

The Luxury of Jesus

The Luxury of Jesus Welcomes: Rev Dr Michael Bassett

Write up Blog (by Ruth Jacob The Luxury of Jesus Volunteer) July 2017.

For our July meeting, The Luxury of Jesus was graced with a true man and minister of God, Michael Bassett. Sharing his testimony and conversion, he portrayed living proof that Jesus came into the world to call all men unto Himself.

Bassett's story started back in the swinging 60's in Soho, London. He gave details of its notoriously seedy history and reputation. He painted a picture of an active area, clearly noted for being a red light district. Police vices were rife, leading to several injustices taking place. Eventually led to a major up haul of the system, known as Operation Countryman.

It looked like Jesus would be the furthest person from someone revelling in such a lifestyle. But it's proof that with God "...*All things are possible...*" Due to the trappings of his notorious lifestyle, Bassett was familiar with fast women, fast cars and fast cash. Drugs and criminal activities were common place and run ins with the police were mainly to provide tip offs to foil arrest attempts.

It was at this point that Bassett decided to leave the familiar surroundings in the UK. He made his first move of many to LA. He maintained a similar lifestyle of glamour and dated a well known American actress. Everything was looking wonderful and on a continuous high.

But one fateful evening in 1975 while getting ready for a night out at a club he heard about Jesus through a TV programme. Describing the incident, he poignantly stated that God caught his attention by speaking his language – using a gambling reference, which he was familiar to having come from a gambling background in the UK. It was a spark that started a life changing chain of events. He immediately followed the call from the preacher on TV and gave his life to Christ.

Straight after, he travelled to the club where he met a woman and asked her if she knew anything about Jesus. Surprisingly, through this conversation, he was led to a Bible Class, which he attended with the woman a few days later and continued developing the relationship further. He correctly stated that "Jesus meets you anywhere - even in a club."

Bassett continued attending the Bible meetings for the next six weeks, after which it was transferred to his house. Around 50 people who came to hear him speak at the Bible meetings, which he simply started by reciting the LORD'S prayer. Straight away, he sensed the Holy Spirit's power.

Some time later, he was able to move back to the UK and felt the leading of the Holy Spirit directing him to get a job selling cars at the Ford dealership. His first attempt was unfruitful, leading him to question whether God really directed this choice. After getting this knock back he was directed to a different car dealership and was able to start working there a few days later!

He soon felt the Spirit working through different parts of his life, such as his relationship with women. He prayed for understanding and asked God to take away all ungodly desires as he waited expectantly to meet his wife. He desired to maintain a Godly relationship and wanted the woman he married to be saved before they were united. The day he laid eyes on the woman who would be his wife, Denise, he knew instantly that she was the one. Although she wasn't saved at this time. They developed a friendship, while Bassett continued praying for her salvation.

One evening when they were driving past a Church when Denise saw the cross and received a revelation of Jesus Christ, bringing her to tears. The union was set. They were married and have been together for more than 40 years.

As his faith grew, the realisation of his human failures made him realise his weakness without God. He fell in remorse and cried out apologising and led by the LORD, he was immediately delivered and released from the grip and guilt of sin. He recalled that, "*God is with those who are broken and contrite.*"

His ministry and career have taken him all over the world including to France and a period back in LA where he extended his ministry work. He has worked in a number of industries ranging from car sales to the entertainment industry and most profoundly in Christian ministries.

Since his conversion to Christianity, Bassett has been involved in many initiatives such as starting and pastoring Victory Church, based in central London and launching the Hampstead Bible School. He also holds an honorary doctorate from Harvest Bible College.

Bassett is a living example of a life lived simply following the leading of God's voice in a humble and child-like manner. For Jesus Himself directly points out in Matthew 18:3 that we can only enter Heaven if we have a child-like attitude.

He also consistently confirms that he lives by the Spirit, not the letter of the law. He warned that as we learn to follow Church doctrine and can end up losing the free flow of the Spirit.

His testimony and lifestyle are encouraging examples showing that we should simply trust in God to answer and direct us, even when the outcome is so unclear.