

# Stalham Baptist Church *Weekly News*

Sunday 3rd July 2022 Service

Jerry is leading and will continue our thoughts about "Person and the Works of the Holy Spirit," by starting a new series called "The Fruit of Walking In the Spirit." Starting with "Nine Flavours, One Fruit". Today we'll start with "LOVE".

The reading is Galatians 5:16-26.

The live service will also be Online from Sunday go to

[www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/)

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

## Today we start something new

It's not a sermon nor an in depth Bible study. It's a recording lasting five minutes or less that will help you engage with the Bible passages regularly included in the news letters. Visit our [Scripture Reading Plan](#) to find it.

Structure of Jerry's talk for today. LOVE:

(1) Is Essential. (2) Is a Fruit of the Spirit (3) And Is Commanded

## Jerry's Reads

Matt 22:36-40, John 15, Rom 13:8-14, 1 Cor 13, 1 John 4:7-21

## For Your Prayers

**Prayer for Strength** O Lord, be our Sanctifier and the Shepherd. Strengthen and help us, that in our daily life walk with you, we serve you in all quietness of spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. *Source: Roman Breviary, 11th Century*

**Lord, We Need You** Dear God, We're in need of your peace and truth to soothe our hearts and spirits right now. When we find ourselves awake in the middle of the night, our pressing needs and worries can feel overwhelming. We need to be reminded of your constant love, healing, and grace. We ask for your Mighty Power to surround us. *Source Debbie McDaniel*

**To Trust in Jesus.** Dear Father, Thank You for inviting me to trust You with my overwhelming day. Holy Spirit, please help me to fix my eyes and my mind on You — not on my abilities to get it all done with the help of caffeine. Help me to put my trust in You, as I eagerly anticipate the peace You've promised to put in me. Fill me up with Your sweet peaceful presence as I sing, "Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, oh for grace to trust You more." Amen. - source Wendy Speake all from [Christianity.com](http://Christianity.com)

During July please pray for the residents of Allen Meale Way and Granville Close. Lord as a fellowship guide us and inspire us to reach out to the community with our prayers as there is so much pain, suffering and fear growing as the problems in our own country grow and also the wars and famines around the world are reported daily. Help us also to demonstrate with Christianity in Action Your love by bringing material help and support those in need. As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Christine and Robert Emerson**.

## Church Meeting

Following the service on Sunday July 10th we will be holding a Church Meeting. Beth Powney Reginal Minister will be joining us and will be preaching at the morning service.

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 26th June David posted "Flicka Henwood passed away at 9pm on Saturday. Please pray for her daughter Sarah and the rest of the family." Flicka's Celebration Service is at 2.00pm at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 13th July.

## Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 14: 13-14

<sup>34</sup> Women<sup>[a]</sup> should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. <sup>35</sup> If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church

*As a Christian how easy is it for us to be silent and let God speak?*



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon  
07951949128

Ministry Team:  
The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 4th July

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

### Tuesday 5th July

9.30am -12 in the Stables  
Coffee and Chat

### Wednesday 6th July

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
Table Tennis

### Thursday 7th July

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Details in online Diary

### Friday 8th July

10.15 Prayer for Revival  
Three Windows, Brumstead Road  
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 10th July

Church Meeting and Beth Powney  
Reginal Minister will be with us.

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

### Thursday 14th July

10.00am In the School Room  
Bible Art

### Saturday 16th July

11.00 to 4.00pm Table Top Sale  
At Edna's house and garden  
"Eureka" St Johns Road Stalham.

### Thursday 21st July

3.15 to 5pm

Messy Church 2 – The Big Picnic  
**Food Bank & Personal Prayer**

SBC is open Monday to Friday from  
10.00am to 12 noon to receive  
donations for the food bank and for  
personal prayer. Jerry or Ron is always  
in attendance.

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 minister  
[@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

## Bowls Afternoon Success

A big thank you to all those who took part or came to support the bowls afternoon when SBC took on SBC (Stalham Bowls Club) The event raised £167 for the building fund. SBC had 4 teams two won and two lost their games but Stalham Bowls Club won with an overall score of 92-56 points. A big thank you to John Nicholson who organized the event and donated all the money that Stalham Bowls Club took during the event. Also big round of applause to Greg, Jerry and Stewart who took part when they hadn't played before or had played just one game. A mention also of Elaine who won the spider event.

## Birthday and Wedding Anniversary

Dorothy and Pater Bane will be celebrating Peter's 90th birthday and their 1st Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 9th July at the SBC Stables at 2.00-5.00pm with a buffet. All are welcome. Donations for the Leprosy Mission would be gladly accepted.

## SBC Welcome Team – Volunteers needed

Now that covid restrictions have been lifted we need to reinstate the Welcome Team. This is an important part of our ministry when we can meet and greet people as they arrive for Sunday morning Service or if needed for other services. Some of you who were on the Welcome Rota prior to lockdowns are looking forward to being able to take part again as you mention finding it to be a good way to greet regular folk and any new faces. You need to arrive 20 minutes before service.

Please speak to me Maggie Harpur either at church, phone 01692 583121 or email [maggie.harpur@yahoo.com](mailto:maggie.harpur@yahoo.com) I would love to hear from you. Thank you

## EBA Prayer Focus 3rd July 2022 Oxlow Lane Baptist Church

Oxlow Lane Baptist Church in Dagenham, East London, is a very mixed fellowship with people from many different parts of the world. About 60-70 people worship there on a Sunday, with a good age range. Dagenham is a densely populated area of about 110,000. Neil Kinghorn, the church's minister, reports that during lockdown the church was live-streaming Sunday services and prayer meetings, which saw people from other parts of the UK and even from other countries choose to worship with Oxlow Lane – praise God. Neil says: 'We have not fully opened all ministries since the lockdown, but Tiny Teddies toddler group is running, along with Bible study, prayer meetings and Sunday school. We thank God for four baptisms taking place on July 10.

### Prayer focus

- That we may have the opportunity during our toddler group to be witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- For those being baptised, that they will know the presence and strength of the Lord so they will be able to stand for Jesus.
- For the church, that we may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- Pray that we may know growth in the church spiritually and in people coming to know Jesus.

## Bible Art Come and Join Us

**Bible Art starting on Thursday 14th July from 10am to 12pm in the school room.**

Would you like to get creative - no matter how much of an artist you see yourself as? Are you interested in taking time to reflect on a few verses of the Bible and to think about their relevance for your own life?

We want to have a look at a few Bible verses together and get inspired to put a word or a theme into a piece of art. Everyone can decide by themselves which creative method he or she wants to use or try out - a few examples could be hand

lettering, Bible Art Journaling, making a collage or a card as well as drawing or painting with different kinds of materials such as oil crayons, felt pens or aquarelle paint. We have bibles and a few materials available. If you have your own journaling Bible or craft materials we are happy for you to bring them along. The next Bible Art morning will be on the 28th July. Any questions? Feel free to contact: Simone Otieno (07436837210)

## Edna's Table Top Sale Help

On Saturday July 16th, 11am to 4pm Edna is hosting a Table Top Yard Sale in her house and garden "Eureka" St Johns Road Stalham to support SBC Building fund. Lots of fun with General Stalls, Cake Stall, Plant Stall and many more. Refreshments and light lunches available. You can book a table for £5 by contacting Edna on 01692-582633

## Did You Know?

In English we only have one word for love yes love. In Greek there are 8 as follows with an explanation:

- Eros (sexual passion) ...
- Philia (deep friendship) ...
- Ludus (playful love) ...
- Agape (love for everyone) ...
- Pragma (longstanding love) ...
- Philautia (love of the self as in self esteem) ...
- Storge (family love) ...
- Mania (obsessive love)

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Love through me, Love of God;  
There is no love in me.

O Fire of love, light Thou the love  
That burns perpetually.

Flow through me, Peace of God;  
Calm River, flow until

No wind can blow, no current stir  
A ripple of self-will.

Shine through me, Joy of God;  
Make me like Thy clear air

That Thou dost pour Thy colours through,  
As though it were not there

O blessed Love of God,

That all may taste and see

How good Thou art, once more I pray:  
Love through me—even me."

~ Amy Carmichael asks,

"Have you ever noticed that the vegetation is always abundant and luxurious along the banks of a stream? This is what the Bible says about us. As the Holy Spirit flows freely in our lives, a rich and beautiful character grows. We are filled with love, joy, with peace. In every relationship we exhibit that patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that mark us as God's own. There is no way, however much we plough and harrow, or cultivate and hoe our character, to produce this crop by ourselves. This crop is produced only by God the Holy Spirit, and only in those who live by Him."— Richards, L.

"The love of GOD cannot but evoke an answering love for Him from the heart of the believer. "We love him because he first loved us" (1John 4:19). This love has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). Needless to say, this love of God is bound to overflow in love for our fellow Christians: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" C Norman Bartlett





# Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

villagers kept persecuting Mehr and her family. “They isolated us, hurled lewd comments at my sister and me, and shamed us for being involved in ‘illegal’ activities. They constantly used abusive words and mocked us. It was hurtful.”

## Mocked. Beaten. Yet unshaken: Why Mehr in India has courageous faith

Mehr in India was viciously attacked for being a Christian - and, when she got to hospital, doctors and nurses refused to treat her. All because she follows Jesus. But you can help Mehr's faith - and that of other Indian Christians - remain unshaken.

For Mehr\*, an Indian Christian in her twenties, being violently assaulted was only the start of her persecution. After the attack, she faced discrimination at the hands of the people who should help her most.

Mehr grew up as a Hindu, like most people in India. All her family were Hindus, and all her community were Hindus. But she started to question her religion when it couldn't offer any solace for her chronic illness. Mehr found neither healing nor peace through her faith. And then somebody told her about Jesus. Her mother thought they might as well try taking her to be prayed for by a Christian.

“My mother took me to the church,” Mehr remembers. “I was healed! I came to know Jesus as the true Healer - the living God. I gave my life to Jesus. Our lives changed as we got to know God.”

Mehr, her mother and her sister were excited about their new life as Christians - but others in their community were very unhappy. Converting to Christianity comes with significant risk in many parts of India, as Hinduism is often seen as part of the national identity. Christians are seen as traitors.

### Falsely accused of being paid to convert

In addition, converts from impoverished areas, like Mehr, are often accused of illegally being paid to become Christians. Recently, [two more states in India have introduced anti-conversion laws](#) - bringing the total to 11 states. Though these laws purport to prevent forced conversions, they are often abused to falsely target Christians.

“When we accepted Christ, the people in our community accused us of taking money to become Christian,” says Mehr. “We denied such accusations - we told them, Christ did not come for religious conversion. He came to change lives. When we come to the Lord, we receive peace. We are filled with joy.”

Mehr's words didn't make any difference. The

Despite being insulted and rejected by her community, Mehr kept praying for them. As she explains, “Their words hurt momentarily, but my joy in Christ overpowered all the opposition. I believed and prayed that they would experience Jesus the same way we did.”

### Violently attacked

But that didn't happen. Instead, when Mehr's mother and sister were on their way home from a prayer meeting, they were stopped by a group of angry neighbours. This time, the angry comments escalated into physical violence. The mob began beating Mehr's mother and sister. Mehr ran to rescue them - but the crowd attacked her too.

“The attackers started to beat me mercilessly and tried to strangle me with a cloth,” she says, with tears in her eyes as she remembers the traumatic event. “I fell unconscious. I was wounded and bleeding and suffered several injuries across my body.”

A bystander managed to stop the persecutors and phoned an ambulance. Mehr was taken to the hospital.

### Anxiety in the hospital

“I was in shock and numbness after the incident,” Mehr shares. “I was not aware of my surroundings. I was in constant fear that the attackers would look for us again, and experienced anxiety and panic attacks.”

Because of her stay at the hospital, Mehr lost her job. She was still being threatened and abused by her attackers, even during recovery. Mehr felt desperate. But her mother and sister reminded her of the hope she has in Christ. They pointed her to Psalm 23: “...for you are close beside me, your rod and your staff protect and comfort me”.

“I was devastated and crushed, unable to understand all that was happening,” says Mehr. “But when my sister or mother prayed with me, I was revitalised - and strengthened by the Word of God that He protects and comforts me.”

Mehr's wider church family also came to show their love and care. “My relatives, my pastors, pastors from other churches came and everyone prayed for me,” she remembers. “One of them said, ‘Those whose fight the Lord fights, they never lose.’ I slowly started to fortify myself in prayer, reading the Bible and writing down my thoughts to God in the form of songs.”

But Mehr's ordeal wasn't over.

## Denied treatment because of her faith

With all the trauma and anxiety Mehr was experiencing, she shouldn't have had to worry about her medical treatment. But the persecution that Christians often face in India has far-reaching effects. The people who attacked Mehr and her family are very influential in their community, and they bribed the medical staff to stop treating Mehr because she is a Christian. "The doctors were pressurised so that my treatment wouldn't progress," says Mehr. "The nurses didn't come for my treatment and stopped all care. Medicine was also stopped. My heart was gripped with fear – I thought, 'How will I survive?' This kind of injustice should not be done to anyone, Christians or non-Christians."

It's hard to imagine having to cope with discrimination like this from people whose vocation is to care for you. But this form of persecution is all-too common for Indian Christians who are victims of attacks.

## Healing and hope, thanks to you

But local Open Doors partners came as quickly as possible to help Mehr, thanks to the gifts and prayers of Open Doors supporters. "As soon as Open Doors partners came to know about my situation, God sent them as divine helpers," says Mehr. They were able to get Mehr transferred to a hospital that would treat her, and paid for the treatment.

"Our family is not wealthy, and we didn't have money for treatment," says Mehr. "Your ministry paid for my hospital bills. Thank you so much for being an encourager in my life. Surely my cup overflows with blessings. I thank Almighty God for you!"

As well as emergency treatment, local partners are supporting Mehr and her family with financial help and trauma care for the long-term. "You are continuing to help us and support us with groceries and all our needs," says Mehr. "I thank those who helped me, and may God bless them and increase them – so they may be able to help and support other people like they helped and supported me and my family."

## "My God use my testimony"

Just as importantly, Mehr and her family know they aren't abandoned. It means so much to them to know that their worldwide church family hasn't forgotten them.

"I am so grateful to my God," she says. "He certainly has comforted me through your gracious help. When everything looked dark, your presence and prayers uplifted my family and me. I can testify and claim that the plans of God are good and not for my harm, and every circumstance guides me to a future and hope in Christ."

As well as emergency care and longer-term financial help, Mehr was also able to attend Open

Doors training to help her stand firm when facing persecution. She has boldly shared her testimony in the seminar and touched many with her unshakeable faith in Christ. "When this attack happened to me, it wasn't easy to come out of it, but God put one thing on my heart: 'Do not fear for I am with you.' (Isaiah 41:10).

"God is my strength – holy God is my fortress. May God use my testimony to strength my brothers and sisters."

## Forgiveness and growth

Mehr knows that justice is very unlikely to be done, in the case of the people who attacked her. Her family lodged a complaint with the police, but her attackers were not arrested or questioned, because of the influential position they hold in the community. Christians in many parts of India find that their accusations are disregarded – and sometimes the police even take the side of the persecutors. But Mehr is living out the command that Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount, to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44).

"The people who did this to me, I have forgiven them," says Mehr. "God gave me strength so I could forgive them." Her strong desire is that all her neighbours, even the ones who launched the vicious attack, will come to know Jesus.

Mehr has gone through a lot at a young age, but her faith is strong and she's dedicated to being a light for Christ in India – and has a strong vision for the future of the Indian church. "The plan that God has for my life is big. I will be used for God's glory. Jesus Christ is everything to me. However much persecution increases, God's people will not decrease. No matter how much people persecute them, they will grow."

## You can show Mehr she isn't alone

Mehr knows God hasn't abandoned her – can you show Mehr, and believers like her, that her worldwide family won't abandon them? Open Doors partners are helping 80,000 India Christians with emergency relief, and providing long-term help to another 650,000. But many more vulnerable Christians in India are in urgent need of support for medical bills after attacks, food relief when they lose their jobs due to discrimination, legal help, discipleship, training and business loans for the future.

We must act now to support and protect the Indian church from the attempts of extremists to wipe it out. Today, please help ensure the faith of India Christians isn't shaken.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

Source *OpenDoors* for more information click [here](#)

