



Wesley's Blog

This seems very odd as this is not my Blog in its usual form, but there again many things feel odd at the moment don't they? There will not be the usual photos and events happening as they can't take place with the current restriction, but hopefully you will find something to make you think or smile over the next pages. If you have anything that you would like to share, please send it to me. Don't forget to keep checking the circuit website and Facebook page as well.

Keep safe
Wesley

The following was written by Tim last week. Don't Worry!
There are only 275 days to Christmas!
It might seem like a strange thing to offer a few days into our new circumstances. Yet we are reminded that 275 days is nine months and asked today to reflect on the story of Mary as she is surprised by an angel with a message that will turn her world upside down. It is today that the uncertainty and the waiting begin for Mary. As the old version has it, what manner of salutation might this be?
Let me encourage you to look out for angels today. What message might they bring?
Let me encourage you to hear the words of the angel, "for nothing is impossible with God."
Let me encourage you to ponder the words of Mary when you have a few moments 'Let it be with me according to your word.'
Perhaps you might also take a few moments to pray for pregnant mothers in our world. And of course however frustrating today is, has been, only 275 days to go!
Amen
Take care. Tim

Many windows have rainbows in them. This is a prayer to go with them.

I can pray a rainbow...

Genesis 9 v 13

"I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as the sign of the agreement between me and the earth"



God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us, a reminder that God keeps his promises. Here are some rainbow inspired activities for you and your family to explore together.

Rainbow prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find something of each of the colours below. Here is a prayer you can say for each colour as you find them.



RED

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.



ORANGE

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.



YELLOW

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.



GREEN

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.



BLUE

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for the NHS, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.



PURPLE

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.



PINK

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.

Make an encouragement rainbow

You will need: Paper and pens or any other craft materials you have around the house

All around the country people are putting rainbows in their windows to encourage people in their street.

Use whatever craft materials you have in your house to decorate a rainbow and put it in your window where your neighbours can see it.



Some promises to share

Here are some more of God's promises from the Bible. Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse.

Joshua 1:9 - Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

Jeremiah 29:11 - "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the LORD, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

Mark 11:24 - So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

Romans 8:28 - We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.



This year we won't be able to decorate crosses with flowers and put them outside our churches on Easter Sunday, so I've had an idea: why not ask people to make a cross out of cardboard and decorate it with flowers made of paper, wrapping paper, fabric, whatever people have to hand, and then hang it in a window on Easter Sunday morning for a week, to show our neighbours that we are still here despite the lockdown; that Easter is happening and is real; that God is with us. Just as the children have been painting rainbows and putting them in windows, we can display our crosses as a sign of hope and faith. With Easter being still a week away we don't know how things will look on that day, but Jesus went into the darkness and into death for love of us, and came through to open the way to heaven, so the world needs to see our faith in these frightening times. So please encourage as many as you can, to get out the scissors and get crafting!

So God is walking in the Yorkshire Dales when a police car pulls up alongside and asks him what he is doing, in the light of the current govt. advice for restricting journeys to the 'essential'.
 God replies, ever so politely: " I'm working from home".

Enjoy

Phil (proud Yorkshireman from God's Own County)

One song can spark a moment,
 One flower can wake a dream,
 One tree can start a forest,
 One bird can herald spring;
 One smile begins a friendship,
 One handclasp lifts a soul,
 One star can guide a ship at sea,
 One vote can change a nation;
 One sunbeam lights a room,
 One candle wipes out darkness,
 One laugh will lift sadness,
 One step must start each journey;
 One word must start each prayer,
 One hope will raise our spirits,
 One touch can show you care,
 One voice can speak with wisdom,
 One heart can know what's true
 One life can make a difference,
You see, it's up to you!

Found in magazine of Westcote
 Methodist Church
 Author unknown



How many can you name? Can you send some of your own to Wesley for next time?

A testimony by Dr Julian Urban, a 38-year old doctor in Lombardy

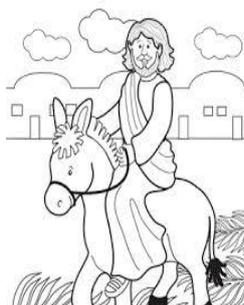
Up until two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists... I had always laughed at my parents when they went to church. Nine days ago, a 75-year old pastor came to us for medical help. He had grave respiratory problems, but he had a Bible with him and it impressed us that he was reading the Bible to the people who were dying and holding their hands.

We were all tired, discouraged doctors, psychologically and physically spent, and so we found that we were listening to him... We realized that we have reached the limits of what man can do. We need God, and we have begun to ask for his help, when we have a few moments free. We cannot believe that we who were fierce atheists are now seeking for interior peace by asking the Lord to help us...

The 75-year old pastor has now died. Despite the fact that in the last three weeks we have had over 120 people die in our unit, and we are all exhausted and feel destroyed, he succeeded, despite his own condition and our own difficulties, to bring us a PEACE that we no longer hoped to find.

Translation of the testimony distributed by HOPE

A teacher told part of the Easter story to her class of five year olds and then asked them to draw pictures. One little boy did a very neat drawing of Jesus riding on a donkey and carrying a case with the initials JC in the corner. The teacher asked what was in the case, thinking 'lunch'. Wrong! It was his laptop!



Wesley with his rainbow.

Please share my blog with anyone you think might like to read it. If you know anyone who would like their own copy please tell them to contact the circuit office.

Keep safe