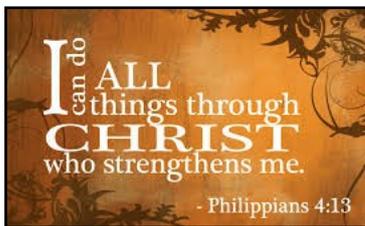
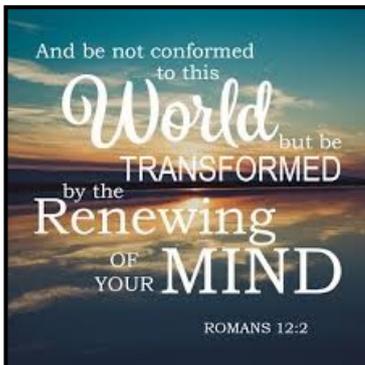
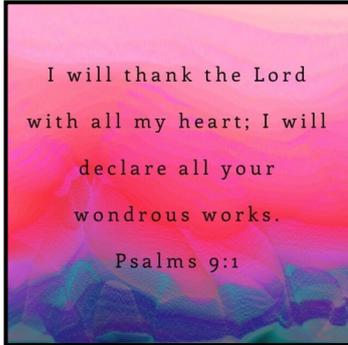


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



5th July 2020



Where do we go from here?

That was a question I frequently asked when driving through the bush country of northern Kenya. Whenever we needed to visit a homestead out of our immediate locality, we would take a guide to show us the way. However, this tribesman may not have thought through the logistics of the journey. The path which he could walk so easily wasn't always possible or suitable for a vehicle and as the track (our road) became a footpath, so I asked the question more often. I always shared a home with our mission nurse and occasionally it fell to me to drive her in the Land Rover to visit a patient. Being of a somewhat squeamish nature I never relished these trips, not knowing what we might find at the end – a desperately sick child, a bullet wound, a difficult labour. But, if we had been invited to a celebration or to visit someone's home, I felt very differently about the journey. I loved the adventure of a trip through the bush, seeing what animals and birds I could spot along the way.

Where do we go from here? It's a question we may well ask ourselves at the present time, both as individuals and as a church. We may have many different responses. Some may feel trepidation and anxiety, like me on my medical safaris, while others may have that sense of adventure, wondering what God has for us next and what He will show us en route. Last Sunday, Ed quoted from Keith's mid-week reflection where he asked, "...will we just slide

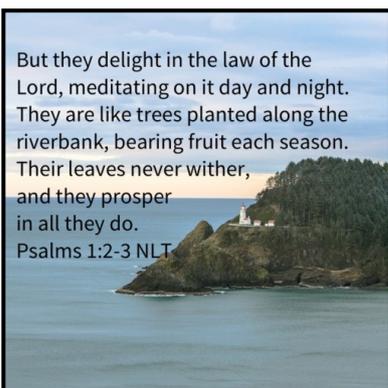
back to the level of spiritual "sameness" that we practised before it started?" That's an important question and flags up a danger into which we could easily fall.

It often seems to me that the Lord is more interested in *who* we are and *how* we react to things than in *what* we actually do. He wants to build our characters and draw us closer to Himself, regardless of our inadequacies and shortcomings. When as a young person I confessed to my youth leader some of my fears about something I had to do, her response has helped me many times over the years. She said, "That's OK. Just do it afraid." I had to do that on those trips to see patients and we may have to do that going forward in our current situation, but I believe God is saying, "This is a new day" and there is an exciting time ahead of us.

Where do we go from here? Not back to where we were before, but forward into a new adventure with Him. We may have to, 'do it afraid', or we may relish the possibilities and the excitement of what lies ahead. But let's determine to get ready for the new day, whatever it may hold.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43 v. 19

Chris Doust



PRAYING FOR...

The health of our world

- We pray for all those who have been, and are continuing to be, affected by COVID-19.
- We pray for those who are particularly fearful at the moment.
- We pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods.
- We pray for the medical staff on the front line of care, we pray that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks.
- We pray for those leading the response to COVID-19 across the world.
- We pray in the name of 'him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine'. (Ephesians 4:20)

NEWSLETTER

5th July 2020

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

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.

Church maintenance issues:

zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A message from Andy G: “Last Sunday’s on-line service was a very special one – thanks to Ed & Emma for keeping it so Jesus focussed while covering so many aspects. I am so grateful for, & humbled by, the lovely cards, gifts, video & “book of encouragements” – which will all be never-forgotten & treasured reminders of our church family life together - as well as a wonderful spring-board for the new chapter of the life of myself & my family. May the Good Lord continue to powerfully guide, equip & grow Battle Baptist Church for His Glory! Lots of love Andy G.”

Tim and Beth Fudge would like to thank everyone for praying for them regarding their house move: they will finally be able to move into their new home later this month.

COVID-19—update for BBC: The church premises are **not** currently open for private prayer, and will not be open for worship yet. Leadership are actively discussing all

the factors affecting the restarting of regular activities, and Ed will be writing to us all next week about plans for how to move forward.

R.E.A.L. Women: We are meeting to chat each Tuesday morning at 10am via Zoom. Go to our Facebook page to find the details you need.

Ashburnham Place... is now open! The grounds are available to book for camping, or you can book a self-catering cottage there. The Orangery is open for service seated outside and for take-aways. See their [website](#) for full details.

Tithing—want to switch to electronic transfers? A number of people have asked for details of how to transfer donations to the Church electronically. Here are the details that you need:

Account name:

Life with Hope Trust (Battle Baptist Church)

CAF Bank—Sort Code: 40 52 40

Account no: 00025476

Pray for...

The Nekounam family in Kazakhstan. For the children’s education; for Hannah and Datis’ jobs; for their witness and good health

Pray for...

Andy Garlick, as he seeks the Lord’s will for the next steps in his life . May he be blessed richly for all that he has given out for the Lord.

Pray for...

Kevin and Gary as they take the newly launched Battle Town Football Club forward. Pray that more local people will connect with the Club.

A guide to personal devotions

While we are not meeting collectively, why not use this guide for your personal devotions?

Pause, be still and invite God to meet you afresh, filling you by His Holy Spirit.

Pray giving thanks for all God’s goodness

Worship

If you have a Worship CD, DVD or the means to go online and listen to something why not play a worship song, you don’t have to sing along if you’re not comfortable doing so or can’t: simply listen to the words

Read a Psalm

The Psalms are a great source of hope and help, written in good times and bad. Pick one; read it through slowly. Pause. Read it through again.

What is God saying?

Give space allowing time for God to speak. What is he saying? Is he speaking to you personally or is it a message for the wider church?

Prayers for others

1) Use the prayer on the reverse side of this. It is taken from the Baptist Together website and their call to prayer in response to the Coronavirus. They rightly encourage us to play in being a Beacon of Hope at the moment. They remind us that our neighbours and communities need love, hope, peace and an eternal perspective and we can offer this in abundance, in the name of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:18).

2) Pray for different ministries of the church, even though they are not meeting at this time. Think of the different people who usually attend and the reasons and aims of the activities.

3) Using the church members’ directory take a page a day, and pray through the names.

Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer is a great resource that Jesus gave us.

Grace

Why not conclude by saying the grace, as we often do when we gather together, only picture those you would usually be looking at, as you say it?