

June 2021



The CORNERSTONE

The monthly newsletter of
New Kapporet & Christian Helpline UK
for our Listeners, Prayer Partners and Supporters

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2: 19-22)*

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All contributors are identified by their New Kapporet names and numbers.

WELCOME

It would be easy for us to imagine, when we stand watch for the Lord, when we listen on His behalf or intercede with Him in prayer, that we do our fellow Christians and Him great service. We can fancy ourselves as working hard for the Lord; we labourers are so few, and our industry is so great on the Lord's behalf. However, when we think of our efforts in this way, we are missing something fundamentally important for our own spiritual growth and development: When we listen and we pray, the two great pillars of our Ministry, we are doing so **in the presence of the Lord**.

Holy scripture often speaks of God's desire to be present to His people. The most common Hebrew word for this presence is *panim*, which can also be translated as 'face', suggesting a close and intimate

personal encounter. So, when we talk about listening or praying in the presence of the Lord, we should reflect on how great a privilege and blessing this is. The Lord is not only present to our callers, He is also present to us and in the closest way imaginable (at least until we truly meet Him face to face).

The Psalmist writes, *"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."*

(Psalm 37: 4)

Too often this promise is interpreted as meaning our immediate human needs or worldly desires. But when we truly delight in God's presence, we understand that everything He promises us here is aimed at satisfying our deepest longings.

"You have made known to me the path of life; you fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

(Psalm 16: 11)

The Lord longs to be present to us. He desires nothing more than to spend time in our company, to fill us with the fruits of his

spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. James tells us,

"Come near to God and he will come near to you." (James 4: 8).

If only we understood how completely God loves us and how much He longs to come to us and make his home in us.

So, when we are next considering whether to stand watch or attend to the Lord in prayer, and we weigh in the balance our busyness or our weariness, let us pause to consider whether we are conceiving His commission as a burden or a blessing. And let us be encouraged by the Apostle Paul's words: *"[I am] confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"* (Philippians 1:6).

And let us truly delight in the presence of the Lord, knowing that: *"It is good to praise the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night."* (Psalm 92: 1-2)

Thoughts from Henri Nouwen (Sent in by Liz 2034)

"More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with the m. It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings,

conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them." (!GRACIAS! A Latin American Journal – Henri Nouwen Society)

Monthly News by Tim 2001

This past month has seen the coming to fruition of two important new initiatives in our Ministry.

First, we have now launched our new Chaplaincy, which has been set up to help callers, who are at the early stages of seeking Jesus Christ, to gain the understanding and insight they need to commit their lives to Him. After a short period of planning and training, the chaplaincy team has now started work, and they report that two callers have already committed their lives to Christ. Of course, the team is encouraging each of them now to find a local church, where their spiritual growth in the Lord can be properly nurtured. But what an incredible blessing this is for our Ministry. We were initially uncertain whether the establishment of a Chaplaincy was an appropriate initiative at this early stage in our development. But we prayed about it, felt the Lord's leading, and committed to the task. Once again we see the wonderful benefits that flow from saying 'Yes' to the Lord's guidance and direction.

This past month we have also begun to offer greater pastoral care to our growing number of volunteers. We have established a Pastoral Team, whose role is to keep a watchful and compassionate eye over all our volunteers, making sure that they are cared for and have someone to talk to, if needed. We are mindful that, even amongst our New Kapporet family,

some may be in difficulty or distress for some reason, or in poor mental or physical health, and we know the Lord would want each one of them to be loved and cared for. We are, after all, one family in Christ and, as the Apostle John wrote in his first letter, *"Our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth."* (1 John 3:18)

In our last edition of The Cornerstone, in which we celebrated our first birthday, we noted how fast the Ministry is now growing. John 2008 reveals just how fast in an article on page 3. Thankfully, our recent Facebook appeal for more Listeners has yielded a large number of volunteers willing and eager to undergo the training to become Listeners or Prayer Partners. And, equally important, our Training Team is also expanding to deliver our induction training programme.

Last month we also made an appeal for financial support to fund the Ministry's growth, which will inevitably make strenuous demands on our limited resources. I would like to thank all those who responded to this appeal. Our coffers are not swollen but they are sufficient for the time being. Our treasurer, and all our volunteers, have recognised that the Lord expects us to go forward in faith, confident that He will supply the resources we need, when we need them. And so we shall!

"For (as we are finding every day) nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Growth Statistics

by John 2008

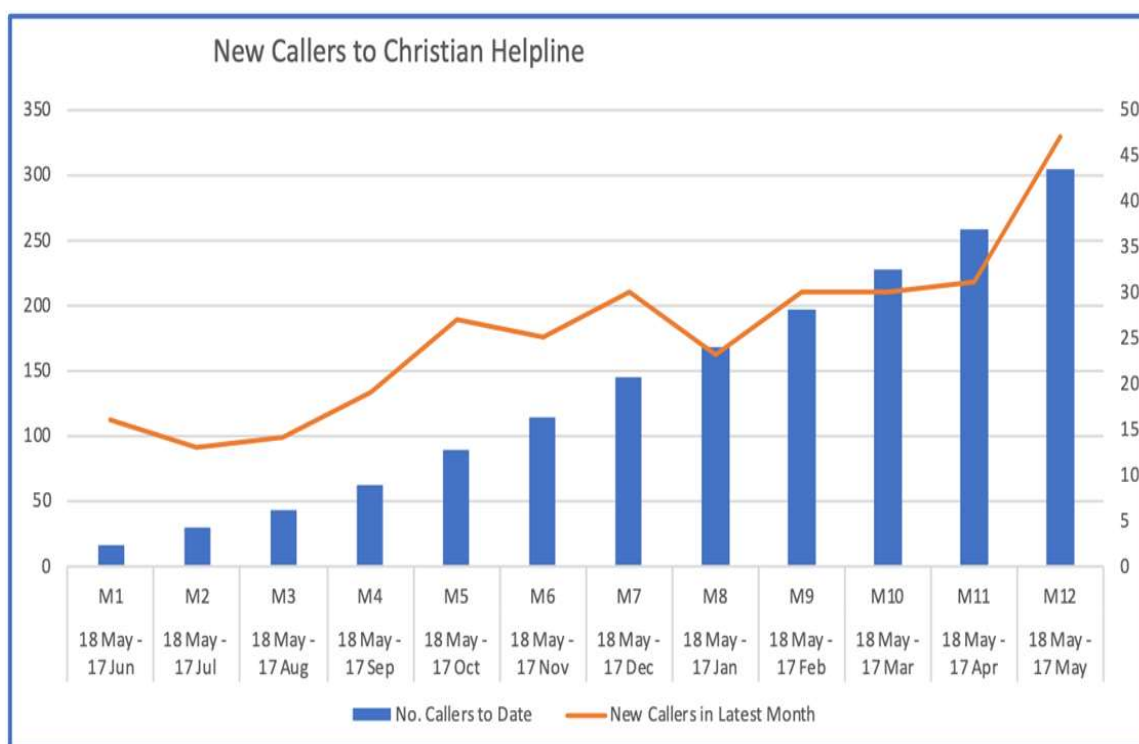
As readers will be aware, New Kapporet passed a key milestone on 18 May, this year, being the first anniversary of our helpline going live.

One of the statistics we look at in the Steering Group, which we obtain from Call Handling (the supplier of our Virtual Call Centre), is the number of 'New Callers' each month.

Call Handling counts unique and identifiable phone numbers, known in the technical world as 'Calling Line Identification' (CLI) numbers, in order to

arrive at their definition of a 'caller'. Typically, three out of four calls we receive is from a CLI number. It is not possible to know how many callers we have, who have their phone numbers hidden, or in old language are 'ex-directory' (the one in four).

The chart below shows how many new callers (using Call Handling's own definition) phoned our helpline each month over the past 12-month period. The bars show the cumulative position each month and, as we can see from the vertical axis, that there have been 305 callers to date. The line shows the number of new callers for each month. From this we can determine monthly trends.



The graph shows that there was a steady increase in new callers each month up to October 2020. The number stabilised at around 30 each month until April this year, but then rose by more than half to 47 last month. In the period, 18th May to 9th June,

we have been contacted by an additional 36 new callers.

Many of these callers, of course, become regular callers, in addition to those we already have. Hence our lines are becoming busier by the month, as all our Listeners are well aware.

The chart does give us an indication of how fast the word is getting out there, a measure of people learning about us. We believe each one of these new callers has

been led to us by the Lord and we serve Him as we are available for them, whether to listen, to pray, or whatever our role is in New Kapporet.

Seen on Facebook by Fio 2114

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him. While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it. When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting. The painter was surprised and said, "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened: "When I

asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

So, no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone. Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

Make a difference....

Book Review by Tim 2001

"The Way to Love, the last meditations of Anthony de Mello"

This little book is described on the jacket as the "final flowering of Anthony de Mello's thought, in which he grapples with the ultimate question of love." De Mello was an Indian Jesuit priest and a psychotherapist. He was the Director of the Sadhana Institute of Pastoral Counselling in Poona and died in 1987. The book comprises 31 meditations, in which the reader is invited to overcome illusion, which De Mello sees as the great obstacle

to love. "Love," he argues, "springs from awareness." It is only when we see people as they really are, and this includes ourselves, that we can begin really to love them. He admits that the task is not easy. "The most painful act is the act of seeing. But it is in that act of seeing that love is born."

"The Way to Love" is an extraordinary little book. Every one of these short meditations is worth carrying with you throughout your day, reflecting upon them, and witnessing your own perspectives change. I do not make the claim lightly – but this little book might just transform your life.



Hope by Fred 2106

A Christian friend called me up from Penzance last week. She was angry because she was in a lovely place and should have been having such a lovely time, but her husband wasn't there to enjoy it with her. He had died three years earlier leaving her alone and bereft in her mid-50's. The reason for her anger was

that she felt that God had pushed her beyond her ability to survive. She had recently been quoted by a well-meaning friend that the bible said that God wouldn't push her beyond her ability to cope, but *she* felt that she had been! She went on to say that if anything happened to her, I would be the only one to know why she wasn't around anymore.

Now, I think the verse that Christians are referring to in order to make this point is found in 1 Corinthians 10: 3: *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it"*. Of course, Paul is talking here about temptation to sin, not about ability to withstand grief, or loneliness, or anxiety.

There is another verse that I thought I might mention where Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4: 8, *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed'*. Yet even here I find that Paul is talking about persecution for our faith, rather than coping with grief.

So, can grief overwhelm us to the point that we no longer wish to live? Undoubtedly, but this is where New Kapporet steps in. We are here to see that folk don't ever get to this stage; to listen and grieve with them and share in their sufferings.

I do not wish to suffer. Suffering and I are not good bed fellows, yet it has been my experience that God has found me in the darkest of nights. In Isaiah 45, God

promises his people *"treasures of darkness, hidden riches in secret places."*

I have found that even in the blackest of nights I am able to say that God is still on His throne, (though not maybe at the time). Now it may well be that I have never been to the darker recesses of human experience and am therefore not able to speak of something of which I have no knowledge. That may well be true, but what I can speak of is the promises of the Bible and the fact that I have claimed them and am still here as a faltering Christian some 48 years after my conversion. What I can also do is point grieving souls to His word and His promises, and perhaps more importantly for us as listeners, be able to leave it up to God to handle.

One last thought in closing, in Romans 5 Paul talks of glorying in our sufferings! Why? Because they ultimately lead to hope!

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Jesus, You heal me by Stephanie 2056

Jesus, you are healing me,
Your hand touching every part.
I trust in your anointing,
I love you with all my heart

Jesus, you are healing me,
A sound mind I now know.
The spirit of fire consumes me,
Filling me up from head to toe.

Jesus, you are healing me,
Banishing all my fear and shame,
Given me back what was taken,
Now I will never be the same.

Jesus, you are healing me,
A new creation whole and new.
My legs are so much stronger now,
I'm dancing Jesus now with you.

Your mercy and amazing love
Washed away worries and fear.
Lord, you are renewing my mind,
So it's only your voice now I hear

I need you more than ever, Jesus.
Your comfort takes the stress inside,
You turn my wailing into dancing,
Catching every tear I have ever cried.

Beautiful Jesus, you are healing me.
My scars are my testimony today,
Of mercy love and compassion,
Now at your holy feet I come and lay.

You are the God who heals me,
You held me from the very start.
I am your faithful willing servant,
I come to you and pour out my heart.

I surrender unto you, my Father,
For you are Jesus Christ, God's son.
I know the good work You are doing,
You have already in your child begun.

THE PRAYER OF FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love:

where there is injury, pardon:

where there is doubt, faith:

where there is darkness, light:

where there is despair, hope:

where there is darkness, joy.

Divine Master; grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console,

to be understood, as to understand,

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

