

My Bible-My Story



'What a couple of years it's been. The passage that really has spoken to me during this time is Colossians 1.15–23. We had bought a house and moved a couple of weeks before the first lockdown. We ripped it apart to renovate it. We had a house that was uninhabitable, my wife was 5–6 months pregnant and no-one could help us. 'My mum was taken into hospital with what looked like a stroke, but it was a seizure from her diabetes. She was 73. Three weeks into her time in hospital she got gangrene and had her leg amputated, and then she got Covid. She died on 3 March 2021 having been on her own for six weeks.

'I'm a church leader, so all of this was happening while navigating church leadership and a new baby. As a church leader you get decision fatigue

People ask you what are you doing and where are you going, and you don't know.

'Colossians 1 is about the supremacy of Christ and about how he holds everything together. When so many things were happening – in the grief, uncertainty and chaos – that reassurance that God holds everything together, that he is in control, that his heart is to reconcile people to himself, has been for me the biggest reassurance of all.

'It all felt totally overwhelming and it was. But this reminded me that I'm a piece in God's puzzle. I just need to do my part by participating in what he's doing in the world.'

Following the decision of the Members Meeting we are delighted to welcome Barry and Sandra Jackman into the membership of WBC today.

For those requiring the 'Giftings' document prepared by Jack relevant to last Sunday's topic at our 'All Age Service', a few copies are available on the table in the Hall.

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday July 3rd 2022



Worship led by

Rev Jack Walker

**Today we continue with our series on
*The Book of Romans through the lens of Romans 12***

No 4 'Pastoral Principles' Romans 12 : 9-16

We celebrate Communion today and welcome new members

What's on this week:-

Monday 10.30am Ladies Meet

Please note: Wed Mid week meeting now finished.

Sunday 10th No 5 in series on Romans 'Assured Faith' Rom 5 v 1-9

Future Dates:

Monday 11th Leadership Meeting 8pm

From July 17th A new series from Proverbs '**A dummies guide to life**' No 1 'A dummies guide to finance' Prov 30 v 8-9.

Sunday 24th **No 2 Proverbs**
'A dummies guide to priorities'

Don't forget June is looking for help in decorating and cleaning the Manse in time for the arrival of Robert and his family.

Aug 8th—12th are the dates set aside and any help will be valuable and appreciated. Talk to June.

**SINCERE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO
HELPED WITH THE WORK DAY
VENTURE YESTERDAY!**

Andover Foodbank

Longlife fruit juice. Biscuits.

Tins Rice Pudding. Pasta Sauce.

Tins Potatoes. Soup. Tinned fish.

Tinned fruit. Instant Mash. 2 in 1 shampoo.

Cleaning and laundry products

NOT FOR MY EYES

'You loser!' or some other unkind words spoken with withering contempt

And invisibly another fluttering small bird dies.

A small child walks away crying to the edge of the playground
In deepening confusion and bewilderment wondering why!
It is not knives we use.

We hold no scalpel in our hands.
Words are enough and equally effective to lacerate sometimes beyond repair, small lives.
Destroying God's potential for hopes and dreams.

There are those who lavish more care on their cabbages, their appearances or their car!
Why? I do not know.

Is it any wonder when some Christian soul tells them that a Heavenly Father loves them unconditionally, that they simply cannot comprehend it or understand no matter how each child tries.

Lord, break through the barriers and let them hear You say-
'I created you, so you cannot be a failure'
So you are not a failure in my eyes.

David Tait. June 6th 2011 and shared at last weeks service

News of persecuted Christians

Eight years ago in Nigeria, Boko Haram Islamists kidnapped 276 female students from Chibok School, a Christian school, where they were forced into the Sambista Forest to become part of this group as Islamists wives etc. Some escaped and others have not been heard of since, but two have been found by troops in Ngoshe after trekking all night telling their captives they were going to visit another girl. Both have young babies with them and they are being protected and cared for by the authorities.

In Vietnam a Christian family, converts from from a local animist religion have been forced from their home and village for refusing to convert back to their former religion. The family of 13 listened to evangelical radio broadcasts in 2019 but were told by the local authorities it was against the law to change religions! Vietnam protects individual choices but this local authority does not recognise it! They have had land and equipment confiscated and have now fled to other parts of the country and requesting help from central government over the issue. They are part of the Hmong ethnic group in which Christians suffer the worst persecution in Vietnam.

Prayer Pointers for this week

Give thanks that Roberts youngster has been accepted into the local school!. Pray also for the plans and preparations for Robert and his family moving to Whitchurch.

Pray for God's comfort and peace on Kerry, [friend of Kerryyn and Tracy], whose husband suffered an unexpected heart attack and now her Mum in South Africa has also sadly passed away following illness.

There may well be those you are aware of but not necessarily 'on a list' who would appreciate our support and prayer. Do take a little time, maybe during the day, to remember and lift up to our Heavenly Father these folk.

Continue to pray for God's persecuted Church around the world. There are numerous places where followers of Jesus suffer hardship, discrimination, even death at the hands of those who are convinced their meting out such 'punishments' is justified and all because they have chosen to follow Jesus as their Lord! Situations are often highlighted here to stimulate your imagination and maybe put a 'spark' into your prayer life? After all Jesus did warn us if they persecuted Him, they most certainly will persecute His followers.