

## ***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.

***Lockdown and social distancing*** are now undergoing changes and we are monitoring the situation. We are currently considering ways to meet up again physically and to re-open our building and become involved in the community again safely as soon as circumstances allow.

***If you know of anyone*** who you feel would benefit from our online offerings please feel free to share our website at [www.bishopbaptists.co.uk](http://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk) with others so they too can enjoy our weekly online service (also available on our YouTube Channel), newsletters, blog and other items of prayer and interest.

***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](mailto:johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk)
- Paul Revill [paulrevill@thenba.org.uk](mailto:paulrevill@thenba.org.uk) or
- Elaine Webster [elainewebster@thenba.org.uk](mailto: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:*

- ***Chatsworth Avenue***
- ***Rutland Avenue***
- ***Bishop Auckland Bus Station***
- ***Milton Avenue***
- ***Morland Street***

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 Thornaby Baptist Church**

When Phillip shared the good news with an Ethiopian eunuch, he was reaching outside his comfort zone. The Holy Spirit was guiding him to someone of a different nationality and culture.

Today as we share 'church' through the marvels of modern technology, we are reaching people well beyond our usual frontiers.

Let us pray as we prepare to return to our physical buildings that we are ready to welcome all who choose to join us, irrespective of age, colour, nationality, or culture. Let us not be like one church Deacon who when faced with several reborn Hell's Angels many years ago remarked "We were wanting converts Roger, but not that kind."

Rather, let us follow the example of Peter, who when the Holy Spirit first fell upon a group of Gentile believers asked, "What should prevent them being baptised?"

*We thank God:*

- the faithful witness of Thornaby Baptist Church.
- the servant heart that you have blessed Thornaby Baptist Church with.
- His faithfulness to us during these difficult times

*We pray:*

- for the finances to carry out essential repairs to the church building.
- for those members of our church who struggle with the restrictions on their movement.
- that You will prepare our hearts and minds for the changes we face in the way we 'do church'.

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

**We should look to God and not lose hope in Him**

One morning 12-year-old Aboyowa wrote the following message and shared it with her parents. It is published with their permission. Her mother is a front-line worker.

Even through this ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we should look to God and not lose hope in him. We need to be using this as an opportunity and discover the godly way of facing trials and tribulations in our own individual lives and as a community.

We should suffer with joy just like Paul and Silas in the prison and be patient, knowing that after all this pain it will be better and those who kept strong and hold of their faith in Christ will be rewarded more than they'll ever know by the Father.

The Old Testament recounts the story of Job who lost everything but his faith was never lost. My prayer is that people will not lose their faith to anger, upset, sickness, loss of hope, impatience, and disappointment. My prayer is that people will not curse God to his face and use this as a chance to blame him for all the deaths of the innocent and the not-so-innocent. But instead give people the wisdom to look to the cross and seek inspiration, encouragement, and peace.

In John 14:27, Jesus talks about a special peace that He gives to us as a gift. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do, I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

This peace that God gives us is free to take but it's also free to lose.

It's like a comforter; a restorer of any guilt or pain or trouble or heartbreak that we may feel in our hearts. It's that peace that kept so many righteous and great men and women of God in the Bible to continue the work because they knew they had a purpose on earth - to fulfil God's gracious promise - a promise that was made to humanity in the very beginning at the fall of man. Never forget that God will willingly try to come through to even the most evil of all people to show His very best. If Jesus could change and turn around the entire life of a persecutor of his own name (Saul), who's stopping him now?

Miracles can happen. Sometimes the best way to get through to people is indirect communication. Videos, stories, movies, books are all indirect.

That's why we should look positively through this virus and see it as moment to share God's message of love and peace through ways we may not have imagined we'd ever do.

But do not abandon what truly matters, which is glorifying God's name to the ends of the earth. We don't do this for the glory to come to us.

No! It all belongs to Him: the one who loved us so much that he gave His only Son; the one who remembers each and every one of us even though we wake up every morning and somehow deliberately fall into the trap of sin's tempting grasp; Satan, the one who so desperately wants you to consign your life to him and be his child.

So, go for it! Don't let anyone stop you from fulfilling God's plan and purpose for your life and others surrounding you. By doing this, just as for Job, your works will not go unseen by others and God.

**And remember you are not alone.**

Aboyowa

(Baptist Times, 22/06/2020)

## Online Prayer

- Northern Baptist Association  
Service 5th July <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXII8MczHys>
- Bishop Auckland Baptist Church  
Service 5th July <https://youtu.be/U4Y6IPDhm4k>
- 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.

We are now investigating the possibility of additional donations from other branches of the scheme to assist in keeping the food banks resourced so they can continue to help those need.

## Church Garden

Given how alive the garden looks it is clear the good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church have donated a considerable amount of their time and effort and resources to bring about such a stunning change. More contacts continue to be made as ever more passers-by stop to look and chat. So once again a great big "THANK YOU" to every one of you!

The latest updates and pictures can be found on the [Garden Blog](#) on our website.

## Thoughts

### A man, a waterfall and wheelbarrow (and a Picture of Faith)

Though not the first person to cross the Niagara Falls on a tight rope, Blondin is probably the most remembered.

Can you imagine a tightrope stretched over a quarter of a mile and spanning the breadth of Niagara Falls? The thundering sound of the pounding water drowning out all other sounds as you watch a man step onto the rope and walk across!

This stunning feat made Charles Blondin famous on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1859

He walked 160 feet above the falls several times back and forth between Canada and the United States as huge crowds on both sides looked on with shock and awe. Once he crossed in a sack, once on stilts, another time on a bicycle and once he even carried a stove and cooked an omelette!

On 15<sup>th</sup> July Blondin walked backward across the tightrope to Canada and returned pushing a wheelbarrow.

The account is that it was after pushing the wheelbarrow across while blindfolded that Blondin asked for some audience participation.

The crowds had watched and "Oooooohed" and "Aaaaahed!"

He had proven that he could do it; of that, there was no doubt.

But now he was asking for a volunteer to get into the wheelbarrow and take a ride across the Falls with him!

It is said that he asked his audience, "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" "Of course," the crowd shouted that yes, they believed!

It was then that Blondin posed the question - "Who will volunteer then to get in the wheelbarrow and let me push them across?"

Of course, none did. The crowd had watched his daring feats. They said they believed, but their actions proved they truly didn't.

The crowd had a knowledge of Blondin and believed that he could do it but not enough faith to get in the barrow.

Real faith needs the knowledge, the agreement, and the trust.

Following Jesus Christ also requires those three elements.

It's not enough to just know about Jesus. It's not enough to just agree that He is the Saviour.

To have real faith in Jesus we need to trust, or depend, on Him to do what He said He would do.

The story of Charles Blondin paints a real-life picture of what faith actually is.

The crowd had watched his daring feats.

They said they believed, but their actions proved they truly didn't. They wouldn't get in the barrow.

It's one thing for us to say we believe in God. But to what extent will we do what He asks?

It's true faith though when we believe God and put our faith and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Don't worry, Jesus has carried many across to Heaven's gates - He can be trusted!**

*"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he will die, yet shall he live:" (John 11 v 25)*

[www.creativebiblestudy.com](http://www.creativebiblestudy.com)

### ***Psalm 23 v4 -5***

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

