An anniversary message from the Pastor:

Looking back and looking forward.

The apostle Peter tells us that “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day.” (2 Peter 3:8) So 150 years is a long time but in the economy of God it is but a blink of an eye and yet it is also an immeasurable period of time! In that 150 years our world has changed in some amazing ways – science and technology have developed in ways that the folk who got together to found our fellowship, and then to build a chapel on Breck Road, could never have imagined. And yet despite the advances in knowledge and human understanding we still live in a world that would be spiritually familiar to our predecessors. What the Bible says about human nature and God’s love has not been superseded by changes in life-styles and the gospel message that was preached in 1865 remains the same. We may use some newer songs, modern translations of the Bible, different musical instruments and new technology in our worship but the One we worship remains the same: “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever!”

As Richmond Chapel and Schools were being built the surrounding neighbourhood was described as “of late rapidly increasing in population” there was a vast amount of building going on and it continued into the 20th century only being interrupted by the Great War. Many of those properties have now been replaced by newer homes and change is underway once more in Anfield and Everton. However the most important change that is needed for society, for families and for individuals is the change that Jesus brings. That is why Richmond Baptist Church started in the first place: to bring Good News to the people who lived in this burgeoning suburb. There is a sense of sadness in celebrating 150 years of a church building that is no longer a church building but the folk who built Richmond Chapel were reminded that they were not the first Baptists to bring the gospel to this area, 150 years earlier there had been a Baptist presence in Anfield. The founders of RBC were walking in earlier footprints as we now walk in theirs.

And so 300 years after that first “mission,” although we may find interest and perhaps a degree of sadness in looking back, our primary need is to look forward as a new “mission” unfolds in an almost literal sense – The Good News Mission project is almost “on the starting blocks.” It seems to have taken a long time to get to where we are but tenders for the work should be in the hands of the Surveyors on the day after our 150th anniversary celebrations. The future progress of the work has yet to be agreed but I am convinced that this is the Lord’s doing and that He will provide, as He did in the years and months leading up to September 1865. I have, in front of me, a copy of an appeal for the final £2,000 needed for the work of building the Breck Road premises. The Lord provided that amount and although the financial demands of the Good News Mission project are numerically greater (inflation in 150 years having taken its toll!) the God who met the need then is able to meet our
current need. For just as a thousand years is as a day so is £1,000 as 1 penny to the Lord who made the universe!

Once the building work is done that is not the end. Our mission continues because the only justification for this project is that the gospel may be shared with people in this area which was described in 1864 as “one of the most important suburbs of Liverpool.” The commercial wealth that once was evident may have gone but to God this is still an “important suburb” for the simple reason that people live here whom Jesus died to save. As we move forward into another 150 years of Christian witness may we look forward prayerfully to seeing people being added to the Kingdom of God as so many have been in the previous 150, and in the 150 before that.

John McLaren.

Looking back.

Photo above: The original Richmond Baptist Church.

The original Richmond Baptist church was built in Breck Road Liverpool and opened in 1865. In 2009 the church was sold due to the requirement for extensive unaffordable repairs and the congregation moved to our current rented venue in the church hall of Oakfield Methodist church in Oakfield Road.

Looking Forward.

Photo above: Good News Mission – our future new home.
We can announce the exciting news that after several years of renting a hall for our services, we will potentially have our own premises again in the not too distant future. The Good News Mission on Oakfield (above) has been gifted to us, however there is a great deal of work and cost required to get the building to an acceptable standard. We firmly believe this is God’s Will and have faith that the funds can be raised. Please pray for us and watch our website for news.