

Knowing God's Voice

The recent UCB Word for Today readings have been very poignant to us as a fellowship and Wednesday Feb. 26th provides (spiritual) food for thought, as follows:

“...His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.” John 10:4 NIV

HERE ARE seven occasions when knowing God's voice is all-important:

- 1) *Hearing from God before you entertain the ideas of others.* Why? Because their ideas are not His commands. Don't make commitments and end up bound by promises you can't keep. You must love others, but be led only by God's Spirit.
- 2) *Hearing from God before you listen to the complaints of others.* Why? Because you are not responsible for their happiness. Your need to 'fix' others in order to feel good about yourself is called 'co-dependency'. Give them to God!
- 3) *Hearing from God before you consider the needs of others.* Why? Because their needs are driving them; only the plan of God should be leading you.
- 4) *Hearing from God before you respond to the requests of others.* Why? Because you must discern what's behind their requests. Check the soil before you sow your seed.
- 5) *Hearing from God before you share your dream with others.* Why? Because it's not enough to have a dream, you must have a team. You need people to help you, cheer you on and lift you to a higher level. The right people motivate you to grow stronger, think better, work harder and risk more. They compel you to continue!
- 6) *Hearing from God before you seek the approval of others.* Why? Because people with an agenda will flatter and manipulate you. Hearing God's voice will keep you from falling into their trap.
- 7) *Hearing from God before you make significant changes.* Why? Because it's not your job to decide what God wants you to do, but to discover it and do it.

You Need Faith

Friday Feb. 28th

'Faith is the substance of things hoped for ...' Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

You don't need faith unless you're hoping for something. Hope establishes the goal; faith is the bridge that gets you to it. There's no need to build a bridge if you're not going anywhere

(See UCB Word for Today Notes for the rest of this study)



Hollybush Newsletter March - April 2014



Jim's Jottings

For myself, and I trust for you, I am amazed how the present daily bible readings have been powerful in reminding me of the promises and warnings that have been in place on the appropriate days. As we still endure the aftermath of the floods of the past two months, there have been no exhortation from the Church hierarchy, The House of Lords or Parliament to call upon The Almighty God of our fathers.

When big problems confronted these isles in bygone days, there were calls to prayer. Ok, people turn around and say it is only a local natural disaster, nothing on the scale of a tsunami or anything like Tacloban. David Cameron states "We will toss all the money required to deal with the needs". Maybe the reading from 20th Feb. impacted my spirit - that true relationship is based on more than just rules and if we desire our Lord to answer us then we need to know him personally. We need an ongoing communication which results in communion - to walk according to the Law of The Lord and acknowledge that He is our first 'Port of Call' in the flood or on the mountain top.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who can bestow love, joy and peace in every situation - Hallelujah! Leave Him out of the situation and we are indeed alone and lonely. Like the letter I received from a man in Holme House Prison recently, "I have no one to help me, can you?" My reply was "Maybe I can't but I know a Man who can. I can supply cash for toothpaste and soap but He can clean us up on the inside - provided we fit into His plans!" Psalm 119:1 "Blessed are those who walk according to the Law of The Lord. We are 'ring-fenced by His love' - what a privilege, Oh what peace!

Jesus Christ our Saviour **IS** wonderful! Look out for the daffodils. He has provided All things - Freely - For us to enjoy!! Have a good day!

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Programme: March - April 2014

March

- 7th Philip Sowerbutts & Team (Retford)
14th Jonathan Harris (Stockton)
21st Kingsley Armstrong (Northallerton)
28th Paul Bedford (Hope House Church, Barnsley)

April

- 4th Anita Pearce (Ontario, Canada)
11th Paul Abel (Scarborough)
18th Good Friday Celebration
[20th Easter Sunday - "He is risen!"]
25th Jonathan Dunning & Team (Sheffield)

COME AND BE EXPECTANT!

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday Evening at 7.30pm - Come believing!

Craft and Chatter

Every Wednesday 1pm - 4pm... COME AND JOIN IN!!

Save the Dates

- Hollybush Youth Camp: Title - **Courageous**
Dates - Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May 2014
Hollybush Family Camp: Title - **When Passion and Purpose collide**
Dates - Friday 1st to Friday 8th August 2014

Reminder - DBS Clearance

DBS Clearance (formerly CRB Clearance): Some of our activities require our volunteers to have DBS Clearance. If this applies to you then please submit your documentation to Joanna Wilkinson or Pam Forster. Any delays in this process will cause a hold-up in your serving the church.

**ANY PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE PHONE THE OFFICE ON
01845 587386 TO BE ADDED TO THE PRAYER CHAIN.**

Member's Annual Meeting—Highlights

Finances

In 2013, income increased by £14.2K and expenditure reduced by £50.3K on 2012 levels. Gifts to support missions increased by £8.5K making a total of £38.0K for 2013.

If you are a UK tax payer, please consider using the Gift Aid system. This is basically an easy and simple form to be completed and we can get a further 25% of your gift from the Government - definitely worth doing!

Also, giving to the church by bank standing order reduces the administration for counting and banking the offerings. If you are a regular giver then please consider this.

Bibles for China—the cumulative total for this has now reached £89.3K and the £100K is in sight!

Identification Badges

For better management of our meetings, all Prayer Team Members, Leaders and Trustees have been asked to wear Hollybush identity badges.

Cafe Opening Times and Access

Routinely, the cafe will now be locked from 10pm on Sunday evening until 9am on Friday morning.

The cafe facilities must not be used informally by those on site during the week. The kitchen in the Small Church will be available for making cups of tea etc.

Access from the Conservatory to the Cafe kitchen is for kitchen staff only, without exception. Please access the cafe using the external doorway across from the Small Church.

The Outreach Bus

After lengthy delays and repairs, the bus is now back on the road and is scheduled for regular visits to Thirsk on Thursday and Saturday evenings each week. For this to happen, two teams now need to be established and if you would like to be a part of this (and commit to a Thursday or Saturday evening) then please see Louise Wright or Gill Wilson.

It would be good to hear from anyone who would be willing to drive the bus and appropriate training will be provided.

A vote of thanks from Jim!

Finally, on behalf of the leaders and trustees, I thank every member and friend of the fellowship for your presence, prayers, love, actions and practical help throughout the year.