

Whyteleafe Free Church

Sunday 9 November 2008

As we come together to worship God today, may we be responsive to Him in every way and willingly offer what He gives us, in a Word from the Bible, in a testimony, in song, in a tongue, in a vision or in prophecy. Our pastor, Paul Riseley will preach for us again today and Pastor Derek Edmonds leads us in worship.

A letter from our own Julie Jones:

To my Friends and Family at Whyteleafe

The purpose of my writing to you is two-fold: a) to encourage you b) to request help.

As many of you know, I periodically move in with my daughter and her family for a few days, weeks or even months at a time depending on the state of her health. For the past year now I have had lengthy stays over in Reigate; consequently I have had the tremendous privilege of being able to take my six year old granddaughter Abby to Reigate Baptist Church, where she is growing in her understanding and love for the Lord Jesus. I do miss you all but I know in my heart that I am where the Lord wants me to be at the present time. Sometimes our understanding of why we are in a certain place is fairly limited, But God makes the real reason known to us at a time that He alone determines. As with Esther her position became clear to her when she had the chance to save the lives of her people. Mordecai's words to her were: "Who knows but that you came to royal position for such a time as this." Just recently the truth of those words pierced my heart. How important it is for us to accept where the Lord has placed us and yet be ever watchful and be ready to take a mighty step of faith when we are challenged to do so. I was greatly moved by May's encouraging word in the circular a few weeks back; but as we have seen, the enemy wants to put a stop to such a witness to God's goodness and made a desperate but futile attempt to quash May's powerful testimony. Our God is faithful and all our prayers for May were heard by our merciful Father. Eph. 6 vs 10-12 "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. "Let us not forget May's proclamation of God's loving desire to change lives.

My plea for help is in connection with our Thursday afternoon meeting of the Women's Fellowship. Now that I have slipped into Betty's shoes as leader, I would greatly appreciate help with transport for 5 or 6 of our ladies. I am thankful for the offers of help I have received so far, but would like a few in reserve to call upon as and when the need arises. You would also be more than welcome to stay for the hour and be encouraged and blessed, as we are, by our visiting speakers each week. In fact if you are free on a Thursday afternoon or know of anyone who is lonely or on their own, please invite them to come along and enjoy a time of fellowship with us.

God bless you all, love Julie

News to bring to God in prayer and praise

- Lucy reports from Kenya: 'Thugs broke in our house while we were at church. We were called by the neighbours, but we thank God in all and pray with us.' Whilst they were out at church, robbers came and trashed the house. Lucy thinks they were looking for money. She says God was there and they were confused because they could have taken the bus keys and loaded a bus with the computers, laptops and all electrical stuff. They actually took the small DVD for school given to them by an ex Rush member living in England now, the camcorder we bought them in England whilst they were here, mobile phones...luckily passports were also left thrown with the discarded stuff. Their bed was turned over and ripped and all the files with receipts etc scattered. After cutting through the metal grilling to get into the house it seems they went mostly to the bedroom only perhaps thinking this would be where the money was???? Famine is the time they had an attempted break in before and famine is on its way now. The police have a report and will interview a neighbour's child who was sent on errands by one of the robbers.

Please pray for: -

- Protection for Lucy, Andrew and family and for strength emotionally, physically and spiritually. Protection of all the equipment such as computers for school whilst we wait for electricians. (Lock ups in town for security cost about £250 a month so they are trusting God instead)
- Protection of the buses in the garden
- Lucy preached powerfully today and it was on training up the children in the right ways so that they don't become robbers. May they be helped, as there is so much clearing up to be done. They have had it very hard since they returned from England.
- Steve Au will be back in the UK on 29 November. May he be richly blessed and encouraged and shown the way ahead. And Ming and family fly in on 4 December. Meet their needs dear Lord!
- Pray for the Mottram family as they take up their new home in Warlingham. Praise God for many answered prayers for them.
- Remember Len. He is still waiting for a place in sheltered accommodation and has not been very well.
- Julie's family are having some more upheavals and need our prayerful support and God's mighty intervention.
- Uphold the Rowell family in your prayers and praise God for His blessings.
- Judy is in a time of uncertainty and waits to hear from God. Pray for her to be shown clearly the way He has for her.

This week's events

Sunday 9-16 November 2008

Sunday 9

10 30am	Remembrance Day Worship	Pastor Paul Riseley
11 00am	Sunday Clubs	Teens with Jenny Children with Hilary
	Preacher	Pastor Paul Riseley
7 00pm	Praise, Prayer and Prophecy	7pm in church hall

Monday 10

10 15am	Ladies' Cell	Meet in the church hall and feed on the Word of God together
8 00pm	Men's Cell	In the church hall, don't miss it!

Tuesday 11

6 30pm	Shared supper in the hall	Followed by our termly church meeting at 8 00pm
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We value your ideas and suggestions regarding things like the possibility of having a candlelit carol service, going out to sing the Good news to our community etc. We will be seeking God's mind on these issues at our termly church meeting so come and share your thoughts.

Wednesday

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Playmates	1 30 Lots of fun for Mums and their little ones
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Thursday 13

2 45pm	Women's Fellowship	Bring and Buy
8 00pm	Thursday Bible reading group	Meet in church hall.
8 00pm	Thursday cell	Meet at 216 Croydon Road Newcomers welcome.

Sunday 16

10 30 am	Communion Worship	Preacher: Paul Riseley
7 00pm	Praise, prayer and prophecy	In the church hall. We need you!

Now is the time... To Be Tolerant

"as much as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone".

Romans 12:18

In the early morning I sat at a table enjoying the changing colours of the lake as the sun rose behind me. A Currawong (similar to a Magpie) and a Magpie wandered over to investigate intrusion into their territory. One hopped up onto the bench beside me and the other ventured onto the table. We exchanged greetings (yes I talk to the birds!), and off they went to find their breakfast.

Later, from a different place, I watched a Currawong feeding near that same table till a Magpie came and chased him right away. Not to be intimidated too much, the Currawong flew a few paces away and resumed feeding, but the Magpie wasn't done; he once more rose and flapped and finally chased the Currawong far away. Then Mr Magpie landed on the table and stood in solitary splendour. Mission accomplished!

What struck me was that now he was alone. He'd gotten his own way - he had his space, but no companionship of other birds because of his selfish, bullying ways. How depressing!

Sometimes it's difficult to get along with others but we need to unless we want to be left lonely. Romans 8:6 says ".... *Letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*" Again it says, "*as much as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone*" Romans 12:18.

We choose to live in peace by what we allow to control our mind and emotions. Yes, there will always be those difficult neighbours, colleagues or classmates, sometimes even family members or fellow Christians; but we can choose not to allow them to disturb our peace. We do this by praying for them and praying for God's grace and strength for ourselves so that we can choose to walk in love toward them.

Remember, we are all different and we all have our strange or difficult ways that irritate others. If we want others to be tolerant towards us, then we had better show tolerance towards them. Different is not wrong, it's just different. God loves diversity, he made it. Let's grow in our love for others and enjoy our differences lest we be lonely in the end.

Heavenly Father, please grant me a tolerant and loving heart and help me to appreciate people even though they are different from me, which I sometimes find annoying. Help me to remember how much you love them as well as me. Amen

Whyteleafe Free Church [157A \(rear of 157\) Godstone Road, Whyteleafe Surrey CR3 0EH](http://www.whyteleafechurch.org.uk)
[Please send any news for prayer, or answers to prayer and any information regarding events, dates, times etc to Joan Hywel-Davies by email at joan@mjr.org or call 020 3186 3093 NOTE NEW NUMBER!](mailto:joan@mjr.org)