



## TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN BESRA

*The news of Benjamin's death came as a shock to those of us who knew and loved him. We knew him to be a quiet spoken gentleman and a devoted husband and father.*

*He was constantly seeking prayers on behalf of his beloved wife Modlin who suffers so much with illness. I will never forget his prayers on my behalf following my diagnosis some years ago. He loved the fellowship of God's people and opened his home to those whose desire it was to pray and to worship the Lord.*

*Whenever he encountered a difficulty that he felt was in his power to resolve, he did not hesitate to intervene. Those who had the privilege of knowing him will also remember his testimony as he was baptized along with his daughter Sharon. They will remember his gospel songs around the campfire in Castledaly manor.*

*It was a sad day in November 2018 when he and Modlin left Ireland to return to India. Now he has departed from this life, but our sure hope is that he is now present with the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers surround Modlin and Sharon at this time of grief and sadness.*

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." -*

**Romans 8:38-39**

## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Week 15

*Confidence, Conviction and Communion ... by Billy*

### **READ : ACTS 4:13-22**

- **CONFIDENCE.** It is clear from the start that their confidence was derived from God and not themselves. (Acts 4:8)
  - Education stimulates the mind and experience inspires practical solutions but the Holy Spirit changes the heart.
  - These men had not learned the Rabbinic tradition and were uneducated. (v.13)
  - Confidence in God's power was so crucial to the early church that they gathered to pray for a continuous supply. (Acts 4:29)
  - *'They didn't pray for the defeat of the evil forces or even for their own safety but rather for boldness and for the hand of God to heal and perform signs and wonders.'* (Gempf)
  - Later the apostle Paul asked the Ephesian church to pray for him that he would preach the word with such confidence. (Eph.6:19)
- **CONVICTION.** Such confidence in God led to conviction.
  - They could not remain as silent witnesses but had *"to speak of those things which they had both seen and heard."* (v.20)
  - There is a duty of worship and proclamation on the churches part which is prior to the rights of the State.
  - The day when this is directly forbidden is the day when the church must stand up and resist.
- **COMMUNION.** 23-31 It all started with the prayer meeting.
  - If we are not willing to pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit there will be little confidence or conviction in our life. ■