



Issue 19 – 25th July 2020

Welcome to this edition of Inspire

Inspire is an opportunity for us all to share with, and encourage each other with testimony, scripture, inspirational thoughts, teaching or a picture - anything to bless and encourage. Please send all contributions to me, Jenny, via:

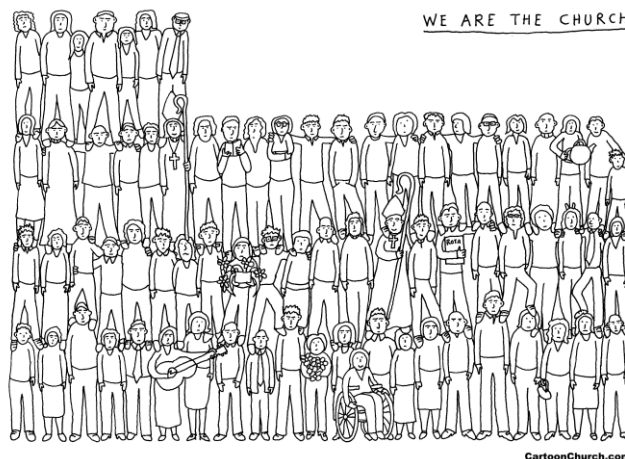
- email at inspire@belperbaptist.org
- or via WhatsApp on 07500780426

and they will be sent out each weekend via email, WhatsApp and by letter to those without Internet access. There is also a dedicated page on our website. www.belperbaptist.org

Content

As this will be on our website and circulated via WhatsApp we need to be careful about content. For example personal detail or political content will not be published. Any views expressed are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinion of the church or it's leadership.

Church is not the building - we are!



CartoonChurch.com

Time to Rest!

August is the month we associate with lots of folk going away on holiday, particularly those working or having children in schools. Most of our mid-week church activities shut down. On the plus side, we have usually welcomed extra visitors to our Sunday services.

Despite many things being very different this year, August will still be the time for many families to get away. We pray that everyone who is on holiday this summer will stay safe and will find the refreshment and relaxation they need.

We are conscious however, that for many, there is no opportunity to get away from circumstances that are making them feel weary and burdened. Even if able to go away on holiday, there is an awareness that this may be a very welcome but temporary respite.

Jesus said *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

Jesus was conscious that the people of his time who were trying to find God and do the right things were struggling because of the legalistic approach imposed by the Scribes and Pharisees. Referring to the religious leaders, Jesus said *“They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.” (Matthew 23:4).* This heavy burden of rules and regulations and hypocrisy was driving people to weariness and despair.

As Jesus moved from place to place, his teaching and actions revealed what living in the Kingdom of God, under what later he describes as the New Covenant, was really all about. In stark contrast to all they were used to, Jesus tells them to simply look to him.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29-30)

Jesus is making an important distinction between the burdensome “yoke” or “submission” to the Law with the much lighter feel of being in a personal relationship with God through him. This still involves submission of course - we call Jesus Lord as well as Saviour - but whatever comes our way because of our faith in Jesus, it is laid on us in love. Because we know the love God has for us, we can focus on loving God and loving others, including all the hard work and disciplined discipleship that can be involved.

Whatever our circumstances, we give praise to God that in Christ Jesus we find rest for our souls. The joy, the rest, the peace and refreshment we find in Jesus stems from his own inner character – he is *“gentle and humble in heart”*. We can turn to him whenever we are weary and burdened, whatever the cause, and we will not find judgement or condemnation. Instead we will find rest and peace beyond human understanding (Philippians 4:4-7), and a route through our troubles with Christ alongside us. We can access this rest and peace at any time. We don’t need to wait until the weekend or the next school holiday or use up our days of annual leave or flexitime. May we all know the rest and peace that Jesus offers each and every day.

David Harvey

The Value of Time

To realise the value of 1 year, ask a student who has failed his final exam.

To realise the value of 1 month, ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realise the value of 1 week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realise the value of 1 hour ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

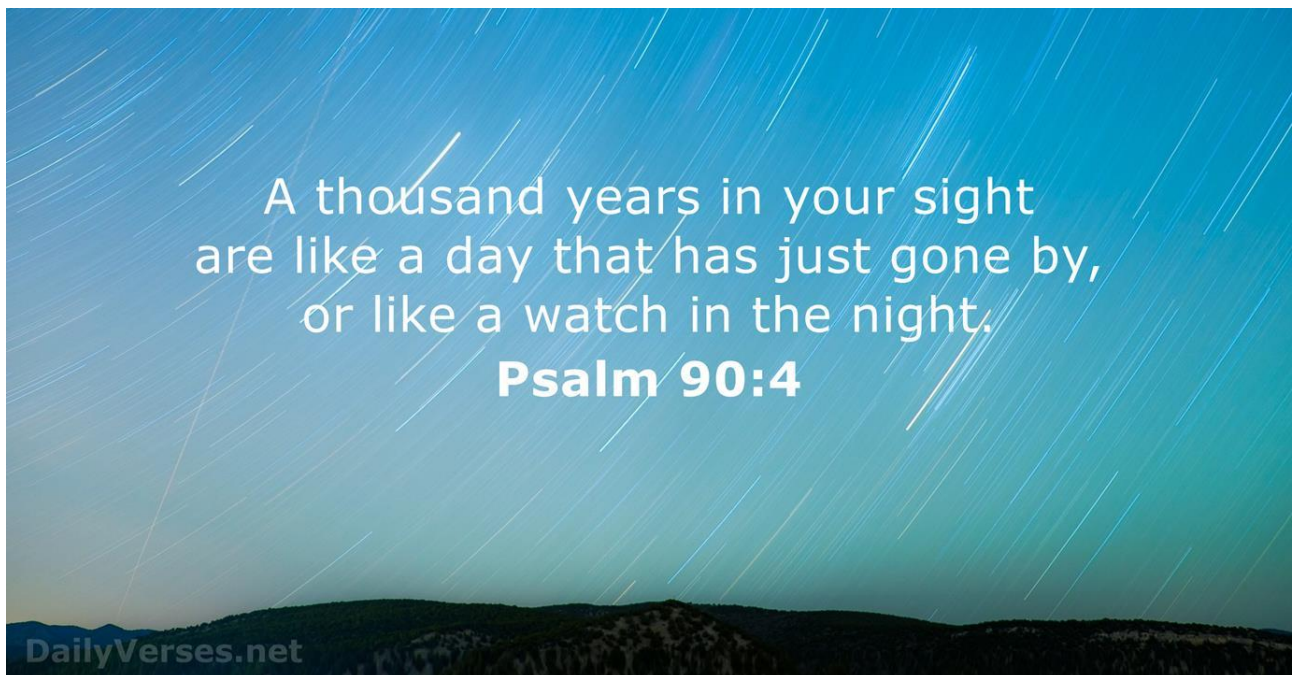
To realise the value of 1 minute, ask the person who missed the train, bus or plane.

To realise the value of 1 second ask the person who had survived an accident.

To realise the value of a millisecond ask the person who got the silver medal at the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

From the archives of John Parkin

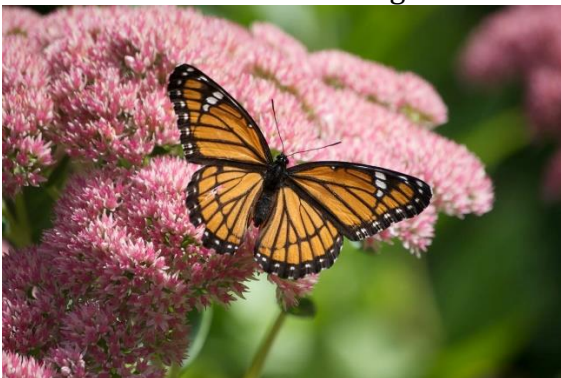


Lockdown Island

Looking up into the skies
There I find to my surprise,
Not many planes but lots of birds
Flying from place to place,
With freedom on their outstretched wings
I'd like to join them in their space.



Many starlings splash around
In the bird bath on the ground.
While the Sparrows bathe in dust.
Flapping their little brown wings
The Blackbird takes a beak full of food
Then sits on the roof and sings.

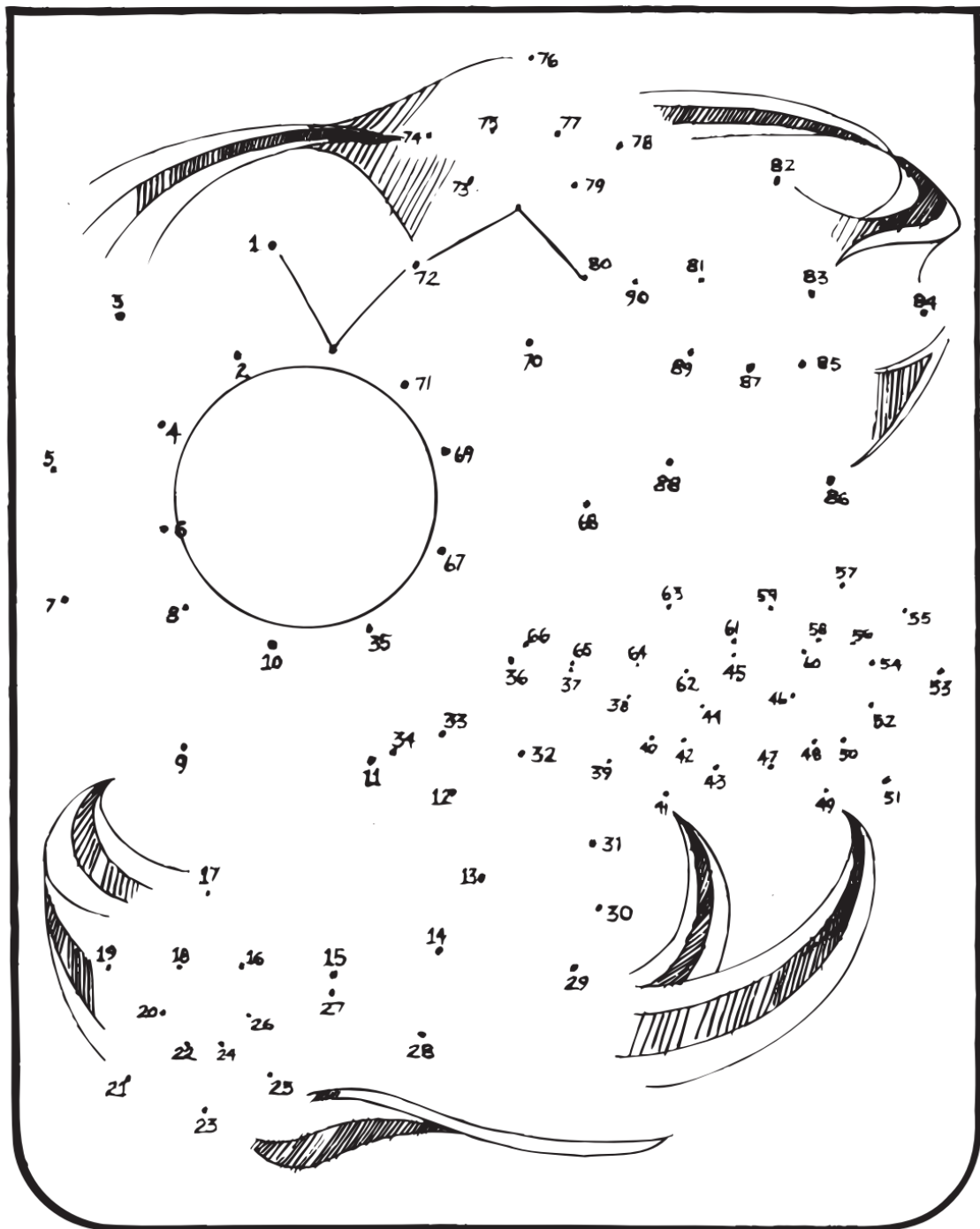


Assorted colourful Butterflies
Visit the flowers, then flutter by
Drifting on the gentle breeze.
Bumblebees nose in each flower
To collect nectar for their brood
And face a pollen shower.

The garden is a restful place, it touches all the senses,
I close my eyes and rest awhile and knock down all the fences
As I listen to every sound as it stirs the air
The minutes tick past, time moves forward
And as the birds sing in the failing light,
The moon rises in a star filled night.

God Made It

God made all these things on the fourth day of creation.



Notices

Sunday Services:

Firstly, a reminder of the Sunday morning online service details:

You can join by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/3431622013>

... or using the Zoom app and meeting ID 3431622013

... or phone (0330) 0885830 and enter the meeting ID 3431622013 then #

The meeting password is 1893

Prayer Meetings:

There will be daily prayer meetings at 8 o'clock every morning

and weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm – using the Zoom details as above.

Wednesday Drop-In:

As usual, the Wednesday Drop-In will be held online at 11:30. Anyone is welcome to join using the same details as above for the Sunday services.

Diary : 25th July – 1st August 2020

All this week's activities are being held online. These use the normal church Zoom meeting ID unless indicated otherwise. The Zoom meeting is usually open 5-10 minutes before the stated start time.

Sunday

08:00 Prayers (online)
10:30 Morning Worship (online) NB Communion Service

Monday

08:00 Prayers (online)

Tuesday

08:00 Prayers (online)
19:00 Prayers (online)

Wednesday

08:00 Prayers (online)
11:30 Drop-In (online)
19:15 House Group (online)

Thursday

08:00 Prayers (online)
20:00 House Group (online)

Friday

08:00 Prayers (online)
18:30 Friday Club [years 5-7] (email fridayclub@belpberbaptist.org)

Saturday

08:00 Prayers (online)