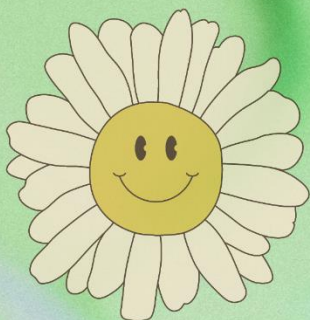




HOPE
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



Issue 10 - June 2024

ELDERS MESSAGE

THE POWER OF A DEAD FLY

“Dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment and cause it to give off a foul odour.”
Eccl 10:1.

The perfumer is responsible for the aroma given off by the perfume he is mixing. It is his job to produce the ointment and to decide on the finished product as far as the aroma is concerned, and he knows how to blend each ingredient and part.

Likening this jar of perfume to the Christian life and walk with God is the whole purpose of this text to the discerning Christian. God is the perfumer and is set to produce the fragrance of Christ in the life of every Christian.

This very vivid and graphic illustration shows how the perfumer’s beautifully blended ointment can be likened to the Christian life. In the case of the perfumer’s ointment, a few dead flies had invaded it, no doubt because the lid had not been secured in position by a careless user, and the lovely aroma carefully produced by the perfumer was ruined because of this. How like this our Christian life this can be. Our lives should have a lovely fragrance of the indwelling life of Christ, nurtured and produced in us by the Holy Spirit given to us by God. Our lives are to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, and become conformed to the image of Christ, formed within each Christian by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The great heavenly perfumer painstakingly works on us over the years to produce the life of Christ in us, but how susceptible we are to a few “flies” coming along and spoiling the sweet fragrance given off by the life of Jesus within us.

What sort of things spoil our inner fragrance? Similar problems produced by the careless lack of concern in making sure that the perfumer’s ointment is protected, by replacing the lid to keep out the flies and keep in the fragrance. We can too easily lack vigilance and care in maintaining our fellowship with the Lord and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. We can gradually neglect our prayer life with which we should start our day, but now perhaps has dwindled.

As a church the same can happen as we fail to maintain the important discipline of corporate prayer. We can also so easily be hit and miss about our gathering together with our church family to worship.

These are just some of the many disciplines that we can all think of that we can so easily allow to lapse, until finally the scales of our lives are tipped, and the fragrance within fails and loses its aroma.

However, all is not lost. Upon the recognition of what we have let lapse a little we can begin again our disciplined life by confessing our failure and returning whole heartedly to God. The grace of God is our greatest strength, and we find it at the throne of grace. There isn't a single "fly" that can resist being slain by the grace of God – our heavenly fly spray. If you perceive you have a need, try some of it – it's free, I certainly aim to!!

May God Himself work in us all ever stronger, to will and to do of His good pleasure, and may His blessing rest upon us all, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

John





The Answer Is Found In Doing Three Things

What must I do to ensure
peace of mind?

Is the answer I'm seeking too
hard to find?

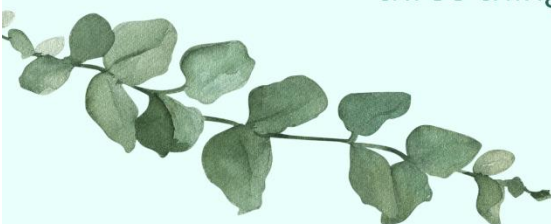
How can I know what God
wants me to be?

How can I tell what's expected
of me?

Where can I go for guidance
and aid?

To help me correct the errors
I've made?

The answer I've found in doing
three things





And great is the gladness that
doing them brings

Do justice - love kindness -
walk humbly with God

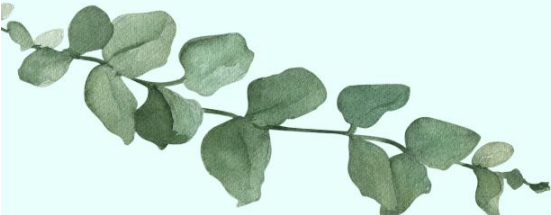


For with these three things as
your 'rule and rod'

All things worth having are
yours to achieve

If you follow God's words

And have FAITH to BELIEVE



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results”

James 5:16b



TESTIMONY

By Hannah Evans

15 years ago, on the 24th May 2009, I was baptised on the streets of York outside York Minster. I was in my second year of university, and it was the beginning of me committing my life to walk with Jesus.

Having grown up in a Christian home, I'd always been to church and had some belief in God but when I first left home to go to university, I saw it as my chance to break away from church and live life the way I wanted. But thankfully God had other plans for me.

I started regularly attending a church and the Christian union, and though I didn't have a radical overnight change in my life, over the years I have known God changing and shaping me to become more like Him.

My life looks very different to how it did 15 years ago, and though the time since then has brought a number of painful trials, I am so glad that I have given my life to Jesus and that I get to walk through the storms of life with Him.



TESTIMONY

By Olu Agunbiade

My testimony kicks off like any other. Well, almost any other. The opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself. You'll quickly realize that that's what Big Church Festival is all about. After an opportunity to give my opinion on market research conducted on the Bible. I began to seek for other things to be a part of.

One fateful Sunday, John said that the Holy Spirit had sent out a call to those of us still in Darkness to come into the Light. I chose to answer that call in my resolve to walk with Christ. This was after a worship night in Huddersfield that left me needing to hear from the Holy Spirit.

Another opportunity presented itself in the form of Alpha, which was as a result of my previous participation in market research (My First Opportunity). This confirmed, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened for you." Alpha was and still is a blessing for me. It allowed me to expand my horizons and connect with others.

I soon saw myself sharing a lot more than I thought possible and learning from others as well as a bit of back and forth which I believe is healthy for us to understand the Word. But even then, I still wasn't satisfied. I wanted more in my walk with Christ. Moreover, to be with others who want to know and worship GOD and live and breathe HIS purpose in their lives and in all things.

Through seeking and sharing, I heard about Spring Harvest which was good but could be better if you didn't go alone. I have no regrets about Spring Harvest, it was an eye-opener to many possibilities. Still an opportunity not to be missed for Christian families, on particular.





My latest opportunity came in the form of Big Church Festival in West Sussex. It was incredible. I had initially planned to go by myself. I find myself amazed at how GOD can use one person to bring strangers together for the purpose of worship. That's what this weekend was, worship for two days. I've never experienced anything like it and I'm already stoked to go again next year.

Through Praise, Worship and Prayer, I don't think I'm the same anymore. This was a prayer of mine, a prayer about change, transformation, growth, development, purpose and power. I can only hope to keep up with the words that my experience at Big Church Festival laid on my heart, it's just three words, "Steadfast in Christ." It's almost like a command or a call to arms or an encouraging reminder of what our lives should be for HIM.



I'm grateful to GOD for this opportunity and I'm praying for many more opportunities like this to come my way. HE is surely a GOD that answers prayers.

Thank you and GOD Bless...

Olu

TERRY SAYS....

The Comfortable Church - November 15 2023

In the early sixties in the USA, it became known that a Church in a Southern State had a large mixed-race congregation who shared the bread and wine together, sat together, and worshiped as one, without any segregation.

This was unheard of for a Church in the South to have a large integrated fellowship led by a Black Pastor. In fact, it was so unique that a reporter was sent to the Church to find out how in 1961 this was possible

Talking with the Pastor of the Church the reported asked the question.....

Reporter: How did this integration come about?

Pastor: Well, we were a Church completely segregated when the Pastor died. The Deacons did not want to pay for a new Pastor, so they looked for volunteers. I volunteered and began to preach. I preached on how Jesus came to set people free, and how he taught that there was no black, no white, no slave, that all were equal and that the Holy Spirit was a gift for all mankind who worshiped God through Jesus Christ.

Reporter: How was that received?

Pastor: Not Well, the Deacons called me into the office and said they don't want to hear preaching like that. So, they fired me. I said you can't fire me cause you didn't hire me.

Reporter: What happened next?

Pastor: I Fired them Deacons and continued to preach the word of God every Sunday and every time I could. I preached that Church down to four people. And then the Spirit moved and now we have no segregation; Black and White together, and over 300 people Worshiping the Saviour as one.

Reporter: How is your Church received in the County

Pastor: With great suspicion, and many don't like it, but Jesus never said it would be easy.

This story shows us that the preaching of the Word has a consequence. It has a price. Jeremiah 23 v 28 - 29 The Word of God is a Fire and a Hammer. The Word of God “Burns Up” the Word of God “Smashes down” The word of God is a two-edged sword which convicts the soul. The nature of Man would often wish that God is made in our image not the other way round. The agenda of Man is often diametrically opposed to the Word and Nature of God.

Now our Pastor in the story preached the uncompromising Word of God and the congregation over time was reduced to four persons, it is unclear as to the original number of members of the Church but clearly a goodly number were not happy to hear Gods word and left. How can you justify a Pastoral role when almost all of the Church congregation has decided to leave; it was probably the lowest point of the Ministers life then the Holy Spirit moved in Pentecostal Power.

The Church grew and its clear from the story that all the Fellowship embraced the Word of God, they were equal, devoted, integrated, authentic, words that are frequently used in our Church. Jesus calling us to “oneness”. Irrespective of race, colour, or tribe.

There are many Churches that tell the story of Jesus, it a lovely story; as the Film version says, “The Greatest Story Ever Told”. But the true Gospel of Jesus Christ is entirely different. The word of God “is a refiner's fire” It exalts how we are to live, how we are to worship, how we are to share one with another. It demands that we give God/Jesus pre-eminence it calls us to be the Body of Christ.

The Church in the story was SHIFTED by the preached word of God and many decided that Gods word was indeed to demanding for their taste. But our God is an awesome God he is a God of restoration (Nahum 2:2).

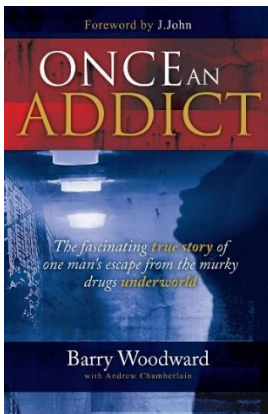
From four to hundreds to quote the film Jaws “We will need a bigger boat

Terry

BOOK NOOK

BOOK REVIEW By Jan Collins

Once an Addict The Fascinating True Story of One Man's Escape from the Murky Drugs Underworld Barry Woodward



I read this true story while we were on holiday in Crete, and I couldn't put it down.

Barry was a drug dealer and heroin addict who lived in the centre of Manchester. He was imprisoned many times, and he met many who were gripped by drugs and what that led to in their lives. They would go to such dire lengths to get a 'fix'.

So many lives were taken because of their addiction and Barry so many times was near death's door. His mental health was at the lowest point and many of his relationships were ruined because of addiction.

His outlook was bleak until God stepped in in the most extraordinary but ordinary way. He is now a national speaker and founder and director of Proclaim Trust. He is also an associate of J. John of the Philio Trust. He is now happily married to Tina, and they live in Manchester.

I have the book if anyone would like to read it.



These Days Are Stepping Stones

*Someday when we look back
On days that seem unblessed,
We'll see how God used them
To lead us to life's best.*

*Someday when we look back
On days when things went wrong,
We'll say, That brought us to
The place where we belong.*



*Someday when home at last -
Safe in Heaven above,
We'll praise God for dark days
As stepping stones of love.*

PERRY TANKSLEY

OUR NEWSLETTER

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 NEWSLETTER

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

Brian McDaid, Love in Action

Graham Cook, Buildings

Maintenance



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Karen Monks and Comfort Oyowe

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FACEBOOK – Hope Church Shaw



INSTAGRAM – Hopechurchshaw

WEBSITE – www.hopechurchshaw.org

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -

Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org