

REVIVE!

*And now
these three
remain:
faith, hope
and love.
1 Corinthians 13*

B*eloved ones, know what is true: this world is in haste, and it is nearing the end.* This apocalyptic sentiment could easily appear in our newspapers in these days. It was in fact the opening line of a sermon called 'The Sermon of the Wolf' given by Wulfstan (hence the title!), who was the Archbishop of York in 1014.

It was thought that at the turn of the first millennium the end was approaching. The country was in total moral collapse with a violent Viking invasion about to be unleashed, which led to the Danish Cnut becoming King in 1016. Wulfstan's sermon denounced the evil he saw around him, but he powerfully encouraged people, in the midst of much precariousness, to recommit to, and live out, what is most precious in life, even though time seemed short.

Once again, a thousand years later, we are living in dark and frightening times. If Jesus said that in the last times the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12), He clearly,

on the contrary, wants His followers, to abound in **love, faith and hope** (Philippians 1:9; 2 Timothy 3:1-4,10 & 11). To be salt and light in a dark world. To be ablaze with Him!

As we have looked back over the past October editions of Revive!, (four since its launch during the pandemic), we have noticed that all have had the theme of love, faith and hope!

This month of October is a full month for us, with much to prepare including the annual Prayer Partners Retreat, and the annual Healing Week entitled '**Kingdom, Power and Glory**'. So it seemed fitting to modify some of the articles used in previous Octobers to use in this month's newsletter, as we more than ever need to be filled, to abound, and to overflow with **His love, His faith and His hope!** We need it and the world around us needs it! '*Arise, shine, for your light has come ... darkness covers the earth ... but the Lord's glory appears over you!*' (Isaiah 60:1 & 2)

With love from us all at CCHC

Are you a reservoir or a canal?



I've been challenged by the Lord recently about the proportion of time I give to the different parts of my prayer life. I find, for example, that I spend more time in petition than I do in adoration.

The following quote from Bernard of Clairvaux was a significant revelation for me:

"The man who is wise, therefore, will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal simultaneously pours out what it receives; the reservoir retains the water till it is filled, then discharges the overflow without loss to itself. Today there are many in the Church who act like canals, the reservoirs are far too rare. You too must learn to await this fullness before pouring out your gifts; do not try to be more generous than God."

I've discovered that the more time I spend in adoration and awe of God, the more the reservoir of my inner being is refilled with those lifegiving gifts that our Lord so generously shares. When I am in petition – knocking on God's door with my shopping list – I'm like a canal, at work, serving/praying to see people healed,

How is your prayer life? In these days that demand so much petition from us, please don't neglect those disciplines of prayer – adoration, praise, simply sitting quietly with the Lord letting Him love you – which sustain life, enabling us to reflect more brilliantly the glory of the Lord.

Hope is Essential!

Where did the people of the Old Testament place their hope? Suzanne shares two stories in the Old Testament which give different pictures of hope.

The first is Noah after the flood. Genesis 8:10 shows Noah anxiously fretting, in anguish, as he waits to send the dove out a second time to see if the water has receded. The Hebrew word is '*chiyl*'; to twist, writhe or be in anguish. The dove returns with an olive leaf – this changed Noah (vs 11). Noah then sends the dove out a third time (vs 12), but this waiting is patient and expectant, filled with hope. The Hebrew word is '*yachal*'; he knows this time the dove will find a place to land. We all know the difference between these two types of waiting, don't we? May the Lord be your olive branch in these days.

The second story is of Rahab, the prostitute, (Joshua chapter 2), who hides two spies in return for a promise of protection when the Israelites take over the promised land. The protection will be provided if the spies see a scarlet cord hanging from the window of her home in the city wall.

She had to wait, and trust they would keep their word. This scarlet cord, which in Hebrew has the meaning of hope, is something which can be clung to when needed. In the same way, we cling on to God in difficult times.

(Read how St Paul's defence before King Agrippa was based on his hope and the hope of the twelve tribes of Israel (Acts 26:6-8)).



Teach us to love Lord

Faith



We and our world are crying out for **LOVE**. Ask God the Holy Spirit to use these two passages from the Message to help you learn to love as Jesus loves us. Paul writes: *‘So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.’* (Philippians 1:9-11)

LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- ◆ *never gives up;*
- ◆ *cares more for others than for self;*
- ◆ *doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.*
- ◆ *doesn’t strut;*
- ◆ *doesn’t have a swelled head;*
- ◆ *doesn’t force itself on others;*
- ◆ *isn’t always “me first;”*
- ◆ *doesn’t fly off the handle;*
- ◆ *doesn’t keep score of the sins of others;*
- ◆ *doesn’t revel when others grovel;*
- ◆ *takes pleasure in the flowering of truth;*
- ◆ *puts up with anything;*
- ◆ *trusts God always;*
- ◆ *always looks for the best;*
- ◆ *never looks back;*
- ◆ *but keeps going to the end.*

Jesus calls you **‘Beloved.’** Rest in that truth!

A famous passage from St. Augustine’s Confessions states, *“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”* Do you long for rest?

I am amazed that the Israelites didn’t enter God’s promised rest because of **UNBELIEF**. It was a **FAITH** issue (see Hebrews 3 and 4). It wasn’t that they didn’t believe – they did – but more often than not, it was on their terms. *‘I did it my way’* comes to mind!

We all live in a constant tension of trying to live with God on our terms whilst Holy Scripture teaches us we cannot. The end result is not **rest** but ongoing **restlessness**. God does not fit into our plans; we are to fit into His.

Choosing to believe in Jesus is an act of **FAITH** which requires a surrender of our ways by changing our thinking and behaviour. To me this means:

- ▶ *what we do is shaped by the word of God;*
- ▶ *how we do it is in the power of God;*
- ▶ *the aim in doing it is to the glory of God.*

When I do it my way, in my strength and for me or my Church, it leads to weariness, not rest. Is this your experience?

The Lord invites us to take His yoke upon us (Matthew 11:28-30) and to lay down those yokes that we have taken on, or which someone has laid on us. The result is rest for our souls because His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Our **FAITH** in Christ leads to this freedom.

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.

Corrie Ten Boom

Crowhurst News

A Message from our Accountant

Recently the work at Crowhurst has seen record numbers of both residential guests and day visitors, with many experiencing the Lord's healing touch. This places significant pressure on the Team. In faith, we now have a fourth Chaplain (Stephen Gurr) to ease the burden on Steve and Suzanne, enabling them to attend to administrative and Chaplain responsibilities.

In addition, the ongoing outlay on essential building maintenance issues has drained the cash resources built up last year from some large legacies, and because of the extra works identified in the 'Condition Survey', we anticipate significant further costs in the £10,000's (or more) to continue and complete this work.

The Lord has always been, and remains, faithful in the supply of our financial needs. We have said before that we need at least £25,000 per month in the form of gifts etc. Unfortunately, although we have been extremely busy since April, we have noticed the level of giving has, understandably in these difficult times, fallen. In many ways it is not surprising – some months we get large gifts, some months not so – and we look to the Lord for meeting our continued needs in this area as we face the autumn and winter months.

Our trust remains in our Lord who is using us wonderfully to help so many people with complex needs in a time of so much uncertainty, nationally and worldwide.

John Caladine (Caladine Ltd)

The developing Centenary Vision 2028

1. We aim:

- to increasingly co-operate with God the Holy Spirit to get to know Jesus better as we await His return;
- to continue, in His power, the preaching, healing, teaching ministry of Jesus;
- to shine the Light of Christ brightly in a world in desperate need of Him;

2. Using the 'Condition Survey' on our buildings:

- to maintain and make good all our facilities;
- to improve our energy efficiency and providing a suitable Centre for the ministry above. (This is going to be a costly (!) but necessary work, lest the building becomes unusable).

3. With the advice of a Landscape Gardener:

- to vision, and proceed with plans to better steward the resource of our gardens and grounds for people to meet with our Lord. (I'm pleased to report we have had a promise of financial support to initiate this project - Praise the Lord!)

Prayer Requests

We're in awe of the way God uses CCHC and His People to accomplish His purposes! Thank the Lord for persevering grace for all Staff! Thank Him for touching people every day, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Thank Him for attention to detail.

Please pray:

- ♦ for all our indefatigable Prayer Partners;
- ♦ for sacred spaces and the healing ministry;
- ♦ for trust – God is Sovereign, faithful and good;
- ♦ that the Lord will meet all our financial needs going forward.

A note from Chrissy in Finance

"Our thanks to all those who have started to donate to us on a regular basis. If you are able to help further by letting us claim gift aid on your donations, please do let us know."

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