in the past, but we always need reminding. Witness and testimony, on both individual and corporate levels, outside the walls of the church building are vitally important. As Darrell pointed out last week, we need 'to get out there'.

Corporate prayer was also mentioned. The oft quoted saying: *the church that prays together, grows together* is true. We have endeavoured recently to find a time to bring the church together regularly to pray, but somehow there are always reasons given not to attend. Strange, eh? We are the losers. The church leadership is certainly a matter for prayer. Mike as overall church leader of King's Swanage desperately needs help. He needs someone to draw alongside him in leadership and in time take on the main role. We pray frequently for mature Christians who move into Swanage to see where the needs are and where they can best serve. We are not looking for a pastor figure as such but for people who can take on responsibility and in a leadership team work together in unity and as co-workers with God in building **his** church. A team would cover far more of the Ephesian 4 ministries than one man. We need to get away from the one-man ministry concept. Please pray along these lines. It is urgent.

Olive, we've missed your launching out in singing. Don't stop. It's a blessing to us, however hesitant you may feel.

Just before Sue brought us the message, Barbara, a member of King's Church, Poole shared a very moving testimony of God's love and support through difficult times. It was not easy for Barbara to bring this testimony, but it touched our hearts and there were among us many who would have identified with what she said and the experiences she has been through.

Time had marched on by the time Sue brought the message, but she gave us superbly succinct and clear insights into the power of God. As Sue said, it's only when we look back that we see what God has done. What words come to mind when we think of power? Electricity, strength, politics, a lightning strike, waves, Niagara Falls: these were some of the key words suggested.

In the Bible there are several words for power:

1. **Koach:** a Hebrew word conveying ability, strength, capacity. See Deuteronomy 4: 37 ~ *...he (God) brought you out of Egypt by his presence and his great strength...* The children of Israel had only known slavery and oppression. God not only took them out of bondage but took them out with plunder given by their Egyptian masters! (Exodus 12: 35-36) Deut. 8: 17-19: *You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, .....A warning not to attribute success and wealth to our human endeavours.*