

# REVIVE!

**He who began a good work in you will  
carry it on to completion  
until the day of Christ Jesus.**

**Philippians 1:6**

**W**hat is the most healing thing you can do today? Is it to speak good news to someone or even yourself? When I speak to folk about the truth that God is sovereignly in control and the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for the salvation of the world is proof, I know and can see that it encourages them. Our trust in God's love for us, whatever is going on, proclaims the promise that He is at work. Read on for some more good news!

**You are alive!** Isn't that brilliant? Are you staggered when you start thinking about the hundreds of things your body is doing, that not only keeps you alive, but aids your healing? Your body produces about 45 billion cells in half an hour and many of them over the next few days will reline your stomach. Without this extraordinary function being continuously repeated, you'd expire! Your body is being renewed all the time.

**You are priority!** You are on God's 'to do' list today, and every day. Sometimes we

watch a sunrise and get excited about its beauty. I believe the Lord watches us day by day as we rise from our sleep, and His heart is filled with love and good thoughts towards us. Yes, His good thoughts about you outnumber the grains of sand on the seashore. You are part of God's mission and the work He has begun in you He will complete.

**You are effective!** Your role in God's kingdom initiative, to bring heaven to earth as it is in heaven, will be effective today, as it is each day. How, you ask? Like the miracle of your body at work and the incredible truth that you are loved so much by God that He sent Jesus to save you and make you whole; so the part you will play today in fulfilling the purposes of God will be achieved - **GOD WILL DO IT!**

May your faith, hope and love be stirred as you read this month's REVIVE Newsletter. Have a wonderful day!

With love from us all at CCHC, *Steve*

**Faith hears  
the inaudible,  
sees the invisible,  
believes the incredible  
and receives the  
impossible!**

I suspect that if I asked ten different followers of Jesus, what they think of when they hear the word 'faith', they would all answer differently. Maybe take a moment to consider your own answer before reading on. Here are some points for further reflection.

1. Faith can be both:
  - ♦ the act of believing – to trust – turning oneself over to the one who you believe (Galatians 2:20);
  - ♦ the contents of what is believed – acceptance – of what is to be believed (Romans 10:9).

Joined together, we trust Jesus because we accept that Jesus is Saviour and Lord
2. Faith is one of the three theological virtues including hope and love, which come from God and lead us to God. Faith in Christian doctrine and belief (where both the will and heart are involved) lead to the hope and love (1 Corinthians 13).
3. Faith is trust in God, and in God alone.
  - ♦ It is not about people doing good works for God but about God's good work of grace towards people. (Ephesians 2:4-10)
  - ♦ It does not exclude work but rather work completes faith, as part of its evidence. (James 2:14-26)

Imagine, after prayer, you excitedly feel directed to erect a boundary around your house - maybe a wooden fence, brick wall, or an English Yew hedge. Surprisingly, internal family rumblings disrupt your progress, and alarmingly your neighbours, who have political and social clout, start to violently oppose you and your boundary. Tired, confused, afraid, and outnumbered, **what do you do?** Seek a compromise; legal counsel; the Church; persevere with your conviction?

We are amazed at the Biblical story of Nehemiah building the wall around Jerusalem. He demonstrated that with prayer, integrity and God's help, God's servants can succeed. (Nehemiah 6:1-16 (note vs 9)). And without **his trust in God** and **accepting his mission from God** (faith in action), God's plans may have failed.

What is the work God has asked of you today, and in this time? How is it going? Remember, like Nehemiah, whether a little or big task, to be in continuous communication with the Lord; it's His work for His kingdom.



**Lord, strengthen my hands  
(Nehemiah 6:9)**

## They prayed for boldness

**A**n apprentice engineer, a new believer in Jesus, finds himself in hostile territory at the factory where he is training. His manager is an unbeliever and the company's targets are chased and daily adhered to. Production equals prosperity and any falling short is threatened with discipline. Within the work force are people struggling with addictions and financial insecurity. The apprentice wants to show compassion to these people, as Jesus would, leading to disruptions in his everyday work. The authorities notice and warn him, *'When you walk through our factory gates, leave your Jesus outside, and focus on your work!'* **What should the apprentice do?** Have you ever had a similar experience?

The mention of Joanna in the Gospels (Luke 8:3, Luke 24:10) may fan our flames of belief. We underestimate the risks she took daily, to follow, in faith, her new found Saviour and Lord. Death for her is overlooked because life in Jesus has begun. She's a new creation; her love for Jesus and His love for her, appears to be Joanna's only motivation.

The early disciples prayed for boldness when they were told not to mention the name of Jesus any more (Acts 4:8-31).

Too frequently these days we see men, women and children on our screens in life threatening circumstances. I'm challenged by their willingness to die for their pursuit of freedom.

I'm even more challenged because of the countless Christians whose faith leads them to stand firm in Christ, whatever the cost, even unto death. How much and how far, will my faith require of me today? Pray continuously!

**God doesn't  
always call the equipped,  
but He will always equip  
the called!**

## Hope is essential



**W**here did the people of the Old Testament place their hope? Suzanne shares two stories in the OT which give different pictures of hope. Genesis 8: 6-12 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 dove returns with a leaf and Noah waits another week before sending the dove out a third time, but this waiting is patient and expectant, filled with hope, because he knows when he sends the dove again it will find a place to land. The leaf gave him hope that treetops were appearing. We all know the difference between waiting in an anguished state, exhausted and fretting, because the outcome is uncertain, and the waiting for something that will certainly happen.

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)).



# The best is love

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

- ◆ *Love never gives up.*
- ◆ *Love cares more for others than for self.*
- ◆ *Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.*
- ◆ *Love 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.*

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be cancelled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love (1 Corinthians 13 The Message).



## Prayers of Intercession

Give thanks for the busy season we are in – many people have been experiencing the Lord's loving presence here in so many different ways.

Our programme is now available; please pray that it reaches all those the Lord wants to bring here and that the welcome they receive by Him will be enveloped with His love and healing.

Please note that we have not raised fees for next year and in some cases, we've actually reduced them. We believe the Lord wants CCHC to be accessible to all. Faith is spelt '**RISK!**' Pray for the Lord's generous provision.

Please pray for the peace and prosperity of the Lord for CCHC and that all our resources may be used by Him for his ongoing purpose of bring His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Contact details: 01424 830204



Email: [enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk)

Website: [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.