

The background is a soft pink color with various floral and nature-themed illustrations. There are large, stylized pink flowers with yellow centers, smaller pink buds, and dark brown leaves. Two white doves are shown in flight, one in the upper right and one in the lower left. Two yellow and black striped bees are also present, each leaving a dotted trail. The title 'Hope Church' is written in a bold, dark brown, sans-serif font, and 'NEWSLETTER' is written in a larger, bold, dark brown, serif font, both with a slight 3D effect.

# Hope Church NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 - May 2024

# ELDERS MESSAGE

Have you ever asked or wondered why does God care about us?

**And the LORD God formed man *of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life; and man became a living being.* (Genesis 2:7)**

On the last day of creation – the sixth day, before God rested from His work as Creator on the seventh day – God created man (Genesis 1:26-31). This passage from Genesis 2 tells us how God created man, making him out of dust, out of dirt.

The verse plainly says that God formed man of the dust of the ground. When God created man, He made him out of the most basic elements, the dust of the ground. There is nothing “spectacular” in what man is made of. God did something wonderful with that lowly dust. He breathed into Adam the breath of life. With this Divine breath, man became a living being, like other forms of animal life. Genesis 1:20-21 describes animals as living creatures and living things, and the same phrasing is used in describing Adam as a living being. Yet only man is a living being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

David even says, "What is mankind that you are mindful of them?" (Psalm 8:4). In poetic language, David is asking, "**Why does God care about us?**"

David meditates on Genesis 1:26 and remembers when God created humanity in his image, crowning them with glory and honour (Psalm 8:5)...The King of all the earth, who rules above the heavens, has made his own creatures kings. And like all kings, he gave them territory and authority (Genesis 1:28). David repeats God's words spoken to Adam in the Garden of Eden that he would rule over every living thing (Psalm 8:6).

All these meditations on our great God's care for frail earthly humans leads David to praise God.

When the New Testament quotes this psalm, it doesn't refer to the unusual gap between heaven and earth, or God and man. It talks about heaven coming to earth and God becoming man in the person of Jesus (Hebrews 2:6).

God, who made us in his image, was made into our image. God was not only mindful of us but became like us. He who is God's strength itself became a literal baby (Matthew 1:23).

Hebrews 2:9 even quotes this psalm and says it's about Jesus: "But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone."

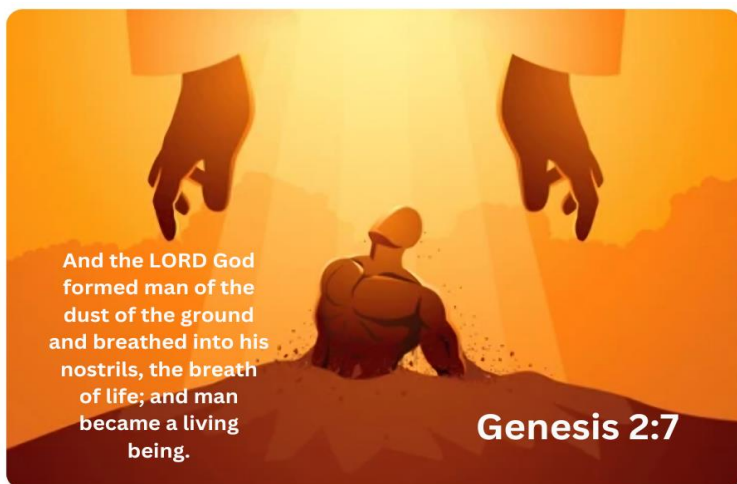
The God who lives forever in glory above the heavens tasted death for those who were sure to die here on the earth. In Jesus we see how an eternal God who lives forever cares for frail humans who die. The everlasting God died for us to give us eternal life.

Jesus laid his glory, honour, and crown aside so we could be exalted and lifted up! Surely, we can join David in this psalm and say with wonder in our voices, "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you die for them?"

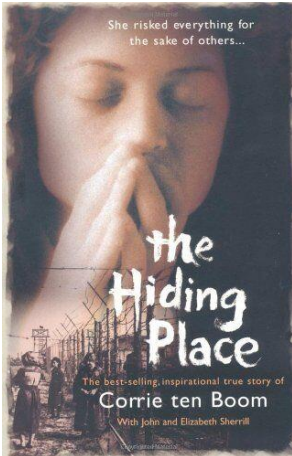
I pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see the God who has all power and might yet loves us and cares for us. And may you see Jesus as the one who came down from heaven to show us his care in the greatest possible way—by tasting death on our behalf.

God Bless you

Emmanuel



## BOOK NOOK



### **The Hiding Place** **By Corrie Ten Boom** Book review by Jan Collins

I read this book many years ago but it's a book you can read over and over and a book that is hard to put down. It has also been made into a film.

What Corrie and her sister went through was horrendous. They were put in a German prison camp for helping the Jews. They treated them so badly, but Corrie and her sister Betsie prayed for the souls of the Nazi guards that were so cruel to them.

Christ's Spirit and Words were their guide, it was His persecuted people that they tried to save, at the risk of their own lives. They were hiding them in a secret place in their house which was a huge risk but they loved their people so much they were willing to do anything to protect them.

After the ordeal that they went through Corrie was faced with meeting one of the guards that was cruel to her and her sister. He was in a Church service that Corrie was speaking at and he walked up to her to thank her for the message.

She says that the thoughts she had towards him were nothing but vengeful and anger was present at what he had put them through. Then Christ showed her the sin of her thoughts. She then realised that Christ had died for this man. She prayed for God to forgive her and help for her to forgive him.

As he reached out his hand to her, she asked God to give her His forgiveness as she couldn't forgive him herself. As she took his hand the most incredible thing happened. She says that from her shoulder along her arm and through her hand a current seemed to pass from her to him, while in her heart a love sprung up for him that overwhelmed her.

When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with His command, the love itself.

**Any book by Corrie Ten Boom is worth reading.**

# BECAUSE OF JESUS

*I am...*

Accepted Blameless Cherished

DELIVERED Engraved

His Favorite GIANT HOLY

Important Jesus Kingdom

Loved Freak Warrior

LMighty New

an Overcomer PERFECT Qualified

Redeemed SIGNIFICANT Transformed

Unique Victorious Wanted

EXPECTANT ROYALTY

ZEALOUS FOR HIM

# QUESTIONS

By Cirsty Waller

It's how we learn, our brains are so uniform in structure but are so unique in the sense that it's what makes you, you!

Your identity, your memories, your responses, are all stored and accessed via the brain. Once you have learnt something it's in there. No, I kid you not! It is there, somewhere. Whether you store everything in an imaginary filing cabinet all nice and neat, or it's like a messy attic. Pythagoras Theorem goes right to the back for most of us never to be seen again after school and language skills are at the front because we use them every day.

So, I have been studying my bible and praying upon the verses that I have read when a sudden (maybe, and just maybe) real dilemma of a question came into my head. I tried meditating and praying on it for a while, but it wasn't helping.

Now, there is no one alive that was there at the time the bible was written, and version after version has been printed and the language of the bible has changed multiple times. So, I did what is usually the last resort on Who wants to be a millionaire? And I phoned a friend.

After telling him my dilemma and how I came to it and a very good chuckle from him we had a very interesting discussion on the subject, and I got to hear his perspective on the subject.

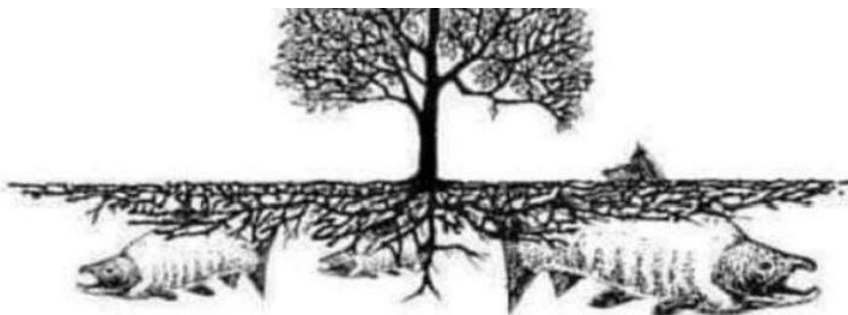
My advice to anyone no matter your age, when it comes to your faith, if you don't know – ASK.

If you think you know but have doubts – ASK.

If you need another perspective – ASK.

There is always someone willing to listen.





## I LOVE THIS ANALOGY

When GOD wanted to create fish, HE spoke to the sea. When GOD wanted to create trees, HE spoke to the earth. But, when GOD wanted to create man, HE turned to himself. Then, GOD said "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness."

If you take a fish out of water, it will die; and when you remove a tree from soil, it will also die. Likewise, when man is disconnected from GOD, he dies.

GOD is our natural environment. We were created to live in HIS presence. We have to be connected to HIM because it is only in HIM that life exists. Let us stay connected to GOD.

# TERRY SAYS.....

by Terry Sullivan

Monday Morning prayers at Hope Church are as interesting as they are a Blessing. Attendance is varied in number but that is only to be expected. But as we are constantly reminded "When two or three are gathered together, The Holy Spirit is in the midst".

A couple of Mondays ago our sister Elaine spoke out a prayer; there were no big words, no great proclamations, just a simple from the heart prayer. The prayer had one line that stuck with me for the rest of the day, and frequently continues to invade my prayer space. The Line was "Let us not talk the talk, let us walk the walk".

It reminded me of a story from many years ago.

There were two academics sharing a drink in a coffee a shop in Oxford. Both of these men had achieved a great reputation in their respective fields of study. As they drank, the Cafe door opened and a group of elderly men entered and made their way across the Cafe floor to a table some distance away. After a short period of studying this Elderly Group, one of the Academics rose from his chair and approached them. Taking the hand of one of the gentlemen vigorously shaking it and after a brief conversation gave the gentleman a hug and returned to his colleague.

"What was that all about?" asked the colleague "That was my tutor of thirty years ago, he was my inspiration" "How did you recognise him after all this time. Does he look the same?"

Answer "NO" "Did he have a distinctive voice?" Answer "Not at all" "How then did you recognise him?" Answer "By his walk!"

Jesus makes it plain that all the words in the world are meaningless unless you walk in his footsteps.



# TESTIMONY

By Alison Buckley

I started going to church as a young girl in the brownies, then because mum wanted us to go to Bluecoat School I stayed at church with my siblings. I loved it. When I was old enough to be confirmed I took the classes very seriously, it wasn't just about being able to drink wine on Sunday as it was for some of the group. I joined the choir and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all about God.

When I went to Bluecoat School, I found out that a shocking number of my classmates had stopped going to church because it had served its purpose, they had got into the school. I was still not only learning but enjoying church life. We did pantomimes and I always invited friends from school, it was all about raising money for the church. I did get teased about still going to church but, I didn't care it was where I wanted to be.

Then a new church opened, and this one had a youth club but to go to the youth club you had to go to the church, it was methodist church. I started going there and found this church much more interesting, the services were different every week and the songs were jolly, preaching was a lot more interesting, and I was learning an awful lot about Jesus.

The vicar Mr Bennett came to our house to tell my mum I shouldn't go to this church, I said very innocently to Mr Bennett "There is only one God, and I'm still praying to God" Boy, was I in trouble after he left, Mum knocked ten bells out of me for daring to speak to the vicar like that.

I then went to both churches but rarely going to the Methodist church, as a teenager was really when I found God. They ran a Bible class Tuesday and Thursday, I attended all of them, I couldn't learn enough. This is when I became a what they call a born-again Christian. I think it was all about you being old enough to make up your own mind. You were born, christened, and you know nothing, but really for me I was old enough

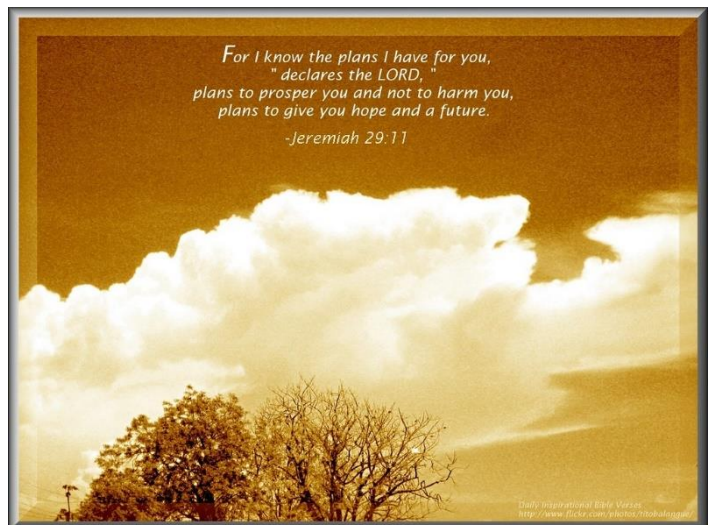
when I got confirmed to know my own mind, but I did it again to fit in at church.

I didn't drink, I only had pineapple juice, the lady who ran the local pub knew we weren't old enough but allowed us in because we were no trouble. At that time, we had house parties and even then, when everybody was drinking, I took Dandelion and Burdock. I wasn't a drinker.

My older brother followed me to this wonderful church and told them I went to the pub; I did but only when there was nothing on at Church. I was called before the elders and told I had to make a choice, totally stop going to the pub or I couldn't go to the Church. I thought this was mean so I said I wouldn't be going to their Church anymore. My brother has always told everyone he is a born-again Christian and that is fine only he is not a very kind person, it is not what you say, it's what you do.

I have had times through my turbulent life where I haven't attended Church, but never for long. Rightly or wrongly, I have always been of the belief that you can trust and love God without going to Church but for me, I get a lot of pleasure and extra comfort in what I always call Gods house.

I have always known that God is with me, I have never felt alone. I also believe God has a plan for us and a reason for it, I have always trusted His judgement.



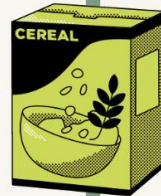
PLEASE HELP



**Packet Noodles**  
**Cereals**



**Tinned Foods**  
**Biscuits**  
**Crackers**



**Long life Milk**  
**Pasta & Sauce**  
**Juice**



**Toilet Rolls**  
**Soap & Toothpaste**  
**Feminine Hygiene**



WITH  
DONATIONS



Hope Church Blessing Box is in Need

# POET'S CORNER

By Sue Warburton

Yet Who will know...the Love of Jesus?  
As I walk along beside you...  
You will brush against the shoulder of the lost.  
As I speak My words of love to you...  
You will share the gift of sacrifice and cost.  
As I see the flow of Joy in you...  
There'll be many spirits raised up from despair.  
As I reveal the Bride of Christ in you...  
Your passion will be spread for miles abroad.  
As your heart is still and seeks the word of God in you.  
There'll be prayers for freedom, healing,  
And expressions of His love.  
As I walk along beside you...  
You will know the need of Jesus for the lost,  
You will share the heart of Jesus and the cost,  
You will touch the hearts of many, and be blessed,  
There'll be Joy beyond all measure shed abroad.



# ALWAYS THERE

Hello God, I called tonight  
To talk a little while  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own...  
I need your love to guide me  
So, I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep,  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day,  
And not to worry over things  
I cant change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love you, too,  
And I'll call again tomorrow!

*Author Unknown*

# OUR MAGAZINE

Get writing, you don't need skills to write, testimonies are truthful life events that have happened to you!



- 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 new kids activity mag.

Writing for us doesn't have to be a chore, can be fun and exciting.  
TELL YOUR STORY

## GET INVOLVED – ITS YOUR MAGAZINE

## WHATSAPP GROUPS

In order to keep everyone involved and updated about what we have going on, we have a number of both fun and informative groups which you can be a part of

**NOTICEBOARD** – get updated about what's going on at the church, daily verse and devotional

**CHAT** – general chat, prayer requests, music

**WOMEN OF HOPE** – ladies only, (sorry gents), chat, music, prayers, devotionals

**EVANGELISM** – everything to do with church evangelism and the community.

**PRAYER** – church prayer group.

# WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Our **Sunday** Services start each week with Prayer in the office at 9.45 am. All Welcome to this very important time before our service which starts at 10.30 am. There is also opportunity for prayer during the service. We serve refreshments in the Cafe area after the service. Creche facilities available.

**Monday** 9 am to 12 noon. The Church is open for prayer. Come when you can between these times and stay for as long, or as little as you can. Come and seek God together as He calls us to commit everything we do to Him. Philipians 4 v5-7

**Tuesday** Evening at 8 pm on Zoom is the Elders Meeting. Please pray for them as they lead us Spiritually. Also, once a month is a combined Elders and Deacons meeting where the more practical things are discussed.

**Wednesday** is our life Groups. For the immediate future we will be meeting together at church at 7.30pm for worship and prayer. Come and join with us as the body of Christ joins together in prayer.

**Thursday** is Coffee Morning that starts at 10 am till 12noon, there is prayer available after the coffee time.

**Friday** is our Youth Fellowship. This isn't every week, the dates will be issued every month.

**Saturday** once a fortnight (monthly during winter) is our Outreach Event into Shaw. We meet in church at 1.30pm for worship and prayer. At 3pm we meet up again for coffee (or tea), cake and a chat. See Noticeboard for dates.

## 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

## CONTACT US OR FOLLOW US



FACEBOOK – Hope Church Shaw



INSTAGRAM – Hopechurchshaw

WEBSITE – [www.hopechurchshaw.org](http://www.hopechurchshaw.org)

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -

Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org