



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

**Following God to be a Kingdom-focused,
missional church**

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Spiritual Growth - is it an act of your will?

Last month we looked at some of the things that prevent us from moving forward, reaching our potential and growing as Christians. Spiritual maturity is not something you receive when you become a Christian but is something you have to work on and nurture. When you look at the examples from the Bible you see Peter grow from a head-strong immature person into a strong and effective man of God; Matthew exchanging worldly treasure for heavenly ones; and Paul exchanging earthly religion for a relationship with God.

Spiritual growth is detailed in 2 Peter 1:3-8, "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Spiritual growth involves increasing your knowledge and understanding of God's Word, learning from past mistakes and being willing to change, nurturing Christ-like qualities, and growing in faith and trust in God. Perhaps the best summary of spiritual growth is becoming more like Jesus Christ as He is the ultimate example of what it truly means to be spiritual mature.

In order for spiritual growth to occur, you first need to make sure you possess a true spiritual life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When you believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you (John 14:16-17) and you are a new creation in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Your old nature, which was dominated by sin, is replaced with a new nature that is under the influence of God's Spirit. Spiritual growth should be happening in all people who truly know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

February Teaching Programme

7th of February - leaving the old to embrace the new

Audrey will bring the message out of what God has been speaking to her about recently. The message is about God's plan for His children and that His plan is the right plan. It may not always be what we think we need but comes out of a

heart of Love from a Father that knows what will make us grow and mature in our faith. The bible is filled with people God called who said "Not me Lord?", but God know best and these people changed lives.

14th of February – A desire to grow

1 Peter 2 says that new born Christians crave spiritual milk so that by it they may grow up in their salvation. The problem is that many Christians are happy to stay as new-borns and miss out in growing into what God has planned for them. Staying where we are happy is much easier than stepping out into the unknown. As Christians we should have a desire to grow because Spiritual Growth starts as an act of our will – when we seek, God will teach us.

21st of February – Food for growth

How many people give a new-born baby steak and chips as their first meal? How many parents think that sweets are healthier than a balanced diet? If we need appropriate and good food to grow strong, so it is with our Spiritual life. If we feed our hearts with the junk food of this world (gossip, lusts, gambling, unsuitable TV) and neglect to eat healthy food (reading the Word, time in prayer, encouraging the broken) how can expect to grow into healthy Christians?

28th of February – Exercise to grow stronger

Children learning to walk fall over many times and yet they carry on until it becomes second nature. Athletes only become number one after they have failed many times. To become good at anything you must practise and learn because it is by practise we grow. Hebrews 5:14 says "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil". As we practice what God has entrusted to us, more will be given.

WEDNESDAY CHURCH FAMILY EVENINGS

These evenings are a mix of Bible study/ discussion, prayer and grow in faith plus time to just chill out together.

The evenings are open to anyone who wishes to come along, whether you would like to be part of small group learning, sharing and growing together, or just wonder what happens on Wednesday evenings. You are very welcome.

If there is a particular subject you would like to explore, please speak to Mick or Spero.

Wed 3rd 7-8pm meet chat pray – 8-9pm - [Can you lose your salvation](#)- Spero

Wed 10th 7-8pm meet chat pray – 8-9pm – [Our primary mandate and prayer-](#)
Olu

Wed 17th 7-8pm meet chat pray – 8-9pm – [A new World Order?](#) -George

Wed 24th 7-8pm meet chat pray – [Gratitude](#) - Mick

God bless, Mick

CAP UPDATE

JOB CLUB: This has now resumed after the Christmas break. A number of new people turned up along with existing clients. Staff are using a new booklet and DVD and going through these with the clients. One client has helped out in Refresh, which is encouraging.

CAP MONEY DEBT CENTRE at Emmanuel Church. This was launched on the 15th and was well supported, with the Mayor and Teresa Pearce MP both attending. Kath Andrews is the Manager, which will be a very busy job. Initially three meetings are held with clients followed up with whatever help is then needed – eg, counselling, Release Groups, etc.

REFRESH TEAM

The Saturday opening has been going well and all the volunteers were keen plus a couple of new people who had enjoyed it. Numbers vary - sometimes quiet and sometime buzzing. Refresh opening times have been added to the diary on the back page of the newsletter.



REFRESH COFFEE SHOP

Refresh is open every Saturday from from 10 am – 12 pm

SOUP LUNCH

Wednesday, 10th February at 12:30 pm



The cost is £2.50 for a bowl of delicious home-made soup, crusty bread and butter plus a cup of tea or coffee. All the proceeds the month will go to Water Aid which works with partners to transform millions of lives every year by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Refresh Library – Letter from Dominika



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I felt prompted to use my daytime job experience from Acquisitions in UCL Library to set up a bank of resources in our church, with contents that would help us to grow as individuals and as a church.

The library would be here for the benefit, edification, equipping, and encouragement of others.

We could create our own shared library, based on contributions from anybody who would like to participate. Have you got books, DVDs or other resources with Christian content you would like to see used more often? Has anything you read or watched touched you recently and you would like others to experience it too? If it is so, than let's start sharing and blessing today.

The library would exist in these forms:

1. *Physical items in Refresh*, with clear information about their owner. These could be taken home (by church members) for an agreed duration, or read by visitors at the Refresh centre.
2. *Remote Library Items*, searchable on the database, kept at your own home. You would submit the list of items to be added to our library database and agree to lend them upon request to library members for an agreed time (Some valuable items, DVDs, CDs, some sets...)

3. *Digital items* (Sermons and such)

If anyone has experience of data entry and would like to help with populating the database for the library or help with other aspects of the running of it, please contact me. If you would like to bless us with your books and resources, please make a *list of items* (ask me for an example) and post them to me at domilienka@gmail.com or to the church email address, or provide a handwritten list using a form (available from the table in church) so we can see how many items we have. May God bless you abundantly as you bless others.

Yours,
Dominika Matis

Correction to Church Directory

Watson, Marolin – correct mobile number is
07960 294 477



NEWS FROM HEATHER ANDREWS

Happy New Year!

Wow, it's 2016 already and the weather in Mumbai is very cool for a change. By "very cool" I mean 28 degrees in the day and less than 20 at night. Thank you all so much for praying for me over the last month. I've been really blessed by your support. Here's an update from the last month.

December was extremely busy with performances all over India. I even performed on Christmas Eve and Christmas day in the most famous hotel in Mumbai. I didn't have a booking for New year's eve, which was entirely God-planned because I came down with a bad cold over New year and had to stay in bed those 2 days. January has been quieter and I've had lots of time to pray and seek God for the new year.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers for my guitar playing brother Srikant. I was able to meet his new wife Aarti in December in Delhi and they will be visiting Mumbai for a couple of days while my parents are here in February. The Music teaching job did not work out. They ended up only offering him an internship which had very low pay. So he's sticking in Delhi for now trying to get more work teaching.

The Arts Collective is taking shape! We have had several meetings thinking about the Purpose, Vision, Mission, Values and Strategy for the Arts Collective. It's been fascinating seeing what God has planned for this movement and what is His heart. It's still in development but we'll be sharing what we have shaped so far with other pastors and artists who will help refine our direction through the next month.



I've also started helping some friends from church with a new initiative reaching out and serving the children and families who regularly beg at the SE front in Bandra where I live. It's been cool to use my Hindi again to communicate and show love to underprivileged kids, and great that it's right on my door step. This is another new work that needs shaping and solid guidance from God in the vision. Please pray for me as I hear from God what my part in this should be. I'm with you in prayer for the new Lead Elder and I'm excited for what God is bringing for Belvedere in 2016.

Heather x

EVERGREEN UPDATE

Evergreen has just entered its third year of operation and we are at present supporting about 100 older and vulnerable people. Our Home Support Service continues to grow at a steady rate, even though we have yet to advertise it properly, and we now employ seven Home Support Workers and have just recruited another two, plus two Bank Home Support Workers.

Gardening is the next project to we are looking at and we hope to launch this service at the end of March. This will have the same ethos as all our other services where independence and well-being is encouraged and underlined with befriending. We are expecting the gardening to take off very quickly and are now looking to recruit gardeners for this service. If you are interested in one of these posts or know someone who may be interested, please call the office on 01322 431765 or speak to Mick or Pete.

Please keep Evergreen in your prayers as we wait on the Lord to bring in the finances and workers needed to support our community, and for the churches of Bexley to really catch the vision and possibilities Evergreen presents.

"And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great."
(Job 8:7)

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service 4 March is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend. This inclusive, international, ecumenical service prepared by the committee in Cuba will be held on Friday, 4th March at All Saints Church at 2.30 pm, commencing with refreshments – in order to allow parents from local schools to attend.

Hopefully, some people from your community will be coming; please let me know who to contact regarding taking part in the service. Posters will be delivered next month - any queries do get in touch with me.

Blessings Pamela

Did you know?

A Zumba keep fit class is held in the church sports hall every Tuesday evening from 7:15 to 8:15 pm.

Zumba is an aerobic fitness programme inspired by Latin American dance and music.



STOP PRESS - NEW LEAD ELDER APPOINTED

At a members' meeting held on Wednesday evening, 27th January, **David Hazeldine** was appointed as Lead Elder of Belvedere Baptist Church by a 92% majority. Mick telephoned him immediately with the news and there was rejoicing all around that God had answered our prayers and led us straight to the right man.

The selection team were thanked for their excellent work and Pete and Stephanie both commented on the spirit of unity that characterised the whole selection process.

We look forward to a new chapter in the life of our church as David, Sam and their family join us.

David Hazeldine – what is he like!

According to his profile, David is "an energetic, self-motivated and organised person who enjoys leading people" as well as socialising and spending time with God. He has been involved in many different kinds of churches and enjoys the challenge of growing churches and people. He has a vision to see God's Spirit move in the UK.

Theologically, he describes himself as a 'charismatic evangelical' with the Word of God his final authority in life and ministry.

His testimony is one of early conversion – he received the baptism of the Spirit age 13 – and an early desire to serve God, including leading the Christian Union at this school. He was involved in Kingdom Faith as a youth pastor and community worker which eventually led to his starting a church plant outreach from Goldhill Baptist Church in Buckinghamshire. As a result of his experiences, he began to feel a call to the ministry, attending Regents Park College in Oxford for ministerial training between 2009 and 2012. Previously he had gained a Certificate of Ministry from Kingdom Faith Bible College and an 'Equipping for Ministry' certificate from New Frontiers.

David's other work experience includes Pension Adviser for the DSS; Community Development Officer for Wycombe District Council and property development on a self-employed basis.

Since 2012, he has been the minister of Totteridge Baptist Church with responsibilities ranging from leading worship to youth ministry.

NOTES OF A MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY

Of course, the most exciting part of the evening was the vote and subsequent call of David to become our Lead Elder, but there was a general meeting beforehand, the details of which are summarised below (though minutes will eventually be distributed to members as well).

Family News

Sadly, Olu has had to stand down as deacon because for family reasons. He was thanked for his service to the church during this time as a deacon.

Prayer was requested for Beccy who is currently in Peru teaching English. She is feeling a little more settled now, but would really like to work with Latin Link, an organisation working with orphans.

A number of people had given their apologies because of sickness, and prayer was offered up for those who were ill.

Constitution

Spero explained that the church was trying to achieve charitable status in order to save money, but that the constitution previously approved by members was not appropriate for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which was most appropriate for the church. This offered the limited liability afforded by company registration as well as all the benefits of being a charity.

He drew attention to the powers of the Trustees, especially that of selling the building, explaining that these would always be limited by the fact that:

- The buildings were owned by the London Baptist Property Board and could not be sold without their permission;
- Trustees were elected for 3-year rolling periods which ensured they continued to represent the interests of members;
- Trustees must act in the best interests of the CIO.

However, it was vital that church leaders be free to lead without having to consult members on every mundane issue.

Copies of the CIO constitution were available in paper and electronic versions and members were encouraged to read it and raise any concerns before the AGM in April where it would be presented for approval.

Refurbishment of Refresh

Mick had investigated the cost of laying good quality carpet tiles in Refresh, the stage and foyer and it came to approximately £2,000. However, it had been decided to delay this for the new Lead Elder's input.

He had not come across any tables and chairs worth having in the sales so this was also being deferred for now.

Part of the stage in the Sports Hall would be walled off to create a contained office space for Smiley Ark.

Mick reminded members of the possibility of offering the church as one of the venues for the Homeless Winter Shelter scheme. This would require three volunteers for each of three 3-hour rolling shifts per night, one night per week. Funding was available for mattresses. Visitors would be processed by other organisations.

Energy Efficiency

Restricting general access to the thermostat (and a mild winter) had already resulted in energy savings, but Brian was continuing to explore alternative heating and insulating possibilities to further reduce our energy bills. Quotes received so far ranged from nearly £40,000 to £11,000.

Safeguarding

Copies of the 'Safe to Grow' policy were available at the meeting and can be requested by anyone not present.

Membership Roll

Chris was working on removing individuals from the membership roll who had not been attending the church for a number of years; where possible with their agreement. He would provide an update at the April meeting.

Finance

Gwen had provided a financial report updated to the 1st of January and members were reassured that the church can afford to pay a lead elder. Income for the period was £77,900 and expenditure was £59,360.

Outreach Team

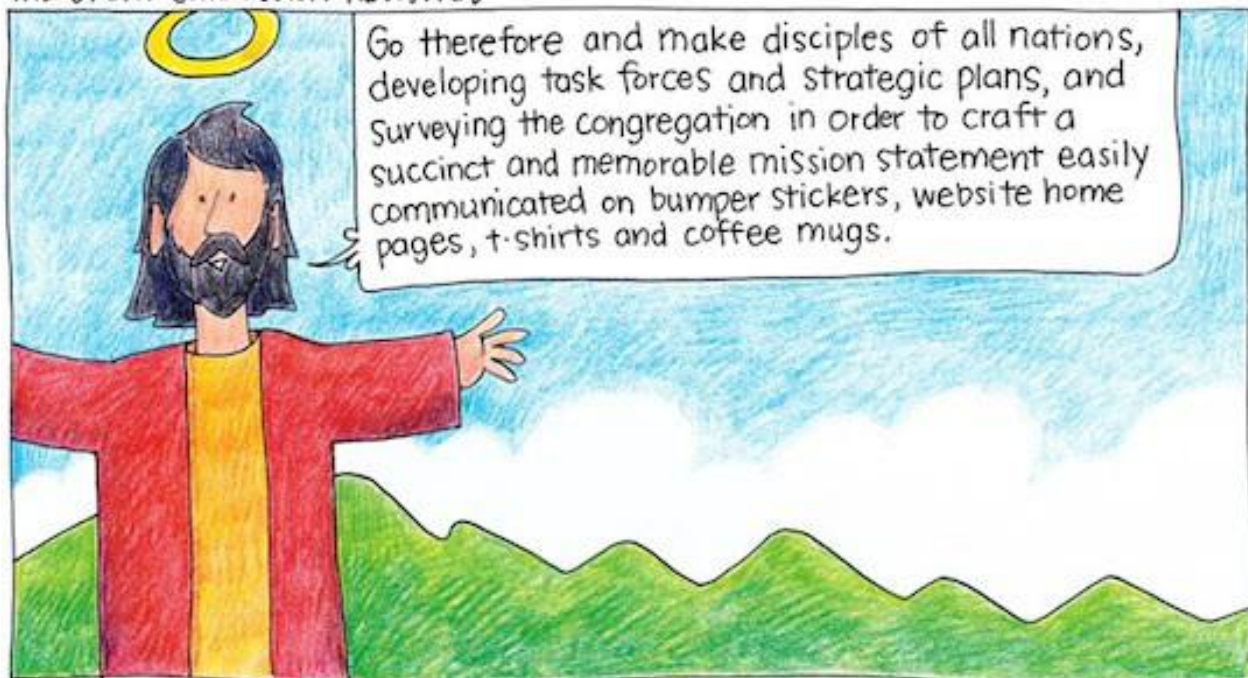
A meeting would be held on Sunday 7th February to plan events for 2016 – suggestions are welcome.

Brian suggested that we should make a point of celebrating Pentecost; and Pete reminded members that another 40 hours of worship was scheduled for early April, with details provided later.

Date of next members' meeting: 20th April 2016

Note: **The Women's discipleship group** starts up again next Saturday, 6th February.

THE GREAT COMMISSION REVISITED



FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 1st	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Tuesday, 2nd	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
Weds, 3rd	10:00 am	Flower arranging
	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
Thursday, 4th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Bible readings
Friday, 5th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 6th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	10:00 am	Ladies Discipleship group (till 12:00)
Sunday, 7th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
	6:30 pm	Communion
Tuesday, 9th	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
Weds, 10th	12:30 pm	Soup lunch – proceeds to Falconer Trust
	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
Thursday, 11th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – speaker Brian Bennett
Saturday, 13th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 14th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
Monday, 15th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Tuesday, 16th	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
Weds, 17th	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
Thursday, 18th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Dennis Roberts
Friday, 19th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 20th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
Sunday, 21st	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Tuesday, 23rd	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
Weds, 24th	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
Thursday, 25th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Peter Baker
Friday, 26th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 27th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	4:00 pm	Church New Year Party
Sunday, 28th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 29th	10:00 am	Calligraphy