

March
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

This past week, one of our callers asked a Listener to read a passage to her from the Bible. Her life is really difficult just now and she was feeling isolated and estranged from the God, whom she loves deeply. The Lord brought the following few verses to the Listener's mind and he read them to her. They are from John's gospel (11: 38-43) and describe the raising of Lazarus.

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

You can imagine what a comfort this passage was to the caller in her distress. She was reminded that, whatever the bad odour associated with her past or present existence, Jesus could and would raise her to new life. It was a great blessing to her, as indeed the Lord intended.

But these verses also speak to us about the nature of our own small ministry. As we reflect on them, we can, perhaps, see ourselves in the story: As the companions of Martha and Mary, who strive to comfort them at their great loss; as the mourners, who are instructed, not to grieve at the entombment of a friend, but to roll back the stone; as "*the people standing by*" for whom Jesus speaks to his Father, that we

might believe and see the glory of God; but, most of all, when we are sometimes truly blessed, as the witnesses of new life, who are called to "*Take off his grave clothes and let him go free.*"

We know full well that, of ourselves, we can accomplish nothing. But in Him, we somehow participate in the Lord's great gift of himself as "*resurrection and life.*" We are allotted only small and seemingly insignificant tasks to perform, but they are tasks which the Lord, in His great mercy, has given to us, and we delight in them.



Letter from the Editor

by Cheryl2051

Firstly, I must say how grateful I am to Tim who stepped in at short notice to put last month's Cornerstone together. As you can see, I am back.

I thought I would make this issue an Easter edition as Easter falls between this and next month's edition. Easter, a time when we think of what Jesus did on the cross for us. He went through horrendous suffering, the worst death imaginable as He suffocated. It does not end there however, as Sunday came. Of course, the disciples were hiding wondering what to do next. Think of all the questions they must have asked themselves. This was the promised Messiah, they believed but now He was gone. Dead! Had they got it badly wrong following Jesus as they had? Whether He was the Messiah or not, He had been a good friend, so they were in mourning as well.

They weren't left in that limbo though because Sunday came and a miracle happened. Jesus wasn't dead, He was alive! The resurrection had taken place. Death was defeated forever. I wonder how many of us would have been like Thomas, who needed proof that Jesus was really alive? If I'm honest I think I would

have wanted evidence, that reassurance that it had really happened. Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead. He suffered for us. He paid the price of our sin, our shame upon the cross. It should have been us hanging there but Jesus took our place because of His great love for humanity. We are set free. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice.

We worship the risen Lord. Our God is not dead. Hallelujah!

Whatever we are going through now, we can be assured there is eternal life to look forward to without the pain and misery that exists in this broken world.

Every time we go on watch we are reminded of this broken world as we listen and pray for callers – many of whom are in despair for different reasons. Jesus took their pain upon Himself, so they can be set free. What a privilege it is to listen and then to pray in Jesus' name.

God bless you all.

Monthly News by Tim 2001

Our new afternoon watch (3pm-6pm) was launched successfully on Monday 22nd February and we received our first calls very quickly. Many of those callers expressed their gratitude that we have extended our opening hours and some of our more regular callers have seized the opportunity to ring us and pray with us more than once a day, which seems to offer them great comfort. Some of our Listeners have also delighted in the opportunity to offer their ministry during daylight hours, while others have found more spaces available for standing watch after their working day. So, overall, we can be well pleased by our new daytime watch. The next step is a watch from midday to 3pm, which, with the Lord's continued blessing and a few more Listeners, we may hope to achieve later in the year.

Talking of new Listeners, around ten trainees have now completed, or are on the point of completing, their training programme and will be swelling our ranks in the next week or so. We are so looking forward to them joining us on watch. The trainers are now taking a short break, not to restore their energies, which have never flagged, but to refresh and further develop our Induction Training Programme. Liz2034 has been a leader in advocating and (even better) developing a new module, focused on prayer. From the outset, Listening and Prayer have been recognised as the twin pillars of our ministry, but our training has focused largely on developing listening skills. Liz's new module was pilot tested with the Steering Group last week and is now in the process of being incorporated as our eighth module into the induction training

programme. Our provisional title for the module is 'From Listening to Prayer'. Our Listeners of the future will greatly benefit from this development. However, we do not intend that our current Listeners should miss out on this learning. The eighth module will be made available to all our Listeners as a voluntary element in their continuous development. We will make further announcements soon on how and when we will run the new module for them.

As some of you may know, for some months we have been advertising our Ministry on the TBN UK Christian events diary. For those of you who are unfamiliar with TBN, the Trinity Broadcasting Network is a Freeview Christian broadcasting channel, which aims to "bring the love of Jesus into every home," with "inspirational Christian programmes." This week, they seem to have mislaid this objective entirely by asking if they could conduct an online interview with yours truly. Naturally but with some trepidation, I accepted this invitation, and the time and date were set. Unfortunately, and most unusually, I committed it wrongly to my diary. Their producer duly skyped me two hours earlier than I expected. With no preparation, my hair dishevelled and wearing a scruffy jumper that I use only for gardening, I probably appeared rather more relaxed than their usual interviewees. I never fail to be surprised by the Lord's rather mischievous sense of humour. Anyway, they seemed pleased at the result – so I will let you know when this "inspirational Christian programme" will be broadcast and how we might access and use it thereafter, assuming we find it helpful.

Finally, I would like to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our Listeners over the past three weeks in filling the watches, as we extended the service, and before our new band of Listeners arrived to support them. It has been a remarkable achievement. It is always going to be difficult to balance the number of Listeners, our opening hours and the demand from callers, but our Listeners have risen amazingly to this latest challenge. I would also like to recognise the increasing burden on our wonderful team of Prayer Partners, who do such sterling work in praying for our callers and Listeners. I think we all sense that we are on the verge of real and sustained growth in our Ministry but, as ever, we know it is not the result of anything we might do. Rather, we remember to thank and praise the Lord for His leadership, His involvement and his grace in moving us forward.

God bless us all.

Jesus you died for me by Liz2034

Jesus, you died for me, you died so
you could set me free,
You died before I could ever know.
You died so that I could heaven
know.

I never asked you to do it, I was
surrounded by darkness and sin,
And yet you still went through it so
that your new life could enter my
soul.

Jesus, you died for me, you died so
you could set me free,

Becoming a Partner of New Kapporet

Having launched a new watch this month and with the number of calls to our helpline continuing to grow, it is becoming ever more evident that we will run short of funds later this year, if we don't encourage more donations. So, please consider becoming a **Partner** of New Kapporet, not only through your support and prayer, but by donating a minimum of £5 a month to cover at least one hour of calls. If you feel that God is calling you to partner us in this way, it would help even more if you could set up a bank standing order. If you are a taxpayer, a Gift Aid declaration would increase your monthly £5 gift to £6.25. Details of how to set up a standing order and a Gift Aid form can be found on our websites www.newkapporet.org. Thank you.

Jesus, you died for me, you died so
you could set me free,

You died before I could ever know.
You died so that I could heaven
know.

I didn't want to listen, I was
surrounded by things of the world,
And yet you kept on knocking on the
door that shut you from my soul.

Jesus you died for me, at last I've
heard you've set me free,
I understand why you had to go, and
now you're living in my soul.

You Live and Breathe in Me

I saw those scars dear Lord Jesus,
Carved so deeply on your palm.
You came with love and kindness
But all we did was cause you harm

The holy lamb of God came down
To give salvation to us all.
I stopped a while to kneel and pray,
My tears cascading upon the floor.

Why did you come to die for me,
The wretched person that I am?
You said that I was worth so much,
But, Jesus, I don't really understand.

And yet, you gave your life for me,
An unbelievable thing that's true.
No one has ever cared so much,
Jesus, I wonder why you do?

Why did the Lord look down at me,
With compassion mercy and grace,
Sacrificing his only son, Jesus,
Who came and took my place?

Jesus, you were tortured so badly,
Spat upon, whipped and stoned.
All you did was to love us, Jesus,
Such agony you have known.

I cheated and not believed in you,
But you took my shame, my strife.
The wretched person that I was,
Lord Jesus, you changed my life.

With gentleness and amazing love,
You gave this sinner a chance,
To have a beautiful life worth living,
When I hadn't given you a glance.

On the cross you said, forgive them,
Such compassion upon your face.
On my knees, my heart is breaking,
In agony, your poured out grace.

Today I humbly kneel before you.
Jesus, I give all that I am to thee.
My chains fell off, I am forgiven.
You are doing a good work in me

Jesus, I promise to serve you only,
To praise and glorify your name.
Now you live and breathe inside me,
My life won't be the same again

Amen

By **Stephanie2056**



Celebrating Two Easters

by Maggy2015

As Christians, we know Easter day is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

What a joy it is to proclaim, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed."

It is a delight for me to celebrate two Easters, the first one on 3rd April and the second on 2nd May 2021.

You might well ask why? It is because I was brought up in the Ukrainian Orthodox church. My mother was Ukrainian, and my father was Russian, and both belonged to the Orthodox church. My parents were refugees who managed to escape the awful regime in their homelands, and made their home together in Leeds, where I grew up. I also celebrate two Christmases, one on 25th December and then on 7th January.

The question is, 'Why are there two different dates?' So, let me take you on a history tour of the early church which resulted in having two calendars.

In 325 AD the church held the First Ecumenical Council known as the Council of Nicaea (now Iznic, in Turkey). Prior to the Council meeting, churches around the world celebrated Easter at various times. In order to bring unity among churches,

Council members created a formula that would calculate the date for Easter celebration around the world. The established Easter is held on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon which follows the vernal equinox and is always after the Jewish Passover.

The vernal equinox is the event that occurs in late March which brings Spring to the parts of the earth in the Northern Hemisphere. The Council chose this equinox as part of the calculation to ensure Easter would be celebrated in Spring at the same time.

In Nicaea, the Council thought they had finalised a universal date for Easter. However, what they did not count on was a split in the church in 1054 known as the Great Schism.

Not only did the Eastern and Western halves form their own empires, they also chose their own emperors, and eventually their own head of church (Byzantine/Eastern and Roman/Western).

The fight over the rule of the church was the final straw and, as a result, the church was divided into the Roman/Catholic church (West) and Byzantine/Orthodox (East).

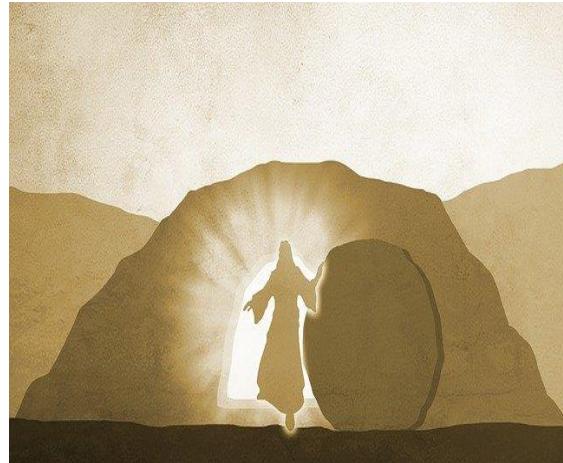
During this period the calendar used was the Julian calendar and it was not until 1582 that the Catholic church switched to the Gregorian calendar (Google explains the calculated dates and why). The Orthodox church still held onto the original Nicaea Council's formula for Easter and following the Julian calendar.

By using two different calendar systems the vernal equinox now fell on March 21st, under the Gregorian calendar and on April 3rd under the Julian, and there is 13 days' difference. Hence the two churches celebrate the same Easter holiday but on two different days. There is an exception on rare occasions when the dates fall on the same day, following the carefully calculated system in place. It was in 2010, 2011 and 2017 when they were the same and the next one will be 2034!

The Ukrainian Easter food is also different from the Western cuisine, hence I enjoy both traditions as does my family.

Sending you all the Ukrainian Easter response, "Xpucmoc Bockpec" "Boicmuno Bockpec." (Christ is Risen-He is Risen indeed.)

Wishing you all a Blessed Easter time.



You made yourself nothing

You made yourself nothing, no more than a servant.
You took human likeness, appearing as a man.
You humbled yourself, yet had the nature of God.
Obedient to death, even death on a cross.

So, God exalted you to the highest place.
And gave you the name which is above every name,
The name is Jesus, and every knee shall bow.
And all men say Jesus Christ is Lord.

By Liz2034

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.*