

Bethel
Baptist Church
Hawthorn



Newsletter
November 2020

Crossing Turbulent Waters

In 1969, Reggae singer Jimmy Cliff recorded a song titled, '**Many Rivers to Cross**'. Jimmy Cliff mentioned that the song was birthed out of the frustration and helplessness he felt after moving from Jamaica to the UK. The feelings came about because unlike what he had expected, nothing significant seemed to be happening in his career at that time.

The lyrics go like this:

**Many rivers to cross
But I can't seem to find my way over
Wandering I am lost
As I travel along the white cliffs of Dover**

Are you feeling like that today? Surrounded by turbulent waters that you can't seem to cross? It is a fact that many people are facing turbulent waters today, especially with the ripple effects of COVID-19. In the midst of such challenges, the Word of God gives us great hope and assurance.

Here is a thought from the Bible that encourage us to have hope when surrounded by turbulent waters.

Turbulent waters cannot drown us

In **Isaiah 43:2**, the Lord gives great assurance about His protection on His children as they face deep, turbulent

waters. He says, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you"* (Isaiah 43:2). What a great encouragement it is to know that He will not let us drown or be swept away when confronted by what the scripture calls *'rivers of difficulty'* (Refer Isaiah 43:2 NLT).

Closing:

So friend if you are facing turbulent waters right now hold on to the promises of God and stand firm in your faith. As you do so, Jesus will speak to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Mark 4:39.

By Palitha Jayasooriya

Virtual meetings

Bible Study and Prayer meeting are continuing, alternating every Thursday evening from 7.00pm. There are also plans for social meetings.

The first coffee morning via Zoom will be at 11.00am on Tuesday 3rd of November.

Please e-mail Andrew if you would like to join the mailing list and receive the invitation codes.

Quotes

There is no assurance in life.
It is only God that gives assurance.

Lailah GiftyAkita



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



Oh blessed assurance,
Come down, make home with us.
Our hope is high for whats in store,
Come move these feet towards Love.

Kari L. Greenaway



In the darkest of nights cling to the assurance that God loves you, that He always has advice for you, a path that you can tread and a solution to your problem--and you will experience that which you believe. God never disappoints anyone who places his trust in Him.

Basilea Schlink

A Prayer for this time

Awaken us, O God, to that faith which dies unless it clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, comforts the sorrowing, shelters the destitute and binds up the broken; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Menno Simons (1496-1561)

Please remember in your prayers

The family of Katie Davies, a faithful member of this Church for many years. Pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a relative or friend. Pray that they may feel comfort and peace in their sorrow.

Those from our fellowship who are unwell, both at home and in hospital, and all those who are helping to care for them. Pray that they may have the strength, hope and support that they need every day.

Those of our fellowship who are now resident in care homes. Pray that the Lord will protect them.

Those who are feeling particularly fearful at the moment. Pray for those in our communities who may feel vulnerable and scared and pray that the love of God might be their peace.

Our church community. Give us grace to be open to the opportunities that your Spirit brings in this time of separation. Pray for creative hearts to embrace and carry forwards new ways we have found to connect with each one another.

Pray for our world leaders and for the leaders in our country that they will seek the wisdom of God as they make decisions over the coming days and months. We celebrated Bible Sunday in October. Pray for those who do not yet have access to the Bible and pray that more may come to know you through the Word.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Keeping in touch

We don't have a current e-mail address for everyone in these social distancing times! If you think your details may need updating, please let one of the deacons know your new details or email mail@bethelbaptisthawthorn.org

Bible Quiz

1. How many books are in the New Testament?
2. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?
3. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves and two fish?
4. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion?
5. Paul was shipwrecked on which island?
6. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?
7. Matthew was a
8. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
9. Who is Stephen in Acts of the Apostles?
10. According to the Gospel of Matthew, where does Jesus's first public sermon take place?

Answers

1. 27
2. Locusts
3. About 5000
4. Joseph of Arimathea
5. Malta
6. 2 John
7. Tax collector
8. Priest
9. The first Christian martyr
10. On the mount

Autumn

How often do we thank our loving Lord God for the beautiful creation of which we are a part?

For those who have been enjoying the Autumn colours and changes on Autumnwatch and Countryfile, Awen has been searching a little closer to home and created a rainbow.



Thought

Our purpose is simple - to love. To love each other, to love all life and to love our earth.

Anthony Douglas Williams