

# V&B

The Vine & Branches  
The Magazine of Workers Together With Him

ESTABLISHED 1999

JUNE 2011

"Jacob dreams of angels ascending a ladder to heaven." From *The Bible Illustrations* by Gustave Doré



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## Jesus: The Blessed Contradiction

BY REV. TIM SULLIVAN  
Founder, WTWH

A two-dimensional work of art such as a photograph does not contain enough information to thoroughly depict its subject matter. A photograph of food, for example, tells us nothing of the food's aroma or flavor. Likewise, in our quest for spiritual understanding, we must not settle for two-dimensional answers. Truth is revealed in four dimensions: "the breadth, and length, and depth, and height" (Eph. 3:18).

As Christians, there is no subject more vital to our understanding than the identity of Jesus Christ. Yet the natural mind cannot comprehend who Jesus is. The best it can do is to reduce Jesus to a two-dimensional caricature. Only the Spirit of God can reveal his fullness. Recall when Jesus asked Peter, "Whom say ye that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 16:16-17)

The carnal mind cannot comprehend the mystery of Christ. Try as it might, it cannot resolve the contradiction – the *blessed* contradiction – that is God's only begotten Son. Consider the following:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem to a virgin named Mary:

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

But Jesus was in the beginning!

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)

He was sent to earth "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3). But Jesus is the image of the invisible God!

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (Colossians 1:15)

He was in the form of God and yet was found in fashion as a man!

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

He showed a potential for having a separate will from his Father, yet he only did his Father's will!

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. (Luke 22:42)

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. (John 8:29)

Jesus is the power and wisdom of God...

But unto them which are called,

both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)

And yet he *learned!*

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; (Hebrews 5:8)

There is one God.

For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (1 Timothy 2:5)

But this one God is made manifest in three.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5:7)

And though no man has ever seen God, to see the Son is to see the Father.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*. (John 1:18)

It is the greatest of contradictions! The eternal God was manifest in temporal flesh!

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

Jesus himself never felt obligated to explain this contradiction. In fact, he seemed to delight in rubbing the Pharisees' noses in it.

<sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad. <sup>57</sup>Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and

hast thou seen Abraham? <sup>58</sup>Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. <sup>59</sup>Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. (John 8:56-59)

It is easy for me to imagine a big smile on the Lord's face as he "passed by."

Rather than explain himself to the Pharisees, he compelled *them* to explain Psalm 110!

<sup>41</sup>While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup>Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son* of David. <sup>43</sup>He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup>The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? (Matthew 22:41-44)

Jesus reinforced the mystery – the blessed contradiction! – of this eternal truth.

<sup>45</sup>If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? <sup>46</sup>And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more questions. (vv. 45-46)

Jesus never hid who he was. "I and my Father are one," he said (John 10:30). The Jews were offended and "took up stones again to stone him" (v. 31). Unruffled, Jesus asked them to explain their behavior.

<sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we

stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. (vv. 32-33)

Jesus did not explain the mystery. He *reinforced* it!

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? <sup>35</sup> If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; <sup>36</sup> Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? (vv. 34-35)

This quote was from Psalm 82:

I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. (Psalm 82:6)

Yes, we who are born again are the sons of God.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

But this does not put us on par with the Son of God. Jesus is set above all the citizens of heaven and earth. Take time to read the next passage carefully:

<sup>8</sup> But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, [*start over and read this again!*] is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. <sup>9</sup> Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. <sup>10</sup> And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of

thine hands: (Hebrews 1:8-10)

This is Jesus the Lord, whose name is above every name.

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

This is Jesus, to whom we owe the same honor as God the Father.

That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. (John 5:23)

### JESUS OUR FIRMAMENT

In the beginning, God set the firmament to divide heaven from earth.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. <sup>7</sup> And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so. <sup>8</sup> And God called the firmament Heaven. (Genesis 1:6-8a)

The firmament touches both the *third* heaven (the heaven of heavens) and the *first* heaven (our atmosphere). It both separates earth from Heaven and also joins earth and Heaven.

Jesus is our firmament. He alone touches heaven *and* earth. He is the "great high priest, that is passed

into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God" (Heb. 4:14). Because he is of God *and* man, he is uniquely able to reconcile man to God.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

The Lord's sojourn on earth is called "the days of his flesh."

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; (Hebrews 5:7)

Spanning the time from his birth to his death on the cross, the "days of his flesh" were relatively few. But now, "though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more" (2 Cor. 5:16). You must decide for yourself, but I know what that means to me. I will spend the days of *my* flesh "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Glory be to God for the blessed contradiction that is Jesus Christ. I for one doubt no longer.

<sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

<sup>29</sup> Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (John 20:28-29)

All praise and glory to Jesus, the Son of God, "the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person" (Heb. 1:3). Amen!



## Jacob's Ladder

BY REV. EVAN B. PYLE  
Head Pastor, WTWH

Human nature struggles with the idea of a Savior and a Lord. People are accustomed to forging their own way, overcoming obstacles by their wits, talent and perseverance. Trusting in God's plan and waiting patiently in faith for his will to come to pass is foreign to natural experience. But when a person trusts Jesus for salvation and learns to truly look to him for direction, a dramatic change takes place.

Though they were twin brothers, Jacob and Esau provide a striking contrast in personalities. Esau was an accomplished outdoorsman and hunter, while Jacob was a "plain man," preferring to stay in the tents (Gen. 25:27). Esau was impetuous, selling his birthright for a bowl of lentils (Gen. 25:29-34), and rebellious, grieving his parents by marrying Canaanite women (Gen. 26:34-35). Jacob was calculating, often scheming for his safety and advancement.

Before their birth, the brothers struggled within Rebekah's womb. The word of the Lord came to her, telling her that two nations and two kinds of people were within her and that the elder would serve the younger (Gen. 25:23). It is apparent that the younger brother, Jacob, had knowledge of this prophecy. Rather than waiting on God to fulfill his word in his way, Jacob jumped on an opportune moment to persuade Esau to sell his birthright as eldest for a mere

bowl of lentils. The Bible says, "Thus Esau despised his birthright" (Gen 25:34). Years later, when an aging Isaac prepared to bless his sons, Jacob and Rebekah conspired together to trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing reserved for the firstborn son (Gen. 27). Despite this sin, Jacob received the God-ordained blessing foretold before his birth. However, his attempt to "help" God fulfill his promise so enraged Esau that Jacob had to flee for his life.

Jacob fled his home in Canaan and headed for the land of Haran to his uncle Laban. It was on this journey that Jacob had a life-changing encounter with the true God.

<sup>11</sup> And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for his pillows*, and lay down in that place to sleep.

<sup>12</sup> And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

<sup>13</sup> And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, *I am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; <sup>14</sup> And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup> And, behold, *I am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land;

for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. (Genesis 28:11-15)

The meaning of this vision is unclear. The ladder, the angels ascending and descending, and the Lord God speaking from above the ladder are mysterious. What *is* clear is how different Jacob was after the dream. After the dream, Jacob faithfully waited on God through trying circumstances, trusting the Lord to do his blessed will. He worked for his uncle Laban for seven years for no more wage than Rachel's hand in marriage. When Laban tricked Jacob by giving him Leah instead of Rachel, Jacob accepted Leah and worked another seven years to gain Rachel. After this, Jacob worked many more years for his scheming, sharp-dealing, father-in-law before finally parting from him and returning to Canaan with his family.

Prior to the dream, Jacob used questionable means to "help" God fulfill his promises. After the dream, Jacob waited on God patiently, trusting him to bring it to pass. What happened in the dream of the ladder that so transformed Jacob?

Jesus made the meaning of Jacob's ladder perfectly clear.

And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. (John 1:51)

The ladder that Jacob saw, that was set up on the earth and reached all the way to heaven was JESUS. The angels of God he saw ascending and descending were doing so

by way of the pre-incarnate Christ. Jacob's ladder shows Jesus as the only way to heaven.

Jesus said "I am the way...no man cometh unto the Father but by me." There is no other means to reach heaven, and there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. HE is the door to the sheep-fold and his true sheep enter into the safety of his fold by Christ and by Christ alone.

Notice that the ladder was "set up on the earth." To anchor the ladder to the earth, to make a way to heaven accessible to fallen man, Jesus was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. He took on himself the form of a servant and became obedient to the death of the cross. Jesus shed his blood so sinful man could be redeemed and made righteous. Jesus spanned the great gulf that separates sinful man from his creator. No man-made ladder could reach high enough or far enough. The men of Babel tried to build a structure to reach heaven. For the builders of Babel and all who try to enter the kingdom by their own works, Jesus does not *join* heaven and earth; he *separates* heaven and earth. Jesus is the firmament spoken of in Genesis 1, the expanse between earth and heaven. All who attempt to reach heaven by their own works find that Jacob's ladder separates them by an impassable distance. It is an impossible hill to climb, an infinite distance to travel, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. For those who through faith receive him, he is The Way, but for those who reject

Christ as Savior, he is a closed door (Matt. 7:23).

Jacob saw the angels of God "ascending and descending." The ladder is like a two-way bridge between earth and heaven. For example, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and when a believer in Christ is born again and receives the Holy Spirit; the ladder brings *heaven to earth*. Jesus our Ladder also brings *earth to heaven*. All who receive him by grace through faith, though still living in this fallen world, are bound for heaven.

As Jacob viewed this unique picture of Christ, the Lord God spoke to him from above the ladder, renewing the covenant he made with Abraham and with his father Isaac. The promise of the Messiah is implicit in the covenant, for "in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." This promise reaches across the eons of time to bring us to saving faith in Christ, a truth that is as marvelous to Christians today as was the dream to Jacob.

Realizing the significance of his encounter, Jacob took steps to never forget what had happened that night.

<sup>18</sup> And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. <sup>19</sup> And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup> And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, <sup>21</sup> So that I come

again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: <sup>22</sup> And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. (Genesis 28:18-22)

Jacob set up these stones as a reminder, as a witness of what had transpired and of what God had told him there. Interestingly, Christians are called "living stones," built together into the church of God (1 Pet. 2:5). Christians serve as living reminders of the sacrifice Christ made for us on Calvary. They are a living testimony of the new life in Christ received by grace through faith.

As ones who have been forever changed by our encounter with the living God, let us be constant reminders of what has happened in our lives. When we live out the Gospel, we are like Jacob's stones, demonstrating God's faithfulness to his covenants and his grace to fallen man. When we share communion, we do it in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice (1 Cor. 11:24-25). When we have devotional time with prayer and Bible reading, we are remembering our Ladder to and from heaven, Jesus our savior. Let us daily look to the Ladder from heaven, our Lord Jesus, that we may faithfully wait on him, trusting that he will do his perfect will in our lives.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)



One Soldier Speaks:

## Changing Direction

BY F. JAY PEARSON  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

This article is an exhortation to turn from going our own way toward following *the* Way, Jesus Christ our Lord. There is another way that is not *the* Way. That way is the way of sinners. Yes we are all sinners, but we should not follow the way of sinners. We should follow *the* Way, Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (Psalm 1:1)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

My heart became open to this study, Changing Direction, when I realized that God spends much of his time asking us to turn. I can totally relate to this exhortation because I find myself going the wrong way in life more often than I would like. I'm 65 pushin' 66, so I'm not going to spill my whole sinful journey to you, but I will give you a glimpse to illustrate going the wrong way.

At 19, and totally absorbed in my own self, I was faced with an unhappy 17 year old wife and a beautiful 3 month old baby, both of which I was about to lose. Lose I did. This caused me to stop for a brief part of my life to consider my God and to ask for his help. In hind sight I realize now I was asking him to help

me continue going my way. I never considered changing my direction. After all, how could I possibly be in the wrong? God did help me, but as long as I continued in my direction, it was going to take a long time to reach his direction for me.

Many times we want God to help in what we want to do or in the way we want to go. This is not a lesson I have learned. It is a lesson I am learning. We need to listen for his direction and to follow him instead of asking him to follow us. By not following him we find ourselves doing the same things and going the same wrong way. God exhorts us in his Word to turn toward and not away from him. He calls us back when we have veered from the Way.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. (Proverbs 1:23)

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil. (Proverbs 4:27)

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21)

We all struggle to stay our course. We often find ourselves making the same mistake over and over again. Seven years later, I followed urges and heart into another marriage. A man's heart doesn't always desire truth, but will settle for satisfaction far too often. This marriage lasted about 5 years and did reap a loving Christian son, for later in life he accepted Christ. His marriage has

been quite stable and loving. When my marriage to his mother broke, again I sought the Lord part-time, between the drugs and other self satisfactions. I was not changing direction, I was only crying to God to be my co-pilot. In hindsight I now know that if you continue to make the same mistakes, you must seek the Lord with your whole heart. Instead of being discouraged when this happens, be encouraged to turn again and again unto the right way, Jesus Christ.

Peter is an example of a man that continually struggled with his own self control. Here is just one example of his struggles.

<sup>33</sup> And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. <sup>34</sup> And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me. (Luke 22:33-34)

We know in the verses that followed verse 34 that Peter did deny the Lord just as the Lord said. However this was not the end of Peter. He continued to struggle, but also continued to conquer by changing direction from his way to the Lord's way.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)

Yes Peter struggled, but Peter was a victor also in Christ Jesus. May we continue to change our direction from following afar off to following the Lord's direction.

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! (Psalm 119:5)

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. (Psalm 73:24)

Changing direction isn't all about where you are going, it's also about how you go. It's about what you bring and what you leave on the way. If it's his way you'll bring joy, hope, and thankfulness and leave the blessings that you have received from the Lord and others. Following the Way is more than seeking an eternal destination; it's walking in his steps.

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (1 John 2:6)

We need to turn from going our own way to going his way. This requires counsel and wisdom.

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

My third try at marriage was as sincere as I could be and felt so right. At this time my path was still very crooked. The Lord continued to be patient, but he had a lot to teach me. Before I would be ready to follow the path he had for me, there was another serious struggle at life to go through. This marriage failed also.

At this point I began to ask the Lord to lead me, instead of to follow me and pull me out of my

troubles. I changed directions. Yes, in 1991, I took a change of direction to making a surrendered effort at following my Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord placed me with a help meet that he wanted me to join together with, a woman that loves the Lord and follows him to the best of her ability. For 19 years we have struggled together and enjoyed the pleasures of obedience to the Lord. If we find ourselves going the wrong way, we change direction.

It's time; it's always time to change direction from the way we go to the way the Lord would have us go. Yes, there is a way that is not *the Way*. Let's not find ourselves on that treacherous road in the way of sinners. Instead, let us listen to the "word behind thee" as in Isaiah 30:21, and seek the Lord's direction as the apostle Paul who knew from where his wise direction came.

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. (1 Thessalonians 3:11)

Now when I find myself going the wrong direction, I remember my favorite verse in Proverbs.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:6)

My prayer to God for you is that you seek his direction. Yes, change from going your way to going his way. It takes a focal point to maintain that direction. That focal point is Jesus Christ. If you are looking unto him you are going the right Way, Jesus Christ.



## Testimonies from ENGLAND

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

A big thank you to Rev. Tim Sullivan who kindly came all the way from the United States and shared his love, wisdom, grace, experience and the Word of God to all who attended his class called *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*. Everyone had a great and blessed experience which enriched their lives greatly with our Lord that weekend.

Tim's class oozed lots of wisdom led by our Lord, firm direction to enlighten the senses of what is expected from a Christian. A lot of what was explained is normally missed by many, either through lack of knowledge, or direction from their teachers, in which we are extremely blessed not to be in that kind of position.

Cyndi Diamond

Sally and I were very blessed by the simplicity of the teachings on *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*. These fundamental truths seem to have been lost over the years and are so important in our spiritual growth.

We believe that for all those who attended, that they will find these truths a great asset in their continual walk with our heavenly Father.

Graeme and Sally Abernethy

I had been looking at the basics of Christianity and what I need to

teach others. This class helped me look at the doctrine of Christ in a way so I would be able to teach others as well as take me back to simple truths that my foundation needed to be built upon. Having my foundation right, what I now build on top will be more solid. And there will be value in that.

Elaine Waterhouse

When you read a book and then visit the cinema to see it on film, it is in the most part disappointing.

After reading the book, *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*, and then being at the live teaching seminar, it was not disappointing. Being part of the live seminar brought the teaching of the Scriptures to life with greater understanding.

To read the Scriptures is one thing but to live them is another. To have the understanding of how to live the principles from God's Word is, I believe, one of the keys to Christian living, and with that, fulfilling the purpose God has for each of the lives he has called.

Dave Waterhouse

Thank you for teaching your class, *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*. It was an illuminating and enjoyable presentation of this sober yet vital topic for the Christian believer.

As you said, you can only give us an outline in the time available, but it gives us a foundation, along with your book, to build our understanding in this area of our faith.

Richard Mizen

This seminar exceeded our expectations, even though we read Rev. Tim's book before getting to know him personally. We were surprised by the deep and solid content of his lecture. During the class breaks we met wonderful people and shared incredible experiences. What an impact it has caused in our lives! An event like this should happen more often in our point of view and should also involve more churches as we are all in need of truly Christian principals in these days. We were also very honored to be part of the event sharing the talent God gave us as a couple. This we do with joy, in order that he may be glorified in us.

Danillo & Ester Barrios

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Harrow, England, March 2011



Pontardulais, Swansea, Wales, March 2011



## Testimony from WALES

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

After returning from an inspiring trip to London with good fellowship, I was ready to go home and tell my wife, Vivienne, what to look forward to the following week. When Brother Tim arrived on the Tuesday, there was already an invitation from a Christian brother, Paul, who had asked him to do the "Thought for the Day" on a local radio station. During the week Tim shared a few sermons of encouragement with me, Viv, and the boys, and he attended a Prison Fellowship meeting with me. By the time Friday came, I was thinking that if these were the only reasons for his visit to Wales, it had already been very profitable. I am so glad we share the same Lord and Master.

The seminar was to start at 7 PM. About sixteen people had said that were going to come. My prayer beforehand was for God to work in the hearts of those who needed to be there. As 7:00 approached, things were not going the way I thought they would. I was starting to question my judgment in inviting Tim to Wales with so few in attendance. So far it was only my family plus Rudi Illavský, who had travelled all the way from Austria. As we were about to rearrange the seating to accommodate a smaller group, Mike and Rhian arrived who were helping with the music, and then another two people, Kinsley and Karen, also turned up. I learned a good lesson that day:

For who have despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice... (Zechariah 4:10a)

The Lord had stripped it all away before starting his work. I had been relying on the numbers of people coming to make the event a success, but the Lord was showing me it is not just about numbers but also about the individuals.

On Saturday I was pleased to see Nesta turn up. She is a co-worker from Prison Fellowship who has a great heart to serve God's people. The seminar was a success in that the people who needed and wanted to be there were there. We were greatly blessed by the Word and the fellowship.

The fruit of that meeting is the start of a prayer and study night taking place in our home on Fridays at 7:30 PM where all are welcome. We would really appreciate your prayers for us here in Wales.

Jesus would often talk to the people in a way that they would understand. Peter, being a fisherman understood that he would not spend all his time on the sea fishing, but there would be times when he would have to repair his boat, nets and equipment. I too realize that there has to be a time of preparation if I am going to serve him to the best of my ability.

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. (Psalm 119:133)

God bless you,

Rev. Carl Roberts



## Mission Report from TANZANIA

BY EVAN PYLE

*And the hand of the Lord was  
with them... (Acts 11:21)*

Returning to Madungulu less than five months after our last mission, I scarcely recognized the place. We departed in November from a parched dusty land with barely a hint of green. We returned in April to a landscape so lush it was swallowing up familiar footpaths. The meadows were adorned with flowers, and butterflies danced in the breeze. There was grass for the cattle and, as a result, plenty of milk for both calves and people. The land further “flowed with milk” through the teaching of *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*, which presents the sincere milk of the Word.

This was my first time through Rev. Sullivan’s seminar *The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ*, though I have read the book upon which it is based. I can say, without qualification, that this is Tim’s finest work and a vital message to the church. Its brevity in no way detracts from the completeness of the message. If you do not yet have a copy of the book, get one. If you have the book and haven’t read it, please do so carefully, prayerfully and with a heart open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I am sure we will soon host this seminar in our area. We will get out the word when the planning is complete so those who wish may attend.

In the closing minutes of the seminar, the Holy Spirit fell on the place where we were gathered. As one man later observed, the tears fell as rain. After the teaching, singing and praying were over nobody moved from their seats for a time, reverently submitting to God’s holy presence. Truly, the place was shaken where we were assembled (Acts 4:31). After a time we departed in peace, with many testifying to the grace of God they had seen. As Tim said, it is the kind of thing you wish you could bottle. Many have stumbled trying to recreate what God did at a special moment in time. The Lord had his purpose in doing a mighty work among us that day. Our responsibility is to be about the Master’s business. This, I pray, is what we did in Tanzania and what we will continue to do on future missions to Madungulu.

In advance of our journey, we posed questions for discussion with the elders of ITO (Workers Together With Him, Tanzania), HIMWA and KORDUNI, the women’s prayer group. This meeting was held shortly after our arrival and we were treated to thoughtful discussion and well-considered answers to our questions. The essence of our inquiries was what, in their thinking, is the purpose of our mission with the Maasai of Madungulu. Their answers may be summarized as follows:

1. Through the work of WTWH, they now have unity in the village, with Christians of all denominations worshipping together as one. It was noted that this is a clear fulfillment of a prophecy given by

the late Yohana Ole N'gekee well before they had met us.

2. They would like to learn more and more of the Word of God through our teaching.

3. They will work with us to complete the partially-finished N'gekee Center building where Bible teaching for all may continue and where a place for Maasai culture, history and education can be maintained.

Tim and I again sojourned in the home of the parents of Evelyn Paraboy Kaney, where hospitality

was shown us in every way. We feel undeserving of such kindness and yet appreciate very much the love and self-sacrifice shown in caring for us during our stay. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless work that Evelyn has done on our behalf. I don't know if these missions could be attempted without her efforts. They certainly would not be as effective. Again, Paulo Kurupashi put his heart and soul into interpreting the teachings as well as many conversations.



Madungulu Village, Tanzania, April 2011



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**WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM** is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

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