

# CLUB OASIS MAY 07

Club oasis hopes to link its friends through the wonders of the web; OASIS meets on the Second Sunday of Every Month At the home Shirley and Peter Massey 1801 Chemin des Pailles LORGUES 0494 739337 [www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis](http://www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis)



of

## The Spirit of The Sovereign Lord is Upon Me

Isaiah's words's, echoed by Jesus in the temple are a challenge to each one of us to question just who is the Holy Spirit and what does that mean for me. During this season of Pentecost we are given a chance to understand that God trusts us enough to want to use us to build his Kingdom, a sort of partnership. There are many descriptions given for the Holy Spirit, fire and wind being the "Pentecost" images associated with unnatural behaviour, extraordinary happenings and dramatic results. It seems an anomaly that centuries later the phrase Pentecostal is linked with the word dangerous and that unnatural behaviour is often regarded as disruptive. In Acts 19 Paul asks what baptism the disciples have received and did they receive the Holy Spirit.....the disciples, loyal and faithful replied that they had not even heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul urges us to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit, shows us how through the laying on of hands and through prayer that this is possible together with the consequences of that taking place. But more than that Paul emphasises the essential need for that to happen if the church is to live and to grow. In his letter to Timothy he says" For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a Spirit of Power, of Love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.



Perhaps one way to look at it is, that at our baptism, the "pilot light" of God's presence is lit within us. In his timing and at our willingness, that pilot can ignite something much more powerful and effective .....are we willing for that to happen? for Pentecost to be experienced in our own lives and for service and ministry to be released. The temptation is to say that that is for others, and things are fine the way they are; if we look around us that can hardly be the case as much of the church continues to lose its dynamism, influence and impact in the western world.



But throughout the world there are many signs, both locally, and globally of Pentecost continuing. Pentecost was the key that turned the lock that birthed the church; the key still works, still turns locks on lives and communities bringing renewed life, and renewed energy and renewed vision. Jesus says "may My will be done and My Kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven " but, **"Not by might, nor by power but my Spirit says the Lord"**

## Oasis Christian Fellowship Lorgues

Summer 2007 Programme **Church in Action**

Sunday Jun 10th @ 11.15am FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

**"Take up thy bed" John ch 5**

**A time of healing with Jack and Patricia Heaslip followed by Sharing of Bread and Wine**

**Jack writes,**

***"Someone must take responsibility for healing. But it is good to question who! Whose responsibility is it? Who gets the credit when healing comes and who gets the blame when it doesn't seem to happen? Should it be about a "blame game" anyway?"***

***Healing is too big a subject to ignore - though many in the Church choose to. It is scary and***



***we need to seek a sure guide and an authoritative source of power. Understanding and experiencing go hand in hand, theory with practice. Trust and faith are challenged to inform and encourage expectation. Under and around all is the most trustworthy of all - God's unfailing and unconditional love!"***

## CONNECT PRAYER GROUP

**Connect** meets on the first Wednesday of the month between 6 and 7.00 pm at Domain de St Marc, Chemin des Pailles LORGUES Details from **Peter at 0494 739337 or Alistair at 0674934208**





Spirit filled living 29 Oct 2006

**THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT... ACTS 4:31**



The Holy Spirit can fill your cup with joy until it overflows, or be like a river of power flowing through you. It's a matter of capacity, availability, and spiritual hunger. When the disciples were first filled with the Holy Spirit we read that He '...sat upon each of them' (Acts 2:3 KJV). What a descriptive phrase! When we were about to show off, the Holy Spirit sat on us. When we were about to give in to the flesh, He sat on us. When we were about to throw in the towel, He sat on us. When we were about to have a nervous breakdown, He sat on us. The Holy Spirit can keep us in balance, in peace, and on track. Here are three things that the Holy Spirit does for us: a) He gives us direction when we feel lost: 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God' (Romans 8:14 KJV) b) when others put us down, He reminds us who we are. 'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God' (Romans 8:16 KJV) c) He steps in when we don't know how to pray about the situation: '...We don't even know what we should pray for...but the Holy Spirit prays for us...in harmony with God's own will'(Romans 8:26-27 TLB). So what should our attitude be toward the Holy Spirit? 'Do not grieve the Holy Spirit...' (Ephesians 4:30 NIV). The Bible likens the Holy Spirit to a dove, and a dove is gentle. It will not land on a nest that's out of order. Think about it!

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### Oasis Christian Fellowship



**Second** Sunday of Every Month At the home of Shirley and Peter Massey

1801 Chemin des Pailles **LOGUES**

**Fourth** Sunday in the **COGILIN** area

0494 739337 0687940483

See **OASIS** home Page to receive the Word for Today **EVERY DAY** [www.arc-en-provence/oasis](http://www.arc-en-provence/oasis)

## In Jesus Name

### Some Thoughts On Prayer



Prayer changes things. A person who spends time with God in prayer will not remain the same person. One cannot consistently and sincerely pray without becoming a better person. As we spend time in God's presence opening ourselves to God's will and God's direction we will inevitably become more like God wants us to be. We will become more Christ-like in our attitudes and our actions. We will find the strength to forgive, the courage to face the future unafraid and the agape love to go the second and third miles in doing for others.

### Please remember in your prayers .....

**For those in need** , physically, emotionally and in any other way, that they may be supported and surrounded by love and friendship; For Anne Marguerite after a fall, for Margery and for John after their recent loss. For Chris, Ian and Steph, and for the safe return of Madelene McCann and the hostages in Iraq and all grieving families. For the homeless and starving in Darfur and other places of war and poverty.

**For the church**, that it may be renewed and inspired by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of its leaders and members.

**For Oasis** as a second get together is planned near **COGOLIN on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** (more later)

**For the encouragement of French/English** and Catholic and Protestant initiatives, that we can grow together in our community in prayer and worship.

**For ourselves**, that we may be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ may be known and shared

## DIARY DATES

**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>** is the Eve of the Fete de Notre Dame. At 8.30pm we gather at the Collegial church in Logues and process to the **Chapel Notre Dame de Florièye** at the end of our drive, where Mass is said at 10pm. Afterwards we are coming here to our home for a **Pot d'Amitié** , you are all very welcome.

**Sep 9<sup>th</sup> Harvest Celebration and Barbecue**

# BELIEVE IT OR NOT

## John Wesley and a strange warming in his heart !

**Think about John Wesley.** He was a spiritually dead pastor and missionary of the Church of England. He spent years desperately trying to minister to people what he himself did not have, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He had ritual and religion, but not a relationship with God. In his heart he knew he wasn't saved. But he didn't know how to be saved because he wasn't sure what the gospel



was. But one strategic evening on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1738 he reluctantly went to a little church gathering where his life was to be forever changed. Later he wrote in his journal what happened that night; he wrote. **"I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change that God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ--Christ alone for my salvation. And an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins and death."** God did it again! He saved a man, and this man now was to go on and to touch the world. John Wesley, after he was saved, went on to be used by God to start a revival in the New England colonies of America that began to be such an infernal of revival--the blaze was so great that it's still known today as the **"Great Awakening."** and hundreds of thousands of people were saved. The awakening went over to Europe. It was a marvellous move of God's Spirit. One of the most amazing things in the history of the Church over the past 2,000 years is that most if not all of the great revivals and reformations and **spiritual** awakenings of the Church of Jesus Christ can be traced back to the book of Romans.

Wesley travelled and preached for the rest of his life, largely rejected by the church to which he was ordained. He started with others the Methodist church and committed without qualification his life in service to his Lord and Master.

**Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit says the Lord**

## The Christian's Secret

*Understanding the Spirit-filled life.*

By Steven L. Pogue

Have you ever wondered why so many Christians don't act like Christians? Does living the Christian life seem impossible? Let me tell you a secret--it *is* impossible--on our own. Trying to live the Christian life by your own efforts is like a ship on dry land...just doesn't work very well. For the ship to get anywhere, it needs to be resting on the water. And to enjoy the Christian life, one needs to learn on how rest in God. Paul knows this: "For I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me strength and power" (Philippians 4:13).



The Christian's secret to a consistent life is for Christ to live His life through us: "I have been crucified with Christ: and I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the real life I now have within this body is a result of my trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

It was during Christ's final evening with His disciples that He told them He would be leaving them, but they would not be left alone: "But the fact of the matter is that it is best for you that I go away, for if I don't, the Comforter won't come. If I do, he will – for I will send him to you" (John 16:7).

**We have been given someone to enable us to live the Christian life bravely – the Holy Spirit. He isn't just a guide at the information booth along the heavenly trail: He is the Spirit of Christ – come to live in us.**



## **The readings used for Oasis in May**

**Prayer for the day**\_\_Gracious God, hear us as our hearts speak to you in the peace of this place. Christ, whose heart is both welcoming and protecting, Pour out your Spirit on each one of us: Speak to us, mould us, reveal within us the things that will make us whole.

**And we will wait together, forgive one another as you forgave us,  
And we will praise you together. Amen.**

### Scripture Readings

#### **Isaiah 61**

##### ***The Year of the Lords Favour***

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

#### **Acts 2 verse 14**

##### **Peter Speaks to the crowd**

And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people. Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters: your young men will see visions and your old men dream dreams. When the time comes I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, both men and women and they will prophesy. I'll set wonders in the sky above and on the earth below. Blood and fire and smoke will turn the sun black and the moon red. Before the day of the Lord arrives, the day tremendous and marvellous, whoever calls out for help to me will be saved.

## **Acts 6**

### **A man full of the Spirit**

So friends, choose seven men from amongst you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we'll assign them this task, and we'll stick to preaching and speaking God's word. The congregation thought this was a great idea and they chose, Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit; Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas a convert from Antioch. They were presented to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them and commissioned them for the task. The word of God prospered; and the number of disciples increased dramatically.