

Inspiration

November 2016

Cover Drawn by
Anna Talbot

*'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and
you will find, knock and the door will be
opened to you.' Matthew 7:7*

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Welcome to this issue of "Inspiration" our monthly church magazine, designed to keep you informed of all that's going on here at Grace.

New birth is exciting and at the same time it can be a time of worry. The reason for this is because what happens next is unknown. Our lives, in reality, rarely change from the routine of life and you probably know both what you're going to be doing every day this week and what you're going to be eating. This is why those events which bring something different become so important, like the family holiday. But every now and again something happens which will change your life for ever.



I remember when I passed my driving test. I was 27 years old and my eldest daughter and second child had just been born. Up until that point to get around we had always travelled on public transport, walked or were driven by friends and family. But once I had a driving licence and my dad very kindly sold me his car we could go places as a family. Our world got bigger and even when we had no money to take the children out we could always drive somewhere and enjoy the view. That was a life-changing event and I struggle to even remember what it was like when I couldn't drive.

New birth is equally and yet probably more life changing to the point of feeling like you're not the same person as you were before that moment. Wording it like that may make it sound terrifying but I suppose that really depends on whether you're a glass half full or half empty kind of a person. The unknown can be terrifying or it can be an adventure, but either way what it definitely is, is potential.

When you look at a new born baby for the first time and after you've gone all ga ga, you're left with a sense of wonderment. What does the future hold, what will they become, what will they see; the possibilities are infinite. Scary as the unknown may seem, I can't help but smile and hope.

Of course new birth can't be limited to the birth of a baby. Regular readers of 'Inspiration' will know that we have been looking to begin a new church in the Lancashire town of Great Harwood. And it was exactly a year ago that I was called by the secretary of Towngate Pentecostal Church to tell me that the final legal paper work was ready and that the handover of keys was to be on the 23rd.

I took our teens to see the building that evening - a neglected shell of a building suffering and bearing the marks of the death of a church and I asked the young people a question. The question I asked was the one the Lord asked Ezekiel, "What do you see"? A scary prospect, a money pit, too much work or do you see the possibilities and its potential.

Ezekiel was looking at a valley full of bones when the Lord said it to him and he answered in the only way any of us can answer in these circumstances, "Lord you know". In that short reply Ezekiel cut across all the pitfalls and fears of the unknown and went straight to the source of the 'all knowing'. In his answer the impossible was possible and his own desires, well intentioned or selfish, didn't get in the way. This is the challenge that comes to us from scripture.

"Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear Jehovah and depart from evil". Proverbs 3:5-7

Ezekiel was looking at a pile of bones - how could they live, it wouldn't be possible. The Lord was showing Ezekiel that this pile of bones represented Israel, ruined, dead and lifeless, yet one day those bones would be knit together and a nation would again exist. Today we look at the fulfilment of that prophecy in a nation, which even in the short years since 1948 there have been several attempts to destroy it but Psalm 2 says 'Why do the nations rage, If God has built the

house who can destroy it'.

We could take such thoughts and apply them to Towngate Church and say can these dead bones live, the answer is the Lord knows and I can say with absolute conviction the Lord has told me they will.

But that's not really the challenge I brought to the youth group or want to bring to you as you read this. Go look in the mirror and now I ask you "what do you see". Let's get away from the superficial, I don't care if your bottom looks big in anything, I'm talking about the you that goes past the flesh. "what do you see". Have you convinced yourself that nothing good dwells from within, maybe that you have done too much for the Lord to be interested in you, do you feel broken down and dead?

Now the answer isn't to just believe in yourself or don't doubt yourself. I am afraid to say that if you feel the weight and conviction of sin then that is right, you did sin and it's proper that you feel remorse. If you then think your sin keeps you from serving God or being allowed in His presence you're also right. Repentance begins with mourning but that mourning won't pay the price for your sin. You are separated from the Lord and no amount of human ingenuity, positive thinking or hard work will change that fact. You are a valley of dry bones, but can those bones live? Yes, they can live, they can be resurrected but for that to be possible Jesus had to be resurrected first. Living a sinless life, dying a criminal's death, shedding blood so that we may go free, dying He paid the price, not you or I,

and rising He makes a promise that where He is you will be also. By Faith we accept that we can't make the dry bones live, only the Lord, the all-knowing one, can. And in accepting that salvation you are born again. Now you have the excitement of new birth.

If you have already accepted that new birth, it still isn't about a positive attitude. When you ask yourself, 'What do I see?', the true and faith filled answer is 'Lord you know'.

Don't be led by what you can see, nor by your desires, be led by the Spirit of God, who sees all things, knows all things and crucially knows the end from the beginning.

Now if those words seem familiar, then I'm glad, because they were what I wrote last October.

At that time Christopher Pearson, had been born, I had to put the newsletter together, and the keys to 3 Town Hall Street, Gt Harwood became ours, as well as legally with the land registry.

Exactly a year on, this Sunday I watched as Christopher took his first ever steps, and my challenge about babies and having so much potential ahead of them seems so much more poignant.

Exactly a year on this Saturday a handful of the men's group loaded the last skip full of debris, rotten timber and old units, including cleaning out the baptistry where the rot in the building began. Now the church is in a position to rebuild. The mould is

still there and it's come with a vengeance, but it is exposed and its treatment is possible. This makes the comments on what can you see, when you see a broken down old building far more poignant.

Exactly a year on this Friday at Grace Teens I reminded the youth group of our visit and asked them if they could remember what they actually did see. They were honest enough to see the dust and decay, and a couple saw no potential, and one or two others saw every potential. But the question wasn't really aimed at what they saw in the building, rather what they saw in themselves. I asked did they see where they had arrived to a year ago when I asked them 'what do you see'. In this last year they have faced persecution and trials, disappointments and lows, but they have persevered, been baptised and now are involved in almost every part of our Church. More importantly this Friday some of that group put on a gospel evening aimed at the Children from our Children's Club, they wrote it themselves, they planned it themselves, they even catered it for themselves and it was a wonderful challenging evening.

What an amazing transformation a year has shown. One youth group member hadn't even accepted Christ as Saviour at that point. I wonder what has happened in your year, anything as exciting?

I feel challenged by this statement 'what do you see', I wonder what you do see in yourself, in your calling, in the Church, even in your relationship with the Lord.

The answer still stands Lord you know.

As always I pray for a blessing on those who seek the face of the Lord.



I would once again like to thank all of the contributors to this month's issue and a special thanks to Vicky for

helping me get bits together whilst waiting to, during and after giving birth. I would also like to thank all of you who have contributed items.

Let me encourage you if you do have a poem, a testimony or a short message you would like to share then you can come and see me or email it to pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk

BAPTISM

4TH DECEMBER 2016

10:30AM

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

1 John Overview

Special points of interest:

Who wrote it?

Who is the letter to?

Why was it written?

What can we learn from it?

Any other interesting facts?

It is widely understood and generally accepted that John, the beloved disciple and notable Apostle, did write these epistles but maybe because of all the plurals and third persons contained in the text, then perhaps there were others at hand.

Although he does not identify himself, or anyone else at all it does seem clear in verses 1-4 that the author places himself amongst the eye witnesses to the earthly life of the Saviour Jesus Christ; as one who literally saw and touched the "Word of Life". In verse one he says "Which we have heard and which we have seen with our eyes". "Which we have seen and bear witness, and declared to you".

Bible expositors and commentators seem to differ in their guess-timates of a time line on which to place the epistles using dates when Timothy and Paul were around Ephesus albeit not at the same time, where these letters are said to have been penned.

1 John seems to be a general letter as it is not addressed to anyone in particular, unlike 2 , 3 John addressed to "The elect Lady" and "Gaius" respectively. This letter would seem to have been written to the Churches of Asia.

The purpose of this letter was to warn the church leaders of the ever increasing threat of false teachings and heresies and to reassure the Christians in the faith and love of the Lord.

The early form of heresy known as Gnosticism was spreading the idea that Jesus did not have a human body. This was therefore leading folks astray. They believed that because God could not be contaminated by a human body, (thus denying the incarnation of Christ) i.e. God becoming man in the form of the Lord Jesus, along with many other equally erroneous teachings. The epistle was written to combat these false teachings and to put into place a strategy that sorted the true and faithful Christians from those who act as if they are.

What became painfully obvious to me about this epistle and why it had to be penned is that it could very well be neatly adapted to the here and now 2016, where believers are often lack lustre, complacent and have little or no Awe of Almighty God, watering down the very essence of El Shaddai.

There are a number of theories around who wrote 1John. It is widely accepted that John did about 85-95 BC possibly from Ephesus. The author doesn't name himself anywhere in the letter but it is clear from the text that the author was an eyewitness of Christ's ministry. It also seems that the author was well known to his readers. Particular references in chapters 2 and 3 make it clear that the letter's recipients are believers. It doesn't tell us who they were(n't) or where they lived. Maybe it was a circular letter that was sent to Christians in a number of places. John spent many of his later years around Ephesus maybe this letter was sent to the churches in that area. The letter seems to have 2 dominant messages. Firstly to reassure Christians of their faith in Christ and secondly to warn them of the increasing threat of false teaching. John in chapters 3 and 5 is concerned that our lives reflect our faith in Him. John also wants us to know we can be secure in the knowledge of our salvation.

To think about what we can learn from this epistle is difficult because there is so much - each time you read it you find something else.

Chapter 1 v 3 tells us we can have fellowship with Him - what an

amazing thought that God would want to be in fellowship with us.

Chapter 1 v 4 tells us we can have joy - So much has been accomplished on our behalf! Do we always realise what that means?

Chapter 2 v1 tells us not to sin but more importantly we have an Advocate - if we get it wrong He is always there - he is the propitiation for our sins. We have been forgiven.

Chapter 2 v 26 tells us we can have victory over those who seek to deceive us - there are those who would seek to rob us, we must be 'on guard' and seek His face and study His word.

Chapter 5 v 13 - states we have the knowledge of eternal life - God's promise is really made clear - we have that assurance through Jesus' death on the cross. John's letter is filled with encouragement to the believer as well as principles to live by. Whilst only 5 chapters, this is a powerful letter - no doubt as we study in depth more truths will be revealed.

Who wrote it... We think it is most likely to be John because the writing is similar to other books he has written. Who is it written to... Well I don't think it is written to a specific church but a group of churches like in Revelation.

Why was it written... At that time there was a lot of Gnosticism around, I think that John needed to remind the church of a few things

- 1, the centrality of Christ
- 2, that salvation comes by faith in Jesus not some mystical secret knowl-

edge

3, living your life for Christ through loving one another, obedience, and rejecting the world.

What can we learn?

So much I think... These are all challenges for us too... How many decisions do we make in our live without consulting the Lord? How often do we just get on with our day without even giving Christ a thought... But He should be in everything - in the centre of everything we do So much I think... These are all challenges for us too... How many decisions do we make in our live without consulting the Lord? How often do we just get on with our day without even giving Christ a thought... But He should be in everything - in the centre of everything we do and also the centre and focus point of our Church... Do all things unto Him.

Living your life as a living sacrifice - living for Christ.... Loving one another as He loved us is not an easy task at times but that is how the world will know that we are saved if we love one another... Being obedient to the call of God... Do the work that the Lord has laid on your heart... Don't turn your back on it... And finally reject the world... Not always easy because it is so tempting and has such a pull on us...

I think for me this is challenging me to trust in the Lord learn His word so I don't get trapped in any kind of false teaching (it's the only way I will know if it is false)... Give my all to Him who saved me... My life, give Him the steering wheel and go where He

bids me go with a willing and trusting heart... And don't be tempted by the things of this world they are not what we need store up treasures in heaven... Do what the Lord has called me to do and go where He wants me to go...

Who is the letter to - it wasn't written to any particular church - a pastoral letter to Gentile congregations, however, this one had my head scratching, because this is one that I think that new Christians are recommended to read, however, this is also one that unbelievers are recommended to read if they are searching - it is very straight forward in the rights and wrongs, especially concerning human nature, in that saying, if we say we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves - this really shouts at people who are 'religious' and go to church because that is what they have always done and their parents and grandparents etc. etc. But then 'if we confess our sins to Him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. How amazing is that, this hits home very strongly how much we have an amazing Saviour and to keep it 'real' with Jesus. He knows our very thoughts and we think we are fooling Him? I think not! I think it was written to warn the church of false teaching - being aware that those that do not preach Christ crucified are false prophets.

It is written to say that we should love one another - as God is love.

"Beware of those that do not preach Christ crucified"

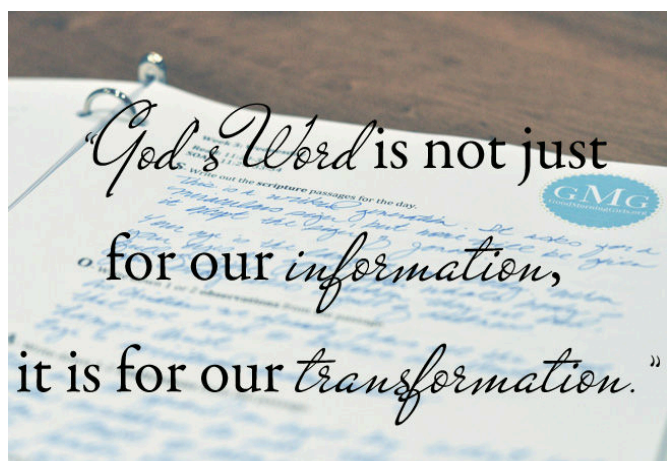
Who wrote it—the Apostle John—the general tone of the letter it is believed to be from the same hand as the fourth gospel.

Who is the letter to - to the church at large as it has no greeting, farewell or other personal allusions.

Why was it written— to add to their joy; to guard against sin; to warn against false teachers; to strengthen their faith in Christ and assure them of eternal life.

What can we learn from it—the central theme is God is light, life and love. It calls for Christian characters of holy living and brotherly love.

Interesting facts that jumped out—lays great stress on spiritual knowledge and some scholars see it as the Epistle of Certainties.



This letter was written by the Apostle John. He wrote it to the Jewish people who believe in Jesus through the Apostles teaching.

Its purpose was to prove that Jesus was the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

What we can learn from this is that Jesus was at the beginning of creation. He was God who became flesh and dwelt among men to give us eternal life by His death and resurrection!

He is the word of Life. Through Him we became children of God, as a family we need to love our brothers and sisters, not only with tongue but by actions and obey God's commands. He has given His spirit to guide us. Over-comers are those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

Unlike the other Epistles apart from Hebrews, 1 John does not start with a greeting or explanation of who is writing. It would seem either: Those to whom he was writing were very close to him and didn't need introduction or John felt that the content of the letter was more important than delaying with a greeting.

Either way John starts off by giving his testimony as to what he has experienced personally and so we can take it that this letter is based on fact. (1John 1:1) "That which we have seen, looked at, and touched."

Secondly John is not testifying purely on his own behalf; (1:2) "The life appeared, we have seen it, we proclaim to you the eternal life". It confirms then that other people experienced and were witnesses to his claims and were in agreement otherwise they would have disputed his testimony.

If we do not split this epistle into its chapters but leave it as it would have been written then (in 2:1) where he states "my dear children" we can

take this not as a belated greeting but rather a warm address to those he both knows and cares deeply for and includes everyone – children, fathers, young men.

John's letter is written following the crucifixion and resurrection (3:16) "This is how we know what love is, Jesus Christ laid down his life for us....." It is a letter to Christians and reminds them that (2:1) "if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, The Righteous One. "

(2:2) Turns this letter from a local truth to a world-wide message. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world".

Note that John does not say anything about the length of time this truth will stand for but rather (4:17) states "Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment because in this world we are like him" and of course we know that only the Father knows when that will be.

It is a letter of testimony, encouragement, instruction, and reminds us that God's word is truth (5:9) "We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about His Son" We know that this must be true because we believe in the Trinity – Father, Son, Spirit. It would therefore be incongruous to think that God could or would deny Himself with a lie! It is just not possible.

Whilst John did not start off his letter

with a greeting he did end it with an extreme show of affection for all who believe in Jesus (5:21) "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols"

Like all of God's word 1 John holds the test of time and does not age. If this letter had been received at Grace Pentecostal Church during this past week we could read it as a letter for our times and hopefully start to live by it.

The author is John, son of Zebedee, apostle & author of Gospel of John & Revelation. Fisherman, in Jesus' inner circle & 'the one whom Jesus loved.' Unlike most New Testament letters this letter does not address who the author is directly. However, identification is confirmed by evidences:- style of writing similar to the Gospel of John, similar phrases in the Gospel of John, mention of eyewitness testimony, authoritative manner expected from an apostle, harsh descriptions consistent with 'son of thunder' and identification of a close description with Christ.

1 John 2:12, 19; 3:1, 5:13 make it clear this letter is written to believers but does not directly indicate who they were.

John ministered in various churches in the Roman province of Asia including Ephesus. Like most of Paul's letters this is assumed to be a circular for churches in this province.

The point of this letter is to expose false teachers and to give believers assurance of salvation. John sets forth several tests of Christian faith - belief that Jesus is the Son of God, obedi-

ence to Christ's commands and love for brothers and sisters of Christ.

"A testimony of what he has experienced personally so this letter is based on fact"

Who wrote it?

1. John the author of these 3 epistles.
2. One of the sons of Zebedee, along with his brother James.
3. The sons of thunder.
4. One of the inner circle of intimate disciples.
5. One of the 12.
6. Had unique eyewitness experience of the earthly life of Jesus
7. Known as the disciple Jesus loved
8. Reclined on Jesus at the last supper
9. Author of Revelation and John's gospel
10. Written between AD85 and AD95
11. Only apostle left alive.

Who is the letter to?

1. Not addressed to one person or particular church
2. It is intensely personal
3. No mention of his own name to those he's writing to.

4. It's a message to those of faith to lead them into a deeper understanding and maturity in faith.

5. Ephesus

Why does he write it?

1. It doesn't develop an argument
2. It repeats prominent themes that are in his mind and heart.
3. Each time it is repeated, he tends to add a little bit more
4. Three main themes: righteousness, love and truth
5. 5:13 that those who believe would know that they have eternal life.

What can we learn?

1. That we must not grow weary of repeating the same message from God's word, whatever that message might be.

Interesting facts?

1. Word 'know' is repeated; which infers that there were those who don't know. (A lack of assurance in their salvation)
2. 2:18-19 reason why they had a lack of assurance because some were claiming they had superior knowledge; a special revelation; an improvement on the teachings. As they broke away the church was left questioning, doubting if they had got this right.
3. It's clear how important assurance

is. It is essential to salvation, it is essential to the joy of salvation.

4. John gave the assurance that they needed to survive.

5. It tells us the fundamentals of faith and calls us back to the basics of Christianity.

6. Knowledge breeds confidence



The Apostle John wrote this letter to the church in general and not a specific church in the Roman Empire. And his intent was to give another eye witness testimony. This letter was written to combat false teaching that had to do with the denial that Jesus had a genuine human body. This Gnostic view matter, as being evil, led to 2 responses: asceticism or licentiousness. He very clearly writes

to give the true test of a true Christian. These also contradicted the Gnostic licentious approach to Christianity. He gives several means to measure the reality of one's conversion experience.

John reassures believers explaining God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. He wrote that if sins were confessed He would cleanse them, because Jesus is the propitiation for the whole world. Because John was aware of the continuing attack of false teachings he then urged believers not to love and follow after the world because it was not of the Father and ultimately pass away. Discernment is necessary to thwart the constant attacks of heresy.

He teaches about the love of God and that through His love, He sent His Son Jesus '...to destroy the work of the devil'. Therefore believers should love each other and not only with words but also 'in deed and truth' as Jesus commanded.

John exhorts Christians to live by faith because through faith in Christ we overcome the wickedness of the world. In addition John writes one of the most powerful and assuring statements concerning the work of Jesus on the cross 'these things I have written to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life'.

John wanted all believers to know 100% that because of their faith and trust in Jesus Christ they would depend all eternity with Him.

In this letter - that we might have fel-

lowship with Him (Jesus) - that we might have joy—that we do not sin—that we might be victorious over deceivers—that we might know that we are saved.

John teaches about: love; fellowship; sin; forgiveness; confession; blood of Christ.

John teaches that: God is Light; God is Love; God is Life.

1 John's role in the Bible is closely related to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John is written to persuade non-Christians to believe in Jesus and find eternal life in the name of Jesus.

Conversely, the first letter of John is written so that those who believe in Jesus would know that they have indeed found life in Him. If you wonder how the teaching in 1 John plays out in real life, you will love 2 & 3 John!

These two very short letters apply 1 John's general teachings of truth, love and obedience specific to local situations.

No other book talks about love as often as 1 John. About 1 in every 50 words is a form of 'love'. That makes for about 52 mentions of love in just 5 short chapters. Love is the evidence of salvation and John says that God Himself is love.

- the children of God keep his commandments

- the spirit of God affirms Jesus first coming

- The children of God love one another

- Things the child of God can know

Notes

Ephesus was a place that had now become familiar with Christianity. Ephesus had lost the glory of their witness, they'd lost their power and their zeal. They were becoming tainted with the world. That's who John is writing to. Ephesus was no longer a place of persecution. No, the enemy now was false doctrine. They were at peace, but yet false doctrine was entering in just as Paul had warned them in Acts chapter 20 and verses 29 to 30. As he left the elders in Ephesus he warned them of ravenous wolves that would come into the church and devour them. Sin was rampant in the city of Ephesus. The Bible tells us it was a pagan city, wholly given over to idolatry and superstition. There was a whole huge religious industry that was dependent upon the worship of this goddess Diana, and it was centered upon the magnificent temple of Diana. The wealth that was derived from that idolatrous worship not only brought great wealth, but it brought spiritual bankruptcy and gross immorality. We know from the Acts of the Apostles 19 verse 19, from those who were converted out of Ephesus, that there was sorcery and a lot of the occult and dark arts, because they brought their books and their artistic instruments in Spiritism and they burned them after their conversion.

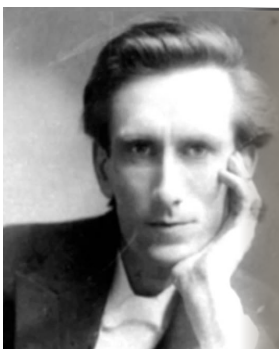
monthly devotional - oswald chambers

God's Overpowering Purpose

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was not a passing emotional experience, but a vision that had very clear and emphatic directions for him. And Paul stated: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). Our Lord said to Paul, in effect, "Your whole life is to be overpowered or subdued by Me; you are to have no end,, no aim, and no purpose but Mine." And the Lord also says to us, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go..." (John 15:16)

When we are born again, if we are spiritual at all, we have visions of what Jesus wants us to be. It is important that I learn not be to "disobedient to the heavenly vision" - not to doubt that it can be attained. It is not enough to give mental assent to the fact that God has redeemed the world, not even to know that the Holy Spirit can make all that Jesus did a reality in my life. I must have the foundation of a personal relationship with Him. Paul was not given a message or doctrine to proclaim. He was brought a into a vivid, personal, overpowering relationship with Jesus Christ. Acts 26:16 is tremendously compelling "... to make you a minister and a witness..." There would be nothing there without a personal relationship. Paul was devoted to a Person, not to a cause. He was absolutely Jesus Christ's. He saw nothing else and he lived for nothing else. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified". (1 Corinthians 2:2)

O Lord, enchain me to Yourself with great bonds of adoring love; encircle me around with Your Providence for Your purposes; enlarge me until I am more and more capable of being of use to You.



"But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you."

Acts 26:16



**I WILL PRAISE THEE;
FOR I AM FEARFULLY
AND WONDERFULLY MADE...**

PSALM 139:14

WOMEN OF GRACE

'SUGAR AND SPICE AND ALL THINGS NICE'

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

COFFEE MORNING

9:30AM

written by david lambert

Summary

Alan Benson a missionary from our own church here in Blackburn, has been arrested by a group of Japanese invading soldiers and is about to be charged and then tortured. He is accused of being a spy; this true story is set in China during the early part of the Second World War. Alan begins to endure a period of painful and vindictive torture during which his faith in the Lord is his sustaining strength. Alan is charged as a spy and the torture is continued and enhanced in deeper and more painful ways but Alan sticks to his guns despite the pressure being brought to bear on him by his cruel captors. Despite sustained and diverse affliction over a defined period Alan holds fast and declares this faith and urges his cruel captors to repent and be saved. "God cannot help you!" was the Japanese assertion, however, our missionary maintains his steadfast stand for Christ throughout. Alan is now subjected to the dreadful and humiliating water torture designed as another painful method of extracting a confession; this continued for a number of days. Rather than become weaker he gains strength and forbearance as he calls upon the Lord despite being at his lowest ebb.

He resists putting his associates in danger and his daily portion of prayer and God's grace suffices allowing him to endure the very worst of conditions. Amazingly, the Japanese request prayer but it only serves as an opportunity to further humiliate our missionary. The true testimony of this experience is that Alan finds the Lord to be a true source of strength in that he is able to endure and triumph over the adversity before him.

Subtle familial methods are then used to try and break Alan's spirit but it was a cruel trick engineered by relentlessly wicked minds. The Japanese attempt auto suggestion as a trick. Our missionary graphically describes the conditions of his captivity and its limitations and lack of basic comforts. Bathtime proved to be an endurance test both physically and mentally once again death seemed nearby but the word of God was a joy, peace and a succour. When every single earthly thing and hope was lost he found deep joy in Jesus Christ. There was the opportunity to witness to a Chinese communist official this was mostly conducted using small strips of paper this man became a Christian and began to effectively witness such that others also became Christians. Alan asks again are you the reader a Christian, have you come to Christ, do you truly know him in your heart? There are now some regular,

surprise very short visits from Alan's wife. He is also presented with a letter that had apparently been found in the Yangtze River. It was in fact a letter from the UK that contained the word Hallelujah. (Praise the Lord). This had confused the Japanese and they were disappointed that it was something they could not hold against him and point towards him being a spy. At this point Alan is advised that he will be shot the following morning however this did not immediately take place. Although Alan completely accepted this as God's plan he was made to linger for two nights which was traumatic and stressful then the threat was lifted although he was told that he would eventually be executed but they didn't know when!

A Manchurian interpreter takes a great risk to give Alan a new reason for hope he felt like the Lord was on his side for certain. Alan is exposed to some new tricks to make him confess but he is not compromised in the least. This infuriates his captors who are desperate for a confession or they will and (remove and) be accused of failure and therefore lose their honour. Five communist prisoners reject the gospel before being executed. Alan recounts a story about some aircrew to whom he witnessed to and accepted salvation who just a few hours later lost their life in a 1944 bombing raid over Germany. He urges the reader to turn to and accept Jesus Christ. Alan is now told he will appear again before a court he believes this will lead to his certain execution. He pointed out to the court that he was a missionary not a spy. It soon became clear that they

did not have any evidence against him for the charge of spying and that they were planning an immediate release, which is what happened and Alan was at last reunited with his wife as a free man. Now free the Japanese try to kill Alan with a lorry whilst he was on holiday recovering. He was taken home and quickly recovered from an injury by prayer. He began the long journey back home to Blackburn via several countries. Prior to leaving China Alan had experienced revival experiences as a result of this testimony the missionaries had come together with new purpose and vision and as a result many Chinese people also accepted the Lord as Saviour. After spending time in the Far East the Bensons found great revival in South Africa and by the end of this period they were feeling reluctant to leave for home.

The Challenge

We have reached the final part of Alan's story a journey of pain, faith and trust in God. On his return to the UK Alan eventually went to live in Morecambe.

I have heard in the past that Alan was visited by some of our church members from time to time but that was well before I came to know him through his little booklet. However, it is likely that his testimony would have been forgotten, lost in the history of the church, left in a drawer or thrown into a bin at a house clearance. How have you been challenged by it? Most things are not honoured by man but are known only to God. Alan's final plea is that you turn to the Lord Romans 3 v23. All have sinned and

fallen short of the Glory of God. He is the only Saviour, besides him there is no one else. Lord where else can we go, you have the words of life we believe and we know you are the Holy One of God.

As we are growing not so much numerically but together as a team, praying and sharing with one another it has been a time of tremendous blessing. We have a rota now to share a 5 minute thought together. Here are some of the thoughts this past month. Be prepared to be challenged.

Life After Being Saved - By Adam Kennedy

For my five minutes I'm going to share something really close to my heart and that's the life after being saved. A couple of weeks ago I was just looking in my bible and my bible has little stories of how a certain lesson would translate into our world today. And the description below Thessalonians really just jumped out at me and this is what it said.

"Remember what it was like when you first decided to follow Jesus? You may have thought that all of your troubles would be over. You probably felt really good on the inside, and if anyone had warned you that life was still going to be difficult, you might have laughed. But then it happens. It's Monday morning and you feel bad. Where did that happy feeling get to? Why don't I feel wonderful like I did last week? Will I be able to live out my new faith now I'm back in the real world?"

And for me this first challenge right off the bat when you decide to follow Jesus separates the people who "decide" to follow Jesus and the people who put Jesus first in their life. The people who "decide" will do what everybody else does and tries to fit in, puts their hands up in songs and doesn't think much of it. But the people who put Jesus first in their life will seek to find that feeling again. Because life gets harder when you accept Jesus as Saviour, since you are literally separating yourself from people who haven't accepted Jesus as Saviour and showing the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Because in our world nobody likes 'different' so you will get called names like Jesus freak, Bible basher well that's what I get called. I actually like being called a Jesus freak because the core definition of Jesus freak is a person who is so dedicated to following Jesus that there is nothing else the person can talk about.

This links up with worship since the people who "decide" to follow Jesus just read the words and don't take time to see what they are actually saying. But the people who put Jesus first in their life will understand the magnitude of the words. Also the people who "decide" to follow Jesus may not think that God is literally still there so they will do what they want, get the job that suits them and will come on a Sunday to do the same thing over again if they can or

want to.

Because some people don't worship forever they may take another person's views that life is birth to death that's it when it's really supposed to be them taking your views. Whilst the people who put Jesus first in their life will consider God's will in everything and rely on their faith for strength.

But it's hard to distinguish the two groups. But if we share the gospel with them, we have given them the seed and that's all they need because we know and pray that the Holy Spirit will take over. Because we can't do it we can share the gospel we can pray for them we can bring them to church but we can't force them to accept Jesus as Saviour and that's the only way to be saved. This also goes for people who don't believe in any religion or a different religion.

So is our worship group a group who "decides" to follow God or puts God first in their lives?

What the World Thinks to Worship and What it Means - By Anna Talbot

According to the internet worship can be used to address or refer to an important or high ranking person. My School thinks it's talking about different countries and the suffering they are in and ending it with a quick prayer. One of my friends thinks Worship is about getting closer to God in many ways. I think worship for me personally is a way I can praise God (one of the many ways) it's a time to think what God truly has done for me. Finally, the bible thinks it's a way

to honour with love and extreme submission.

Worship for me can be hard, however being part of the worship group and playing the drums has really blessed me because I know I'm not the only one who struggles with worship anymore. I tell myself often don't not worship God because you didn't get the beat or played something wrong I remind myself to keep going it doesn't matter, but that I find is still hard as I still beat myself up about it. How often do you beat yourself about it? Whether it's playing something wrong or it's not feeling up to it? What we must remember is God doesn't care if we play a beat, note or sing something wrong, God cares if you meant what you were singing or playing in your heart, or it was just words. I saw a quote on my Facebook and it said "Your talent is God's gift to you, what you do with it is your Gift to God" this should challenge us all.

The last thing I want to say is that, please don't under estimate your talents whether it's on guitar or piano it's a God given talent. God gave you that ability to use them for him and to honour God in a way he deserves. So Don't abuse them.

"Let all I am praise the lord; with my whole heart I will praise his holy name" Psalms 103:3.

Where and When is the Right Place to Worship? By Mel Boulton

Where oh where is the right place to worship?

When oh when the right time?

Should I save the 5 minutes peace I
get in a morning because at night I
just fall asleep.

Where oh where is the right place to
worship

When oh when the right time

Is it on a Sunday morning when we
gather all together

That can't be the only time

Where oh where is the right place to
worship

When oh when the right time

Anywhere you are is right any place
at all

Waiting for the bus, at work, at home
or walking down the street.

The time well anytime... morning, af-
ternoon, evening or night. Well re-
ally anytime in everything that you
do that's the right place and time.
To worship the Lord with all you have
within you so go ahead, come on
let's go and praise His holy name for
He deserves our everything not a lit-
tle a bit or a trace. The Lord has been
challenging me and I would like to
set you all the same challenge too
where and when is the right time to
worship? Some people think a Sun-
day or the three meetings a week
prayer, bible and Sunday... but it's
not true. We can worship all the time
in everything we do... Colossians 3.17
says In everything, whatever you do
in word or deed, do all in the name

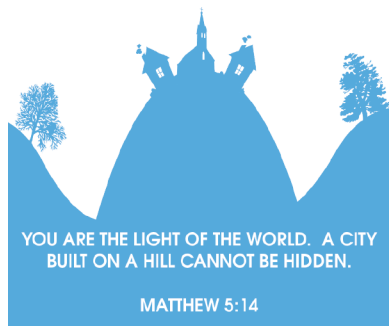
of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father by Him. So whatever
you do day to day, do it to God's
glory. Don't think 'I go to work to pay
the bills'... 'I go because this is where
God has placed me how can I glorify
Him in what I am doing'. Worship isn't
just singing or playing an instrument
that's only part of it. In everything we
do think I am doing this to glorify the
Lord so do it to the best of your abil-
ity. You will be surprised how many
people will see you going the extra
mile and ask why?... Opportunity to
talk about the Lord. So my challenge
is... Worship the Lord always not just
Sundays.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR....

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER
AT 6PM

GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, WENSLEY ROAD, BLACKBURN, BB2 1QD TEL: 01254 54541 EMAIL: GRACECCBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM



GRACE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH
"KNOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

**DIRECTION
STATEMENT
16/17**

a year of hiring

John 4:31-38

If the Lord told you to look up, to look out, to go out the door and say what you see, what would you say? The disciples looked and they saw Jesus talking to the enemy, a woman and a disreputable one at that. But hey that's Jesus, so they got on with it, as long as they put Jesus first, it didn't matter what He was up to!

But then Jesus refused the service they had prepared for Him. They couldn't understand that His reference to them was one that they were not as other Rabbi's disciples, they were not there to look after Jesus. They were going to be here to carry on His ministry; and that commission stretches on to us.

The food and drink that Jesus had which we are to eat daily, is to do the will of the Father. This is not to be providing towards the Lord, it's not what He might need. It is to provide to those round about, the message of Christ's redemptive sacrifice. Ephesians 2 teaches us the purpose of our salvation is to build a city. It is a city of refuge. It is a spiritual city. It is the New Jerusalem, and it is Christ who is building it through us.

Jesus shows the disciples that it is a team effort, one sowing another reaping. Paul and the others take this teaching further to talk of a body sown together, under the purpose of the head, to complete His Father's will; which is to go out into the highways and byways.

What do you see out there? Is it enough to lock the doors and say, they can't possibly get saved? Too many scary sorts? Too many none English speakers? Too many...? No! They are white fields we have sown. We need reapers to come and reap. This year we need an army of those who can work in the Kingdom, work in our church, that we may give glory to the Lord.

The Lord gave the Word; the bearers of it were a great army. Psalm 68:11

Our calling is clear, yet we are short in every area to do that work of sowing and reaping. We need to pray this year for more labourers, for the fields are white unto the harvest, and who will bring it in?

Join with us this year as we continue to pray, invite, challenge, provoke, for those who are part of our church, (but don't know it yet) to come and join us.

Church Vision

“We as the body will seek continually to know the Lord as our beloved, to study His word that we may know Him better and that we may be witnesses of Christ Jesus in all the world that we inhabit”.

Church Values and Behaviours

“That we as a church will seek to Reach, Teach and Keep men and women, boys and girls to be citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven accessed through salvation in Jesus Christ”

1. We believe that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments excluding the Apocrypha), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. We believe in the unity of the One True and Living God who is the Eternal, Self-Existent "I AM", Who has also revealed Himself as One being co-existing in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

3. We believe in the Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Miraculous Ministry, Substitutionary Atoning Death, Bodily Resurrection, Triumphant Ascension and Abiding Intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His personal, visible, bodily return in power and glory as the blessed hope of all believers (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:22; Acts 2:22, 10:38; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:12; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:8-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Cor. 15:22-24, 51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:1-6).

4. We believe in the fall of man, who was created pure and upright, but fell by voluntary transgression (Gen. 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21).

5. We believe in salvation through faith in Christ, who, according to the Scriptures, died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day, and that through His Blood we have Redemption (Titus 2:11, 3:5-7; Rom. 10:8-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4). This experience is also known as the new birth, and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit upon initial faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:5-6; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 5:1).

6. We believe that all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as Lord and Saviour are commanded to be baptised by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 2:38-39).

7. We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an endowment of the believer with power for service, the essential, biblical evidence of which is the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 1:4-5, 8, 2:4, 10:44-46, 11:14-16, 19:6).

8. We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today (1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-16).

9. We believe in holiness of life and conduct in obedience to the command of God (1 Pet.1:14-16; Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 2:6).

10. We believe that deliverance from sickness, by Divine Healing is provided for in the Atonement (Isa. 53:4-5, Matt. 8:16-17, James 5:13-16).

11. We believe that all who have truly repented and believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour should regularly participate in Breaking of Bread (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-34).

12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and the everlasting conscious punishment of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Dan. 12:2-3; John 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15:22-24; Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:10-15).

written by lynne haydock

Do you struggle to find good Christian books to read?

Do you find it difficult to motivate yourself for personal Bible study?

Do you have Church studies or activities to plan but don't have access to enough resources?

Do you want to help serve Tea & Coffee and encourage others in their reading?

Then why not come along to Library of Grace where you will find books, resources and online access in a conducive, relaxing Christian environment.

It will be open every Tuesday from 2pm – 8pm (Starting early 2017!)

Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be available.

The Small Print

At the moment books are located around the building (until a more permanent home is constructed). If there is a particular book you require please ask to see the catalogue or access it from the church's website www.gracepentecostalblackburn.co.uk. Then email library@gracepentecostalblackburn.co.uk or speak to Lynne Haydock with your request so that we can ensure it is accessible for you.

Books can be accessed but at the moment not taken away from the Library.

Printing and copying will be available on request.

An illustration featuring a collection of books and stationery items. On the left, several books are standing upright, some with colorful covers (orange, green, red) and others with patterned spines. In the center, an open book with blank pages is shown, with a blue bookmark or tag sticking out. To the right, a stack of books is visible, with a blue bookmark or tag also present. The entire illustration is rendered in a flat, modern style with a limited color palette of oranges, greens, reds, blues, and greys.

LIBRARY OF GRACE

COMING EARLY 2017....

written by carol duxbury

I'd like to talk today about a bottle. Ok you might think "what's to say about a bottle and a plastic one at that"? You could perhaps only think of what's obvious, go into a shop, make your choice and pay the money...job done you!.....Your'e quite right in one respect, choose it, use it and then throw it away.....Exactly!!! So, here is my:

"Day in the life of a bottle plus a bit....."

When we pop into a shop cause we're thirsty maybe, could be anywhere, Asda. Aldi or the corner shop, do we ever consider the very complicated and hectic day that has helped bring your drink to you so conveniently. Probably not, most of us anyhow...

You would like to buy a bottled drink....Simple you say, but it isn't necessarily quite that easy.

Money at the ready, a choice must be made, well more than one in this instance.... we must choose the size of bottle, still or fizzy and of course flavour, and what a job when you can't make your mind up and there's all that choice....oooooh, so many to choose from. Okay decision made.....we're off to the till to pay, do you have enough or the right change, has the shop got change, the decisions are endless when it seemed so simple.....

John 15v16 Tells us "You did not choose me but I chose you" God chose you and He chose me. The Creator of the rolling spheres chose each one of us does that not blow your mind, that Almighty God....even knows I exist, let alone CHOSE me, and appointed me to go and bear fruit, not any old fruit but fruit that will last.....

This fruit , unlike the fruit flavours that are in our bottle which maybe artificial, just pretenders.....but these are fruit of the Spirit as laid down in Gal 5v22. Love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, Goodness, Faith, Gentleness and Self control.

When we go and buy our drink, we choose the flavour. The fruit of the Spirit is not something that we pick and choose, rather it is sort of a nine-fold fruit that characterises those who truly walk in the Spirit. Altogether these are fruits that every Christian should be producing in the new life we have as believers, our lives having been transformed in the image of Christ. Do I love the Lord with all my heart and with all my soul, and with all the strength and with all my

mind? Do I truly Choose Christ on a daily basis? Are the fruits of the Spirit growing in me?

The next step in the life of our bottle was to be paid for, only when this is done we can rightly say it belongs to us.....1 Cor 6v20 confirms we are paid for in full by saying "You are not your own, You were bought with a price" What was the price paid for our Salvation? The precious blood of the Lamb that laid down His life for us. Greater love hath no man that this, that man lay down His life for his friends. John 15v13. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Paid in full.by the precious blood of the Spotless lamb. Just as the bottle is now ours and we can happily drink the contents, so we can join in the throng and and – remove duplicate happily sing "Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me, Not for years of time alone but for eternity..... Hallelujah. Paid in full!

As we move along in the life of our bottle, what comes next...let's see, we've chosen it, paid for it and like as not drank it.....What's next? If you are a model citizen, then you put the empty in a bin. If like me you recycle stuff then you may take it home..... Just to make sure it's recycled properly, well, as sure as one can be that is.

Recycling...Oooh my, our bottle has an uncertain future then eh? If it goes in a bin, which is of course the correct thing to do, but in fact many times, it just gets unceremoniously dumped, eventually the demise of

our bottle is the same.....It goes off to landfill, never to be seen again and of course someone else's problem at some time in the future.....

This serves as a stark reminder to me of all the folks for whom Jesus died going headlong to a Christless and eternal abyss,

WHY.? One may say, because no one told them maybe, the Word commissions us to; "Go into all the World and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16v15.

WHY then? Because they were yet loved or cared for or shared with by other Christians for any number of apathetic, apostate or arrogant reasons. Maybe because some Christians have no real idea who El-Shaddai really is. John 15v12

WHY? perhaps they were lead astray, given the wrong information, sat in church all their lives maybe and never told the gospel, or ever witnessed to of the fact that Jesus loves them, very possibly the one and only chance they would ever get.....

Are they maybe spoken to of false doctrine!!!! led astray by wolves in sheep's clothing. Matt 7v15 says "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

If our bottle on the other hand is properly recycled...It's a totally different story regardless where or when or by whom it happens.....

It is carried along to its first sorting, separated, along with all the other plas-

tic items, which are then washed.....
Oh hallelujah!!!! this speaks to me of
being predestinated Predestined??)
.....Glory Glory. Eph 1v4 confirms it
by saying that "He chose us in Him
before the creation of the world to
be holy and blameless in His sight in
love." selected for adoption as sons...
Rom 8v29

Then comes decision time, then
comes the choice whether to be a
useful, functioning item with a par-
ticular purpose...or to be chopped
up into a million bits and remould-
ed! Hmmmmmm. Decisions deci-
sions.....

This process, I thought would be like
Matt 22v14 says "Many are called but
few are chosen" not like in the provi-
sion made for perishing souls in this
parable but for ALL who are called
by the Spirit of God.

"God is not willing that any should
perish but that all should come to re-
pentance. 2 Pet 3v9 But how will they
know unless someone tells them....
Our friends, our neighbours, do we
take every opportunity to tell them.
Do we gossip the gospel or just gos-
sip!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! do we stand up stand
up for Jesus or just go with the flow?

If we were predestined from our
mother's womb to be saved as it
were and we were called when we
responded to the gospel, then surely
it's job done...or is it?

What we choose to do with our new
found transformation is entirely up to
each one of us....Our bottle has a
choice made for it, we on the other
hand do not. Whether we make a

decision based on a bona fida rea-
son or just on an excuse, we still make
our own choices and God knows
the difference..... folks will say, well,
"God knows my heart!" Of course
He does, God knows all about us, He
even knows our "Thoughts afar off"

Ps 139v2. But people, our friends and
neighbours, jo pub, for example only
know what they see and hear and
this is how they judge the church and
judge Christ- through us.

It never ceases to amaze me how
people love to show off in front of
others, always remember that peo-
ple do not read a Bible or go to
church to find out about Christians
and Christianity.....They watch and
listen to us.....Remember we are liv-
ing epistles known and read of all
men...

2 Cor 3v2

Our bottle can go one of several
ways from this point on. I am going
to use the most obvious two...

I was watching something on TV and
it was about design and ingenuity,
the topic....recycling, in particular
plastic bottles. It went on to show just
some of the things that people with
a bit of ingenuity, a little know-how
had made from them. It was mar-
vellous. There was a garden shed. A
Christmas tree. A greenhouse. A stor-
age chest, even very intricate flow-
ers to name but few and they were
all completely functional and use-
able....

This made me think of our Christian
lives, what do we choose to be made
into or to be used as. If we go back

to Rom 8v29 the verse continues to say that we are to be conformed to the image of His Son..... the Greek word used here gets to the right meaning of conformed and is nothing like the dictionary definition.

The word is Summorphos. Morphing, is to change into the shape of something else, whilst Sum or soon means through union, so then all rolled up it means we metamorphosize into that with which we have union...ta da..... into the image of the Son of the Living God.....So when

Romans 12v2 say "Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." don't make a wrong choice, don't take on, or seek to be joined to this world, choose this day whom you will serve.....The Lord says abundant and everlasting life are ours for the taking, Joy unspeakable and full of Glory.1 Pet 1v8....

When our bottles are selected and transformed into something wonderful it's like us as Christians, when we are chosen of God there are opportunities galore, but the choice is ours. "Choose this day whom you will serve" Josh 24v15 and be not conformed to this world but be transformed into the image of Christ.

Last but not least the 2nd thing I looked at for our bottle was total annihilation, WHAT!!! you say.....How are you going to do anything with that statement.....

Our bottle on its second possibility, could have been selected to be bashed into a million bits, but if

this was the process used then "Well done bottle" now you have the chance to become anything,..... that the moulder needs, the possibilities are endless. The simple little bit of plastic could end up as anything from a clothes peg to part of a sky scraper, who knows, and we.....

If we lay our all at the feet of Jesus and put our absolute complete self into the hand of the Great Potter, then He will mould you into the image of His Son, if we are ready and willing our Great Redeemer God is more than able.....

Just like our bottle did the will of the recycling centre so to speak, so we, when we put our life our heart, our faith and our trust honestly and wholly into His. Isa 64v8 And yet O Lord, you are our Father, We are the clay, and you are the Potter. We are formed by your Hand. He will use us and work through us.....

When we present our bodies a living sacrifice Rom 12v1, A vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the Master's use 2 Tim 2v21.....

Next time you pick up a simple plastic bottle and you just think of all the possible things it could have ended up when it was extruded and moulded.... just, Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and keep looking unto Him the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

The One to whom one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the Glory of God the Father and remember what price was paid for you and for me.

He didn't play at being a Saviour.....
why would we play at being a Christian?

A day in the life simple humble bottle.....Which ended up being exactly what it was meant to be and serving to the best of its ability.

Therefore, let us present your bodies

a living sacrifice, Holy acceptable to God, which is the next logical step, and be not conformed to this world but be transformed into exactly what God wants you to be, because it is our reasonable service..... Now, unto Him who has loved us and washes us from sin, unto Him be the glory.....Forever....Amen

written by melanie boulton

The simple question why
Why me Lord why me
I am nowhere near perfect
Yet you chose to die for me
So why Lord why me

I have done so many wrong things
I have cheated, lied and killed
Yet still you chose to save me
Upon that chosen hill

The simple question why
Why me Lord why me
I am nowhere near perfect
Yet you chose to die for me
So why Lord why me

My life has been a shambles
I have nothing else to give
Only me, myself and I Lord
To you I truly give

The simple question why
Why me Lord why me
I am nowhere near perfect
Yet you chose to die for me
So why Lord why me

Ah but now I know the answer
Why you came to die for me
Why you gave your life
Upon that rugged tree

The answer to my question
Why me Lord why me
Is simple but important
It's because of the Love You have for me

So I thank you my Lord Jesus
For dying for me
And answering my question
My precious child I love you come follow Me.

WHY ME?

written by christine morris

You are the light of the world! What a statement that is! Graces Kids have just had a light party. The programme was cleverly put together by Adam, Anna, Leah, Oliver and Micah with a Lighthouse theme, that Jesus is the light of the world. What better statement to make to penetrate the darkness.

How do you feel about being the light in this dark world? This world is shrouded in the deepest degraded darkness that you can imagine. The bible tells us that men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. Darkness is one thing but intentional darkness is quite another. I guess it is one thing to be subject to darkness but another thing to choose to shelter underneath it.

In Genesis the original state of nature was one of darkness and it to the act of God speaking 'Let there be light'. Human nature is the same; it is in deep dense darkness. It is ignorant of the attributes of God, it is ignorant of the character of God, it is ignorant of its own state before a Holy and Righteous God. It doesn't recognise the need to glorify Him, to enjoy Him and it is blind to its destiny.

This darkness is a spiritual darkness that is deadly. Just as you're liable to fall and hurt yourself in natural darkness, just as you drive along the road and if you have no headlights - or there's no lamplights along the road - it's very dangerous. Like a vessel out on the sea, and perhaps it has no lights, perhaps it has no navigation system, and perhaps there is no lighthouse to guide it into the harbour - it is very dangerous! It could hit the rocks, it could hit another vessel. The Lord says we are the light of this world - isn't that remarkable?

Do you realise that this is the very same name He calls Himself in John 9:5. To be like Jesus! There is a great need for light in this dark world. Do you know you can't really see light in light? It's only in the dark that it becomes noticeable and what a privilege it is to shine. Philippians 2 says 'In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, you are to shine as lights. You are to be my light in a darkened world!'. It's more than simply reflecting the light of the Saviour, the inference of the statement is: we actually become light ourselves! We become the light of God. In Ephesians 5 and verse 8 Paul said: 'For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord'. He doesn't say 'You were sometimes in darkness', he says: 'You were darkness' - and not 'now you are in the light', but: 'you are the light of the Lord, therefore walk as children of light'. Now, of

course, our light is derived from the Lord Jesus - of course it is! But, you know, isn't it a great mystery to think that although it is from Him, somehow it becomes ours - even though we don't contribute one individual ray to the light that we have, the church of Jesus Christ becomes that light!

If you think about it for a moment, if we are the light of the world we ought to do what light does naturally speaking. Light reveals things as they really are. I'm sure you've had the experience of fumbling into a home late at night and it's dark, or maybe you've been into a house that you've never been in before, and you don't know what to expect - and it's not until you turn the light on that you see the layout of the room. When light is shed on a situation, it shows things as they really are.

Light also promotes life, even our broken bones flourish and mend better in the light, in the sun and in the heat. Light is persistent, natural light is - it goes into the deepest and the smallest little crevices all over nature, into the slightest crack, light will flood into the darkest place. Light awakens - I don't know whether you've ever been up at about half past four in the morning, but if you are you will hear what light does. You will hear the birds singing, you will hear all of nature awakening, because light awakens things. We are to be light in this dark world.

It's alright being light, but you've got to let that light out! You've got to shine your light! It may be more desirable to live in a place that we are not in public view. It may be more comfort-

able to be in a place where we are a secret disciple, but the Lord Jesus is saying that is impossible! What the Lord Jesus is saying is there is a great deal expected of sons and daughters of God. You can't hide your temper, you can't hide your character, you can't hide your demeanour, you can't hide your actions, you cannot hide your word - therefore in your words, in your actions, in everything that you do and are publicly, show yourself to be a son of God!

Your light must be visible - Christians are meant to be seen. There can be no such thing as a secret Christian because either the secrecy destroys the discipleship or the discipleship destroys the secrecy. It's like trying to hide sprayed perfume, to try and hide the fragrance of a Christ-like life within you!

How can you shine more? If you want to shine, you need to keep in the Light.





written by jacqueline farrand

Over two thousand years ago a precious gift was given to mankind. Those of us who have received the gift know how precious and how glorious that gift is. We can see how the gift can transform our hearts and our minds and bring comfort to us in our darkest times.

Sometimes we try to hold onto this gift so tightly and keep it so secure that we forget the gift is not ours alone. It is a gift meant for sharing. Not only to be shared with our friends and families, but a gift to be shared with all nations and all peoples.

Let us remember we are not the giver of the gift we are only the receivers. Let us remember it is not our place to say who can or who can't receive the gift. We are here only to share the gift that has been so freely given to us. Let us also remember the giver of this gift. A couple of Bible verses sum up the gift in words far better than I could ever say:

"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 6v23b

"For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God..." Ephesians 2v8

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" 1 Peter 4v10

Why do I talk about the gift? It is because God has laid on my heart the desire to share the gift to all so that everyone has the opportunity to hear about the gift of salvation and that all have the opportunity to receive the gift just as we had that same opportunity. I believe Saturday night is a good opportunity to share.

Thus I conclude this short word with God's word concerning the matter:

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some call slackness, but is longsuffering toward us not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3v9

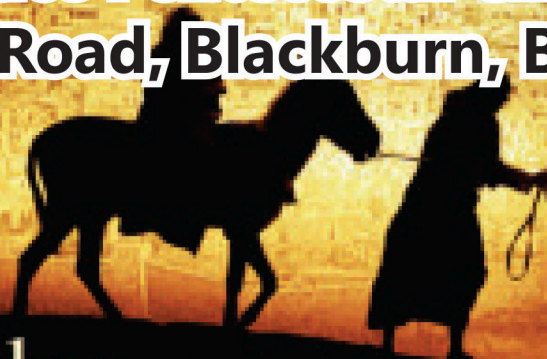
"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher" Romans 10v14

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written by margaret rawcliffe

Today I sort of want to talk about words and so I thought I would first of all look up the actual meaning of the word 'word'. Are you ready for this? Now concentrate because you will need to!

The Readers Digest Universal Dictionary states –

Word – A sound or a combination of sounds that 'symbolises and communicates a meaning' and may consist of a single morpheme or of a combination of morphemes.

Ok until you get to the part about morphemes. So here we go looking up the definition –

Morphemes – A linguistic unit of relatively stable meaning that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts such as whole words like god, word-forming elements like 'ly' as found in godly or grammatical inflections like the plural ending s in gods.

Well after reading that I did wonder how any of us managed to learn how to speak a full sentence correctly!

So what words are on my heart today and why –

At In Ubuntu !!

Ok I hear you say – Ubuntu – what is she going to talk about this time. Stick with me on this because I promise you if you love the Lord then Ubuntu is the buzz word you are going to be shouting from the rooftops once you learn its meaning. I Promise.

So then three simple words that we all use every day without even realising and yet I have spent a week or more with them going round and round my mind and pondering what it is I am trying to say about them.

Firstly the word AT in relation to the beginning of something

If a friend asked you to tell them about the beginning of a book you were reading you might well say something on the lines of :

Well, at the start of the story the main character drives his blue Honda CRV to the railway station so that he can catch the train into the City because he needs to be at work on time.

Alternatively if you are reading a knitting pattern so you can make

a baby cardigan you would soon realise that at the beginning of the pattern you are told how many stitches and rows are needed to make a 2 or 3" square. This is very important because if you get that wrong the cardigan will turn out the wrong size.

Ever had a dream and you told someone about it? Did you start by saying 'At the beginning I was such and such a place then suddenly I seemed to be somewhere else and everything was a bit mixed up'

So words, we all use them but where do we see the word AT used in the bible

Genesis 4: 25 Eve gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord (so it sounds like this was the start of something, the beginning – note AT that time people began.....) It's almost like a verb, a doing word that unites people together. It places them in a unit At that time the people....

Can we in Grace Pentecostal Church today say that At this time we are united in wanting to call on the name of the Lord. We are at the beginning of a new church year; we have a new name and a new focus – the year of hiring. Do we want to be in on it?

Matthew 3:13-16

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Here we have something akin to a chain of command. Jesus was in obedience to the Father and John was in obedience to Jesus and as a result there was another AT event. AT that moment the Spirit came down from heaven and whilst the disciples were not yet filled with its power, they soon would experience a new beginning in their lives.

Another thing, has it ever occurred to you that when Jesus was obedient, God did not delay in giving him recognition. AT that moment the Spirit descended and God declared – This is my Son whom I love, with Him I am well pleased.

Likewise when we are obedient to God things will happen that we can never have imagined. Do you think John expected to see the spirit descend on Jesus, or to hear the voice of God declaring just who Jesus was?

Luke 1:5-45 The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

It really won't be long until Christmas and once more we will read about the foretelling of the birth of John the

Baptist when an angel tells Zechariah that he will soon have a son. And of course we know how Zechariah was rather doubtful about this to say the least but after serving in the temple he returned home and his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people."

You of course know the next part of the reading

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will

ever fail."

(As an aside, what struck me here was that whilst on earth, the Holy Spirit rested on Mary before he did on Jesus at His baptism because Jesus wasn't born yet)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

So back to the little DOING word AT – AT that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (so now we have Elizabeth also filled with the Holy Spirit before Jesus was born!)

Mary probably thought she would meet up with Elizabeth, they would tell each other their amazing stories of what had happened to them and then they would talk baby talk. Because that is what mums to be do. Believe me. Once they are pregnant you cannot get any sense out of a mum to be if it isn't baby related.

But just a minute – something else also happened at that visit – John leaped in Elizabeth's womb when Mary greeted Elizabeth. Did John also hear Mary's voice? Well yes, actually he would have done. Doctors the world over recognise that unborn babies can hear noises such as the sound of their parents leaning over and talking to them They can also hear music and of course they recognise the rhythmic beat of the mother's heart.

So for John, even as an unborn baby that 'AT that moment in time' had a significant effect on his life. Let's make sure we all have At the beginning of this day moments in time, and At the end of this day reflections.

Another powerful little word – and its explanation is much shorter than the last – is the word IN

There is a subtle difference between saying AT the beginning of my dream and IN the beginning of my dream and it is a little difficult to explain.

For me, the word IN is self-explanatory when it is coupled with two other words – together they are gentle, they are mind-blowing, they are awe inspiring and they are so powerful that God Himself declared that they should start off His Word.

The phrase – IN THE BEGINNING

Christine recently started off our church reading week and these were the first three words she would have said. IN THE BEGINNING.

Not at the beginning because that would suggest the start of a journey as I have already explained but to say IN the beginning makes the suggestion of something that is all-encompassing, something that didn't have anything NOT before it. And yet, what was before Creation? Certainly not the stars, the planets or us – we came afterwards.

No, IN THE BEGINNING there was God. He is the One who is all encompassing and because He was In it from the beginning and He is the Alpha

and Omega – He never began and He will never end. Mind-blowing or what? Can you see the difference between saying AT the beginning and IN the beginning?

Not long ago Christine during one of her sermons asked Why does God love us, and the answer she gave was He loves us, because He loves us. Well the other day on Facebook I read something that someone had posted and I would like to share it with you. As far as I am aware as it was on open media it is okay to share it. It said.

An anthropologist proposed a game to the kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he gave them the signal to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat in a circle enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they chose to run as a group when they could have had more fruit individually, one child spoke up and said "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

(UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means "I am because we are". I checked it up on Google and it confirmed the meaning I Am what I am because of who we all are – yes He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

So God is a Collective but are we, does Ubuntu apply to us? Can I also say that I am, because of what we are? Does what I do benefit you, help you? Do we encourage one another, care for one another, are

we strong for one another. If we want to be what God wants us to be, then like Ubuntu we should be able to say, "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad."

And so when we are reading His word, let's not skip over the little words like AT and IN, and don't forget that

throughout scripture, the word Ubuntu is threaded. You might not see it actually written down or put a reference to it. But it is there. It is in Creation, it is at the Cross, and it is in Glory.

Ubuntu – The GREAT I AM BECAUSE OF WHAT HE IS – THE THREE ON ONE



An anthropologist proposed a game to the kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he gave them the signal to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat in a circle enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they chose to run as a group when they could have had more fruit individually, one child spoke up and said: "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

'UBUNTU' in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are"

lightofthegospel ministries



Our Dear friends and Partners,

We are so happy to have you. You are a great blessing to us.

Our ministry

We are reaching new people in central Serbia by spending time with them in coffee shops and homes, and by our love and kindness. We are building the church in Kraljevo and Chachak by preaching, teaching, praying and encouraging. The good thing is that God is adding new people to our fellowship.



From Islam into Christianity

At the end of August we baptised four new believers. Two of them are from Muslim background. The most powerful testimony was from Tema Fazli, who converted from Islam to Christianity, and decided to show her faith in Jesus publicly through baptism. It caused great persecution from her husband. He forbid her to get baptised, and said to her that if she does, he would throw her out of the house. She was so upset and cried a lot. We postponed the baptism, that

we planned to do two weeks earlier, and started earnestly to pray. While we prayed for her in the church, laying our hands on her, God gave Sasha a prophetic word: "The Lord will open the door for you that nobody can shut." And so He did. In the meantime the Lord so much changed the heart of Tema's husband that he not only allowed her to be baptised, but gave her money to buy juice and cake for people in the church. Our God is Great! Tema was full of joy and so happy, she couldn't stop smiling and laughing.



Bob & Margaret

We had a great time with Bob & Margaret Pendlebury, Sara's parents and our UK representatives, who spent the month of August with us. Apart from having a good break, they also ministered in our church. Bob preached a message about "God of the impossible". Now we need to pray for Bob, for his health. The doctors are still doing tests and they are not sure what the problem is, yet. Please, join us in prayer that God miraculously heals Bob.



Jonathan from Germany

At the beginning of September we had an amazing prophetic ministry in breakthrough worship by Jonathan Seela, a student of theology and youth and worship leader from Stuttgart, Germany. We all enjoyed having him here and were so blessed by his ministry.



Pastor Jan

Pastor Jan Demiter from Backa Palanka, north west Serbia, and his team came at the beginning of this month, and ministered prophetically in an amazing way. All the people in our churches in Kraljevo and Chachak were touched by the presence and the power of God. Many were healed, delivered and encouraged. Both places were packed full. In Chachak we had two new people who decided to join our church, in Kraljevo three people who came for the first time.



Visit to England

It was a great delight for us to see so many of you while we were in the UK during the Summer. It was also extra special for us to meet some of our friends from our Bible College days, at the Mattersey Hall Reunion Party in July.



Community Outreach Centre

Putting a second electric meter for our new church building has been more challenging than expected. It's taken more than four months for us to get all the paperwork sorted. The second electric meter will be put in, in a matter of days, and then we will put the laminate flooring in the main hall and apply for the permission for public use. When we receive the green light we will be able to put chairs in and build the platform. Please, pray for our building project. Only with prayer we will be able to complete it.

Kids Church

The new season of Kids Church is doing well. From this coming weekend we will have a new children's worker joining our team. She is from Children's Mission Christian organisation.

Pray

Please, pray for us, for wisdom and protection, for new doors opening and favour. Please, pray for Edward and Rachel Issitt who are coming this weekend to us. They will minister in our church and do community projects in three schools in Kraljevo.

Thank you

Thank you very much for praying for us and supporting our ministry of shining the Light of the Gospel and reaching the unreached in central Serbia.

In His service
Sasha and Sara

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SERBIA

Mobile: +381(0)63 850 22 70

Email: svitakic@gmail.com

UK Representatives Bob & Margaret Pendlebury:

39 Berwick Drive

Burnley, BB12 0TN

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44(0)1282 452 993

Email: rm.pendlebury@gmail.com

written by christine morris

Please read Ezekiel 10

If you think I am repeating myself or that you have read this bit before...that is because you have; way back in chapter 1! We have here the same description, the same vision that Ezekiel sees on the banks of the river.

The man in linen back in chapter 9 is on a mission of mercy, here in chapter 10 he is on a mission of judgement. He is to take the burning coals and rain fire and brimstone over Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be burned to the ground.

The coals are taken from the chariot of the glory of God – from the glory, the holiness and purity of God. In Isaiah 6 we read that Isaiah is purified by the coals. In Deuteronomy 4:24 God is a consuming fire. If we think of Jesus on the cross, the cross is the altar of God! God poured out His holy indignation on Jesus, all of His wrath from His holiness.

The cry from the cross can be found in Psalm 22 verse 1; it's the question. The answer is found in verse 3 of that Psalm – because You are holy. The very judgement that was poured on Jesus at Calvary gives us life, purity and holiness. It's not just prophetic about Ezekiel's immediate history but it pushes forward to the end times; God's wrath.

2 Peter 3:10 – the wrath of God; there is nothing wicked, unjust or cruel, it is absolutely righteous because it is purity and holiness. Ezekiel shows us the workings of God in all His justice and also His mercy. God did rain down fire on Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar took the final deportation and burned the city to the ground. Whenever a city or country was destroyed by the enemy it was taken as a sign that their God had died or their God had abandoned them. The vision of the chariot, once more, is the glory of the Lord departing from Jerusalem.

In Exodus chapter 40 they had the Shekinah glory with them, here in Ezekiel 10 the Shekinah glory departs slowly. It seems reluctant. It's as if God doesn't want to move. At every point there is a hope for a change. But the reality is God isn't moving, He is being evicted by the peoples' sins. God's people were making Him redundant as their God.

Hebrews chapter 12:6-8 says who the Lord loves He chastens (tells off) but how awful to be an unchastened child of God.

The glory of the Lord moves from the Ark of the Covenant, from between the two cherubim in the Holy of Holies. It moves to the threshold of the temple. Then from there to the divine chariot in Ezekiel's vision. From there it moves to the East Gate of the temple courtyard. Here it pauses above the gate. And finally it moves to the Mount of Olives – East of Jerusalem. Totally and utterly outside the city limits! The city is doomed. Their protector is gone.

Samson in the book of Judges chapter 16:20 didn't know that God had departed from him. Without the glory our temples become just like any other building..I am just like any other person, I talk like them, I behave like them.

The thing that makes the difference is the power and presence of Almighty God. Where there are two gods in one temple.....one will have to move! It's better to remove the false presence than to have the true presence depart.

God's presence is the most precious thing we have. In scripture God is described as being with us, being around us, being in us, being in the midst of us, being underneath us, being near us and being before us. This is how we measure spirituality, is this how we measure a church? When people attend a church in droves do we say, " God must be there"? God doesn't always bless tradition. He doesn't always bless the things of the past and neither does He always bless the places where there are crowds and crowds. Jesus sought the ordinary man, He trained them in His presence. WE NEED HIS PRESENCE.

written by david lambert

Thanks again, everyone and the Church Council for all your continued support for Missions throughout 2016. Please pray for and if you can support our remaining mission meeting in 2016 and now looking forwards to 2017.

Do please pray for all the visits in this new church year of "Hiring" up to July 2017. This month we have a visit from Janine Stellatos from Metro World Child on Wednesday Nov 16th. We are looking towards 2017 and the possible visits to the church then and I believe we shall have some positive contacts from AOG as the Lord is faithful in his timing, purpose and provision. We are selective about who we now invite to the church to some extent which is all part of how the church is presently going forwards within its specific vision aimed at sowing seeds of the pure gospel and building the church for the future.

If you would like to join our missions covenant scheme for £24 a year or £2 a month then please ask me or collect one of the forms on the missions table you can start any month, although it is good to start at the beginning of the new church programme. I have also continued writing letters of encouragement to every AOG missionary this is a finite task but once completed all of our AOG missions partners will be aware of the opportunity and personal invitation to visit us should they wish to make contact with us when they are home in the UK. I believe that in God's timing this shall be enabled. To date in the project we have had 18 contacts made in a variety of world locations. This month we are seeking to link with Tom and Olive Kisaki (Japan) 28-119-301, Tatsumi, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture 700-0976, Japan (I enclose the address if you want to write independently). You can see by now the diversity of our verified missionary personnel across the world. If you want to join in you only need to write, a short letter of encouragement and I will post to the missionary along with mine. If not perhaps you could pray for a minute. Letter writing shouldn't take more than ten minutes you will be blessed by doing it please do send me your letter by 27th Nov 16 and I will send it in the envelope along with mine.

As mentioned last month I thought it would be interesting to gradually explore and pray for each of the 224 ethnic groups, as a missionary perspective. This will be over a period of time in the magazine and prayer letter as an exercise in thoroughness and exploration starting next month. Also in a spirit of rigour and in the same vein

as our various church series of the word, that God will raise workers and revival amongst them as we bring them before him and briefly explore their specific characteristics and pray for them. If we have a burden of some sort then the best thing to do is act upon it for some reason the Lord puts these types of mission burden on my particular heart.

I am sure that there is a spiritual burden that we all can find and hold to as the Lord leads us forward it will be specific and unique. We may only know the results of the Lord's leading to act, write, pray or be faithful to his calling in eternity.

written by jamie boulton

As a church, we may seem quite different to the other churches we see around us in that although we are part of a denomination (group of churches) we rarely seem to have any involvement from them. Many people find this quite odd, particularly if they have come from churches which have a centrally run structure, containing either parishes or circuits. Many aren't even aware that we are part of a denomination at all, but I can assure you that we are. Some of you may think we have been abandoned by our denomination, others think its neglect, but I wonder if you would be surprised if I told you, that what you may think is a negative, is the very principle on which we were founded.

Just under one hundred years ago our very own church and twenty-six others, whom were independent and of a Pentecostal experience met to discuss the formation of an association. They had no intention of creating a hierarchical structure of bishops, and centrally run church government. Each church was to be independent, having the right to run as it felt the Lord had directed. the purpose of the association was that we may have fellowship with Christians throughout the country who were like minded. And to make sure we were a likeminded collection of independent churches under the banner of one denomination called the Assemblies of God, those founding churches agreed on 12 statements. These 12 statements we call our fundamental truths, and they are the articles of association we have with one another within the church and we also have with other AOG churches. Every month we will discover a little bit behind what each of these fundamental truths means.

1, We believe that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments excluding the Apocrypha), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice

John 1:1 tells us that in the beginning was the word, which the rest of the chapter informs us is Christ. The Greek word is Logos this same word is what is used to describe the scriptures. Therefore, what we can conclude is the bible is actually the very nature, character and essence of Christ our Lord. And put simply the Bible is Jesus in Published form. When we are studying it we are trying to get to know Jesus more. In the same way we might fall in love with someone and then find out much about them. From that knowledge we then begin to form a picture of who the Lord is and what offends Him and makes Him happy. From that we can then be directed in our path and when we pray to the Lord and He answers

from His word.

This is a statement that has to be believed by Faith but 2 Timothy 3:16 gives us evidence for this faith. It tells us all scripture is God breathed, meaning inspired by the Holy Spirit, as the same breath which animated the valley of the dry bones. This reveals that the word of God is not a dead book with a codex of laws written to which we must apply ourselves, but a living book, which is prophetic, revealing Jesus at work in the world we live in. 2 Peter 1:21 confirms this to us revealing that no man can prophecy, only the Lord knows the end from the beginning.

These statements are statements of faith, that is they are based on our belief that there is a Lord God, who sent His son to die upon a cross to make atonement for you and for me, that when we accept His salvation. And the reader must see the bible as divine and true. If you look to the bible to prove itself, you will find holes not because there are any, but because it requires patients and work to understand the word, but faith to

know that the scriptures are complete.

But how do we know it is just these 66 books and not other profound philosophies, so called Spiritual books or lost gospels?

Firstly, Isaiah 40:8, tells us the Word of God is above all of man's philosophy, and will outlast them, there is no other revelation higher than the scriptures.

Secondly the structure of the 66 books reveals the prophetic nature of these specific books as each one inter-links with another as Scripture interprets scripture. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Finally, the scarlet thread of God's redemption carries on through the 66 books, beginning with God's promise in Genesis 3:15 and its fulfilment revealed in Revelation. Thus confirming its prophetic nature, as each narrative highlights God's redemptive plan for mankind, through Abraham, the sacrificial system, Davidic kings, exile and restoration.



FOOD THOUGHT

HOSTED BY OASIS

FEED YOUR BODY & SOUL!

Tuesday 20th December
11:30am

JOIN US FOR OUR 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT'
GOSPEL OUTREACH FOR THOSE AGED 55 &
OVER.... AND LIKE THE LOVE OF THE LORD,
IT'S ENTIRELY FREE!



MENU

Homemade Chicken
and Leek Pie with
Seasonal Veg

Apple Strudel and
Custard

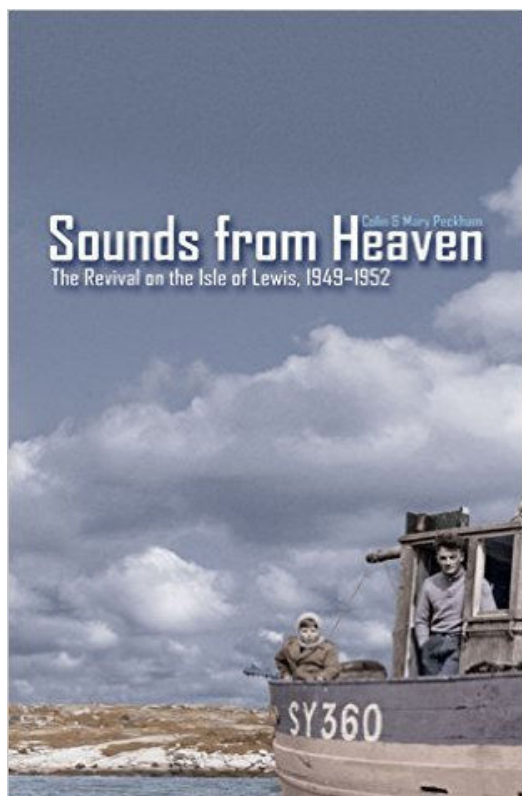
Tea or coffee

For bookings and enquiries,
please contact:

Grace Pentecostal Church
Wensley Road
Blackburn
BB2 1QD

TEL: 01254 54544

written by lynne haydock



This month's book review is a book called 'Sounds from Heaven' subtitled *Revival on the Isle of Lewis 1949-1952* and authored by Colin and Mary Peckham published by Christian Focus Publications 2004.

Colin Peckham was born in South Africa and was the Principal of Faith Mission Bible College for seventeen years. His other books include *The Authority of the Bible* and *Learning to resist temptation*. Mary Peckham was born on the Isle of Lewis and converted in the 1949 revival. She spent 14 years in evangelistic ministry before marrying Colin in 1969. Together they served the Lord in South Africa for fourteen years.

This book is a blend of history, biography and reports as well as several testimonies during the 1949-52 awakening. It includes description of the characteristics of the revival and stories from the ordinary people recounting what they saw, heard and personally experienced, each telling us the same coherent story of the miracle of revival in the Western Isles.

I believe the intended audience of this book is Christian especially any Christian interested in church history or those who like to read testimony. I don't think this book would be appropriate for a non-Christian as some of the concepts that are discussed here would be unfamiliar to them and aren't really explained.

The book is divided into 2 halves, the first half is the background to and description of the revival in Lewis and the second half of the book is individual testimonies of those who experienced the revivals.

Some of the book is compiled from Duncan Campbell's weekly short reports from the places he visited and services he led and I found that this section of the book was disjointed and jerky. There didn't seem to be a natural flow from one mini report to the next. This made it difficult and frustrating at times to read.

The authors' purpose is clearly stated at the beginning of the book – to describe the revival so that we will be inspired. The author's wish is "May God teach us to pray, to enter into his presence, to learn true soul travail as we bear burden of the lost."

I liked the fact that the author did not shy away from making the point that being in revival is not all easy. There was suspiciousness and opposition of the work of God from some denominations and individuals in the islands. There was physical, mental and spiritual exhaustion that many ministers experienced. This shows that just because God pours out his blessings on his people doesn't mean everything is easy and without a lot of effort and soul searching.

The book explains to the reader the characteristics of the revival – lessons of persistent, insistent and believing prayer; a sense of the presence of God; description of the power of the Holy Spirit being evidence of conviction of sin and dynamic song in times of revival.

The Isle of Lewis in 1949 is a very unfamiliar place for us living in England in 2016 to try and understand. Apart from the geography and climate which is described for us to understand the isolation, the culture is something for different from us today. The people on the island know the Bible through School lessons, sang Psalms (more than often in Gaelic) and even had family worship in their homes where they would read the Bible together. But yet they were not saved.

This book is easy to understand in that the language is not highly theological but as mentioned before didn't always flow well which meant I struggled at some times to carry on reading this book. The book can be dipped into especially the testimonies which are short and sweet. I am glad I read this book but personally I think I would have liked a bit more description of life on the Isle of Lewis and the content of the different services that were held across the islands so I could have understood a bit more of what went on.

I got the unusual feeling as though there was something missing or a book I should have read before this one. In order to appreciate this or recommend this book I think that you would either need to know more or be prepared to read more about the revival.

The following are the books that have been previously reviewed by Turning Pages:

- Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World by David Jeremiah;
- Joy of Encouragement by David Jeremiah
- The Valley of Vision by Arthur Bennett;
- First Light by Bodie and Brock Theone;
- Wigglesworth (The Complete Story) by Julian Wilson;
- Christ in the Feast of Passover by David Brickner and Rich Robinson;

- Whose Child is this by Bill Wilson;
- Oceans Apart by Karen Kingsbury
- Into Africa by David Womersley and David Garrad.
- Crimson Cord by Jill Eileen Smith
- Buried Secrets by Irene Hannon
- How God Became King by Tom Wright
- Jesus Freaks by DC Talk and The Voice of the Martyrs
- The Imams daughter by Hannah Shah

If you would like to borrow any of these please look on the Turning Pages book case out in the Foyer or come and see me. Please do fill in the signup sheet if you do take a book so that I know where it has gone and who has it.

If you have a favourite book you would like to share with others or one maybe you have just finished reading feel free to write a review for the Church Magazine. If you would like help I have a sheet with suggestions. If you have read a reviewed book from a previous magazine including this one and would like to add your own comment, please let me know. It can be as short or as long as you like. Feel free to disagree with my opinion or highlight something I have missed. It will then be added as a comment section to the next article. Thank you to those that have borrowed books, I will continue to change the books around in the Foyer so that people can see the full selection of reviewed books.

written by daniel talbot

I'd like to talk about a topic ... that isn't the usual thing to bring up. In fact I don't intend to alarm you, but I don't really want to do this either. I was seriously wondering and praying that the Lord would give me something to say ...

I started writing a few notes and ideas No no. I don't like that. Can't do that -

Start again:

Let's start from a different point of view ... with new ideas ... and regardless of where I start, I end up looking at the same thing. I can't do something else. I've tried harder than I should - it doesn't work. So here we go, we are going to start with the topic of:

Taking Offence

If you get offended by that - then guess what, you should listen. Before we begin please be aware: This is not about theft. This isn't the easiest topic to go through, though as human beings ... we are all prone to taking offense very easily -

How does the world know we are Jesus' disciples? It tells us in John 13: 34-35.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

And loving one another is not getting overly offended. How do we get like this? How do we take offence?

By taking issue with what someone else says, usually to us or a person we care for. However we go through a process:

Offence. Defence. Attack.
Or rather offended, defence, attack.

This process is Anti-love, it can cause great harm to all types of relationships, including our relationship with the Lord, and it can cause us to think irrationally. The Bible is also against us taking offense all the time. Proverbs is full of loads of helpful advice for many things ... and this is one of them.

Proverbs 11:19 - A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense (NIV). it is worded differently in the NKJV

You also sometimes need to be prepared to offend others. I'm not saying go out of your way. That's ridiculous. Especially when it says in James 3:18 'Peacemakers who sow in peace make a harvest of righteousness' Not to mention in Galatians 5 peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

So what do I mean then?

Simply put, you need to be prepared to offend others in order not to compromise Biblical truths. Never compromise truth for a lie. Yet it's so easy. I have done many times. One simple example is: Gay marriage.

Do we agree with it? No. It's as clear as black and white in the Bible. Out of all the issues that can be debated, this isn't one of them.

Two people that I have known for more than a decade are Gay. They are aware that I disagree with it, they are aware in fact we have completely different ideas about life in general. They think best life now, whilst I know, as the scriptures teach us it's about storing up treasures in heaven.

However what they do know, as I have told them and am prepared to tell them over and over:

Though we have different ideals, different ways of doing things, and in some cases completely different ways of approaching things even I still love them as a friend. I disagree

with Them though I think nothing less of them because of it. The world has turned disagreeing with someone into hating them, it's not at all. I do not hate them, and will never think act differently with them because it.

Don't compromise your beliefs, because someone else has a strong opinion against you.

What are they standing on? Their own two feet. What are you standing on? The Solid rock and foundation that is Jesus.

Now ... that's an easy one.

What happens when two people in Church, firmly believe they are both standing on the rock of Jesus - yet have two opposite opinions on the same topic?

Chances are - one of you, or both of you is going to get offended. Especially if it's something very difficult or controversial. It's hard not to, though it's not love! And how do people know we are Jesus' disciples? Because we love one another, as Christ loves us. Once we become offended with each other, we play the defensive game - irrationally so.

It's like when a parent gets a phone call from school. Their child has been in a fight. Not my child. They are so nice, do all their homework and get along well with almost everyone! They would never start a fight. Yet the parent on the other side that is involved is also thinking the same thing. Guess what?

One of you is wrong!

This can spiral into heated debate, words start to be spoken that are regretted, relationships are damaged, and the problem is never solved. Not love at all.

This is only defense. And if the worst case scenario, it leads to 'Attack' you no longer wish to debate with them, if you aren't physically fighting then at the very least you both hate each other, refuse to look at the others review - because they are just wrong!

However there is another way to go about being offended, which in fact leads you not to be offended.

Let's rewind:

So a group of Christians are debating. You've got those that believe in the age of innocence, on the right. Those who strongly do not on the left. What makes matters worse is that the family on the right has recently lost a small child to a heart defect. Things could get pretty heated.

Let's pause that for a moment, and rewind a little more.

One has discovered that the other does not believe in the age of Innocence. It is not 1 v 1, debate the other person to death until I win. Very quickly it can become about choosing sides. Quickly forgetting that:

You're not against this other person at all - in fact you're allies with them. Brothers and sisters in Christ.

You both have your own differences, yet the one thing you can both trust in, is the scriptures themselves. So turn

to the one thing you can agree on; scripture being the Word of God. Use that as a foundation and work your way up from that.

Here is an idea: Rather than playing a game of 'who can back up their opinion first wins' but instead ... if both of them individually come to the conclusion that they could be wrong ... and both agree on how the Word of God is definitely right when it's understood.

I am assuming all of this is nothing new, why am I telling you this? No idea, other than regardless of how much I prayerfully persist against it - it's tough. This is what I have!

So we are God's people. Adopted into his family, and how does the world know us as his? Because we love one another.

Which moves us on to the next little point really:

Persistence!

Remain persistent. It's easier said than done.

Though I can testify in my own life, be persistent in your prayers to see God's kingdom advance, and it will work out.

Not might. Will.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Though what are all 'these things'

that shall be added to you?

I'll read Matthew 6:25 - 34 to find out. Isn't this just fantastic?

Not only does it tell you, what 'these things' are but it even presents it in a list. It concludes it for you! So don't worry about what you shall eat, drink, or wear. Just seek first the kingdom of God.

I don't mean 'don't bother to put your chickens in the oven. Seek after God and they will cook themselves.... Since your lunch noticed you were too busy.' Leave these things as an afterthought, in comparison to Seeking the kingdom.

The Bible uses a lot of comparisons, and comparing thing. One such comparison is in Luke 14:26. It says:

26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Is that verse literally saying: Hate all. Only love and follow God? No. The gap between Love and Hate is ... a reasonable size. Only about the biggest scale that we can actively comprehend. Even sometimes that is difficult.

Now take the scale of this gap, and move it. How much do you love your father, mother, wife or husband, brothers and sister and your own life. Well put them at one end ... place this scale in between and then place God at the other end. That is how much more you should love God in

comparison to your family and yourself.

Seek first the kingdom of heaven ... and the more you love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength ... the more you will love one another.

How does the world know us as God's disciples? How do they pick us out from the crowd? We love one another. That's how. Be persistent in Loving one another, be persistent in prayer, placing God first.

Now is a good time to mention at there is more than one word for love in the Greek. English is pretty limited, whilst we have to say 'I love you like this, I love you like that ...' so that others don't get the wrong impression. Greek has different words for the different types of love. I love you like a brother ... I Philia you, for example.

However God has 'agape' love. Love that is unconditional. The love that we should strive to have. You might never care for me, but I will always care for you.

One of the few times I have remained persistent, is with the youth. I remember looking round and going '... um ... Lord, where is everyone?' whether they moved churches, moved houses ... whatever the situation was, they left. I'm surprised this place didn't have an echo when the Youth met up. I'm talking about 8 years ago.

I prayed 'Lord, where are they? Restore your Youth group to better than its former glory. Build the Youth group up!'
... next week ... maybe one other

person ... a few weeks later ... still one other person Sometimes if no one turned up. The Youth leaders went home.

I got fed up with it all, and tried other Youth groups ... and you know what, in my mind, they were perfect groups. Friendly. I knew a few of them from years back. I was comfortable with them. Could talk to them. Not only was there a youth leader... but a Youth pastor!! Who was God focused, and wanted only to see our walk with God continue to grow.

Perfection! (So I thought at the time.) Just what I wanted. ... though it's not about me. I got an overwhelming sensation that I did not fit in there, which is crazy because they tick all the boxes and I love them to bits. I could grow here! No.

Whenever I went back to the youth, to probably play on a games console with someone else I felt a strong sense of belonging. (Not towards the game console) The Lord has put me here, and he was telling me to stay there.

The more I went to this other place, which was Elim by the way - the more I felt I didn't belong there. Not because they're not good people, not because the youth wasn't Christ centred. I am sure there are those called to Elim church, but The Lord called me here, to sometimes sit on my own.

Well ... if God wants me here, then there is no doubt in my mind that he has plans and purposes, not just for the Youth - but for the Church. I must

persist here. Later on I discovered this scripture: Isaiah 40:31.

And he did. Over the next 2 years or so ... it just happened. There was between 4 - 6 of us at any given time. Hadn't been in a youth group this large in years. I kept praying for the Lord to grow the youth group in number, and one day wondered why I was still praying for that. The Lord had answered the prayer.

Now it was time to persist in a new prayer. Not including myself, there was maybe one other that was saved. It was time for a persistent prayer ... Lord thank you for reviving us in number, now I beg of you - revive us in the spirit.

As the youth groups leaders left, Christine took over the youth. Good-bye games console and snooker table ... hello comfy seats and the Bible. Her calling is not to the youth, but it is to the Lord - she also ran the youth whilst playing a major role in the church council in between Ian and Jamie. In between preaching at the front, doing a full time job and not to mention family at home. She persisted when it was difficult.

Much later on with Toddleabout, Sharon persisted with it. Though none of the parents and toddlers ever seem to move on to Grace Kids ... our kids club. She persisted, and eventually out of nowhere a significant group moved up to Grace Kids.

As I continued to pray for the revival of the spirit within the youth ... I fell in love with them all. Persistent prayer can do that.

How does the world know we are his disciples? Because we love one another.

Not long after Jamie and Mel took over the Youth group, I decided I could not stand by, I had to do more. So that's exactly what I did. I went to Jamie, had my little 5 minute or so slot ... and it continued from there. Be persistent in prayer, but also expect that the Lord will answer ... as long as you seek first the kingdom and all his righteousness ... Your prayer will be answered. Not necessary in the way you want, or the order that you want, but in the Lord's will.

Stay persistent. In prayer. In Christ.

Soooo...

When the Lord takes a step back, He does so for your own good. What do you do? Hang on a minute... I am distant from God.

A test: are you going to search diligently, organise a search party and look for footsteps so to speak. Persistent until you find him. Or are you going to go 'do you know what ... I don't even like where you were taking me. Goodbye!

If God takes a step back, run in search of him. If you take the step back ... then He will call you home. He is calling you home. Many many people choose to step away from Christianity, why? Because someone else offended them, because they got hurt by something else, or don't like what someone is saying. Maybe someone is putting far too much pressure on you as an individual to do something

- and so you walk away. Why? Your faith is not based on the 'someone else', your faith is not based on feelings. Your faith should be based on the eternal security that God has given you through his son.

If the Church has false teaching, go find another one that is God centred! Try to solve the problem if you are hurt. Pray about it. If you're feeling pressured to do something, pray about it be persistent-and at the last resort. Leave that particular church. Do not leave God. You can, though I plead with you not to. They are not perfect, they make mistakes, they can be wrong ... but guess who isn't? So go find another God centred Church, and continue to persist after the Lord and his will for your life. Otherwise, what are you doing? You're telling us, your faith is not based on him, but it is based on people. So base your faith on God - persist when it gets difficult and stay with him. Find your God given purpose in life, and do it to the best of your ability and do not let other things come between you and God's work.

My God given purpose in this point in my life, is to help and support the young people in any way I can - pray for them, build them up, teach what I can, share the Gospel and always point to Christ Jesus as our Lord and Saviour from our sins.

You have a calling that varies a bit from mine. However the last bit is the same. Share the gospel. Yet before you step into all that ... you need to have accepted it in the first place.

There has been many times I have

not been preparing as I should, Not been praying for them, and forgetting about the Youth group until the last minute. However I ask for forgiveness, and I start again, and put God first again, and prayerfully seek him again.

Be persistent. Do not stop.

Whether that's finding your calling, continuing in your calling, seeking After the Lord for the first time in your life, or you left the lord - and have a lot of dusting to do -

Keep going!

If you are distant from God, if you have walked away from God - or simply sometimes bone idle like myself ... come back to him, he has a calling and a purpose for your life. He has plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Not meaning he wants you living in Joel Osteen's mansion, and live a life of worldly luxury. Life is hard, and it will continue to get harder as a Christian in the long run ... What do you get out of this whole Christian deal?

You get to draw on unlimited strength, and you get to go places ... What do I mean?

What happens when your confidence is based off yourself, and you run out?

You keep trying to draw on a source that is dry. Though when your confidence is based on your Salvation, you can draw it from God. What happens when your comfort is based on other people, food, objects? They let

you down, fail you, or run out.

Though seek first the kingdom ... seek after God, to get to know him personally - according to his will. He has a plan for you. So my advice is:, accept it, find it, and do it! . Don't take it from me. Take it from this book! Jesus in written form. 66 books, over hundreds of years, in different continents, written in different languages ... perfectly comes together ... why? Because God made it possible.

I still pray 'Lord revive the youth, be their comforter ... be their all in all. Continue to teach them, and reveal yourself to them.' That is exactly what he is doing. Yet this is only the beginning.

Do you know what happens when you persistently pray for a group? You fall in love with them all.

How does the world know we are Jesus' disciples? Because we love on another.

Ever come to Church or a Bible study and not have your head in the right place ... you just ain't ready. ... we all do. I remember zoning out, just for a moment - and the result? The Youth pinched my Bible, as I wasn't looking for the verse, so they did.

We had a Childrens 'light party' a kid's gospel event at halloween. At the Church.

Some of the youth were asked, and given the opportunity to do the planning. They all jumped at the opportunity to do so - no one pushed them. No one said you had to, they jumped

into it - for the Lord. Took it seriously and planned a gospel outreach for the children. It used to be a privilege to work with the Youth, it is now also a Joy.

Very young christians can only be built on. They cannot build on others. It is the responsibility of us to build on them, help them support them though all they do - and yet now:

Many have grown to the point where they are just starting to be able to build on others, and they are becoming more independent in their walk with Christ. That's not to say new Christians can't build on themselves ... however a little growth is required before they can build on others.

So seek first the kingdom, do not get overly offended about a difference in opinion and seek to resolve it. Seek after the Lord - and remain persistent in doing so.

How does the World know we are Jesus' Disciples? Because we love one another.

Though there is also an extra bit I like to pull together from that, and it works well. Yes the world will know we are His, if we love one another, though ... Why? Love one another as Christ loves you. See without including Jesus in this, it's all pointless ...

Many churches, and Christian places forget that. Traditions with Christ centred purpose are okay. However when they get in the way of Christ, get rid of them!

This church has had its ups and downs

too. ,

At its highest ... A revival of God's word, teachings ... And renewals of his promises, God centred.

At its lowest?

Mandatory hat wearing!! ... No joke, and this still prevents whole families from walking into a church. Even though it happened long long before I was even born! And very few remember it. Don't worry ... We are a long way from our lowest stage.

Any of you visited here 3 or 4 years ago? Notice a difference in the people, in the place, in the way we talk to one another? It's not just the new windows, or seating arrangement ... It's because more and more of us are choosing to actively persist after the Lord. That is the difference - and it's our Job to point you and encourage you to be persistent in Christ. As I said before, whether that's starting a new, or picking up where you left off - persist.

Now... It is our job to be a sign post ... and point you towards Christ ... what does that mean? Many call themselves Christians because they were brought up as one, or because they go to Church, or because where born in a "Christian" country. None of that makes you a Christian! I'm sorry that this is new to some of you.

To become one you need to actively choose to be one. To choose to be one, means to accept Jesus as Saviour - but what does that mean?

Every time you have lied, cheated and so on ... you sin.

You are not perfect, you get stuff wrong. However- the reality is the punishment for that is death. Sounds a bit dramatic? I agree, though it is. God, is a God of Justice. To treat everyone equally. If one person gets told of for something ... so should everyone else be who also does that. Fair. The punishment for sin is Death, God can't simply let that slide.

However; he loves us. But still can't let it slide ... so what does he do?

He sends his own son, to die for us. In our place. Jesus chose to do what God had asked him to do, which was die for you and for me. He did that obediently, but also in Love - so that we can have the gift of Salvation, that is to say we no longer have our sins counted against us ... as they are paid for in full. Meaning that yes we have access to Heaven, but it also means that we need to do our best to turn away from our sin.

So overflowing is His kindness toward us that He took away all our sins through the blood of His Son, by whom we are saved. - Ephesians 1:7

When you accept that Gift there is a phrase used ... 'born again', you've probably heard of it at some point. The term is used because all your past, is not being held against you anymore ... and in fact you do want to know the best bit? You didn't earn any of it! It's freely given.

Because you didn't earn any of it you cannot disqualify yourself from it, you cannot sin one time too many for this to be taken away from you ... turn away from that sin best you can, and

be truly sorry for it - and you're set. The only person who can really take it of you, is yourself. Though you can come back at any point.

There are lots of different appeals that churches do... confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that he died on the cross for your sins ... so you could choose to willingly accept him as your saviour.

Now you have been given that information-You don't actually need anyone else with you.

It's a heart decision.

If you choose not, then that is entirely your choice... If you choose yes ... then we as a Church, as a body of individuals are here to support you in every way we can - here to support each other.

Let's close our eyes and let's finish in prayer,

If you chose yes- and you agree with what I am saying please go along with it in your hearts ... if not, or you have any questions we are always here.

Let's pray ...

Father, I have sinned and done wrong many times ... Accept my apology and I choose to turn away from that best I can. I accept you as my Saviour in my heart... I wish to lead a life after you. Please show me the next step ... the first step in you.

Amen.

Thank you everyone for coming along, Thank you all for supporting the youth this week, Thank you to ... for doing this. Thank you to For doing this.
...etc.

There is tea and coffee at the back, and like the love of the Lord its entirely free...

Do as you like, though you're welcome to stop around a while, have some fellowship, perhaps say hello to someone new.

And if you want a biscuit and there is none on the plate ... ask the Youth.

Thank you.

GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH BLACKBURN PRESENTS....

STAR

THE FAITH AWAKENS

WARDS

NATIVITY!

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2016

6PM

**GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
WENSLEY ROAD
BLACKBURN
BB2 1QD**

TEL: 01254 54541



There are many things that need to be done in the kingdom and as such we have created a structure at Grace which allows people to move out into that good work the Lord has put into your heart. Our hope as a church is to release people into that gifting, which the Lord has given, so we may reach out in many directions, and it is Jesus who is directing us.

All our activities here at Grace are for the purpose of seeing our vision outworked in people's lives. And to do this, whatever it is that you feel the Lord has called you to do is either to: -

Reach = aimed at anyone who does not know the Lord Jesus as saviour and so is designed to teach them this truth by having an activity which the gospel may be audibly shared at.

Teach = aimed at those who know the Lord as saviour that they can learn more about Christ and his nature, so we can be more like Him every day

Keep = for the purpose of meeting together to encourage one another with the Lord, to grow up in Christ.

Serve = to make the process of Reaching, Teaching and Keeping possible, through the practical assistance needed.

If you have such an idea, brewing within you and you don't even know where to start, then can I encourage you to get in touch with me on either my email or by phone. We will talk about it and begin the process of getting this God given calling into practice

However, for others it may be that you don't want to start an activity but look to help out with the existing church tasks. It's just you don't know where to start. So the 'Gizza job' section of our 'Inspiration' magazine is to let you know about the ongoing roles, that need to be filled. Have a read of the descriptions and if you feel you can help, then please get in touch with the contact in the advert.

For activity leaders, if you would like to advertise a role your looking for volunteers in, then please submit your advert to the communications team, with your contact details, so that people can get in touch.

The Lord bless you in your service for His kingdom.

MUSICIAN

Have you got a talent hidden under a bushel? Can you play a musical instrument? Are you ready and willing to use that talent for the Glory of God and the extension of His kingdom?

There are 2 positions available and no reason whatsoever that one person could not serve both.

Position 1.

Venue: Grace Pentecostal Church. (Minor Hall)

Date and time: Every Friday 1-2 pm

Job description: To serve the Living God and provide a musical accompaniment for our weekly Oasis 55+ Meeting.

Position 2.

Venue: Grace Pentecostal Church. Minor Hall

Date and time. Quarterly. To be announced.

Job description: To serve the Lord, who is not willing that any should perish and provide musical accompaniment to our "Food for thought" outreach Specials.

If you are willing to fill either or both these positions, or for further information, please contact

Carol Duxbury 07400523995 or Pastor Jamie Boulton 01254 54541

LIBRARY ASSISTANT (LIBRARY OF GRACE)

Activity leader – Lynne Haydock

type of activity – Keep

Aim – to provide a facility where Christian resources can be accessed and borrowed for personal and group encouragement and study

When it Takes Place – Tuesday 2 -8pm (or for some period of time within these hours)

Helpers need to do one or all of the following:-

- * Help visitors access resources on the internet, locate books via the catalogue
- * Help visitors with the use of the printer/photocopier as appropriate
- * To serve and/or make refreshments for visitors
- * To encourage and stimulate discussion of Christian topics

Special requirements – none needed but familiarity with computers would be useful and baking experience welcomed

TODDLEABOUT

Activity Leader: Sharon Moorehouse

Type of Activity: Reach

Aim: to give parents/ carer's and children the sound saving knowledge of Jesus Christ whilst providing a safe and secure environment for this to happen. To provide Age appropriate toys and activities and equipment to help develop and enhance the child's developments. to support and advise parents as and when needed. To introduce children to the Lord Jesus Christ through example, prayers, stories and activities

When it takes place: ever Thursday 9 am to 3pm (term time only)

Where it takes place: Minor hall, Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do one of or all of the following:

- helpers are required to come and sit with parents and carers to share the gospel with,
- to help with setting up and putting away,
- to do a story time presentation with an audible gospel message

Special requirements: will need to undergo a DBS check

GRACE KIDS

Activity Leader: Christine Morris

Type of Activity: Reach

Aim: to provide a sanctuary or city of refuge for children where they may come and find the only true refuge Jesus Christ as their Lord and saviour, through activities that teach Jesus and by building relationships so they can see Jesus in you.

When it takes place: Friday 5pm-730pm

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do:- one of or all of the following

- Help children to participate by befriending and sharing
- to help with story telling
- To be available to help with presentations (need to be free Sunday afternoon/evenings for rehearsals)
- help to tidy and clean and put away

Special requirements: will need to undergo a DBS check

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Activity Leader: None (interim Jamie Boulton)

Type of Activity: Teach

Aim: to help the children discover the very nature of God for themselves through the bible. And to not look at it as a type of babysitting

When it takes place: Sunday 1030-1230

Where it takes place: Class room, Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do:- one of or all of the following

- take a Sunday school class on your own on a rota basis depending on how many Sunday school teachers, this will require you to need to do prior preparation and study so the children are adequately prepared for.

Special requirements: will need to undergo a DBS check

GRACE YOUTH

Activity Leader: Daniel Talbot, Melanie Boulton

Type of Activity: Reach

Aim: to share the message of Salvation in Jesus Christ through interaction and programmes which are relevant to Young people.

When it takes place: Friday 7pm – 9pm

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do:- one of or all of the following

- Help young people to participate by befriending and sharing
- to help with activities
- To be available to help with presentations (need to be free Sunday afternoon/evenings for preparation)
- help to tidy and clean and put away

Special requirements: will need to undergo a DBS check

PRAYER MEETING/FIRST LIGHT

Activity Leader: None (interim Jamie Boulton)

Type of Activity: Keep

Aim: to continue to pray for various means within our church and without to build our own faith and to discover the truths of the Lord's will in our church

When it takes place: Tuesday 7am – 8 am or 7:30pm-8:30pm

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do:- one of or all of the following

- to come to pray for the missionary activities around the globe
- to come and pray for the church planting work at Great Harwood
- to come and pray for the sick of our Church
- To come and pray for Evangelism and the wining of souls
- to come and pray generally that the Lord would move in His mighty power

Special requirements: none

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

Activity Leader: None (interim Jamie Boulton)

Type of Activity: Keep

Aim: to continue to pray for the work of God amongst the Jews, for the peace of Jerusalem, and for Israel.

When it takes place: first Wednesday of Every Month 1pm – 2pm

Where it takes place: Class room, Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- to have a passion for the people of Israel to come to know Jesus as Saviour

Special requirements: none

WORSHIP GROUP

Activity Leader: Christine Morris

Type of Activity: Serve

Aim: to provide the opportunity to worship the Lord via music in any event, activity or meeting

When it takes place: could be any time (worship practice currently Thursday 7:30pm-10pm)

Where it takes place: Main hall, Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- to play a musical instrument or sing
- to work the overhead projector
- to man the sound desk

Special requirements: none

STEWARDS

Activity Leader: none (interim jamie boulton)

Type of Activity: Serve

Aim: to serve the church by helping all event, activities and meetings to run smoothly by providing practical assistance

When it takes place: could be any time

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- to greet people at the door
- to help distribute communion
- to help set the communion up
- to be a point of contact for visitors
- to pray with those who have accepted the Lord as saviour
- to help to provide security whilst others are distracted

Special requirements: none

MISSIONS DISBURSEMENTS

Activity Leader: none (interim jamie boulton)

Type of Activity: Keep

Aim: To inspire the church into service and to manage our involvement in the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the World through supporting the various missionaries financially, liaising with them and informing the church of their work, and by inviting them to come and speak to the congregation

When it takes place: could be any time

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- to provide support to the mission's secretary on deciding who will be supported or not
- To keep accurate accounting records to be delivered to the finance teams

Special requirements: must be a member

CHURCH PLANTING

Activity Leader: none (interim jamie boulton)

Type of Activity: Reach

Aim: To create a viable and self-sustaining church which shares our vision and goals and joins with us in close union, all over the world

When it takes place: could be any time

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- to help with evangelism strategy for the town of Great Harwood
- to create and edit a quarterly newsletter to be sent to all those interested in the works at Great Harwood
- Labourers to help with the clearing out and rebuilding

Special requirements: none

NEW BUILDING PROJECTS/GARDENING/MAINTENANCE/CLEANING/CARETAKING

Activity Leader: none (interim jamie boulton)

Type of Activity: Serve

Aim: Keep the building in a safe and habitable condition for the use of all other departments.

When it takes place: could be any time

Where it takes place: Grace Pentecostal Church Blackburn

Helpers needed to do :- one of or all of the following

- Cleaners to clean the building regularly
- To help mow the lawn regularly and manage the plant
- to complete the various maintenance jobs listed on the board under new project, Gardening, and Maintenance
- to help with regular setting up for the various meetings and their requirements

Special requirements: none

HUB LEADERS

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to open up their home one night a week to run a Hub group. The role will involve coordinating a meeting (although not necessarily doing every part) where a group of 5 to 7 attendees of the church may attend to fellowship, study, pray and worship together. Currently the details are being worked out and we are looking for individuals who may be interested in knowing a little more about the role. An enquiry doesn't mean you have agreed to do it.

If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email Hub leader

CLEANERS

We are looking for individuals who feel they could just give a part of their time a week to regularly clean a part of the building. Anyone wishing to take on this role must feel a calling from the Lord to do it and have a passion for the building to look its best for the work of the Lord. Cleaners will be responsible to the Cleaning coordinator and must agree to follow their instructions as activity leader.

If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email Cleaner

CLEANING CO-ORDINATORS

We are looking for an individual who would like to become an activity leader, coordinating the Church's cleaning. This does not mean you are doing all of the cleaning, but rather coordinating the cleaning that is done, as well as having the responsibility for the cleaning budget. The Individual should feel called to the role by the Lord, with a passion in their hearts that the building should be a clean, warm and safe environment for church activities to take place in. The cleaning coordinator will be part of our building management department and will be overseen by the Building management department Deacon. This is a serve activity

This is what the role begins like but were looking for someone who can make it so much more than it is as described here

Activity leaders are required to agree to conform to 10 standards, the two which are prerequisites of applying are that you have been in attendance at Grace Church Blackburn for at least 3 months and you are a member. If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email Cleaning coordinator

STEWARDS

We are looking for individuals who would like to help out with one or more of the various stewardship jobs that are needed to make the church services possible. The various stewardship jobs are:- Setting up the Communion, Handing out the communion, tidying away the Communion set, Greeting people at the door, helping people to find a seat, encouraging new people by helping them to find a seat and introducing them to the people sat around them, handing out of literature, and helping with practical issues during the services. Some of these jobs are already done by some people, but we are always looking for new people to help on a rotating basis. Anyone wishing to take on one of these tasks must feel a sense of calling from the Lord and a passion to serve one another. Stewards will be responsible to the Stewards Coordinator and must follow their instructions as activity leader.

If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email Stewards

STEWARD CO-ORDINATORS

We are looking for an individual who would like to become an activity leader, coordinating the church's stewards. The stewards of the church are those individuals who pass around the communion and help to set it up/put it away; stand and greet people at the door passing out the relevant literature; and help new people to find a seat, introduce them to the people around them and make them feel welcome. The coordinators role is to make sure all of these tasks are running as they should, training and encouraging the stewards in their roles, planning rotas and delivering them. The individual should feel called to the role by the Lord and have a passion to make people feel welcome and challenged. The steward's coordinator will be part of the ministry team's department and be overseen by the ministry team's deacon. This is a serve activity.

Activity leaders are required to agree to conform to 10 standards, the two which are prerequisites of applying are that you have been in attendance at Grace Church Blackburn for at least 3 months and you are a member. If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email steward's coordinator

DEACONS

We are looking to fill a number of various deacons roles within the church. Deacons here at Grace have the job of overseeing our departments in the day to day running of the church. The role of Deacon is threefold.

1. The Deacon meets with the activity leaders to encourage them in the work they are doing, obtain a report or request for finance and assistance, check the activity is still running as the activity leader said they wanted it to. They do this for each activity leader in their department, balancing and encouraging their needs with one another.
2. Meet quarterly as part of the church council to bring a report on the progress of the activities in the last quarter and inform of the plans for the new quarter. They bring any request for finance or assistance and represent the department in all decisions made.
3. They help nurture brand new activities in their department into being, so that they can run effectively.

Each one of our departments looks to serve the work of the kingdom in three particular ways. Our Spiritual departments are concerned with reaching, teaching and keeping people for the Lord; our Service departments look to make the work of the church legal, safe and possible; and our Inspirational departments look to inspire the church into service.

The Deacon role requires a great deal of commitment, has a great deal of responsibility and is completed by those who have a heart to serve others rather than lead. Those wishing to take on this role must know that they are called by the Lord to do it.

As the role may need a better explanation, please feel free to enquire for more information

Deacons are required to agree to conform to 10 standards, the two which are prerequisites of applying are that you have been in attendance at Grace Church Blackburn for at least 3 months and you are a member. Deacons, as representatives of a department must be elected by the church. If you would like to apply, please be aware that a vote will taken on completion of your application process. This is not a popularity contest, but one based on suitability.

If you are interested or would like to know more, then please contact Jamie on 01254 54541, or email pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk, and title the email Deacon.



LADIES TRIP TO: CHRISTKINDLMARKT LEEDS

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

MEET AT CHURCH AT 12

(BRING A PACKED LUNCH TO EAT ON THE TRAIN
OR HAVE AN EARLY LUNCH)

AIM TO BE BACK 6.30PM

NEED £14.70 TRAIN TICKET + MONEY
FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENT SPENDS!

LEEDS IS ONE OF THE MOST ESTABLISHED GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN THE UK, WITH TRADITIONAL WOODEN STALLS, FESTIVE GREENERY, CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL RIDE AND TWINKLING COLOURFUL LIGHTS ALL CREATING A UNIQUE CONTINENTAL FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE HEART OF LEEDS CITY CENTRE



Grace Pentecostal Church
Wensley Road
Blackburn
BB2 1QD

Tel: 01254 54541

Web: www.gracepentecostalblackburn.co.uk

Email (Pastor): pastorgracechurchblackburn@hotmail.co.uk

Email (Office): graceccbblackburn@gmail.com

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