



Sorry love, God's calling me to celibacy

Jason's girlfriend could hardly believe what she was hearing. But Jason knew he couldn't run from God's higher call for his life.

"IT WAS IN prison six years ago, when I was eighteen, that I first heard the gospel," said Jason, "but it didn't seem to make much impression on me and when I was released I fell back into drug taking.

I was stoned one day and I began thinking about God. I just knew that He was real. I lay crying on my bed and I knew, I had to give my life to God.

"I had always longed to be married, to give my life whole-heartedly to a person. The day that I came to the Lord I knew the call to celibacy. I knew I would not marry. After my conversion I backslid for a while and found a girl friend. The call to celibacy stayed with me though! I knew God was on my back! In the end I had to tell her 'I'm called to celibacy!'"

Jason returned to the Lord and joined the Jesus Fellowship. In January 1995 he made his celibate vow. "I haven't stopped growing since then," he said. "Once I had looked for comfort and friendship in a woman. I'm finding that more and more in God. You have to really work at your relationship with Him, though. Being a celibate, it's you and God. You've got to have a strong brotherhood around you too! Otherwise you do get lonely.

"When you are celibate you long for people to find God! Celibacy enables you, in an undivided



Jason says it's not always easy, but God gives grace for your calling, celibacy or marriage

way, to pour yourself into the church. As a celibate you are in a position to listen and to learn from God without distraction. When Isaiah was called the Lord said 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Isaiah said 'Here am I! Send me!' As a celibate with no earthly ties, you can always be in that position. Just ready to go!"

"It's not easy at times but what God calls you to, He gives grace for, whether marriage or celibacy," said Jason. "For me the call to celibacy is always there, deeply planted in my life. To go against it is to go against God. It's not a passing fashion! It's not like an old pair of trainers that you throw away when you've finished with them! It is, as it says in Romans, God's irrevocable gift and calling! (Romans 11:29)".

From the Editor ...



GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY!

CELIBACY HAS been described recently as the "most radical life-style one can imagine." There is arising a new generation of celibates, men and women who are unattached and who long to sense Him with "undivided devotion." (1 Corinthians 7:35)

These new celibates are also free to get in amongst the pain and heartbreak of people in the UK and bring love to them. They are ready to get their hands dirty in reaching out to the lonely and excluded, weeping with those who weep and suffering with those who suffer.

This radical calling is more needed than ever as many today are open to God and looking for spiritual reality.

Huw Lewis

Joy in the journey

'THERE IS nothing dreary and doubtful about it. It is meant to be continually joyful. It is a soldiers' life. Those who catch the vision are ready to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.'

Amy Carmichael

Call to prophetic celibate men

IF WE'RE in love with God, we'll be in love with His church.

Prophetic celibate men! I long for us to move strongly in our gifting. Prophetic celibate men should be the vanguard of the church, leading and paving the way, front-runners in the onward move of God.

A celibate brother from the Jesus Fellowship

Wanted: sacrificial singles to win the UK for Jesus!

ONE OF THE persistent calls of God today is for young men and women to be ready to give up everything to see the nation won for Jesus.

By sacrificing the right to marriage, people in their 20's and 30's are becoming more free and available to show the revolutionary love of Jesus in action.

Celibates are break-through men and women, undiluted in their desire to see God's revival spread and the culture of our nation changed. They carry a single desire to see people brought to new life in Jesus and built into His living church.

They are totally committed to follow Jesus wherever He leads them and leave aside all other distractions to be His men and women of fire today.

