

NEWSFLASH: Heritage Chronicles

NEWSFLASH SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

CSEP Prize Giving, 7th July 2007

AMAZING GRACE

The Hymn “Amazing Grace” was written by John Newton a slave ship captain between 1760 and 1770.

In the hymn he expressed his feelings about god’s forgiveness of his sinful past. During the first 30 years of his life Newton was indeed a “wretch” an unhappy miserable mean person.

Newton acknowledged God when the ship in which he was serving was caught in a terrible storm. Newton asked God for help “Lord have mercy upon us”. Miraculously Newton and his ship were saved. Newton wrote later “I began to know that there is a god who hears every prayer”.

Despite his experience Newton continued to work at buying and selling slaves. Newton left the slave trade in 1754 not because he believed it was wrong but because of illness and because he didn’t like to be separated from his family.

Later in life Newton became ashamed of his part in the buying and selling of slaves. He believed that the death of his wife and the illness of his daughter were punishment for his past activities.

Eventually Newton became convinced that slavery was morally wrong and argued for its abolition. Amazing Grace has become a very popular hymn sang by all races all over the world for all different occasions eg. Weddings, funeral, pop concerts football matches civil rights marches and at the famous “FREE Nelson Mandela” concert in 1990.

OH FREEDOM

The song “Oh Freedom” was sung by slaves in America who were dreaming of a time when they would be an end to slavery