



Beach SPECIAL

THE RESCUE EDITION

Free!



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www.thebeachteam.org

Since the 1950s, our teams of volunteers have been helping to make a positive difference to beach holidays. From Llandudno to Llandudno, from Whitby to St Ives, holidaymakers have appreciated our mixture of wholesome family fun and lively Christian teaching.



We hope that you and your family will want to join in as well! Depending on where you meet the Beach Team, you might find children's games, sports, face painting, puppets, plastic duck racing or sand modelling. Flex your muscles in preparation for our tug-of-war, practice to impress your kids in the penalty shoot-out, or don your waterproofs for the water quiz in our afternoon programme. 'Holiday Specials' contain a fast-moving mix of quizzes, songs, Bible stories, competitions and more. It's free to join in and it would be great to see you there!



This year's 'Beach Special' magazine takes the theme of 'rescues', and is filled with interesting stories, fun facts and free offers. We hope you enjoy it!

Free offers for you!

Free Book!

Beyond Beans on Toast

A book for university students that provides tips on how to survive, recipes that make the budget taste sweeter and real stories that reveal the abundant life that Jesus brings!

Free DVD!

Discovering: Real Lives

Stories of people who have all have faced some of life's greatest challenges but their faith in Jesus Christ is something that has been very real to them.

Free DVD!

Discovering: Real Questions

Questions about the Christian faith answered by academics and Bible scholars.

ADVICE

from the Coast Guard

Talk to your child about your immediate surroundings to help them find their way back if they do get lost, or tell them to go to the lifeguards if there are any.



The lifeguards may operate a wristband scheme. If not, write your mobile number on your child's hand - if they are found by someone else they can let you know where they are.

INTRODUCING... JOEL



Joel Harding's family have been involved with the Beach Team for many years and Joel himself has been on more than 20 teams. He works as a coastguard in Holyhead.

You weren't born in Wales, so what brought you to live in Holyhead?

I was born in Bedfordshire, grew up in Rochdale, and went to Glasgow university. When I joined HM Coastguard, I was initially stationed at Great Yarmouth, but after a few years transferred to Holyhead to be closer to the girl who later became my wife.

What does a day in the life of a Coastguard officer look like?

We do 12 hour shifts, days and nights, during which we are always ready to take 999 and radio distress calls. HM Coastguard controls all civil maritime search and rescue on the UK coast and waters, as well as undertaking counter-pollution work and broadcasting routine safety information. We are separate from the RNLI but we do call out and control the lifeboats, along with our own rescue teams and helicopters. We work alongside other agencies and emergency services. The incidents we deal with can range from searching for missing children on beaches, to rescuing sinking yachts, and occasionally even bigger ships that get into difficulties. The Maritime & Coastguard Agency is responsible for all safety at life at sea, including things like inspecting the ferries you may well be travelling on this summer.

You've been a Beach Team member, so how long have you been a Christian?

I became a Christian when I was a child - I'm not sure exactly when, but I do know that I wasn't born a Christian, and neither did the fact that I was brought up by Christian parents make me a Christian. It was a decision that I had to make personally.

Free Book!

Every One a Winner

Every One a Winner is a collection of true stories about sportsmen and women past and present, including Dan Walker. Each one has found a meaning and a purpose to life that goes beyond sport

What was it that brought you to believe the good news about Jesus?

I knew, even as a child, that I had done things which went against God's law, and that I needed forgiveness for this. I knew that Jesus could be the substitute for my punishment for those sins, through his death on the cross, and that I was sorry for having done things that hurt the God who loved me so much.

You married a Welsh girl, so are you learning to speak Welsh?

Dw i'n dysgu Cymraeg, ond yn araf iawn - languages never were my strong point!

You have a young daughter, Georgie, who needed a heart operation shortly after birth. How did your Christian faith help at that time?

She was born with a narrowing of the aorta and complete AVSD. This required an operation when she was 9 days old and kept her in intensive care for her first few weeks. It was a very difficult time for us, but we knew that our God is good, regardless of the outcome. We had a support network of hundreds of Christians all round the world praying for us, and we know that God held us very closely through those challenging days. Praise God, Georgie came through that operation very well, and although she still is awaiting a further op, she's a lively bundle of joy.

What advice would the Maritime and Coastguard Agency give to holidaymakers as they enjoy time at the seaside this year?

Throughout this magazine you'll find a few bits of safety advice for specific situations. The main thing to remember is: If you get into difficulties or see someone in trouble on the seas or coast, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. If you want to know more about having a happy and safe time at the coast, visit <https://coastguardsafety.campaign.gov.uk/>.



RESCUED FROM ABERFAN



Five-year-old Gareth Davies stepped out from his classroom to a bewildering scene. Everything had changed. Nothing was where it should be. The school playground, walls and buildings were suddenly nowhere to be seen.

Minutes earlier, as the morning register was being taken, the children of Pantglas Junior School in Aberfan heard a rumbling sound that quickly became a deafening roar. Then a crushing flood of deadly black slurry crashed through the school, leaving classrooms destroyed and 144 people dead, including 116 children.

Gareth's brother was in one of the classrooms engulfed in the slurry. He was one of only a few children in his class to be pulled out alive that day. But in Gareth's young mind, his main worry was that his mum would be cross that there was now blood on the new jumper she had knitted for him.

The Aberfan disaster of 1966 changed this Welsh village forever. Yet, like many others, Gareth's family buried their memories away, not talking together about what had happened for decades to come.

Gareth grew up as one of the small number of Aberfan children who hadn't been killed or moved away after the disaster. He felt that an unexpressed sense of grief and anger hung over the village. His way of escaping from it was to spend hours in the pool, training as a competitive swimmer.

Later, Gareth was glad to get away from Aberfan by going off to university in Aberystwyth. But tragedy struck again. After his parents had dropped him off at the start of his first term, his father was killed in a car accident

on the way home. How would Gareth escape from the grief? As a competitive swimmer, he hadn't been drunk before, but now alcohol became his escape route.

After university, Gareth began work and got married. When his wife gave birth to a baby boy, he was overjoyed at becoming a father. But his family life came crashing down when he found out that his wife had been unfaithful and the baby was another man's son. Divorce followed, and again Gareth turned to drink as his coping mechanism.

Later, having built up a successful business, a change in legislation led to Gareth's business going bust overnight. He was left to break the news to all the employees, and forced to sell his house and car to deal with the debts. This time, with too little money to turn to drink, recreational drugs became his way of escaping from reality.

Yet despite these setbacks, Gareth always seemed to come out on top in the end. Why would someone like him, who had been through so much, need anyone else to rescue him now? He had made his money again in business and retired early to the Welsh countryside, happily married and a determined atheist.

But his world was shaken again when his wife faced a serious health scare. Everything pointed to cancer and on the day she



ADVICE
from the Coast Guard



Take a photo of your child today - if they go missing you can show the picture to anyone who is helping look for your child so they know who they are looking for and what they are wearing.

If you notice your child is missing, immediately let the lifeguards know.

999

was to get the final results, an appointment was already booked with the surgeon.

But the tests were clear – there was no cancer. They were overjoyed, but for Gareth's wife there was something more. Although she had turned away from her Christian upbringing, she knew her mother and aunt had been praying for her. God's hand was in this.

- **Although he was still an atheist, Gareth enjoyed listening to the sermons and began to understand the Bible's message about God's great rescue plan.**

She came home and started attending a small church nearby. Eventually she persuaded Gareth to join her, and he was impressed by the kindness of the people he met.

Although he was still an atheist, Gareth enjoyed listening to the sermons and began to understand the

Bible's message about God's great rescue plan. What did Gareth need rescuing from? Not just the memory of Aberfan or the tough times he'd been through, but more importantly, the wrong he had done, his sin. A line from a hymn struck home to him: The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Gareth knew he had done wrong against God – although he hadn't seen himself as that bad a person, before God he was still a 'vile offender'. He had lived by his own rules and gone through life denying the existence of God.

But he also realised that the rescue Jesus offered could be his as well – he could receive a pardon from Jesus for his sin. Gareth now trusted in Jesus to forgive him and change him.

But what about Gareth's atheism? Becoming a Christian wasn't a comfortable experience, but when God tapped Gareth on the shoulder, there was no way he could ignore it. He had been happy as an atheist, but he had never used the word 'joy' to describe his life until now. This new joy ran deeper than any tragedy he had been through – and he knew it would stay with him for the rest of his life on earth and beyond it into heaven.

Can you spot these team members in the Egypt Escape picture on page 7



Free Postal Bible Club

Children aged 4 -16 can join a free Postal Bible Club to receive regular Bible stories by post every month.



ADVICE

from the Coast Guard

Never let your child dig deeper than their waist, or into a sand dune, as the hole may collapse, especially as the sand dries out, and this can crush or suffocate anyone who is trapped.

Free CD and Gospel

Sure of Heaven and John's Gospel

John, a disciple of Jesus, wrote an eye witness account of Jesus' life so that we could be 'Sure of Heaven.' Both this CD and edition of John's Gospel describe how Jesus transformed the lives of those He met.

Real Hope



Born in Ireland to a loving family, Emma Scrivener's struggle with an eating disorder began when she was just a young teenager.

Growing up, I didn't feel like I needed rescuing. My parents were there to answer all my questions. But when I was about thirteen, my Grandad died. And this time, Mum and Dad couldn't help me, because they didn't have the answer to death. To me, this was huge. The whole world needed rescue from this thing called death, but no one seemed to have the answers.

Meanwhile, lots of things were starting to change: my body, moving home, getting bullied at school... I had all these needs and wants and no one could answer them. I was desperate for a way to fix things, and anorexia offered that to me. If I was making my body smaller, I was silencing everything else. Instead of worrying about a hundred different questions, what it meant to be a woman, why death happened, what God was all about, there was just one thing to think about – could I be thinner?

It was a way of making sense of myself.

It felt like rescue.

In Belfast in the 1990s, no one knew much about anorexia. I went through quite a bit of treatment that focused on getting back to a good weight, but I never really resolved the issues I had. That meant later on when I'd just got married, started Bible college, and we were moving away for my husband's job, the stress of these changes triggered all the same feelings I'd had when I was younger, and again I got very, very unwell.

One particular evening, my grandmother had passed away and I was too weak to make it to the funeral. I was sitting in front of the fire. I said: Look, Lord I don't really know who you are but I'm at the bottom here. I'm dying. I've tried a million things to make myself work and I can't do it. If you want what there is of me, you can have it.

Opening up the Bible in front of me, I was captured by these verses that described Jesus as a majestic lion, beautiful and strong; but also as a lamb, weak and broken.

In that moment, I realised I didn't need to be frightened and try to take control of my own body, because it already belonged to Him! I didn't need to worry about whether He could cope with all my messiness. This God already knew me, loved me, and had died to give me new life!

Suddenly the most beautiful thing in my life was not anorexia, but Jesus Christ.

With Him, I now had real change, real hope. That's when my real recovery started. This was not only rescue from my eating disorder, but more significantly the heart issues that were there before. Rescue from selfishness, fear, loneliness, all the things that every human experiences. Rescue from wanting to be a 'nicer person' but never quite getting there. This rescue takes you back to who God says you are. And who Jesus is, and how He has come to seek for you and save you. It's not a set of principles that will help, it's about Jesus having done it all! There's nothing more incredible.

Free DVD's!

Discovering: Has Science Killed Christianity?

A set of 3 DVDs of talks are presented by Professor Stephen Taylor, chairman of United Beach Missions, asking whether science and Christianity are enemies or friends..

Discovering: 'So who is this Jesus?'

A DVD split into 6 sections and specifically designed to help you have a better understanding of who Jesus is.

ADVICE
from the Coast Guard



If you do find yourself getting swept out to sea, wave your arms and shout for help, but most importantly, stay with the inflatable - it's a lot easier for a rescuer to spot a big colourful toy than a swimming person, and it'll keep you afloat.

The Greatest RESCUE

Rescue and deliverance are big themes in the Bible. The Israelites are rescued from slavery in the time of Moses; young David saves his people by defeating a huge warrior with a sling and a stone; Daniel is delivered from the den of hungry lions, after three friends survive the overheated furnace without their hair being singed.

God is an amazing rescuer!

Peter's rescue from prison, in Acts 12, is both awe-inspiring and amusing. Peter is sleeping, bound with chains between two soldiers, with sentries guarding the door, when he is woken and led to freedom by an angel. He goes to Mary's house, where some Christians are praying, and is left standing outside by a servant who is so joyful she

forgets to let him in. She runs to tell the others, who don't believe her, and it's only when Peter carries on knocking that they, with amazement, grasp what has happened – perhaps an answer to their prayers, but one they did not expect! Even Peter himself didn't think his rescue was real at first.

All of which reminds us that, when life is difficult, God can do more than we believe or imagine.

But the biggest and best rescue comes through Jesus, who came to 'save his people from their sins'. The Bible talks about Jesus delivering us from 'the domain of darkness'. If you're reading this sitting on a sunny beach, life may not feel dark to you right now, but you will perhaps agree that the world is far from perfect, and that we have

each contributed to this. In thought, word and deed, we are not what we would like to be, and we'd love to have a clean conscience.

But we can! Jesus died in our place, so that we can be forgiven, totally and forever.

Jesus was crucified alongside two others. One of those knew that he had done wrong but that Jesus was innocent. Not only that, he believed that Jesus could help. "Jesus, remember me ..." he said. And Jesus promised him Paradise.

In his dying moments, he was rescued from the eternal consequences of the life he had lived. And this sort of rescue is available to all who come to Jesus.

Egypt Escape!

God rescued a whole nation of people from the wicked Pharaoh who had been treating them as slaves. At first, Pharaoh had agreed to let them go, but then changed his mind and sent his soldiers after them to bring them back. The people were trapped with nowhere to go but God made a path and led them through the Red Sea, so that they could escape the soldiers and safely reach the new land He had promised them.

WIN!

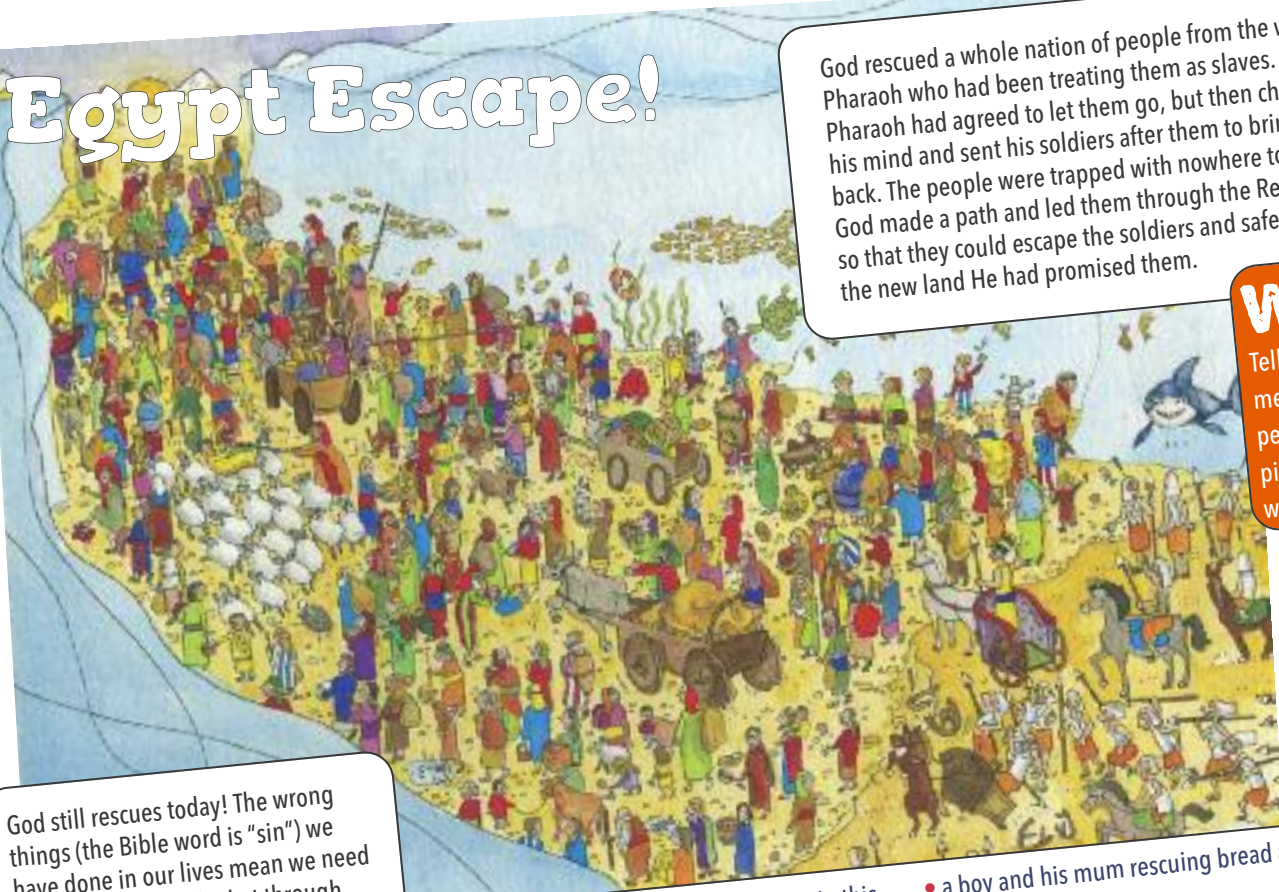
Tell a real beach team member how many people are in this picture and you can win a prize!

God still rescues today! The wrong things (the Bible word is "sin") we have done in our lives mean we need rescuing. God can do that through Jesus who died and rose again. He gives us an incredible relationship with him. It doesn't matter who you are he wants to save you!

How many rescues can you see happening in this picture? Can you spot:

- the people being rescued from Pharaoh?
- the man rescuing the boy from the runaway cart?

- a boy and his mum rescuing bread as it falls off the cart?
 - someone falling over a herd of sheep?
- Can you spot the Beach Team members - one is holding a Beach Special?



Where else will you find The Beach Team operating?



Free Course!

Free correspondence course - Mark Time

We have a totally free correspondence course that about the explores the Bible's message. With the help of a book and CDs you can explore Mark's Gospel in 52 short sessions and have completed lessons marked.

Free Offers!

For any of the free offers featured please visit <http://www.thebeachteam.org/offers.html> or email us: office@thebeachteam.org.

Or write to us at
 United Beach Missions
 c/o EMW
 Waterton Cross Business Park
 South Road
 Bridgend
 CF31 3UL

ADVICE from the Coast Guard

If you see someone getting swept out to sea, don't try and swim after them. Let the beach lifeguards know immediately



Disclaimer: The Beach Team gears its programme to the whole family. We encourage parents to sit nearby, as we cannot take responsibility for the children.