

Praying for the Persecuted Church

Following yet another Islamist attack in Borno, Nigeria, local Christian, Bar-ka Amos, was heard to say 'I'm tired of running!'. The armed assault by the Islamic State West Africa Province led to the deaths of three Christians.

Kautikari Village was attacked just a few weeks ago by Boko Haram.

The cry can be echoed by countless other Christians. In Myanmar they are driven from their homes and left to take shelter in camps or simply camp in the jungle. In Afghanistan Christians have had to abandon their homes and continually be on the move to avoid detection by the Taliban. Humanly speaking our brothers and sisters have little choice and few options, and little, if any hope, of being safe from persecution.

Yet from each one there remains the promise that God will be their strength, even as they run from place to place, and that ultimately they will find their rest in Him.

One was killed as gunmen kidnap a church minister in Kaduna State.

Gunmen stormed a church in the early hours on March 8th, shot dead a security guard and kidnapped the Minister Joseph Aketeh. Unconfirmed reports stated a second security guard was killed too!

Easter Hymns and their stories

Alfred Ackley, a musician and preacher, wrote "He Lives" in 1933. Many know the hymn by its first line, "I serve a risen Saviour."

*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.*

At the time, Ackley was challenged by a young student who was confused as to why Christians worshipped someone who had died centuries earlier. In response, Ackley is quoted as saying, "He lives! I tell you, He is not dead but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands."

Fuelled by the student's questions, Ackley wrote these popular lyrics. His refrain is joyous, reminding us all that Jesus rose from the dead as promised and remains alive today in the heart of every believer.

*He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday March 20th 2022



No 6 in series on Mark 3 v 1-8

'What makes Jesus angry?'

Speaker: Rev Jack Walker

WELCOME

What's on this week:-

Monday 10am Ladies Study Group

Wednesday 8pm Mid week Study Group 8pm

Sunday 27th 'All Age Service'

No 7 in St Marks series

'Sowing, reaping, keeping'

Future Dates:

Wed March 30th No 2 in Lent series led by Jack 'Art & Scripture' 7.30pm Baptist Church.

Sunday April 3rd. No 8 in St Mark

'Scary Ministry' Mark 5 v 1-20 with Communion.

[April 4th—10th Jack/Jill holiday]

Sunday April 10th No 9 in Mark.

'Oh Peter!' Speaker: David Culley

"The Times We Live In"

Some of the Saints lived during terrible times. Take Catherine of Siena, who lived in 14th Century Italy. During her times, the Black Death raged throughout Europe killing 26 million people (an estimated 30% to 60% of Europe's total population!), mercenary armies prowled the countryside cutting a path of death and destruction wherever they went, and Pope Gregory XI was cowering in Avignon, France, leaving the Church in the hands of corrupt legates. In many ways, Catherine's times were "the worst of times."

But Catherine did not bemoan her times. She did not say, "If only the Black Death would go away... If only the world were at peace... If only we had perfect Church leaders, then I could really live my Christian faith." No, Catherine became a saint by accepting her times as the context in which she was called to live her faith. She did not run away from the critical issues of her day; she engaged herself with them.

Sometimes we are quick to bemoan our own times. We assume that the world used to be a kinder and gentler place, and our ancestors had it easier than we do. But a quick perusal of history shows that every age, for one reason or another, could be called "the worst of times." But, as Christians, we believe our age is precisely the context in which we are being called to live our faith. Like Catherine, we are being called to respond to the critical issues of our times with attentiveness, courage, love, persistence, and great faith in Jesus.

Short messages for Easter to inspire and encourage!

My Bible—My Story

The verse that means the most to me is 2 Corinthians 12.9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".

'I became a Christian in 1990 and initially had an amazing experience, but then fell under the influence of other Christians who went off from the church and became a massively controlling influence in my life. It became a micro-cult in the South-West of France and I lived there from 1994 to 2002. Over the years I became more and more withdrawn, controlled and isolated.

'One day they were shouting at me for hours regarding something I can no longer remember. This was a common occurrence and could last for days. I am in the emergency services now and I know what it feels like to be at the end of your tether. At the time I had nothing, nothing left. I had the Bible open at this verse. When I read it, I felt completely and utterly strengthened. I was able to face the situation. When I came back to the UK, God restored me back to my family, friends and church.

'It is a verse that has gone with me through 20 years of being tested in difficult circumstances. When I am at an incident, I feel that God is with me and with those people in their worst moments. I know I have met Him in those situations. Sometimes I have been able to be the person to give a kind word at the right time.

'It has sustained me mentally in my job.

In the emergency services you absorb everything you see. There are things that you can't unsee. Those words are written on my heart. It is like a tattoo in my spirit – a tattoo from Jesus. It runs through me like a stick of rock. I know that I am loved, protected and that God is with me.'



Updates and news to stimulate your prayer!

Sandra Jackman has been recovering from recent surgery and being cared for at home and doing well. Pray for continued healing and protection to enable a complete recovery.

Jean Hopkins has been moved back from the Covid ward and continuing physiotherapy with a package being put in place to facilitate recovery at home. No dates yet given but hopeful for some definite news by next week.

Sue Vears. With no recent news available, do please remember her and Jon in your prayers asking for effective chemotherapy treatment and for God's blessing and good favour to be upon their family.

There may be others you are aware of who would appreciate our support and prayer. Do please life them up before the 'Throne of Grace'.