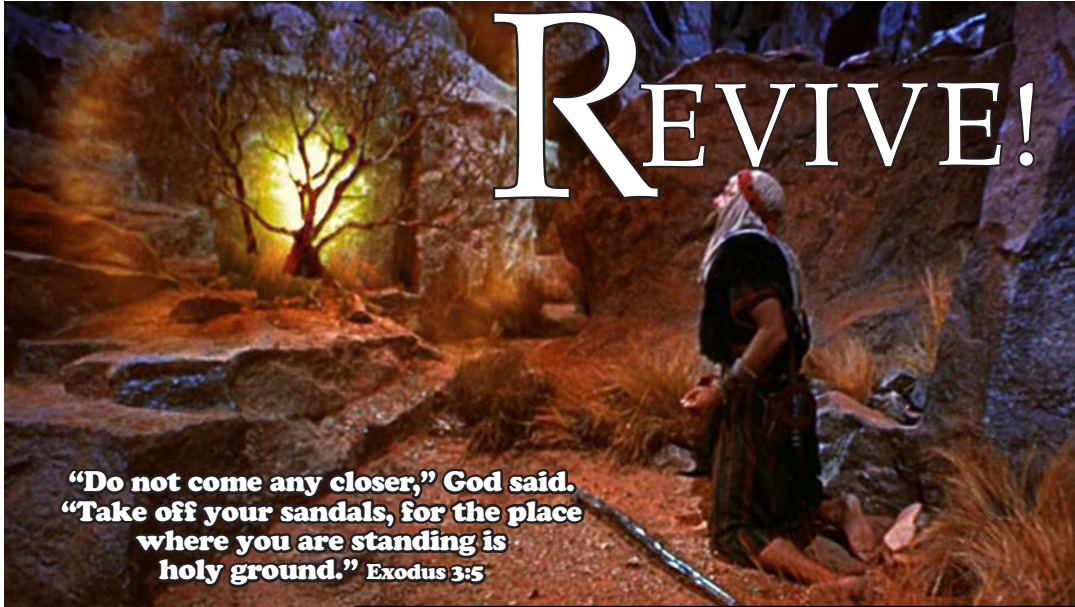


# REVIVE!



**"Do not come any closer," God said.  
"Take off your sandals, for the place  
where you are standing is  
holy ground." Exodus 3:5**

**D**o you know any holy people? What are they like?

The subject of holiness is found from the first to the last chapter of the Bible with between 600 and 700 references throughout. It is a significant part of the identity of followers of Jesus who worship Him described as **'Holy, holy, holy'**. The triple emphasis speaks for itself. Bishop Richard Jackson once said we should try holiness as a form of evangelism because it would be so effective. What do you think?

I fear there is a lot of confusion about holiness. What actually is it? Sometimes it is a hardship because we wear it as a yoke rather than Jesus, and sometimes it causes dis-ease when we suffer guilt for falling short of it. Not surprisingly, Satan – the deceiver and liar – is the cause of much of the confusion about this part of God's truth. Jesus affirms our identity; *'you are salt and light'*; Satan questions it. The Lord provides all we need; Satan asks is it enough?

We do well to let God work His will in us; resist the enemy and he will flee (James 4:7)

The life-giving truth for us as believers is God's work going on inside of us. We may have all tried to be holy, and for a while produce the appearance of holiness, but not the fruit of it. Fruit on a tree grows from the life within the tree. The fruit of the Spirit – the unforced light shining out of us in doing good and right that results in Father's glory – comes from the life of the Spirit within us.

Be encouraged in this REVIVE! Newsletter. You are holy and with the help and grace of God, are being made holy! *'Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it'.* (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) (NLT)

With love from us all at CCHC, *Steve*

## God's desire to be with His people

I've chosen five pictures to talk about our Holy God who cares for and wants to be with us. Which would you choose?

Note the contrast between the flaming sword in Genesis 3, signalling 'Go!', and the flaming bush in Exodus 3 calling 'Come!' Not surprisingly, my first picture is Moses, on holy ground, bush aflame, called by God, who says, 'I have come down to rescue my people'.

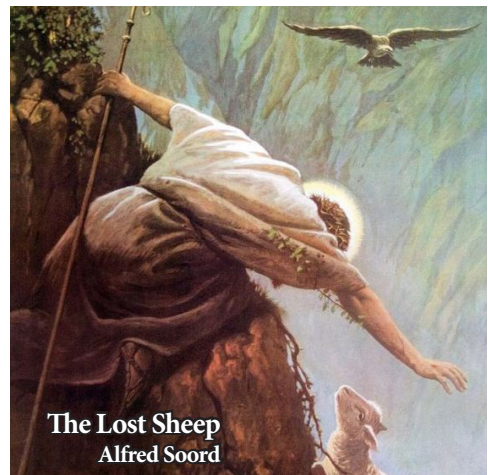
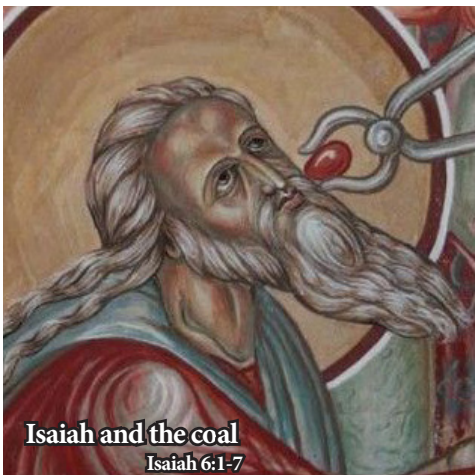
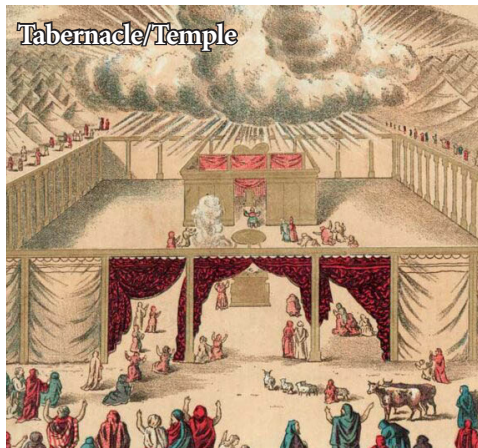
My second sees God order a Tabernacle to be built (aka Tent of Meeting and later the Temple), so that Israel could enjoy His Holy presence, even though from a distance and with many regulations! (Note Exodus 33:20)

My third picture thrills me; Isaiah sees God, described as **Holy, Holy, Holy**, who has

radically shifted His position from distanced and regulated to close and liberating: '*Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for*' (Isaiah 6:1-7.)

My fourth picture reveals an almost explosive image of God bursting from the Temple, wanting to flow through the land and nations, like a river, giving life and health to all! The invitation is still made today, '*Come in deeper.*' (Ezekiel 47:1-12.)

My fifth is the resurrected Jesus and the Lost Sheep. Our Holy God personally comes down to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves – be reconciled to a Holy God. The invitation is '*Follow me!*' The God who makes us holy will transform us on the way. Enjoy the journey!



## Holy, Holy, Holy

**W**hat would you say is the most central truth of God? I'd probably say that God is love. Interesting though, if we ask the angels that surround the throne of God. *"Day and night they never stop saying, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'"* (Revelation 4.) It's a stimulating question and worthy of some reflection.

To say God is holy goes some way to describe the indescribable, the incomparable. God is unique; this is the substance, the essence, the character and the transcendence of God's nature. Holy is not one of His many attributes – it is the key to His very being, 'an attribute of attributes.' Holiness means otherness – set apartness. Does the holiness of God affect the way you relate to Him? And what about how you relate to each member of the Trinity?

Holiness, describes each Person in the Triune Godhead; the Father (John 17:11); the Son (Acts 4:30) and especially the Spirit as the one who manifests and communicates the holiness of God to us.

## The Good News of Leviticus

**L**eviticus was given to the people of Israel after God liberated them from Egypt and before they reached the Promised Land. Its purpose was three-fold. It tells that God is holy; it teaches how to worship a holy God and how to live with a holy God, so that Israel reveals Him to the nations by being holy (compare 1 Peter 2:9). God knew that without this instruction, Israel would be too easily influenced by the nations around them (compare Romans 12:1-2). Within Leviticus, God reveals more about Himself through His name **Yaweh M'kaddesh – 'I am the Lord who sanctifies you'** (Leviticus 20:7-8). This is a-m-a-z-i-n-g. God makes his people holy!

The good news of Leviticus is that it did not work! God kept his side of the covenant but Israel failed. They continued to try and live with God on their own terms, not on His. (This is such a warning to us followers of Jesus – we are to follow Jesus on His terms, not on ours.)

Enter the Promise of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34. It tells of God's transforming work taking place within God's people's hearts and minds. This is the work of God the Holy Spirit. Oswald Chambers helpfully says; *'Sanctification is an impartation, not an imitation.'* The only way for people to get the imitation right (being like Jesus and living holy lives) is to firstly receive an impartation of God's power within – it's the only way!

## Be yourself – In Christ

**A**ll God's promises are "Yes" and "Amen" in Christ– 2 Cor 1:20, including the promise of Holiness. In Christ I am born again; I am *"a new creation"* spiritually, but still myself in the flesh. Just as in my physical life all the attributes that were placed in me at conception have grown and developed through infancy into maturity, so as a new spiritual being I am growing in the attributes placed in me by God when I was born again.

One of these is Holiness. God has made me holy – the seed, the attribute of holiness, was placed in me by Him. But its growth and development, my maturing in holiness, is an ongoing process directed by Him, but in which I play a part. I can contribute by co-operating with the Helper – the Holy Spirit, or I can be a stumbling block by resisting or rebelling against Him. The process of becoming "holier", or maturing in holiness, is no different to the rest of our growth in Christ – it is partly a natural spiritual process and partly a discipline. Christ has told us how we are to live. As we put these things into practice, we will grow in His likeness – and we can say, with Paul: *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me."* Philippians 3:12 (NIV.) (Article written by Veronica.)



## CCHC News

**W**e were very blessed by the ministry of Rolene who recently came on placement from St Mellitus College, where she is in her second year of training for Ordination. Rolene lives in Rugby and is married with two grown-up children.



In her spare time she enjoys walking in the countryside and going on tandem bike rides with her husband. Please pray that God would abundantly bless Rolene with every spiritual blessing as she prepares for her third and final year of study, and for wisdom as she plans for her curacy in a year's time.

### CCHC Prayer for Healing

**A**ba, Father, we come to you, acknowledging our brokenness and woundedness, and our need of you. We come to you as your beloved ones, welcomed into your embrace.

- ◆ *Jehovah Rophe*, we need your healing, body, mind and spirit;
- ◆ *Jehovah Mkaddesh*, we need your cleansing and restoring;
- ◆ *Jehovah shalom*, we need your peace;
- ◆ *El Olam*, from Everlasting to Everlasting, we need your unchanging constant, reliable presence in our lives;
- ◆ *El Elyon*, God most High, we need your Sovereignty.

We come in worship and humility knowing that you, Lord most High desire intimacy with us above all else. Draw us in. Amen.

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## Prayer requests for CCHC

### Give thanks

- ▶ for the increased residential bookings, increasing ministry opportunities and income;
- ▶ for God's sovereign hand over all we are and do;
- ▶ for our recent AGM and Trustee meetings – all in order – God is good!

### Please pray for:

- ▶ on-going vision as the Lord gently and slowly takes us forward, transforming us to be more like Him;

### Project work:

- ▶ **The flats**  
We have begun this work in-house.
- ▶ **The patio**  
We have engaged contractors.
- ▶ On-going maintenance needs and resources.
- ▶ the Lord to bring those He wants here and that we are ready and available to be used by Him as He leads, that people may be healed, refreshed, blessed and guided by God, whilst here.

**I had a beautiful encounter with the Lord. I saw, understood and received His awesome love. I will forever cherish this moment.**

**Guest feedback**



### PERSONAL DETAILS

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