

T h e O u t l o o k

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Timesaving Tips for Ministers

Is your minister stressed? Does your pastor always look tired? Pass him these top timesaving tips as soon as possible.

Internet Sermoncentral.com has messages on every theme and biblical passage. Don't worry about freshness and the touch of the Spirit, there are words here, lots of them, use them. *Saving 8 hours*

Worship Don't delegate it takes more time than DIY.

Don't be creative, what's wrong with predictability?

Don't worry about themes just chose a random selection from the top 50 worship songs.

Saving 3 hours

External invitations Schools want governors, assemblies and RE lessons. Local churches invite you to preach, lead seminars and take workshops. The Baptist Union expects you to go to fraternal, attend conferences and participate in regional and national structures. Don't!*Saving 3 hours.*

Resist change Building projects, 5 year plans, new groups, special services, are all 'iceberg projects'; the final result conceals hundreds of hours of work. Avoid! *Saving 4 hours.*

Hierarchy rules The modern fad of expecting God to speak through the voice of those not theologically educated is dangerous and time wasting. Abolish committees and exert your authority. *Saving 4 hours.*

Counselling Pastoral counselling is time consuming. Don't listen to people; tell them what to do. *Saving 4 hours.*

Keep your distance Building relationships by dropping in on church activities and inviting people for meals could take hours. *Saving 4 hours.*

Weddings, dedications and funerals Refuse to take them for people who are not members of the church. *Saving 3 hours.*

Administration Take on a full-time administrative assistant to deal with phone calls, e-mails, references, passport applications, rotas, service orders, agendas, expense forms, publicity, post, writing articles, dealing with homeless people, etc. *Saving 15 hours.*

Staff Avoid them, they will only come up with new ideas and produce more work. *Saving 4 hours.*

Evangelism Evangelistic events, Alpha, discipleship programmes and relationship building? Stick to what you've got. *Saving 4 hours.*

Ages Youth activities on Sundays and even midweek soak up ministers' resources. Those over 55 are far more likely to need pastoral visits. Cultivate a congregation aged between 25 and 55. *Saving up to 10 hours.*

Technology This is not labour saving. Acetates, PowerPoint, video and audio input into services all consume unnecessary time. *Saving 2 hours.*

Reading and prayer Not necessary if the advice above is followed. *Saving 5 hours.*

Seriously, I was asked to write about a 'Day in the Life of a Minister' but the problem is that every day is so different. The lines above give an idea of the range of activities involved in ministry. It also emphasises one of the key pressures ministers' face: time management.

I quote from the findings of the Evangelical Alliance's research 'Leaders Under Pressure':

? ? The majority of church leaders consider themselves to be under significant stress from overly heavy workloads. The surveys reported 69% as perceiving themselves to be overworked.

? ? The research demonstrates that expectations play a significant part in ensuring excessively heavy workload from two sources in particular:
a) the leader's own high standards and expectations of ministry
b) the expectations of the congregation.

? ? 31% of respondents who were interviewed felt that their families suffered from insufficient time together, exacerbated by constant interruptions when they were together.

? ? In a typical 60-hour week (low for many respondents), 22 hours are devoted to administration although only 5% felt that administration was their most enjoyable task.

I hesitate to include these comments because the last thing I want to do is evoke sympathy or put people off contacting Andrew or myself. I love ministry and am passionately committed to it. All jobs have their delights and their frustrations, I hope the above gives some insight into these for anyone wanting to pray for the ministry team at Hope.

Youth and Children' s Ministry @ Hope: the ongoing story.....

So, where have we got to since we last met?

Well, here' s the good news– The groups for children and teenagers are going really, really well.....During the autumn term we saw 100 different young people at our Sundays and midweek programmes. That is incredible for a church our size!!

Midweek.....

The 7-11' s group (**Hy-Powered**) that meets on Thursdays has around 22 children in it and the leadership team is strong and working well. The kids seem to just love it!

The 11-14' s group (**The Hype**) is a very strong and growing group; we have about 30 attending each week, with 40 on the books. The programme is varied and fun. It is very exciting to be there on Friday nights with the place buzzing with activity.

The 14-18' s group (**RE:ACT**) has a very loyal group of around 15 older teens who get on well together and are gaining confidence to invite friends along to the club. They meet alternate weeks for club night/outing or Bible study.

We also have a new group for 11 – 15 year old Christians - **Xplore**, which meets fortnightly for Bible studies and prayer as we work through the discipleship programme ' WhoseLife is it anyway' . Around 10-12 young people are committed to this.

Added to this we now quite amazingly have about 25 **Mums and Babies** with us on Tuesday mornings (this used to be 8!!) and the third **Parent and Toddlers** group on Tuesday afternoons is already attracting another 12-15 parents in to the church.

What about Sunday mornings???

On a normal Sunday we now have **75-85 young people** in our church!!

Ann Munson' s group for 3-7 year olds now has up to 19 in it.

The whole of the church facility is now very busy for the hour and, as you can imagine, our leadership and room capacities are being stretched. **Can you picture 22 in the deacon' s vestry?**

There is lots of good stuff going on, and the growth and developments bring with them the challenges of growth...PLEASE DO READ ON !!

PRAISE God...

- ✓ ✓ For every volunteer leader that gives their time and energy so enthusiastically.
- ✓ ✓ That we have Rebecca James with us for the next 4 years.
- ✓ ✓ That we have been able to increase Debbie' s hours from 15 to 21 per week in order that she can support the 14+ work as well as the children' s group and Parents and Toddlers.

PLEASE PRAY and consider how you can support...

- ▶▶ We need a new team to strengthen the **3 – 7' s work** on Sunday am.
- ▶▶ We need parents to get involved in HY-Powered, and **1 more male leader** for Sun am. **THIS IS NOW URGENT AND VITAL!!**
- ▶▶ Daytime work with **Under 5' s** and their parents can always use more helpers.
- ▶▶ One more leader of either sex would be a real help with **The Hype**.

40 Days of Purpose We have lift –off !

Or at least we will have on 22nd February. That' s when the **40 Days of Purpose** 'campaign' begins in our church and many others across the city and the nation.

What is it all about? – The spiritual growth of every individual attached to our church who will take part, and in the growth of our life together in God.

With **40 Days of Purpose** you have opportunities to adopt new habits (good ones!), memorize scripture, take part in small groups (see the list with vacancies at church), share our faith and learn to live a lifestyle of worship, which glorifies God even more.

Isn' t this a bit inward looking and navel-gazing? NO!

As we discover more about God's purpose for our lives it will impact the church and our witness and mission in the local community.

If we are shining better the places we go to will be brighter!!

Please can we encourage every person in our church to take part.

- ❖ ❖ Let's pray that we run out of study books!
- ❖ ❖ Let's pray that our fellowship groups and the new **40 Days of Purpose** groups will be overflowing!
- ❖ ❖ Let's pray that it will be even harder for people to find seats at the morning service because so many people want to be part of what God is doing amongst us.

If you want to join a study group please let me know as soon as possible.

If you want the personal daily study book (only 100 available) – these will be available from church earlier in February for just £2.00.

Let's get excited about 40 Days of Purpose – please pray for the church leadership and, if you have some spare time to give, ask us how you can support the campaign.

Andrew Gardiner

APPEAL FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Leontine and John will be moving from the furnished flat that they now occupy in Pasley Street when official notification of Leontine's Refugee Status comes from the Home Office. They will be rehoused by the city council and will have to furnish the accommodation that they are given.

They will need a whole range of things and below is a list of the sorts of items that will be needed when they move; I have a full list so if you have anything to offer that is not shown below please contact me. I shall act as coordinator, so if you can help in any way or supply an item or items on the list, please contact me, Jenny Weeks on 777416.

Maybe you are having a turn out of household bits and bobs that you no longer use and perhaps these things could be used by Leontine in her new home.

If so please keep them to one side - an announcement will be made when Leontine knows when the move is due to take place, so it would be helpful if items could be stored by the donor until needed.

Thanking everyone in anticipation

Jenny Weeks

Television / video / DVD	Oven
Sofa / cushions / chair	Fridge / freezer
Table and chairs	Iron / ironing board
Display unit / computer table	Washing machine
Carpets and curtains	Vacuum cleaner
Lamps	Coffee maker / veg steamer / etc
Bed linen and pillows	Toaster / deep fat fryer / etc
Single / double beds	Glasses
Bedroom furniture	
Mirror	

Plymouth family trust

Have you survived at least 2 years of married life?

Have you learned a few home truths (maybe the hard way) from family life?

Could you spare just a few hours / evenings a year to help new couples and / or ex-Dartmoor prisoners and their families develop better and more lasting relationships. This is NOT a counselling role and training and materials are provided. The next training day is in February and couples (mostly non-Christian so there is a 'salt & light' role for Christians here) are waiting to be allocated.

Contact Helen on 562797 or gale1@eurobell.co.uk or Dr Liz Lenton on 862832 or slenton@btinternet.com

Prayer Focus

We give thanks that:

- ➤ Nina's latest Chemotherapy is going well.
- ➤ Abelina has found new accommodation and employment.
- ➤ Pam Walters and Kathleen Pritchard are making good progress after undergoing surgery recently.
- ➤ Due to their leaders commitment, our young people now have weekly youth groups.

Please Pray for:

- Those who cope with continued illness, pain or disability. Including Viola Woodward, Louise Ntavuka, Doris Dunstan, and Ursula Doddridge.
 - ➤ For Marilyn Fray and Kelly Hopwood as they await surgery.
 - ➤ Sue, Adrian, Ian and Jane as they come to terms with Ron's passing.
 - ➤ Peter, Michael and Elizabeth as they mourn their mother, Marcella (Sella) Prout.
 - ➤ God's guidance for the newly elected Deacons.
 - ➤ The spiritual growth of the young people who have joined the newly formed group, Xplore.
 - ➤ New friendships to develop during February, as we invite others to join us for a meal.
 - ➤ God's direction as the vision for the front shop at 246 Peverell Park Road unfolds. That it may become a centre through which people will find Jesus Christ.
 - ➤ The Lenten Course, '40 days of Purpose', which begins on February 23rd. May we grow spiritually as we learn God's purpose in our lives.

Open House

We start this year's programme with a visit from Debbie Richards, who most of us already know from her work with our young people and Parents and Toddlers. Debbie will be telling us all about her work with The Joshua Foundation, which I am sure we will find interesting and enlightening.

The date for your diary is Monday February 16th at 2.15 in the hall here at Hope Baptist Church. We are a friendly group and would encourage you to join us for afternoon tea and a chat after Debbie's talk. Men or ladies, young or not so young, you are all welcome. The tea consists of a variety of sandwiches and cake, with tea or coffee. The suggested donation for the tea is £1.50 which all goes to the Joshua Foundation. Hope to see you there!

If you require a lift on the afternoon, please give me a call to arrange a pick up time. I am Pam Smith, Plymouth 219844. If you would like to know more about Open House don't hesitate to ask me, Marian Brown, Ann Munson or Jean Potter, we would be more than pleased to talk to you.

<p><u>BMS Birthdays for February</u></p>

<p>19th Mrs Doris Dunstan</p>
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<p>24th Miss Dorothy Camfield</p>
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A Rough Guide to..... Fellowship groups

If you are new to Hope, or perhaps been around for some time, but put Fellowship Groups out of your mind, I hope that this little article will help introduce (or re-introduce) you to the purpose and importance of them in the life of our church.

Fellowship Groups meet at least fortnightly in the homes of our church members. The Bible study part of the evening is led by a variety of people, using notes put together by the Ministers, and relating to the Sunday sermons. By the time you read this there should be 8 groups in existence at Hope.

These groups are a great opportunity for you to get to know 6 to 12 people at church really well, as you share, discuss and pray together.

A growing church of 150+ people can seem rather overwhelming and so it's important that we plug in to a small group too. The groups also give the chance for social activities including meals or outings to share in with a bunch of people so you can just get to know each other well in informal settings.

Frequently Asked Questions :

When do they meet? Monday mornings, or Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings – Please see the term programme.

Which one do I join? The one that seems to suit you best – ask Andrew or Andy.

How do I join? We will fix you up with the leader, who can invite you in and help you settle in to the group easily.

Do I have to go to every meeting? NO! But do please try to go regularly.

Should I take a Bible? Yes please – but there will be spare ones there.

Will I be expected to share personal details of my life?

No, but you will have the opportunity to do so if you wish, so that the group can know you and support you in prayer and other practical ways. Anything you decide to share would of course always be confidential within the group.

Will I have to pray out loud? NO. But you can if you are comfortable in doing so.

Prayer for the launch of the 40 days of purpose

Sunday 22nd Feb. 7.00 - 8.00 pm

In the Church

Thanks be to God for His amazing constant love.

To my sisters and brothers, please accept my sincere gratitude for all your expressions of love and concern during my brief stay in Derriford Hospital, January 11-14th. Since returning home cards, telephone calls, flowers and visits continue.

I have been told to take things easy for two weeks to bring me back to normal health.

I must comment – the nursing care and attention I received on Marlborough Ward was first class. What a debt we owe to the nursing staff.

Kathleen Pritchard

February Diary 2004

This is a month that we have planned to be 'hospitality and friendship month' – we have cut as many meetings as possible to encourage everyone to invite people they would like to get to know a bit better around for a meal.

Sun 1 10.00 P r a y e r i n t h e L o w e r G u i l d r o o m * *
10.30 Baptismal service – 'New Ambitions' Phil3 1021

Tues 3 10.00 Mums and Baby Group**

1.00 Parent and Toddler Group *

1.30 P r a y e r G r o u p * v e n u e s v a r y , p l e a s e a s k

Wed 4 10am & 1pm Parent and Toddler Groups *

7.00 DACOS drama group

Thurs 5 10.00 Coffee Morning**

6.30 HY-Powered, years 3-6, 'Around the world in 80 minutes'

Fri 6 7.00-8.30 The Hype, years 7 to 9, 'Ice but nice'

8.15-10.00 Re:Act, years 10 to 13, 'Silly hats evening'

Sat 7 21st Century Evangelism, training day at Central Hall

Sun 8 10.30 'New Resources' Phil 4 49

Thurs 12 6.30 HY-Powered, years 3-6, Playzone

8.10 8.10 Xplore

Fri 13 7.00 The Hype 'Valentine special'

8.15 Re:Act, fellowship evening

Sun	15	10.30	'New Generosity' Phil 4 1023
Mon	16	2.15	Open House, Debbie Richards 'The Joshua Foundation'
Tues	17		NO church meeting this month
Thurs	19		HY-Powered, half term - no meeting
Fri	20		The Hype, half term - no meeting
		8.15	8.15 Re:Act - 'Chill'
Sun	22	10.30	'What on earth am I here for?'
		7.0	7.0 Prayer for launch of '40 Days of Purpose'
Wed	25	7.00	DACOS drama group
Thurs	26	6.30	HY-Powered, years 3-6, 'Club Capers 2'
		8.10	8.10 Xplore
Fri	27	7.00	The Hype 'DIY night'
		8.15	8.15 Re:Act, fellowship evening
Sun	29	10.30	Family service, 'Planned for God's pleasure'

*These meetings are held weekly **during term time only**

These meetings meet weekly **all through the year

Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

March Diary

13th Skittles evening

This Outlook was compiled by Nicky Hatherell. The March edition of The Outlook will be put together by Claire Worrall who will be grateful for your articles or information by 18th February.

Thank you