

## Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
<p>Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month            *A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.</p>		
Monday	Followers (Young people of secondary school age)	7.30PM
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15AM
	Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) venue as announced	7.30PM
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45PM
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00PM
	Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30PM
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly)	2.00PM
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45PM
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00PM
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45PM

**TINSHILL FREE CHURCH**  
 HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL  
 Registered Charity No. 511933  
*website: <http://www.tinshill.f9.co.uk/>*

**Pastor:**  
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# THE MAGAZINE

N<sup>o</sup> 216

DECEMBER 2003  
 – JANUARY 2004



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH



	4	Carol Getzels	Angela Mathers
	8		Mavis Mathers
	11	Yvonne Chell	Christine Crossley
	15		Christine Crossley
	18	Hilda Young	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	22		Mavis Mathers
	25	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Anthony/Rosemary
	29		Christine Crossley
Feb	1	Angela Mathers	Carol Getzels

## Pastoral Letter — December 03/January 04

### Give Glory to God

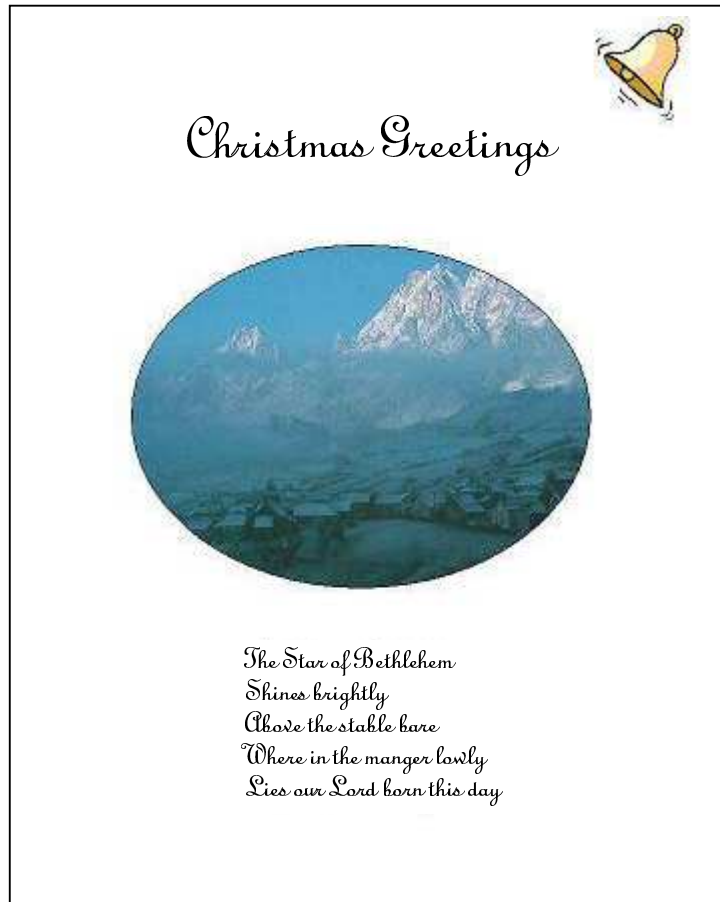
The shepherds were hardly at the top of Jewish society's tree, and yet to these humble manual workers first came the good news of our Saviour's birth. What a wonderful shock and surprise it must have been to see and hear the angels from glory, who concluded with "*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men*" (Luke 2: 14). The noblest people in the land would have been bowled over, let alone these humble shepherds. The whole of creation and created beings are urged to give glory to God. Glory is one of those words which is hard to define. But to 'give glory' must mean to give the highest and purest praise we can offer to the One who came from the highest place of glory, to save us from our sins by paying for our redemption on the cross. The message first given by the angels is the one which Christians must repeat until our dying day, and until the Lord Jesus comes again.

"The highest place that heaven affords  
Is His by sovereign right,  
The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,  
And heaven's eternal light."

(From 'The head that once was crowned with thorns' – Thomas Kelly)

The more we realize the gap between Heaven's inheritance and Hell's punishment, the greater our praise will be. The composer Vivaldi was initially contracted to teach the violin at a girls' orphanage in Venice. But sometime between 1713 and 1718 he composed, for them, some 'sacred' music for use in their chapel in the orphanage. The first two movements of his composition "Gloria" must be two of the loveliest and most appropriate anthems at Christmas. They simply contain the words of Luke 2: 14 in song – firstly the triumphant and glorious "Glory to God in the Highest", and then the peaceful "And on earth peace, goodwill toward men". Those humble orphan girls, like the shepherds, would have been the first to hear these words of Scripture put to appropriate music. Whether the angels themselves actually sang or chanted the words we do not know.

At the end of a year, with all its hectic activity, Christians must stop and



*Submitted by Christine Blayney  
including a picture of the village she visits in the Pyrenees*

give God the glory. Very often the time between Christmas and renewed work in the New Year is the time to reflect on God's goodness over the past year. Feverish activity can hide God's work, and place the emphasis on our work and our efforts instead. Whilst much activity is necessary, especially in outreach for the gospel's sake, it is ineffective unless done with trust in God's power and God's results. If a heart has been stirred, it is through the Spirit of Christ.

We might be tired. We can take stock and thank God for His strength to carry out His work. In our meditation, we can pour out our adoration to God for His salvation, and determine to know our Lord better. The angels had the advantage of knowing our Lord in Heaven before He came as a human child.

As the New Year approaches, our prayer must be for the second part of the verse. "And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" There is a contrast here between Heaven, the place of God's highest glory, and this low, sinful planet earth. And yet there is hope – the hope for peace which Christ brings. There has never been a lot of peace between people on the earth since the Fall of Adam. Right now, the expected peace in Iraq has not happened. It is a place of fervent terrorism, which is extremely difficult to combat. The recent election in Northern Ireland, despite the cease-fire of the warring factions, has resulted in a polarisation between Republicans, who have voted increasingly for Sinn Fein, and the Unionists, who have moved more strongly towards Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party. The DUP are against the 'peace process' in its present form. It is hard to see where the peace process will now go.

Prayer for such peace is still necessary – with God nothing is impossible – but the peace the angels had in mind was '*peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*' (Romans 5: 1). This peace comes through being "justified by faith" in Him. Our state of heart reflects the turbulence in the world – grief, trouble, war, sin, fears and guilt. The Lord Jesus came to grant peace of heart, and, for the future, a new heaven and earth where none of these things exist. Meanwhile, we are to '*live peaceably with all men, as much as in us lies*' (Romans 12: 18).

Wed 28 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group

**Note:**

Tots Club and Good News Club meetings will not take place in the school holidays.

Deadline for items for the February edition of the magazine will be Thursday 22nd January 2004 – all items to Martin Sellens by then please.

## ROTAS

<b>Week ending</b>		<b>Cleaning</b>	
December 6	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Ruth Barugh
	13 Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
	20 Margaret Williams	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard
	27 Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
January 3	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	10 Margaret Williams	Deborah Williams	
	17 Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Ruth Barugh
	24 Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
	31 Margaret Williams	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard
<b>For Sunday</b>		<b>Flowers</b>	
Dec 7	Carole Brearley	14	Christine Blayney
	21 Carol Getzels	28	Eva Ng
Jan 2004 4	Christine Crossley	11	Margaret Williams
	18 Ruth Barugh	24	Yvonne Chell
Feb 1	Kathryn Hibbard	8	Rosemary Hilton
		<b>Library</b>	
		<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
Dec 7	Carol Getzels		Yvonne Chell
	11		Christine Crossley
	14 Christine Crossley		Angela Mathers
	18		Mavis Mathers
	21 Anthony/Rosemary Hilton		Jack/Ruth Rozday
	28 Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard		Hilda Young
Jan 1			Christine Crossley

Thu 11 2pm Thursday at Two Prayer Meeting at 212 Tinshill Lane  
 Sun 14 5pm Guest Tea  
 Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Christmas Fellowship  
 Thu 18 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Mike Wild  
 7.15pm Carol Singing in the district  
 Fri 19 7.30pm Followers' Christmas Party  
 Sun 21 11am Carol Service followed by buffet lunch  
 6.30pm Devotional Service with Communion  
 Mon 22 No Followers  
 Thu 25 10.30am Christmas Morning Service  
 No prayer meeting and Bible Study  
 Tue 30 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group  
 Wed 31 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group  
 11.30pm Watchnight service  
**January**  
 Thu 1 7.45pm Prayer Meeting for 2004  
 Fri 2 7.45pm Elder/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road  
 Wed 7 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 12 Lanark Drive  
 Thu 8 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Fred Raynard  
 Tue 13 10.15am Second Tuesday  
 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group  
 Wed 14 7.30pm Follower's Prayer Group  
 Thu 15 2pm Thursday at Two Prayer Meeting at 212 Tinshill Lane  
 Fri 16 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount  
 Sat 17 9am Annual Trustees' Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road  
 Tue 20 7.45pm Men's Fellowship  
 Thu 22 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Colin Mountain  
 Sat 24 7.30pm Astronomy Evening "Reach for the Stars"  
 Tue 27 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group

Returning to 'Glory to God in the Highest', we are given both a reminder and a warning in the book of Revelation, that each person must give glory to God, to know salvation. If the Judgement Day comes without our having done so, we are lost for ever. It is a single angel, rather than many angels, who exclaims loudly "*Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement has come, and worship Him Who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water*" (Revelation 14: 7). God's goodwill through Christ is still available to people who will put their trust in Him, and give Him alone the glory.

A blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Glyn Williams*

## **Flying for Life MAF — News to SHARE** **Taking God's love to needy people**

Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need

'God made you as you are in order to use you as He planned.' SC McAuley

The ministry of Mission Aviation Fellowship is not always carried out using aircraft. There are times when staff simply reach out in love to those living around them. In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Karen, wife of pilot Dan Carlson, was brought a tiny emaciated baby with open sores, listless eyes and hair loss. Rozita, the baby's mother, had tried unsuccessfully to abort her and now showed no interest in her child. Karen fed the baby milk and soya powder. In DRC, formula is rarely used because of the superiority of breast milk, poor sanitation and financial difficulties. The critical problem was Rozita's lack of love for her child. Karen said that if Rozita would breastfeed, she would pay for every kilogram of weight the baby gained. Rozita would have preferred to be handed the milk powder instead of taking the baby for regular check-ups, but she agreed.

Karen's friend Luta took Rozita and her baby in, providing nutritious meals, and speaking about God's gift of children. Luta and Karen prayed for God

to change Rozita's heart. At the first check-up, the scales began to show the baby's improvement and gradually the relationship between mother and child developed. With growing pride Rozita would eagerly take her baby to be weighed. Within months, baby Homela was smiling and patting her mother's face. Two years on, Homela is a happy toddler. God's love was expressed through Luta and Karen, transforming Rozita, enabling her to love and nurture her baby, and now Homela is learning of God's love.

And thanks to regular flights to Marsabit, northern Kenya, many more people are learning from the Word of God. Pastor Eric Musee, Director of the Bible League, led a team of Christian leaders on a three-day mission to Marsabit. Our Country Director in Kenya, Bernard Terlouw, joined the team as they met with newly established churches. A group of 22 students have spent two years planting churches in and around Marsabit. Over the last 16 months, our regular flights have taken trainers to equip these pioneering church planters. The three-day trip culminated in a graduation ceremony. Pastor Musee affirms, 'We at the Bible League sincerely acknowledge your support to fly our trainers to Marsabit. The Bible League, as a locally-funded organisation, would not have made this training possible without your help. As a result of your partnership, 22 new local churches were planted among the unreached people groups of northern Kenya. We truly realise that God is able to remove the limitations of poor infrastructure and communication barriers when he brings MAF on board to partner with the Church.'

MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.

*Supplied by MAF*

## Nothing Wasted

Once again I want to say "Thank you" to those who have given things for recycling.

### Stamps

The price paid for used stamps has fallen over the years, but even so, the organisation "Stamps for Evangelism" (to whom the stamps go) raised

Martin had also reminded us earlier in the programme that tonight was the 20th anniversary of Carols by Candlelight which began originally as a very small carol service from the Ladies Coffee Morning. We look back over those 20 years with deep thankfulness for the continued lovely opportunity to present the gospel in this way to so many (including men over the last four years), and we go on praying and trusting God that in the fullness of time He will bring the spiritual fruit which he planned to come from these services from the beginning of time.

*Margaret Williams*

## PREACHING PLAN

		<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
December	7	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	14	Martin Sellens	Andy McIntosh
	21	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	28	Erroll Hulse	Erroll Hulse
January	4	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	11	Glyn Williams	Colin Mountain (Dewsbury)
	18	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	25	Malcolm Peters	Malcolm Peters
February	1	Glyn Williams	Martin Sellens

## Outside Appointments

Do remember Pastor Glyn Williams in his following outside appointments:

Mon	Dec 8	7pm	Leeds City Mission committee
Sun	Jan 25	am	York Evangelical
		pm	Garforth Evangelical
Sun	Feb 1	pm	Thorp Edge Evangelical, Bradford

## DIARY

### December

Tue	9	7.30pm	Ladies' Prayer Group at 212 Tinshill Lane
Wed	10	7.30pm	Followers' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

The theme of Glyn's talk for the evening was "No expense too great" and he spoke from verses 36 and 37 in Mark chapter 8 – *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul"*. The following points were developed stirringly for us –

- \* Your soul is worth more than the whole world
- \* You can't pay enough to buy it back from its lost position
- \* Only Jesus Christ's death is sufficient to buy it back

God spared no expense in giving us The Saviour – The Lord Jesus Christ – the only one who could pay for our sins in his death on the cross and buy back our soul, through faith in Him. God gave everything in the gift of His Beloved Son.

Glyn described the position of someone who is blindfolded and thinks they are walking on safe soft grassy ground. They are in fact approaching a precipice but are unaware of the danger because they are blindfolded. If that blindfold is removed they would take immediate evasive action to gain safety. Men and women are blindfolded by sin, unaware of the danger of judgement, but when God mercifully causes them to see their need of a Saviour, immediate action needs to be taken by trusting in Him, to reach the safety of their soul being saved and ultimately their entry into Heaven.

Our final carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem, has within it this verse –

"How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in".

Each year it is a lovely moment for the preparation team who prepare the church, candles, etc in the morning, to sit down to pray together in the quietness of the church, trusting the whole evening to the Lord. Last night also there was a very good team to clear, clean and reorganise the church again ready for the on-going work during the week.

nearly £7,000 in the first 8 months of 2003. This money is given to missionary work at home and abroad. Please don't take stamps off picture post-cards, the whole card can be sold.

#### **Aluminium cans & foil**

The original buyer of this ceased trading during this year, so I now take it to a local scrap metal merchant (who pays slightly more for it). The money raised goes to help blind people in Malawi – many of whom are very poor.

#### **Cassettes**

The Torch Trust for the Blind recycles 1000 cassettes per month to send magazines and Christian music and messages to blind people overseas.

*Ruth Holder*

## **Can you find 16 books of the Bible?**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by fluke); it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But, now the truth finally struck home to various numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

*This was found by Frances Darksus in the magazine of  
Queens Parade Methodist Church, Bangor, Co Down and  
submitted by Nancy Fairburn.*

The answers will be given next month.

## Malta Wedding

Tinshill Free Church has had a long association with the fellowship of Floriana Baptist Church, Malta.

On October 10th I attended the wedding of Charlene, the daughter of Pastor Edwin and his wife Sylvia Caruana. The religious ceremony and reception was held in a lovely setting in the Villa Midina Naxxar. On their arrival Edwin and his daughter Charlene were greeted by the



assistant pastor of Floriana, Earl Pinkston, who conducted the first part of the service. Edwin, on behalf of Sylvia and himself, gave Charlene away to be married to Scott (USA). Having performed his duty as father Edwin then went on to take the remainder of the service announcing the couple be man and wife. Following this family members and invited guests enjoyed a time of celebration together. The couple began their honeymoon on the smaller island of Gozo, this was to be followed by a trip abroad which came as a complete surprise to the happy couple as it was a gift given to them by Edwin and Sylvia at the reception.

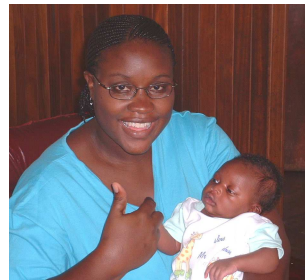
*Ken Link.*

## A new arrival for the Gomas

A photograph of Josephine Goma with the new baby, Takondwa Mark Goma. Takondwa means, "We are happy!"

This is Fastone and Josephine's 3rd child.

They continue to serve the Lord at Lusaka Baptist Church in Zambia.



Genesis Supercamp, Merroo, New South Wales in Australia. At the end of January (28th) Andy and Juliet are going to be based at Troy, New York State for 3½ months till mid May, where Andy will be working at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, teaching one course and doing research with a colleague. Please pray for this time in the USA where they will be based at Albany Baptist Church. During this time Andy will be seeking to write a book on flight that Master Books have expressed an interest in, and there will be some ministry opportunities.

A full copy of Andy's latest Creation Matters report is on the church notice board for information.

*Martin Sellens*

## The Glow and Warmth of a Candle

The windows of the church gave an inviting welcome yesterday, Tuesday 2nd December, as many candles shone out over a still dark evening. Carols by Candlelight is our first event of the Christmas season and with perfect weather for the event – fine and mild with some damp mist, this year saw a large number come in from the neighbourhood to join with many from the church who brought friends and contacts. A colourful Christmas display on the board in the entrance also added its warmth to the welcome.

As we sat in the soft and very beautiful light of over a hundred candles of all shapes and colours Martin began the evening by reminding us that when God created us he gave us that most wonderful faculty – the human eye – and that we are told that on a clear night, a healthy human eye can see the glow of a candle in the dark fourteen miles away. He trusted that during the service, we would see with our inner eyes the deep truths in the bible concerning the Lord Jesus Christ who came as the Light of the World at that first Christmas into our very dark world.

We enjoyed singing again some of the well known and loved carols, we listened to carefully read scripture readings which unfolded the Christmas story, and we greatly appreciated two pieces of music by Timothy Hilton on the flute accompanied by Rosemary, Tim's mum. Tim's playing was accurate with crystal clear notes, a lovely way to use a God given gift for God's glory.

The 2nd Baptist Church continued to grow and now has close to 4,000 members. A new contemporary style auditorium seating over 2,500 has been built. Adjacent is a new Baptist High School for 500 scholars. Twelve hectares of land have been provided for the Baptist University, and ten churches have been planted. Four of these have new buildings.

To God be all the glory.

## **TV, Czech Republic and America**

### **A number of matters from Andy and Juliet McIntosh:**

1. At the end of October they were in the West Country and Andy did a TV interview for 'Straight Talk'. This is run by Jim Wiltshire (Plymouth) and Ian Densham (St Ives) who are buying time commercially to make Christian programmes on Sky. It is a small independent evangelical TV production company and in the coming months is intending to launch a TV programme devoted to "no-frills" preaching, broadcasting a 5 minute preaching slot on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A small studio has been constructed in Plymouth and recording was due to start towards the end of November with Vernon Higham, Mike Mellor and Geoff Marshall recording 8 x 5 minutes programmes each. The programmes will be backed up with a website containing Bible study material graded for use by those with no biblical background to those with a wider knowledge of the Bible. Do pray for this exciting project – times and dates for the first broadcasts will be sent in due course. In the meantime if you're interested visit the website at [www.straighttalktelevision.com](http://www.straighttalktelevision.com).

2. Do pray for the plight of two dear friends in Liberec in the Czech Republic. Andy and Juliet visited Zdenek and Nicola Karasek earlier this year (March). Since then life has been very hard for them with great difficulties in the building that they have bought and are using as a church. Please pray for them and their family at this critical time. The encouragement is that a businessman who listened carefully to Andy's talk on Creation while out there, whose wife is a Christian, has now read his book, and declares that he is "no longer an atheist".

3. From Monday 5th to Friday 9th January Andy will be at the Answers in

## **Revival in Romania**

### **Errol Hulse reports from a Bible conference at Oradea, Romania 24-25 October 2003**

The venue of the Conference, The Baptist University of Oradea, is the only Baptist University campus on the continent of Europe. Its existence can be traced back to the revival of the Baptist Church in Oradea in 1974, a revival that can only be understood against a background of extreme persecution. The Communist Regime made an all-out attempt to stifle and ultimately destroy the witness of the church.

Life in socialist Romania was terrible. Under one of the most tyrannical régimes in Europe, food and energy shortages meant that many starved or froze to death. All dissent was suppressed. One in ten of the population was in the pay of the dreaded Securitate. Every telephone in the country was 'bugged'. People who tried to escape across the borders were shot. The churches were the special targets of the State system of repression and terror.

The official strategy was well thought out. The authorities focused a lot of attention on the leaders of the different denominations. Existing leaders were manipulated by bribery or threats, or were replaced by those who were more compliant or amenable. Priests and pastors of local churches were restricted in what they were allowed to do, and their preaching licences were withdrawn on the smallest pretext. Those who survived these attacks were further harassed by threats, smear tactics, physical assaults, and anything which would discourage them and hinder their effectiveness. Many were imprisoned or forced to leave the country. Of those who remained, all were 'encouraged' to inform on members of their congregations and an unknown number gave in to such pressure and became informers for the Securitate.

The way the Romanian Baptist churches fared is a good example of what happened to all Christian groups. Of the 1,196 Baptist churches and preaching stations, 532 were closed as 'unnecessary'. Of the 952 pastors, 787 lost their licences for 'irregularities'. Many of those who survived did so at the cost of their integrity. Only a few students were permitted to stay in the seminary in Bucharest, usually less than ten. Pastors were only permitted to

preach in their own churches; they were not allowed to accept invitations to preach in other congregations. No evangelism, no children's work, no youth work, no special meetings for men or women, no charity work with church funds was permitted. Lists of church officers and potential officers had to be officially approved, as did the lists of baptismal candidates. Only children of Baptist parents could be baptised, all other baptisms were looked on as 'proselytising' of Orthodox members, which was illegal. In this one regard, the Orthodox views were accepted, and used, by the State authorities.

For three years before the revival began in the 2nd Baptist church of Oradea in 1974 a small group of five pastors met on Mondays, for prayer. Josef Tson and Vasile Talos, both of whom stood courageously against the regime, were in this group. According to Vasile this prayer meeting explains all the amazing events that followed.

In the meantime Liviu Olah who had qualified as a lawyer before training as a pastor was called to be assistant pastor of the Second Baptist church in Oradea in 1974. (The Hungarian Baptist Church is the First in Oradea). Olah had been debarred from the pulpit and spent much time in prayer and fasting. When he began his ministry he preached powerfully on the Great Judgement and on the reality of eternal hell. The Church was in a very lethargic dispirited condition. There had been some distressing and scandalous incidents of drunken members.

Liviu Olah called for repentance. He began his sermons in a quiet tone. After about five minutes people were crying and under deep conviction of sin. They would call out for mercy. Those present spoke of 'divine power floating in the air'. The whole church seemed to be in tears. Those deeply burdened with sin came to the church. When they came to Christ they were filled with joy and would leave feeling that they were flying and not walking. Liviu preached evangelistic sermons clearly and powerfully. He did not confine his evangelistic preaching to Sunday services but preached at funerals and weddings when large numbers of unbelievers would be present.

By June 1974 over 100 converts had been baptised. In the next six months a further 249 were baptised. 149 were baptised in a single service.

The increase in numbers created a physical problem. The gallery began to crack under the weight of those cramming into it. In order to make room the side of the church was broken open to bring into view an area large enough to accommodate a further 800. This was achieved in spite of fierce opposition from the Communists who felt threatened by the gospel of hope which contradicted everything they stood for.

### **The Character of the Revival**

Liviu Olah's powerful preaching was allied to prayer – his own prayer-life and also his insistence on intercessory prayer in the life of the church. Liviu Olah encouraged the members at Oradea to make the weekly church prayer meeting the very heart of the church's life. He emphasised fervency in prayer. He also urged believers to form prayer groups in homes in different parts of the town – something almost unheard of at that time!

He told people to draw up lists of relatives, friends, and workmates. He encouraged them to be very specific in praying for these people to be converted. He even suggested that they include the names of the local mayor and other Communist officials on their prayer lists! On one occasion a visitor asked Liviu Olah the 'secret' of the Revival. Olah turned to a child of eleven nearby and asked, 'How many people are on your daily prayer list?' The child replied, 'Eighty-six'. 'There is your answer! That is the reason for the Revival,' said Olah.

The two classical 'ingredients' of revival, prayer and powerful preaching, were at the very centre of this spiritual awakening. A third classical emphasis of revival should be noted. Repentance. Liviu Olah called for evidence of repentance. The saying developed, 'the repentance of the Repenters' – the need for radical holiness.

Olah emphasised that a holy God whose judgement is revealed against the sinfulness of unbelievers is also displeased with the sin and compromise in the lives of his people. He urged Christians to make a clean break with every known sin in their lives as individuals. But he went further and called on the Oradea church as a whole to make a stand on the need for absolute holiness. The Revolution of 1989, when Ceausescu was overthrown, greatly assisted the fruit of this Revival, under God. In place of the former oppression, the new government adopted a friendly and generous attitude to the evangelicals.