

Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts

Welcome to our condensed Newsletter. We are publishing this in digital format to help keep us up to date with each other during the Corona Virus chaos.

As you know many of our events, services, facilities, and meetings are still postponed to reduce our contact with each other. The clear and strong advice is that we do not meet for worship or other meetings to ensure appropriate social distancing and protection for those who need it most.

Church is all about relationship: with God, with one another and with the wider community as we demonstrate that our relationship to God and seek to draw others into it, those relationships can still be nurtured, but in other ways. A kindness of heart and spirit can bring light into everyone's life, be it a kind word or a simple gesture, a telephone call, an email, an instant message, social media... there are so many ways... seek to share your light with those in need - but do so safely.

Clearly, we should pray. Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Corona Virus, for those who have the illness, for those caring and supporting those who are ill, for those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic.

For help and support. please feel free to contact:

- John Claydon johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk
- Paul Revill paulrevill@thenba.org.uk or
- Elaine Webster elainewebster@thenba.org.uk

Prayers

Please continue to pray, either by yourself, or collectively, using one of the many online and social media channels for:

- ***Members & friends of our Fellowship***
- ***People, families & neighbours within your own circle experiencing difficulties***
- ***Those who work for our benefit and welfare in frontline jobs, putting themselves and their families in vulnerable and frequently life-threatening situations***
- ***Supermarket staff and other supply industries***
- ***Carers in Care Homes and Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing and Hostels***
- ***Carers who look after members of their own families***
- ***Postal Workers and other delivery people who bring us our mail, food, and medicines***
- ***All those in positions of leadership, research, development, industrial organisations, and new productions, at this traumatic time***

This week We are asked by NBA to pray for our Baptist Hospital Chaplains at this time of great challenge and for our NHS as they support staff and patients who also carry anxieties of their own:

- ***Rev Robert Muir - Wansbeck Hospital, Ashington***
- ***Rev Jim Wright - Lead chaplain at North Tees Hospital, Stockton***
- ***Rev Rodney Breckon - James Cook Hospital***
- ***Rev Graeme Harrison - Lead chaplain, Northumbria Healthcare Trust***
- ***Rev Liz Edwards - North Tyneside hospital***
- ***Rev Dave Etherington - North Durham University Hospital + BAGH***

Please pray especially for all those living and working in:

- ***Nelson Street***
- ***Grey Street***
- ***Bishop Auckland Railway Station***
- ***Station Approach***
- ***Green Lane***

Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Covid-19, for those who have the illness, for those caring and supporting those who are ill, for those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic. We must not forget those people who have recently lost loved ones too, from other causes and who are going through the grief and stresses which are made even harder to bear by the present circumstances.

Northern Baptist Association - Prayer for Marsden Baptist Tabernacle

We serve an awesome God who is passionate about creation. He loves to build out of nothing. In this fact, we, as His people can find great hope.

The Bible story begins with God's spirit hovering over an empty void.

During this pandemic, many people are finding their hopes and dreams laid low. If, as many fear, we face a second wave we are looking at a crisis of untold magnitude as many businesses face bankruptcy. The plans of many crumble leaving an empty void.

Yet over this emptiness, the spirit of God hovers, as in the space. He begins to create something of untold magnitude and great beauty.

The Chinese term for "crisis" is made up of two words, "wei" and "chi". The first meaning 'danger' but the latter means 'opportunity'. There is the danger of lapsing into despair but there is the opportunity for our nation to turn to God and watch as he takes our emptiness and creates something of untold beauty in our midst. Let us carry this hope to the communities we serve.

We thank God:

- for the leaders of Marsden Baptist Tabernacle to whom God has entrusted the task of steering the church through these difficult times.
- for the faithful witness of Marsden Baptist Tabernacle over many years.
- for His faithfulness to this church since it was first founded.

Please pray:

- that the leaders of Marsden Baptist Tabernacle will respond positively to fresh opportunities that the Holy Spirit creates.
- that Marsden Baptist Tabernacle will be able to reach out to the local community at this time.
- that God will enlarge the vision of Marsden Baptist Tabernacle and provide its members with much-needed encouragement.

(Prayers and text supplied by Roger M Daniel: NBA Co-ordinator)

What does the Bible say about Racism?

Racism is about making judgments on the characteristics of a race to rate them as inferior or superior - demonstrating partiality or bias.

Racism is a problem we can't ignore or run away from. It's an issue today, and it was an issue throughout history, including when the Bible was written.

Paul, one of the early church's leaders, wrote about divisions caused by racism.

In first century AD, it was common to assign different values to different races and ethnicities. Foreigners, women, and children were generally regarded as property owned by the male heads of households and local rulers. Foreigners would often be employed in bonded labour (enslavement to pay off debts, as Jesus mentioned in Matthew 18:21-35), making it difficult or impossible to live freely.

At that time, one of the primary divisions in the church was between Jews and Gentiles. Some Jews who had joined the movement of Christianity were trying to force non-Jewish (Gentile) believers to perform the Jewish rituals. They argued that to be a good Christian, they had to do all the right Jewish religious activities, too.

Rather than telling Christians to ignore the discrimination against Gentiles, Paul addressed it head on: "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him" (Romans 10:12). We see this echoed later when Philip, also a leader of the church, helps an Ethiopian eunuch understand part of the Bible and begin following Jesus (Acts 8:26-40).

Other people don't determine our value; God does. God cares how we treat each other because we're all created in His image (Genesis 1:27). God makes no distinction between the inherent value of one race or ethnicity over another.

God cares about people regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, and social status (Deuteronomy 10:17-19).

- "God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right" (Acts 10:34-35).
- "We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- "If you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers" (James 2:9).
- About the age to come, we see a heavenly picture: "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10).

- Jesus removes hostility and introduces harmony (Ephesians 2:14-18).
- God isn't about separation, but inclusion and unity. Jesus made it possible for anyone to be included in the people and promises of God (Galatians 3:28).

Why Reconciliation Is Critical: - That good news -the Gospel - doesn't just mean that we're brought near to God. It also means we're brought near to the people we once considered so different, so inferior, from ourselves (Ephesians 2:13).

God restores our relationships with people and groups we've mistreated. That's called reconciliation: the removal of prejudice and the restoration of a relationship to healthy understanding and appreciation for each other. God is a reconciling God. The Gospel is, at its core, a message of reconciliation.

God brings peace where there was once strife, and kindness where there was once animosity. He's done it with us and He can do it between us and our neighbours - whether black, white, Latino, or otherwise.

If we belong to Jesus, we are part of His movement to bring more reconciliation between people and God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). As His representatives, we have the opportunity to share how the life-changing message of the Gospel creates a healthy relationship with God and healthy relationships between people, no matter who they are.

Your job and my job, as we learn to follow Jesus step by step, includes reconciliation because the message of Jesus is that we all belong with God, together - no separation, no difference in status or worth.

From an article published on www by Newspring Church

Online Prayer

- Northern Baptist Association
Service 21st June https://youtu.be/tGsD_ePdTgk
- Bishop Auckland Baptist Church
21st June https://youtu.be/xPZJ_Cxbi10
- Influence Church <http://www.influencechurch.co.uk>
Services streamed each Sunday at 11.00am and 5.00pm

FareShare Food Scheme

John and Vanessa at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church continue their sterling efforts in collecting the vast amount of FareShare food kindly donated by local suppliers. They are currently taking the food to Woodhouse Close Food Bank to ensure the most efficient route of distribution. The food bank is open every weekday from 10.00am until 12.00pm.

The food is being received and distributed to those who need it most and includes a wide variety of products across numerous categories from basics to occasional treats.

Church Garden

We owe a great big word of “THANK YOU” to one of the good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church, who continues single handed in the upkeep and development of our church garden, and he is still creating contacts with passers-by! (at a safe distance of course). The blog is now on the front page of our website.

Thoughts

Today, June 21st is Father’s Day - We hope that it is a happy day for you!

There is nothing easy about being a father, especially nowadays. Well, your pain can be heard. But, an honest look at history reveals a comforting familiarity. The fact is Dads have been throwing their hands up in the air for literally thousands of years. Fortunately for us, this means we don’t have to reinvent the wheel.

You may view Scripture as some ancient, out-of-date text that has nothing to say about modern day life. Think again. There is a lot to glean and it may actually change the way you parent.

Here are some things that Scripture says about being a father, to think about :

1. Be your child’s “First Teacher” (Proverbs 22:6) - It’s our responsibility as a Father to “train up a child in the way he/she should go.” Not the school, not the government, but you—and that means Dad.

2. Fathers need to exhibit a good life (2 Corinthians. 3:2-3) - Scripture teaches that who we are and how we live is like a "letter from God." Our children read that letter, the letter that can be read in the way we live, every day.
3. Provide for your family (1 Tim. 5:8) - For those of you struggling to find work, don't put yourself down. This idea is more about your heart and desire. Being a father who provides covers more than rent and food. As Fathers, it's our responsibility to make sure our family's needs are addressed across the board. Be encouraged and look for ways to give to your family even when it is hard to financially.
4. Good Dads discipline their children (Proverbs 13: 24) - The one who loves their children, Scripture says, "is careful to discipline them." It says "discipline", not brow beat or bully or intimidate or worse. This is about proactive leadership in our homes.
5. Dads spend time with their children, and it's not empty time (Deut. 6: 6-9) - The Scriptures are clear that dads must engage their children in the kind of deep, heart-to-heart conversations that impart more than facts, but teach wisdom. Fit in some regular "conversational walks" with your children, one on one. Family time that counts.
6. Compassion is a "Dad" characteristic - A father has compassion for his children. Psalm 103:13 points out, "so the LORD has compassion."
7. "Put your money where your mouth is" - Well, not in those exact words, but James 1:22 instructs us to not only be "hearers" of God's word but "doers" also.
8. Don't provoke your children (Ephesians 6:4) - The alternative, the Scripture suggests, is to raise them to be young people of faith.
9. Dads never give up on their kids - The story of "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:20-24) is the story of a father who never gives up hope and is ready to receive his child back with open arms. We can discipline, we can hold accountable, but we must never give up.
10. Dads pray for their children (1 Chronicles 29:19) - King David prayed for his son, Solomon. Children who know without any doubt that their dads pray for them every day own a deep sense of love and security.

<https://www.christiantoday.com/>

Lord,

As our Father you know that Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and our earthly life teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all – and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches – and the women of our families

Father, in Your name, Amen

Rev. Chuck Currie

***Keep smiling through, just like you always do
Till the blue skies chase those dark clouds far away
And I will just say hello to the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know that I saw you go
You were singing the song***

***We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when
But I know, we'll meet again some sunny day***