# DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**Chatham • Riverway • Maidstone** 

- District Updates
- Church programmes schedule
- SEC Virtual Camp Meeting 2021
- Editor's choice Our Example
- Inspired thoughts
- Announcements
- Scripture focus



# 02

#### **District Updates**

Happy Sabbath! June is going to be a very exciting month. We are planning to reopen all three churches according to the following schedule: Riverway - 5th June, Maidstone (in new location) - 12th June, Chatham - 26th June. The day we will be able to worship together in person is fast approaching and we praise God for that. However, it will not be as easy as waking up on the morning of the reopening and going to church as if we were attending in June 2019. While we are reopening and many of the restrictions have been lifted recently, we need to to be mindful that there is still a degree of risk in the air (an appropriate pun) and so we will be following the guidance as closely as we can to ensure we can accommodate as many of you as possible. I will aim to publish here the reopening procedure every week so that those planning to attend a church may be aware of the process and expectations. I cannot yet describe what "normal" church will look like, or what "full reopening" will mean after the 21st of June when all restrictions should be lifted (if the date will still stand), but we will work together towards that. In the meantime, the Zoom platforms will remain open as we will be holding blended / hybrid services so that those unable to attend in person will still be able to participate in Sabbath School and watch the Worship Service.

It's important to understand that we are all coming out of a cave where we lived for over one year, i.e. our Zoom reality, and we have to accommodate ourselves, as a group, to the new reality gradually. Also, we are all different and we adapt differently to change - some of you will find it easier to get out of your home and into a church, others will not. A child will adapt differently to the way we do church than someone who has been a church goer for 30-40-50 years before Covid-19 came upon us. We also perceive the health risks differently and some might be more apprehensive than others when it comes to having personal contact with others again and we have to respect that. Let us manifest love and patience in our life and make this work for everyone without judging or criticising. Let us build one another up, rather than bringing others down for being or thinking differently than us. This is a true sign that we have surrendered to the Lord, not the knowledge that we have. Be blessed and be a blessing!

#### **ROMANS 8:38-39**

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### Riverway Reopening - 5th of June (What will happen)

Riverway Church (2 Parsonage Lane, Sidcup, DA14 5HD) will reopen on the 5th of June 2021 and the applicable process, based on the risk assessment, will be the following:

- No pre-booking is required. Everyone can just turn up at the door as we estimate that enough seating will be available. Please do not come if you are ill, you have symptoms of cold or flu, if you are self-isolating, or have been in contact who was diagnosed with Covid-19 in the last 10 days.
- Service will start at 10am as usual with Sabbath School and the Worship Service will start at 11:30. If you are unable to attend, the regular Zoom meeting will be open and you will be able to participate in the Sabbath School discussions.
- Those wishing to attend in person are invited to factor in a delay of 10-15 minutes due to health checks, questionnaire and possible queues. The foyer area will only be used for the health screening, which will involve recording your name, taking your temperature, asking three questions regarding Covid-19 symptoms, whether you should be in self-isolation, and if you had contact with anyone with Covid, and asking you to disinfect your hands using the hand sanitiser provided.
- Having satisfied the health screening requirements, you will be invited to proceed to your seat(s) in the sanctuary through the main door.
- Once inside, please refrain from changing seats, having loud conversations with others, touching other items or surfaces, and masks will be required at all times unless exempt.
- If you need to use the toilet, we kindly request that you return promptly to your seat.
- At the end of the service, we will be exiting at the front of the sanctuary, through the side doors into the car park starting from the front to the back rows.
- There will be no lunch or afternoon service in church at the present time and we are all invited to adhere to the general guidance from the Government regarding socialising outdoors.

### **Schedule of Services**

This Sabbath Chatham

MAIN SPEAKER
SIS D PRYCE

(Zoom)
Sabbath School 9:45am
Divine Service 11:30am

**ID:** 873 5294 1641 **PASSWORD:** prayer

This Sabbath Riverway

MAIN SPEAKER SIS V BLOOM

(Zoom)
Sabbath School 10:00am
Divine Service 11:30am

ID: 838 2581 0430 PASSWORD: 617455

This Sabbath Maidstone

MAIN SPEAKER
DR M MAKA

(Zoom)
Sabbath School 9:45am
Divine Service 11:30am

ID: 869 6658 8490 PASSWORD: prayer

**PRAYER MEETINGS - 12 May** 

RIVERWAY (7PM) Zoom ID: 838 2581 0430 Password: 617455

CHATHAM & MAIDSTONE (7PM) - Area 4 Fortnightly Prayer Meeting

Zoom ID: 871 3282 3916 Password: 120120

Chatham weekly Bible study - Friday (7PM) and Sabbath (3PM)
Zoom ID: 873 5294 1641 Password: prayer



## Monday 31 May - Saturday 5 June

6am - 7am: Morning Manna

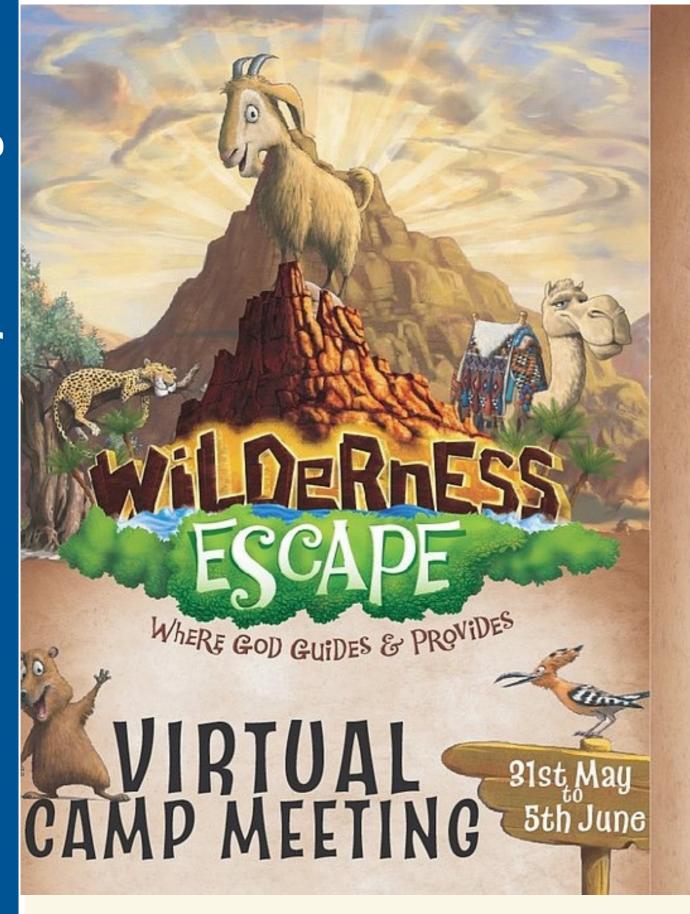
9am - 10am: Morning Devotion;

10am - 12 noon: Selection of Live Workshops & Presentations

12 noon - 1pm: Bible Study Hour

2pm - 5pm: Selection of Live Workshops & Presentations

7.30pm - 9pm: Commitment Service



The Children's Ministries Department (CMD) will be hosting a week-long virtual program themed 'Wilderness Escape', during Virtual Camp Meeting (VCM) 31st May - 5th June 2021

Children will be exploring the exciting journey taken by the Israelites as they escaped from Egypt as told in the book of Exodus.

Register your child/ren at https://bit.ly/3sqqkyx

For more information contact: Email: cmd@secadventist.org.uk

Tel: 0786 6437 262

Instagram: SECCHILDRENSMINISTRIES
Facebook: SEC Children's Ministries

This will be aired each day at 11:30hrs on: the SEC Children's Ministries YouTube Channel -Kids Planet https://bit.ly/396zqqa and Facebook page https://bit.ly/3twxfay

Resources for children and families to participate in activities during the week need to be ordered via your church children's ministries department. The new deadline for submitting orders with full payment to the SEC is 4PM, 30TH April 2021







Register at <a href="https://vbspro.events/p/events/brixkidz-secvcm">https://vbspro.events/p/events/brixkidz-secvcm</a>

Children ministries leaders in each church should have received more info from the South England Conference Children Ministries Department



Understanding the Kingdom of God Monday 31 May, Wednesday 2 June & Friday 4 June (10am)

Streaming on SECmedia Youtube page and SEC Facebook page

secmedia f LIVE

YouTube

SEC Church Growth and Community Services, together with Adrian Peck, Ailson De Moraes, Maslin Holness, Mathhew Herel, Llew Edwards, Rosemary Lethbridge & Paul King, share their perspectives on How Church Connects to Community.

Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

5pm

Please invite the young people in your congregation to watch

Ministries (click link)

and interact on the SEC Teens

Facebook page

or

YouTube channel.



Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 10am-11am

**Daily Presentations & Discussions** Live on Zoom:

Monday 31 May: Grief, Loss & Bereavement - Christer Muloba

Tuesday 1 June: A Fresh Perspective on Conflict - Karen Holford

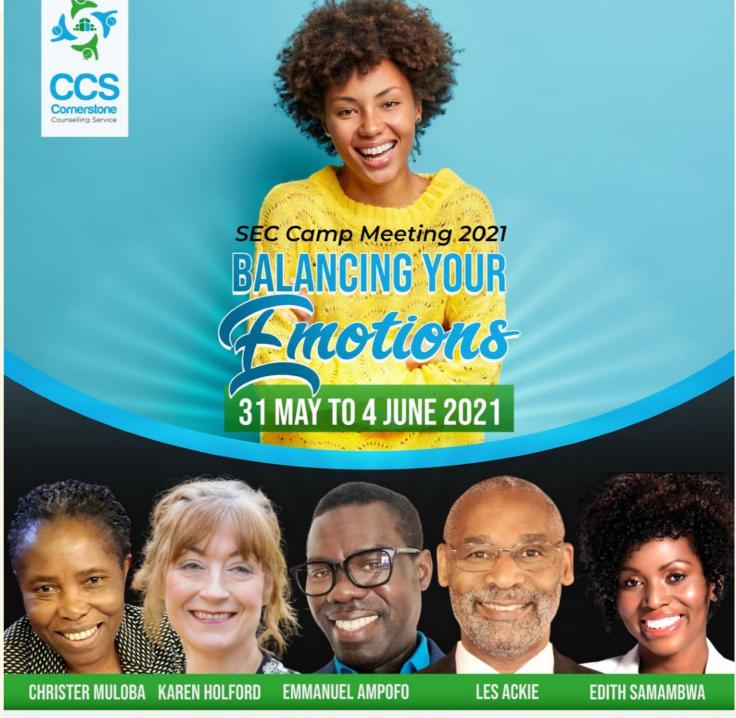
Wednesday 2 June: Mental Health & Ethnic Minorities - Emmanuel **Ampofo** 

Thursday 3 June: Intergenerational Trauma - Les Ackie

Friday 4 June: Through it All -Resilience - Edith Samambwa

ID: 922 5486 5902

**Password: 689246** 



DATE	TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Mon 31/05/21	10-11 am	Christer	Grief, Loss, And Bereavement
Tue 01/06/21	10-11 am	Karen	A Fresh Perspective On Conflict
Wed 02/06/21	10-11 am	Emmanuel	Mental Health & Ethnic Minorities
Thu 03/06/21	10-11 am	Les	Intergenerational Trauma
Fri 04/06/21	10-11 am	Edith	Through It All - Resilience

#### **SEC WOMEN MINISTRIES**

The Storm is Still Raging What Next?

Monday 31 May & Thursday 3 June (3pm)

**Zoom details** 

Meeting ID: 81079883016

**Passcode: 622163** 



SESSIONS DESIGNED TO BE INTERACTIVE. HIGHLIGHTING ASPECTS OF EMOTIONAL AND CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE, THAT SPEAKS TO ONE'S FAITH-BASED JOURNEY, INTRODUCING THE CONCEPT AND PRINCIPLES OF EMOTIONAL & CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AS WOMEN OF FAITH, FROM A SPIRITUALLY INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE PLATFORM.



Meeting ID: 810 7988 3016 Passcode: 622163

#### SEC POSSIBILITIES MINISTRY

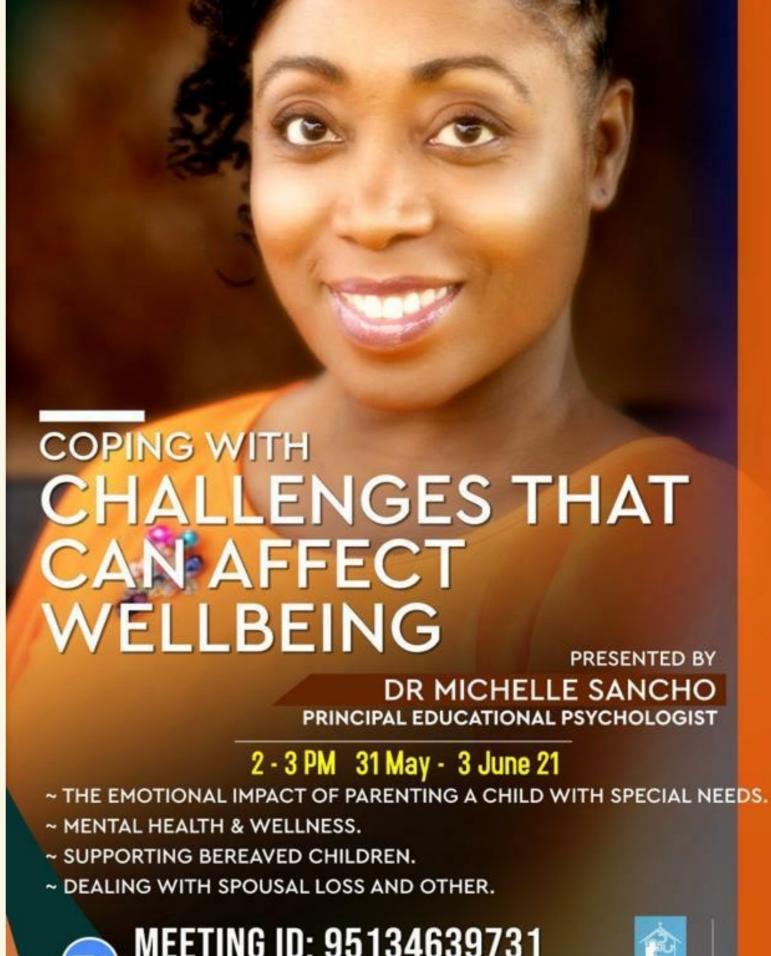
**Coping With Challenges That Can Affect Wellbeing** 

Monday 31 May & Thursday 3 June (2pm)

**Zoom details** 

Meeting ID: 95134639731

**Passcode: 875702** 





MEETING ID: 95134639731

PASSWORD: 875702



STANBOROUGH PRESS WILL BE SUPPORTING BOTH AS WE HAVE DONE PHYSICALLY IN THE PAST. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL BE ONLINE THROUGHOUT ON:

WWW.LIFESOURCEBOOKSHOP.CO.UK

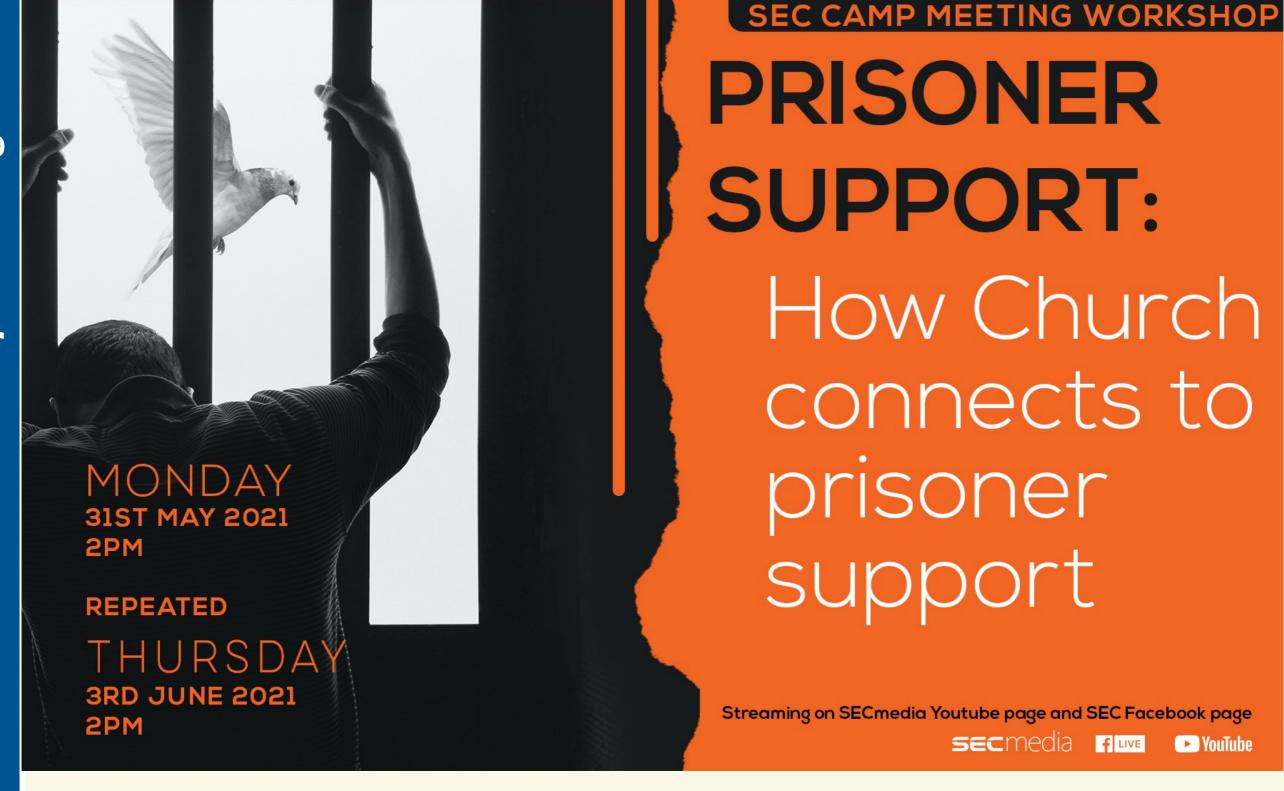
FOR THIS YEAR'S SEC CAMP
MEETING WE ARE ALSO GOING TO
HOLD A PHYSICAL PRE-SALE ONE DAY BEFORE CAMP MEETING
BEGINS ON SUNDAY 30 MAY 2021.
THE VENUE WILL BE HYLAND
HOUSE SCHOOL, 97 HOLCOMBE
ROAD, LONDON, N17 9AB, FROM
10AM-2PM.

**ENQUIRIES** 

07736 277 011

SALES@STANBOROUGHPRESS.ORG.UK





How Church Connects to Prisoner Support Monday 31 May & Friday 4 June (2pm)

# YM CAMP MEETING GRAMME



MONDAY: THE HYPE OF DATING

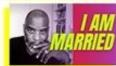


TUESDAY: GAME CHANGING MINDSETS

FOR MARRIAGE



WEDNESDAY: TRAUMA AVOIDANCE



THURSDAY: I AM MARRIED



FRIDAY: LONGEVITY



**SATURDAY: TRAUMA, MARRIAGE & MY STORY** 





**sec**media

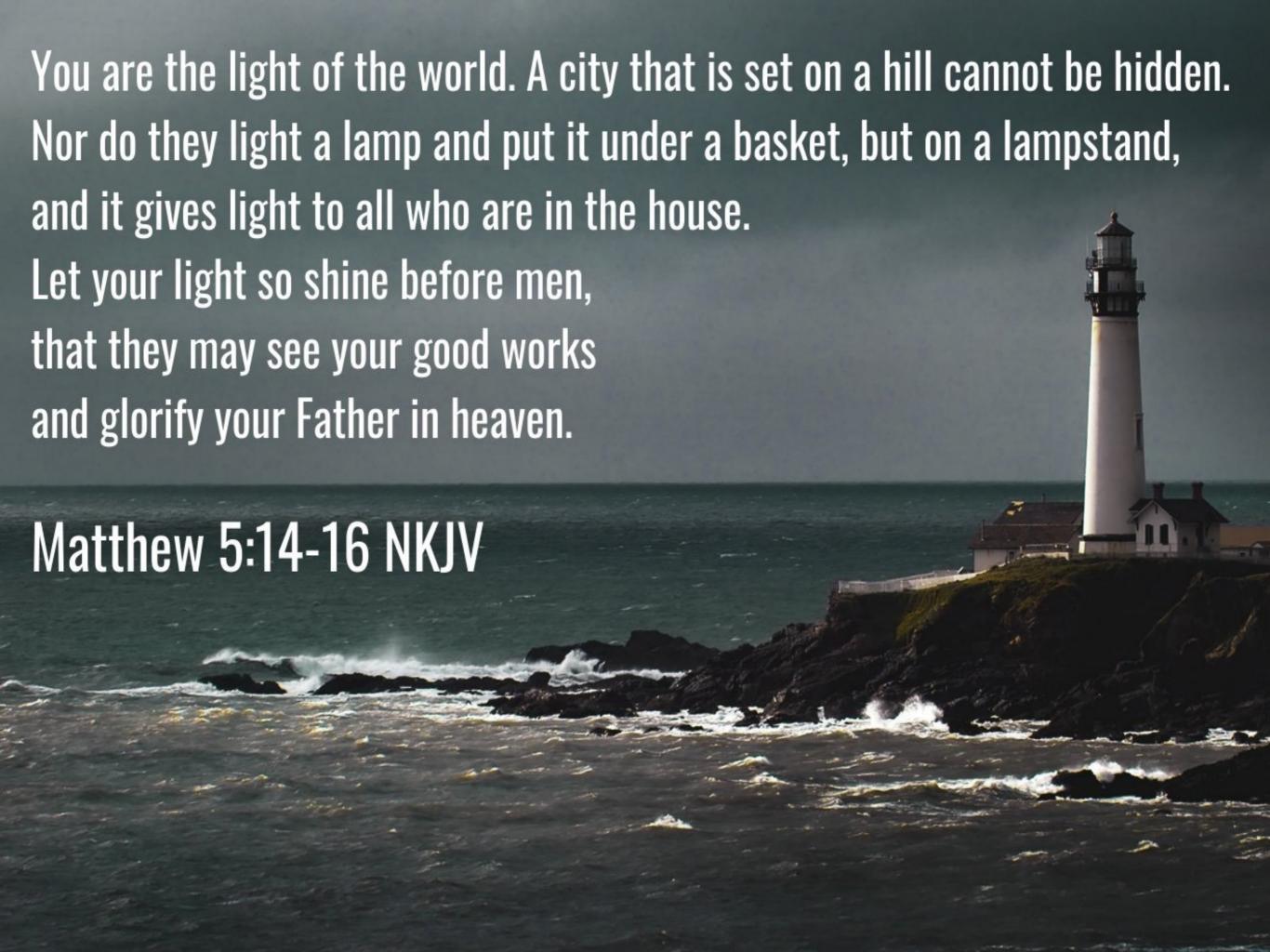






Join us straight after the Commitment Service each evening for topics ranging from dating, relationships and marriage, to avoiding and addressing trauma; and have your say on the SEC Youth Ministries https://www.facebook.com/secyouthmin

Monday 31 May & Friday 4 June (9pm)



#### Editor's Choice - Our Example

Christ's life on earth was meek and lowly. He did not take his place upon a throne as commander of the earth. He attached to his name no high titles, to make his position understood. He took not on him the nature of angels. For our sake he stepped down from his royal throne, and clothed his divinity with humanity. He laid aside his royal robe, his kingly crown, that he might be one with us. He resigned his position as commander in the heavenly courts, and for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He hid his glory under the guise of humanity, that his divine, transforming power might touch humanity.

While on earth, Christ lived in the home of a peasant. He wore the best garments his parents could provide, but they were the humble garments of the peasants. He walked the rough paths of Nazareth, and climbed the steeps of its hillsides and mountains. In his home he was a constant worker, and left on record a life filled with useful deeds. Had Christ passed his life among the grand and the rich, the world of toilers would have been deprived of the inspiration that the Lord intended they should have. But Christ knew that his work must begin in consecrating the humble trade of the craftsmen who toil for their daily bread. He learned the trade of a carpenter, that he might stamp honest labor as honourable and ennobling to all who work with an eye single to the glory of God. And angels were his attendants; for Christ was just as truly doing his Father's business when toiling at the carpenter's bench, as when working miracles for the multitude. He held his commission and authority from the highest power, the Sovereign of heaven.

Christ descended to poverty that he might teach how closely in our daily life we may walk with God. He took human nature that he might be able to sympathise with all hearts. He was capable of sympathising with all. He could engage in toil, bear his part in sustaining the family in their necessity, become accustomed to weariness, and yet show no impatience.

#### **Editor's Choice - Our Example**

His spirit was never so full of worldly cares as to leave no time nor thought for heavenly things. He often held communion with heaven in song. The men of Nazareth often heard his voice raised in prayer and thanksgiving to God; and those who associated with him, who often complained of their weariness, were cheered by the sweet melody that fell from his lips.

Christ knew that it required much patience and spirituality to bring Bible religion into the home life, into the workshop, to bear all the strain of practical life, and yet keep the eye single to the glory of God; and this is where he was a helper. In elevated song he would speak his parables, and carry the minds of his hearers with him. A fragrant influence was diffused to those around him, and they were blessed. His praises seemed to drive away the evil angels, and fill the place with sweet fragrance. He carried the minds of his hearers away from their earthly exile to their future, eternal home.

All this has its lesson for us. We also may commune with God in words of holy song. Our house of worship may be very humble, but it is none the less acknowledged by God. If we worship in spirit, and in truth, and in the beauty of holiness, it will be to us the very gate of heaven. As lessons of the wondrous works of God are repeated, and as the heart's gratitude is expressed in prayer and song, angels from heaven take up the strain, and unite in praise and thanksgiving to God. These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel murmurings and complainings, and Satan loses ground.

God teaches us that we should assemble in his house to cultivate the attributes of perfect love. This will fit the dwellers of earth for the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those who love him, where, from Sabbath to Sabbath, from one new moon to another, they will assemble in the sanctuary to unite in loftier strains of song, in thanksgiving and praise to him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.

#### Editor's Choice - Our Example

Christ would have us realise that our interests are one. A divine Saviour died for all, that all might find in him their divine source. In Christ Jesus we are one. By the utterance of one name, "Our Father," we are lifted to the same rank. We become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. His principles of truth bind heart to heart, be they rich or poor, high or low.

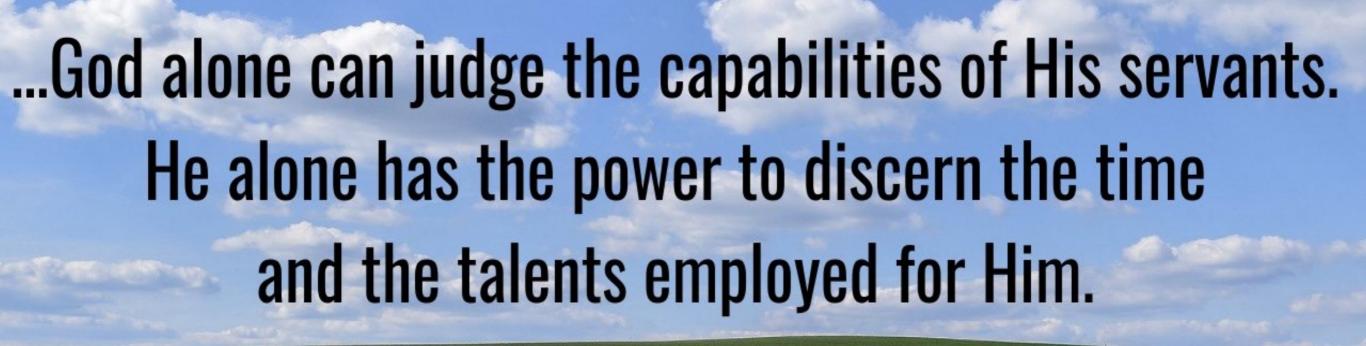
When the Holy Spirit moves upon human minds, all petty complaints and accusations between man and his fellow man will be put away. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will shine into the chambers of the mind and heart. In our worship of God there will be no distinction between rich and poor, white and black. All prejudice will be melted away. When we approach God, it will be as one brotherhood. We are pilgrims and strangers, bound for a better country, even a heavenly. There all pride, all accusation, all self-deception, will forever have an end. Every mask will be laid aside, and we shall "see him as he is". There our songs will catch the inspiring theme, and praise and thanksgiving will go up to God.

This article first appeared in The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, October 24, 1899.

#### LET'S TALK!

I would love to get to know you. If you want to be prayed for, if you need to talk to someone, if you need any support or to simply have a chat please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Pastor Alex Mareniuc ● 07857 140 654 ● amareniuc@secadventist.org.uk



17 Manuscript Releases 204.1

#### **INSPIRED THOUGHTS**

## Ellen White - Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pp. 298-299

Into the hearts of many who have been long in the truth there has entered a hard, judicial spirit. They are sharp, critical, faultfinding. They have climbed upon the judgment seat to pronounce sentence upon those who do not conform to their ideas. God calls upon them to come down and bow before Him in repentance, confessing their sins. He says to them: "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Revelation 2:4, 5. They are striving for the first place, and by their words and acts they make many hearts sore. Against this spirit, and against the false religion of sentimentalism,

which is equally dangerous, I bear my warning. Take heed, brethren and sisters. Who is your leader—Christ or the angel that fell from heaven? Examine yourselves and know whether you are sound in the faith.

## **URGENT ADRA APPEAL - COVID Emergency India**

Two people every minute. That is how many precious lives are being lost in India right now due to COVID-19. With each passing day, these numbers are skyrocketing. The news and social media are filled with terrible reminders that the tragedy of this pandemic is far from over. India needs you. Please, will you help protect vulnerable families around the world from the impact of COVID-19? Your gift can save lives. Right now, hospitals and health centres across India are collapsing under the sheer number of new cases. The most critical need is oxygen. For patients sick with COVID-19, the extreme shortage of oxygen is devastating, often fatal. Many are being turned away to die at home and in the streets. It's hard to imagine, but COVID-19 has put the most fundamental needs of life under strain--if it's not oxygen, it's food and water, with a growing global hunger crisis also being reported in many countries. Sadly, this worldwide pandemic is far from over--but you can help save lives by acting now. Your gift of any amount will be multiplied by 3. Why not donate £25, £50 or £100 when you give today? You can help:

- Keep frontline health workers safe by providing vital personal protective equipment.
- Save the lives of COVID-19 victims by helping provide oxygen-generating equipment to under-resourced hospitals.
- Deliver lifesaving food to families forced to go hungry by the pandemic.

More than ever, vulnerable families around the world need your support and time is running out. Please make a donation now and please keep praying for those impacted.

www.adra.org.uk OR

https://app.donorfy.com/donate/C4311R6V76/IndiaCOVIDresponse

Do you know a woman experiencing a bit of hardship as a result of this pandemic? SEC Women's Ministries may be able to help!

Please let everyone know that support is available. They are welcome to apply or support the fund by emailing womens@secadventist.

org.uk.



# Support available through Cornerstone:

- Call the dedicated listening line from 8am to midnight, seven days a week on 0330 133 2495;
- For counselling appointments, call the office on 0207 723 8050, from 9.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 12 noon on Fridays;
- Email connect@ccscouns elling.org.uk;

Visit our website to chat online and for emotional support resources:

www.ccscounselling.org.uk



CCS is here to support you

Together we can win your struggle.



DAILY SEC PRAYER LINE



Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.

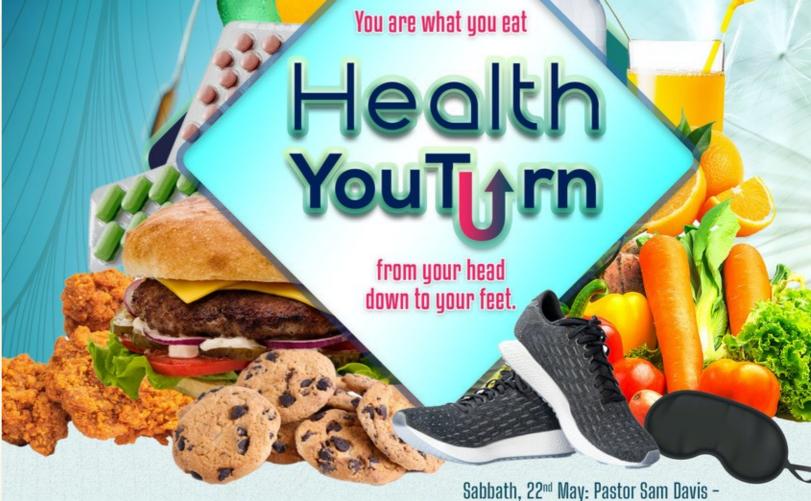
Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God,
for to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning,
O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up.

Psalm 5:1-3 NKJV

LEWISHAM SDA CHURCH
HEALTH YOUTURN
SATURDAY 22 MAY SATURDAY 29 MAY

PASTOR SAM DAVIS
JOINS LEWISHAM FOR
THE LAUNCH OF THEIR
HEALTH EMPHASIS
WEEK. GUEST SPEAKERS
WILL PRESENT A
VARIETY OF TOPICS
THROUGHOUT THE
WEEK.

ZOOM MEETING ID: 970 461 9480 PASSCODE: PRAY 1844!



SABBATH
22ND MAY -

SABBATH **29<sup>TH</sup> MAY** 

Sabbath Service: Between 11:30 - 13:00

Sabbath School: Between 10:00 – 11:30

Sabbath Evening: 17:30 - 19:00

23<sup>rd</sup> May - 28<sup>th</sup> May: Evening program 19:30 - 21:00

zoom

MEETING ID: 970 461 9480 PASSWORD: PRAY 1844! Sabbath, 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Pastor Sam Davis -(Divine Service & AYS Programme)

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Brother Richard Harrison (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> May: Brother James Luke (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

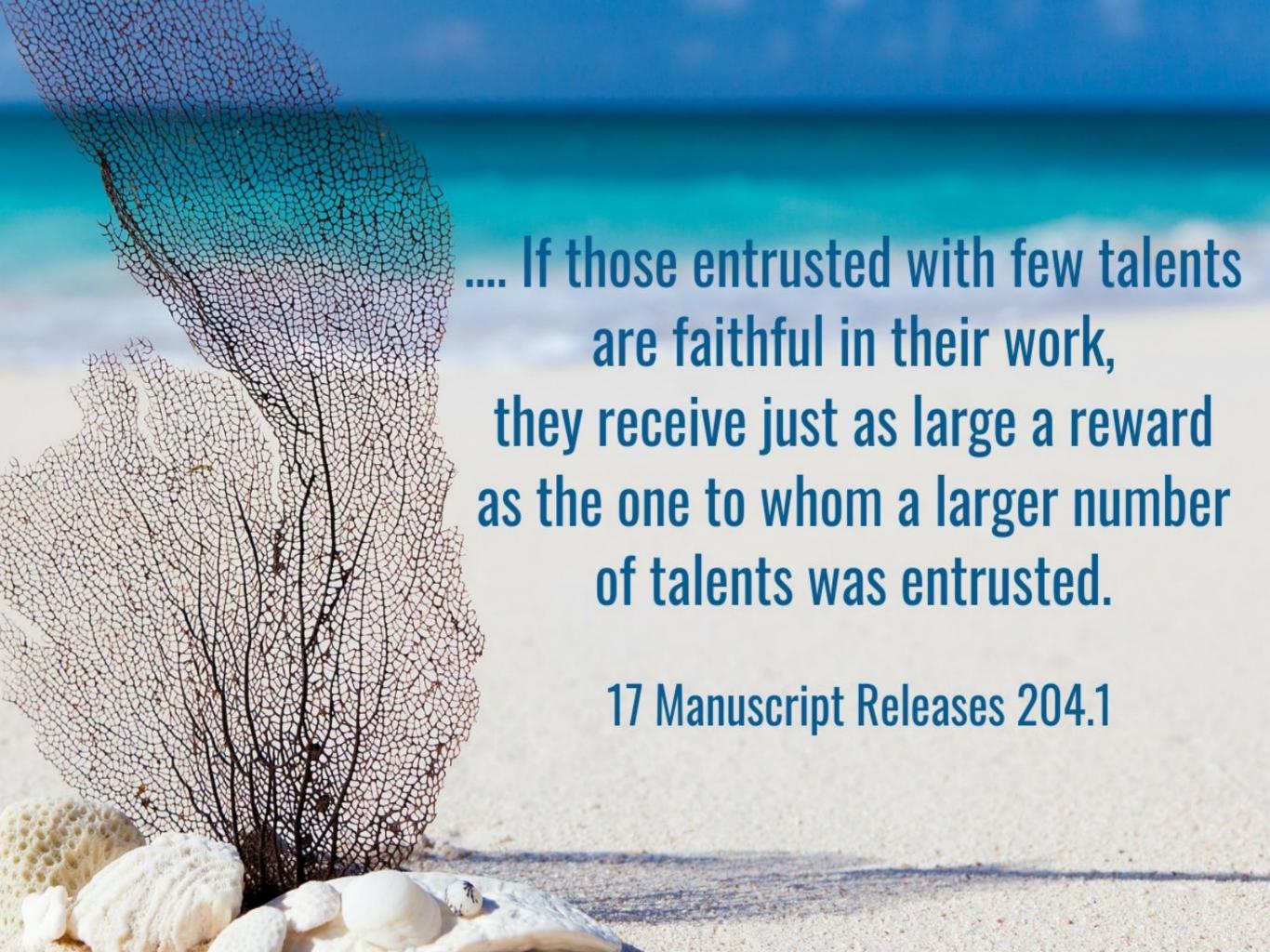
Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May: Sister Nicola Grant (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May: Elder Paul Graves (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May: Brother Joùdal Charles-Hawkins (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May: Marc Naiken (Evening Programme - 19:30 - 21:00)

Sabbath, 29<sup>th</sup> May: Sister Michelle Hall (Divine Service & AYS Programme)



# SCRIPTURE FOCUS - SERMON ON THE MOUNT This week: Matthew 7:24-29

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.