

# REVIVE!

**By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.  
Genesis 2:2**

**T**he best is yet to come!  
Veronica and I, have been refreshed, revitalised and inspired whilst on sabbatical, spending time in Israel, Zimbabwe, Zambia and at home, enjoying God's leading, generosity, healing and presence along the way! People and places have played significant parts too and not least of all your prayers – thank you so much.

We had the opportunity to **do nothing** and we took it with both hands. It's a basic Sabbath principle – **God rested and commands His people to follow His example**. In rest you can find God, yourself and your purpose, as we have. I hasten to say learning to rest, be still and do nothing needs learning and discipline – for me anyway.

In this REVIVE! Newsletter I'd like to explore some of our experiences and draw lessons from them, which I hope and pray will help us to follow Jesus. Following Jesus is priority for us.

We heard again and again, from people of faith and those with none, about the mess the world is in. Words like, 'chaos', 'lost', 'on the brink of disaster' or 'about to implode', were used to describe it. As I reflect, I ask, 'Is it because the world is out of sync with the God who made it?' The world seems Lordless! However, for those of us who believe in Jesus as Saviour, we know the victorious Christ is Lord. He knows all and is Sovereign over all. *'But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'* (1 Corinthians 15:57).

The world is in crisis, make no mistake, leading to isolation and division, uncertainty and doubt, fear and dis-ease and without God's intervention we would be on a collision course with total catastrophe.

Be strong and very courageous and be blessed by these words of St Paul following the passage above; *'Stand firm, in Christ. Let nothing move you'* (vs 58).

With our love, *Steve and Veronica*

## Do Nothing!



**D**o you get over busy sometimes? Having work and purpose in life are God given gifts but sometimes they can overwhelm us. Be it performance driven, expectations or juggling too much, and these can lead to mental, physical, emotional and spiritual exhaustion. God knew this would happen so He invites us to rest (Matthew 11:28-30) and commands it (Exodus 20:8-11)!

After planning our sabbatical itinerary, I started to fill the days with things to do. Some very wise and kind people heard and said, **'Do nothing!'** That's hard for me. (What about you?) Thank God, I took the advice and scrapped the daily planning.

It took me weeks to discover the freedom of waking with nothing planned for the day so that the day could unfold before us.

It took months for me to realise that God was using those days to refresh me, leading to renewed creativity, self-discovery and fruitfulness.

It takes faith to trust God enough to know that when we do nothing in rest (sabbath), God will do something in us (healing)!

The Lord is at work in us and will:

- ◆ complete His work (Philippians 1:6);
- ◆ perfect us (Ephesians 5:27);
- ◆ change us from glory to glory.  
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

Give God space to work in you and just believe. **Do nothing**, sometimes!

## Finding Peace in Conflict

**V**eronica and I were in East Jerusalem (at Ecce Homo Pilgrim House) on the day of the funeral of the journalist who was shot by either Israel or Palestine – the blame game continues.

Taking our cue from the local people, we decided to stay indoors. We found a lovely garden at the Pilgrim House, which, despite the incessant chatter of the sparrows, was like an oasis, peaceful and safe. But even as we enjoyed the Lord's presence, another sound reminded us of the tensions outside – three military helicopters circling continuously overhead as they monitored the funeral.

Psalm 46 and Mark 4:35-41 are two Biblical examples of stillness and calm being found in places of trouble and storm. Both passages call for faith, courageous faith actually, in Him.



I wonder if the conflicts in Israel and elsewhere come more from a focus on the history of God and His people, and less on the God of history and His people? When we try and fix the present through the lens of the history of the past, the result is unlikely to be clear. But if we look at the past and present through the eyes of God, with Jesus at our side, don't we stand more chance of healing, forgiveness and reconciliation?

Peace in the midst of conflict is possible with Christ and His perspective.

## Survival Makes a Stand!



**Z**imbabwe is broken by corruption and greed but life goes on. We met a number of inspiring people who rather than settle for the status quo, are fighting back! They're finding ways to make things work and hopefully improve their lot, and that of the people around. Between 80-90% of Zimbabweans are engaged in informal economic activities. It's extraordinary! I was deeply stirred – wanting to be involved!

So much of the New Testament is about people who were in a daily battle against tremendous odds. The persecution they faced could have broken them but it didn't – they stood up like the Zimbabweans and were prepared to die for what they believed. It was their stand, their love for each other, and the power of God at work in and through them that shone light into the darkness. They would not be silenced; they could not be stopped!

There are over two billion followers of Jesus on planet earth and with Jesus beside us who can stand against us (Romans 8:31-39)! The prayer of St Peter and St John, and the other believers when the persecution of Christians started, is challenging. Will you pray it for yourself, your church, the Body of Christ (Acts 4:23-31)? They prayed for boldness to speak God's word and to see healing and signs and wonders at the hand of Jesus.

## Progress - God's Gift!

**O**n arrival at the international airport in Zambia, Veronica and I were amazed. The transformation from what we had experienced five years ago was stunning. Zambia has progressed exponentially

This is a good news story from Africa. The infrastructure has improved, the economy is booming – it has the sixth strongest currency in Africa – and development was all around. In fact, so great is the development that we saw what we called 'ghost shops and settlements'. Newly constructed supermarket malls and housing developments were visible, but empty and derelict. Clearly some people have a lot of money, yet Zambia is still one of the poorest countries in the world – 60% of her people live in poverty.

Two things come to mind.

1. God warned the people of Israel going into the promised land; *when all is going well for you, be careful not to forget the Lord your God, who saved you* (Deuteronomy 8);
2. John the Baptist, Jesus and the early Church (Acts 2:42-47) taught and led the way on generous sharing.

Thank God for all the Christian Church does in this country and beyond for people in need! And ask, is there more I could share Lord? What we have, is gifted us from God – what we do with it, He watches very closely!





# CCHC News

## Thanks Giving Day

3rd  
September

**Restore us, O God, and cause Your  
face to shine upon us, that we  
may be saved (Psalm 80:3)**

## “Restore us, O God!”

You are warmly invited to our Thanksgiving Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, an annual event when we set aside a day to thank God for His constant presence here and His abundant goodness to us.

Whether you decide to join us for the whole day or come and go as you wish, we pray that you would experience the tangible presence of God during your time with us.

10am: Tea & Coffee

11am: Thanksgiving Service

**Live on YouTube**

Afternoon is free to enjoy the presence of God

3pm: Tea and cake

There is no charge and no need to book but if you would like to let us know you are coming or require some more information, please contact us on 01424 830204 or enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk.

## Prayers for CCHC

Give thanks for God's faithful provision to date, at CCHC, and while Veronica and I were on sabbatical.

Please pray:

- ◆ that we walk in the expectation of the on-going outpouring of the Holy Spirit;
- ◆ for obedience to Christ in all matters, i.e. next year's programme and daily ministry;
- ◆ for Jesus to heal and perform signs and wonders here at CCHC, and when we go out to other places;
- ◆ that God will open His storehouse of provision for all our needs.

**I**t's hard to believe that our first issue of **Revive!** was issued in April 2020! We know what a blessing it has been to folk because we have received, and continue to receive, some wonderful feedback.

We are fortunate to be able to print the newsletter in house but the cost of printing (paper and print cartridges) and postage has risen astronomically over the last couple of years. So whilst there is no charge for it, we would appreciate an annual donation to cover costs; thank you to those who already do this. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, this adds another 25p for every £1 you give.

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