

Nettleham Methodist Church – Cell Material

Week beginning: 11th January 2009

Theme: The Flight into Egypt – Matthew 2:13-18

Welcome

This passage is one of those in the Bible which, although appearing amongst much more famous material such as the visit of the Magi, is often overlooked and “missed”. Share with each other your favourite obscure or overlooked Bible passage.

Word

- 1) Have you ever heard a Christian say that anyone who has enough faith will never be ill, poor or troubled? If someone were to put this point of view to you, what Scripture passages could you point them to which might make them think again?
- 2) Herod thought that baby Jesus was a threat because he was reputed to be the new “King of the Jews”. How was Jesus’ Kingdom different from Herod’s and in what sense do we Christians live in Jesus’ Kingdom now?
- 3) The Magi and Joseph heard from God in dreams [verses 12 and 13], and acting on the messages they received saved the infant Jesus’ life. If we believe God is telling us something, how can we try to make sure that we are really hearing from God, and not just making it all up?

Worship/ Prayer

Sing or listen to Graham Kendrick’s song “How Long” or a similar song that speaks of faith through hard times.

If you have access to the internet then visit one or more of the following websites. They each have prayer points and information on how to support the persecuted church.

<http://www.releaseinternational.org>

<http://www.csw.org.uk/portal.htm>

or <http://www.barnabasfund.org/>

Why not spend some time praying for some specific situations which you read about on these websites?

Witness

It’s often said that Christians in countries where persecution for faith is common are more committed and more likely to witness to their neighbours. Why do you think this is, and what can we learn from our brothers and sisters in the suffering churches?