

***Special points of interest***

- AGM 2005 Sermon Notes
- Deputation Meeting
- Prayer Pointers

## **From Drug Dealer to Pastor Unemployed • Young Family • Facing Jail**

**CONVERTED INTO PENTECOSTALISM  
AT BILLY GRAHAM RALLY 1984**

**Tony Bickley, now Pastor of Ebenezer, Brighton will D.V give his testimony and insight into how the Gospel Advocate Relief Fund supports the ministry in Brighton and other places.**

**Venue – Providence Chapel, Bedford**

**Date – Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm**

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## **Bradford on Avon Deputation Meeting**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 05, we enjoyed fellowship with Dr. Robert Oliver and his church in Bradford on Avon, The reasons for deputation visits are to preach the gospel and make the work of GARF more widely known.

Pastor Tony Bickley began by speaking about the work. He pointed out that there are an increasing number of men who are now benefiting from the fund, and that GARF is involved in one off relief as well as regular quarterly

grants to help the work of ministers in small Churches. He also pointed out that GARF had no interest in maintaining a large bank balance just for the sake of keeping the charity open, but rather that it is

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engaged in seeking to distribute wisely the monies donated to the organisation. He recommended them as a worthy cause on this basis:- all of what you give to GARF will be for the purpose of gospel support, the only monies not given directly to those who need their help is that which is taken up in administration and this is minimal compared with the total giving.

Mr Bickley then went on to speak from Luke 11, and to show how our salvation, or the pattern of our salvation is one that is carried through for the whole of our Christian life. He pointed this out from what is known as "The Lord's Prayer", in that this prayer has some very distinctive similarities to our conversion; and in that the order of its petitions are very much the same as that of our conversion. He then went on to show how this never changes, we needed the Lord at the first, so still, we need the Lord in prayer, and we will

*the Lord's prayer begins  
with God as does our  
salvation*

continue to need the Lord at the last. He tied the whole principle into the words of Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none other." The purpose of Mr Bickley's message was to encourage in prayer and in the gospel, and to seek to live our lives with the same intensity of love, and reliance upon God, that we began with when we were saved.

As this was a prayer meeting associated with supporting GARF, Mr Bickley preached the gospel, and then applied it to the Christian life, using the Lord's prayer as a pattern. He told us how that the Lord's prayer begins with God as does our salvation, it continues with prayers for the people of God just as our salvation must encompass Church involvement and a love for the brethren, and then it carries on with our need of nourishment, the only way we can grow is through the nourishment of the word, and by abiding in Christ, and so he expounded the theme with each petition of the prayer. (A full transcript of this sermon can be obtained on request.)

We thank the pastor and church at Bradford on Avon for their warm hospitality.

## **AGM 2005 - Sound The Battle Cry !**

### **2 Samuel 23 v 9 & 10**

(Notes of the sermon preached by Pastor Robert Morgan of Erith at The Gospel Advocate Relief Fund's 127th AGM & Thanksgiving Service)

Gospel Freedom is at risk not only from outside the church but sheer complacency within.

Eleazar fought mightily to preserve David. Even after the entire army deserted, he gripped his sword and fought the Philistines until his hand was weary, and then his hand stuck to the sword.

Many different battles were fought in

the Valley of Elah at Pasdammim, "The Border of Blood", including David and Goliath.

Spiritually applied, the Valley of Elah, the Borders of Blood, The contact between Truth and Error, should always find a believer standing to defend The Cause of Christ.

Beware of allowing the enemy to destabilise the basic fundamentals of faith by accepting evangelical inclusivism.

The devil is like a roaring lion, walking

about, seeking whom he may devour. We have to admit, sometimes, intimidation is so great we think we have to stand against him in our own strength. The devil subtly accomplishes his objectives if he can succeed in putting us into a neutral position. There are some whom he cannot devour and these are they who identify themselves with a Bible preaching local church, and most important become a member in action.

*Gospel Freedom is at risk not only from outside the church but sheer complacency within.*

The sword is a type of The Word of God. Today, some are not fighting with the Word of God, they're using method instead of message "to attract the unsaved" and they believe the end justifies the means. But "Thy Word is Truth". We are cleansed, quickened and encouraged by the Word. The tool of the Word of God is everything we

need.

Church life can be a battle but we need to take note Eleazar never said a word about the heat and scars of the battle. He kept on fighting for a just cause. It is too easy for us to give up because we're not appreciated; nobody else helps; the pastor doesn't appreciate me; and all manner of other reasons.

We need to grip the sword so tightly, that we do battle with temptations and testings through the Word of God being part of ourselves.

As Eleazar defended King David, soldiers of Christ are to defend the interests of our Lord. "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord or to defend His cause".

*(A full transcript of this sermon can be obtained on request.)*

## Prayer Items

As a committee we are following up requests for financial support.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom to discern those most needy
- Wisdom to administer the funds in accordance with God's will
- People willing to serve as committee members. In recent years we have lost 3 members and as such need their replacements input and prayers.



- Churches willing to host deputation meetings.
- A renewed interest in the work of the Fund both financially and prayerfully.
- Advertisements in leading Christian periodicals will bear fruit.

*Finally we ask that*

- We obey God's leading and guiding, honouring Him above all else in all that we do and say.

# GOSPEL ADVOCATE RELIEF FUND

Registered Charity: 209606

The fund exists to support needy ministers and their widows and dependants.

Web Site  
[www.garf.org.uk](http://www.garf.org.uk)

If you want to know more please write to the Secretary and ask for the "Introducing GARF" booklet.

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For Web Site feedback and ideas please e-mail the editor:

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## How can I help GARF ?

There are several ways of helping GARF

You can:

- Pray for us
- Support us financially
- Become a committee member if you feel prompted.
- Tell us of needy ministers, widows and their dependants.
- Remember us in your will
- Tell others of the work we are doing
- Host a deputation meeting

## Tax Efficient Giving

Don't forget that the taxman now gives an income tax refund on all donations given by taxpayers who are registered for Gift Aid with their chosen charity. Please make sure that you let us know that you are a tax



payer so that any donations you care to send us may have the tax reclaimed by us for the benefit of our beneficiaries.