

It was the summer of 1980 that I purchased a book called 'Man in Black', which was the autobiography of Johnny Cash. The book tells of the ups and downs of his life and how he came to a real life-changing faith and how he witnessed to that faith.

One of the songs which Johnny Cash recorded is called 'A boy called Sue' and it tells the story of why a boy was called Sue in order to make him a tough man. This was brought to mind in that an old school friend of mine has recently passed away and it was his funeral on Monday. Neil Haywood was always known as Herky even by the staff who worked for him as he was Managing Director of a packaging company. The nickname started at infant school when he and two friends had a competition to see how many bricks they each could carry. Neil easily won the competition and hence was called Hercules which was very quickly shortened to Herky. I got to thinking how much the name or nickname of a person can influence their personality or profile. Neil was always a strong, big lad hence the nickname which he had for nearly all his life.

The name Jesus was given had been given to Mary by an angel. The name Jesus means Saviour as in the Old Testament name of Joshua. It is I believe the Greek version of that Hebrew name. I thought what an apt name for Jesus is indeed the Saviour of us from our sins if we acknowledge him and commit ourselves to him.

Johnny Cash lived a very eventful and full life, his sins were forgiven and he now abides in his Father's kingdom,  
I'm sure any of us who have had children have given careful thought to the names we have given them, maybe family names or names with a meaning.

Let us remember what the name of Jesus means and be sure that we know him as our own personal saviour.

Philip Slater