

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Saturday 17th April 2021

This Sunday's online service "Another Trial"



Maggie is leading and Ron is preaching from Acts 5:12-42.

You can follow the service on the SBC website from Sunday morning, go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured right.



Ron's Reads

Mt 1:23, 28:20, Jn 15:18-16:4, Mk13:11, Heb 12:2 Mt 12:30, 1 Jn 4:1

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the Zoom AGM meeting on 18th April, that as a fellowship we can collectively take SBC forward.

Please pray that as the Covid restrictions are reduced we will not suffer another wave of the virus.

Also pray for those who are still anxious about receiving the vaccines and returning to mixing with their community.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Sandra and Mike Feek.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Wednesday 14th Jerry posted on behalf of Jan and Henry "Please pray for our son Chris who suffers with body dysmorphia. He has recently gone back on his meds and is finding it hard to cope. It takes a few weeks for the medication to kick in, thanks."

On Thursday Jane posted "Will pray for Chris can you please pray for Ruth Hayward who is not very well and desperately in need of prayer for the whole family thank you x."

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

Prayers for the Week

Week beginning 18 April Earth Day

'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good' Genesis 1:31 On Earth Day on 22 April, give thanks for the wonders of creation and our planet that sustains life in abundance. Hold in your mind all those who face extremes of weather on the front line of climate change, such as those affected by Hurricane Iota last year in Guatemala. Pray that this Earth Day will bring about more commitment to take action to reverse the climate crisis. God of creation, may we be inspired by your creation to create a just and sustainable world for all. Amen.

Courtesy of <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray>

For The Children Of Persecuted Christians

Oh Lord, we bring before You all persecuted Christians in so many parts of the world, and we particularly lift up their children, knowing that children can be so abused and ill-treated and used as pawns to cause their parents to falter in their faith.

Guard and protect all these little ones. Keep each one from any long-term psychological harm, emotional pain or feelings of bitter revenge that can result from the atrocities that they have had to go through and witness.

Protect every single life we pray, and we ask that You would intervene in any attempts to abduct the children of Christians and expose them to forced "corrective teaching" or "child labour" camps.

Lord, You were the one that said, "let the little children come to Me and forbid them not." I pray that each and every child that experiences some form of persecution against their faith, will be kept and protected by You, and brought at last into Your everlasting kingdom, where every tear and all pain will be wiped away, forever. Amen.

For Those Suffering Intolerance For Their Faith

Our Lord and Heavenly God, Who suffered and bled and died under shocking conditions and rose again into newness of life, we lay before You all the believers in Christ who for Your sake, are going through acts of hate and intolerance, that are ravaging the lives of so many Christians today, and in so many different parts of the world.

Comfort with Your grace, all those who are experiencing the hatred and intolerance of their fellow men and give them the grace and strength to face whatever evils are being perpetrated against them.

Move I pray, those that are oppressing our brothers and sisters with compassion and mercy.

Let all who are suffering, know Your special closeness in all the struggles they are going through. Provide for their bodily needs and sustain their spirit with Your heavenly grace. Fill their hearts with hope, knowing that You are with them in all things and will never leave them nor forsake them. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-the-Persecuted>

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

If you are reading this news-letter 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 & Personal Prayer

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and personal prayer. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

The [Food Bank](#) is open on Fridays in the Stables, 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 miniister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

For your Diary

Mon April 19th 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wed April 21st 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

God didn't remove the Red Sea. He parted it. Just because God hasn't removed your problem doesn't mean He won't provide a way through it.

tobymac#speaklife

Church Re-Opening 9th May

We are planning to reopen SBC on the Sunday 9th May unless there is any change in Government Guidance. A Covid secure system will be in place including a booking system requiring those attending to book by contacting Diana by email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk Whatsapp or telephone 07951949128.

SBC AGM 18th April

If you are joining Sundays SBC AGM at 12 noon here are a reminder of the links.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5185800970>

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

Join by mobile

01314601196,,5185800970# 02030512874,,5185800970#

Join by landline by dialling

0131 460 1196 Or 0203 051 2874 Or 0203 481 5237.

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Matthew 14: 22-33 . How many times has your faith been eroded by your doubts and what were the outcomes?

If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Food Bank

During March SBC contributed 422kg of food which helped towards a monthly total of 4709.03kg. Cromer Food Bank totally relies on donations, both food and financial, to operate and we are extremely grateful when people choose to support them.

Project manager Tim says "thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve the people in crisis across our district." During April, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Sponge Puddings, Jam, Squash, Tea, Instant Snacks – Mugshot, Pot Noodle, Cuppa Soup, Crisps, Sweets and Chocolate, Toilet Rolls, Male and Female Deodorants, Razors and Shaving Foam, Shampoo and Conditioner, Household Cleaning Products, Non-bio Laundry Detergent and Nappies size 5 and 6.

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

EBA Prayer Focus 18th April 2021 King Street Baptist Church

King Street Baptist Church (KSBC) is situated in the main pedestrianised walkway surrounded by shops and cafes in the small market town of Thetford in the Breckland District of Norfolk. A grade 2 listed building dating from 1864, it has been a place of constant Christian worship and witness in the town.

In the past year, our small fellowship has continued to meet on Zoom every Sunday to share 'live' worship. Indeed we are a fully Zoomed church! House group, prayer meetings, church meetings, trustees' meetings, coffee meetings, have all continued in the normal rhythm just in a different way on line. This has been a blessing as relationships have deepened both with Jesus and with one another over this time. Much pastoral work has also been maintained with those without internet access.

Part-time minister Revd Sally Sago reports that the pandemic has seen most of our outreach projects unable to continue such as our KidznCoffee drop-in play space. However, we have recently partnered with Kintsugi Hope mental health wellbeing charity. Following leaders training, we are now running our second course on Zoom whilst those from our first continue to chat regularly. The vision is to open a wellbeing space from our building as soon as we are able. Mental health is such an important issue we believe it will be vital to provide an opportunity for folk to

meet where it is ok not to be ok.

Working with other churches across the town we have set up KidznClothes providing pre-loved clothes for pre-school kids for those families needing cheap good quality clothes from babies up to five years.

Prayer Points

- Thanks for all that God has blessed us with in the last year despite the difficulties.
- That God will continue to lead us by his Holy Spirit to reach out to those in our community that they may know Christ as their Saviour.
- That we may have opportunities to walk alongside others and reopen our play space asap.
- That God will bless the fellowship with energy and new life as we travel into a new season.
- For the leadership team as they discern God's way forward together.

Richard Wurmbrand Quotes of the Week

Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned and tortured in Soviet Union controlled Romania for his faith in Jesus. Read his story on page 3 of this newsletter.

"My wife and I were present at this congress. Sabina told me, "Richard, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ! They are spitting in His face." I said to her, "If I do so, you lose your husband." She replied, "I don't wish to have a coward as a husband."

"It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy."

"God will judge us not according to how much we endured, but how much we could love"

"I have found truly jubilant Christians only in the Bible, in the Underground Church and in prison."

"I tremble because of the sufferings of those persecuted in different lands. I tremble thinking about the eternal destiny of their torturers. I tremble for Western Christians who don't help their persecuted brethren. In the depth of my heart, I would like to keep the beauty of my own vineyard and not be involved in such a huge fight. I would like so much to be somewhere in quietness and rest. But it is not possible... The quietness and rest for which I long would be an escape from reality and dangerous for my soul... The West sleeps and must be awakened to see the plight of the captive nations."

— **Richard Wurmbrand, [Tortured for Christ](#)**

"He said there were two kinds of Christians: those who sincerely believe in God and those who, just as sincerely, believe that they believe. You can tell them apart by their actions in decisive moments."

"Martin Luther, when he walked in the woods, used to raise his hat to the birds and say, 'Good morning, theologians—you wake and sing, but I, old fool, know less than you and worry over everything, instead of simply trusting in the heavenly Father's care.'"

— **Richard Wurmbrand, [In God's Underground](#)**

"Not all of us are called to die a martyr's death, but all of us are called to have the same spirit of self-sacrifice and love to the very end as these martyrs had."

— **Richard Wurmbrand, [The Midnight Bride](#)**

Tortured For Christ

Richard Wurmbrand, the youngest of four boys, was born in 1909 in Bucharest in a Jewish family. He lived with his family in Istanbul for a short while; his father died when he was 9, and the Wurmbrands returned to Romania when he was 15.

As an adolescent, he became attracted to communism, and, after attending a series of illegal meetings of the Communist Party of Romania (PCdR), he was sent to study Marxism in Moscow, but returned clandestinely the following year. Pursued by Siguranța Statului (the secret police), he was arrested and held in Doftana prison. Wurmbrand subsequently renounced his political ideals.

He married [Sabina Oster](#) on October 26, 1936. Wurmbrand and his wife were converted to Christianity in 1938 through the witness of Christian Wolfkes, a Romanian Christian carpenter; they joined the Anglican Mission to the Jews. Wurmbrand was ordained twice - first as an Anglican, then, after World War II, as a Lutheran pastor.

In 1944, when the Soviet Union occupied Romania as the first step to establishing the communist regime, Wurmbrand began a ministry to his Romanian countrymen and to the Red Army soldiers. When the government attempted to control the churches, he immediately began an "underground" ministry to his people. He was arrested on February 29, 1948, while on his way to church services.

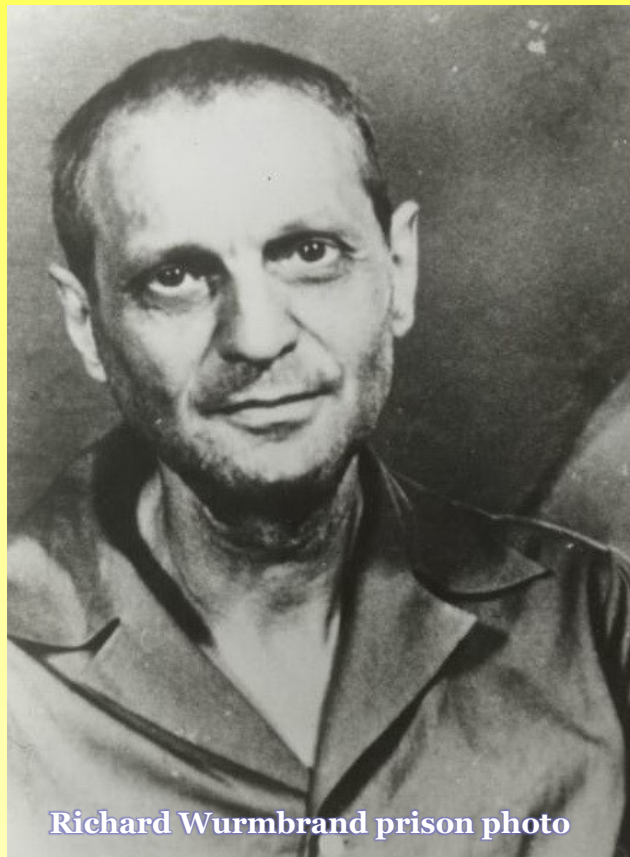
Wurmbrand, who passed through the penal facilities of Craiova, Gherla, the Danube-Black Sea Canal, Văcărești, Malmaison, Cluj, and ultimately Jilava, spent three years in solitary confinement. His wife, Sabina, was arrested in 1950 and spent three years of penal labour on the Canal.

Pastor Wurmbrand was released in 1956, after eight and a half years, and, although warned not to preach, resumed his work in the underground church. He was arrested again in 1959, and sentenced to 25 years. During his imprisonment, he was beaten and tortured. Eventually, he was the recipient of an amnesty in 1964. Concerned with the possibility of further imprisonment, the Norwegian Mission to the Jews and the Hebrew Christian Alliance negotiated with the Communist authorities for his release from Romania for \$10,000. He was convinced by underground church leaders to leave and become a voice for the persecuted church. Wurmbrand travelled to Norway, England, and then the United States. In May 1965, he testified in Washington, D.C. before the US Senate's Internal Security Subcommittee. He became known as the "The Voice of the Underground Church", doing much to publicize the persecution of Christians in Communist countries.



In April 1967, the Wurmbrands formed Jesus To The Communist World (later named The Voice of the Martyrs), an interdenominational organization working initially with and for persecuted Christians in Communist countries, but later expanding its activities to help persecuted believers in other places, especially in the Muslim world. However, when in Namibia, and confronted with the case of Colin Winter, the Anglican Bishop of Namibia, who had supported African strikers and was eventually deported from Namibia by South Africa, Wurmbrand criticized the latter's anti-apartheid activism, and claimed resistance to communism was more important.

In 1990 Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand returned to Romania for the first time in 25 years. The Voice of the Martyrs opened a printing facility and bookstore in Bucharest. He preached about God together



Richard Wurmbrand prison photo

with pastor Ioan Panican. The Wurmbrands had one son, Mihai. Wurmbrand wrote 18 books in English and others in Romanian. His best-known book is entitled *Tortured for Christ*, released in 1967. His wife, Sabina, died August 11, 2000. Pastor Wurmbrand died on February 17, 2001 in a hospital in Long Beach, California. His last address was in Palos Verdes, California. In 2006, he came fifth among the greatest Romanians according to the *Mari Ro*.

Source Goodreads click [here](#) for more details.

For a great range of Goodreads quotes go to <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes>

Image with thanks to [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Open Doors

Seven years of agony since Boko Haram stole Chibok's daughters

It's been seven years since 230 girls were taken from a school in Chibok by Boko Haram. Just over half of the girls have been freed or rescued, or escaped, leaving 111 still in captivity. Meanwhile, insecurity continues to affect large swathes of northern Nigeria – not just because of militant groups but also so-called bandits. Your prayers for the Chibok girls and their families, and Christians across Nigeria, remain desperately needed.

It was supposed to have been just another ordinary Monday for the girls at Chibok Girls State Secondary School. But soon after 275 of the girls sat down to take an exam, the day turned out to be a school day like no other.

Boko Haram militants stormed the exam hall, pretending to be government security officials who had come to protect the girls. They coaxed 230 of the girls onto trucks and headed for the Sambisa Forest. Before, during and shortly after the attack, 47 of the girls managed to escape. It was more than two years before more girls made it to freedom.

Today, seven years on from the incident on 14 April 2014, 111 girls remain unaccounted for. For the families of each girl, it's been seven years of agonising waiting and uncertainty.

No news is bad news

Precious little is known about the whereabouts or experiences of the girls still in captivity. It is also unclear whether there are any real efforts to negotiate a release, much less progress in securing their freedom – all to the exasperation of families waiting for any kind of news.

"It is so unfortunate that the government, who is supposed to take care of all its citizens, have neglected our daughters in the hands of the Boko Haram," Yakubu Nkeki Maina, chairman of the parents' association of the Chibok Kidnapped Girls, tells Open Doors.

"There is no justification as to why our daughters would not be rescued from the hands of the kidnapers for seven years now. It's quite disturbing that we have cried and asked the government to come to our rescue, but our cry has fallen on deaf ears."

For the parents, it's an endless nightmare. "These seven years have been like 100 years to me," Yana Gana, one of the parents, shares with Open Doors. "Day and night, I keep praying and hoping that my daughter would come back home. If my daughter is dead, I want to know, so that I can



mourn and find peace in my heart. The suspense is too much. This issue has left me with high blood pressure which I never had before."

Chibok is symbol of wider insecurity in Nigeria

As uncertainty and sorrow persists in Chibok and the surrounding region, so does insecurity. Boko Haram still carries out attacks in the area.

On Christmas Eve, the group attacked Chibok and other nearby communities. In one location, they surrounded youths who were rehearsing for a Christmas service the next morning. They killed eight people, set the church on fire, and took the pastor and a three-year-old boy away with them. Later that day, the body of the pastor was recovered. The boy remains missing.

While the Chibok kidnapping was Nigeria's most famous – garnering worldwide attention – it has certainly not been its only.

Nigeria has one of the world's highest rates of kidnap-for-ransom cases, explains Quartz Africa. In their effort to establish a caliphate in the Lake Chad Basin and beyond, Boko Haram has snatched thousands of girls, women, boys and men from their homes across northeastern Nigeria, northern Cameroon and southern areas of Niger and Chad.

Meanwhile, there is growing pressure on the government to address the increase in kidnapping in other areas of northern Nigeria by so-called bandits. While the motivation is clearly financial, observers warn at least some of the kidnapers may have links to Boko Haram.

How are the released girls doing?

Of the Chibok girls already released, 39 attend school at the American University of Nigeria (in Adamawa State), 17 are studying in the USA, two have graduated, and one has become a pilot. Ten are getting married in April.

It's encouraging news, but other released girls continue to be severely haunted by their experiences of captivity. They need your prayers. "Some of the girls are still going through serious trauma and have refused to go to school," Yakubu Nkeki Maina explains.

Your role in supporting believers in Chibok and across Nigeria

Thanks to your support, Open Doors continues to call on the international community to urge Nigerian President Muhammada Buhari to continue efforts to liberate the hostages held by Boko Haram. There is also a push to create a position within the government for the sole purpose of maintaining an active family liaison and an open and accessible channel of communication with the traumatised parents of the hostages.

Alongside this, your prayers and support have been instrumental in the provision of physical aid and trauma care for survivors of violence in Nigeria, healing believers and giving them a platform to look forward with hope. Over the years, you've walked closely with several Boko Haram kidnap survivors, including [Hannatu](#) and [Amina](#), both of whom have been given the necessary support to [See.Change](#) in their lives.

To read more stories and see how you can help go to <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/>

Picture left. Parents of some of the victims of the 2014 **Chibok** kidnapping mourn their losses by kind permission of [Wikimedia Commons](#)