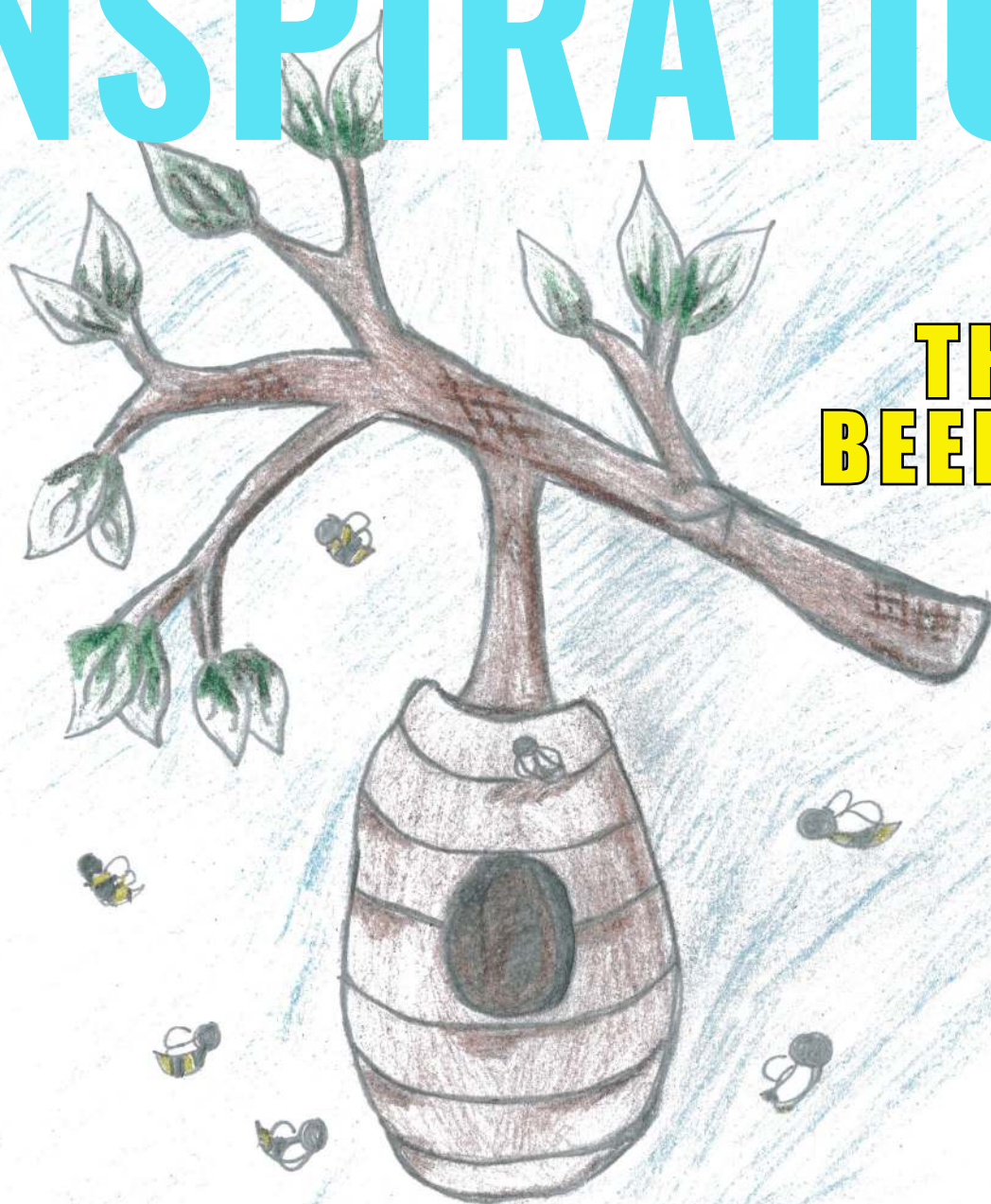


INSPIRATION



THE BEEHIVE

**WHERE EVERYBODY WORKS
TOGETHER FOR THE
SAME PURPOSE**

**PROJECT
300**
2020

CONTENTS



4 FROM THE PASTOR

8 A VISION OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Written by Richard Hicken

10 DAVID AND GOLIATH

Written by Christine Morris

15 DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER?

Written by Lynne Haydock

18 PAIS & GRACE

YOUTH

Written by Daniel Talbot

21 LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRIES

Written by Sasha & Sara Vitakic

26 OUR VISION AND VALUES

27 ARTICLES FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

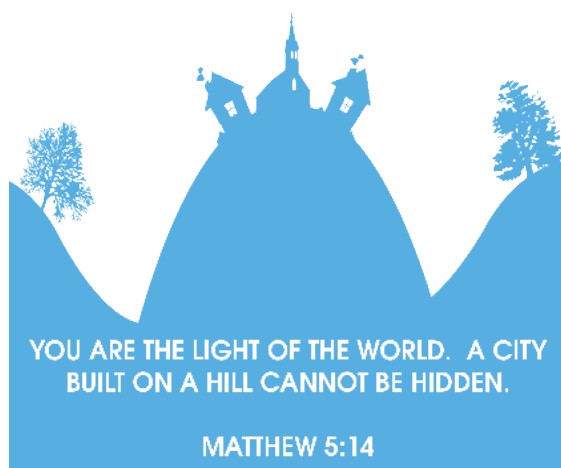
35 LADIES OF THE BIBLE... LYDIA!

Written by Carol Duxbuey

41 HOW JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

Written by Janine Stellatos

50 GIZZA JOB



GRACE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH
 "KNOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"



FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Jamie Boulton

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

When a family or organisation decide they are going to build something and the architects drawings and planning consent is completed a person is required to bring the whole building element of the project together. You see there are many trades in the building industry, most very skilled and all very different to one another. an electrician may be a terrible carpenter and cant lay a brick for a toffee. A brick layer may be fast and lay a brick wall with the kind of precision

we amateurs could only dream of, but has little idea how to lay pipe so it doesn't leak. hiring a plumber to fit your kitchen is daft, hiring a window fitter to build you a wardrobe is crazy, we wouldn't do it. It is vital that we have the right person, with the right skills doing the right job. but more than that it needs a master craftsman, or a project manager who is overseeing the whole venture so he knows when it is time for each skilled task.

Project managers are well paid and its funny on the building programmes like grand designs how often the clients will try and forego that person and either do it themselves or not have one at all.

After all how hard can it be to sit in an office and order an electrician or a plumber or 6 tonnes of roof tiles. And the real answer that comes back every time in these kinds of TV programmes is, its very hard.

A project manager understands the final picture, whereas each individual tradesman only understands their part of it. Often these trades fall out with one another, get in each other's way or even stop another working. Imagine paying an electrician £40 an hour to know he is sat in his van eating a sandwich because he cant fit a switch because the wall isn't up yet. Or imagine your brand-new, tens of thousands of pound of brand new,

, kitchen, is sat out in a building yard, getting wet and mucky cause the floor hasn't been laid yet.

the work of a project manager is precision management, maximising efficiency and the budget so there is no idle time for the tradesmen, all materials are there when needed but not there when they would be at risk from the elements.

the skill of the project manager is they see the whole picture, they understand in what order something has to go, and they are working to complete the whole project, not just one part of it. Dare I say because of that they are worth every bit of their money, and the building projects which have a project manager succeed and come in on budget far better.

Now before you start think that I, as the pastor of the Church, think of myself as the project manager, let me assure you I am not. Friends I am a

tradesman, with skills in his own field, meant to work along side each and everyone of you, who have skills in your field too. The project manager of our

or at least the good attitude of a determined person. You may abhor people who seem to live with their hands out all the time, desperate for charity.



When we look at what God is doing in our lives, we are looking at it from the tradesman's view. We can only understand it in the limitation of our mind and understanding.

lives is of course none other than our Saviour and King Christ Jesus.

There is a scripture in proverbs which is repeated twice.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death.

Often we approach our lives with the intent that we know what is right and we will make our own way in life. This seems like wisdom

You may look upon such people as failures and say to yourself I will never rely on others because that is not a right way to live. Yet had you considered that this independent way of thinking is not strength at all, its really a weakness.

The sands of Morecambe are treacherous, but when the tide is low you can walk the beach. There are guides who can take you, because they have walked it and they know the danger and you are not advised to go without one, for if you do, you will most likely perish. Who would attempt

to be so foolish as to walk such a dangerous place without the guidance of the ones who know the way. The answer is no one.

Yet in life many people walk their own path and have Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way" playing at the funeral. I wonder if you would think that such a good song if the reason for the passing was because that person ignored all good advice and tried to walk Morecambe sands alone with no guide. I think in that case the song would not be a celebration but more of foolish irony of a life lost for no good reason.

Our lives are not meant to be lived alone. Loneliness is a killer and many people suffer terribly from it. It is the lie that I must make my own way which causes it. What follows in those who live it is often bitterness at being lonely which manifests itself in a very sour person who then pushes away anyone who could be

relief. Have you ever wondered why all your friends stop talking, it may be your own attitude has made you a not very nice person to be around. so of course, as the scriptures tell us, this leads to death, both physical and Spiritual.

But it isn't going out and being with people which is the solution. The answer is to abandon your plans altogether and give them over to the Lord.

You see the Lord is building a city made of lots of buildings. He know what it should look like, He knows the finished picture. But God isn't just the architect of the city, he is the project manager. And as such he knows the drains for the bathroom need to go in long before the foundations are laid. so he orders the plumber to come and lay them, rather than waiting till the bathroom fitter comes once the whole house is built and says, "where is the water supposed to drain out to" and thus

all the new work must be destroyed.

I am of course talking pictorially. The City the Lord is building is a metaphor, because its you and me He is building, or helping to become what we should be. but its not you and me as individuals, its you and me together, like a city made up of various buildings, for differing functions, but still one city.

When we look at what God is doing in our lives, we are looking at it from the tradesman's view. We can only understand it in the limitation of our mind and understanding. we ask why Lord has this happened to me, or why did I go through this situation, not knowing that God is making space for what is coming.

Because if He is the project manager of the world, then the end picture is in His view, and only in His view. He calls us to go and build on one another, but not as we

like, rather as He commands. The challenge to us in growing in the Lord, serving one another as an act of love, and all else we might do, is to do it as the Lord commands us to do it, when to do it, and except He knows why to do it.

In my life I have done things in obedience

to the Lord and to this day don't know what benefit it had on others. yet I trust the Lord that He knows all things, the end from the beginning.

If today you are struggling to understand why the Lord is doing something, you can ask Him why, but you also need to accept, He

does know best. So for each of us the challenge is to let go of our independence and to become a servant of Jesus, His will, His way, and to know it is perfect.

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 Margaret, Vicky and Christine Muandi for their time and effort putting the magazine together. 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



A VISION OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Written by Richard Hicken

You may have noticed the picture on the front of this month's magazine. It's in correlation to a vision I believe God gave me during the Tuesday night prayer meeting on the 19th of September. As we were praying (the main theme of the night was for people who already call Grace their home church to get more involved with what we do and for project 300 2020).

My vision was that I saw a picture of a beehive and as it developed in my mind's-eye I could see the honeycomb and lots of bees busying themselves with what they were there for.

I believe God was saying that the church (our church) is like the beehive and like bees we are all called to play a part in how it all works. Now we know through many nature programs that in a beehive every single bee has a particular job to do and not one is there just for the sake of it. I believe God was saying the same for the church, our church. I believe that when we are called to be believers and when we find a church that we then, should become an integral part of that church.

I was reminded on a couple of occasions over the last few weeks of when Jesus washed the feet of the

disciples John 13: 4-10 and also that one of Jesus's titles is servant King and because of how Jesus is, we must also be. Now I'm not asking anyone to wash anyone's feet or be put to death for anyone else, what I'm saying is I believe God is telling us that each and everyone of us has a part to play.

As I'm sure you are all aware now I'm overseeing the Stewarding team and was super excited when during the prayer meeting God gave me this vision and revealed its meaning because I've always believed that every single one of us at every single church should be serving the cause, regardless of our age, young or old.

I'm not just saying this to plug my team and try to recruit more helpers although that would be great. I'm also talking about as many people coming to the prayer meetings and bible studies as come to the service on a Sunday morning. There's huge blessings to be had and the four of us that where at that meeting that evening (yes only four out of a church of over fifty regulars) came out really

blessed and buzzed up at our experience of the Holy Spirit that night. (excuse the pun I couldn't resist)

What I am saying is come on folks let's really grab a hold of this vision and get involved. Let's break the 20/80 split that happens in most churches regarding serving and have a fully serving church. Let's also be consumed in Jesus and his bride the church and not just

consumers.

Let's get involved let's join the groups and meetings that are there for all of us at Grace let's get the blessings God wants to pour out on us. Let's grow together.

God knows we need it.

Your equal in Christ.

Rich Hicken.





DAVID AND GOLIATH

Written by Christine Morris

This has been our theme for the past few weeks.... David and Goliath! Of all Bible classics, this particular passage would fall near the top of the list. It comprises of a boy killing a giant. David is only a small insignificant shepherd boy, on meals on wheels delivery, to his older brothers who are entrenched in battle against the Philistines. Goliath on the other hand, is a champion among all men; an oversized killing machine. He has blatantly defied the armies of Israel and their God for forty days, twice daily. He stands on this particular day on his eightieth time defying the armies of the Living

God. He is approximately nine feet 10 inches tall, has a coat of steel weighing 139 pounds, and a spear head that weighs 17 pounds.

It seems quite strange that the King of Israel, who himself stood head and shoulders above all men and was an acclaimed hero of battle would accept the gift of a small shepherd boy to fight a giant. But the King did at least offer the use of his personal armour to the lad. What an honour it would have been to have used the king's armour to slay the national enemy. This particular armour had been worn by King Saul in many successful campaigns against

credible enemies such as the Ammonites, the Amalekites, and the Philistines. Saul's Armour was a proven armour. But David decides against it, cos he hasn't proven it.

All I can see is David in Saul's dressing room buried under the massive armour of King Saul and it makes me smile. How awkward it must have been, being overwhelmed by the armour before going out to face Goliath? But this event in David's life would be a significant changing room for David... a turning point in his life.

What was David clothed with when he went out to face Goliath? What

kept David heart in the heat of the battle?

Although Goliath's armour was massive and impressive to the onlooker and Saul's maybe less so because of the size but David's armour proved itself more affective. Was the sling superior to the sword? Absolutely not. Was David's armour of more value than King Saul's? Absolutely not. David may have been heralded as far more of a man wearing the King's armour into battle. It may have made a great impression on those looking on. But impression are not our goal; it is the end result of victory for the Lord that we strive for. There may have been a number of slighting remarks made about David as he went into battle; but nothing but honour was his lot as he returned from the battle victorious over the giant.

David didn't show up to show up his brothers, but to bring them lunch and to check on their welfare. He wasn't there because

he planned to be, but because he had obeyed the instruction of his father. But this whole situation began with an uncomfortable situation for David. But one thing was clear this whole matter stirred David up. David was furious with Goliath and frustrated with the armies of Israel.

Sometimes God will put us in an uncomfortable place... where we feel like we must act. Here we see the process that David had to go through to be fit for the fight.

THE WRONG FIT

There are things that we don't need to put on if we're going to win in the fight. There are those in your life that are attempting to put on you what doesn't belong to you. If we let them, our lives will never know the victory of being dressed for our calling... but we'll only know the heavy weight of borrowed burden. There is a contrast of the thousands of

soldiers and King Saul to the young man called David... they sat under the burden of what Goliath heaped on them.

WHAT DAVID'S BROTHER TRIED TO PUT ON HIM

Those closest to us: family, friends, co-worker may be sincere, but sometimes sincerely wrong. His brother Eliab tried to heap guilt on him. He also tried to heap a self-defensive attitude on him, many are out to defend themselves, defend their name. But David refused to be entangled in this web. Eliab also tried to entangle David in arguments and battles. Not every battle is worth fighting.

WHAT SAUL TRIED TO PUT ON HIM

Saul was a Benjamite, the tribe best known for their skill of killing with a sling (Judges 20). Many will try and recruit you to do what they should be doing. Many tell you how, but will never show you how. But just

as Saul's armour was custom made for him, so your calling is custom made for you. It won't fit on anyone else and neither can you hope to pass it off to someone else. Don't try to be someone else... God's got a work and a place for you. David went back to the simple things God had proved in him... use what God has given you.

WHAT GOLIATH TRIED TO PUT ON HIM

Goliath represents the enemy and his baggage that he tries and throws our way. He tried to burden David with intimidation. The devil will try to defeat you first with his propaganda and lies. If he can get you to feel inferior to the situation he knows he's nearly won. He tried to burden David with superstition. Superstition is fear of any power but God's. Many Christians have their hands tied by the bonds of fear because they see God as against them; constantly judging them.

He tried to burden David with predictions. But David wouldn't accept any of the baggage of the enemy, because he had already dressed for battle although the giant never saw it.

THE PERFECT FIT

Like David we must learn to operate in the realm that God has called us to; to clothe ourselves with the spirit and attitude God has planted in us and put on us.

We must realize that this was a perfect fit for an imperfect boy, far from perfect. Goliath didn't realize it, but David was armed and dangerous.

GRACE FIT HIM PERFECTLY

David had the confident assurance that he declared "the battle is the Lord's." When you read his response to Goliath, it sound more like a sermon than a defence. He made it crystal clear that it would be God who would be defeating him

today. If we can ever grasp the fact that God is going to be doing the fighting for us then it will impact how we approach any and every battle. When we embrace this fact there is sudden release... we let go of the fight. When we embrace this fact there is a shift in responsibility... no longer responsible for the strategy, implementation, or even the outcome. When we embrace this fact there is a sense of resignation...no longer worry about what we can or cannot do, but open for God to work through us.

FAITH FIT HIM PERFECTLY

All day long people had been telling David what he couldn't do... but David wasn't comfortable with their doubts, but he was comfortable with his faith. His faith stood. His faith spoke. His faith saw. His faith actually ran at the enemy. His faith acted. No matter what the situation, you are always at your best when you respond with

faith.

VICTORY FIT HIM PERFECTLY

But not the kind of victory that the Philistines were accustomed to; David had become skilled in spiritual warfare. The world will never understand how and why you fight the way you do... they weren't meant to understand. David took full advantage of the victory. He didn't get caught up in the moment, but he maximized the moment when he ran and leaped on top of the giant pulling out his sword and taking off his head.

What are you clothed in today? Intimidation, Fear, Guilt, Worry, Expectations of Others... or are you wearing David's Armour?

Many Christians stumble in living a victorious life because they are trying to fight with borrowed swords. No more than David could use Saul's armour could Lot use

Abraham's sacrifice. Though Lot's clothes may have smelled of smoke from his Uncle Abraham's sacrificial fire and he may have learned the technique to sacrifice by looking on as Abraham made sacrifice to God; he himself drew no benefit from it. An experience in God cannot be borrowed. A relationship with Christ cannot be willed, transferred, loaned, or borrowed.

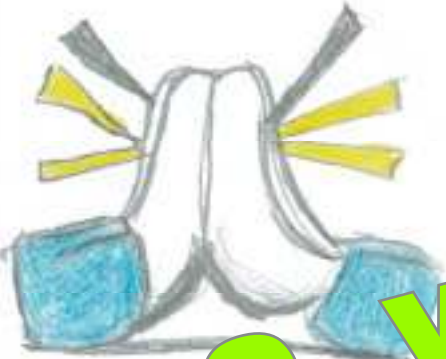
Giants can be conquered!! Battles against sin and satan can be won. But we must not attempt to battle the enemy of the soul with a borrowed sword but rather with a proven sling.

He still had to wait to be king, but he didn't grow impatient, but occupied himself with three jobs... kept the sheep for his father, was the armour bearer for King Saul and was on call to play music for the King when evil spirits tormented him. If you just keep serving faithfully in due time He will bring

about what He has called you to if you don't faint or quit.

David was more than willing to be faithful in the little things... he'd found himself right where God planned him to be.

What about you? What are you called to? I know one thing we are all called to serve, so while we are waiting let's roll our sleeves up and get on with the work that we can see in front of us. After all, the Lord is bigger than all our problems...past, present and future.



**DO YOU WANT
TO BECOME A**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER?**





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Written by Lynne Haydock

Q. SO WHAT IS SUNDAY SCHOOL?

A. Sunday school is for primary school children and take place during the preach on a Sunday morning one of the classrooms upstairs.

Q. WHAT DO WE DO AT SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Each week includes a time of welcome, a presentation of a Bible passage, a game or activity, a craft for the children to complete, prayer time, discussion about the Bible passage and a memory verse to learn.

Q. WHAT DOES SUNDAY SCHOOL NEED?

Grace Church needs more Sunday School teachers to be responsible for organising and running a lesson. We also need helpers to assist with individual items within a lesson and support the group of children. to learn.



Teach the Bible, characters and what happens. How it applies to their lives and what it teaches about God.

Impact the children with the Gospel, the power of salvation. The promises for this life and the life to come in heaven.

Encourage the children to feel part of the body of Christ. By helping them understand the parts of a church service and be encouraged to take part.

INTERESTED?? OR HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?? PLEASE SPEAK TO LYNNE.

**4th
october**

**7pm
- 9pm**

help sharing your faith with others

evangelism masterclass



with steve barnes

grace pentecostal church, wensley road, blackburn, bb2 1qd
01254 54541 graceccblackburn@gmail.com

objective

The object of this training programme is to develop skills to help with one to one witnessing, sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with other people, especially non-believers.

Reaching the lost is not a gift from God . It is in obedience to the command of Jesus Himself:

"And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere-in Jerusalem,throughout Judea,in Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1 vs 8. NLT

method

1. Interactive training:

Interactive group work and role play (class room setting)
Topics covered:

- Why should we witness?
- What does "witnessing" mean?
- What stops Christians witnessing?
- How can we improve our witnessing (Practically)?
- How can we improve our witnessing (Spiritually)?

2. Practical application:

Developing and exploring strategies for outreach

desired outcome

1. To reach the lost for Christ Jesus within family, workplace, community and strangers.
2. To strengthen our Christian relationships with each other (church) and The Lord Jesus Christ.



PAIS & GRACE YOUTH

Written by Daniel Talbot

Hello, and welcome to one of the new articles... apart of this magazine.

Here every month, there will be updates, talking about the schools and Youth ministry.

Specifically referring to my time at the Pais movement, how that involves the Church and any updates or news regarding Grace Youth.

What is the Pais movement?

To quote the Pais website:

'The Pais Movement is a global non-denominational organization that creates partnerships between schools,

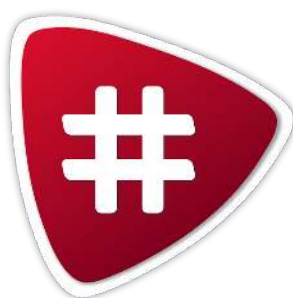
community projects, businesses and churches.'

Pais provides Churches with apprentices/ Youth leaders. Or rather from our perspective - they train Youth leaders, and provide opportunities for myself and a small

or Google for more information.

Blackburn and Burnley schools

Last month was a month of new beginnings. Not just for the school year, and our academic year - but also for many Pais



PAISGB

team to go into schools and spread the Gospel message, getting involved in assemblies, lunch time clubs, after school Bible studies and hopefully R.E lessons as well.

Type in 'The Pais movement' in YouTube

teams.

Many people come, from Germany, Brazil and even Zimbabwe or India. From all over, to receive training, and run Youth ministry in Churches and schools, and I feel so privileged that I am serving in my

This month I got the privilege of beginning this journey ... and for the most part, it's observing, and trying to take everything in that is so new!

In Burnley we are currently running a lunch-time club in some of the schools - and its been an exciting yet nervous start.

In primary schools, running assemblies in a small team ... team of 3. You forget how easy it is to rile them up.

We have been talking about Creation - in Christian and non Christian schools, how we as Christians believe that God is the master artist ... and we believe every single one of us is painted, and planned by him.

In October we will be looking to come into a couple of Blackburn schools on a Wednesday.

St.wilfrids Academy, and Griffin Primary school (But we are waiting for confirmation on Griffin).

This mean we will be running assemblies, and hosting a lunch-time club ... building relationships with some of the young people in the schools and sharing the Gospel.

My thought was on a Wednesday we would quickly head over to wilfrid's, run an assembly. Followed by the lunchtime club, have a conversation or two - and dash off.

However! The plan is to stay at St.wilfrid's all day. Based in their library, so our team can continue to work - as we normally would, except the students know that we are always available in the Library at Break and any other time we are free ... on a Wednesday ... and they are all welcome to come up to us and speak to us.

Not only that, but the plan is ... the week before St.wilfrids will take a picture of the team and broadcast us around the school - so students recognise us and know we are there

to talk too!

St.wilfrids didn't have a pairs team last year, so we are continuing after not having been in the school for a year, yet what an amazing start; and we haven't even ran an assembly yet.

In Future articles I would like to share with you some of the work we get up to, introduce you to the Burnley and Blackburn Team, and share some stories and events that have happened. So you can be apart of the Journey as we go forward into the schools and show people who Jesus is and what he has for each one of us.

Please pray for us, as we go into the schools - that we are allowed to continue the work we do and that we are able to share the Gospel with as many as possible - and that we get to know them.

Though we are a team of 3, our team leader - Oscar is currently having difficulties

getting over to the Uk, however it's been confirmed he has his visa. Please pray for him, that he gets here

safely to do the work God has called him too.

Please also continue to

pray for Grace Youth, and the new mentors and activity helpers that are finding their feet.





LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRIES

Written by Sasha & Sara Vitakic

Dear Friends and Partners in the ministry, greetings from Serbia, and it's still sunny and hot... We wish you every blessing and thank you very much for your interest, support, prayer and generosity you are so

lovingly showing to us.

Visit to UK

We are so grateful for the opportunity to meet so many of you and for the privilege to minister in some of your churches, while we as a family were in

England in the second half of June and the first half of July. Friendship with you is so important for us. You mean a lot to us and touch our hearts with your love. We are genuinely very sad that we can't see you more often.



Sasha's dad send off

With great sadness for us, Sasha's dad Dragan Vitakic died at the age of 91 while we were in England on the 13 July. It was a very hard and sad time for Sasha. Dragan suddenly fell, broke his hip and for ten days

was in hospital. And it all happen while we were not in Serbia. We came back on the 22 July in the church in Kragujevac, that Dragan planted and pastored for over 40 years, Sasha did the memorial service and then the funeral in the village nearby, where

Dragan was born. A lot of people came, many unbelievers, a lots of relatives and friends and many pastors from the very north to the very south of Serbia, including Belgrade. We gave a proper send off to the man of God and many people were able to hear the Gospel.



Bob & Margaret

For the month of August we were blessed to have Sara's parents, Bob & Margaret Pendlebury, and her sister Alice with us in Kraljevo. They ministered in

both churches that we lead, in Chachak and Kraljevo, and were involved with our work. It was also a time for them to rest, refresh and enjoy plenty of sunshine. We need to pray for Bob and his health, for his

bone marrow to function properly. At the moment due to his sickness of the bone marrow he needs to receive blood transfusions of two units every two weeks.



Cory, American missionary

At the end of July, Cory, American missionary from California, moved to live in Kraljevo and has joined our church and our team. God has led him to us and to our vision for central Serbia. He is a great help. We are blessed.



Gago & Nena from Australia

Gago & Nena Bozovic from Sydney, Australia, were with us during July and August and helped a lot with our Chachak church. They are originally from Chachak. God led them to Sidney, where they live and work now. There they found Jesus eight years ago, and they are very eager to share the Gospel with all their family and friends in Serbia.



Building Project

We are very much in the process of obtaining the permission to use our building. This process can be slow and complicated in Serbia, but believe we will get it soon. Please, pray for it. All the main building jobs on our new ministry outreach centre is finished. Once we receive permission to use our building, we will buy chairs, build platform and move in. Our service hall looks brilliant.

Married 22 Years

On the 3 September Sara and I celebrated our 22nd Wedding Anniversary. We are so happy together and our

love is growing every day. We are true soul mates and complement each other in many ways.



Lidija

Our daughter Lidija started eighth grade of the Serbian school system. She is now fourteen. Next school year she will start secondary education which will last four years and she will finish with A-levels. Lidija loves the Lord and loves to be involved with the ministry. She actively witnesses to her friends in the school, plays keyboard in our worship team and sings, and she occasionally gives short messages to the whole church. Lidija reads her Bible everyday systematically and has already read through the whole Bible once.



Thank you very much for your love, friendship and support. May the Lord bless you.

Sasha & Sara

Our 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.

Our Values

“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 Christ Jesus.”

PSALMS



ARTICLES FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

PSALM 30 - BY LINDA TALBOT

AUTHOR: David
The Story Behind
the Psalm

David had committed a sin. He had numbered the people. Now when a leader numbered the people, this was to prepare them for war. God was not in this numbering and offered David three choices of punishment: (1) seven years of famine, (2) three months of defeat, or (3) three days of pestilence or sickness. David chose the latter, whereupon 70,000 people died. David himself became ill.

The Blessedness of
Answered Prayer

A Psalm. A Song at
the dedication of the
house of David.

30 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me. 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me. 3 O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. [a] Only God can completely heal our heart-aches and the wounds deep within our soul. 4 Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.[b] 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favour is for life; Weeping may

endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

David was very ill and he thought that he was going to die. He prayed to God and God made him well again. So he asks everyone that believes in God to praise God with him. God was angry for a short time, but now he is not angry with David.

We need each other – to stand shoulder to shoulder with other believers and sharing strength with strength (Hebrews 10:23-25).

6 Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved." 7 LORD, by Your favour You have

made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled. 8 I cried out to You, O LORD; And to the LORD I made supplication: 9 "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth? 10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!"

David thought himself OK in his own right and had confidence in himself and not God. He had forgotten, through pride, that it was God behind all his successes. Oh to always be reminded that anything we do for God - it is God that makes it work, not us - He is the one that makes it grow, He knows every person you come into contact with and to whom you are called to be his hands and feet - to be able to speak into others lives and build on them and in doing so, they can build on you. Let it never be of ourselves, and it always be a cry of Lord, show me the way.

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, 12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

What is the worst thing that can ever happen to us? What is our worst fear? Sickness, death, divorce, loneliness, losing our job, losing a friend/relationship are all things that will make our strength to fail and weigh down our lives with grief sometimes life is so hard on us that we feel like we can't go on. But for a true child of God, there is none worse than causing the Lord to turn His face away from us. David fears not losing his possession but chiefly his intimate relationship with the Lord. Are we that way?

"For His anger is only a moment; in His favour is life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the

morning":

- God, being a holy God, will at times punish us to bring us back to Himself. We really don't like that - but sometimes God needs to rip things apart and wipe clean everything.

- This correction time may feel like an eternity, and we may cry in great anguish and mourning, but God assures us that, after our repentance and learning, joy always comes His joy, the kind that heals and makes alive our soul again.

Everything about us (our strength, our happiness and our sorrows) revolves around our relationship with the Lord. Put that in the forefront and the very core of our soul. Let us sing and declare to the Lord: "O LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever!"

The Lord's presence in our lives is based on our inviting Him to be there.

PSALM 31 - BY ANNA TALBOT

In the time, David was writing this I have found it was probably the time he was being persecuted by Saul. David speaks of the great trouble he is in but he doesn't start the Psalm with that, but instead it starts with "In you. O lord. I put my trust". I know this is cheesy but I don't care. David here to me is saying, trouble of mine? Look at the God I serve he is my rock and my defence as it says in Psalm 62 verse 6 "truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken" David has confidence in the lord and is also giving God the glory because of the reasons he says

David from about verse 9-13 describes great grief and a troubled life. David in the last Psalm really message up and had many killed for it, but he had true repentance and went back to God. In those times he was ill himself and he was fleeing from Saul. His

life is at risk. In these times he again doesn't start the prayer or conversation with how dare this happen to me? He says "has mercy on me. O lord for I am I trouble". He also openly admits "my strength falls because of my iniquity" but he still cries out to mercy although basically admitted he didn't deserve it (like us all really)

David has been proclaimed an outlaw by Saul his friends had left him; he is forgotten like a dead man. His heart is heavy. But again he says but as for me "I trust you O lord". This shows why he is a man after God's own heart. It's incredible; he is thinking of the lord's name and isn't thinking woe is me but instead gives God glory. And proclaims a promise "oh, how is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you" we have learnt about the fear on Sunday about what kind of fear we should

have. We know this is not fear of ah but a fear that is in awe of God. But the promise is that God's goodness will be with us. Do we want that?

This whole chapter shows God's heart and David's desire after him. God heard David's cry out. He showed mercy, kindness because with true repentance comes with true restoration. God will preserve the faithful! He we will be with us being our rock, but the last apple on the cream cake is the last sentence to Psalm 31. "be of good courage. And he shall strengthen your heart. All you who have hope in the lord"

Can't forget the last part, all you who have hope in the lord. But you need trust and hope in God. can we trust God like David trusted him? Let's have confidence in the lord the God of heaven and trust he will deliver us and strengthen our hearts if we have hope

in him. This Psalm describes so many reasons why we can and should worship the lord God today! He

will see us through our trouble times and be our rock. We just need a heart after God to believe he will.

Let's give God the glory as David did. And even more so!

PSALM 32 - BY MARK HAYDOCK

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

2 Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! 3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. 4 Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. 6 Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. 7 For you are my hiding

place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory. 8 The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. 9 Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control." 10 Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the LORD. 11 So rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

I've picked out 2 things in this Psalm that stand out to me. Right at the very start of this Psalm we have a great truth from God, oh what joy when we ask for forgiveness, when we confess our sin. The Bible says in 1 John 1 v 9 'If we

confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' When we ask God to forgive us and turn away from what we have done wrong, our inheritance is joy. It reminds me of a courtroom setting, God is the Judge on the right stands Jesus who is our defence and on the left stands Satan our accuser. The scene is set, Satan comes before God the Judge. Look at what they have done, look at the sin they have committed, they deserve punishment, they are guilty and deserve to be condemned. Then stands our Defence, Jesus he walks up to the Judge's seat and shows God the nail prints in his hands and says 'I died for them, here is the proof. Jesus concurs not only did I take their punishment but

the accepted me, they are mine. Then God the Judge speaks up, the debt is paid in full. Case dismissed.

Repent in the dictionary says 'to express sincere regret or remorse about our wrong doing or sin'. That must be our part, we regret sincerely that we have offended God, when we ask for forgiveness its gone, the sin is no more, the price has been paid in full as it says in verse 5. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Our future is mapped out, we have a Lord who is in control of everything in our lives. Psalm 23 v 2 & 3 "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

God has an eternal

plan for all of us. He has a ministry for us. All through the Bible it tells us that God directs our paths, Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. we just have to trust him. He can see the beginning from the end. He only has the best for us, Matthew 7:9-11 "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. Its trusting him that we have to do, let God take the steering wheel as it was.

Acts 9: 10-19 Now there was a believer[b] in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied.

11 The Lord said, "Go

over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. 12 I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

13 "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers[c] in Jerusalem! 14 And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you

on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. 19 Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Ananias had to trust what he was told a lot depended on that he knew all about Saul and the persecution of the Church but he was destined to pray for Paul and was obedient to what he was called to do even though it could have been death for him.

Acts 8:26-30 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south[b] down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was now returning.

Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

30 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

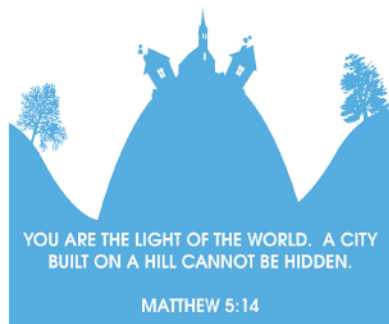
Philip was called out of a place of blessing to a dusty road. God called him for that purpose to speak to a man leading him to the Lord. God had a plan for both of them, Ananias and Philip. We only get a glimpse of a part of their lives but we see a calling, listening and a doing.

So what is the challenge from this for us?

1. Its to realise that we are forgiven of everything. Its only us that chooses to remember these things, we are forgiven whole heartedly

2. Is to trust God

in everything, to seek him, to turn over our lives to the one who sees the beginning from the end and of course to be obedient to his instruction because he has a direction and a purpose for us.



GRACE
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CHURCH
"KNOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

**DIRECTION
STATEMENT
17/18**

a year of building on one another

John 13:4-17 & 1 Corinthians 3:9-16

when Jesus cleared out the Temple He was asked what sign did He give for the authority to do this. His reply was tear down this Temple and three days He would build it up again. The reference to Jesus death and resurrection is very clear, yet there is another application.

For the temple Jesus cleansed out was not dedicated as the tabernacle and Solomon's temple had been. a dedication which saw tongues of fire pour down and fill the place with the Glory of God, but the church on the day of Pentecost did see this. For the body of Christ, which is referred to as the Temple, is the Church that the Lord is directing.

We learn in Zechariah 6 that the Messiah would build His temple, His church and we learn from the word that the Gates of Hell should not prevail. this body is we the church and Christ is building in us.

Yet to build in us He is using each of us to build on one another. Paul shows us that this building is going to be tested in the end. If we built with Selfish motives, regardless of how good the work, then these things will not stand eternally. It is only when we build selflessly that the building will stand to that which is seen at the end of the book of revelation.

The only way this is possible is if we abandon our own building and don't look to ourselves and instead we look to building each other up and encouraging each other.

Jesus was our example, He was the son of God, the disciples teacher and even socially their Rabbi and leader, yet He stooped to wash their feet to show the kingdom is built on denying ourselves and serving one another.

I am looking for each church member, and activity leaders to now ask the question what do I do for others. And this is going to be a year where people will be encouraged to think only of another person in their actions. To ask the question how does what I do benefit someone else's growth in the Lord. It will be a year where people are discouraged to think about their own growth in the Lord. and find that in thinking of others, and then building on others, others will actually be building on them.

**PROJECT
300**
2020

BAPTISM

SERVICE

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER - 10:30AM

AND JESUS CAME AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING:

ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE. AMEN.

MATTHEW 28:18-20 NKJV



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LADIES OF THE BIBLE... LYDIA!

Written by Carol Duxbury

Very little is said of Lydia in the Bible. A woman, surprise surprise... therefore very little is really known of her except, what we read, theologians opinions, writers speculation and more general conjectures.

Much the same as we know from some of the other women we've looked at this series.... Although it's more than fair to say that, as we will see, God again, uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things....

Lydia was born and raised in Thyatira, which is in the middle of modern day Turkey .

She would have learned the craft of dyeing purple in this

small but industrious manufacturing city, where she may have lived with her parents or relatives and thus learned her trade, but we are not told.....

The dye she used was taken from the root of the Madder plant, the small yellow flower would have been pulled off and it's fleshy root fermented to yeild the dye. I'm quite sure, like all competent business people thw wholw flower would have had a use.....

We are also told that the cities particular water supply contributed to the quality and desireability of the dye from Thyatira....Lydia then moved to the colony of Phillipi.... Possibly for business

opportunities, who knows?

Whatever the reason that our woman decided to make her home in Phillipi, it proved to be the right one for her, her business flourished in this luxury loving colony. Lydia's purple cloth appealed to the lavish tastes of the Roman aristocrisy.....

We are given no idea of the times, how's, why's and wherefores that caused Lydia to change her religious preferences and allegiances from the ancestral gods and pagan trade guilds, to the God of Israel, but this she surely did....

Although Lydia was an ordinary and humble woman, it was through

her, under the leading of Almighty God that the testimony of Christ Jesus passed into Europe.

God delights to use ordinary folks, people with a desire to be used, those ready and willing to serve for his Glory Name and the extension of His kingdom...

If not for God's Gracious dealings with her, v14, we probably would never heard anything more than the title Luke had given to Lydia, "Seller of purple".

Lydia was the channel whom God had chosen..... and through which He could work! In much the same way that He chose William Carey to take the message to India. David Livingstone to Africa.....in their time.....

1 Cor 1v26:29... reminds us.....

For you see bretheren, that not many wise according to the flesh,

not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God had chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty, and God has chosen the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh shall glory in His presence"

Just think what God can do with the life that has yeilded itself willingly to Him...We've heard time and time again recently that if we only have the desire to serve God... then He will do the rest...

We read in v13 that Lydia was at a prayer meeting. Women only. on the riverbank and outside the city walls..

She was obviously a sincere and religious person but not yet born again of the Spirit of the Living God. Her heart not yet opened to the Saviour... A prosylite no doubt.

John 1 v11:12.."He came to his own, and His own did not receive Him. But to as many as received him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believed in His name".

How many people think and act this way, sincere, willing to learn, go to church regularly but not Christians!

The women were joined as they prayed on this particular evening by four men, Paul, Timothy, Luke and Silas to be precice...

Why we might ask if the travellers were actually looking for the women to talk to.... really?

There was very obviously no synagogue in Phillipi for them to go to, which would have meant that there was not even 10 God fearing men to be found at that time in the colony....There needed to be a quoram of ten Jewish men in a city to form a synagogue....The prostylites

or women believers therefore gathered at the river.....

The women rose to greet the newcomers, although somewhat cautiously, at first....

They ladies soon discovered their hesitance was unnecessary as Paul began to speak of the One called Jesus....

Lydia was swept away by his words and we read that "The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul" v14

I can only imagine what those of her household thought as this disheveled sopping wet babbling woman bursted in the house...had she fallen in the river,,,,my goodness what could have happened? No doubt wrapping herself in a blanket or suchlike, she, without hesitation but well and truly excited, told everyone in the house, of her new found faith and her baptism. Her news and her joy resulted the enire household joining her and

also being baptised to v15-16..

Our Bible woman Lydia, on the one hand was an ordinary woman with a deep desire for God, who opened up her heart to let the Saviour in....

We have no idea if she ever married or was perhaps widowed, we are only told that her Household were all saved and baptised. On the other hand though...To have a "Household" could say that she was a very astute and prosperous woman in a most decidedly "Man's world"...

However we look at her today..She was probably the first European convert, who was in the right frame of mind and in the right place at the right time..... How can we learn form Lydia? How can she encourage and challenge our lives?

She pursued truth....

Would you or I have listened to the men so intently, or would we

have been distracted by babbling brooks or this weeks meal plans. Not so Lydia..

Too hot or too cold might ditstract us from the word in a sunday meeting or at a Bible study or in the still quiet of our prayer closet, what's on telly?, what's for dinner?.

Proverbs tells us repeatedly to call out to God for insight and apply our minds to understanding.. Prov2:2....

Are we simply satisfied with just believing...or do we actively seek the Lord and study to get to known Him better?

She joined others in prayer...

There was no local synogogue! Lydia could have decided to stay home and pray, but she didn't, she sought out others to pray with and joined them..Act16:13...

The prayer meeting in general is the poorest attended meeting of the week in any

church...It is said and it was on the front cover of this month's magazine "Prayer is the engine room of the church"... think about that seriously folks.... What importance to we place on corporate prayer?

The Acts of the Apostles I think would have been a very different book had the believers not met for prayer. Would Paul and his companions remained in jail?.... Would the jailer and his family have ever been saved?

We miss out on so much when we neglect to meet together...

When we fellowship together..Hebrews 10v25 says "Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...and all the more as you see the day approaching"

She set priorities...

She controlled her business it didn't control her, she found

time to fellowship, time to pray and on the glorious day she met the Lord Jesus Christ to, she prioritised...We have been set free..Galations 5:1 reminds us to "Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"

Do you know that it's a big fat lie of the evil one that we need to organise our times, time for work, time for church, time for God... Oooooohh and what about time for me? Just a big fat lie.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near"

Is 55:6. Don't juggle your time or your responsibilities....

Prov29:25 tells us "The fear of man will be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe"

She promptly obeyed.

Lydia and her whole

household were baptised, they weren't forced into it, God challenged they responded...What is the Lord asking of you today? Listen, obey, today. Do what He asks now. Tomorrow may be too late..

Lydia served with her whole heart..

The woman begged almost, that the 4 guys stayed at her home...She was a business woman, perhaps her home was a comfortable one, perhaps she gave them finance for their journey and food sustain them during their trip.

What she did, she did willingly...Sharing what we have with others is showing Christian love practically..

"Share with the Lord;s people who are in need, Practice hospitality"

Roms 12:13

Lydia did what she could using what she had..Are we willing to sacrifice, to use what

we have to help those people who need our friendship, our practical support and our prayer? We cannot give to others what we do not possess!

Can we learn anything from the seemingly insignificant woman whose entire claim to fame amounts to 3 verses of scripture in Acts chapter 16?

The one who just may have started the church at Philippi and had some part in the one at Thyatira spoken of by the Lord Himself in Revelation 2....I think so..

The one who pursued truth.....

Set priorities.....

Obedied promptly.....

Served with her whole heart.....

Most certainly we can learn from her...If we chose to!

Matthew 11:15 gives us the right advise.

"He that has ears...let him hear"Amen

CAN YOU HELP?

TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER - SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

We are looking for volunteers to help remodel the youth & sunday school class rooms. If you can help, please let us know the days and times you will be available.

Thank you!



**Please wear appropriate clothing
& footwear.**

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2020



HOW JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

Written by Jamie Boulton

Please Read Joel Chapter 3

We saw in chapter 1 that the theme of Joel is the great and terrible day of the Lord. a date fixed in History as the Lord calling time on the opportunity to repent and come to Him.

But the message of Joel was the first time that people heard it. And the message goes out to young and old, and to those who are going about their various parts of daily life.

All are called to howl, None of them are the reason for the day, none are to blame for this calamity, not even the drunkard.

But here is the main point, they are all

doing as they should, the drunkard repents, the bride marries, the farmers farm, the priests worship God. And to the listeners the lack of sin for this punishment couldn't be clearer.

but that's because this warning isn't to these people about their sin, its about the coming of the day of the Lord, and not what you must do to avoid it, because it cant be avoided it is a fixed point in time and it will happen.

the challenge is so different to Hosea, written to people who were denying God in order to escape something that is coming.

Here in Joel chapter 1 the challenge is what will you do with the

news that whilst you go about your life, even serving God in it, a day will come like the thief in the night. it is coming, it could be today or in a thousand years. So what do you do with that news?

V14, pray, fast, cry to the Lord, but not for it to end, so that all that might here it may cry God save me. Have mercy on me, let me be on the right side of this day.

No where does it say call for the terrible day of the Lord, no where does it say rejoice in the day of the Lord. Instead to all those who are good and right, gather together and pray, share the message amongst all the generations, declare the truth of it,

call people to repent, as many as can, as many as will, from all times, for it will come suddenly.

Like the name Jehovah, it's the benevolent mercy to avoid before the coming judgment.

We don't know who Joel audience was, but what we know from the text is this wasn't a message to the godless and sinners, backslidden, it was a message to the committed and the secure. Quickly go tell everyone, pray and fast for them, save as many as you can act in mercy.

and this took us to Joel two, which described the merciless peril of falling prey to the Locust army. But the challenge was about two trumpets.

The rams horn, which was to sound an alarm, calling us as watchmen to announce the peril or face the truth that the blood of others would be upon our own heads if we didn't tell them the great and terrible day of the Lord

was at hand and could come at any time.

The other trumpet was the Hacereroth, the silver trumpets blown only by the priests in order to call people to the tabernacle, to call them to move with the presence of the Lord.

Joel tells the people to blow this and move with the presence of the Lord, for the nature of the Lord is mercy, and His Holy Spirit is called to the lost of this world, to seek and to save, and to convict of sin, of righteousness and judgment to come.

So the trumpet calls us to look upon the lost, on those who will be on the wrong side of the great and terrible day of the Lord and to have compassion, and not hate, we should be broken for those who are in this situation. But not a prayer that the day of the Lord would not come, but that they may come through to the day of restoration.

So let us blow the

rams horn of warning, let us who know the Lord and have a right relationship with Him act in the way of His nature. Knowing that the Pentecostal in filling of the Holy Spirit is a measure of the restoration which will be completed in the Millennial reign, just after the day of the Lord.

And what came after Joel was all the other prophets who prophesied destruction to the Godless and backslidden. but before we get there, let's do this, because the day of the Lord is certain, so let us save as many as we can, we who know Christ.

the theme of the third and final chapter of Joel is what you tend to expect from the last chapter of most of the prophets and that's a message of hope and restoration.

And certainly, although there is still some pretty dark parts to this chapter, they are all poured out on the enemy and God's

people are all good and restored and everything great so yay!!

Except, we have to remind ourselves again that this message isn't to the backslidden to encourage them to repent, giving them a hope in the distant future. It is to those who might go out and share the message of coming doom so that people might avoid it.

The Coming doom, as established in chapter 2 is at the hands of the locust army, but at the Lord's command. against those, whom Hosea established walked away.

so in the reality of what the first two chapters taught us, this one really doesn't make any sense as a chapter about restoration, when the challenge was to go out and warn people of the danger so they have a wedding feast experience rather than a great and terrible day of the Lord experience.

and the morning that comes after, in which

joy is contained, is the restoration shown in Joel 2 which is a description of the events and situation of the Millennial reign.

So what is a chapter about restoration of the Lord's people doing here, when those who don't listen to the warning will be destroyed by the locust army, and those that do listen to the warning will already be on the Lord's side?

A mystery now ensues for the one who doesn't just trust to a biblical formula, but asks the questions

But we must remember that it is Israel which is in view of the prophet and his audience here, and the prophecy of Joel has been concerning Israel and the great and terrible day of the Lord, the church, was not in the prophet's view.

So what does happen to Israel in this time frame. A quick reminder to us of the period of the Great and terrible day of the Lord

from Israel's point of view helps us to figure this out.

Daniel 9:23-27 the period of Daniels vision was 70 weeks, referring to a week of years, so that's $70 \times 7 = 490$. but what happens at the end of the 70 weeks of years? v27, what was decreed will be poured out on the desolater. And this is what we see here in Joel chapter 3.

The locust army, will themselves be brought under judgment for the desolation it has poured out on Israel. But of course this seems terribly unfair, when it is the Lord who caused the locusts to pour out on Israel.

But before we get to that stage, we go from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (which is the decree of Cyrus, listed in Ezra 1) to the Messiah being cut off 62 weeks plus 7 (the 7 coming first between the decree to build Jerusalem and the construction of the temple foundations), And then a gap, Daniel didn't

know what it was, it is the stopping of the clock, it is the age we live in, which Romans 11:25 calls the time of the Gentiles,

and then one week left, 7 years, we know this as the great Tribulation period. And this is ushered in Daniel says by the lawless one making a covenant with many about Israel's religious system, which he then breaks.

What has stopped that happening already? 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9 verse 6-7 tells us he is held back, by something that needs to be removed, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 which is the church.

And so Daniel can't see what's going on between the 69th and 70th week, but we see that it is the church, because it is full of the Holy Spirit, which is light in the world, but then the light is removed, and the lawless one is revealed (this could be at the start of the 7 weeks or in the middle, which

revelation tells us is the period when the anti-Christ is revealed).

Now this really doesn't have to be complicated to us. But it is important that we understand that Joel 3 is referring to the time period of these 7 years, and yet as prophecy is pattern, it is also a repeated theme in part in many of Israel's returns from Exile (of which there have been two, the tribulation period being the third).

So we can see the time frame Joel is talking about, yet we are still left with the problem of what that would mean to the people listening to Joel, who have not had Daniel's prophecy and are hearing all of these things for the first time. And we have established that Joel hasn't condemned them of sin, the purpose is for them to warn people of this coming day so they escape it. And if they don't heed this warning then they will

not endure it, they will be consumed by it.

So who is being restored here in Chapter 3, where does this fit in the picture of the rapture of the church, the tribulation period, and then the coming of the Lord in His great and terrible day followed by 1000 years of perfect rule.

Because to the audience they are hearing for the first time in this prophecy something about these who are being restored. They are Exiles!!

but they aren't hearing it for the first time, because this restoration from being exiled took them to the law, something they were presently aware of due to the Godly nature of the people of Israel at the time. Deuteronomy 30:1-9, Joel's 3rd chapter is not new, to those hearing it they are seeing what they know could happen, and have been told it will happen. But so will the next part of the promise.

Yet look at Deuteronomy 30:6, because this tells us something that we often get confused about when it comes to Israel. Romans 2:28-29 It is not all Jews, as shown by the idea that its just the exiles of Judah and Jerusalem (not meaning only those two tribes but all those who left the north to come to the nation where the temple and worship of the true Lord was), But actually its just those who Jeremiah 4:4. Remove the foreskin of their heart.

the foreskin on a penis covers a sensitive gland, It actually deadens sensation, its removal exposes a very sensitive area, and removes that deadening effect.

The heart must have the same aspect, to create in me a clean heart, or to remove our stony hearts.

The deadness of the law and the letter, which kills is removed by Christ, the sensitive heart is now exposed

by mercy and grace.

So the point is that the exiles who return, are the ones who respond to the message of salvation.

But again, we've established if we are blowing a rams horn to warn of the coming judgment, and those who listen are saved, and the ones that don't perish, who is this third group?

Well this is where we come to understand Israel in the tribulation period, and its who Joel is talking about, for the rapture of the church and the coming of the Lord are not the same event. the intervening period, in which the anti-Christ has free reign means there are no longer anyone blowing rams horns. And so the Lord has a plan. Romans 11:1-7, the Elect.

but how will they get saved. Romans 10:11-19 Well only by hearing the gospel, yet between them hearing it and responding to it will happen the rapture

of the church and this group will exist. Yet they will go through one of the darkest trials, yet Mark 13:14-27, the elect cannot fall because as Paul told us in Romans their election is by irresistible Grace.

and not to look ahead, but to understand that the reason the Lord has done this is so there will still be a blowing of the rams horn and Hachoreth, in this time period, but to everyone who responds. Revelation 20:4

And so as we blow the rams horn people will miss the tribulation period, and then in the tribulation period the elect will blow the rams horn

But the prophesy is not to the elect, its now against those who stood against the people of God.

Now think of all those psalms where the writers are crying out for the day the Lord will bring the wicked into their own snare.

=Think of the history of the Church and of Israel and the many, many martyrs.

Verse 3 – 6 list the crimes. The selling of human beings, just to meet bodily lusts. A denouncement on the enemies of Israel at this point (no mention of Assyria is why we know the age of this book makes it the oldest prophet). Tyre and sidon is where Jezebel came from, whom killed the prophets of the Lord, and her offspring infected both Israel and Judah. In fact many think Joel prophesied at the time of Joash's early reign, after Athalia, Jezebels daughter had tried to kill David's line.

Jezebel represents that dragon like destructive nature of satan. For she was a cold-hearted killer and destroyer. But is really Babylon, the false religion

And of course Philista was Israel's ancient enemy, with its 7 kings, representing the 7 headed beast, or kingdom of the

anit-christ

They offer the Lord a bribe which is the other nature of satan, the balam nature.

They removed the gold and silver meaning the looting of the temple by both Babylon and Rome. To the audience this may have been another terrifying consequence they had not considered.

And then in verse 6, selling to the Greeks, but the word isn't Greeks is Javan, a son of Japeth, whom we believe became the Greeks. But the point is that they were taken to another continent. Or to put it in a slavery sense, they were snatched from their homes and taken over the sea far from their homes.

It is for these crimes and the death toll's which ensued that the Lord, through Joel now denounces them and advises what is coming their way. And this situation reminds us of the 5th seal of revelation. Revelation 6:9-11

for it is not of Himself the Lord gets angry, but for when the Apple of His eye is touched. His bride to be will be avenged, yet the Lord is giving these people the time to repent, to hear the rams horn, but they will have to be willing to die for their faith in this time.

To the nations is proclaimed the wrath of the most feared people on the planet at the time, the Sabeans, often thought to be the Mongols of Genghis Khan fame who raided, pillaged and raped. No one knew where they came from, they lived a nomadic life, but in a war like way that has never been repeated, in truth, a real locust army who consumed on the move and had no mercy.

But it is the battle which Joel now describes and hinted at in verse 2.

its location seems to be the valley of Jehospat.

but the valley in which the judgment

upon several heathen nations took place under Jehoshaphat and which received the name of Valley of blessing, from the feast of thanksgiving which Jehoshaphat held there (2Ch_20:22-26), is not where Zechariah tells us this battle will take place, Zechariah 14:1-4 for that valley is the valley of Kidron.

The place where Josiah ground up all of the idols, the place Jesus crossed to go to Gethsemane and the place where the temple floor was washed of its blood and excrement and waste of the daily sacrifices. It is a valley of blood.

So why call it the valley of Jehosaphat? Because it means Jehovah (not Elohim) Judges. and by using the name Jehovah judges we get that this is now the second part of His name that comes at the end.

And Joel taunts the nations with an opposite of what Joel 2 offered to the repentant remnant. Beat

your ploughshares into sword. Declare your own strength, even though you are weak.

Form a coalition against the Lord, bring your champions, meaning the goliaths. Because they are going to go down in just the same way.

v12-13 tell us what we know, this is a judgment on these there next destination will be Revelation 20:5 & 13-15 no millennial reign, no more chance of repentance.

For the sickle is referred to, which goes in only at the time the grapes are ready, their most juiciest. but the vats are full, there is no longer anywhere to store this wine,

But what does it represent? Revelation 14:14-20. It is wrath, the grapes of wrath, but as red wine is sometimes mistaken for blood, John is clear to us, it is blood which v 20 tells us That is, two hundred miles; covering a space of two hundred miles square

- a lake of blood. to the height of a horses nose.

Now we have asked what do we as a church do with the information that the great and terrible day of the Lord is coming, we have asked what would these Godly sorts in Israel, hearing Joel's message for the first time do. Now the Lord asks through Joel to the nations who persecute and kill the people of God, what will you do.

v14 changes the name of the valley again, now it is a valley of Decision. and there are multitudes upon multitudes in it, the word in Hebrew being Hamon, (ironically (look at Esther)) and it means an abundant number of people in confusion, making a great noise. And in case your wondering what the Lord's heart about this is. Jonah 4:10-11

But the decision is now to those in this valley. for if they being weak chose to stand against the Lord then Joel

says in v 17 you will know He is God dwelling in Zion (spiritual Jerusalem – the bride – the ones they’ve been persecuting) V16 says He will roar at them And afterwards, the kingdom will no more see their like.

And yet the Lord gives to them a warning light to know when the valley of decision changes into the valley of Jehovah’s Judgment. v15, when it becomes night.

When the stars moon and sun are darkened (and not when mysterious hidden planets hit the earth) For these things are clearly explained to us, Genesis 37:9-10.

so when the very people whom they have been persecuting are dying in front of them, that’s the sign of decision making.

during the Nuremberg trials the common excuse was ‘I was ordered to do it’, the persecution of the Jews was not just a German thing, but one

which was echoed in every single European country under occupation, in some countries they were rounded up before the German Army arrived, and the extermination process was a mass industrial process based on a scientific theory which is prevalent today, Darwinism.

But the world hung a few nazi’s and said it would never happen again. Last night 13% of the vote was won by the German fascist party, in 1933, they only won 33%,

Outside the Holocaust exhibit at the Imperial war museum is the Edmund Burke Quote, all evil needs to exist is for good men to do nothing. James tells us this is as much as the sin as doing it.

When the stars and moon and sun start to go dark again then to those doing it, those watching it, and those supporting it, the decision time is over.

yet Jesus and the church in its Gospel

position also are likened to the moon and Sun, and we are told in 1 Corinthians we are like stars. So when those who persecute the church see its lights going out, that is the time for its decision to be made. Like Paul.

And if they make the right decision, then they will also enjoy the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom.

for the Lord will cleanse all the blood that is on their head. And as we know from Hosea, this is the Choice, The Lord cleanses them, or they try to cleanse themselves and like Jehu, the blood they have spilt is required at their hand.

For as we move on to see the message of Judgment to all of the other letters, we will see for the condemnation and guilt, the Lord will restore Judah and Jerusalem.



JANINE STELLATOS

THURSDAY 9TH
NOVEMBER

7:30PM



GRACE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

"KNOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

Grace Pentecostal Church
Wensley Road
Blackburn
BB2 1QD

Tel: 01254
54541

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed, we always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

PROJECT
300

2020



GIZZA JOB

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 you're 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.

TODDLEABOUT

Activity Leader: Sharon Moorehouse

Type of Activity: Reach

Aim: To give parents/carers 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: every 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: Sunday school

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

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

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: Richard Hicken

Type of Activity: Serve

Aim: to serve the church by helping all events, 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 help to provide security whilst others are distracted

Special requirements: none

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

HUB LEADER

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

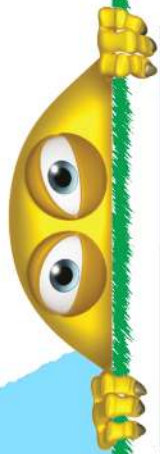
CLEANING COORDINATOR

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



GRACE KIDS



YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY BUILT
ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN MATTHEW 5:14



Every Friday During Term Time
5:15pm - 7:00pm
Ages 4 - 11



Grace Church, Wensley Road, Blackburn, BB2 1QD

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