

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



2nd August 2020

**The fear of the Lord  
is the beginning of  
wisdom; all those  
who practice it have  
a good understanding**

**His Praise  
endures forever!**

**Psalm 111:10**

'Tune your ears to wisdom,  
and concentrate on  
understanding.

Cry out for insight and ask  
for understanding.

Search for them as you  
would for silver; seek them  
like hidden treasures.

**Then you will understand  
what it means to fear the  
Lord, and you will gain  
knowledge of God.**

For the Lord grants  
wisdom! From his mouth  
come knowledge and  
understanding. He grants a  
treasure of common sense  
to the honest. He is a  
shield to those who walk  
with integrity. He guards  
the paths of the just and  
protects those who are  
faithful to him.'

Proverbs 2:2-8

SEEK FIRST  
THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
and  
ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE  
ADDED TO YOU

MATTHEW 6:33

### Seasons

The other day on social media I came across the following post: 'In retrospect, in 2015 not a single person got the answer right to, "Where do you see yourselves in 5 years from now?"' As 2020 continues to unfold I imagine we can all relate to this in same way or another, the year not having gone as we might have expected.

This week I had a conversation with some other ministers reflecting on where we currently find ourselves. The suggestion was put forward by one as to whether it would be fair to say we are actually in the midst of 'winter'.

This comment was obviously not referring to the seasons in terms of the physical divisions of the year, marked by changes in weather, ecology, and the amount of daylight. Without quoting too much of Wikipedia, 'the seasons are the result of the earth's orbit around the sun and earth's axial tilt relative to the ecliptic plane.' No, the comment came in the context of a discussion as to where we find ourselves as the Church at this time.

In his Emotional Healthy Discipleship podcast back in April, Pete Scazzero reflected on this very theme. He examined how the seasons of 'Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer each holds its own gift from God – if we cooperate with it.' He continued in commenting how, 'Discerning properly the season we are in determines our priorities, decisions and pace. Failing to do so results in all kinds of internal anguish for ourselves and unnecessary

pressure on those we lead.' In the Bible, in Ecclesiastes 3:1, we're told:

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:"*

Now, I've lost count of the number of conversations I've had over the years with my Dad enquiring after whether its the right time to plant 'this' or cut back 'that' where the garden is concerned. His patience with me is truly a marvellous thing! It's essential to recognise the seasons and how they impact upon what we're seeking to do - and not just in the garden.

In terms of the earth's cycle, it's very easy to think that not a lot happens in winter.

Certainly, where the garden is concerned, everything seems to grind to a halt: its cold, wet, and - chances are - a bit miserable. Going back to my conversation this week and question of whether we find ourselves in winter, someone then added that in winter you plough. Apparently - and I know there are those in our midst who understand this far greater than I - winter ploughing is the initial stage of preparing a fine tilth to grow the next season's crop. The start of the new ploughing season was traditionally the first Monday after the twelfth day of Christmas.

However we'd best describe the current time, my prayer is that God would continue to guide, equip and through the season we find ourselves living, to be at work in and through us, for all that is to come.

Be blessed

Ed Jones

## PRAYER POINTERS

### COVID-19

Pray for key workers, many of whom have been working under a great deal of pressure since March. May they find ways to truly rest; may they access mental and emotional support as necessary.

### CTIB Food Project

Thank the Lord for good relationships between local churches. May this project be blessed and may the families who receive support see something of the love of Jesus as they meet volunteers.

### BBC moving forward

Pray for those who lead ministries within the church, as they prayerfully reflect on how to take these forward from September. Pray too for LIFEgroups: may we 'encourage each other and build each other up'.

## NEWSLETTER

2nd August 2020

**Battle Baptist Church**  
*Being Transformed Together*

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle,

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**August:** Here is the plan for August: 02/08 Ed (Psalm 139); 09/08 Ed (Psalm 121); 16/08 Beth Powney (Psalm 88); 23/08 Stuart Davison (tbc); 30/08 Ed (Psalm 8). Newsletters will be produced on 2nd and 30th August.

**Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre** has opened its grounds Mon- Weds from 10am - 5pm. Howard's Well café is open from 11am 3pm for refreshments - half price in August! See flyer for more information.

**Couch to 5k running club:** Email [active@battletownfc.com](mailto:active@battletownfc.com) if you're interested, or speak to Kevin or Esther.

**LIFEgroups and Discipleship pairings:** If you're not yet involved, don't forget to get in touch with Emma or Chris D via their mobiles to discuss possibilities.

**AGM - Tuesday 15th September:** Keep this date in your diary! We will probably test the tech in advance - we'll update you!

**Looking ahead to the Autumn:** The Leadership and the staff team are taking all the necessary action to allow the church to be used by small groups from September. Our Commissioning Weekend will not take place in the usual way, although Ed will mark the 'new year' appropriately on 6th September. And please note that the Retreat Weekend, planned for 9th-11th October will not take place.

**Rob's Riddle - can you solve it?**

Last week's answer: Joseph. How did you get on? Here's number four:

My first is in mountain but not in hill,  
My second in Anthony but not in Bill.  
My third's not in coffee but is in teacup,  
My fourth in Tonbridge but not in Sidcup.  
My fifth isn't in seek but it is in hide,  
My sixth in edge and also in side.  
My last is in window but not in door,  
I was a disciple. You shouldn't need more.

*Who am I?*

### Pray for...

Pastor Gabriel Uche and his ministry in Abuja, Nigeria, where he is responsible for 78 churches.

### R.E.A.L. Women

Join us for chat and a catch-up via Zoom: Tuesdays at 10am. Go to our FB page for the login details.

### Walking Football

...continues throughout the summer! Meet at **new start time of 10am** at Battle Rec. COVID-19-secure activities are in place.

## Prayer Tools

Last autumn a number of the LIFEgroups worked through the Prayer Course, led by Pete Greig (the self-described 'bewildered instigator' of the 24-7 Prayer movement). Accompanying the course is Pete's book which I would highly recommend '*how to pray*' and the online resource that's been created known as the Tool-Shed. You will find practical introductions to the following topics at [www.prayercourse.org/](http://www.prayercourse.org/). I list below 11 of the 12 main areas of prayer and a few of the particular topics that are covered by the course. Why not take a look at some of these during August, have a go, and see where God leads you? :

#### Prayer Everywhere

- How to pray the Lord's Prayer

#### Keeping it Simple

- How to have a Quiet Time  
- How to pray the Examen

#### Slowing and Centring

- Breath Prayer

#### Adoration

- How to pray the Psalms  
- How to practise the presence of God

#### Petition

- How to maintain a prayer list  
- How to pray the promises of God

#### Intercession

- How to intercede for a large-scale crisis (praying the 3 Ps)  
- How to run a non-boring prayer meeting

#### Unanswered Prayer

- The prayer of relinquishment  
- How to lament

#### Contemplation

- Silent prayer  
- How to take a one-day retreat

#### Listening

- How to speak in tongues  
- How to do the Lectio Divina

#### Confession and Reconciliation

- How to pray the Jesus prayer  
- How to confess sin

#### Spiritual Warfare

- Warfare prayer  
- How to fast