

Just One Candle – WHY?

Back in 2008, Val and I were living on board our narrowboat and travelling on the canals and rivers of England and Wales. Although we had spent many years involved in Christian fellowships, at that time we were not part of any one fellowship and had not even started what became our regular winter mooring in Blisworth, Northamptonshire. We joined in as best we could with whatever fellowships we found as we travelled around the country.

From time to time, different issues would crop up in the news or just in our conversations with each other and other people, and I began to have things that I wanted to say!

There seemed to be so much wrong going on, so many wrong understandings that were being accepted in Christian circles – seemingly without anyone questioning them – and I felt almost powerless to even say anything about these issues, let alone do anything about them.

In order to keep our friends and family up to date with our waterway travels, I had been writing a fairly regular blog, so I had the idea to start another blog where I could share some of the things that were on my heart.

But what to call it? For some reason, the old proverb *“It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”* came to mind. Yes, sometimes I really felt (and still feel) like cursing the darkness around us, the lies and misleading understanding that seem to stalk us all as we seek to learn to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Maybe I should call my blog **‘Just One Candle’**, I thought. Maybe I could not change everything that I wanted to see changed, but at least I could share a little light.

So, on 9th June 2008, I started the blog, with [‘The Right to Change Society?’](#) And gradually I found other topics that I felt strongly about and published those as well.

We returned to Lapford from our waterway travelling at the beginning of 2013, and I posted just one more blog in 2015 before starting the Just One Candle website in late 2016. Here is a [link](#) to the introduction that I posted on the blog.

So, what makes me think that anything I have to say could be worth publishing on a website? I was thinking of a comment that A.W.Tozer makes in the Preface to his little-known book *The Divine Conquest*, which is also sold as *God’s Pursuit of Man*:–

“I lift thankful eyes to God for the men who have taught me to desire the better way . . . among them being quaint old ‘John Smith, M.A.,’ whose name renders him almost anonymous . . . he once thoughtfully published a few of his sermons, one of which, in a happy moment, a veteran missionary kindly placed in my hands.”

My own name is very nearly as anonymous as ‘John Smith’, but I hoped that some of what I shared on the website might be of use to others, in the same way that John Smith's words were useful to Tozer. I realised that I had quite a collection of notes which only a few people had ever seen (and some that no-one had seen!), and that it was just possible that the Lord could use them for a wider audience.

And so the site was born. I really love the fact that only the Lord really knows how many people go to it and read or listen to different parts. I can't really monitor it, and I don't want to, but I hope that it may help to shed a little light where it may be needed.