

revive!

Newsletter of the New Zealand Revival Fellowship



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Loathing the light bread

Why did the Children of Israel grow tired of the bread of heaven?

BY PR MARK WATTCHOW

SOME people come to a time in their walk in the Lord when they start feeling “dry”. They start looking for more. They want a change. They want a deeper blessing on a higher plane.

Almost inevitably, this “dryness of the soul” is blamed on a lack of spiritual sustenance (which, just as inevitably, is usually someone else’s fault). Suddenly there is a need for a “better” environment—more worshipful singing, more emotional prayer, a more liberated or “loving” fellowship. Often, those who run after such perceived solutions find that the same dryness and dissatisfaction eventually comes back. There is a simpler reason for these things.

It’s only natural

In any ongoing effort, there are always times where the tedium of the work starts to weigh heavily against the anticipation

of the reward. Sometimes it’s early in the journey, as we start to comprehend the length of the road ahead. Sometimes it’s later, when we’re tired by what we’ve already been through. But this is not unusual, nor should it be unexpected: “There hath no temptation [or trial] taken you but such as is common to man.” In other words, this is the same test that students, athletes, explorers, parents, workers, writers and soldiers face every day. These are normal barriers we must all overcome.

Angel’s food

The journey of the Children of Israel through the wilderness provides an excellent example. At the end of their journey was the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey. They did not enter the Promised Land the moment they were

delivered from their old life. They had to travel through a harsh land and live in temporary dwellings with at times a fair degree of discomfort in the flesh. They had to “with patience wait for it”. We are no different in our walk in the Lord.

What God did give was bread and water to keep them alive. It was simple fare. It was free. It was also nourishing and pleasant—“a taste of the powers of the world to come”. Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.” They called it “manna”, and “the taste of it was like wafers made with honey” and “as the taste of fresh oil”. Not surprisingly, the honey and the oil, and the bread and water, are symbols of the Word and the Spirit.

It’s not all you want

Now bread and water is exciting when it

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Loathing the light bread *continued ...*

saves our life in the wilderness. But after living on it for a while, human nature being what it is, our appreciation wanes and it becomes ... well ... kind of tedious. Let's face it: the same flavour every meal, every day—honeyed though it may be—lifesaving though it may be—is not easy for the flesh. God didn't give them all they wanted—just what they needed. "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"

The bread doesn't change. Its benefits don't change. But our human nature—our flesh—doesn't handle the sameness and the discipline of ongoing "sound doctrine" very well. Our ears begin to itch. Our eyes begin to wander. Our feet get cold. Suddenly it's icecream and lemonade we need, not more boring bread and water! "People are hurting" and "Oh woe is me—they're holding us back!"

Where are all the flavours?

"And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

"Our soul is dried away". We're feeling dry. "There is nothing at all—beside this manna". Really? Nothing at all? Nothing but a promised land ahead, where they could be satisfied, safe and free forever more. Nothing but a land with cities, houses, vineyards, harvests and cattle already supplied. Nothing in the present but water that saved their life. Nothing but pleas-

ant, nourishing bread, freely supplied in the wilderness. Nothing but miraculous sustaining of their clothing and shoes. Nothing but the healing power and presence and direction of God dwelling among them. Nothing at all—but present provision and guidance, and future glory.

"the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way"

The way can be discouraging

"... and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."

"Our soul loatheth this light bread." We start to feel there's got to be something more substantial. It was enough once. It's not enough now. We ask, Why does God take us this way? Why must we "with patience wait for it?" Why does God allow us to taste hunger and thirst? Why does God not supply the flesh and fish and cucumbers and melons and leeks and onions and garlicks and flavoured drinks and ongoing entertainments and never-ending excitements and ever-present emotional highs?

Jesus' warning "strive to enter in" in-

dicates it won't always be a picnic. But God gives us a reason for that:

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

It's a test of our real motivation. How important is the Word to us? How much do we love the truth?

It's not beyond our strength

So there it is. It will be hard sometimes. We will feel "dry" sometimes. God tests us. We have to get over it. Overcome. Keep walking. He hasn't led us into the wilderness to perish. He won't test us above what we are able to bear. The path is not beyond our strength.

Remember, we're not on a weekend stroll; we're fleeing certain death. We're overcoming the wilderness to reach everlasting life and freedom. There are times when the path is easy, and times when it's steep, slippery and leaves you breathing very hard. Rejoice in the destination, focus on the preservation, and don't expect to be on an emotional high every step of the way. ■



Killer whales & working bees

With many visitors and much visiting abroad



Auckland

We've had quite a few visitors in the past few months: Pr John & Janet Kuhlmann, Pr Deane & Valerie Clee, Pr Kevin & Lesley Quirk and a few Kiwis too.

We welcomed Greg and Cecilia King from Perth to our assembly. Greg has work in Waihe for a couple of years and we are enjoying their fellowship.

Activities recently included a Walk Rally from Devonport to the top of Mt Victoria and another Walk Rally from Milford Beach to Takapuna Beach where we saw killer whales swimming just offshore. We also had a sports night and a dinner night based around the letter "P". Martin Michaelles came dressed as a giant pea but the evening was won by visitors Daryl and Pauline dressed as penguins.

Revival has been slow, though we have had a few "observers" to our meetings—but the seed is still getting sown.

Bay of Plenty

Greetings from the Bay of Plenty! In the months passed we have been blessed with several visitors from overseas.

At least as exciting as the visiting saints



were the new people we have had coming to our meetings. Several people got baptised and several people received the Holy Spirit. The new people were of many different nationalities and age groups; a cross-section of the local population. The most recent baptism was little more than a week ago. We pray they all hold fast to their great new life!

Christchurch

The Christchurch assembly has been conducting renovations recently, partly in preparation for NZ Convention 5th–7th June 2010. During our first working bee a big mess was made of the front of our building. Many suggestions as to colours

and designs were put forward, so it will be interesting to see how it turns out.

Chas and Swee Lan enjoyed visiting many assemblies across Europe last year and Brendan has been away visiting the assemblies in Zambia. Ben and Chantal have returned to Christchurch after five years in London.

The assembly also held a tenting camp at Wainui over Waitangi weekend.

New Plymouth

God Bless from all of us in New Plymouth. As many of you know we were blessed to host the New Zealand Convention during October 2009. Lots of hard work went into being ready for this event, and I'm sure everyone present would agree, it was a great time of catching up, making new friends, rejoicing in the Lord, and spreading the Word of God. Since convention, our new brother from PNG continues to grow in the things of the Lord, and we have had visitors come to meetings and assembly activities. Exciting times, as the Word of God never goes out void.

Wellington (No update this issue.) ■



TOP: Breakfast at the Christchurch tenting weekend

LEFT: Lauren, Elisa and (visitor) Renee in Wellington

MIDDLE: Reg and John in Auckland between meetings

RIGHT: Shaun & Phoebe at New Plymouth Convention



Councils and convention

A combined convention and Council Pastors' meeting in New Plymouth



TOP: The rally was held in a Surf Club hall
LEFT: Outside the convention venue
BELOW: The Red Team during the afternoon games
BOTTOM: The New Plymouth Sunday School item

WOW what a weekend, or to most of us from New Plymouth what a way to end the months of hard work. It started with the ripping up of old carpet tiles from the bottom hall. Many laughs were had, especially watching two brothers trying to assemble a kitset kitchen. Masses of sandpaper, elbow grease, and laughter got us to the painting stage. New kitchen in place, final coats finished, floor varnished, gardens spruced up, and we were ready for our visitors.

Saturday started with many of us witnessing to people along the walkway and throughout the town. A BBQ lunch was shared by many and the smell of cooking sausages brought a few curious onlookers. The prophecy boards were stunningly presented thanks to Auckland assembly and they made a wonderful talking point for many. The New Plymouth Sunday School did us proud with their item. Cathy and

Dan gave testimonies and Pastor Joe Abel gave a great talk on knowing the truth.

The evening talks from Pastor Deane Clee on what paths to take and Pastor Kevin Quirk on simplicity in the gospel were enlightening. Visitors were coming and going throughout the evening, most leaving with pamphlets and contact details and a good impression of The Revival Fellowship.

Supper was enjoyed by many in our newly upgraded hall. It was great to hear the positive feedback on all the improvements.

On Sunday morning Matt Wilmot and Lesley Quirk gave their testimonies and Pastor Bob Beverley's talk on the heart of God and Pastor John Kuhlmann's talk on Father knows best left us with much to ponder on.

Coffee shops were on the menu for some, while others enjoyed a hilarious afternoon of games.

By the evening session everyone was buzzing, with at least 30 visitors coming and going. Christine Longo and Jackie O'Brien gave their testimonies. Pastor Jock Duncan's talk on preaching the gospel was followed by talks from five other pastors giving updates from around the world. Monday morning saw us all at MacDonald's saying our farewells to all who had travelled to New Plymouth. That afternoon we had a baptism for one of the men who had gone up for prayer on Sunday and had received the Holy Spirit.

A wonderful way to end a wonderful weekend. ■



Camp at Paraparaumu

This year was our eleventh combined NZ camp



- There is reason for order in the fellowship. Frameworks are needed just like the bones and muscles in our body to hold it up. Some people “don’t like to be told what to do”, but consider that now is the time we are being prepared to be fit to rule over the world as kings and priests. A good ruler is one who has also received instruction and correction and has been shaped by it.
- It is very important to establish good relationships with brethren because then it is much easier to work with people and to correct or guide them when necessary if you have a good relationship with them.
- We should be the alien invasion in our home cities invading the community to bring people to know the Lord.
- Resist the devil and he will flee. Stand your ground rather than give in to the flesh.
- Esteem your brethren highly and be of a humble mind. ■

YET another wonderful time was had at the New Zealand Christmas Camp held in Paraparaumu this year. Approximately 100 saints from the five assemblies in New Zealand attended the annual event with some much appreciated overseas visitors from Australia: Gary and Susie Robertson, Monty and Larissa Lambert from Adelaide and Pr Joe Weigerinck from Coffs Harbour. A great time was had by all despite the yo-yo weather of rain and spots of sunshine. Some great and inspirational thoughts were shared from the Word in our morning and evening meetings and in the afternoons various intense games of soccer, rugby and even Aussie Rules were played. Now that is interesting to watch a bunch of Kiwis attempt to play that game—some of whom looked hilarious in their attempts and some who looked like the next ... (go Jed!). The saints were treated to even more delicious

food from the various kitchen crews and even more entertaining items in the evenings! All in all, a very special time to be separate from the world and in the unity of the Spirit with like-minded brethren. A real blessing every year and a great privilege to have these times together building one another up and being built up. More to come at Convention, Christchurch in June. See you there!

Some thoughts from the talks:

- It’s good to take the time to be alone with the Lord and be still. Be patient and wait for his response after your prayer.
- Move with God. Study to understand where God is moving us in these last days. Support the works around the world.

LEFT: An item in the hall

MIDDLE: Serious games in the dining room

RIGHT: A pile up on the sports field

BELOW: The annual camp photo



My life completely changed

Finding freedom within the boundaries

JULIE DARBYSHIRE



Above: Julie and daughter Gabby at Julie's recent wedding to Paul Darbyshire

I was
angry at
the system
... My life
had no
boundaries

WHEN I was young I believed in God and would pray and talk to Him. One day I asked Him to give me a language to speak to Him in that nobody else would understand. He did and I spoke in another language believing God would understand.

When I was nineteen my brothers had come to know the God of the Bible through the born again experience as instructed on the day of Pentecost by Peter *"To repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"*. I went to some meetings and was baptised by full immersion as the Bible instructs. I was praying to God to receive the Holy Spirit and I spoke in another tongue/language—I remembered I had spoken in this language when I was younger—so I knew now that it was evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit of God. I was in fellowship for a couple of months but the circumstances of my life at that time uprooted me before I was grounded.

Five years later I was lost

Then five years later, which was sixteen years ago, I was lost, my life had come to a place of brokenness

and strife. My marriage had broken up. I was living in a marijuana haze and whatever other drug was on offer. I was addicted to cigarettes. I was angry at the system. I blamed men for all the problems in the world. I thought they were weak and pathetic. My life had no boundaries. I was camping in the bush thinking I was free yet inside I was in a prison with no way out. I had no concern for the future. But worst of all, I thought there was no way back to God as I had walked away all those years ago. I was trapped. I was in hell. And I was dragging my beautiful three-year-old daughter around with me who had become my only reason for living.

A reminder

One day a person came up to a group of us in a caravan park and asked if we believed in God, I automatically said yes, and everyone else said no and told the person to get lost. This stirred the Spirit within me.

A few days later I was lying next to the campfire out in the bush by myself looking at the creation and I called out to God and said *"That I believed in Him and I believed He had made all that I could see around me. I could not do it my way any more and I wanted to live a life according to His will not my own. I did not know how to get out of the situation I was in so I hand my life into your hands if you want me"*. I was in Queensland and my brother was in the fellowship in Bundaberg, so I asked God *"If that church my brother goes to was where He wanted me then to take me there"*.

A week later we arrived in Bundaberg and my car broke down. We could not go any further. We arrived at my brother's house and he and his lovely wife took us in. I opened up to them and shared with them all that was on my heart.

They encouraged me to pray in the Holy Spirit and to use the power of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of my life and to read the Word of God which would give me an understanding of how God wanted me to lead my life. My eyes and heart were opened, and for the first time I understood God's Word and that it was a living powerful force available to me. My life completely changed. I was made new, the addiction to marijuana and cigarettes and the desire to get drunk left me totally. I started to go to fellowship with like-minded people all having the same born again experience, only I did it all back to front.

My life now had a purpose, my life now had Godly boundaries and the greatest revelation about that was that within those boundaries I found freedom. I saw the men of God and how they behaved and began to trust again. I understood the plan of God for this world and knew why the systems of this world were in the state they are in. ■

Hope and a purpose

It felt like the scales were falling off my eyes

MARTIN MICHAELLS

I CAME to New Zealand on a scholarship in 1996 to study at secondary school level and then came back in 2001 and continued my studies at the University of Otago, which I graduated in 2005. I was in a relationship, where I was going to get married but it didn't work out and we broke up. So it got me searching deeper for God knowing that He would give me hope and a purpose. I thought to myself, what is the purpose of man that he is born into this world and dies and that was it. So I went to many other churches here in New Zealand to find God.

Return to Papua New Guinea

I went back to Papua New Guinea (which is where I am originally from) around June of 2006 and a brother from the Revival Fellowship told me about the gospel, that I needed to be baptised by full immersion and to receive the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues according to the Word of God. I really wanted to do it. So I went with him to the Port Moresby Revival Fellowship meeting on Sunday. I saw something in the people and how everyone was neatly dressed and the meeting was in order and I desired to have what they had. I was prayed for and received the Holy Spirit because I started speaking in this wonderful language, which was a miracle. I felt that I could see clearly and it felt like the scales were falling off my eyes.

I thought
to myself,
what is the
purpose
of man

After the meeting I got baptised and when I came out of the waters of baptism I felt this amazing joy and peace of the Lord. I knew from that moment that the Lord's promise had been fulfilled in my life. I went back home and burnt all the books and religious things I had from the past and I was just left with the Bible. I wanted to start fresh and I desired more to read the Word of God than anything else.

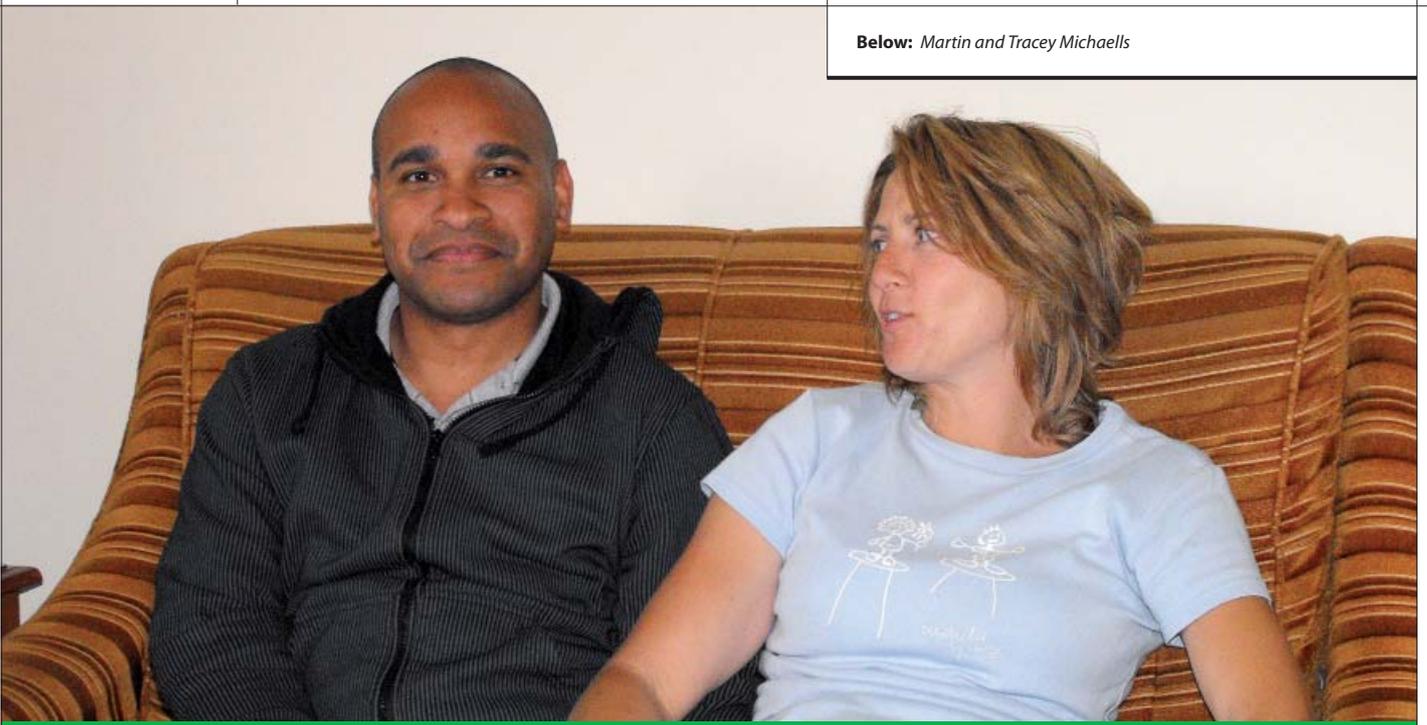
The Lord provides

During that time I had no job even though I had a qualification. One of the oversight told me about the scripture in Matthew 6:33 (*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*). So for three weeks after I got saved I just spent a lot of time with the brethren, listening to the Word of God, praying and doing God's work and He blessed me with a job (Praise the Lord!). So I moved up to Goroka, where I worked and fellowshiped there.

Since then the Lord has blessed me so much. I have moved back to New Zealand and now I am married to my beautiful wife, sister Tracey Anne Michaelles, because the Lord blessed us together, not forgetting Eden and our new baby, which is a great blessing from the Lord. It is wonderful to be in the family of God and to be serving Him daily.

Amen. ■

Below: Martin and Tracey Michaelles



Watch and pray

The Lord warns us there are many things to watch for

Matthew 26:40–41

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 13:32–33

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, **watch and pray**: for ye know not when the time is.

Luke 21:34–36

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch ye therefore, and pray always**, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Mark 13:35–37

Watch ye therefore: for ye

know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**.

Acts 20:28–31

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. **Therefore watch**, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Colossians 4:2

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:5–6

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but **let us watch** and be sober.

2 Timothy 4:3–5

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But **watch thou in all things**, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and **watch unto prayer**.

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore thou shalt not watch**, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ■



Auckland

Ellerslie Primary School
Kalmia Street

Hall Meetings:
Sunday 3pm & 6pm
House meeting
Wednesday 7.30pm

Pastor Wayne Edwards
Phone 09 277 2940

Bay of Plenty

20 Seddon Street
Te Puke
Hall Meetings:
Sunday 3pm & 6pm
Wednesday 7.30pm
Friday 7.30pm

Pastor Alan Butler
Phone 07 573 5840

Christchurch

24 Shakespeare Road
Waltham
Hall Meetings:
Sunday 10.30am & 1pm
House Meeting
Wednesday 7.30pm

Pastor Mark Wattoo
Phone 03 388 0415

New Plymouth

Cnr Bayly &
Breakwater Roads
Motoroa
Hall Meetings:
Sunday 10.30am
Wednesday 7.30pm

Pastor Bryan Smith
Phone 06 757 5792

Wellington

Johnsonville
Community Centre
3 Frankmoore Avenue
Johnsonville
Hall Meetings
Sunday 10.30am
House Meeting
Wednesday 7.30pm

Pastor Royden Mayfield
Phone 04 385 5142

Pastor John and Janet Kuhlmann with Matt (NZ) W. outside at the convention

