

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 15th January 2023 Service

This Sunday Barbara & Geoff are leading and Jerry is continuing the sermon series through the book of Haggai he started in October. Last time we looked at "Priorities" in chapter 1, this Sunday's sermon in Haggai 2:1-9 is on God's "Perspective" in times of discouragement

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to

www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Jerry's Structure. Three Cures for discouragement:

- (1) Identify the Cause v 3 (2) Be Strong & Persevere. v 4-5
- (3) Find Encouragement in God's Assurances. v 5b-9

Jerry's Reads

Josh. 1:6-7, 9, 1 Chronicles 28:10, 20, Ezra 3:11-13, 1 Cor. 15:58, Philippians 3:13-14, Hebrews 12:25-29 &, and Hebrews 13:5-6.

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Daniel, Victoria, Gracie, Poppy, Autumn and Ezra Nicholson.

During January please pray for the residents of Weavers Close and Spinners Court.

Lord we pray that there can be genuine conversations between the Government and the people in the NHS who were the heroes during the pandemic. We pray that reconciliation can be achieved rapidly that will be beneficial to all sides currently involved in this current industrial action. We also pray that the same can be achieved for the many other people around the UK who are struggling while trying to survive the cost-of-living-crisis and striking to receive more money and feel secure in their work place.

Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering, we pray for our nation and our world. Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope. Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Source Church of England

Christians In Politics

Many Christians across the UK are passionate about this country and its government. Christians in Politics is an organisation that seeks to positively engage in our political system, building relationships with those in positions of authority. These people need our prayers to be salt and light to our leaders. Find out more by going to christiansinpolitics.org.uk.

Finish by praying for those who God has called to politics, and that more will join them in this mission.

Virtual Prayer Room

Tuesday 10th January Geoff posted "Please could you pray for me.

I have a non-malignant cyst under my left armpit.

When I woke up on Thursday it was a bit red.

I saw my doctor on Friday who said it had become infected somehow and prescribed antibiotics.

However since then it has continued to become more inflamed and extremely sore. During the night it partially burst and I have an appointment this afternoon to see if a nurse can drain it more, the thought of which is not good it being very sore without being touched."

Also on Tuesday Jane posted "prayer request from Magda. Her friend, Gerry's husband, Kevin has had a cardiac arrest and tore his aorta. He has had an 11 hour operation at Papworth and is in a critical condition. Can we please pray for his recovery. Thank you."

Later Geoff posted "Thank you for prayers. Drained and dressed now. Dressing change booked for Thursday. Painful process but a lot easier now it is done."

On Wednesday 11th Jenny posted "Please pray for my 91 year old mum who has been taken hospital with a chest infection. She has started treatment but is waiting for them to find a bed for her. Thanks."



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington

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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

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Secretary: Diana Gordon

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Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 16th January

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Prayers for SBC and young people

2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Tuesday 17th January

Coffee and Chat

9.30am - 12 in the Stables

Wednesday 18th January

Table Tennis

9.30am - 12 in the School Room

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Thursday 19th January

10am - 12noon Bible Art in the

Schoolroom

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

3.15pm Messy Church

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Friday 20th January

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 22nd January

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Julia and Maggie

Flowers: Barbara M

Food Bank & Personal Prayer

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

The **Food Bank** is open on Friday 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 07826 376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Community Fridge Open

Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

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

Bible Art Group a huge Success

The idea of a Bible Art group has been a great success. People's first reaction was "I'm not creative," or "I'm not an artist."

Simone said "I completely get that as I'm not an artist in that sense either. But I believe that everyone can be creative. To be creative implies that something is created, and it doesn't ask for a certain level of professionalism or artistic skills. It's not about creating perfectly sellable pieces of art but more about learning to express ourselves in a different way, reflecting on the Word of God and having something in hand that can remind us of what we have learned or what became important to us.

I love it when different people come together, try out new things and learn together. And that's what happens at our Bible Art group at Stalham Baptist Church. We read a few Bible verses each time, reflect on them and think about their relevance in our own lives. Then each person has the chance to create something in reflection of the Bible passage. It can be a painting or it can be words, it can be a post card or a big canvas, everyone can choose their own creative method.

We meet biweekly and it has so far been very encouraging. We are open for people to join in (reading age to no age limit) either as a one off or on a regular basis.

If you have your own craft materials you are welcome to bring them along."

Any questions? Feel free to contact Simone Otieno: sim1otieno@gmail.com and or 07436837210

BIBLE Art is taking place every other Thursday morning at 10am to 12pm in the school room at Stalham Baptist Church. Upcoming dates: 19th January. 2nd February 16th. February (Holidays: Children and adults are welcome)

BMS Birthday Scheme

A total of £220 was sent to the BMS Birthday Scheme last year which helps towards medical treatment in poorer countries, thank you to all the folk who have donated money on their birthday towards this. If anyone is interested in joining, why not grab a piece of cake and a leaflet from the Stables this morning while drinking your cuppa,

EBA Prayer Focus 15th January 2023

Socketts Heath Baptist Church

Socketts Heath Baptist Church is a multi-ethnic congregation meeting in the northern suburbs of Grays in Essex.

Minister Rev Oliver McMullen and his family moved to the area in September and have been made to feel very welcome very quickly. In this season, the church is seeking ways of regathering people, and strengthening community relationships at all levels.

The church is beginning the year with a week of prayer as it focuses on growing community during 2023, sensing that the Lord is inviting them to pause, take stock and focus on what the church's next steps should be. One expression of supporting this is that a monthly evening worship service will now be taking place.

Rev McMullen says: "We know that God is guiding our steps and we are looking forward to developing the



positive patterns that will help us move along the paths he is preparing.'

Sunday morning worship includes sessions for children and young people, and there is a youth group meeting on alternate Saturdays. Midweek activities include toddlers group, ladies fellowship and coffee morning, which all form part of our warm welcome, and the church is also seeking ways to explore other ways of serving the community without over-stretching their resources. A lunch club called 'Love Lunch' is nearly ready to go.

A very successful Christingle service attracted people of all ages and a pop-up nativity also proved popular, so already people are sensing interest from those outside the regular congregation.

Prayer focus:

- the continuing growth of relationships across the fellowship and for the new minister as he and the family continue to settle in.
- The Lord's equipping and resourcing us as the church seeks to reach out to their community with the good news of Jesus.
- God to stir up His future vision in the coming months from within the fellowship.

Foodbank

Any of the following would be much appreciated:

Tinned Tomatoes, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays.

Jerry's Quotes

"Discouragement is dissatisfaction with the past, distaste for the present, and distrust of the future. It is ingratitude for the blessings of yesterday, indifference to the opportunities of today, and insecurity regarding strength for tomorrow. It is unawareness of the presence of beauty, unconcern for the needs of our fellowman, and unbelief in the promises of old. It is impatience with time, immaturity of thought, and impoliteness to God." --

William Ward.

Pay as little attention to discouragement as possible. Plough ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth, rain or shine. To carry your cargo and make port is the point." -- **Maltbie Babcock, in Bits and Pieces.**

"Everywhere the perpetual endeavour of the enemy of souls is to discourage. If he can get the soul "under the weather," he wins. It is not really what we go through that matters; it is what we go under that breaks us. We can bear anything if only we are kept inwardly victorious. If God can make His birds to whistle in drenched and stormy darkness if He can make His butterflies able to bear up under rain, what can He not do for the heart that trusts Him?" -- **Amy Carmicheal "Learning of God."**

"In case of discouragement, we must consider ourselves as Christ does, who looks on us as those he intends to fit for himself. Christ values us by what we shall be and by what we are elected unto. We call a little plant a tree, because it is growing up to be so. 'Who has despised the day of small things?' (Zech. 4:10). Christ would not have us despise little things" -- **Richard Sibbes**

Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 13 (MSG) The Way of Love

¹³ If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be cancelled.

¹¹ When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.



As Christians living in a world of self-destruction and war created by human greed for obscene power and wealth at others' expense, do we settle to sound like a clanging bell ringing out when the truth is "when all's said and done there's more said than done?" Do we puff our chests out and let everyone know how much we are doing when secretly we have lost hope and trust in God's power? How easy is it in these days of darkness to hang on to faith, hope and love, continue to thrive in the love of God and believe that Jesus loves you and that love never gives up?

Listen to Ron's talk on the passage with a short blog (less than 5 minutes) by visiting our [Scripture Reading Plan](#) Then click on **Public Area** then **Scripture Reading Plan**.

'He who saves a single life, saves the world entire'

Close relationships built up over several years with leaders in Ukraine meant the charity [Dnipro Hope Mission \(DHM\)](#) was able to fund and resource a number of live-saving initiatives when war broke out. Co-founder and trustee [Joshua Searle](#) shares a summary of the charity's ministry in 2022

This has been a truly dreadful year for Ukraine and its people as Russia's so-called "Special Military Operation" has evolved into the mass slaughter of Ukraine's civilian population. Russia has brought nothing but death and destruction to millions of Ukrainians whose lives have been permanently blighted by this illegal and unprovoked invasion.

As always in war, it is the weakest and most vulnerable people who have suffered disproportionately – children, disabled people, the elderly and the infirm. It is for these people that DHM exists to help and serve. Ever since DHM was founded in 2016, our mission has always been to save the lives of as many Ukrainians as possible and to give hope and restore dignity to people in Ukraine whose lives have been blighted by illness, poverty and war.

The date 24 February 2022 will always remain in our memory as a "Day of Infamy". Waking up to the news that thousands of Russian tanks were illegally entering Ukrainian territory was a horror that none of us will forget. That same morning, we immediately made contact with all our partners in Ukraine, one-by-one, reassuring them of our prayers, support and solidarity. We were able to draw on our close relationships with key leaders in Ukraine – relationships that we had nurtured for over a decade before the outbreak of the war.

DHM created direct funding channels between donors in the UK and churches in Eastern Ukraine that were



responding to the humanitarian disaster created by the invasion. With DHM funds, our ministry partners have been able to fund and resource a number of live-saving initiatives, including:

Poltava

The setting up of a humanitarian aid sanctuary at Poltava Baptist Church, which at the start of the war, provided warm accommodation and dry rations for thousands of refugees fleeing the Kharkiv Region. DHM funds were used to buy rations and to pay the heating bills of the church. Thanks to the DHM funds, up to 2,000 refugees were given warmth and food during those critical early months of the war.

Vasylkivka

In collaboration with our partners in the eastern Dnipro region, we provided funds to a church to enable them to build a modern toilet block and shower facilities, as well as a reception area. In the early months of the war these spaces were used to care for refugees fleeing from Donetsk. More recently, the facilities have been used to care for Ukrainian soldiers returning for a few days from their frontline duties. DHM funds have been used to provide warm showers, comfortable bedding and warm meals for the Ukrainian soldiers.

Tsarichanka

We have worked closely with our friends at Tsarichanka Baptist Church to provide urgent and life-saving medical and humanitarian aid to the nearly 200 residents of a care home for people suffering from critical illness and infirmity. DHM funds have been used to buy essential supplies of insulin for the diabetic residents, as well as essential medication to ease the pain and suffering of those in the care home. The funding from DHM has been especially critical since the outbreak of the war, because the cost of drugs has increased sharply and the care home administrators were not able to meet the rising costs themselves.

Pastor Boiko's ministry

Pastor Boiko uses DHM funds to provide a local garrison of Ukrainian soldiers with food, drinks and warm clothing. He also buys medicines, such as antiretroviral drugs, and takes them to residents of a nearby orphanage for young people, several of whom are HIV-positive and who depend on a regular supply of essential medication.

Pastor Sergey's ministry

DHM has helped to fund the ministry of Pastor Sergey R., who is serving as a military chaplain to Ukrainian troops on the frontline in the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions. DHM has helped to repair and maintain Sergey's van, which he uses to deliver aid to Ukrainian soldiers. Pastor Sergey has a vital ministry to Ukrainian troops

These are just a few highlights. DHM is also involved in other ministries throughout Ukraine, including the essential work of our Mennonite friends in the Zaporizhe Region, who have used DHM funds to take essential supplies to people in Kherson Region, whose homes and villages had been destroyed by the retreating Russian occupiers. We've also been heavily involved in supporting our partner churches in Lviv, who have been providing urgent temporary accommodation for refugees fleeing from Eastern Ukraine, who were making their way to Poland and other European countries.

It is also worth mentioning the work that DHM has done to settle Ukrainian refugees in the UK. Although our main focus of our ministry has been on Ukraine itself, we have devoted some of our resources to helping people in Ukraine to find asylum in the UK. We have matched Ukrainian refugees with UK hosts. In the summer one of the families that we helped to settle in the UK was featured on the BBC programme, Songs of Praise. In total, we have matched around 20 Ukrainian refugees with host families here in the UK.

It has become clear from speaking to our ministry partners in Ukraine that the ministry of DHM is making a huge difference. Although we are a small charity, entirely dependent on the work and goodwill of volunteers, we are able to make big difference at a local level in the places where we have trusted partners. It is humbling to hear from our ministry partners that there are people who are alive today who would otherwise have died had it not been for the support that we have provided through our partners. Dozens of elderly and disabled people have been saved from freezing to death because of the warm spaces that DHM has funded. Many more people have been given life-saving medicines at a time when regular supply lines broke down as a result of the chaos and upheaval caused by the Russian invasion.

We can't save everyone and as a small organisation, we're limited in what we can do. But as Christians we believe that the life of every individual person is of infinite value, because life is a gift from God. As an ancient Jewish text puts it: "Whoever saves one life saves the whole life of humankind."

As long as God gives us strength and as long as people continue to support our ministry, we will continue in our mission to stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian friends.

Joshua T. Searle is DHM co-founder and trustee, and has written this piece on behalf of the DHM Board of Trustees. For more on the work of the charity, visit: dniprohopenmission.org Source Baptist Times