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Briefing 77: Tuesday 17th August, 2021.

My Favourite Verses by Tina Hassan

Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1: 2-4

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1: 12

At different stages in my life, there have been several trials which have caused extreme pain, sometimes lasting for many years. During these times, I have often asked God, 'Why? How come this could have happened? Where did I go wrong?' One thing I certainly did not feel was joy during these difficult periods, only sadness.

However, it wasn't until I looked back at those situations and then looked to the future, I could see how God never left me alone, never leaves me alone, and that He was and is walking with me through them, even if I didn't feel it at the time. The trials made me grow both in my faith and my trust in God's promises (*Proverbs 3:5-6 – my very favourite verse*) and one of the most important things I learnt and accepted, by God's grace and mercy, is that there are sometimes no answers to our questions on this earth for the trials we go through.

I can say beyond doubt, trials and difficulties do produce patience and perseverance and greater faith, but it takes time. These verses helped me to cling onto the hope that no matter how bad a situation is, it's temporary, it will pass. It will teach us something and it will end at the appointed time and God will bless us richly when he calls us home, giving us a crown to wear, not on this earth but in eternity.

My Favourite Verses by Muriel Peterson

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:9 KJV

This verse was given to me on the occasion of my water baptism when I was 15 years old. It has blessed me and sustained me over the years as I have walked with the Lord.

It has been quite a prophetic verse for me, as in my adult life I have travelled quite a lot, mostly into the unknown. But I truly have known the Lord with me wherever I have gone.

I can also honestly testify I have also experienced God's wonderful provision in many different ways. When I have felt anxious this verse has sustained me – FEAR NOT, BE COURAGEOUS, I AM WITH YOU. Today in 2021 this verse is as precious to me as it was when it was first spoke to me – God has truly been faithful all through the years.

(Next week we'll hear from Bernie + Tsung-Yin, but I have space for 2 or 3 the week after. Why not share yours?)

IMPORTANT STUFF – DON'T JUST GLANCE- TAKE IT ALL IN!

Come + Pray!

TUESDAY EARLY MORNING PRAYER MEETING: 7am-8am – ask Dave for a link.

FRIDAY NIGHT at St Nicks from 8pm-10pm.

Come + join us and pray for God's Holy Spirit to move in us and across this town that we might know more of God's love and power in our lives, and see many more people brought to Jesus.

Private Prayer in St Nicholas church THIS WEEK and NEXT WEEK.

Tuesday 17th from 2pm-4pm, **Wednesday 18th 2:30pm-4pm** and Thursday 19th 10am – 12 noon.

Tuesday 24th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 25th 12noon-2pm and Thursday 26th 10am – 12 noon.

PRAYER LETTER FROM SAMARITAINS PURSE: Samaritan's Purse who organise Operation Christmas child, also have a relief arm which mobilises quickly where emergencies occur. Their prayer letter is attached.



August Bank Holiday Funday
On Monday 30th August from 2pm-5pm, the church will be open for visitors, fun and refreshments!
Tea + cakes in the Flint Barn next door.
Treasure hunt around church + grounds
The maze at Crow End will be open.

No need to book– just come along.
All proceeds to church funds.



CHRISTIANITY | EXPLORED
WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Would you like to discover more about this unchanging God who invites us to build our lives on him?

This Autumn we will be running a course called Christianity Explored. Working through Mark's Gospel, the course works through the life and teaching of Jesus, and what it means for us today.

It's completely free and open to all.
You can ask any question you like.
Get in touch to register your interest.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF IAN JOHNSON: The church family are invited to join with Ian's family and friends on **Wednesday 18th August at 12noon** to celebrate his life and faith. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

CHANGES WITH HOLY COMMUNION: This Sunday at St Nicholas, (as last Sunday at Graveley) we will again be sharing both bread and wine together. Bread will continue to be served individually as wafers, but rather than all sharing the same cup, we will be offering the wine in smaller cups, with the hope that you will share with people in your family, or perhaps one close friend. Non-alcoholic alternatives will also be available.

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out again this week. Please do pray for them. If you'd like to join the team on their visits- please contact Karen Walker or Steve Bamford.



WALKING GROUP: A good number of people have shown an interest in heading out on some walks together, so David Cattell (husband of Karen) has planned a first walk on Thursday 19th August from 10am. The walk (about 4-5 miles) will begin and end at St Nicholas Church. Simply come along and enjoy the walk and the company.

READINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: Until Advent we will be working our way through 1 + 2 Timothy and Titus. If you'd like to read the passages before coming to church on Sundays, the readings for the next 3 weeks are as follows:
22nd August: 1 Timothy 1: 12-20 29th August: 1 Timothy 2: 1-15 5th September: 1 Timothy 3: 1-13

GIVING A LIFT TO CHURCH: Jo, who was part of St Nicks church family some time ago, has now returned to Stevenage and would like to attend church again. However, she now lives in Great Ashby and has no car. Could you offer her a lift from time to time? Let Dave know and he'll put you in touch with her to work out the details.

GARDENING IDEA: Meriel Squires writes... This is an ideal time to split your perennials, and add some variety to your garden for next year. It could also be a nice way to remember to pray for one another. So if you've some spares once you've split your flowers and potted them up, bring them to church. Make sure your name (+ the name of the plant) is on them, and swap with someone else. Then as you plant them and watch them grow, remember that person in prayer. I have some to swap and would love to share with you. *Blessings be upon you, Meriel.*