

**HALF DAY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENZANCE
HELD ON SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2004 AT THE SALVATION ARMY HALL**

BRIDGING THE GAP

**CHURCH AND SOCIETY
CHURCH AND CHURCH
CHURCH AND OTHER FAITHS**

Reverend Bob Senior challenge our thinking as to where society was going, how values were being dismissed, how the church was or was not effective within society, how churches relate to each other and how as Christians we relate to those of other faiths.

Those present broke into three groups and discussed questions relating to the three headings.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The group reported back that there were several points in which CTIP could/should make a difference.

- We needed to have recognition of the need – for spirituality
- We could hand out leaflets at ‘healing conventions’ or market stalls so that general public became aware that the churches were also about ‘healing’
- We need to be more pro-active in displaying what the joy and salvation we found within our Christianity.
- It was felt to be beneficial to offer courses to the general public on ‘spirituality through ‘essence’
- Questions raised as to whether ‘Churches Together in Penzance’ should be called ‘Christians Together in Penzance.’
- We need to communicate through pamphlets, leaflets and posters – who we are, where we are, and what we are about.

CHURCH AND CHURCH

We need to have tolerance one with another and greater understanding of the ways in which each Christian group worships. There should be greater interaction between various denominational groups.

The example was given that – its like driving from Penzance to Plymouth. Each of us in our Christian membership might go by different routes to get to our destination, but we are all heading for the same place. In other words we all worship the same God.

CHURCH AND OTHER FAITHS

The Group highlighted a variety of points and statements which are listed below

- Do we feel threatened by the concept of inter-faith dialogue?
- Schools and faith teaching has made big difference to changes in the religious curriculum.
- Should faith only be taught by those who practice it?
- Do we know the wrong things about other faiths?
- What do we mean when we use the word ‘salvation’
- Where does eternal salvation fit in?
- We should let God be God.