

My Bible - My story

'About 30 years ago I'd been on a trip to Israel, which was wonderful, and on the trip back home it was really busy on the train from Reading; our group was split up and seated all over the train. I was very tired because we'd had a very early start and I was dozing, not fully asleep but not fully aware. I distinctly heard a voice saying, "Genesis 22". I looked to see who said it, thinking it might be the priest who had organised the trip, but it wasn't – and everyone around me was dozing.

'When I got home, I opened my Bible at Genesis 22 – the story of Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac which begins, "God tested Abraham". That was prophetic. Over the next few years my marriage broke up, and someone I was very close to committed suicide – I was heartbroken. I dislocated my shoulder, my younger son broke his arm, and I broke my ankle. My older son had a serious head injury, from which, thank God, he made a miraculous recovery, and my son's partner had a stillborn daughter.

I'm not in the habit of hearing voices; that's the only time it's happened to me. It has been a test of faith and endurance.

'Two years ago I fell into depression – it hit me like a bomb. I have never had to go on anti-depressants and I wore that like a badge of courage, but we all have our breaking point. I was really helped by a programme on God TV with Dr John Lockley about Christianity and depression – he said it's not a spiritual problem, and you can no more help it than you can help having appendicitis.

'My ex-husband and I had a real love match, but he went off with another lady – he wasn't really the marrying type. I have long since forgiven him and there has been real healing there.

'I've never lost my faith, but it has been hard. Life is wonderful, but it's not wonderful all the time. Sometimes my prayer life has consisted of screaming at God, but as a very wise priest said to me, "God is the only one who can take it!" So we worship him in the valley as well as on the hilltop.'

[Stories shared by ordinary folk!]

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday April 24th 2022



No 10 in series on Mark 9 v 1-14

'Heaven touches earth'

All Age Service led by Jack/Jill Walker

What's on this week:-

Monday 25th 10.30am Ladies study
Wednesday 27th Members Meeting
8pm at Church. *Also on Zoom but only those in physical attendance can vote!*

During May we begin a new series from the book of Acts.

Sunday May 1st No 1
'Pauls Conversion' Acts 9 v 1-6
We celebrate Communion.

Future Dates

Sunday May 8th No 2 in Acts
'Healing then & now' Acts 9 v 36-42
Monday 9th Lunch at WBC. 12.30
Leadership Meeting 8pm

BOOK THE DATE

Saturday 25th June 2022 7pm
TREORCHY MALE VOICE CHOIR
Whitchurch F.C.
Longmeadow Arena Tickets £14

Updates

Jean had a set back this week when she suffered a seizure. It was confirmed as a seizure by the medical team and spent a few days in hospital. Latest news is that they are keeping her in for at least Friday so we wait to see what happens then. Thankyou for all the prayer, care and concern, it is appreciated and your continued prayer is requested for the ability to adapt and make the best of this new routine awaiting us.

Post Easter Meditation

Redeeming love has won!
You rose from death and crowned with glory now, you reign in heaven.
Death could not hold you down; by resurrection power we live in you, now and forever.

Hallelujah, your redeeming love has won!
Hallelujah, to our Saviour, God's own Son.
Hallelujah, we will sing salvation's song 'til the whole world hears what Jesus Christ has done; let the whole world hear what Jesus Christ has done .

Good news will have a voice as we declare the truth that Jesus lives, that He is risen.
Redeeming love in us must show a dying world the life of Christ, and his salvation.

We believe you are our freedom, the highway to the Father's heart,
We believe you're our salvation: hear us, shout it out!

ANDOVER FOODBANK

Tinned Fish
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fruit
Long Life Fruit Juice

Bible Society in Syria

The Bible Society team in Syria plans to put *The Jesus Storybook Bible* into the hands of 28,000 children this Easter. But the annual Easter Big Bible Distribution Day in Syria is not only about giving hope to children through God's word. It's about reaching whole families with Jesus' love too. 'In Syria people love books and listening to stories,' said Nabil Saad, Bible Society's Programme Coordinator in Syria. 'Children who come from Christian homes will often sit down with the family and read the Scriptures. If they come from homes where the Scriptures are not read then the children can bring something new into their homes.'

Nabil added, 'Twenty-eight thousand families with (on average) four members each will benefit from this distribution, so our prediction is at least 100,000 individuals will interact with these Scriptures.' While the world's attention is focused on Ukraine, the conflict in Syria continues. Eleven years of war has left half a million people dead, and many millions have been forced to flee their homes. By providing Scriptures to these people, Bible Society supporters are enabling them to find hope and healing through God's word.

When a child's life is changed through the Holy Spirit working through the Scriptures, parents might first be surprised. When the child continues walking with the Lord Jesus the parents realise that something has taken place that they are unfamiliar with. That's when the seeds sown in the child's life can also start growing in the whole family.'



The Bible Society in Syria is printing 20,000 copies of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* in Arabic and 8,000 in Armenian, to have maximum impact. 'The Bible Society in Syria is planning to conduct events in eight to 10 areas around Syria for direct distributions through our teams of volunteers. Another 40 to 45 places will have Scriptures delivered for distribution through local churches in different cities and villages,' said Nabil.

More information on the work of the Bible Society can be found on their website.