

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



22nd November 2020



Come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come to him with thanksgiving.
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
Psalms 95:1-2 NLT

Beyond COVID, the mission continues...

With COVID-19 dominating the news and concerns about social distancing, face coverings and hand washing - not to mention the inability to meet with friends and family - it is easy to forget there is a whole world out there. Many are facing the same challenges but with fewer resources and with greater vulnerability.

For example, some friends of ours from Afghanistan days are now working amongst refugees and immigrants in Greece (where, by the way, they have to text for permission to leave their house or be faced with a €300 fine). They see God working in remarkable ways. For instance, Zahara and her husband came to Christ three years ago. They are asylum seekers from Iran and the husband went to a police station to get some paperwork sorted out. He was unexpectedly detained under some new policy and was placed in a detention centre. Zahara began praying that he would take the opportunity to witness there. Before she knew it he was asking her for more and more Bibles so he could share them with his fellow detainees. Just like St Paul!

Did you realise that as well as supporting Clare Grimble in Nepal and the Kakishes in Ramallah, we as a church, give over £500 a month towards the work of BMS World Mission? BMS (Baptist Missionary Society) works among some of the most marginalised and least evangelised people, in some of the most fragile places on earth. They aim to bring life in all its fullness through seven key ministries: church, development, education, health, justice, leadership and relief.

BMS World Mission church ministries are transforming lives. When we give to BMS, we help them to send church planting teams among people who have never heard the gospel. We employ pastors

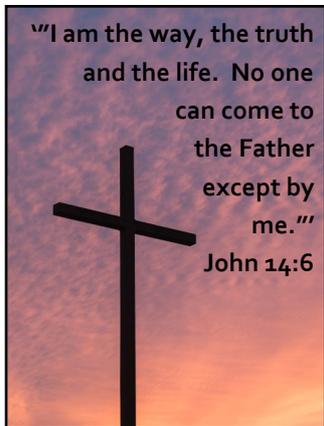
and support new and historic unions of the faithful. We nurture culturally relevant expressions of Christianity and pioneer expressions of church, led by local believers. We provide discipleship training for new Christians and support local churches as they serve and reach out to their communities in practical ways. We make the love and saving power of Jesus known. Through BMS church ministries, every day we are growing and strengthening the Body of Christ.

BMS World Mission development ministries are also transforming lives. When we give to BMS, we help them to consult with people who would otherwise be ignored by their governments and the world, to find out what they really need to thrive. We get entire communities involved in building their own latrines to prevent disease. We train farmers in profitable, environmentally sustainable methods. We help marginalised women and men help themselves by giving micro-loans and business education. We provide renewable energy in remote villages. We dig wells so that the thirsty may drink. Through BMS development ministries, every day we are restoring dignity, caring for creation and freeing people from dependence. And there is not room here to speak of the ministries involving education, health, justice, leadership and relief.

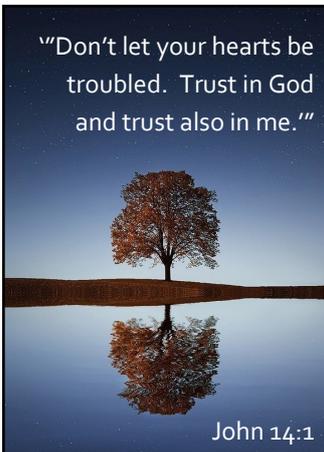
As BMS says: "The highest goal of all we do is to bring people to faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and an experience of the abundant life that only he can provide."

So in our confinement, restrictions and frustrations, let's not forget to pray for our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world, bringing hope, relief and peace to their own very different but needy, challenging situations and circumstances.

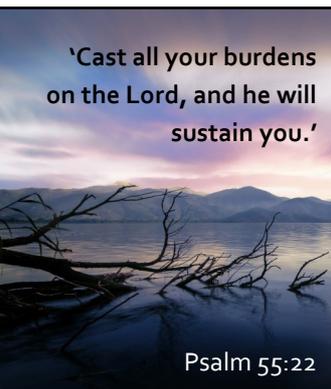
Steve Reading



"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except by me."
John 14:6



"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in me."
John 14:1



'Cast all your burdens on the Lord, and he will sustain you.'

Psalm 55:22

PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

Pray for business owners and employees working in those sectors hit hardest by the restrictions: hospitality, entertainment, aviation, leisure and tourism. Pray for resilience and for emotional and mental good health.

Loneliness

Feeling lonely can have a negative impact on wellbeing and physical health: and the pandemic exacerbates the problem. Take time to pray for those who live alone and those who are mourning. How could you help?

Missionary Links

Please pray for the Kakishes in the Holy Land, for Claire Grimble in Nepal, and for the wider work of BMS. Pray for protection, provision, guidance and abundant blessing in the work of these missionaries.

NEWSLETTER

22nd November 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



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?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 pandemic: All activities at BBC premises are suspended until 2nd December. Staff continue to work in the offices.

Reflections: Check out our [YouTube](#) channel for 'Navigate', Ed's midweek reflection on discipleship and for other material.

Church Meeting, Monday 23rd November: The meeting codes will be sent out on Monday.

Advent Prayers: The churches in Battle will join to pray together during advent as usual, meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8am. On Tuesday 1st Dec and Friday 4th Dec the meetings will be held via Zoom; thereafter we will gather at St Mary's in a socially distanced way, and wearing masks.

Christmas Food Parcel project: Battle churches will coordinate the preparation and distribution of festive food hampers to those in need over the Christmas holidays.

Donations can be left at the Manna House from 7th-18th December. More details to follow.

Children in years 3-6: Join Tim for a Zoom chat after the morning broadcast on Sundays.

Young people in years 7-13: All activities have moved online during lockdown: keep an eye on Instagram for the latest news.

Battle Town Football Club: Please continue to pray that players stay fit, recover from injuries, and stay mentally healthy over the next three weeks.

Foodbank: The Foodbank is particularly short of squash, steamed puddings, tinned custard, coffee, dog food and toilet rolls, and would welcome any donations. Thank you for your continuing support.

Caterpillar Pre-School: The nursery remains open: term ends on 18th December.