

42. Reaffirmation of Infant baptism.

During 2010, I indicated to our vicar that I wished to reaffirm my infant baptism. I was put on the list and was told that I'd need to wait until improvements to our church were completed so I could be baptized in the new baptistery. Once the improvements were completed, a date was set, 13 March 2011.

As the date drew closer, I became convinced I was doing the right thing. I was asked to prepare a testimony as to why I wanted to reaffirm my baptism and so I prepared the following testimony.

'I was baptised a few months after my birth in the Hervormde church in Woerden, the birth town of both my parents. I believe I was then filled with the Spirit. My parents promised to raise me in a Godly manner which they have done and to whom I am extremely grateful. I on the other hand, have allowed ungodly characteristics and qualities to creep in over time, qualities such as impatience, non tolerance, self-centredness and lack of compassion. For quite some time I have been thinking that the time has come to firmly indicate that there is no room for these qualities and that I wish to grow in more Godlike qualities.'

The church was packed. I sat near the front supported by my son and a friend. The time for my testimony arrived. I got up off my seat and made my way forward to the front of the church where we have two broad steps. I was determined to get onto the top step unaided by anyone. The Lord however was with me as I ascended the steps which only a year before would not have been possible. According to a member of our church, the whole church was behind me and silently prayed that I would be able to manage. It is such a wonderful feeling to know how much the church supports me. Once on the top step in a line with the other candidates, I faced the church, which I estimated to be about 400 people. As we waited for our turn to give our testimonies, I looked at all the happy and smiling faces. By slowly looking around at each person in turn made me more comfortable and less anxious. It finally came to my turn and as I was accustomed, I started with a wise crack, which always helps to put me more at ease, "*Last but not least*" and started my testimony. This followed basically in the same vane to what I had planned except towards the end when I said something like, "*these ungodly characteristics can now go to hell and be replaced by more love.*"

After going back to my seat, my left side started shaking or juddering uncontrollably. This uncontrolled shaking was something new, something I had not experienced before. When I got home that evening, after a lovely Greek style lunch with my home group, I could hardly stand. The following day however, my left leg felt stronger with no further problems or shaking. When I got into the baptistery I did not experience anything different, possibly also due to me being well accustomed to water and going under.

The only conclusion I can come to is that the Spirit entered me in His time and did not wait for the actual baptism but rather chose to enter me after my public statement. After each of us were baptized we stood dripping with a towel around us facing the congregation who were asked to bring forth any words that were given to them. Someone in the congregation recorded these words for me:-

'I will be the wind beneath your wings'
'Relax in me first'

'Trust in the lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding - in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight Proverbs 3: 5+6'

'Rejoice in the lord always; I will say it again: rejoice! etc from Phil 4:4-7'

'Isaiah 43:18+19 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?'

'Jesus shall reign where're the sun doth its successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more (301)'

'He fulfils his promises, your faithfulness will be rewarded. I will restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten away, I will restore you and I have promised. I will not forget you nor forsake you.'

An audio recording was also made on the church's new fantastic system, a copy of which I have to keep.

For me it was a moving and memorable day.