

## Pippa, par excellence!



**T**hank you all for your ongoing prayers during this time of grief. Your cards and messages have been so uplifting too.

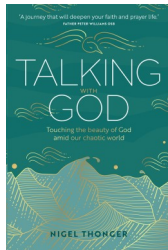
One guest wrote this lovely tribute:

*'I didn't 'know' Pippa but she has touched my life hugely in the last year through her music and her prayers. I thank God for Pippa. And I thank Pippa for a glimpse of God'*

Pippa's funeral was the first we can think of at CCHC and it was brilliant! What a lovely testimony of nearly three decades of heart giving, self-sacrificing, loving service to the Lord here at CCHC. Thank you All.

## Talking with God

**T**he CCHC Bookshop contains a good selection of books to deepen your relationship with God this Lent and Easter - and if you can't get here we can post them to you!



One book we are very excited to stock is Talking With God, by CCHC Trustee, Nigel Thonger. Nigel comments, 'I wrote the book for believers who desire a deeper relationship with God, and for those tired and wounded by life, who are seeking refreshment and a higher purpose.' Talking with God contains Scripture-based tutorials on listening to God and imagining our conversation with Him. It's a great resource to use on your journey towards Easter. £10.99 plus postage (£3.95/£2.85). All royalties will be paid to CCHC.

## Prayers of intercession

- Thank you for joining in the 12 days of prayer and fasting. The Lord has heard our prayer—thank you Lord.
- Please give thanks to the many donors who have shared so generously in the past 6 weeks. We are out of the immediate critical season. Our monthly target continues to be, 20-25k in residential fees and the same amount in donations each month. I hasten to say, this is not to make a profit but to break even, projects are over and above that.
- Give thanks for the Kingdom of God signs among us i.e. healing, good news, righteousness, peace, joy, God's presence, comfort and particularly the ability to stand firm during this time of difficulty.
- Please pray to the Lord of harvest to send labourers into the CCHC harvest field and that we will be discerning to know who the Lord is calling here.
- This month we have launched our Centenary Countdown; in 4 years and 10 months, just over 250 weeks CCHC will be in our HUNDREDTH YEAR! Please pray for the ongoing journey. Thank you, so much!
- Thank God for the Benefact Trust Grant we were awarded last year. This will go towards creating an accessible opening from the dining room onto the patio.

# REVIVE!



**When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions.**

**Matthew 5:1-2 (Msg)**

**W**hat do you think God is saying to His people of faith in these days? These days are certainly difficult and tumultuous. Our own country is in turmoil with strikes and many struggling economically. The world is undergoing upheaval with 'wars and rumours of wars.' It is often difficult to discern from our media where truth lies in many situations. There is much fog and darkness. So what is God saying to us?




As we began this year at our New Year Retreat, we felt He was challenging us not to despair or feel overwhelmed or even bury our heads in the sand, but rather to 'Come Up Higher!' What does that mean? Many times in the Bible God met with people in significant ways on mountains. Can you think of any? Maybe Jesus' Sermon on the Mount or Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush on Mount Sinai come to mind. Mountains are places where we can get a fresh perspective, we can see better where we have come from and where we are going. And if we meet with God, we catch a clearer glimpse of who He is and who we

are, above the clamour and anxieties of our daily lives.

Some of us have had amazing experiences climbing physical mountains, others of us would never want to or are unable to at the moment. God, however, is calling all of us to 'Come Up Higher,' to leave the fog that so easily envelopes, to take steps (spiritually speaking) to meet Him in fresh ways, to catch a fresh glimpse of His glory, to hear what He would say to us at this crossroads in the life of our world.

As we journey through this wilderness season, let us climb higher, to meet the Lord who awaits us with open arms. In this Revive! Steve and I look at some of the Biblical God-encounters on Mountains, where seeking people received a fresh revelation of God, and who were transformed, emboldened and equipped for God's call on their lives in the tumultuous times in which they lived. Are you in need of some fresh, crisp and rarefied air? Shall we get our walking boots on?

*With much love, David*

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## How is God calling you?

God meeting Moses on the Mountain of Horeb is such an intriguing encounter, famously through the burning bush (Exodus 3 and 4). Horeb means ‘desolation’ or ‘desert,’ and Moses must certainly have come to the end of his human resources. Brought up in Pharaoh’s court, he had discerned God’s call to help liberate his people from slavery, but he had gone about it the wrong way, even to the point of killing a man. He had tried in his own strength, but found himself fleeing into the desert, now doing the dirty menial task of looking after sheep, unable to string words together.

But God saw the misery, suffering and cries of His people (3v7-10), and was calling Moses to be part of His saving plans. He revealed Himself as the great I AM. This is the same I AM of the Old Testament who provides (Genesis 22v13,14), who heals (Exodus 15v26), whose banner of protective power is over us (Exodus 15v15), who gives peace (Judges 6v24), who is our shepherd (Psalm 23v1), who mercifully makes us right with Him (Jeremiah 23v6) and who is present with us (Ezekiel 48v35). Can you think of any of the I AM sayings of Jesus that also revealed who God is?



Do you find yourself in a desolate place, or even a desert in these days? Let God come to you, maybe in surprising ways as He did with Moses. Does God want to reveal Himself in one of these I AM truths? What is He calling YOU to at this time?

## Lift up your eyes

It is so easy these days to be overwhelmed by what is happening in our world, and the Church, as well as the difficult situations many of our loved ones find themselves in.

When three disciples saw Jesus transfigured on a mountain (Matthew 17), His face shining like the sun and clothes as white as light (just imagine that for a moment!), a deep spiritual reality was being unveiled. The glory of God was pouring out of Him, revealing His transcendent power, authority and majesty.

Many scholars believe this happened on Mount Hermon near Caesarea Philippi, an area known for its idolatrous temples, where a famous cave was thought in the pagan world to be the gateway to Hades. It was here, at this ‘rock’ that Jesus had just proclaimed His ultimate authority, ‘I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’ He then promised to give His followers the keys of the kingdom of heaven with the power to loose and bind (Matthew 16v18,19).

After the transfiguration, Jesus showed His power by healing a boy others couldn’t (Matthew 17v14-21) and then sending out 70 disciples to preach with great power the Kingdom of God (Luke 10v1-24).

Absolutely nothing could stop His purposes and Kingdom advancing! It is the same TODAY!

Ask God to lift up your eyes, to give you a fresh glimpse of His incredible glory and power, shining through His unique Son, Jesus. Is there an area of prayer and intercession where He is calling you, not to be overwhelmed, but rather to exercise ‘the keys of the kingdom’ He is giving you? Invite Him to lead and teach you.



## The Galilee Mount sermon

The sermon bursts open with blessing after blessing in what are clearly very difficult circumstances; poverty, grief, and persecution – calling the readers to come higher; to meekness, righteousness, mercy and purity. What follows continues a revelation of righteousness – what life looks like for a follower of Jesus, living a Kingdom of God lifestyle. (Matthew 5.1-12, through to 7.29).



We know the challenge that is! The world, our own flesh and the devil, subtly or quite deliberately, do all they can to have us turn back to our old ways, habits, and ways of

thinking. During this season we do well to follow the example of Jesus with the Word of God, and challenge the lies!

You are already righteous because of what the Lord has done for you! (Romans 5.1) We need to declare this truth in the face of the naysayers and state; ‘It is a lie that I am not righteous’! And yes, in the peace of the knowledge that we have divine approval from Father God, we strive all the more to reveal righteousness in our daily lives, because it is proof to a lost world that we are the people of God. (2 Peter 1.10) And not least of all because it is a deeply satisfying way to glorify Christ.

Take time in this season, to stand against the lies, disempowering them with the truth of Scripture and with the help of the dear Holy Spirit of God, as Jesus did, for 40 days in the wilderness. (Matthew 4.1-11)

## Mount Carmel’s call



Mount Carmel is used in the Old Testament as a symbol of strength, beauty and fertility. It has been a place of God encounter for millennia. The Carmelite Order take their name from it!

A Carmelite vow; Let each (*person*) stay in or near their own cell (*room*), meditating day and night on the law of the Lord, and vigilant in prayer, unless otherwise employed by the Holy Spirit.

I read recently of the Carmelite Saint Teresa of Avila’s call to prayer and her plea, ‘I beg you to test it’.

The method is simple; we know that God is everywhere, but he dwells in the human heart in a special manner. Close your eyes, and then look at Him, present there within you. This look is already a prayer. This simple look gives glory to God. Look at him; keep company with Him.

Steve Clark has recently challenged us by asking what Jesus did when he went off to find a quiet place to pray. Did he go with a shopping list? Did he meet Father God with a to-do list? What do you think? Or did they take time to sit and just be together; to gaze at and love each other and the Holy Spirit too.

My own Spiritual Director introduced me to this way of prayer a few months ago: simply sit and gaze at Him for a short while every day and know He gazes lovingly at you. I beg you to test it, in these days. May you be surprised at how much you gain strength for the journey, learning things He knows you need. ENJOY Him.