

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 16th August SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"Beware those with £ signs in their eyes"

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731
Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno 07733837687
Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

Welcome to this Sundays Online Service and Virtual Communion

Ron is leading and preaching, continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Cor 11:5-15.



You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured left.

Ron's Reads

Mk 12:38f, 1 Cor 9:1-16, Isa 14:12f, Lk 11:18f 1 Pet 5:8, Lk 4:9f

Today's service includes a virtual communion. Please have a piece of bread and something to drink to hand for when we come to that part of today's worship service so although separated by distance, we can still be one in the Spirit.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Pat Heels whose husband Joseph recently died. Also pray for the Ron, Jerry and the Deacons as they explore ways of opening the church for services in a safe and secure way for the fellowship within the current guidelines. Pray for all those in the fellowship who are receiving or awaiting medical treatment. Also for those whose friends or family are in the same situation and they are feeling anxious about the outcomes. As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Rita Rudrum**.

WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 7th Jenny Payne said "We have heard today that my sister-in-law, Gill, will start chemotherapy on Monday. Not all the test results are back yet, but thankfully, her liver and renal functions are normal. Thanks again for your prayers for them at this time."

The same day June White asked "Please pray for my sister Sara she was diagnosed with Miasma Gravitata earlier this year she is having a procedure which we hope will help. Blessings June."

On Monday Victoria posted "Prayers please for Paul Child (her brother). Last week he finally had his appointment with the oncologist. They found a grade 3 tumour (4 is the worst) and cancer had also spread to a couple of lymph nodes. Due to how close it was to the bone they can't be 100% sure there were no microscopic 'crumbs' from the cancer released when they took it - so he needs chemo with the first round starting on the Friday (14th Aug). Please pray for Miriam and the children too."

Update on Poppy - she is doing ok in herself and is responding to treatment which she normally does. The problem we normally have is as her treatment dose is lowered and stops, she normally relapses again. Please pray this doesn't happen. Being on immunosuppressants makes it tricky with the risk of coronavirus and if she does relapse, they will look at another treatment again (like last time) on top of this one too which brings its problems. Also, the longer she is on the steroids the more risk of her Koehler's disease (the bone in her foot died last time) worsening. Please pray that this doesn't happen. So, all positive at the moment we just have to see how she does over next few weeks. Thank you for your prayers."

To join the ever-growing WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room and Devotion WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone



If you are reading this newsletter as a PDF you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Don't forget you can also follow what's happening at SBC on twitter <https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> and on Facebook www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist

FOOD BANK & OPEN FOR PRAYER

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer.

Since June 15th people have been welcome to pray quietly in the church at the time that the Food Bank donations are being received. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

Also, The Good News paper, bibles, books and the Community Scene Magazine are available at the back of the church.

The [Food Bank](#) is open on Fridays in the Stables from 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk.

For Your Diary

Thursday 20th 7.00pm

Zoom prayer meeting contact Diana for a link to the meeting.

Wednesday 27th at 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study contact Diana for a link to the meeting.

Church reading plan

We started this last week as part of becoming more of an Acts 2:42 church as we read the same scriptures together. We began with Paul's letter to the Galatians and this week we will read Psalms 121-126. These are some of the psalms known as the Songs of Ascent used by pilgrims making their way to worship in Jerusalem to encourage themselves and one another. May we encourage one another too.

A Thank You from Cromer Foodbank

Tim from the Cromer Foodbank says. "During July SBC contributed 343.65kg (756lbs) of food which helped towards a monthly total of 5440.9kg. We totally rely on donations, both food and financial, to operate and we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. So thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve the people in crisis across our district. Thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible.

During August, the following items would be particularly welcome:

Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Meat, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fish, Pasta Sauce, Long Life Fruit Juice, Cuppa Soup, Instant Snacks – add hot water, Sponge Puddings, Custard, Jam, Biscuits, Chocolate, Deodorant, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder/Liquid – non bio, Toilet Rolls, Baby Wipes.

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

Financial donations are always welcome. Please see our website for details." [Food Bank](#)

SBC is open to receive donations Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon.

Hero.

If I'd have used that word around any of the staff at [Guinebor II \(G2\) hospital in Chad](#), (which includes missionaries Bethan and Gareth Shrubsole who SBC supports) I know exactly what would have happened. Writes Hannah Watson BMS World Mission.

I'd have been greeted with shrugging shoulders, maybe even awkward chuckles. I'd have been told that workers at the hospital are just doing what they've been called to do, that they work so hard because the need in Chad is great. And they would have insisted that any achievements are the result of their amazing team, an experienced ecosystem functioning together to get results.

But those attempts to bat away any claim of heroism are exactly what makes the keyworkers I met at G2 in February of this year so amazing. It's their refusal to take any credit on a personal level, but to give all the glory to God. Their diligence and care motivated not by ambition or personal gain, but by the sight of a waiting room of desperate people who have travelled for hundreds of miles to be treated. And the reminders that broken bones healed, cancers removed, babies born safely, and malaria treated are the result of the team working together towards a single goal in beautiful, well-tuned harmony.

These medical workers are the focus of our 2020 Harvest appeal, [Operation: Chad](#), and you'll meet some of them in [this week's story](#), as well as seeing them in action in our powerful and inspiring feature video dropping next week.

I don't use the word 'hero' lightly, but I can promise you that it applies to these men and women in bucketloads.

Meet these [heroes of G2 hospital today](#), and join us in saving lives in the Sahel this harvest.

Every blessing,

Quotes of the Week

"People appear like angels until you hear them speak. You must not rush to judge people by the colour of their cloaks, but by the content of their words!"

— **Israelmore Ayivor**

"God told us to love everyone. However, when you don't like someone then you need to walk away and focus not on him or her, but the hatred you're harbouring. Otherwise, you will allow your piety to take over. Before you know it, you're using the gospel as a sword to slice other religious people apart, who have offended you. From your point of helplessness, it will be as is easy to recruit people that will mistake your kindness as righteousness, when in reality it is a hidden agenda to humiliate through the words of Christ. This game is so often used by men and women in the Christian faith, that it is the number one reason why many people become inactive. It is a silent, unspoken hypocrisy that is inconsistent with the teachings of the gospel. If you choose not to like someone, then avoid them. If you wish to love them, the only way to overcome your frustrations is through empathy, prayer, forgiveness and allowing yourself time to heal through distance. Try focusing on what you share as brothers and sisters in the gospel, rather than the negative aspects you dislike about that person."

— **Shannon L. Alder**

"A man is more or less of a Christian only in proportion to the speed with which he advances towards infinite perfection, irrespective of the stage he may have reached at a given moment. Hence the stationary righteousness of the Pharisee is worth less than the progress of the repentant thief on the cross."

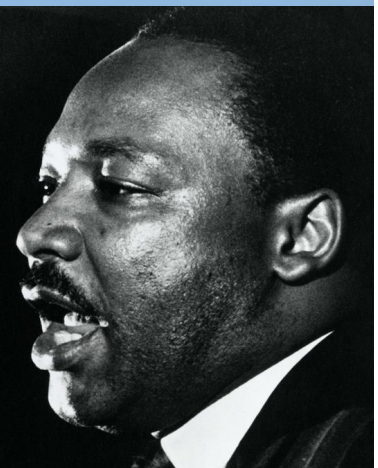
— **Leo Tolstoy, The First Step: An Essay on the Morals of Diet, to Which Are Added Two Stories**

"Paul's exhortation is in stark contrast to the "power of positive thinking" movement popularized by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, which, in my view, was not altogether biblical because it seemed to suggest that people could change the future just by willing positive outcomes. Like the "prosperity gospel," which tells us we can all be rich if we just have enough faith, it tends to detract from our proper emphasis on Christ-centeredness. There is nothing wrong with pursuing success and material blessings, but as Christians we must try to remember that our true contentment is embodied in Jesus Christ, and we should organize our lives around this truth."

— **David Limbaugh, Jesus on Trial: A Lawyer Affirms the Truth of the Gospel**

Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.

Martin Luther King, Jr.





Open *Doors*

One woman's extraordinary story of escaping North Korea.

Eun Hye has experienced more hardship than most of us can imagine. She's also experienced more miracles.

How many terrible things can happen to one person?

And how many miracles?

Hearing Eun Hye's* story is a bit dizzying – because half the time, you're wondering how a person can sustain so many appalling incidents and still keep going. And the other half of the time, you are marvelling at God's interventions and His plan for Eun Hye.

Eun Hye's grandmother had told her a little bit about 'Hananim', God – an invisible Father who would protect her. She didn't know the full truth of the gospel, but knew enough to whisper a prayer to Him when she was alone at the *kotjebi* camp. That only happened in the disgusting toilet.

A *kotjebi* camp is for North Korean street children – Eun Hye had ended up there when her parents went to China to find her older sisters, who had gone missing, and her uncle couldn't afford to feed her. The authorities didn't

without even room to sit. Eun Hye had to stand all day and night, making her legs swell. The food rations were so meagre that she quickly learned how to catch and eat a rat. There was no shortage of rats.

The first escape

The first time Eun Hye heard God directly telling her to do something was two months after she arrived at the camp. The guards asked for volunteers to collect chestnuts by climbing up trees in the mountains. It meant a long, difficult journey. Eun Hye was so weak she didn't know if she'd survive it. But she heard a voice in her head that she didn't recognise.

"Go. Volunteer."

So she did. They were divided into groups and sent into the mountains, accompanied by guards. When she and an older girl were left at the bottom of a tree, to collect chestnuts thrown to them, Eun Hye gambled.

"Do you want to escape?" she said.

"Yes," the girl replied.

They ran away from the tree and followed the trail down the mountain. They discovered the house of an old woman and with the little money the two had, they bought a rope. When they arrived at the reservoir, the girls tied the ropes around their waists. The girl would try to float, while Eun Hye used all the strength she had to swim to the other side, dragging her friend through the water.

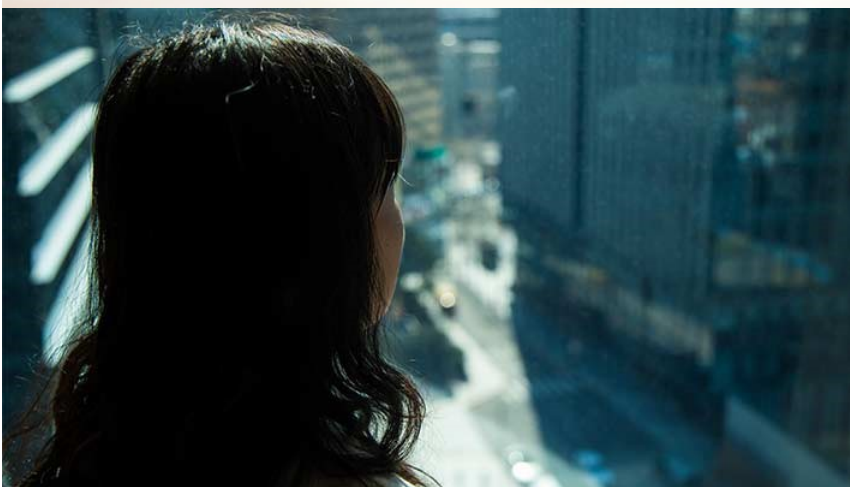
They reached the shore safely and walked all the way to a big city. Afraid to be caught again, they decided to illegally board a train. Because they didn't have train tickets or travel permits, they dug a hole under the wall with their bare hands – which became dirty and bloody – and got to the railway track that way. There, they decided to go to their separate ways.

Reunited with her family

After a long journey, Eun Hye reached her hometown. For three months she survived on the kindness of a series of old acquaintances and strangers. She kept praying to the God who had spoken to her – both for survival and that she would find her family again. She didn't have much faith it would happen – but God brought it about. A family who knew about Eun Hye's whereabouts contacted her: "Your father is with us – and your brother too." Without delay, she went to her father. He'd come back to North Korea to take Eun

Hye and her brother to China with him, where her older sisters had been found and were married and living well.

Her father hadn't been a believer for long, but he was able to explain to her who 'Hananim' was – how God had answered her prayers, and was the One who could save them. He told her about Jesus. "The only way to live from now on is to pray to God," he said. "Ask Him to help us



Eun Hye, who escaped North Korea twice

know anything about her secret faith; the horrendous conditions she was living in as a 16-year-old were simply the fate of many children who didn't have any resources or people to support them.

There were over 2,000 children in the crowded camp,

return to China safely."

God answered that prayer. Eun Hye, her father and her brother swam across the river separating North Korea from China. The living standards were so much higher. Everyone had food, and the streets weren't filled with desperate, hungry children, as she'd been used to. She started going to church with her family and a translator explained more fully about Jesus, and how His death and resurrection had made her salvation possible.

Betrayed and arrested

All North Korean refugees are at risk of being caught and taken back to North Korea. And that's exactly what happened to Eun Hye and her family. Somebody reported them to the authorities, and she, her parents and brother were arrested, shackled and 'repatriated'.

In North Korea, they were transported to a detention centre near her hometown. The temperature was -30 degrees Celsius and Eun Hye got frostbite. But that wasn't as bad as the interrogations – each member of the family was interrogated separately, as the guards demanded to know where Eun Hye's sisters were.

Her parents didn't betray her sisters either – but her father did confess that he was a Christian. In the eyes of the North Korean authorities, this makes you an enemy of the state. Believing in any higher power than the Kim family gets you sent to a horrendous political labour camp.

The tortures her parents went through are too horrible to describe. Eun Hye was threatened with the same. But they kept praying. And God hadn't abandoned them.

The miracle happened. They were released. Nobody knew how or why, and no explanation was offered. It had to be God's intervention.

The second escape

Eun Hye and her brother brought their badly injured parents to their uncle's house. After a few months, her mother had somewhat recovered and Eun Hye's frostbite had healed. Her father told Eun Hye to take her mother to China: "Your uncle cannot take care of so many people. We only eat grass here. You have to go first with your mother. I'll come with your brother as soon as I'm able."

Again, they tried to swim to safety. Halfway across the river, the guards noticed them and started firing bullets into the river – but, miraculously, they survived. They reached China again.

Years passed. Sadly, Eun Hye's father died because of the injuries he'd sustained in prison. Her brother is still in North Korea. But she is safe at the moment and married to a Chinese man. She managed to evade being taken back to North Korea after still more miracles – the truck sent to repatriate her broke down. She was released when she told the officers that she was pregnant.

God keeps protecting Eun Hye. He protected her and her husband when they fled again, this time to South Korea. They live there now, and Eun Hye's prayers are for the safety of her brother back in North Korea – and that more people would come to know Jesus in that dangerous country.

"There is a great need to inform North Koreans about going to church and believing in God, and the impact that faith can have on their lives. They also need material and spiritual resources. I hope that more and more North Koreans are able to receive the Bible and other Christian literature and find salvation through Him."

She is deeply touched by the prayers of Open Doors supporters and other Christians around the world: "I had no idea so many people were praying for us. Those prayers are really important. They will

lead more people to Jesus Christ in North Korea."

Eun Hye has experienced more than most of us can conceive. She has seen the worst of humanity – and the great wonder of God's grace.

Your prayers and gifts can help other North Korean believers like Eun Hye. With your support, Open Doors can continue to use its Chinese networks to keep over 60,000 North Korean Christians with food, clothes and medicine. Open Doors partners also run safe houses in China for believers who have fled. God keeps answering the desperate prayers of His children. And He can use you to do that.

**Name changed for security reasons*

You can find more information about OpenDoors and how you can support them at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

A prayer for the persecuted church during Covid-19

Lord Jesus Christ

You, who hugged the leper and healed the lame, be with all those who are reaching out to You at this time.

We think especially of all who already pay a high price for following You:

- those who are poor, and running out of food,
- those who are hated by their community and are always the last to receive help – if they receive it at all,
- those to whom the fear of Covid-19 is just the latest in a long list of fears which they must carry every day

Encourage and protect the pastors who lead their flocks, and the Open Doors partners who bring help.

- Bring courage to those who are afraid,
- Strength to those who are weak,
- Comfort to those who mourn, and hope to us all.

AMEN

