

REVIVE!

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:24

I hear more and more people ask, 'What am I supposed to be doing now?' This REVIVE! Newsletter offers opportunities to reflect on God's call for you, now.

This past year and a half has changed so much in the world and in our lives, that no matter how 'normal' we try to make our present, it won't be! A guest recently described it to me like this; *'It's like picking up pieces of Lego and trying to put them together, only to find that no matter how hard you try, there just aren't the pieces available to construct something!'*

The global impact of disease, climate change, public protests and efforts to restore human dignity, are just some of what we have witnessed that prompt us to ask, 'What shall I do now?' I've been blessed to sit and pray with people of all ages and from all walks of life, as they have said to the Lord, 'I don't want to go on as before; please show me what I am to do now.' And I'm talking about

people already co-operating with Jesus to bring the kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven. Yes, even they feel this is a new era, requiring different attitudes, values and new ways. **God is shaking and stirring us!**

In a Parish where I once worked, every day for two years I would ask the Lord to show me where He was at work. The result surprised me! I learnt that He was more at work outside my Church situation than He was in it! Is the Church being called not just to **look** outside its walls, but to **get** outside its walls.

It's like God is standing in a crowded global market place, calling to those who will hear Him; calling to those who see it's time to be radical, to be bold, to get out of the boat – in families, churches, communities and our country. Are you one of those who are being stired by God. What is He saying to you now?

With love, Steve

The Starting Point ...

You are a light!



Please read these three life changing words out loud: **'I AM ALIVE!'**

Consider the following:

- ▶ *You have been 'fearfully and wonderfully made.'* (Psalm 139:13-14)
- ▶ *'everyone called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'* (Isaiah 43:7)
- ▶ *The Lord has plans to prosper you and give you hope and a future.* (Jer 29:11)
- ▶ *Pray, 'God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.'* (Matthew 6:10)
- ▶ *Perhaps you have been born for such a time as this?* (Esther 4:14)

Maybe you feel unworthy, or you have believed the lie that says, 'you're useless', or life's circumstances have overwhelmed you and life is a dark place for you? I pray that the God of truth and healing shines His light on you, meets you in your need, and that you hear Him call you out of that place. Because YOU ARE ALIVE and God is on your side – **there is hope**. Because YOU ARE ALIVE and God loves you, the potential for life change is real. The potential to make a difference in your circumstances – family, church, community – is real too! Is our first calling to live life? If so, what would you like to do with your life now?

Baptism, confirmation and ordination are calls millions of us have experienced. In religious parlance they may be simply described like this:

- ▶ **Baptism – called out of darkness into the Light of Christ.**
- ▶ **Confirmation – called to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ **Ordination – called to serve God, His people and all people.**

An exciting truth about each of these life-fulfilling calls is that they are not static. Each one of them opens a door to a 'spacious place' where God can work in and through His called people to achieve His plans and purposes. Obedience to Him is the key. How does God want me to live as His baptised child?

Have you ever noticed who Jesus is speaking to when He says *'You are the light of the world?'* (Matthew 5:14) They weren't believers or followers BUT He certainly knew their potential – as He does yours and mine. You are beautiful in God's eyes, and with His help, nothing is impossible. Thank the Lord, for making you who you are. Receive His Shalom.

What does my being a 'light-bearer' mean for such a time as this?



Age is no barrier with God!

But the LORD said to me, “*Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.*” Jeremiah 1:7



‘Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.’ Psalm 71:18

I love reading Bible Stories of God’s single-minded call to people and of His plan being worked out; it’s good to see some of them wrestle and try to resist! (The well-known Jonah and the whale story comes to mind, and I could add a few personal ones of my own – could you?) Young and old, men and women, His people, pagan peoples, servants and royalty, tribes and nations, wounded and well. Some appear particularly called with specific instructions, but all have a part in God’s plan.

I’m still learning about the Sovereignty of God and that His plan is being worked out – the cross on which Jesus died for the sins of the world is very good proof! Every person on the planet is part of God’s overall plan – some live it like Judas (the betrayer – who sought his own agenda) and some live it like John (the beloved who sought the Lord’s agenda). We could debate predetermined destiny and free-will here – I’d rather not. As much as you and I have the freedom to choose our destiny, it is also true that God has a destiny for us that He is currently working to fulfil!

Is our surrender to God the best road for us? Better still, choose to follow Jesus and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. What are you doing for Him now? Is there something more?

What’s next?

On a mountain, 2,000 years ago Jesus stood with two of the greatest Old Testament prophets, Moses and Elijah, and three of the most important Apostles, Peter, James and John. All were enveloped by a cloud of the presence of God, who said, “*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased ...*” **LISTEN TO HIM?** Are these three words from God the most significant words of the whole New Testament? In John chapter 10, Jesus speaks clearly, “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.*” He also says they **know** my voice. When we ask, “*I want to know what the Lord wants me to do now*”, this is the best answer: **ASK JESUS!**

Learning to listen, hear and know the voice of Jesus, WITH the help of the Holy Spirit, is of primary importance for you and me, for the Church, for all God’s people and for such a time as this. “*If you hear his voice today, harden not your heart.*” (Hebrews 3:7)

The Uncomfortable Blessing

May the Spirit bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.

May the Spirit bless you with anger at injustice and oppression, and exploitation of people and the earth, so that you will work for justice and peace.

May the Spirit bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them.

And may the Spirit bless you with foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do all the things which others say cannot be done. Amen

Author unknown (possibly Celtic)

We thank God that all our staff remained well during the various lockdowns and furlough time, and that we are all back together again. Staff have shown such grace and resilience through all the changes and upheavals! Sadly, Abi (House team) has left for a 'not-to-be-missed' opportunity. Chrissy has moved from House to the Admin team – something she has wanted to do for years! As a result we are presently recruiting.

CCHC is outsourcing its book-keeping responsibilities as part of our drive toward sustainability, which will lead to further staff changes in the Finance Department.

Esther's role as Media Manager (with her team!) is proving hugely successful – YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, podcasts and on-line activities. If you haven't done so already, do connect with us on one of these and enjoy a blessing from the Lord!

The grounds are looking good after all the rain. As ever the food is delicious and God encounter opportunities abound. We look forward to welcoming you here soon!

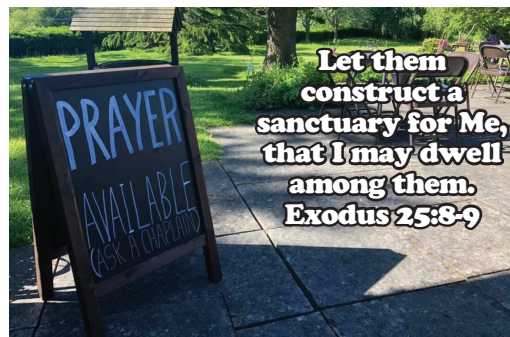
It's been faith building seeing the Lord in some big changes at CCHC, and we continue to seek ways of providing a place for God to meet people. Thank you for your continued support!

- ▶ *'I came tired, emotional and concerned for the future. I was given all the space I needed; I leave refreshed and able to continue the journey.' (D)*
- ▶ *'I arrived burnt out from the pressures of life and encountered the God who heals! He healed past hurts and gave me peace and rest. From figuratively speaking, crawling in on my knees, I'm dancing!' (S)*
- ▶ *'The Lord showed what it means to be His beloved and how He is sovereign over all, even the tough things of life.' (C)*

CCHC Prayer Requests

Thank God for the numbers we see through CCHC doors and on-line – all being given God encounter opportunities!

- ▶ Pray that we are faith-filled, bold, compassionate, prophetic, and moving in the power of the Spirit, bearing His fruit.
- ▶ The Lord continues to prompt us to consider the best ways of using our resources – pray that we listen and hear clearly.
- ▶ Pray for the Lord's protection for our staff and guests, and for the Centre and grounds.



We would like to erect a permanent 'Tent of Meeting' in the grounds – for prayer ministry opportunities, and for use by guests. The Tent will be a wooden structure and will cost £1.5k. If you would like to contribute to this project, please indicate that it is for the **Tent of Meeting**.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us on enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk or ring 01424-830204 if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.

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