

Keep Connected

It doesn't matter how much you love God or how much you want to be His man/woman on the front line, we all run out of steam sometimes and can find ourselves struggling. It is quite often at these times we forget to get plugged back in to God and don't recognise the reason we are dry is because we have lost the "signal". It is so easy to be distracted by life and keeping our heads above water. The signals between us and God get drowned out by other pressing matters. Before long we can be going through our spiritual life on auto pilot – we are still serving, praying, being, but not living in the fullness that we were meant to. The good thing about our connection to God is, it is eternal, it doesn't go down or get congested like our mobile phone connection. However, just like our mobile phone, we do need to have it turned on to take a call. We have to keep the battery charged and to do that we need regular power injections. This is where the discipline comes in. We need to know how to keep connected with Jesus. Given Jesus wants to be connected with us, He makes this easy for us; we are always just a prayer away from speaking with Him. Don't think this has to be a formal quiet time, Jesus is with us everywhere and so we can speak to Him everywhere. Yes it is important to read our bible and to know the word of God. These are the very tools that we have been given to fight the battles that we face. It is silly to go on the front line and leave the weapons on the shelf, when in our hearts and minds the word of God is a powerful weapon against evil, darkness and despair. Yet we all do it. That is why meeting together and praying with others is so important. There is really no excuse for not doing this although we all make loads of them. Well I am too busy, I work full time, the evenings and weekends are all I get to be with my family. I don't like praying, I find it boring. My prayers are not good enough. I don't like



praying out loud, praying with others is not my thing. Any of these sound familiar? Thank God Jesus did not say that when God asked Him to die for us. Yes, we are all different and all have different skills but we are all children of God and so all need to keep connected to our Father and do what His word says. Doing things we find easy all the time means we don't grow, and the one thing this world needs more than anything is for the children of God to rise up and pray the Kingdom into being.



Prayer Focus

March & April 2017

Mosul

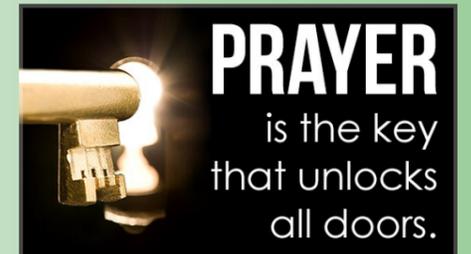
Refugees have been streaming out of Mosul often malnourished and some without shoes on their feet. There are still thousands caught within the IS controlled area



of Mosul. The refugees are telling of how they were used as human shields. Rayan Mohammed, a frail 18 year old was once given 60 lashes for missing prayers. As Iraqi soldiers move forward they are combing the buildings in order to defuse bombs and searching for snipers.

Please Pray:

- ⇒ For the refugees that they escape safely and are met with food, shelter and sanitation.
- ⇒ For the authorities that are faced with finding places for refugees to stay
- ⇒ Protection for the advancing Iraqi soldiers
- ⇒ For those still caught within IS controlled Mosul. Pray for protection especially as reports suggest that the jihadist fighters are becoming more desperate.



Diaconate Elections - Please pray for our leadership. It is essential that we have a strong, God centred, prayerful team to face the next 3 years. It is our responsibility to seek God earnestly in prayer so that we will be a united church supporting our leaders wholeheartedly.

Winter Night Shelter

Please remember the winter night shelter guests in your prayers now that the shelter has closed. They face nights on the street again so please pray for protection and a way for Jesus to change their situation so that they can find a way to keep a roof over their heads.

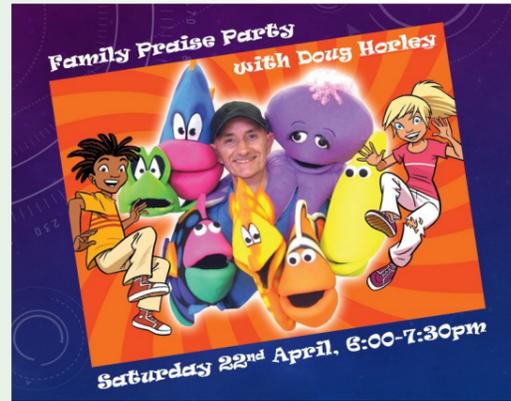
Hythe Road
Willesborough
Ashford
Kent
TN24 0QR

www.wbc-ashford.org.uk
Charity Registration Number 112793

Family Praise Party with Doug Horley Saturday 22nd April 6:00pm-7:30pm

Please pray for this children and families' outreach event:

- ⇒ For volunteers to help (and for those who have already offered help) with **Set Up, Catering, Audio/Visual, Welcome, Outreach, Promotion, Refreshments, Prayer, Clear Up** (speak to Robert Houghton if you are able to get involved - lighthouse@wbc-ashford.org.uk)
- ⇒ Other churches will get involved promoting and attending the event.
- ⇒ Children's Leaders' Workshop - those attending will be inspired in their work with children.
- ⇒ Families will sign up for tickets.
- ⇒ Non-church families from the local community will attend and want to find out more.
- ⇒ That we fill WBC on the night with excited children and inquisitive families.
- ⇒ Follow up - pray for how we can keep in touch with those who have attended and invite them to join regular clubs and activities at the church and come along on Sunday mornings to the service and to Lighthouse.



Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

Prayer chain

Remember to send any prayer requests to: prayer@wbc-ashford.org.uk

Elm Tree Farm 31st March 2017

The youth are spending one night at Elm Tree Farm this Easter. There will be worship, teaching and a night hike challenge among other things. Please pray:

- ⇒ For health and safety for all
- ⇒ For the leaders and their families in the weeks leading to the event and over the weekend
- ⇒ That Jesus will be present and make himself known to all the young people so that they have a life changing meeting with Him.
- ⇒ That lifelong friendships will be formed as they have fun together.

Mexico Rebuild 2017

Please remember the team in your prayers: Sarah Guy, Becca Walters, Matt Chegwin, Amy Walters, Paula Chegwin, Mike and Kathy Walters

- ⇒ For a safe journey—we fly out 8th April and back on 18th April
- ⇒ Health, protection and strength for the team
- ⇒ Our build team is with a team from Mutley Baptist Church in Plymouth. Pray for cohesion
- ⇒ Pray for the family we will be building for that they feel welcome to be involved with the build and that we communicate God's love to them in all that we do.
- ⇒ Pray for God's will to be done in all that we say and do. For His will to be done in the families and all of the build teams. For the youth to feel the touch of God's hand and for lives to be changed.



ReBuild

Go to the Mountain of Prayer!

'He departed to the mountain to pray.' - Mark 6:46

Before Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, He climbed a mountain to be alone with His Father in prayer. He left the demands of the crowd at sunset, prayed until dawn, then came down the mountain in the power of God's Spirit and stilled a raging storm. (Wouldn't you love to know how He prayed that night?) Prayer is a mountain; you have to climb it. 'Peter and John went up together...at the hour of prayer' (Acts 3:1 NKJV). If you wait until you feel like it, you won't pray consistently. It's a discipline. And the more you pray the more you want to pray, and the more rewarding it becomes. But first you must turn your back on the 'crowd'. Because Christ knew how to walk away from life's demands and distractions, He was able to still the storm that threatened His disciples. So before you get caught up in the daily rat race, go to the mountain of prayer. It's a place of stability in an uncertain world; a place where the view is unobstructed and the frantic pace of life is left behind. There you gain perspective. There Christ reminds you that there's nothing you'll face today that He hasn't already handled, and He'll give you grace to do the same. It's easy to recognise people who've been to the mountain of prayer. Their struggles are no different from yours - some are even more challenging. But they've an inner peace that transcends family problems, health concerns, budgetary shortfalls, etc. You can endure hard times with grace when you know that the summit is just a prayer away!

The UCB Word for Today 25th February 2017



Wednesday Prayer Events 7:45pm

15th March

It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights.
Psalm 18:32-33

19th April

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
John 11:25-26

Join us in the church hall at 7:45pm for our time of corporate prayer. This is a chance for the whole church family to come together and pray together for our church, our community and our world. See you there.