

Coach House Church BEACONS

KNOWN BY NAME

17TH APRIL 2020

I'd like to share an experience that I had with the Lord when I was a new Christian. It happened on one of the April weekends away in Southport that my church arranged every year; we would take over a guest house and use the weekend to do a Bible study on a book or topic from the Bible. We would arrive on Friday evening and depart around Sunday teatime.

I remember that one year we looked at the Second Coming of Christ; another year we did an overview of the book of Revelation. They were good times of study in God's word; they were also good times of fellowship.

One year the pastor asked me if I would do the devotional Bible readings for each day. We had a devotional gathering before breakfast each morning, and again last thing in the evening. I was happy to do this.

Imagine my consternation when, upon unpacking in my room, just after our arrival I discovered that I'd left my specs at home! I needed these to be able to read, especially as my Bible had a small print size. There were also the study notes that the pastor would hand out later that evening for the weekend's study. However, I wasn't to be put off. I'd just ask the Lord to give me 20/20 vision for the weekend! A brilliant idea I thought!

So, I sat in the centre of my bed, legs crossed, (this isn't a requirement for prayer, by the way!) and explained the situation to the Lord. I asked if I could have perfect vision for the weekend, and that if He decided my sight should go back to what was normal for me after the weekend, that was fine by me. I just needed to be able to read

without specs for the weekend. I opened my eyes and looked in my Bible: the print was blurry and unreadable. I repeated the request more fervently and tried again: same result! So, I had to sit through that evening's study and just listen. Someone else did the devotional readings.

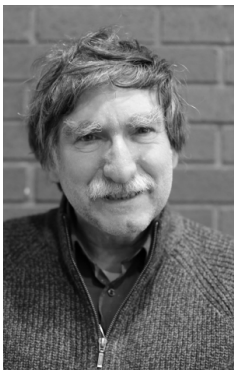
The following afternoon I was walking with the group of young people who had come on the weekend, and we were passing one of those large gift shops that you find at seaside resorts, though I wasn't looking in the windows, and was actually furthest from the shop than most of the group, when I distinctly heard one of the girls, who was standing next to the shop window, call my name. I went up to her to ask what she wanted, but she replied quite sincerely that she hadn't called my name, though I was certain that it was her voice that called me. As I turned away, I saw a magnifying glass in the shop window and it seemed to leap up at me, though I'm sure it didn't physically move. I laughed as I realised this was God's way of answering my prayer of the previous evening. I bought the magnifying glass and was able to resume reading. I was even able to do the remaining devotional readings with it!

The point of my story is that God does hear and answer prayer. And He also knows us by name and at times calls us by name. There is a story in the Bible in 1 Samuel chapter 3, verses 1 through 10, of a young boy, who though he didn't yet know God, had been given to the Lord by his mother. Samuel (he was an answer to prayer because previously his mother had been infertile, and she had promised him to the Lord) was to become one of God's greatest servants. He was the last of the judges of Israel and the first of the prophets. He was also to anoint the first of Israel's kings, Saul and David.

Though Samuel didn't yet know God, God called him by name four times. It was at this point that Samuel came to know God personally. God does watch us. He sees us when we pray, and even though the timing may seem odd to us, He does answer. I believe that when I heard my name called that afternoon it was God using the voice of someone I knew, to answer my prayer. The Lord used that girl's voice, even though she didn't speak, to get me to the window where He could show me the answer to my prayer. God is completely trustworthy. I know from experience that He is fully

trustworthy. By the way, please read that Bible passage I referred to above; it's a fascinating story!

Let's pray: "Dear Lord, thank you that you know us by name. Please may we ask that you incline our hearts to know you, and to know you better. In Jesus' name, amen."



STEVE WENT



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn