

HOPE
NEWSLETTER
CHURCH

Issue 4 - November 2023



WHO'S WHO

ELDERS –

Dave Collins, Emmanuel Oyowe, John Warner

DEACONS –



Nahum Evans, Worship Leader

Karen Monks, Sunday School

Brian McDaid, Love in Action



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Karen Monks and Comfort Oyowe

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ELDER'S MESSAGE

It is that season again when the days get darker earlier, and the lights must come on early in our homes. Walking in the dark can get you into trouble – you can stumble and fall, bang your toe, or bash your head. All of us are drawn to the light because light paves the way for us to move safely. The world we live in, in a way, is very dark – the erosion of core moral values and family life, the “me” mentality, are among the current trends that are not of God and the world we live in gets darker every day.

The darker the world gets, a small source of light stands out even more – and is more crucial, amid darkness and uncertainty we're reminded that Jesus calls us, not to hide but to be light in a dark world.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

God wants us to be the light of the world. So, no matter how dark our environment is, people around us should see some hope and encouragement – if we live like the light in the darkness. Do you see yourself as a light-bearer in this dark world?

Just remember as you go throughout your day, you are bringing the **LIGHT**...God's love to a dark world. We carry the light. Keep your candle burning, God will do the rest. I want to encourage you to keep up the work of good deeds in dark places and bringing glory to our heavenly Father.

God bless you

Emmanuel

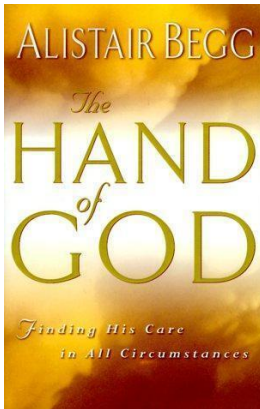


BOOK NOOK

THE HAND OF GOD

Author Alastair Begg

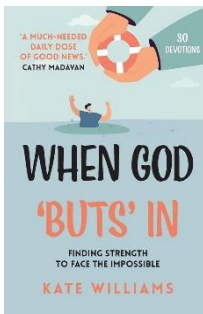
Reviewed by Graham Cook



This takes you through the story of Joseph and shows how God's hand and plan was on every part of Joseph's life. We are not that different to Joseph—although it's highly unlikely we will be thrown into a pit and then sold to become a slave! We, like Joseph, will have difficult times when things don't make sense, when situations are hard, and it feels like the Lord isn't there. See how Joseph deals with his situations and how the Lord has wonderful things for him and for us.

I really liked the way he goes into various parts of Joseph's story and draws things out that I wouldn't have thought to look for. Although it's about the story of Joseph, he points us to Jesus. I recommend you read this for encouragement as you go through what is not always a straightforward life.

NEW RELEASE – OUT NOW



When God 'Buts' In
Written by Kate Williams

Wonderful friend to Hope Church

POETS CORNER

FINDING REST

By Sue Warburton

Deep down in our souls we need to find Rest,
To follow in His footsteps...we know we'll be blessed.
To sit at His footstool, and look in His face,
To know that He loves us.....whatever our pace.
To cherish each moment, experience His grace,
To be in His presence, that free spacious place.
Yet something inside us still tosses and turns,
The rat-race of living, still hungers and burns,
To be 'doing' and searching... we must fill the gap...
We must hang on in there...although we may snap...
Like a reed that is broken, and tossed in the wind....
Let's just take a moment...press Stop, and rewind...
Let's look at His promise, reflect on His Word,
Feed on His goodness, whatever it takes...
Reap of His blessings, and raise up the stakes,
And be in that place where our.....
Souls will find Comfort,
Our inner-man Rest,
Our Spirit restored, to run His great race.
No need to be doing' and striving to prove....
Just sit at His footstool and know of His Love.

STILL RESTING

It's all in the Resting...that God finds His Son,
It's all in the Listening...that victory is won.
It's all in the Speaking... that Gods' truth is shared,
It's all in the caring...that comfort is given.
It's not in the 'doing' and striving to please,
It's not in the rushing, and heat of the day.
But Resting, Abiding, and Soaking His Love....
Our Spirits Replenished, Our heart filled anew...
Where we soar as eagles, so high in the sky,
And share in His glory, His majesty won!

TESTIMONY

By Hannah Evans

I just wanted to share a testimony of God's faithfulness and of the peace that comes with a life lived in service to Him.

As some of you may know I recently spent just under a year working for a Christian charity in Leeds, supporting vulnerable women, many of whom are living and working on the streets and battling addictions that stem from a lifetime of abuse and exploitation. During my time working at the charity, I was often pushed outside my comfort zone. The job was far more challenging than I had first anticipated, and it brought me to a place of needing to completely depend on God's wisdom, help and strength every day, which in fact was probably the safest place to be! There were lots of ups and downs and times I wouldn't willingly choose to go through again but throughout the highs and the lows, one thing remained unchanged and that was God's faithfulness and protection.

Over time the stresses and strains of the job combined with the long commute and busy family life, began to bring me to the realisation that the job wasn't sustainable for me. Coupled with that was a sense that God wanted me to be more present at home and church and within the local community that God has placed our family in. I battled a lot with guilt as I struggled with the decision about whether to leave the job or stay. Despite the challenges of the job, there were many joys and the thought of leaving the close-knit team and the women with whom I'd come to know and love, who continually face so much loss and adversity, was really difficult to face. I also questioned why God would lead me somewhere only to move me on again less than a year later. I prayed about it A LOT for many weeks and months, and I kept coming back to that sense of needing to be present more at home. I began to see that God had led me to this job for a specific time, to fill in a need they had during a period of low staffing, and I also saw how he had used that time as a training ground for me; to teach and stretch and refine me for whatever He is leading me on to next. So, in the end I made the difficult decision to hand my notice in. The support and encouragement I received from both my colleagues and the women we

supported really brought much peace and comfort and I am so grateful for how God brought confirmation and reassurance to me through them.

Two months on my question is “Lord, how do you want me to serve you now?”. This is something I feel God is teaching me to ask more and more on a daily basis. There are so many things I could fill my time with, and sometimes it can feel overwhelming. Then there are days where I think have everything planned out but then a need comes up and I feel that prompting from the Holy Spirit to respond and so I’m becoming increasingly aware that my time is not my own; I am a servant of Christ, in response to the great sacrifice He made for me in dying on the cross for my sins. It sounds tough and costly and quite often it is, but what God keeps bringing me back to is a great sense of peace and privilege that my time is in His hands. He has a good and perfect plan for my life, and it doesn’t all rest on me and my own strength and effort, weak and failing as it is! Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28-30 that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light and that when we come to Him, weary and heavy laden, we find rest for our souls. That doesn’t mean life will be plain sailing but that the burden rests on Him. We are not carrying it alone. He is not a cruel task master but a loving Heavenly Father who takes such great care of us.

I’m beginning to see God teaching me that when we wait on Him and seek the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the burden starts to feel light, just like He promised. I’m so often tempted to rush in and fill my time with the 101 things I feel I should be doing and so often end up feeling exhausted, stressed, and burnt out. If only I would take the time to seek God’s plan for me each day, I believe things would become much simpler. This is an ongoing learning journey for me, so I thank God for His patience with me! May I encourage you to bring that same question into



your days: “Lord, how do you want me to serve you today?” and may you be filled with the peace, strength and power that comes through a life lived in service to our great and wonderful God, by the enabling of His Spirit that lives within us. God bless.

NEWS FROM ROMANIA

As we come closer to Christmas our friends George and Damaris have given us an update on how things are going in Romania.

George is continuing to pray more and more with people every day, brothers and sisters from church, friends, or family. If they have something important to do, a problem to solve, health issues, he is praying with them. But it's not just prayer, he tries to make them understand that living with God is a daily commitment. A brother has just had a hip replacement after years of suffering, all went well, and he is very happy now.

Having prayer builds confidence, like a soldier that knows he will be victorious, and go to sort the issue so full of peace and confidence.

As the bills are increasing more and more in Romania so we are trying to help the people with wood for heating. We are trying to get the churches ready for winter too. The church in Segarcea needs wood also, the church in Craiova needs its fence repainting along with the general running and functioning of the church.

We had the dedication service for baby Ela as planned, it was a very important event for the family and the community, she is such a sweet baby, she laughs a lot with everyone who holds and talks to her. I have now gone back to work, so George and my mother-in-law have gotten more involved with her. We went to a pastor conference on the Christian family recently and took Ela with us, she was such a good baby. She is a real blessing to our lives and the lives of her two big sisters. They have now gone back to school and keep us busy getting them back and forth every day.

Please pray for us as we are looking for a youth leader for the youth, they need to be a strong and good Christian that can do more activities with them, there is so much potential for the youth in Craiova. George is trying, he has even tried having some guitar lessons.

God Bless from Damaris and George



LIGHT PARTY

29th October 2023



What a great afternoon it was with the kids having so much fun, we had a fun filled time, the kids enjoyed the bouncy castle. Games, crafts, and art, along with hotdogs and candy floss. The children and us adults were worn out by the end and I do mean worn out. In an afternoon filled with fun, laughs, smiles and giggles. Adults and children alike had a wonderful and treasured time filled Light in a Dark World.

This is our 4th Light Party we have done and has become the 'Highlight of the year'. So, why do we do a Light Party, why a Light Party and why always in October?



There is so much darkness in the world and it's getting even more obvious that our children are being targeted to be involved with 'Halloween Dressing Up'. The shops have been covered in black outfits, masks, skeletons, blood & all things evil leading up to 31st October. What does this portray? Fear, Darkness and Death. We are told in the Scriptures to have nothing to do with the darkness of this world (Ephesians 5:11).

Halloween is against anything to do with 'The Light'. We know that Jesus is the Light of the World, and we are thankful to each parent that sends their child to Sunday School & Youth Events.

Please commit to pray for our children and young people as they are faced with so much in this world that is not of God. James wrote 'Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the 'FATHER OF LIGHTS' with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow' James 1:17.

GOD BLESS JAN



Many thanks to everyone involved, those involved in planning and preparation. Many thanks to those volunteers who supported and made the day work out so brilliantly. Thank you to the parents and the children who came along and made the afternoon worth it. It was such a success; we are already looking forward to 2024!



OCTOBER MEANS LIGHT PARTY!



**SHAW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
SWITCH ON**

**GRAB A HOT BREW &
A MINCE PIE WITH US**

**HOPE CHURCH
CHOIR**

MUSIC

My Resignation

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an eight-year-old.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four-star restaurant. I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make a sidewalk with rocks. I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them. I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple; when all you knew were colours, multiplication tables, and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care. All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.

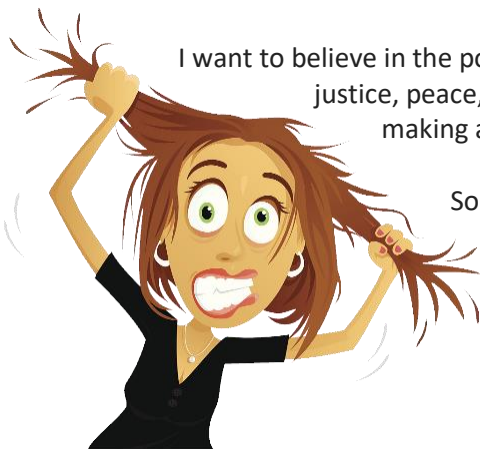
I want to think the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good. I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again.

I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

So... here's my chequebook and my car-keys, and my credit card bills. I am officially resigning from adulthood.

From *A Barrel of Fun*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.



ANNUAL GMA DOVE AWARDS

Friday 20th October 2023 was the 54th Annual GMA Dove Awards, held in Nashville, Tennessee, this is such a big night for the gospel music.

Song of the Year went to a favourite of Hope Church
“Goodness of God”

honouring songwriters Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, Jason Ingham, Jenn Johnson, and Brian Johnson.

The wonderful Brandon Lake was a big winner of the night coming away with 4 awards

- Artist of the Year
- Songwriter of the Year
- Worship Recorded Song of the Year for Gratitude
- Rap / Hip Hop Recorded Song of the Year for Graves

Tasha Cobbs Leonard came away with 2 awards

- Gospel Worship Album of the Year for Hymns (Live)
- Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year for It Is Well

New Artist of the Year went to Katy Nichole

Worship Album of the Year was awarded to Elevation Worship for LION:
Live from the Loft

Childrens Recorded Song of the Year was awarded to Ellie Holcombe for
Sounding Joy

Feature Film of the Year was awarded to Jesus Revolution

TV Series of the Year went to The Chosen which has released in Season
4 trailer ahead of its 2024 release

A Full list of Winners can be found at

<https://doveawards.com/awards/2023-winners>

DATES IN THIS CYCLE

24th November

Youth Cafe

26th November

Bible Study
with Hannah



ROTA NOTICE

Going forward we are changing the way we have the sign-up sheets. We currently have a sheet which covers the following 3 months all at once.

The new system will have only 1-month sign-up sheet but its 3 months in advance, it will help the leadership know that there is always coverage for the next 3 months.



Rotas for the next 3 months will always be displayed on the noticeboard and the current month will continue to be printed in the magazine.

If you can't make what you've signed up for, swap directly with someone as early as you can and amend the sheet on the board in the kitchen, so the leadership team know that's who is always doing what.

Many Thanks for your continued devotion

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 19th November

WELCOME TEAM – Cirsty & Cat
TEA & COFFEE – Alison & Pat
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Karen & Pam

Saturday 25th November

SHAW LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Sunday 26th November

BRING & SHARE LUNCH
WELCOME TEAM – Jan & Babs
TEA & COFFEE – Jan & Pam
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Comfort & Karen

Sunday 3rd December

WELCOME TEAM – Sue W & Pam
TEA & COFFEE – Sue W & Kirsty F
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Comfort & Cirsty

Saturday 9th December

LADIES CRAFT AFTERNOON WITH SUE – 4pm

Sunday 10th December

WELCOME TEAM – Cirsty & Jan
TEA & COFFEE – Babs & Hannah
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Karen & Pat

****Remember the Milk & Biscuits if you're on Tea & Coffee****



NOTICES

Magazine Needs

We are now heading into Issue 5 of the Magazine, but we need articles. Currently, we are working on an issue-by-issue basis but, ideally, we would like to have a stock of ideas we can pick from.

We need your help to do this! – What can I do?

- Testimony from when you were saved.
- Testimony from something that you know was Godly input in your life recently.
 - Read a good Christian book recently – Write a review.
 - What's your favourite verse / hymn / song and why.
 - Feel a muse working, write some poetry, or a short story.
 - The kids can even get involved with ideas for the Kids Page.



REND COLLECTIVE

They're coming to Manchester! That's Right, they are performing live in 2024.

A few of us already have tickets... would you like to join us

Thursday 8th February 2024

Manchester O2 Ritz

If you would like to come, you can get tickets from Ticketmaster or let Jan or Cirsty know and we can work with you to see if we can get one for you.

Its going to be a fantastic evening of worship music with amazing songs from this amazing group.

If you haven't already – check them out!



ELDER'S MESSAGE

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God bless you

Emmanuel



KIDS PAGE

WORDSEARCH

Luke 14:25-33

K W M V S T W E S T I M A T E
 S P U S E O T T O W E R C S D
 Z J O K L E W P E C P L O P I
 Z R C L L I A Z N A X U S H U
 C U O P K T R X P R W C T K Y
 M F M C V H O J R R O B E A Q
 J O Y M C O U P G Y B L W N G
 C L N Q P U O P R S P U Z N M
 E V Y K E S A Z T I Q R I E B
 C N O K A A F L C N Y L G L H
 J R O I C N I S S E E R G S D
 N E O U E D I P N V A N I G E
 Z X S W G D V O A L S N N K X
 I A I U D H M R S F I I W O Y
 B V M C S S T C O F K D X O N

PEACE
 FINISH
 JESUS
 CARRY

ENOUGH
 CROWDS
 WAR
 COST

TRAVELING
 COMPLETE
 DISCIPLE
 FOLLOW

TOWER
 CROSS
 BUILD
 ESTIMATE

LARGE
 MONEY
 KING
 THOUSAND



I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others. it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. **There really are sixteen names of Bible books in this story.**