

*David was the youngest son in his family. His brothers considered him to be insignificant, yet he was chosen by God to be King. He endured much persecution at the hand of Saul, but through it all was obedient to the Lord, and his story is one of victory over the enemies of the Lord's people. After Saul's death he was chosen as King by the people themselves. His prayer of thankfulness is recorded in 2 Samuel 7: 18-21.*

## Love remembers

*Andrew Jessop, Chief Executive*

Then David remembered his love for Saul's son Jonathan. Interestingly, Jonathan means 'gift of God'. "Is there yet any that is left in the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" he asked. He addressed his question to Ziba, a servant who had previously served King Saul. Ziba told him about Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. He did not say his name, just that he was the son of "the gift of God" and he was lame on both his feet and not "fit" for the King's presence. Mephibosheth had been crippled as a child – and we can see the parallels with ourselves here. So King David sent to Lo-Debar, where Mephibosheth was living, to bring him to the King.

Lo-Debar was a poor place; it means the place of no pasture, no doubt arid and inhospitable. In Lo-Debar there were the lost and the cast-outs from Society. It was a town full of forgotten people. The name Mephibosheth implies reproach, or shame.

In contrast King David had a royal position and power, and he was determined to show that love to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. And how great that love was!

Speaking to Mephibosheth, David gave him assurance. 'Fear not', he said, 'I will surely show thee kindness'. Speaking as a King, David was giving a guaranteed love. He also restored to Mephibosheth all the land of Saul, giving him a complete inheritance. And he extended grace and privilege

in saying, 'Thou shalt eat bread at my table'.

All Mephibosheth could do was confess his worthlessness before David, just as we have done when we confessed our sin and lost position to our Lord.

We and our residents share in royal grace and privilege, in that we are all sons and eat at the King's table. What a transformation from the place of 'no pasture' to the King's table! We can also rejoice that we have been brought into the Lord's banqueting house and His banner over us is love.

We often notice in our homes that a little while after the Lord's people come in they begin to look better, because they are being well cared for. It does not take away their age or infirmities, but they do look better.

We care for them because we love them, just as David did Jonathan and Mephibosheth. Our pilgrims are not coming from a Lo-Debar in the historical sense of the word but, like us, earlier in their lives came from a place where we were hobbled by sin and separated from the presence of the King. We care for them as in Matthew 25:40. Yet our care for our brethren is only temporal. The story of David and Mephibosheth is a type of our perfect provision from the Lord which is:

- a) assured,
- b) guaranteed on the basis of love,
- c) with a complete and incorruptible inheritance, and
- d) based on grace – and is a privilege, indeed.

# Hailsham Fellowship walk

*A group of supporters from local churches met together on Saturday 15th May for a Fellowship Walk along the Seafront at Eastbourne.*

The walk from the Sovereign Centre to Holywell and back again took in the Fishing Boat, Sailing Boat and Children's Play areas, past the Pier, the Carpet Gardens, the 1930's Bandstand (we had no music because it was out of season), the Redoubt and then onto the Tearooms at Holywell for a welcome cup of tea. For those of us who were unable to make the



Some of the walkers who took part

return journey on foot, we took a leisurely ride back on the Dotto train.