

INSPIRATION



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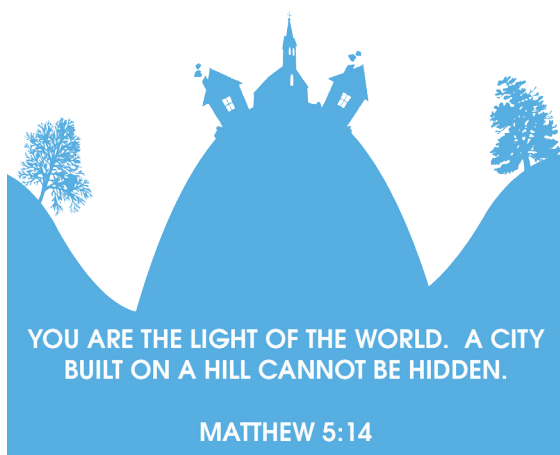
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GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

"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.

As I come to write this month's 'word from the Pastor' it is with a heavy heart that we see the terrible unfolding pictures of a wicked act of terrorism perpetrated. It is of course fair to point out that around the world such acts of senseless violence are committed everyday on the unsuspecting regardless of age, sex, ethnicity and even religion. Yet the constant news coverage and sombre mood, coupled with the closeness to the atrocity, and the likelihood

that you may have well been in the MEN arena, means it carries a special significance. But even that doesn't make it unique as many of us can probably remember the 1996 bombing of the Arndale shopping centre and its truly barbaric devastation.

For many of our readers the UK is not their original home, and such acts of violence may stir your own memories of times of devastation, loss of hope, and weeping for such mindless destruction. These memories bring fresh pain, or re-open the wounds of fear and terror, and quite frankly we can be left shaking our heads asking what can be done.

I wonder friends as you have heard this terrible news, as you have felt these terrible feelings of fear, what has it caused you to do.

For some it's caused them to get angry, to shake a fist and demand action is done to put the country back on its feet so that we are no longer under such terror. As an historian this view surprises the life out of me and explains fully that so few people have long memories. For although Islamist terrorism may be new to us, terrorism, destruction and death is not. Even with many of our lifetimes we can remember periods of terrorist bombs destroying pubs,

hotel and killing officials, adults and children. And I fear to tell you friends that when this wave of terror is ended, if the Lord has not yet returned, it will be perpetrated by other groups

I don't say that today to try to comfort you. I am sure there is little comfort in such a statistic. Rather I want to say this to you because I want you to remember something vital, in this moment whilst you still feel the way you do. And I want you to know it now because time is a great forgetter of events, and for all of the feelings of anger and fear now, they will be gone, you will be at ease again, and you will forget these feelings ever happened. But whilst the feelings are fresh I want you to know that such events are common place in society and repeat themselves for various differing causes.

You see, it isn't that a few bad eggs come and break our society, our community even

our way of life rather it's that our society itself is entirely broken.

I wonder if you can agree with that?



You see, it isn't that a few bad eggs come and break our society, our community or even our way of life, rather it's that our society itself is entirely broken.

Maybe you don't but I think there is a lot of evidence which supports it. The desperate need in our own country which has to be met by food banks, toy banks and debt relief. The epidemic of addiction to drugs and alcohol within our cities which adds to the desperate situation. The almost record number of suicides due to loneliness, depression and feelings of no worth, but above all what is it that our society and communities stand for, the answer is often self-interest. Of course none of this feeds the ideology of a suicide bomber, except that his soul purpose was

to destroy society. And that's what they have in common, for all of these things that are part of our society are caused by our society and are here

to destroy our society. And this was optimised by the reporting of people posting fake pictures of loved ones, saying they were lost in the tragedy, school children claiming to have best friends now dead, all hours from the tragedy and none of it true. Why did they do it? Simply because they wanted to be famous.

Many churches get involved with several ways we can try and help to put society back together again. However the truth that we must use the feelings of this moment to help us accept is that like humpty dumpty, all the king's horses

and all the king's men cannot put them together again.

For society has been broken long before Manchester ever existed. The destruction goes back to the beginning, to Adam and Eve, to the fall of mankind and to the entrance of sin, death and judgment into the world.

And that impulse to promote one's self over another, the desire to destroy, the nature of the devil, manifested itself almost immediately as Cain beat Able to death, after luring him innocently to a meeting. The same evil spirit of murder that was shown on Monday, is seen in the first children because it is sin, and not Islamists extremists which have destroyed our society. And without sin being remedied there is no putting the country back together.

In fact it is too late, there is no putting society back together, anyone's society. The

world which we live in can be likened to a burning building, and no one has a hose pipe. Who set the building on fire is not really the discussion to be having whilst it is burning around you. The only thing to do is to rush in and save as many people as we can from it.

So how do we get saved from sin which is destroying our societies, which has destroyed the world, which means we need to be saved.

The answer is given to us by the Lord at the same time as He tells us sin has destroyed us and cursed us. It will be through God's own son, Jesus Christ who came and lived a life entirely by the rules of a fair and just society. Being an example of love, care and compassion even for those who hated Him. Yet He was brutally murdered whilst never actually having been found guilty of anything including made up charges by people who conspired

against Him. He even found the time to help someone get saved whilst He was being brutally murdered.

And the only reason those who did this to Him have, is that they didn't like Him, What an example of a broken society.

Yet without the broken society, Jesus would not have been crucified, and He, a sinless man, would not have been able to pay the price for all sin. What an irony, but it was because society is so broken that Jesus needed to die and its only because society is so broken that an innocent man did die for everyone's sins.

But He didn't stay dead, three days later He rose again, as a promise to all of those who accept Him as their saviour, that they too will rise with Him. and let me be absolutely clear, that was all God, and nothing to do with society. For the Lord has come to seek and save that which was lost.

You may have heard the phrase 'throwing good money after bad'. I hope that you can now see that there is no hope for this world but in the world that is to come. Which we can access through

accepting Jesus as our saviour, by admitting that we too are part of this broken society, and choosing no longer to try to make it better, but rather to save people from it.

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



TO OUR NEW FAMILY IN CHRIST

Written by Pam Hicken

We would like to say a huge thank you for the warm welcome we have received from all of you. Recently we have been seeking a new church where we could belong, to receive biblical teaching and encouragement, where we could grow in Christ, for His glory. We also needed a family which our children would feel a part of and understand the love of Jesus Christ. Richard and I also wanted to be used by Christ in his mission for the Church. Grace Pentecostal has definitely ticked all those boxes; now we just need God to reveal more of his vision for us, our part within the body of the Church.

As I write this my brother is currently residing in critical care at Royal Preston Hospital and I'm off on sick leave from work, but I am reminded of Jesus' words; "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14v27.

I was 15 when I became a Christian I had a longing to go to church and know God since I was 10-11yrs old. We were not a family who went to church, when my mum remarried she had said that when we move to another town I could start going to church with my step dad. So at 13yrs old I started to attend the 8am

communion service at the local Church of England Church. Not long after my mum married my step dad he had started to hit me, never out of temper but out of control on my life, he became an alcoholic, over the years his temper became out of control and his behaviour towards me became worse. There were objects he purposely kept, and even made, in the house to hit me with which was very premeditated, painful, humiliating and demoralising. Yet I would wake him up every Sunday for him to drive me to church and every day we would appear to the world to be a normal loving family. As a teenager I was close to suicide but at 15yrs

following a number of God planned events I gave my life to Christ, the beatings did not stop but Peace came into my life. The Peace to cope, the Peace which took the physical pain away, the Peace which helped me to be successful in the things I turned my hand to – and now with the ability to look back I see God shaping and moulding me ready to do his will, for His Glory.

Unfortunately my faith was unable to grow over the next 7 years, although I prayed and read my bible, I had no teaching and strayed a long way from God's path, but then I ended up in Blackburn and attended a local church and wow God's message hit me. Yes Jesus died on a cross for my sins but he was beaten 1 lash away from death, he had thorns forced onto his head, he carried a cross on his bleeding back, he was humiliated and his Father turned his back on him – For me! Suddenly the pain

and suffering became real and far worse than I had ever experienced in my darkest days – For me! Peace descended again in my life, knowledge of God's love broke me, my guilt and shame removed and he began to rebuild me. Life keeps throwing problems at me but God keeps moving me through it. He is my anchor, my rock, my eagle's wings and the more time I spend with him the more I see His works in my life. I have been made to feel the lowest of the low over the years but God lifts me up every time; when I reach out to him He gives me his Peace.

You are always worthy to be rescued and you can always receive His Peace, just ask and you will receive. Jesus is there for those who call out to him no matter what your situation is; he has experienced pain, poverty, humiliation, suffering and parentless so he can now stand with you in your sufferings and dress you in Royal

Robes, be at Peace in your darkest moments.

Please be strengthened by my words, encouraged in your walk and blessed in your decisions. Peace through the Holy Spirit to you all. Glory to God in all that we do.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Written by Margaret Rawcliffe

Source: Got Questions? (www.gotquestions.org)

“Question: “Why did God sometimes change a person’s name in the Bible?”

Answer: When God changed a person’s name and gave him a new name, it was usually to establish a new identity. God changed Abram’s “high father” name to “Abraham,” “father of a multitude” (Genesis 17:5) and his wife’s name from “Sarai,” “my princess,” to “Sarah,” “mother of nations” (Genesis 17:15). We know from history that the descendants of Abraham and Sarah formed many nations, including the Jews’ and Muslims’.

God changed Jacob’s “supplanter” name to “Israel,” “having power with God” (Genesis 32:28). He changed Simon’s “God has heard” name to “Peter,” “rock” (John 1:42). Why did Jesus occasionally call Peter “Simon” after He had changed His name to “Peter”? Probably because Simon sometimes acted like his

old self instead of the rock God called him to be. The same is true for Jacob. God continued to call him “Jacob” to remind him of his past and to remind him to depend on God’s strength.

Why did God choose new names for some people? The Bible doesn’t give us His reasons, but perhaps it was to let them know

they were destined for a new mission in life. The new name was a way to let them in on the divine plan and also to assure them that God’s plan would be fulfilled in them.”

Now I have taken this very short passage from a sermon that Jamie gave in July 2014 because it was this that made me start to wonder about

names and so I quote -
Hezekiah and
Manasseh his son.

And Hezekiah was quite a remarkable man and he spent his entire life defending Judah from the onslaughts of the kingdom of Assyria and yet the lord answered his prayer every time and the Assyrians never came and they never destroyed him. Yet in his own life he had seen the kingdom of Israel carried away and just his part of it left. But in his age he became spiritually proud of his achievements and he thought nothing of inviting the visitors that had come from Babylon to see all the wonderful wealth of Israel. This was a great mistake that he made.

But his son Manasseh is another story altogether. Manasseh means 'Causing to forget' and no man could have a greater name than Manasseh to suit his character - 'Causing to forget'. A

generation before we saw God move amazingly and now here he is, potentially (in fact not potentially as he is considered even today in Judaism), the most wicked of all the kings of both Israel and Judah. The most wicked of them all, who did the greatest and the worst atrocities and yet his father was a man of God and he grew up knowing the power of God and he did wickedness, unbelievable wickedness."

Causing to Forget
How dreadful to be given a name like that and then live up to it. However, there was hope on the horizon and if you want to refresh your memory on that sermon it is from 27th July 2014 entitled You can't push God to break his promises.

So then from that we learn that we cannot rely on our parents for us to have a good relationship with God. They can guide us, they can teach us, they can advise us

but each and every one of us has to make our own choice when it comes to our relationship with God. So what about other bible names that we know of which are in use today? I have taken the following names from the young people I see in the service on a Sunday morning and for the meanings I resorted to Google!

Well we have an Adam in our Young People, so as Adam was the first person to know God along with Eve let's start there. Apparently the name Adam means 'to be of a red colour' and maybe this is related to the fact that he spent time in the garden whilst Eve means to breathe or live.

I have said before that those times Adam and Eve spent with God must have been so very precious and yet they probably didn't realise it. How many times are we left feeling bereft because as the song rightly says 'you don't know what you've got until

it's gone'

This happens in our lives too with friends and family that we haven't been in contact with for a while, not because we have fallen out, but because time passes and events in our lives take over. We lose track and before we know it, we have spent months and months out of fellowship or contact with them. Let us not, like Adam

same. Each and every one of us has caused God to grieve over us. And yet God took care of them and he takes care of us. Yes they were banned from the Garden, but that was for their own good. It was imperative that they did not eat from the tree of everlasting life – they first of all needed to be restored. Just like you and me. So for those we know who are called Adam or Eve let

particularly want biblical names which is strange considering that at this moment in time neither of them go to church. However, that is how it is and I really hope that Noah lives up to his name which I understand means rest, comfort.

Well the Old Testament Noah had quite a bit of work on his hands before he could rest but my prayer for



Each and every one of us has caused God to grieve over us. And yet God took care of them and he takes care of us.

and Eve, neglect the fellowship of friends and family. Let us not do things to hurt them which would cause a drift between us.

Now there will never be anything that we can do that would hurt family and friends as much as Adam and Eve hurt God the day that they betrayed him. But don't forget, in the same way that Adam and Eve hurt God, each and every one of us has done the

us pray for them that they will always live and breathe for God. That their lives will be so encased in him that every breath they take will be a further infilling of his glory in their lives.

But what of other names that we use today? My new little grandson is just 3 weeks and 1 day old today and his parents have given him the name Noah-James. They did apparently

little Noah and all his family is that they will indeed find rest and comfort in Jesus. That would be really wonderful and an answer to prayer as my son at one time did give his life to Jesus but now seems so far away

How many of you know a Daniel? Again we have a Daniel in church, and what a wonderful young man he is. His name means God is my Judge and doesn't he just suit

it. Just like Daniel of the Old Testament our Daniel is neither ashamed, nor embarrassed to tell anyone that he loves God and that he knows one day he will stand before him to account for his life. It is important to remember that in everything we do and whatever we do, whether it is good or bad, we will all one day come before God and he will be our judge. What a testimony that is, to be able to say I know that God is my judge. Not mankind, not my teacher at college, not my family – God is my judge.

And of course we have Anna, Daniel's sister. (Well in our church anyway, not in the bible!) Anna, fun-loving, bubbly, spirit-filled and caring Anna. Another of our amazing Young People and doesn't she just enjoy singing and playing the drums. We should all take a leaf out of Anna's book. When she starts to praise the Lord, she simply goes for it and

what a blessing it is to witness it.

Luke 2:36–38 says There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Now of course none of us would like to see our Anna become a widow after seven years of marriage – but what an amazing testimony the Old Testament Anna had. She spent her time, worshipping, fasting and praying. Perhaps we can pray though that God would continue to give our Anna such a worshipful spirit that throughout her entire life, no matter where He sends her (and I really feel that God has a special work for her) that she will continually feel his presence surrounding her.

Micah meaning Who

is the Lord is one of the minor prophets and again one of our Young People. And our Micah is not without talent!

Quote from the internet: Micah the prophet was a younger contemporary of Isaiah and prophesied to both Israel and Judah during the time of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah; and of Pekah and Hoshea, the last two kings of Israel. Micah sympathized deeply with the common people, being moved by the social wrongs of his time (Ch. 2-3), and became the people's advocate and defender as well as their accuser. He clearly sets forth the wickedness of Judah and Israel, their punishment, their restoration and the coming Christ. As compared with Isaiah, he was a simple countryman, born of obscure parentage and recognized as one of the peasant classes, while Isaiah was a city prophet of high social standing and a counsellor of

kings.

The Great Truths of Micah's Prophecy Are: (1) The destruction of Israel (1:6-7) (2) The desolation of Jerusalem and the temple (3:12 and 7:13). (3) The carrying off of the Jews to Babylon (4:10). (4) The return from captivity with peace and prosperity and with spiritual blessing (4:1-8 and 7:11-17). (5) The ruler in Zion (Messiah) (4:8). (6) Where and when Jesus should be born (5:2). This is his great prophecy and is accepted as final in the announcement to Herod.

So then, Micah – someone who God had his hand on. And our Micah, well I do believe that during this past 12 months God has had his hand upon him and there has been a change in him. Micah is maturing as a teenager and into a young man of God. There is an air of spirituality about him. God's hand is upon him which is noticeable even during the

worship time when the music team are up at the front. I remember the first time I heard him singing at the front and I told him how blessed I had been to hear his voice. Note, this was not the first time he had sung at the front – it was simply the first time I had heard him sing out loud enough for me to hear it! I am still blessed by it. His voice is deepening and is becoming richer as he sings out for God. One day maybe he too will prophesy like his contemporary of long ago. What a wonder that would be to hear our young people telling what God is declaring to them. We should pray for that in all of our young people.

And what about Oliver – well there isn't an Oliver in the bible but the biblical olive tree (from where we can take the name)

is said to symbolize fruitfulness, beauty and dignity. E.g. 'Extending an olive branch' signifies an offer of peace.

The "olive-tree, wild by nature" (Romans 11:24), is the shoot or cutting of the good olive-tree which, left un-grafted, grows up to be a "wild olive." In Romans 11:17 Paul refers to the practice of grafting shoots of the wild olive into a "good" olive which has become unfruitful. By such a process the sap of the good olive, by pervading the branch which is "grafted-in," makes it a good branch, bearing good olives. Thus the Gentiles, (which is us) being a "wild olive," but now "grafted-in," yield fruit, but only through the sap of the tree into which they have been grafted. This is a process "contrary to nature" (11:24).



What a wonder that would be to hear our young people telling what God is declaring to them.

That's a bit like going to the garden centre to buy a fruit tree, perhaps an apple. Now suppose your garden is small, there is no way you can plant a tree that's going to over-run your garden, so what do you do. You buy a tree that has been grafted on to a small root stock. All the fruit trees in our garden are like that. We have 10 of them excluding the fruit bushes, or 11 if you count the small olive tree at the side of the house in a container!

So for our Oliver, he is aptly named. He

has been grafted-in to become one of God's chosen people and to see him worshipping, along with our other young people on a Sunday morning really is a blessing.

And what about Lily, now I have lost track of all their ages and I don't know whether Lily still comes down to Young People or to the Youth, but having found the following explanation about Lilies I want to share it with you because it really spoke to me when I read it.

"Consider the Lilies"

What a beautiful lesson Jesus has taught us of rest and quietness from the lilies! "Consider the lilies of the field," He says, "how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin."* He is trying to teach us how free we can be—free from all earthly cares and anxieties. The lily does not struggle; it has no anxieties about its future; but it grows. It grows to be beautiful.

Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them. God paints the flower with greater beauty than the robes



of kings. If you would be beautiful, you must rest in the Lord. Just a little struggling, and you will mar the whole. Christ wants to reveal Himself through you. He will shine the beauty of His own glorious person into your soul if you will but be quiet. Have no anxieties about the things that pertain to this life, and Jesus will clothe you with the beauties of heaven. Character, as the years pass on, is revealed on the face. The miser's face shows the miserly condition of his heart. Jesus will stamp His own image upon the soul if the soul is kept in quietness, and this image will stand out in beauty on the face and outward life.

By this lesson of the lilies Jesus did not mean to teach that we should not pray. He once said, "Men ought always to pray."* We must pray much. If we do not pray, Satan will have us toiling and spinning. Keeping close to Jesus with a strong faith and a firm trust is the only way

to rest, and we cannot do this without much prayer. "Cease thy toiling and care." Learn a lesson from the lilies. Rest in the Lord, and He will make you an object of Christian beauty that will bless the world. Even after you are long gone, that restful, patient life will cast its rays of light and beauty back and chase away the shadows from the life of others.

There are so many names we could look at – from the oldest to the youngest. All the little ones we have in Sunday School and Toddler About. And what about little Solomon who runs around on a Sunday morning – let's never do anything to discourage our little ones. Do not let it be a distraction and honestly, I enjoy watching him sit on the stage at the front, squashed into the space at the lectern. Who knows, one day he might just be behind it preaching. And did you know that his mum is teaching him some sign

language? You might see her sometime showing him different signs as they look at his books.

Who knows, (and I told her this) but some day, Solomon might be the one to tell a deaf person that Jesus loves them. Let's face it – someone has to!

Some names we no longer hear quite as much for new babies but what a blessing they are –

Mercy – Oh we all need God's mercy. Don't any one of you think that you can get by without it.

Grace – well that's good isn't it... our church is named after it! We have it written all over the place and declared on banners inside and out!

Pearl – now you might wonder why I said that, (apart from the fact that Margaret means Pearl) do you know where you can find the name Pearl in this church?

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JOY

J - JESUS FIRST

O - OTHERS SECOND

Y - YOURSELF LAST

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Pearl, that wonderful pearl of greatest price as told in the scriptures.

I did once give you a little word and I suggested that -

Maybe you are the Pearl of greatest price – if so, you cost Jesus his life as he gave His up to purchase you.

Maybe Jesus is the Pearl of greatest price – if so only your life 100% given over to him is an acceptable cost. And where do we have a Pearl in the church to remind us - it's on Anna's drum kit!

Joy – Jesus first, others second, yourself last. Only that order will bring you joy. Put yourself first or second and you will lose your joy in Jesus

Jesus. Of course it is not in our heritage to call our children Jesus but in other ethnic groups and countries it is a well-known name. But to me, just the sound of the name as I say it, sing it, ponder it, fills me with comfort and blessings.

Jesus. Name above all names.

Beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord

Emanuel, God is with us

Blessed Redeemer, living Word

CONFERENCE WEEK

MONDAY 10TH JULY
7PM
AGM



TUESDAY 11TH JULY
5:30PM - 9PM

GRACE JOBS FAIR

Come and drop in at any time to check out all the activities and how you could possibly involved.



WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY
7:30PM - 8:30PM

WORKSHOP

How to be an effective Activity Leader.



THURSDAY 13TH JULY
7:30PM - 8:30PM

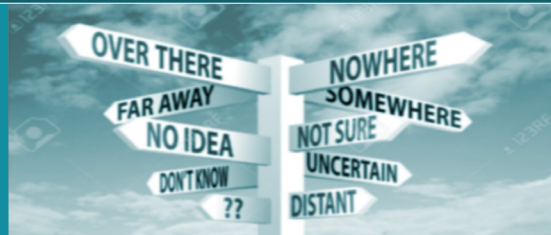
WORKSHOP

How to be an effective Activity Helper.



FRIDAY 14TH JULY
7:30PM - 9PM

PASTORS REPORT & DIRECTION MEETING



SATURDAY 15TH JULY
1PM - 4PM

THANKSGIVING BBQ

To thank all those active in our Church.





PROVERBS CHAPTER 4

Written by Carol Duxbury

Solomon opens this fourth chapter with an invitation to his children to come and receive instruction from him. It's as if he has proven somewhat in the last 3 chapters that he walks in the wisdom of Almighty God.

He wants to share that wisdom with us, Why, because like any loving father Solomon wants the best for his family and is showing his love this way. He is inviting us this morning to sit back, relax and receive from the Word.....

The Bible is a book about family and God wants the life lessons that come our way to be passed from generation to generation.....

He wants the things we are taught and the information or skills we learn to be nurtured and shared with others.

As we begin chapter 4 we find ourselves in an ancient Hebrew home, where the old patriarch is advising his son.... both with fondness and no doubt some anxiety, instructing him to make the best of his life...sound advice?.....

Oh that more fathers indeed anyone with parental influence would speak such things to their children today...What a colossal difference it would make to the world we now live in!

In most of the ancient Middle East,

instruction in wisdom was mainly a matter of training for the courts, where the masters were regarded as father figures to the students. But, in Israel, training in wisdom was also done in the home. No doubt it was done with warmth and affection, as well as with a little of the parent's fore knowledge and of course liberally furnished with a little discipline I'm sure.....

Before we go any further I think we ought to at least have some idea of what wisdom is....It is the quality of having, experience, knowledge and good judgment, the quality of being wise...which in turn means having or showing, experience

knowledge and good judgement... Hmmn yes well....It's just testing you to see if you know your nouns from your adjectives.... ha aha

Naming....Describing

Solomon himself would have learned many valuable lessons from his father King David. The King would have taught his sons everything he knew and all that he had learned whilst walking and talking with the Lord God.

The young Solomon became King at about age 20, but when this came to be he would most certainly have been "thoroughly furnished" with all that his father could teach him.....

All the things that David had learned directly from God.....

And so, as his father had taught him, now Solomon educates his own offspring, one generation teaching another one generation building upon

another...

God wants our life lessons, our wisdom, to be passed on to, one generation to another....

Verse 5 says "Get wisdom" the wisest thing you can do, take pains to get it, and whatever else you do develop good judgement...v 6,7.

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, Heb 12v1 far more pains than for wealth or anything else that this world has to offer.

Search for it diligently, John 5v39 says "Search the scriptures" Not only moral and political wisdom but particularly that which is Spiritual and Evangelical.....

Continually meditate on Wisdom.

"Study, to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of God" 2 Tim 2

v15.

A Soul without true wisdom, a soul with no interest in the Lord, no assurance of the indwelling Christ in his heart and life, a soul that could possess all of this world's wealth, with all the world's power at his disposal..... will leave this life and enter eternity with no understanding, no confidence, nada.....

"Living without Christ in the world and without hope" Eph 2 v12, But,.....how will they know unless we tell 'em!..... How will they know unless we share....and how do we grow if we don't build one upon another...

Listen to me, take note, pass it on....Hold on fast to her, keep her for she is your life..v13

Solomon speaks of wisdom like a person, love her, exalt her, embrace her.....,The chapter goes on to tell us that true wisdom and understanding come as a

knowledge and good judgement... Hmmn yes well....It's just testing you to see if you know your nouns from your adjectives.... ha aha

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life..v13

Solomon speaks of wisdom like a person, love her, exalt her, embrace her.....The chapter goes on to tell us that true wisdom and understanding come as a pair, like Jack and Jill and strawberries and cream.

Wisdom without understanding is futile like jam roly-poly without custard, just as understanding, although very commendable is totally useless, if we don't, can't or won't actually learn anything!.. then we won't have anything we can share, anything we can nurture, anything at all to pass on!!!!

As the chapter goes on we are warned against choosing the wrong paths in life, like young Christian in Pilgrim's Progress, and like Lot and Abraham that Alan told us of in his preach last Sunday....The two paths, the way of wisdom and the way of wickedness

are weightily contrasted here. Wisdom is straight, unencumbered and safe. The way of wickedness being hazardous and marked with violence and torture.....One leads to promise and one to stumbling and destruction...It is so important to Solomon that he repeats his message to reinforce it.. My son, pay attention, listen to what I say.

Verse 26 says "Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established" Ladies, today...keep your focus upon the Lord... Jamie constantly encourages us all to find that good work that the Lord has put into our individual hearts...

As this knowledge was passed on from father to son, or from mother to daughter, from Pastor to flock, from sister to sister or brother to brother, so the Word of Life is passed on from God the Father to Jesus our Lord and from Jesus

to each one of us who has Christ as Saviour.... by the Holy Spirit.....

Proverbs 23v26 is a call from The Lord to each one of us today.. "Son or in this case daughter, Give Me your heart" For all the Lord has done for us, that's all He asks "Give Me your heart...


The end of Proverbs 4 demands that we remain constant before the Lord in everything, in heart, in purpose, in speech, that He is the Centre of our hearts and lives, cos, where else can we go girls.....He has the words of life



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.

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
10:30am - Communion Service [Preacher: Anna Talbot] 6pm: Cafe Church	10am - Central Hub (Minor Hall) 7:30pm - Bible Study (Hosea 7)	7am - Prayer Meeting 2pm - 8pm - Library of Grace 7:30pm - Missions Prayer Meeting 7:30pm - Youth Hub (Youth Room)	1pm - Prayer Israel
10:30am - Communion Service 6pm: Cafe Church	10am - Central Hub (Minor Hall) 7:30pm - Bible Study (Hosea 8)	7am - Prayer Meeting 2pm - 8pm - Library of Grace 7:30pm - Great Harwood Prayer Meeting 7:30pm - Youth Hub (Youth Room)	
10:30am - Communion Service 6pm - Sasha & Sara Vitakic	10am - Central Hub (Minor Hall) 7:30pm - Bible Study (Hosea 9)	7am - Prayer Meeting 2pm - 8pm - Library of Grace 7:30pm - Healing Prayer Meeting 7:30pm - Youth Hub (Youth Room)	
10:30am - Communion Service [Preacher: Allan Kitts] 6pm - Cafe Church	10am - Central Hub (Minor Hall) 7:30pm - Bible Study (Hosea 10)	7am - Prayer Meeting 2pm - 8pm - Library of Grace 7:30pm - Evangelism Prayer Meeting 7:30pm - Youth Hub (Youth Room)	

If you need any information about these or any of our regular meetings, [Click Here](#) Than

2017

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10am - Ladies Meeting (The Way of the Master Discussion)
7 ver for	8 10am - Toddleabout 1pm - Toddleabout 7:30pm - Grace Teens	9 1pm - Oasis 5:15 - Grace Kids 7:30pm - Grace Youth	10
14	15 10am - Toddleabout 1pm - Toddleabout 7:30pm - Grace Teens	16 1pm - Oasis 5:15 - Grace Kids 7:30pm - Grace Youth	17
21	22 10am - Toddleabout 1pm - Toddleabout 7:30pm - Grace Teens	23 1pm - Oasis 5:15 - Grace Kids 7:30pm - Grace Youth	24 10am - Mens Breakfast
28	29 10am - Toddleabout 1pm - Toddleabout 7:30pm - Grace Teens	30 1pm - Oasis 5:15 - Grace Kids 7:30pm - Grace Youth	

please see our notice boards or contact us using the details on the back.
k you.



**SASHA
& SARA
VITAKIC**

**lightofthegospel
ministries**

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE
6PM

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

**TEL: 01254 54541
EMAIL: GRACECCBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM**

EZEKIEL 14



MORE THAN JUST DRY BONES

Written by Christine Morris

We read last time that the Elders, in exile were all outward show. On the outside they were acting as they should but inside they were worshipping other gods in their heart. The Elders in Jerusalem were leading the people in open worship of the gods of Babylon and they weren't ashamed of it. But we have a God of restoration and He was calling them, through Ezekiel, to repentance. He wants to restore them to Himself. To a full knowledge of Himself. He is wanting to bring them back into His grace again.

But at the moment they are serving two masters. There was an inward desire for other

things, other gods, other occupations, other habits, other ways of spending your energy, your money, your life and your time. In exile with a life crumbling around them they turned their heart away from God and turned to the world and their gods and all they have to offer.

If it seemed that God had abandoned them, they felt the need to seek another god, to comfort, save and deliver them from their enemies.

Today we turn to the god of drugs, god of the new car, god of the house, god of the career, god of success and happiness. When we don't find satisfaction in our heart, men

and women turn away from God to dull the pain and find satisfaction....they think!

Hearts can be torn between two loyalties and can be double minded. We end up sliding and falling away. But God isn't deceived...we can fool people but not God...remember the eyes on the chariot in chapter 1 and 10.

God was using them as an example before all the nations and all the world. Lot's wife became the example of the danger of looking back. This is a warning of the dangers of what it is like to have a divided loyalty. What it will be like if you don't follow the Lord fully.

It amazes me that they were not uneasy or felt uncomfortable at coming to God for help. When I need Him I run to Him unashamed.. Subconsciously in our mind we begin to believe that God doesn't really see what we are doing or that He sees but it doesn't matter because we have been forgiven. This is the blindness and hypocritical prayers imitate real ones. They came to God not wanting to know His will they just wanted a certain answer.

We can't really see what is in someone's heart. It's about not being a stumbling block, not being led into temptation; a half-heartedness like Laodicea. God asks for 100% of us. When trouble comes we want Him on our side, but we are not willing to give up our

other options, just in case He doesn't come through.

Nothing is greater than the cross for smashing idols because the cross is the place where self dies.

In verse 14 we find Noah, Daniel and Job mentioned. Why these three? For their righteous behaviour in the midst of a corrupt generation. Their righteousness didn't save their own generations. If a nation persists in sin, it will not be delivered from judgement. But it wouldn't matter, as we read in Joshua 7 about Achan's sin. Sin in the camp, because of one person the curse came upon the whole camp.

If a child of God was going to offer a sacrifice and on his way remembered that there was leaven in the house, he had to

go back and purge out the old leaven. We hear the words 'I'm not harming anyone, it's my life' well... actually...it's not your life....its Christ's! Abraham pleaded for Sodom. Josiah pleaded for the nation. The idea was that if there were these types of men among the people interceding the nation was invincible. With Jeremiah, Obadiah, Habakkuk among them God could not curse them.

God raises up men and women who are faithful to Him; as monuments to godliness and holiness. It may not save the nation but it will bring glory to God. To take down our idols we need to come to the cross. We need the glory of God to return again into our lives.

Next time: A vine, a wife, 2 eagles and a twig!



God asks for 100% of us. When trouble comes we want Him on our side, but we are not willing to give up our other options, just in case He doesn't come through.

OASIS



PRACTICAL THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

Written by Carol Duxbury

There are only two books in the whole of the Bible that are named after women Esther and of course Ruth....

Even though the book of Ruth is small and only contains four chapters, this remarkable little book contains many things that can deeply impact our lives....It's a beautiful rags to riches story of love, loyalty and redemption.... as it tells the story of the salvation of this Moabite....

Doubtless, Ruth learned of the Living God from her mother-in-law Naomi although the young woman was a foreigner and was unfamiliar with God's law, the two women had

a deep and meaningful relationship and shared with and cared for one another in their times of need.... After all she abandoned her family and her homeland to follow her widowed mother-in-law whom she loved and pursued to her faith in the God of Israel. Ruth became a devoted follower of the Lord...Look how the Lord blessed her too, through Boaz, who showed the same honourable traits by not only providing for and protecting Ruth but also secured their very existence, placing Ruth on the Messianic line of The Lord Jesus...

I have no doubt whatsoever that you are all at least somewhat familiar with

the story line of this book....but let's just have a brief look in order to refresh our memory.....

To begin with we hear that Naomi, her husband Elimelech and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion packed up and moved from Judah to Moab, because, as we read in verse one, there was a famine in the land...

Eventually the two sons took wives of the Moabites...However, tragically Naomi not only lost her husband but also her two sons...

Broken and empty and embittered, v7 Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem.... Her daughters in law travelled along with

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Broken and empty and embittered, v7 Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem.... Her daughters in law travelled along with her.... that is until Orpah decided to go back and take her chances in Moab.

Ruth's love for her dead husband's aged mother was as pure as gold and as strong as death.. It would have been some big deal indeed for the Moabitess to go into Judah and where she would be a foreigner..

Doubtless, Ruth learned of the Living God from her mother-in-law Naomi although the young woman was a foreigner and was unfamiliar with God's law, the two women had a deep and meaningful relationship and shared with and cared for one another in their times of need.....

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But she was committed to Naomi and wanted to follow the God of Israel.

In spite of her heathen

background Ruth became a devout worshipper of the True God.

Being Back in Bethlehem, Naomi was reminded of how just her afflictions had changed her. Her friends could hardly believe this was the same woman as the one that left ten years earlier..... "Is this Naomi?" they said, to which the widow replied "Do not call me Naomi, but call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.. I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty" Ch 1 v 19-20, of course she was temporarily forgetting or simply ignoring the courageous and loyal commitment of her daughter-in-law at this time!

Whilst the two women were in Judah, God continued working out an amazing plan for a chap named Boaz, he would soon marry Ruth, to provide for the two women and also have a baby son....

God plans worked out to perfection. Boaz, who had repeatedly gone above and beyond the call of duty in looking after the Moabitess, allowing her to glean in his fields and instructing the reapers to drop handfuls on purpose ch2 v 16.....Did indeed qualify as a "kinsman redeemer"

What is a kinsman redeemer you may ask?

Well, they had a custom in those days based upon Duet 25v5 that said, the relative of a man who dies should marry that man's widow in order to perpetuate the family line through the woman.

According God's remarkable sovereignty and of course perfect planning, it turned out that Boaz was a close relative of Ruth's dead husband Mahlon. Boaz readily stepped up to the mark when the rightful kinsman redeemer declined after finding out that part of the

deal was to marry Ruth. Declining on the grounds that it would jeopardise his own inheritance ch 4 v 6..."And the close relative said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it" That's how he qualified to marry her and continue the family line...and fulfil God's sovereign plan. Amen!

So, even in the dire straights that had brought these two women into such awful affliction, our Omniscient and Gracious God had a plan to take care of them.....Hallelujah....

God is concerned about every single one of us.....

Ruth was not a Jew but a Moabite....

The Moabites were descendants of Lot... Gen 19v30-38...They were gross idolaters, worshipping Chemosh and Baal-peor with many, many obscene

rituals.....

At times, as in the days of Ruth, there was a state of peace between the Moabites and Israel, whereas a state of hostility was far more common place....

God, Our Father, our Faithful friend, we believe and know, is concerned about all of mankind. Not willing that any should perish....

Even though many discriminated against her, God loved her just the same.. He has no prejudice....absolutely not, as Gal 3v28 tells us "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus -Amen?

Jesus paid the price of our redemption, of all who believe on His Name, whether Jew or Gentile...

Racial, social and gender differences and distinctions that are so prevalent in

today's world and that are directly responsible for so much unrest and division, cannot hinder any soul from coming to Christ in any way , shape or form. How do I know that because "God so loved the world, hat He gave his only begotten Son that WHOSOEVER believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3v16...Amen?

God loves all peoples exactly the same and is no respecter of persons - He loves and cares for everyone, regardless of race, nationality or status.

Ruth is a prime example of how God can change and guide a life accurately in the direction that He had planned from the beginning, and as we have seen Him working out His perfect plan for the girl, we can be sure that He will do the very same for all of us. Romans 8v28. (According to His purpose) many people quote this verse,

omitting the most important part.....

There are many, many things we could learn from the story of Ruth...She didn't have an affluent lifestyle, nor did she enjoy great social position or come from a Godly family...She was a childless widow from an enemy nation and to cap it off, had no prospects whatsoever to speak of!!!!.....

So...Let's see some of the things we can learn from the book of Ruth..... and how the story speaks into our lives in 2017.

In chapter one Ruth was living at home in Moab, a place and a people that the Israelites looked down on. Not to mention she had lost her husband and was childless. This could have meant she was frowned on and called barren, by less than well-meaning folks.

Now she was living with her widowed mother-in-law.

The pain and anguish the young woman must have suffered was immense. On the journey to Israel, no doubt she was nervous and didn't know what to expect....she had a lot of reasons to turn back as her sister Orpah had done, go back into her shell perhaps hide herself away in obscurity.

But she didn't. She didn't allow her past to influence or hold her back, but chose to believe that there was a new start ahead of her, so with confidence - off she went.

We all have a purpose in the Lord regardless of the past or how life has dragged us down. Our God has a plan. He does not change. Our confidence may wain but our calling does not..

Don't let the past hold you back!

For such a young (as in recent) believer, Ruth showed great faith.

Faith for her life ahead

Faith that God was who He said He was



Our God has a plan. He does not change. Our confidence may wain but our calling does not..

Faith to believe that God would provide for the two women.

If you are in any way unsure today, start with faith. Hebrews 11v1 tell us that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen" Amen?

Pray, Lord increase my faith.

I suppose we could say that our true character is who we are when no-one else is watching...ha ha,

Ruth would have no idea that her story would be immortalised by the Word and read by millions of people and yet showed great personality and moral standing even as an unknown!

She went above and beyond the call of

duty to her embittered mother-in-law, worked day and night

to provide for them both....She proved that a woman of integrity. Boaz and the workers had come to know whilst she was glean- ing in his fields.

What an example..... Be a person of integrity, be honest, don't gossip, share with each other, care for one another....

Everything Ruth did showed her true and exemplary character and God honoured her.....May we all be the person God wants us to be remembering Jesus died so that we could embrace it.....

Be of good character.

Always believe redemption is possible.

Against even the most colossal odds God's plan of salvation is

always possible.

Ruth had hopes but few dreams, she had no reason to think she would get anything from God, but, He took this poor outcast of a girl, redeemed her, provided for her and brought love into her life again through Boaz.

No matter who we are, where we come from, or what we've been through. God's plan for the heart and life of every soul is Redemption through the atoning death of Jesus Christ because He is not willing that any should perish.

Always believe God knows all about you

and still loves you.

It wasn't an easy life for Ruth.. She grew up in a wicked place, lost her husband, followed her grouchy, down-cast mother-in-law to a foreign land just to live in poverty.

In this story there is no doubt that the hand of God was on her life. God brought her and Boaz together, let her conceive and bear a son, Obed. Obed's son was to be Jesse. And Jesse's son to be King David and the rest as they say.....

A Moabite was made part of the lineage of Christ! Ruth started out empty but ended

up full. No matter what our season is or how we might find ourselves discouraged or in a hole, read the book of Ruth again and remember God works for the good of His people. If your calling and election are sure, then, there is no limit what The Lord can do through you. Leave a legacy of faith to your family and those around you. Amen

Boaz was a type of Christ and His redemptive work in our live today, as God had a redeemer for Ruth , He has Christ Jesus as the propitiation for us...Oh Jesus blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God....Amen?

WHAT'S CLOSEST TO YOUR HEART IS WHAT
YOU TALK ABOUT, AND IF GOD IS CLOSE TO
YOUR HEART, YOU WILL TALK ABOUT HIM.

A.W. TOZER



FOOD THOUGHT

for

HOSTED BY OASIS

FEED YOUR BODY & SOUL!

Tuesday 27th June 2017
11:30am

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

MENU

Quiche, New Potatoes
and Salad

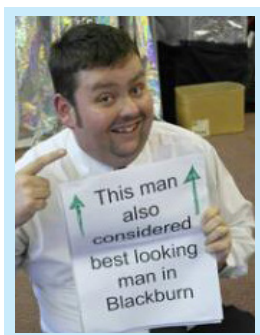
Homemade Rice Pudding

Tea or Coffee

**For bookings and enquiries,
please contact:**

**Grace Pentecostal Church
Wensley Road
Blackburn
BB2 1QD**

TEL: 01254 54541



FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH SERIES

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.

We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today

We are a Pentecostal church and Pentecostal believers; and what we read in acts 19:1-6 is the very essence of the statement, Pentecostal and the clear reason

for its birth as a series of denominations. And yet its reason isn't clear to many, but to imagine those times is to understand, and in that understanding we gain our heritage back and can see how biblical their work was. In 1907 the first instances of baptism of the Holy Spirit in the 20th century were seen in Sunderland. Groups of believers all over the country then began to speak in tongues, and the reaction from the established churches was they must desist or be excommunicated. And many normal everyday people like Amy Entwistle, a mill worker from Blackburn, left everything to preach the gospel in the Congo, and in that we see how very life changing this infilling had been.

However, the majority church called them a cult. So the Pentecostal believers had a message they needed to share and even though every town and village had a church, and many British colonies and others had missionaries, they were not teaching the whole

council of God, and so the whole world was a mission field, every town was to be evangelized. Did they have a new salvation? The answer is no, but like Paul here they knew that they must share the message of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Pentecostal experience, And the receiving meeting was established, Like Paul here in Acts 19 they wanted to instruct believers as well as outreach to the Lost that they may all share in the Gift of God.

it is important that we understand something very clear. The infilling of the Holy Spirit and salvation are separate events. One is given freely to all who repent, the other is given freely to those who are thirsty. But not thirsty for a jolly, or God's power, or to be a show man, but to share in the message of the gospel, to convict men of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. And with the infilling of the Holy Spirit we read that comes the dunamis of the Lord in the 9 gifts, an effectiveness in your message

as determined by the Spirit, diversity of experience in a life led by the Spirit, and your ministries as determined by the Holy Spirit. Without the infilling of the Holy Spirit you are determined to work at those things in your own power, but this is impossible, so we really have no choice, we must be about our Father's business and this is not a mystery.

Finally, we learn from scripture that without you and I looking to walk and conform to the leading of the Spirit we will not overcome the flesh nature or exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit which are the nature of God, we cannot strive to do them, only to be filled with the Spirit. This is what those early Pentecostals found and shared and I share it with you today. As Paul shared it with these who then received the Holy Spirit,



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Margaret Rawcliffe
(Author Unknown)



The day has gone, the twilight fades,
There's stillness everywhere;
I seek some place of solitude,
And humbly bow in prayer.

I tell the story of the day—
The joy, the grief, the care;
I keep not back one secret thing,
But tell it all in prayer.

O heart of mine, be light and free,
Not lightest burden bear,
In everything let thy requests
Be told to God in prayer.

Yes, all; I tell it all to Christ
In evening twilight dim:
Somehow my heart much lighter grows
Since all is told to Him.

I lay my life at His dear feet—
O Jesus, I am Thine!
I'll walk the way of life with Thee;
Thy will, O Christ, is mine.

And now I lay me down to sleep
While gath'ring shadows fall,
And sweet indeed my rest shall be,
Since Jesus knows it all.

1 CORINTHIANS 3



WHAT WE ARE TO ONE ANOTHER

Written by Jamie Boulton

Please Read 1 Corinthians 3

Just to quickly recap what we have previously understood the letter to the Corinthians is for.

Firstly it is a letter Paul wrote to a church he planted and it is the 2nd of four (as far as we know, there may be more) but it is the first to be considered part of scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit. What this tells us is that Paul didn't sit down with the plan to write a piece of scripture, rather he had a purpose for this letter which the Holy Spirit inspired to be for all the ages.

Scripture which is inspired by the Holy Spirit 2 Timothy

3:16 tells us is God breathed and that its purpose is to provide doctrine, correction, reproving and instruction in righteousness. The scripture it is using to do this is the Old Testament.

We agreed that to the Corinthians Paul was writing a letter of reproof for wrong conduct or outworking of their doctrine. He had taught them what the doctrines were but they had misapplied the. To do this he uses the Old Testament principles that he had learnt from boy to manhood, so as to provide them with an understanding of God's heart in these matters and that they act in accordance with His wishes.

The letter began by telling us it is a letter to the sanctified, something only Christ could do. And then goes on to discuss the issue which has been highlighted to Him by Chloe, a member of the church, unknown to us, but her name means tender shoot. Chloe identified that there were divisions amongst the church, and as a tender shoot she couldn't reconcile it with what the scriptures taught.

When looking at chapter 1 we could see what was happening was they were trying to make a king out of these guys, but alongside Christ, the reason being is they thought them intelligent, clever sophisticated, likeable and

charismatic. But Paul makes it clear, none of them died for you, only Christ is worthy of praise,

Secondly the Lord calls the foolish things of the world, as far as the world is concerned these men are foolish. And the message of salvation through the cross is a stumbling block. Chapter 2 takes up this part of the reproof, by explaining that we won't convince people with the gospel, to them it's a foolish argument and Paul couldn't compete with these Greeks on their intellect. But he didn't have to because he understood, their understanding was actually foolish, because they couldn't see the purposes of God, it has to be revealed by the Spirit. Otherwise, like the men of babel they would work together against God.

Yet we who have accepted Christ have been given the mind of Christ that when we look at the world we see the purposes

of God bringing about His plan of redemption as the scriptures teach us. Therefore the only thing he could teach was the gospel; it was the only thing he looked for in them, and not their status,

This takes us on to chapter 3,.

So what do you think the message of reproof is in this chapter?

Now taking the principle that this is a well-constructed argument, beginning with the issue and ending with a conclusion, what does that tell us?

Well it begins in verse 1 with what you might think was an insult

And I, brothers, could not speak to you as to spiritual ones, but as to fleshly, as to babes in Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:1

And it ends with the last three verses,

Therefore let no one glory in men. For all things are yours, whether it is Paul, or

Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

So what do you think connects these two verses?

Well let's begin by talking about the first verse. Do you think that this apparent insult is the start of a new subject?

If you remember our last reproof was that the wisdom of the world is actually foolish, and it cannot comprehend the Lord, because that's what the Lord had designed. The Lord's plans can only be comprehended by the Spirit, and only he who has the mind of the Spirit can comprehend the Lord's plans.

And of course Chapter 2 finishes by Paul telling the Corinthians, (remember this letter is written to the sanctified) that they have

this mind.

So if they have this mind Pauls next sentence is a rebuke because they clearly aren't using that mind, but rather like a small child or nursing baby, which thinks not of the wider world simply its own needs.

So they may have access to it, but they choose not to use it and so Paul calls them carnal, (we will come back to why Paul calls them that and what it means)

But when we get to verse 4 we see that Pauls issue draws us back to chapter 1, and the lifting up of men above themselves, setting up them as kings, as we have previously discussed.

Now if we draw back to when Israel wanted a king, what were the reasons? 1 Samuel 8:4-8

They wanted a visible and direct judge, a go-between, so that the Lord did not reign over them directly,

and they were responsible for their own actions before the Lord. Instead the king would be responsible for their conduct. The king would be the one who gave the Lord's direction

It is absolutely true that we all want this, yet Paul taught Only Jesus is the one qualified to do it and has earned the right to do it.

Now chapter two wasn't a side line away from this, as I explained in the introduction. The origin of wisdom is discussed so that we understand it is not education or charisma which makes any of these men worthy to be followed because true wisdom comes from the Lord, and who is it given to, who do you think the 'we' is in the 'we have the mind of Christ'

Now you have two answers, the first is Paul, Apollos and Peter. The other answer is all of us who have accepted Christ as saviour. So which

do you think?

Well if it was the first, Paul is still setting himself on a pedestal. So it refers to us all as I have said, and this is the reason for verse 1, because they don't use it.

So Paul has levelled what they have raised up by showing their wisdom, credential, experience and intellect mean little, it is only with the mind of Christ we can know the things of God.

And here's our understanding, you can all, that's right all have it. So whose top dog, whose the underling, whose the king? This is what chapter 3 goes on to discuss. As shown in verse 4,

Because Paul now uses the chapter to discuss how we are different but equal, how we get different rewards, but are not more important than another.

And it's all brought to a wonderful conclusion in verses 21-23.

The phrase repeated over and over, it's all yours, Paul, Apollos, Peter, they all work for you and as we will see, we all work for them, as we all work for the same purpose.

And what unites us, we are all Christ's and in Him, we are found in the Lord God almighty, who was, and is and is to come.

So what is the reproof?

Well it's the very important understanding of we have but one king, His name is Jesus.

No man should Lord it over another, but that's the subject of other scriptures. The subject of this one is

on the Nicolai-tans, that is those who are higher than the laity. In Israel, Joseph was his father's favourite, so he got two tribes, but he didn't lead the others. Levi were chosen to be the priesthood, but they could not rule, they instructed and their position was that of the first born of all Israel, they simply took their place for them.

The Judges raised for a time when needed to draw the people back to God, as did the prophets. And we have seen that the kings were not what the Lord wanted for Israel, it's what they wanted for themselves. But the Lord warned them

them, good or bad. Is that what you want?

Don't follow man follow Christ, you are His, He is able, draw close to Him, not your pastor, don't rely on the one you think is in charge, rely on the one who is in charge.

Why do you think Paul calls them carnal simply because they are only able to eat milk and not solid food, spiritually?

So the chapter begins with a rebuke because although they have the mind of Christ they don't use it.

Paul creates another set of factions now and challenges us which one we are in.



And what unites us, we are all Christ's and in Him, we are found in the Lord God almighty, who was, and is and is to come.

no man should put another between him and the Lord.

This is not a new teaching. Jesus says twice in Revelation he hates the deeds

the cost of setting a man up before you. 1 Samuel:8:10-18,

The history of Israel is as sheep, who followed a shepherd no matter where he took

The first is the Spiritual, the Greek word being phyoo-mat-ik-os' and it's a literal meaning, it is that which is supernatural, which is heavenly and is non carnal

The other word, sometimes translated fleshly, but it is the same word used as

carnal is in the Greek Sark ee Kos and it means to be governed by human nature.

So Paul is issuing to us a big challenge, because he makes it clear we should not be carnally minded. In other words we shouldn't be governed by human nature.

That's a big challenge, even to himself, Romans 7:14-25 Paul struggled with the very nature of this, so what can we do? Romans 8:1-14, be led by the Spirit of God, not the desire of your human nature.

But how do we know the Spirit? Well Paul told us we who are in Christ have the mind of the Spirit, we just have to choose to listen to it and follow it.

The Corinthians he likened to babes, nay pee os meaning one who is unskilled, immature and childish. Because their spirituality was worked out like children.

But we can't look at that as an immediate bad thing, after all we all had to be born, we all had to be children and learn.

To babes Jesus said Mathew 11:25, the thing about the childhood years is, you have that opportunity to be instructed, to learn, but not from preconceived ideas, rather from a vacant innocence. Being in that state is good. 1 Peter 2:2.

The problem is staying there, Paul tells the Corinthians later in this letter, 1 Corinthians 13:11 and in the letter to the Hebrews he cements this requirement for us to grow. Hebrews 5:11-14

So solid food is for those who have matured from carnality to spirituality. Why is that?

Because you are unable to process the requirements of the scriptures whilst still governed by Human nature, only

the spiritual man may discern them,

But how do you know if someone is eating solid food, or just digesting the milk. The answer is in their actions. Paul calls the Corinthians Carnal, because there discernment of doctrine is wrong.

By saying they are for Apollos, or for Paul, they fail to understand the nature of Christ, the body and our relationship with each other.

Instead there are envying's the word is Zeal, meaning a boiling over, but on this subject of whose the greatest Christian

There are strife's, meaning contentious quarrelling again over who is the best

And there is disunity factions following men and not Christ caused by following one man over another.

James 3:13-18 and the example of these is what shows

immaturity, remember the book Lord of the flies, what happens when the children look after themselves, then they are governed by lust and desire and superstition and misunderstanding.

No one person is above another, follow Christ, don't fight over who's the greatest.

What does it mean we each individually receive our own reward?

Paul says here in verse 8 each one will receive a reward. The word in Greek is *Hek as tos* meaning individuals, each and every one.

Is he just talking about those in leadership or himself, Apollos and Peter?

The answer is no, he is talking about all the church, all of us.

So Paul is talking about a reward which is given to the individual, he also expresses that this reward will be different for each person and will be

entirely based on their labours. But the parable of the workers hired at different



Paul teaches what we have is a privilege given by God, for the glory of God.

times, yet all paid the same makes it clear it's not about length of service, simply about labour.

The word for labour is *kop os* and it means toil, so it's hard work, commitment. Only you know the answer to this. There are those who do what they have to and those who do what needs to and those who look to do more than both, which are you?

This is opposite to the socialist and communist view of an equal share for all. It's quite the capitalist view of you earn a reward based on your effort.

But this toil isn't defined by what you do, just how hard you do it.

Because in the capitalist system, the

hardest workers don't usually get the greatest reward, more it is the specialist workers

who do. And that is where the wisdom of this world is shown up.

Communism says what's your is mine

Capitalism says what's yours is a commodity to sell with.

Paul teaches what we have is a privilege given by God, for the glory of God. That one may sow and another may water, but it is all nothing. Because it is only Jesus who makes it come to something.

So that task we have isn't our commodity at all, even our own labour, because without the intervention of the Lord it doesn't do anything.

Now understand that, Paul teaches that each labour is a gift. Ephesians 2:10 each of those gifts are very

different, as we will see when we get to chapter 12 and the discussion on the body.

But no one gift is more important than another, each has its task, each has its role, all work for one purpose and none work without the intervention of Christ.

But...

We will all be rewarded individually dependent on how much we toiled. If you think you're being carried, hiding in the crowd, sneaking off for a quick break whilst others labour, you're fooling yourself. All things will be judged by Christ at the end.

So looking at verses 9-16 what do we learn about the labours we will be rewarded for?

Knowing then that the labours to which we have discussed are varied, God ordained from the beginning of time and rewarded individually for Paul now goes on

to explain how these labours work and in that we can glean some things.

Of course the first thing we can glean is that he is talking to us all. So although we can look at v 9 and think he's talking about himself and Apollos, which he is, he is only doing it by example.

The true understanding is this from verse 9.

All those planting and watering are fellow workers,

All the church is God's field (the phrase means farm) and you are also a building. (This double type moves us from the farming metaphor to the building one, but at the same time give us a comparative view)

But the fellow workers are part of the church, so in a round robin we are actually, the workers, the farm and the building.

We are both those

doing and those receiving, and yet because we know in the farm analogy only the Lord gives the increase, and from the challenge to be led by the Spirit and not Human nature, that the Lord is the one who knows what the building should look like, we trust His leading in our labours.

Now in the building type a foundation must be laid and then the course of bricks.

Paul tells us there is only one foundation on which a building of God can be built, Jesus. He doesn't mean believing in Jesus, He means what he concluded in chapter 2. 1 Corinthians 2:2

Without salvation there is no building, and there is no other salvation than Christ crucified. That I know you know, but going back to the initial reason for Chloe's letter, some had come to put their particular leader akin to Christ, because they were the person who

helped them come to Salvation.

But they aren't the reason for the salvation.

Does anyone know who was responsible for Billy Graham's salvation? It Was Christ, not Mortdecai Ham. Remember that, he just faithfully preached the Gospel the Lord gave the increase, and Jesus is the foundation.

But look at verse 10, we have another double ministry, Foundation layer and builder, to couple with sower and waterer.

The sower and foundation layer are by definition the beginning works of a process. We can clearly understand that this is the evangelist, or gospel preacher.

Paul likens himself to a wise master foundation builder, so what's he saying there? Well he's showing us that all though all tasks are for equal purpose, although not the

same task. And even though he has previously shown that our rewards are individually given based on how hard we work.

And even though he has gone to great pains to show that in all this is equality, no man should be lifted up. He is clearly showing us, some people can be better at a task than others. 1 Corinthians 15:41

But by using the phrase master craftsmen then he is talking about guilds, apprenticeships and training. It's the oxymoron of scripture, because up to now Paul's been telling us none of those things make the difference, but he means none of them make the difference as to the greatness of a man,

Paul has taken the work that Jesus gave to him, and he has laboured to improve, like the Pentecost first fruit offering, they don't give back the grain that the Lord has given, but go through

the bread making process to turn it into something more. This is just like in the parable of the talents.

The other two tasks are the waterer and the builder, they come after salvation. This is to help that Christian move from milk to solid food, from carnality to Spirituality

Mathew 28:19 is the great commission, make disciples. A building requires foundations, and it requires bricks. A Field requires seeds and those seeds require water to grow. It is a combined work.

Without it then the first verses of this chapter is where all Christians will stay.

So who does the building? You do on others, and they do on you.

But in that building Paul now gives us some warnings so that we are careful how we build,

Our works build up others building, as

others do ours, here we see 6 types of works, but all are words of something made, each to be tried by fire, the first three being refined and the second three being burnt away.

Gold = revelation 3:18 (directly taken from God), imputed divinity

Silver = psalm 12:6

Precious stones, =(not jewels but marble, the word precious timios, bought with a great sacrifice, (not Christ's)

Wood = Xulon, meaning cudgel, stocks, (things used for dishonour)

Grass = Isaiah 37:27, weak and powerless

Stubble= the stalk without the grain

Each of these items reveals things about your motive, are they by human nature, or by the Heavenly one. They are built on others, and they make a building which is highlighted by the nature of God, or by

nothing at all.

But v 16 makes it clear why it is important. You are the temple of God, as we all are.

What should that temple look like. Zechariah 6:12-13

Well the answer has to be, by God's design, not your own, because only by the Lord knows what it should look like,

So pulling it all together, the conclusion is of a labour force, building on one another, by Christ's design, not by any man's, no matter his skill level, calling or effectiveness, we all have an equal purpose in God, yet we will be rewarded for how hard we work at that purpose.

Why does Paul introduce defiling the temple into this conversation? (v17-20)

After all that why throw this in about the temple.

Well because he has

established that it's not just any old building that's being built but the temple, the new Jerusalem.

Paul is not explaining what happens if they remain in this carnality. In the strength of human wisdom by once again reminding them that the wisdom of this world is in fact foolish,

However it's not just foolish, the Lord has intervened so that it is the gibbet by which it will hang itself.

This scripture is taken from Job 5, where Job explains all things are in the Lord's hands.

If that is true (and it is) then a world which doesn't acknowledge that has a false base, it looks and sees but does not perceive, because they look with a pretext.

This pretext is Human nature, which is described in Romans 1:17-25,

Therefore if your still working from this carnal nature, then

you will defile the temple. And bring its destruction.

And Paul can site the kings of Israel as evidence for why we should not put one person between us and God. Even the

good kings weren't wholly good and led the people into many errors, ending with Manasseh. This worked out exactly as the Lord has said in 1 Samuel 8.

Don't trust in the wisdom of man, go to

the Lord yourself, let Him reign over you, be heavenly minded, labour in His vineyard,

MASAI KAHINDI

TUESDAY
18TH JULY
2017

7:30PM

GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
WENSLEY ROAD
BLACKBURN
BB2 1QD
TEL: 01254 54541





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.

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 OF GRACE - ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

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/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

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 winning 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: Classroom, 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

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 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 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 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

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 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

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

STEWARDS

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 be 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.

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.”

