

My Bible-My Story



'I really like the Psalms. They are fun to read. I like Psalm 86.15 which says, "But you, O LORD, are a merciful and loving God, always patient, always kind and faithful."

'I read it last year in the pandemic. My Bible has things at the back on useful subjects like bullying and mental health and that led me to read this passage.

'They are not exactly issues for me, but I see people who have gone through certain things. I have friends with mental health issues and others who have been bullied. 'It's amazing that the Bible was written thousands of years ago, but it is still so valid now. It feels like it was especially written for me, that's what it feels like.

'What I like about this verse is that it means that there is someone there

for me no matter what. My Mum is there as much as a human can be. But there are some times where you have to be somewhere else and there are other things that you have to do. God's always right there and willing to listen to me and gets me at the times when I don't want to talk about things. That's amazing. It's really helpful that someone really, really cares.

'I've learned to be able to talk to him. When I'm in school and my sister's not around, I can tell the Lord what is happening. It's like he's there, he's listening to me and he's helping. It comforts me. It's reassuring.'

Thought for the week



Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday July 31st 2022



An All Age service led by

Jack and Jill Walker

A series on the book of Proverbs

'A dummies guide to life!'

No 3 A dummies guide to discipline'

Proverbs 16: 32

Minister: Rev Jack Walker

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

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

What's on this week:-

Monday 10.30am Ladies Meet

Please note: All mid week meetings cancelled through August.

Sunday 7th August **No 4 Proverbs**

'A dummies guide to speech'

Don't forget June is still looking for any help in preparing the Manse for the arrival of Robert and his family. August 20th, 22nd and 23rd are dates help required. Talk to June for details.

Noteworthy Dates through August

No Mid week meetings.
8th Jack/Jill Bible Camp
14th Guest speaker Trevor Woodget
16th Gordon's second cataract op
20/22/23 Manse Decoration.
End of August Robert moving in.
Bank Holiday w/end --- Scarecrows!

Into September.....
Jack/Jill launch their final month with us.
18th Their Final Sunday service.

Into October..... Planning for Roberts integration into the fellowship here. The Induction etc and associated planning with that, plus planning with Robert and the Leadership our Autumn and Winter programme. Could do with some prayer

Nigeria - Christians killed in further attacks in Kaduna State.

Three worshippers were killed in separate attacks on two churches in Kajuru Local Government Area (LGA), Kaduna State, on Sunday 19 June.

Peter Madaki, Ali Zamani and Elisha Ezekiel died after gunmen on motor-cycles opened fire indiscriminately on the churches in Rubu village. Two other Christians were injured and around 30 abducted. The community's decision to start church services at 7am because of constant attacks did not deter the attackers who struck shortly after the services began.

Such attacks are sadly occurring regularly. Two weeks earlier, on Sunday 5 June, 32 people were killed when suspected Fulani militants armed with AK-47s raided four villages in Kajuru LGA.

Farsi (Persian)-speaking convert **Rahmat Rostamipour**, 49, was fined 6 million tomans (£155; \$185; €184), around one month's wages in Iran, for engaging in "propaganda" by "teaching the religion of Christianity". He was arrested by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence in April at his home in Bandar Anzali, Gilan province. The verdict announced on 21 May decreed that Rahmat will be fined a further 18 million tomans if he re-offends during the next two years. He is also "deprived of social rights" for five years, which will severely limit his employment opportunities.

Church in Egypt attacked by Muslims

A church in Egypt found itself under violent attack by Muslim extremists – precisely because the church had been granted a licence to worship freely. Prior to being licensed, the Christians in al-Halla village near the city of Luxor had worshipped without any harassment for nearly 20 years.

The Christians, however, said that official recognition of the church by the Egyptian government had enraged the Muslim community.



The government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been quick to defend the rights of Christians. Authorities have granted licences to 2,401 out of the 3,730 that applied for registration after a new Law for Building and Restoring Churches removed Ottoman-era restrictions on church buildings in 2016. The incident serves as a reminder that in some countries Christians are persecuted more by the non-Christian communities around them

than by the government.

Yet, more than that, it comes as a warning that the actions of Christians can have unintended consequences.

In this case, the church's successful application for a licence did not secure peace, safety or freedom.

Ultimately, our hope cannot be that we can avoid persecution through the law or through politics. Persecution in this world may well be unavoidable.

Instead, our hope must be in Christ who has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Prayer requests for this week.

Margaret is going to hospital this week for surgery on her foot. Ask for skill and knowledge for the surgeons and medical staff and for a successful outcome. Pray that 'the peace that passes understanding' will be Margaret's experience and she will be perfectly at ease knowing God is in control.

Continue to uphold Anne, a good friend of Carols. If you're looking for specific topics to pray about, have a look at the list on page 2 Noteworthy dates for August! Otherwise look around your neighbourhood and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and fire your imagination!