



ONE VISION

New Testament Church of God Newsletter



Issue 3 | June 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP



Welcome to the third issue of the NTCG newsletter. I pray that you are continuing to keep safe and well.

Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul in their teaching predicted that challenging times would come, for us it is no longer a prophecy, it is our present reality. However, the scriptures also assure us that when we are faced with these challenges, God will be with us, assisting us to navigate our way through.

This newsletter is a communication tool to keep you updated on matters/issues pertaining to our denomination's response to the challenges we face during the current season.

In this issue you will find updates from some of our department leads, messages from the NEC, articles on varying subjects, a book review, updates on some of the amazing Christian and humanitarian work being undertaken and plenty more.

Don't forget that you have the opportunity to be a contributor to this newsletter. For information, please contact:

Katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk

Bishop Dr Donald Bolt

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTRE

The global pandemic presents immense challenges to the ongoing delivery of courses at LTC. It tests our ability to prepare and make the necessary provisions to minimise disruption to the education and training programme and the support we are able to give during these challenging times. Thanks to both students and facilitators for your continuing commitment during this period of lockdown. In as much as we face this period of unforeseen disruption, it also presents some great opportunities to develop a more robust and diverse approach to the delivery of our courses and the support we offer to both students and facilitators in the future. We hope to be able to update you further in a few weeks on our preparation for the rest of the year, and into next year.

LTC website <https://ntcg.org.uk/education/> continues to host all our courses, with details on how you can apply. Whether or not the lockdown eases sufficiently for social distancing to be relaxed, as from the autumn onwards, we hope to make better use of the blended approach to learning and the delivery of our programmes, that are already well celebrated. All courses will be delivered as scheduled in our prospectus online. You are therefore encouraged to enrol for courses, using the online provision and facility for payment.

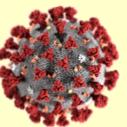
We want to reassure applicants that LTC will be opened for teaching and training for the start of the next academic year. We are also encouraging both new and existing students to access independent learning resources, where possible. Additionally, teaching and learning materials will be delivered to you or can be collected from the NTCG National Office by students. Examinations will continue from September 2020. We remain committed to doing all we can to support our applicants and students.



STAYING INFORMED

CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19

Keep up to date with the latest information on the Coronavirus pandemic:



World Health Organisation (WHO)

https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If anyone needs to check their symptoms, they should go to **NHS 111 Online:**

<https://111.nhs.uk/>

A reliable source of the latest news on the virus is the **BBC:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/coronavirus>

How to make a face mask

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609777>

If you have any news or information you wish to share via this Newsletter, please send them to Katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk



Bishop Jonathan Jackson

Church Action, People Action

The big question people keep asking is what do we do when people are looking to the church for help. We can no longer ignore the calls for help. We must change our approach and become a people of action. Our church action must be courageously standing against injustice and oppression and racism. Church Action is People Action and it is at the heart of the Theology and praxis personified by life and ministry of Jesus Christ. To be a church that is filled with people

of action, the passion, power and purpose of ministry as defined in Luke 4:18 and demonstrated by Jesus, must be seen at the heart and in the nature and thrust of our ministry.

LUKE 4: 18 (NLT)

The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free

We cannot be indifferent to the injustices around us. The ministry of Jesus spoke and acted against it. His teaching instructs us to fight for justice. 52 years after Dr Martin Luther King's assassination we must honour his legacy with a new wave of Church Action and people action.

In this worrying season of COVID 19 and the subsequent 'lockdown' new norm, social distancing, deaths and the high rate of deaths amongst the BAME communities, gives us much to lament about to the Lord and seek his wisdom for our response. The current momentum behind BLM is a direct response to police brutality in the US and death of George Floyd, has made the world examine itself in a new reality. Today we are facing a fire that has been burning for a long time. There is increasing frustration and anger in the global communities. Prior to all of this, the inquiry on the Windrush scandal had found institutional racism and ignorance played a major part in destroying many lives.

Our children, who are globally conscious, are fired to speak out, stand up and march for justice against racism in all forms. Today as we continue to see racism affecting our lives and that of our children, they seek greater affirmation, truth and empowerment.

The action of the church must be to stand in solidarity with a heart ready to love and serve.

We choose to be certain kinds of human beings. That is why those who choose to love and serve have a calling and not a career. Love and service are a vocation, not a profession. (Cornel West, Hope on a Tight Rope, p152)

In the words of Dr King, "to be a church of action we must courageously call out racism stand up for justice truth and equality and have visionary faith that can see hope beyond the nightmare we face".

"With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood".

God bless

Bishop Jonathan Jackson

Following last month's issue, **Reverend Keith Channer** is training hard to be able to reach his target of 60 press ups in 60 seconds to raise £2,000 for the health service, on **Friday 26th June 2020.**



There is still time to donate in support of Rev Channer and the NHS.

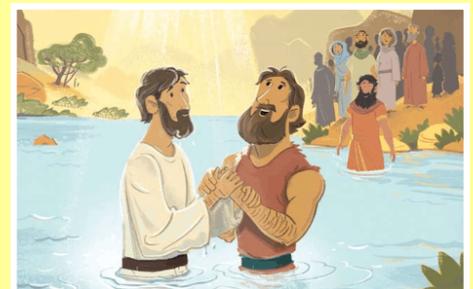
[DONATE NOW!](#)

[MORE INFO](#)



A BIT OF FUN IN LOCKDOWN

Jesus' Baptism: Spot the Differences!
Can you spot the 11 differences between the pictures?





Carolyn Henry
Member of
National Youth & Discipleship Board

2020 is a year we will never forget, as never before have we encountered a global pandemic, or considered it normal to be mindful of 'social distancing' that requires us to be two metres apart. These stipulations have created many unexpected adjustments for us as a society, from which the church was not exempt. Subsequently, several events within the church community throughout the world had to be cancelled, including NTCG's 57th National Youth Convention. This cancellation was especially disappointing, as it also meant postponing NTCG's highly anticipated live album recording.



Despite this great disappointment, we considered it vital as a National Youth Board to deliver something for our children, young people, youth leaders and the wider church community across England and Wales. Therefore, with the blessing of our furloughed National Youth Director, Rev Marcel Simpson and Administrative Bishop Rev Donald Bolt, we decided as a board to deliver National Youth Convention online, with a keen focus tailored towards our youth and children. This unprecedented decision was made with the intention to override disappointment and share the message we believed the Lord had commissioned us to convey this year, through the theme 'Genesis: Where Are You'. We recognised that despite the unexpected circumstances in response to COVID-19, when the Lord inspired us with this theme, He knew what was to come and therefore intended for the convention content to be shared through alternative means. Subsequently, rather than the events of COVID-19 becoming a hindrance, it instead presented an opportunity for the message through this theme to reach thousands of people, beyond the walls of our region and denomination. Currently, the National Youth Online Convention has over 25,000 views, which includes viewers in the Philippines, United States, Jamaica, Barbados, Canada and France.



The success of this online convention came at a great cost as there were busy days, late nights, sleepless nights, stressful moments, tears, technical difficulties, bereavements, illnesses and great exhaustion. However despite the challenges, the unity and willingness amongst all involved helped to 'sweeten the labour', whilst also strengthening connections within NTCG. In addition to the National Youth Board, individuals who contributed to the convention's success included editors, creators, children, young people, youth leaders, pastors and many more. The depth of our gratitude to all involved extends beyond words. With only one month to plan and produce such an unprecedented event, at a high standard of execution, we know this achievement was only possible because of supernatural help from the Holy Spirit. By God's grace we were able to not only deliver a significant achievement for our church, which continues to inspire and impact the lives of many, but also further stir a catalyst for pivotal cultural shift. It is our prayer that the church continues to advance during this season, knowing that as God's people we will thrive in the midst of adverse circumstances, because we are being led by the one who parts seas and empowers us to walk on water.



INTRODUCTION TO SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY

The Leadership Training Centre (LTC) in association with SAM, are pleased to announce the launch of **Introduction to Single Adult Ministry**, a course certified by Global University, a worldwide distance learning pioneer of the Pentecostal tradition.

This distance learning course costs £89 and participants will be dually registered as students of LTC and Global University. The live taught sessions will be delivered entirely via Zoom. The distance learning material is a hard copy 214-page textbook/study guide, complete with interactive questions/answers, progress evaluations and self-tests/answers, making learning easy but thorough.

Rev David King, National SAM Coordinator said: *"Rarely should singles feel the need to seek help with their struggles outside of the local church. But many do just that, and it's all because there's no-one in their church equipped to help them. I believe it would be revolutionary for our denomination, if one person from each district registered for this course"*.



For further information and registration details, visit the national website. www.ntcg.org.uk/sam

Introduction to Single Adult Ministry
A Global University UK course

waiting & dating celibacy how to find the right mate
PASTORAL CARE single parenting The Theology of Singleness
single life divorced widowed

6 - 7 NOVEMBER 2020

ntcg.org.uk/sam

To be despondent means: *To be cast down in Spirit, low or moody*

Despondency is not new. History and literature clearly indicate that it is as ancient as humanity. Despondency or depression is the world's number one mental illness, and this is likely to increase during and post Covid-19.

PSALM 137: 1-4

¹ By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

² We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

³ For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

⁴ How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

Theological Reflection

Psalm 137 is a psalm of disorientation. According to Walter Brueggemann, this Psalm is better known probably because it is one of the few Psalms that has in it a certain and explicit historical reference. It invites narrative specificity. It clearly comes out of the exiled community in Babylon after the destruction of 587 B.C.E. the community reflected in the Pathos of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

This Psalm reflects the need of those who have been forcibly removed by the Babylonian imperial policies of the relocation and yet who cling to their memory and hope for home coming with unshakable passion.

Walter Brueggemann suggests that the communal function of this Psalm is to act out and transmit to the next generation the longing and the hate that belongs to every displaced Jew. It is important that this and future generations remember with the Jews that the present arrangements are not right, not acceptable, and not finally to be accepted. According to James L. May, Psalm 137 is a song about Zion, but it is not one of the songs of Zion, because the songs of Zion are hymns full of joy and confidence in them. Jerusalem is majestic and invincible, secure against threats of hostile armies. Jerusalem has been razed of its foundation and this Psalm is full of bitter memories and vehement pain.

Reflection

A question for the Church: In studying Psalm 137, the Church needs to remember that this world is not our home. How can the church educate the believers so that they will come to the understanding that their circumstances will change?

Questions for the individual

How do you deal with being mocked and ridiculed as a Christian? How do you deal with discouragement as Pentecostal Christian? What do you do for spiritual support when you are away from your immediate family, your Church family, and your familiar surroundings?

Specific Response to the cry of Psalm 137

As a response to the difficulties the Israelites found themselves in Babylon we should think about the following:

Firstly, reflect on the reasons that caused the Children of Israel to be exiled in Babylon.

Secondly, what are the lessons that we should learn from their experience?

Thirdly, we should consider how we will react toward God if we find ourselves in unfamiliar surroundings.

Fourthly, we should always think of those Christians who because of their faith are held in various parts of the world against their will and always try and remember to pray for them.

Finally, let us always remember to count our blessings and be thankful.

Bishop Dr Donald Bolt

MATTHEW 28: 20
TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE
ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I
HAVE COMMANDED YOU:
AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END
OF THE WORLD. AMEN



HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS ACROSS NTCG

During this unprecedented time, the work being undertaken across the country to support those who are in need, has been admirable. This article seeks to highlight some of the amazing work being done. Please note that this is a small example of the work being undertaken. On behalf of the leadership of NTCG, THANK YOU to EVERYONE that is assisting those in need during this pandemic.



LIFE BUILDERS
NTCG

PRAYER www.lifebuilders.org.uk/pray

12PM SAT 27 JUNE

WALK
OR JOG/RUN/CYCLE

USE YOUR MOBILE AND JOIN US ON **zoom**

THE SEEDS OF PEACE

May I plant the precious seeds of peace in my own soul, and may I tend and nurture this sweet crop with loving care and water it with the gentle rains of tender mercy.

May those seeds produce a harvest rich of kindness and compassion for my friends and for all humankind. And may this crop be not greedily devoured, but yet shared in equal portions, and ever passed around in generous spirit. And may the plenteous seeds of peace fall on the rich and fertile ground of warm and caring hearts in great abundance.

For as one tiny spore of peace produces but a small harvest, yet as time goes on, those seeds will multiply, as does faith's grain of mustard. And the crop in time will yield a bounty most plentiful for our kind labours, with peace enough for all humanity, and the end of futile wars in all lands near and far.

Carol Knepper

The Speed of Favor: How God Exceeds, Increases and Accelerates Your Life

By Tim Hill, General Overseer, Church of God

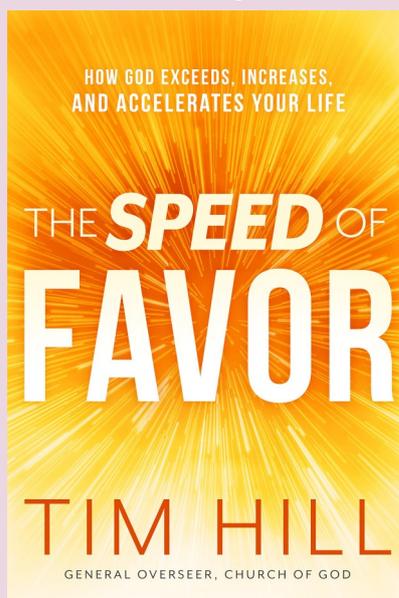
(Florida USA: Charisma House, 2018)

You may have come across the book through your own endeavours; however, many ministers and their partners were introduced to this book by Tim Hill himself at the last Ministers Summit held in February 2020.

The title of the book gives you a clue of what the book is about. The contents are based on the Scripture Amos 9:13 which revealed the promise of favour awaiting the people of Israel and declares God's love and promises of blessings. Tim Hill seeks to unveil how such favour is available for modern day Christians as we serve the same God today, and His promises are sure. Therefore, it is a matter of understanding how to position ourselves to claim God's promises in such a time as this. The book has a total of 17 chapters, including chapter 10 "The Right Word Leads to Right Thinking and a New Season." With a total of 230 pages the book is a comfortable read, packed with lots of Scriptures and food for thought, such as "the Amos 9:13 promise is most assuredly about increased Kingdom investment...."

Given the unprecedented season in which we find ourselves, the COVID-19 crisis, there is no time like the present to take the book off your bookshelf; or borrow from the minister who bought a copy at the Summit; or purchase a copy and read it in the context of the current perspective in which we are all living in. Once I began reading the book, it caused me to sit up and pay closer attention to the different gifts that God has bestowed on me and my fellow brethren.

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CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE

To control the risk of infection:

- ☑ Stay home as much as possible
- ☑ Limit contact with other people
- ☑ Keep washing hands regularly

For more ways to stay safe go to gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES



Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the

Lord your God

will be with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

LIFEBUILDERS OFFICIAL BROADCAST CHANNEL

Your personal invitation to join

Please note this is a "broadcast channel" NOT a "group" so you will NEVER receive messages from other group members with pointless photos, videos or chain messages 🙄

ALL messages you receive will be official Lifebuilders information - Important & relevant information sent to you in a timely manner

We are looking for EVERY MAN in NTCG to be subscribed to this channel so we can keep in touch with you

To join this channel you can use this link - <https://t.me/joinchat/AAAAAFKD4e9PuVF8tdOjrA>

You may be prompted to download the Telegram app

If not you can download it here for Android

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.telegram.messenger>

OR here for iOS:

<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/telegram-messenger/id686449807>

We look forward to you joining us!!



RESPECT LIFE—A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO KNIFE CRIME

On Friday 12th June NTCG Harvest Temple launched a video seeking to warn young people of the dangers of knife crime. Every word in the video is taken directly from the Bible. The resource will be used to educate young people about the dangers of getting involved with knife crime and gangs and will be included in **Churches Together in Britain & Ireland** and the **Ascension Trust's** new website on serious youth violence.

Respect Life supplements the **Peace Walk** that took place on 26th August 2019 in which peaceful participants walked from NTCG Harvest Temple to the main stage in Heath Town Park. Two Pathfinder drummers from Seventh Day Adventist Church led the walk, followed by around 10 church leaders, members from local congregations, plus the community. There were large banners at the front and rear of the procession with the slogan 'A Cry For Peace'. Some were wearing t-shirts with the same message and there were many placards carried by some of the 300 participants. The walk concluded with a short address and prayer for peace in the park, however the theme continued throughout the annual Family BBQ and Sports Day.

Local LifeBuilders Director **Joseph Jackson**, who heads up Men 4 Positive Change says, "To sit back and do nothing is no longer an option for the church."

NTCG Harvest Temple also has a knife bin where people can anonymously dispose of weapons safely in a bid to get them off the streets. In relation to current knife crime issues affecting the community Bishop Ruben King states, "We feel society needs to be awakened to traditional biblical values and the '*Respect Life*' video and '*Bad Company Boomerang*' audio are excellent resources that can be used to help address and challenge these issues."

You can view the ***Respect Life*** video by visiting <https://youtu.be/4LQ8Z1wMeXA>



WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

West Midlands Regional Chaplaincy Ministry was officially launched on Sunday 1st March 2020 at New Testament Church of God – Handsworth, Birmingham. The event was moderated by Regional Chaplaincy Director Karen Ellis under the auspice of presiding Bishop - Bishop Deverton Douglas with Keynote Speaker Reverend Virginia Thomas (National Chaplaincy Director- NTCG).

During her public address, Mrs. Ellis described "Chaplaincy as a Church in the Community that cares for those who are hurting". She stated that the Holy Spirit is "calling upon God's children to galvanize their efforts and deploy the necessary resources beyond the safe sanctuary of the Church Building. It is time to step out in God's name into the toxic environments and the battlefields that are raging outside of our doorstep, offering a healing balm of hope and comfort."

The launch hailed a poignant shift in the perception of Chaplaincy Ministry; which for much of its history has operated independently; outside of NTCG's established Missions and Ministries portfolio.

Undeterred by the coronavirus pandemic and UK lockdown, Regional Chaplaincy Ministry has continued to build on the success of its launch event. Faced with increasing global spiritual and socio-political challenges, the Ministry has effectively adapted to a new way of remote working using social media and other online platforms to continue with the Great Commission. The regional newsletter was launched on the 1st June 2020; to support the vision for Chaplaincy Ministry under the leadership of Mrs. Karen Ellis. The newsletter will enable communication amongst the people of God beyond the four walls of the Church Building.

West Midlands Regional Chaplaincy is also pleased to announce the growth of its Prison Ministry. On any given Sunday, a large number of our volunteers travel independently to minister and fellowship with inmates across the West Midlands Region.

The prisons we cover are: HMP Oakwood (Wolverhampton) | HMP Featherstone (Wolverhampton) | HMP Swinfen Hall (Lichfield) | HMP Hewell (Redditch) | HMP Stafford (Stafford) | HMP Long Lartin (pending clearance).

The recent coronavirus pandemic has prevented volunteers and coordinators from going into the prisons but the hope is to resume normal services once the UK lockdown is lifted.

