

AFAN VOICE



EGLWYS FEDYDDIEDIG EBENESER ABERAFAN
EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH ABERAVON

HAF 2014
SUMMER 2014

UNEXPECTED LESSON!

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly sitting and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, *Hi*. I looked around and saw a man whose trousers were baggy, his shirt dirty and his hair uncombed and unwashed. *Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster*, the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, *What do we do?*

Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. We ate in silence; all except for Erik. We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's *pick-me-up* position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man.



ABERAFAN

Suddenly Erik laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, *You take care of this baby*. Somehow I managed, *I will*, from a throat that contained a stone.

He pried Erik from his chest, lovingly and longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, *God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift*. I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. I was saying, *My God, my God, forgive me*.

I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I felt it was God asking, *Are you willing to share your son for a moment?* when He shared His for all eternity. How did God feel when he put His baby in our arms 2000 years ago. The clothes on your back or the car that you drive or the house that you live in does not define you at all; it is how you treat your fellow man that identifies who you are.

...unless you change and become like little children... (Matthew 18:3)

MISSION STATEMENT/DATGANIAD CENHADOL

To proclaim the Word of God in order to make Him known to people and so extend His Kingdom
I gyhoeddi Gair Duw er mwyn ei wneud Ef yn adnabyddus i bobl ac felly estyn Ei Deyrnas

ACTIVITIES LIST/PRAYER POINTS

- Sunday (*Sul*) 11am & 6pm: Service (*Oedfa*)
- Sunday (*Sul*) 11am: Sunday School (*Ysgol Sul*)
- Monday (*Llun*) 6.30pm: Prayer Meeting (*Cwrdd Gweddi*)
- Tuesday (*Mawrth*) 2pm: Bible Study (*Astudiaeth Feiblaidd*)
- First & Third Wednesday of month (*Y Cyntaf a'r Trydydd Mercher o'r mis*) 2.30pm: Sisterhood (*Chwaeroliaeth*)
- Thursday (*Iau*) 4.30pm: Children's Club (*Clwb Plant*)
- Friday (*Gwener*) 9.30am: Coffee Morning (*Bore Coffi*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



- ☞ A Service was held for residents (and staff) at Sŵn-y-Môr on Tuesday 24 June at llam.
- ☞ A Food Bank under the auspices of the Trussell Trust is currently being set up in Port Talbot under the direction of local churches. It is a sad reflection on our society that such a provision is needed in our country today but the involvement of the church demonstrates God's love for people in action.
- ☞ We prayerfully remember those of you from our fellowship in a home or hospital. Carl Hurley is recovering following his hospital surgery, Amy Richards is currently in hospital but Marion Harris has returned home.
- ☞ We sympathize with Jacqueline Tomlinson in the death of her sister Mary Williams, the members of the family of Barbara Rock in their bereavement and the members of the family of Helen Hulse in their grief.

CONGRATULATIONS:



Our congratulations to the following people on their birthdays:

Kenneth Harwood	7 June	David Romaniw	19 July
Amy Richards	12 June	Lisa Hearn	20 July
June George	15 June	Joan Clifford	21 July
Meirwen Stephens	16 June	Susan Holmes	24 July
Elaine John	25 June	Howard James	4 August
Kenneth Rees	25 June	Tony Lee	5 August
Gwyneth Lane	28 June	David Jenner	9 August
Anne Gray	14 July	Irene Lewis	14 August
Fiona Jayne Hamilton Mills	14 July	Enid Ridsdale	18 August

Our congratulations to David Romaniw on winning a school rugby cap for Wales against the Netherlands.

Gweinidog/Minister: Peter Davies

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