

Issue 11

HOPE MAG

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ELDERS MESSAGE

As I write these words, we are on edge of electing a new government for the United Kingdom. This is a privilege; in a country where the voting system is secure, and people have a genuine choice. In so many nations this is not the case. Many of us have however become tired of the crafted sound bites, questionable promises and constant belittling of opposing political views. We pride ourselves in the fact that we live in a strong democracy where individuals have a right to express their opinions and views.

But as I was thinking about all of this, none of it is true of the Kingdom of God. The church of God is not and never was a democracy. It is an autocracy and God sovereignly rules and reigns over His people. I am glad that the Kingdom of God is so different from the kingdoms of this world. That we look to God to lead and direct us not human governments. The Bible is however clear that governments are appointed by God, and we are commanded to obey them and pray for them. No doubt as you are reading these words, we now have a new government in place. So, whether that's a national government, or even a local MP, based on a political party you support or not, pray for them. Pray for Christians who are MPs, especially those who are newly elected, that they may be able to be the light of Jesus in the corridors of power where unfortunately darkness seems to lurk. But above all pray that the Kingdom of God will come, in Shaw as it is in Heaven. For we are called to demonstrate the Kingdom where God has placed us. We are called to live under the sovereignty of a righteous, holy God and to give glory to Him.

May God bless
you as
you serve Him

Dave



TESTIMONY

By Graham Cook

Although we know that the Lord is going to bless us, we don't always know how, or when. Recently we had a very tough school morning, Eden was struggling to get into school and all three of us were exasperated, upset, angry etc. Eden managed to get into school and the rest of the day greatly improved. That evening, Judy was in contact with a dear friend back in London. She asked how Eden was because that morning, she was prompted to pray for her.

What a blessing to know that God had the day covered, from the outset, and had used our dear friend to both pray for Eden and to bless us that evening. All three of us were encouraged. I want to encourage you, sometimes we face all sorts of difficulties, only to receive a blessing on the other side. And if a name pops into your head, don't just think about them, pray for them!



Graham has been elected by the members of Hope Church Shaw as our new Deacon, we wish him all the best in his new role.

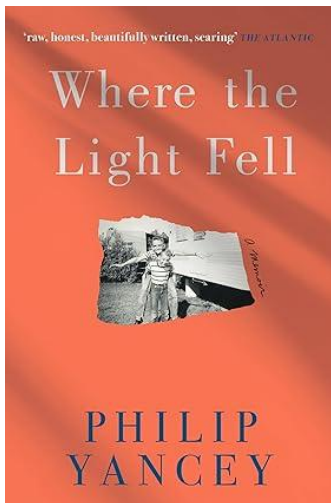
10 WAYS TO PRAY WHEN YOU CAN'T PRAY

1. Pray anyway.
2. Choose to listen.
3. Just say His Name.
4. Ask Him to listen to Your heart.
5. Praise Him.
6. Pray for someone else.
7. Pray for a heart of prayer.
8. Have someone pray for you.
9. Read different prayers in the Bible.
10. Pray Bible verses over your life.

BOOK NOOK

BOOK REVIEW By Elaine Sykes

Where the Light Fell Philip Yancey



Philip Yancey is known as a respected Christian writer and I found this autobiography intriguing as a document of life in 1960s USA, in southern America. The Yancey's had a hard life after the death of his father from polio. Philip's mother gave a promise to God that Philip and his brother, Marshall, would become missionaries to honour their dead father. Unfortunately, this promise was to trouble both brothers all their lives.

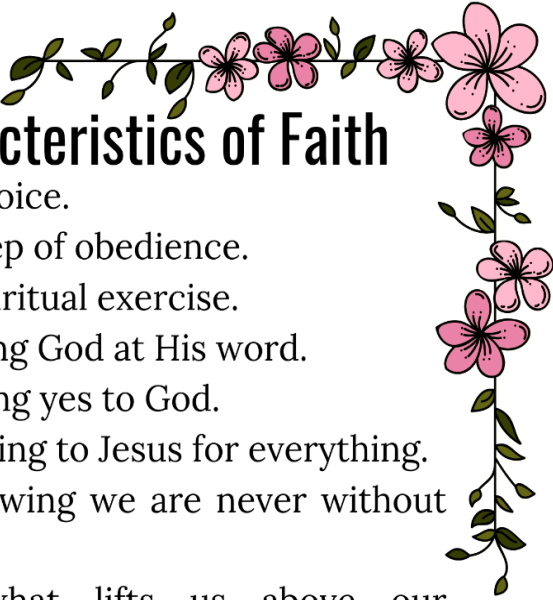
Their mother was a bible teacher and in this way, she earned her keep, living on church compounds. She was a very strict follower of southern fundamentalism which was often at odds with the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. Both boys had a difficult relationship with their mother and her beliefs and only when away at college could Philip seek to discover truth and a faith rooted in grace instead of fear.

We have this book if anyone would like to borrow it.

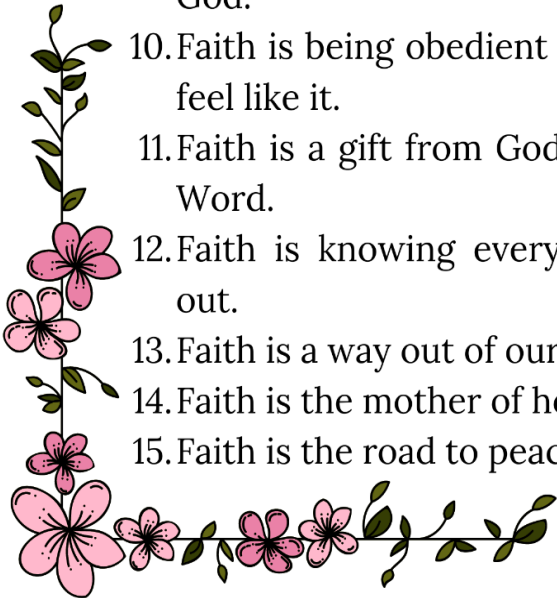
"As G. K. Chesterton put it,

"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank."

— Philip Yancey, Where the Light Fell



Fifteen Characteristics of Faith

1. Faith is a choice.
 2. Faith is a step of obedience.
 3. Faith is a spiritual exercise.
 4. Faith is taking God at His word.
 5. Faith is saying yes to God.
 6. Faith is looking to Jesus for everything.
 7. Faith is knowing we are never without hope.
 8. Faith is what lifts us above our circumstances.
 9. Faith is not holding anything back from God.
 10. Faith is being obedient even if we don't feel like it.
 11. Faith is a gift from God as we read His Word.
 12. Faith is knowing everything will work out.
 13. Faith is a way out of our limitations.
 14. Faith is the mother of hope.
 15. Faith is the road to peace.
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The Bend *in the* THE ROAD

Sometimes

*we come to life's crossroads
And we view what we think is the end.
But God has a much wider vision
And He knows it's only a bend—
The road will go on and get smoother
And after we've stopped for a rest,
The path that lies hidden beyond us
Is often the path that is best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow.
You've just come to
a bend in the road.*

~ Helen Steiner Rice



TERRY SAYS...

Your Name

You can recall a couple of Sundays ago during a family service David C Preached to the children about "names" and how God would change names (usually people's names) to enhance their role in his Kingdom. Abram to Abraham and throughout the scriptures to Paul formally Saul.

Names are very significant in Scripture and in God's plan. If we believe that God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is interested in the everyday things in our lives' why not our names.

Some time ago I preached on "names" to an adult congregation. Some found the sermon a bit trivial other not so, but one lady was transformed. Her name was Cynthia.

Cynthia was a quiet member of the Church. She had two children and a husband. She had been a longtime Christian, but her husband wasn't. Cynthia would come and go without any fuss and never made a verbal contribution to any aspect of Church Worship.

I took the opportunity to involve her, so I picked out her name. "Cynthia" I said "Your name means Moon, and the Moon is a lifeless rock that orbits the earth" Did I embarrass her and send her into further Church obscurity - Not at all; I went on to explain that The Moon gives us light in the Darkness, because it reflects the light of the Sun (Son) and we all need of the light of the Son, furthermore we are all called to reflect his light to others. So, Cynthia you are very important to this Church because you are called by name to reflect the light of Jesus to this fellowship and beyond.

That night I got a telephone call from Cynthia who told me that for the first time in many years she had witnessed to her husband, and her next-door neighbour. She became a real inspiration within the Church bringing Psalms and Proverbs to the services her shyness was gone. She became a real blessing

Don't ignore the small things. Jesus says he knows every hair on your head. Not a sparrow falls without him caring so how much more does he care for us.

When you give your life to Christ nothing is trivial let Jesus invade your very being and identity Maybe your name could further guide and enhance your life with Christ if you let it.

Here are some obvious names, maybe we'll do more next month.

David - Dear to God. In Gods favour

Emmanuel - God is with us. God Guides

John - God is Gracious - Councillor

Nahum - Leader and Comforter

Hannah - Giver of Grace. Graciousness

Who would not want those characteristics demonstrated in our Fellowship

Not forgetting the name above all **JESUS (YESHUA) - Defender, Deliverer, Redeemer.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,

HALLOWED BE THY NAME,

THY KINGDOM COME,

THY WILL BE DONE,

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE

WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,

AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY,

FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN

TESTIMONY

By Izabela Blindu

I always pray with my husband that our financial situation will remain stable. Sometimes it becomes delicate, but I want to testify to the power of prayer. Once month ago, when my husband went to Bible study at the church, at the end of the program, Ivan handed him an envelope with our names written on it. Ivan had taken it from the mailbox at the church. When my husband arrived home, he told me that we received an envelope, we opened it together. There was an amount of money inside the envelope, we were teary-eyed and looking at each other. The message inside the envelope was, A BLESSING FROM THR LORD. I read the message with such joy.

One of the hardest things we face in life is when there seems to be a delay in God's actions. We pray. The answer is delayed.

Our situation only gets worse. Time ticks away. We fret and try to fix the situation ourselves. What is wrong when we do this? We are not trusting God. We doubt either God's ability to do what He has promised or God's timing.

Maybe you face different situations in your life, and you do not see any results. Keep praying, keep believing.

And faith is a steadfast confidence in things hoped for, a strong conviction about things not seen. (Hebrew 11:1) God is not a hurry to get things done. It is a process. He has set a time for the fulfilment of His promises, and He will fulfil them in His time. I thank God for listening to prayers. I pray that God will richly reward those who have blessed us.

God is gracious. God is faithful. God is able.

Be blessed.



*Just keep
praying.*
1 Thessalonians 5:17

HOSPITALITY

By Jan Collins

Read 1 Peter 4:7 to 11 to get the whole meaning of why we should - Practice Hospitality. This verse has intrigued me every time I read it. It has come up in our daily verses that Comfort posts and at other times. It prompted me to write about it. The word practice means that it's not always easy to offer hospitality, we have to keep doing it despite the inconvenience it can cause to our well-ordered, comfortable lifestyles. How important is it to us at Hope Church? I have picked up 10 reasons why hospitality is of such value to the body of Christ.

1. Hospitality reflects the Gospel, and the Gospel gives us the key to use to bless others. Is someone going through a tough time? Invite them for a chat over a cuppa, pray with them
2. It's part of Spiritual Warfare as we share our lives together. Satan hates us to be hospitable to one another as it builds us up and he wants us to be torn apart.
3. Serving others that don't know the Lord to taste and see that the Lord is indeed good.
4. It shifts our focus from programmes and meetings to relationships.
5. It nurtures and grows the Church Family, and it becomes vibrant.
6. Loneliness should not be the experience of people in the Church. It devastated lives.
7. Hospitality blesses the host/hosts - as much as it does those that are invited.
8. If we have children, it's good for them to experience and will learn from us the importance of sharing our lives with others.
9. Hospitality is expensive - let's not deny that or shy away from not doing it because it costs us time and money (but a coffee and a biscuit doesn't cost much if that's all you can offer, sometimes it's our time that is more expensive to us).

10. Matthew 25:42 is a classic example - I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you visited me. Then the righteous answer, when did we do all these things for you? Then the Lord will answer, when you did it for the least of these you did it for me.

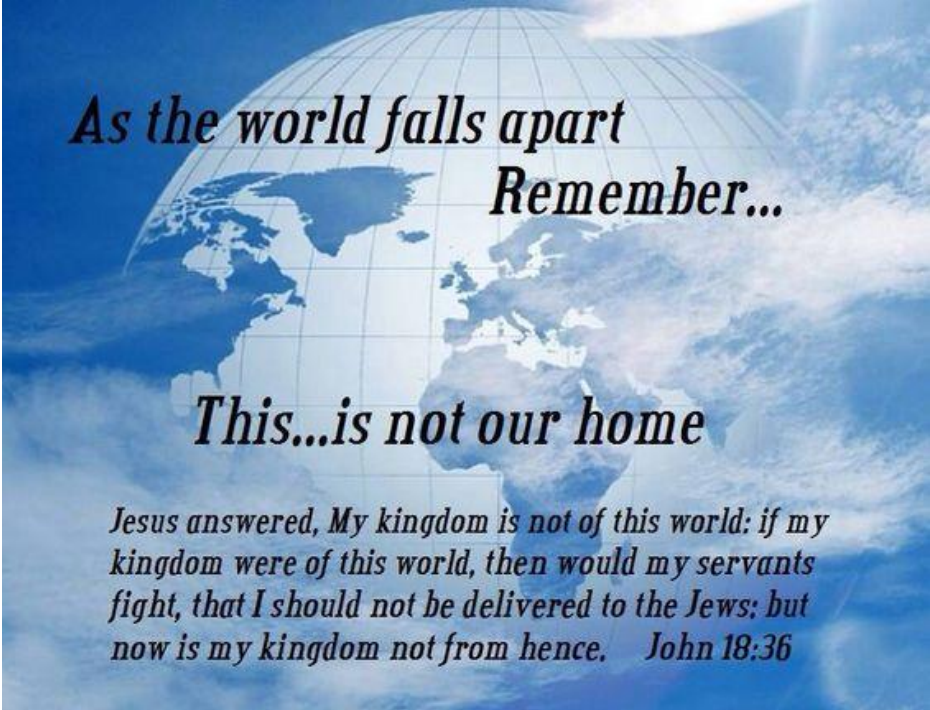
What if we genuinely can't open our homes to one another? There are ways to offer hospitality. Ask someone to go for a walk with you, share a picnic on a nice day, take someone for a coffee and a chat. There are many more ways of spending our time for the family of God and for those we don't know. Let's make room in our busy lives to be hospitable and see the blessings it brings to our Fellowship.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but, my Kingdom is not from here" (John 18:36). By these words Jesus made us see that He was never interested in building anything in this world. – Why then are we?!!

What is the alternative? A life spent in the body of Christ!!



*As the world falls apart
Remember...*

This...is not our home

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from hence. John 18:36

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. Philippians 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

CONTACT US OR FOLLOW US



FACEBOOK – Hope Church Shaw



INSTAGRAM – Hopechurchshaw

WEBSITE – www.hopechurchshaw.org

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -

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Got an addition for the press, email it to

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