

Bethel  
Baptist Church  
Hawthorn



Newsletter  
September 2020

# Walking on the Mountain

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Two hikers, bone weary from trudging toward the peak of a majestic mountain, pause when one says, "I think we're on the wrong path; we've stopped making progress. Maybe it's time to turn back." Instead of agreeing with her companion, instead of berating her fellow hiker with condemnation and shame, she simply says, "Let's rest for a while and study the map."

Walking the Christian path is much like climbing a mountain. Vistas ahead are breathtaking, companions along the way encourage, unexpected bubbling streams refresh. But the way is long and often fraught with danger.

When the way is long, when we doubt that God is leading – when we doubt that God cares – it's time to rest awhile and study the map, God's words from the Bible. Past experiences of God's faithfulness, knowledge of God's will and way will not always eliminate doubt. Faith is almost sure to waver as we climb the mountain, but God's promise to "never leave nor forsake" is like a cup of cold water as we traverse through thorns that leave us bloody, blinding lightning and soul searing thunder, gnashing teeth of wild animals called despair.

After misunderstanding from friends and family, after the never-ending neediness of people, after heart rending grief, Jesus says to his weary friends,

## **“Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest”**

(Mark 6:31).

Whatever thorny path you now travel, whatever doubt plagues your soul, whatever mountain peak is unseen through the clouds, Jesus' invitation can be heard: “Sit down on the path with me and get some rest.”

*Lord, I'm weary. Are you listening to my cry? Do you care? I need your comfort, please fill me again with your endurance and strength. Thank you that you are a God of mercy and grace.*

By Marilyn Ehle

## **Bible Study and Prayer Meetings**

These are continuing online every week via Zoom on Thursdays at 7.00pm, alternating between prayer meeting and Bible Study. Meetings last 40 minutes and the first Thursday in September will be a Prayer meeting. There is plenty of space if you would like to join in either or both. Please make sure that we have an up to date e-mail address so you can receive the meeting codes.

## Quotes

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Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.

*Matthew 11:28*



Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is  
restless until it finds its rest in thee.

*Augustine of Hippo, Confessions*



Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him.

*Psalms 62:1*



Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5:7*



There is virtue in work and there is virtue in rest. Use  
both and overlook neither.

*Alan Cohen*

## A Prayer for this time

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God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that

Nothing will separate us from your love - demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen.

## Keeping in touch

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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](mailto:mail@bethelbaptisthawthorn.org)

## Please remember in your prayers

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Those who are unwell within our Church and all those who are helping to care for them. Pray that they may have the hope, courage and support they need today and every day.

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

Our church, as plans are made to find new ways of worship and fellowship in these difficult times. Pray for those who are worried about attending worship and those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Pray for our Pastor and the leadership of the Church as they deal with the practicalities of protecting people from the virus.

Pray for our world and its's leaders today as we bring the virus under control.

Those who do not know of God's love - for friends or family, for neighbours or colleagues, that God's spirit may fill their hearts.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

*Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV*

## Puzzles

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Can you untangle well-known Bible pairs of people in this unusual Bible word puzzle? Two names have been woven together in each line. Can you separate them? You do not need to change the order of any letters.

**Example:** J O M A S E R P H Y – Joseph & Mary

1. A D E A V E M
2. G O D A L V I A I T D H
3. B R O U T A H Z
4. J E S A C A O U B
5. S I P L A U A S L
6. D E S L A I M S L O A N H
7. C A B A I E L N
8. A B S R A A H R A M A H
9. M O A A S R E O N S
10. P A R I Q U I S C I L L A L A
11. M A M A R R T Y H A
12. S A N A P A P N H I I R A A S
13. I S I S H A M A A E C L
14. R A C L E H E A L H
15. C J O A S L H E U B A

## God's creation

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Over the summer Awen has experienced the miracle of God's creation first hand, nurturing her own butterfly habitat. She has seen caterpillars change into chrysalides, then five beautiful painted lady butterflies emerge.



## Thought

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"One who knows how to show and to accept kindness will be a friend better than any possession."

*Sophocles*



# Celebrations

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Gladys celebrated a milestone birthday in August and Arthur will be celebrating his milestone birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. Congratulations to them both on their special days – 100 years of memories! We wish that every minute of their birthdays are filled with joy and pleasure.



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## Answers to the puzzle on Page 7

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Adam & Eve       | 9. Moses & Aaron       |
| 2. Goliath & David  | 10. Aquila & Priscilla |
| 3. Boaz & Ruth      | 11. Mary & Martha      |
| 4. Jacob & Esau     | 12. Ananias & Sapphira |
| 5. Silas & Paul     | 13. Isaac & Ishmael    |
| 6. Delilah & Samson | 14. Rachel & Leah      |
| 7. Cain & Abel      | 15. Joshua & Caleb     |
| 8. Abraham & Sarah  |                        |

# Cyber Crime

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We have received this message from South Wales Cyber Crime Unit regarding an opportunity to take part in a Cyber Protect online session.

My name is Claire Perrin and I am a Cyber Protect Officer working at the dedicated Digital Forensics and Cyber Crime Unit in SWP. Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, cybercrime has increased by 400%. Part of our remit as a unit is to educate members of the public to help them better understand and recognise how they can avoid becoming a victim of cybercrime.

We are offering FREE sessions to vulnerable organisations and charities this year and we are looking forward to running a session for you on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm. The session generally takes a little over an hour and is fun, engaging and interactive!

By the end of the session, you will be better able to recognise some of the common cyber scams, strengthen your personal online security and be aware of how to report cybercrimes for yourself and others.

To receive an invite via Zoom, please e-mail Cathy - the Hawthorn Neighbourhood Watch Secretary at **[cathynhawthorn@gmail.com](mailto:cathynhawthorn@gmail.com)**. Cathy will pass the e-mails on to Claire who will then send out invites to the session.