

Sunday morning text and Sermon
Restoration work
Studies in the book of Nehemiah - chapter 1

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said:
"O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.
"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, `If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'
"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

Getting God's perspective

- Have a holy discontent with the status quo
- Keep God's vision in our hearts
- Seek God's direction :
 - Fasting
 - Prayer
 - Waiting

(Questions for further study on this passage are on the church website www.testwoodbaptist.org)
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We value your feedback – please use this tear off slip.

Feedback/comments/prayer requests



Sun 24th Jan

Welcome to Testwood Baptist Church

This morning
Welcome to Testwood as we meet to worship God today . Refreshments will be served after both services. This morning Gordon Tuck will be speaking, introducing a new teaching series from Nehemiah. There is crèche provision & children & young people's groups for 3 – 14s. Please let us know if there are specific needs we can help with (e.g. a large print version of this newsletter.) A Welcome Pack is available at the Welcome Desk if you're new to church, and someone will be there to answer any questions.

This evening
We're thrilled that 4 people will be getting baptized during the evening service that starts at 6 p.m. Each of them will be sharing their stories of how they have come to faith. Do try and be at this service to support them, and invite others who may be interested to hear what they have to say.

Baptism
Baptism is a "visual aid" that Jesus gave his followers to help us to remember and to explain the good news of salvation. It's a public declaration of faith in Jesus as a response to Jesus' command. Matthew 28: 19,20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Baptism is a "picture" of what has already happened in someone's life – the fact that they have received God's forgiveness and new life. As well as an opportunity to obey what Jesus has said, baptism gives a great opportunity to say what God has done in your life. If you have committed your life to following Jesus but haven't yet been baptized there's another opportunity to do this on March 28th. Any of the pastoral staff would be happy to talk to you about this.

www.testwoodbaptist.org 023 80860320

Welcoming Team

A new rota has been sent to those of you who have an email address. If you are on the Welcoming Team and have not received the new rota, please could you collect a copy from Reception?

Ray & Liz Maher

The Creche Rota for February to April has recently been sent by E-mail. If you have not received your mail, please contact me (or Janice Tuck as I will be away for 2 weeks) for a hard copy.

Thank-you Ann Friend

Worn Again – Sat Feb 6th

We regularly hold these events where clothes & household textiles that are no longer needed can find new homes with people who need them. So start clearing out ... however, it would help if you didn't bring the goods to the church yet! There's a list at the Welcome Desk to sign up if you can help on the day. It's always great to be part of this team!

Any questions? Ask Brigitte Kemish or Janice Tuck

Transport

A number of people are in need of transport to and from church on a Sunday and occasionally we have members who need a lift to and from hospital during the week. If you feel that you are able to help, either on a regular basis or occasionally, please can you add your name to the list on the reception desk. We would like to build up a list of people who we could call upon from time to time as a need arises.

In addition Totton Christian Centre does provide a volunteer lift scheme called Communicare Car Scheme. The phone number is 80660200 each day up until 12pm. The cost is 40p a mile and they like to be given as much notice as possible

This Tuesday 26th ... Church members meeting

Nominations have been received for Jim Green and Dave Brier to serve as deacons. Church members will be voting at the church members meeting on Tuesday January 26th. Please continue to pray that we would know God's guiding hand in all we do.

Bob Pearce

Tickets for this concert on Sat Feb 20th are now going fast. Do not miss out on this excellent opportunity to invite you friends and neighbours to hear an excellent musician and his talented band. Tickets available from the welcome desk.

Dates for your diary

January

Tues 26th Church Members Meeting

February

Sat 6th Prayer breakfast

Sat 6th Worn again

Sat 20th Bob Pearce concert

Fri 26th Card making night

Streetwise Bus

Can you help the Streetwise Bus project by being a volunteer cleaner? If you want to help this important part of YFM but cannot go out on the bus, you will still be serving this project among young people in a vital way. We are in need of at least two people who could work together, and more would be gratefully received. One hour's work every 6 weeks is all it takes, to clean the table surfaces and brush and mop the floor. The bus is kept at Lyndhurst Fire Station, where the staff are very helpful to us.

Please contact Brian Coward or Brigitte Kemish if you can offer your services.

Request

Could you help support the life of the church? Are you able to give an hour to cleaning the church? If so, please contact Sheila Bevin or Steve Reynolds to join the cleaning team. Some people clean an area every week, others are on a rota. Any time would be greatly appreciated. Thankyou.

Haiti Earthquake Disaster

There will be a number of "red heart" buckets located around the church if you would like to add a donation to last weeks appeal. The funds will go to support the work of Tear Fund in Haiti and also to support a Christian Hospital working in Haiti with which we have some direct contact. See www.haitihospitalappeal.org

Your response

If you are a visitor and would like to know more please fill in, tick as appropriate, tear off & place in the offering bags or take to the Welcome Desk.

Name
Address

Telephone
Email

- More about what this church is all about
- Children's or youth activities
- Small groups that meet midweek
- Courses that explore the Christian faith (Alpha/Journeys)