

Personal Prayer

Lord please show me what it is to rest in your presence. I need you more than ever to bring order to my chaos and I long to understand and truly know what you mean when you say:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Teach me and draw near to me so that I may learn to draw ever closer to you, my saviour and my Lord. Bring me your peace that I may know true Sabbath rest as you meant for us all to experience.

Thank you that you are ever waiting for me to draw close so that you may love me as you long to do.

Amen

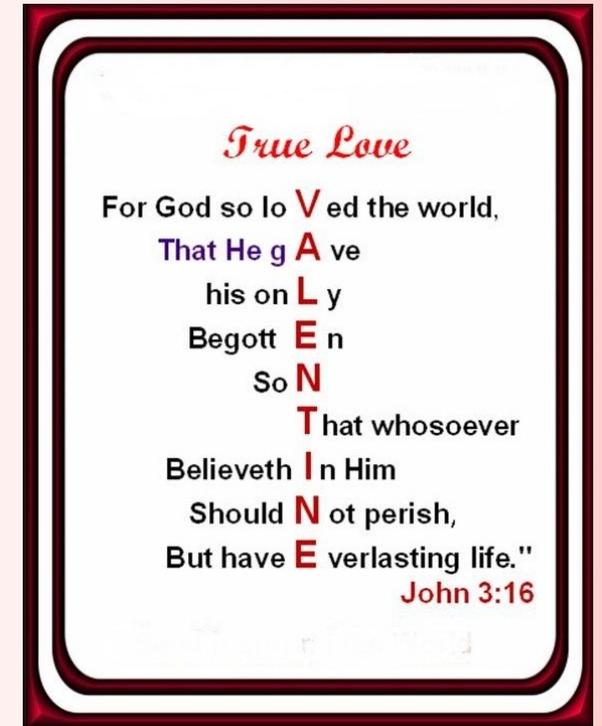
"For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience."

Notice that Paul says **so that no-one will perish**. I know I have felt as though I will perish in a to do list which certainly threatened to engulf and separate me from the reality of God's presence in my life. To carve out a time to just *BE* with God is not a luxury but an ever increasing necessity in our noisy and demanding modern lives.



At the prayer meeting on Wednesday we will spend some time looking at Hosea 10:12. Take time to pray into this verse this week and listen to what God has to tell you. It would be amazing to hear what He has told you on Wednesday:

Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unploughed ground;
for it is time to seek the LORD,
until he comes and showers his
righteousness on you.



Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent
TN24 0QR.

www.wbc-ashford.org.uk Charity Registration Number 1127593

Prayer Focus
February 2015

The Persecuted Church

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia regards itself as the centre of the Muslim faith. It is home to the two holiest places of that religion, Mecca and Medina. Saudi citizens are presumed to be Muslims; conversion to another religion is punishable by death.

Public Christian worship is forbidden. There are no churches in the country. Most of the Christians in the country are expatriates, who are restricted to worshipping in private homes.

In January 2015, the most senior Islamic official in SA called on countries in the region to destroy all churches.

Evangelizing Muslims/Saudis is strictly forbidden and people who are caught risk severe punishments. Despite this, evangelizing occurs. Satellite T.V. and the Internet are able to reach people. There are stories of people encountering Jesus through dreams and visions as the following story illustrates:

Rashid met Tariq in a prison cell after being arrested for professing his Christian faith. Tariq said "You're the man I'm supposed to talk to"

Tariq explained that in a dream a man was shown to him, It was a man with Rashid's face. "You have something to tell me"

Rashid was amazed. Even in his cell God was at work. He shared the Gospel with Tariq, who eventually prayed to receive Jesus Christ.

PLEASE PRAY...

- ◇ That the destruction of all churches in that region may be thwarted
- ◇ Strength and protection for ex-patriot workers who are often abused and threatened for refusing to convert to Islam.
- ◇ Pray that Jesus Christ may continue to be revealed to Muslims through dreams, visions, satellite TV and internet
- ◇ For the Saudi people that believers may be kept safe and that one day Christianity may be legalised for Saudis.



Waiting on God

Paula Verlinden and Paula Chegwin are going to meet together regularly to pause the merry-go-round and seek the heart of God. We both believe He wants to draw closer to us, but we are too busy normally to hear His voice. If you feel the same, come and join us for this time of silence among the chaos that is life as we know it. Speak to one of us for more information.

Home Family

In his book, *Messy Spirituality*, Mike Yaconelli writes ...

We are living life at a dizzying speed, and God is nowhere to be found. We're not rejecting God: we just don't have time for him. We've lost him in the blurred landscape as we rush by on our way to church. We don't struggle with the Bible, but with the clock. It's not that we're too decadent, we're too busy ... It's not sinning too much that's killing our souls, it's our schedule that's annihilating us. Most of us don't come home at night staggering drunk. Instead, we come home staggering tired, worn out, exhausted and drained because we live too fast.

Most of us can identify with the above statement. What can we do to combat this constant temptation to give way to the stress and pressure to conform?

As Christians, we have an answer and it is to be found in what is called the Sabbath rest. This is not a special day of rest but the rest to be found when we rest in Jesus. There is a place in all of us where we can access the Sabbath rest that Paul speaks of in

Hebrews 4:8-11



P.T.O.