

# Straight Talk

**W**ell, it is continuing

The wave of the Spirit continues to roll across the country, disrupting the traditions and patterns of hundreds of churches. Pastors and leaders of all persuasions are stepping back and acknowledging Christ as Lord of their gathering.

The manifestations range from exuberant laughter and celebration to deep weeping and cries of intercession. Some think it is dangerously close to fanaticism.

Some years ago

I was on a beach in the south of England and saw quite a large, jolly faced man with a handkerchief knotted at four corners on his head. A piece of paper was on his nose to keep it from burning, his trousers were rolled half way up his legs, and he was paddling in the water just over his ankles. He was content to paddle while around him were hundreds of people in swimsuits bathing happily, splashing each other and crashing through the waves.

I thought of that this week with regard to this present time of refreshing. There are those who have thrown themselves fully into all that God is doing, while there are those who want in but not too far, just in case the waves crash over them. They want the blessing but they don't want anything in the church to change. They stand fully dressed, in their traditions and patterns, but in order to accommodate what is going on and taste of God's blessing, they think :

Let's just roll up our trousers to the knees, let's paddle.



Bryn

Put on a swimsuit?

Not likely! We don't want to go too far do we?

What if the sea gets rough or people start expecting me to get in deeper? The church board or denomination might think I am going extreme, plus all I have ever wanted theologically or ecclesiastically I want to keep. Let's not change anything.

With the blessing there comes a challenge. If we are to continue to move in what God is doing then we need to ask ourselves some hard questions. Do you want things to remain as they always were or do you want whatever God is doing? Are you prepared to adjust for progress, even if the adjustment virtually means a total reorientation of thought and reorganisation of church programmes?

*'Every move of God has its challenge. It will not be in the enjoyment of the refreshing. It will be in surrendering to the lordship of Christ over everything from here on out.'*

PS: Oh, by the way . . . . . This is not a time for 'skinny dipping'.

Word and Spirit belong together.

We must feed the flock as well as nurture it.

It is never a case of either the Spirit or the word. They are twinned together.

Bryn Jones