



SOUTHGATE SNIPPETS

October 2017

I was 5 years old when I was *requested* to regularly attend the Breaking of Bread Service (communion) at Southgate (Albion Hall as it was known then). The service commenced in the main hall at 11am precisely. The finishing time was never really prescribed, but they tried to finish by 12.30pm. Invariably it went on to 1pm. Oooh!

As a young boy I was instructed to sit quietly and listen. I was not allowed toys or books and was expected to sing the hymns. There was no musical accompaniment. Wriggling and fidgeting was unacceptable. Only a couple of other children attended but less regularly than me.

To a child it was the equivalent of 'watching paint dry' and sadly I couldn't wait to be old enough to leave Southgate. Why was I forced to attend dreary services when I could be playing football or cricket with my friends? By the way I did have some friends!

Thankfully God had other plans. As a child of 7, I had made a commitment to follow and serve the Lord Jesus. He was often referred to as 'a friend of little children'. So I made Him *my* friend. However, it wasn't until I was 17 that I realised the significance of making Jesus *my* friend; I discovered He was also *my* Saviour.

Taking the Lord Jesus as Saviour meant I was now under His leadership and command. One of the few commands Jesus made was to 'remember Him' by taking the bread and wine. An important part of my/our service for the Lord is being 'obedient' to his commands!

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.
Luke 22 v19

I have a different attitude towards paint and communion now! Do you?

R. Jones.