

T h e O u t l o o k

f r o m H o p e J a n u a r y 2 0 0 4 N E W Y E A R , N E W S T A R T

'New Year, New Start'. A great slogan but hard to put into practice. Recently there have been a host of TV programmes about families moving to the countryside or abroad in the hope of making a new start. Last night three 20 year olds who wanted to start their own Safari Park Centre in Kenya were featured. They hoped to be up and running within 6 months but two years later they were running out of money, getting increasingly frustrated with each other and really struggling to see their vision come into reality.

Many of us don't even get as far as that with making effective change in our lives.

New Year's Resolutions? Gave them up year's ago. Lent? Giving things up? It all seems so trivial compared to what Easter is really about.

Just imagine though if you weren't trying to make that lifestyle change on your own but in company with 100 other people. Suppose they were all praying for you and encouraging you. Consider meeting with others every week to talk through the struggles and joys of living out the new vision. Would that make a difference?

In February, as a church, we are going to share in a project called '40 Days of Purpose', a 6week spiritual growth campaign that is designed to answer the question, "What on earth am I here for?" Together, we will learn about God's purposes for our lives, and help each other to develop healthy spiritual habits.

To make the most of these 40 life-changing days, we hope that you will want to make the following commitments:

1. Hear all seven Sunday sermons in the series, "40 Days of Purpose".
2. Read the 40 daily readings in The Purpose Driven Life book by Rick Warren. These readings will guide you in your personal journey to discover God's purposes for your life.
3. Join a Purpose-Driven Life. New fellowship groups will be forming and you can pick the day, time and location most convenient for you. Bible study group
4. Memorize a simple Bible verse each week that will focus you on God's purposes.

We can't all escape to a Safari Park but we can all discover and enjoy more of God's purpose for our lives. Mark out the period from Feb 22nd to Apr 4th now!

Andy

Continuing... Contents of the Bible

The New Testament

MATHEW, MARK, LUKE and JOHN the holy Gospels wrote. Describing how the Saviour died – His life and what he taught.

ACTS proves how God the Apostles worked with signs in every place.

ST PAUL in ROMANS teaches us how man is saved by grace.

The apostle in CORINTHIANS instructs, exhorts, reproves.

GALATIANS shows that faith in Christ alone, the Father cares.

EPHESIANS and PHILIPPIANS tell what Christians ought to be.

COLOSSIANS bids us live to God and for eternity.

In THESSALONIANS we are taught the Lord will come from heaven.

In Timothy and TITUS A BISHOP'S rule is given.

PHILEMON marks a Christian's love which only Christians know.

HEBREWS reveals the Gospel as prefigured by the Law.

St JAMES insists that without works faith is but vain and dead.

And PETER points the narrow way in which the saints are led.

St JOHN in his epistles on love delights to dwell.

And JUDE gives awful warning of judgement, wrath and hell.

The REVELATION prophecies of that tremendous day.

When Christ, and Christ alone, shall be the trembling sinner's stay.



10 Main Road
Morabie Village
Molamby Area
Koya Rural District 12 May 2003

Dear Brethren of the household of faith,

I wish to express our sincere thanks for the new house which the church sponsored through Mercy Ships, this letter is being dictated in tenure and translated in English. During the war our previous house was destroyed and when we came back to our village there was no house. Thanks to God for sending Mercy Ships to help rebuilding our village. Hope Baptist Church have demonstrated to us the kind of love the people of your church have for the poor and needy. May God continue to bless your church so that you can do more. We will also like to thank Gomer and Thorph and their family for their good work that they are doing in the Vene Yard. We pray that God will continue to bless them. We were thinking that God was not on our side but now we know however things may be difficult in life. We must only trust in the Lord, he will perform miracles. We will never remain to think of Hope Baptist Church. This is the house old name. We will also like to establish a church by this name so that the good news can be preached in every village in our community. We have benefited from the seed of hope and also the animal program. The new home will benefit the family greatly for someone little to have a fine house like this one is like a miracle. We send greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Gods richest blessing on you all.

I remain, yours in Christ

Mohomed F Biamgura

Give thanks for

The safe arrival of Kate and Simon Harry's daughter Grace;

All the exciting new developments at Hope during 2003, and the opportunities the new year will bring.

Please pray for:

Those who struggle with continuing ill health, particularly Marilyn Fray and Viola Woodward.

Continuing co-operation with Pennycross Methodist and St. Pancras churches, and with other Christians in the city.

The Ministers and Deacons; the Deacons' election, those who will be re-elected or appointed for the first time.

The Chinese Fellowship, celebrating two New Years - one at each end of January! May both lead to new opportunities and blessings.

The Lenten Course "40 Days of Purpose", which begins at the end of February. May all who take part in it find challenge and enrichment

At the last church members meeting in December, the decision was taken to set a bold budget for 2004, based on the last 12 months' experience and recognising the opportunities and challenges facing us in the coming year.

We asked Peter Brown, the Church Treasurer, a few questions about it.....

Q: The church has decided to set a "deficit" budget for next year. Peter, what does that actually mean?

Peter: It means that we have set a budget, which allows for expenditure in the next 12 months to be greater than our income.

Q: Why have we had to do that?

Peter: Because, although our general giving has increased significantly over the past year, as more people have started to covenant and tithe, we anticipate that it may well not increase enough during 2004 to cover the costs of a church which now has two full-time Ministers, and many other important areas of expenditure.

Q: Have you planned for the offerings from the congregation to increase at all in this next year?

Peter: Yes, by **10% more** than was given in 2003. That means we are trusting for an increase of around **£4700** during 2004..

Q: What do you anticipate that our shortfall will be next year?

Peter: I need to emphasise that this is only an estimate. If income does increase by the 10% it means that the shortfall will be around £4500. Of course, **if people in the church give more generously, and we get more tax reclaimed, we may not have a deficit at all!**

Q: But if there is a deficit, how will that be met?

Peter: It will be met from some cash reserves that the church has built up over the last few years, which could be used elsewhere, but will have to be used in this way if it is needed.

Q: Now the church has made the decision on budget what are you hoping will happen?

Peter: I would love to see people doing three things: -

1. Taking the responsibility to give more regularly through the **bank standing orders** or the **envelope scheme**, then we know what regular income we have and we can plan better.
2. Anyone who is a tax payer making sure that all their giving is **tax efficient** so that we get £2.80 back from the tax man for every £10 given, in any way.
3. Recognising that **tithing to the church** is our first responsibility in terms of giving, as we see the mission and ministries of Hope expanding over the next months and years.

Q: How do they do those things?

Peter: A simple form for the bank, or a year's worth of gift envelopes, are available from the back of the church, or from me.

Q: What about the 2004 Thank Offering. Why is that not detailed in the budget?

Peter: Simply because the Thank Offering is seen as a special additional offering, used to support special projects not in the budget. Often this has a mission focus, sometimes it is a one off church project. This year it will probably form a major part of our financial commitment to the development of the church sanctuary, for which plans will be brought to the church meeting early in 2004.

Q: Should we be worried about the church finances? Are you worried?

Peter: I am not worried, but do recognise that we cannot go on forever setting deficit budgets. As a church we are in a phase of growth, but the giving of the congregation has not quite caught up yet with the costs that we now face. I am hopeful that it could do quite soon. Even during 2004, if we all took seriously our commitments.

Q: Anything else you should tell us about budget and finances?

Peter: Only to ask people to pray and review how, and how much, they give to the church. I also want to thank those who do give so regularly and sacrificially who have helped us to reach the stage we now have, with so many wonderful opportunities for the gospel.

A copy of our Church's 2004 budget follows

Hope Baptist Church
Draft Budget 2004

EXPENDITURE	Budget 2004	Estimate 2003	Actual 2002
1. Ministry	57000	42000	22700
2. Mission	9700	10000	10200
3		7000	7000
4. Building maintenance/supplies	14750	12000	13900
5. "Administration"	7730	16350	28450

6. Youth and Children Ministry Ministry	1200	1380	
7. Training	300	700	
8. Evangelism/mangelism	600	500	
9. Transport/MiniBus/Mini-bus	2000	2500	
10. Children and Families Worker	300	Nil	
TOTAL	93400	87350	82250
INCOME	Budget	Estimate	Actual
	2004	2003	2002
1. Weekly offerings	40700	36000	30700
2. Donations/special gifts	4000	11000	11150
3. Thank Offering	?	Given away	4260
4. Tax recovered on gifts	11000	10000	8700
5. Rent of premises	27500	26000	27200
6. Interest on investments	4000	3000	3030
7. Mission	1700	7000	7000
8			
TOTAL	88900	93000	92040

Included within Admin in Previous Years” in previous years.
 Included within Building Maintenance in 2002.

Questions:

- A. A. How do we deal with the Sanctuary development costs Re: Investments?**
- B. B. How do we show Thank Offering 2003 and its use? Exp Item 3 ?**
- C. C. How do we deal with the Thank Offering 2004?
50% Sanctuary, 50% Special Mission Project ??**
- D. D. What is our new 2003 estimate for Offering?**

What do we include in “Ministry” for C & F worker for 2004?

January Rotas

Crèche

- 04 Family Service
- 11 Pat & Steven Dodd
- 18 Sarah Aldersley & Merrilyn Duook
- 25 Family Service



Coffee

- 04 Pat Dodd and Tim
- 11 Judith and John Pinch
- 18 Cindy and Ray Hedges
- 25 John and Carole Eascott

BMS Birthdays

- 07 Mrs. Claudia Robertson
- 09 Mrs. Kathleen Pritchard

Flowers

- 04 Viola Woodward - Birthday remembrance of her husband

January Diary

Sun 04	10.30	Family Service at Hope with St Pancras and Pennycross Methodist. Rev Andrew Gardiner
	19.00	Prayer for Peverell – Gary Streeter
Wed 07	10.00	Parent and Toddler*
	1.00	Parent and Toddler*
Thu 08	10.00	Coffee Morning*
Sun 11	10.30	Morning Worship – New Friendships Phil 2 ¹⁹⁻³⁰ Rev Andy Saunders
Tue 13		Fellowship Groups
Sun 18	10.30	Morning Worship and Communion. New Confidence Phil 3 ¹⁻¹¹ Rev Andrew Gardiner
Tue 20	7.30	Church Meeting
Thu 22		Men' s Group– talk by Chris Robinson
Sun 25	10.30	Family Service – Rev Andy Saunders
Tue 27		Fellowship Groups

* These meetings are held weekly

February

Hospitality and Friendship. During February 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.

Sat 7 February. 21st Century Evangelism. A training day with J John at Central Hall. Details of price and time available from the church office. Evening Celebration with J John.

Thanks

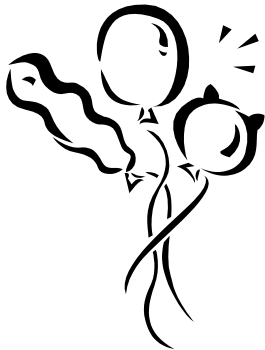
I would like to express my thanks for all the cards, flowers and support following Jock' s death. Special thanks to Andy for conducting the funeral and to Wilf and Thelma and Margaret who spent hours sitting with me at Derriford and to the team who provided excellent food later

Doreen
Thank You

Chris and I would like to say Thank you for all the kindness and support given during my enforced 10 day hospital stay. Thank you especially for your prayers and we give thanks to God that all is fine.

Debbie Houston

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year


SERMON NOTEBOOK on Stephen with Paul Hardingham

Stephen: Acts 7: 51-60

We should not forget that on Boxing Day we also celebrate "the feast of Stephen". Stephen occupies a unique place as the first Christian martyr, and his death was a watershed in the history of the early church. As a result of the persecution prompted by his death, the church was scattered from Jerusalem, and Jewish Christians began to share their faith with non-Jews for the first time.

Stephen's Life

Stephen is first mentioned as one of the deacons in the Jerusalem church, charged with the job of ensuring a fair distribution of food and relief to the widows. He is described as 'a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit'. While confident of God's faithfulness, his whole personality was under the

control of the Holy Spirit. Little wonder that God was clearly seen at work through him!

* To what extent does this describe your life?

Stephen's Wisdom

As a result of the signs and wonders he performed Stephen was arrested and put on trial. However, nobody was able to argue against his wisdom, and in a remarkable sermon he demonstrated clearly how God's purposes are fulfilled in Christ. This God-given insight enabled him to see to the heart of things.

* In what situations do we too need such wisdom?

Stephen's Death

Stephen died as he lived, full of the Holy Spirit! A vision of the ascended Christ sustained him through his stoning to death. However he died like his master, commending himself to God, and praying for his murderers.

* How does this compare with our own expectations of death?

The story of Stephen reminds us forcefully again of the truth of those words 'the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church'

What's in a Name?

by David Winter

Shakespeare said that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, which is undoubtedly true. But that doesn't mean that names aren't important. People who are given ridiculous or inappropriate names by their parents often go to great lengths to assume another, whether a nickname or a genuine, legal change. Names colour our view of people - who would call their little boy 'Adolf'?

All through the Bible names are highly significant. Sometimes God himself is said to 'name' people - Abraham, for instance. Jesus named Simon as 'Peter', the rock. And at this Christmas season we are reminded that the name 'Jesus' itself was not simply a matter of Joseph and Mary discussing what to call their new baby boy. It was the angel of God who named him: 'You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21). The name, as it were, would determine the divine purpose behind this miraculous birth. The child's name, Jesus - Yeshua in Hebrew - was also the name of the man who led the Israelites into Canaan, usually rendered in English as 'Joshua'. So the name was already associated with a mighty saviour (which explains the second part of the angel's message). At Bethlehem a greater 'Joshua' was to be born, one who would also lead his people into a new and promised kingdom. But this time the waters would be the waters of death and the promised land nothing less than the kingdom of heaven.

There's another name in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus - 'Emmanuel'. 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel' - words taken from the prophet Isaiah and applied to the baby yet to be born. So far as we know, nobody ever actually called Jesus 'Emmanuel', but the title has enormous significance. It means 'God with us'. At Bethlehem, in some mysterious way, the God of eternity entered the world of mortality in the person of this infant: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1:14). And then, right at the end of Matthew's Gospel, we have the promise that although in physical presence Jesus was to leave the earthly world, he would still be 'God with us' to the end of human time (Matthew 28:20).

So names matter, especially biblical ones. In many ways, the name tells us all we need to know in order to understand the purpose of the coming of Jesus. 'He will save his people from their sins', and 'he will be with us, even to the end of the age'

The Outlook

This months Outlook has been compiled by Claire Worrall. Next months edition will be put together by Nicky Hatherell, who will grateful for any articles as soon as possible.