Sunday 7th
May 2017

BATTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

It's all about timing...

On the wall overlooking my desk in the office is a map of Battle. On it I can clearly pinpoint the Mount Street premises of the church, our “base camp” as I view it. Now, not negating the varied and superb ministry that takes place on the site, to me, as the base camp, it is the place where we gather, to then go out into the world, the week, the whatever is ahead of us, as we each endeavour to live for God.

Before Easter, on Sundays at 5pm, we took the opportunity to consider how we can be fruitful on our frontline. Using the excellent resources from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity as a starting point, we explored how each of us is able to make a difference wherever we are.

As a Pastor, one's diary can very quickly become about solely connecting and meeting with those who are already believers and part of the church. Please hear me when I say that I firmly believe the role of pastors is to pastor and look after the 'flock'. That said, though, I don't believe that should be the entirety of it. The frontline for every pastor, in my opinion, needs to be, in part, beyond the threshold of their base camp.

One such area that has opened up for me recently has been Battle and Langton school. Obviously there have been (and still are) many church members involved in the school on a whole range of levels. I am also aware how there has been much prayer over many years, both for the school itself, but also in regards to the opportunities for us, as a local church, to be able to engage with and support the school.

They say timing is everything, and in that sense, the time seems to be now. Just before Easter, I spent an afternoon with the year 4 classes delivering *The Great*

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Hot Cross Bun Hunt! A two hour event, that explores the Christian Easter story. The response from both children & teachers was very positive and I believe this may become an annual event we're able to deliver amongst year 4, as well as delivering the similar festive event *Journey to the Centre of the Christmas Pudding*.

On top of this I was recently asked to join the governing body of the school. This is something I prayed about a lot. Conscious of the commitment involved, the need to not simply respond to every invitation or offer that comes our way and, above all, wanting to hear God's voice. Along with Mark, Francis and the elders, I felt it right, though, to step into this at this time. I look forward to, alongside the other governors, being able to support the school, providing strategic leadership and accountability - exciting times!

May I encourage us all to ask the questions, "where do I find myself, where has God placed me and where is my frontline". Bar very few exceptions, I believe we all have one and can be used by God on it. If you'd like to talk more about the challenges you are facing on yours or maybe the fact that you're not sure where yours is - then please get in touch. Above all, though, may we step up and into all God has ahead of us, wherever it may be.

Your friend and pastor

Ed Jones

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

● Pick up a booking form today for the **ladies' breakfast** on 20th May. Please note breakfast is from 8.30am not 8am as advertised. ● BBFC are in the **Christian Cup Final** on the 20th May at Charlton Athletic Football ground. If you would like a ticket and a place on one of the coaches please let the office know. The coaches leave the car park at Jempsons at 3.00pm. The coach is free to church supporters (a small donation is always welcome), but BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW before this is advertised more widely. Tickets on the gate will be £10 (£5 concessions) to all. ● The next **prayer and praise** evening will be on Monday 5th June at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. ● The **Friday morning coffee club** will meet at 10.45am while Alpha meets.

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus;

Sunday, May 7th. ● **8am Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● **8.45am Chapel Gathering & communion** plus Youth Group. ● **10am Refreshments** in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● **10.45am Chapel Gathering** with Creche & Sunday Club. ● **5pm Informal Worship** in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

Monday, May 8th. ● 9.15-11:45am **Caterpillars** Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: **Elders Meeting.**

Tuesday, May 9th. ● 9.15-11am **Caterpillars Explorers** Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: **Tuesday Fellowship**, Speaker: Trevor Roff, Open Doors.

Wednesday, May 10th. ● 10-3pm: **Art and Craft Group** in the Manna House. Bring a packed lunch, refreshments provided. £1.50. ● 5.15-6.15pm: **BBFC Youth** training at the Rec. ● 6.30pm: **BBFC training** at the Rec. ● 7pm: **Battle Baptist Runners** meet at the church.

Thursday, May 11th. ● 9.15-11:45am: **Caterpillars** Parent and Toddler Group.

Friday, May 12th. ● 7.30am: **Early Morning Prayer** in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am **Chatterbox** for mums, dads and carers (upstairs) & Friday Alpha. ● 10.45am: **Coffee Club** (upstairs). ● 3.30-5pm: **After School Club**. ● 7-9pm: **4:12**.

Sunday, May 14th. ● **8am Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● **8.45am Chapel Gathering** plus Youth Group. ● **10am Refreshments** in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● **10.45am Chapel Gathering & communion** with Creche & Sunday Club. ● **5pm Informal Worship** in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

This week we had several clients, some with large families, and gave out over 135kg of food. Our stocks are now quite depleted! We'd be really grateful for any donations - we need tins or packets of food in every category. If in doubt see the list on the basket in the foyer. Many are caught in the trap of changes in benefits to universal credits for which there is a 6 week delay. In some cases this means 6 weeks with no income.

This week's prayer pointers

- Thank God for Ed, Mark and Francis. Pray that God would give them wisdom, direction and humility. Pray that they would remain faithful to Him in their ministry here and in their personal lives.
- Pray for those preparing to go to Israel in June. Pray that they would be richly blessed as they serve in the holiday club at Ramallah.
- Pray for those we know with young children and babies and those who are expecting a baby. Pray that God would give them wisdom and patience as they parent their children.

Dates for your diary

- 13th May Men's walk and breakfast at Alexandra Park. *Contact John Crew 07938132672*
- 20th May Ladies breakfast
- 5th June 7.30pm: Prayer and Praise
- 7th-9th July SOLID—book now!!
- 25th –29th August Soul Survivor

Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com
Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.
Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.