



highworth community church | 29 may 2020

# CONTACT

registered charity no. 1080002

## HELLO!

So much may feel uncertain at the moment, but you can always rely on a delivery of *Contact!* Hopefully, you'll experience a little more connection to your church family as we navigate this time together. Bless you, dear Family.



*them to get them to repent, or even inviting them to become something else. God is possessing them with delight, and they are delighting in the being possessed. They are starting to tell a story, which in theory is an impossible story, of how they have come to discover themselves liked by God.'*

Why does the Lord want me to sit for a while with the word 'delight'? Because He wants me to fully understand and accept that He likes me. And if I can manage that, to then delight in that knowledge.

It's a word the psalmists use a lot. It's used between 110 and 265 times in the Bible (according to which translation you're reading). Delight: a word that includes joy, laughter, affection, pleasure, enjoyment.

I feel the Lord is asking me to risk delighting in Him. To let go of the anxiety of wondering whether I'm living up to expectations, and to enjoy—to delight in—being liked by Him (even in my more unlikeable moments). If I can really get hold of the truth that God loves me AND that He likes me, then that's the basis for a great relationship.

## WORD OF THE MOMENT - DELIGHT!

by Vincent Stokes

Being part of the group exploring the gift of prophecy, led by Rodney Kingstone, is yielding some rich rewards. For one of our weekly 'homeworks' we were invited to ask the Lord to give us a word to explore—to dig into. A word that strikes us as having particular significance at this time, in this moment. (This is one way that we hear from the Lord).

A single word that surfaced, that lifted off the page of the book I was reading was 'delight'. In this book, *On Being Liked* by James Alison, he is taking us imaginatively through the events in Acts 10. Peter has received a vision

through which he has understood that the good news of Jesus is not only for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles; for the 'outsiders'. For people who had no, or little understanding of the Jewish faith, who were in fact regarded as 'unclean' or 'impure'; second-class citizens. During Peter's preaching to them, the Holy Spirit falls on them in power. Peter is completely stunned by what is happening! The Spirit filling the Gentiles!

Here's the passage I then read: '[Peter realised that] ... *God wants them (the Gentiles) to be on the inside of God's story just as they are. God is not confronting*

TEN MINUTES - 12 NOON - EVERY SATURDAY  
**WE'RE PRAYING BIG**  
**HOPE FOR HIGHWORTH**  
 UNTIL THE END OF THIS CRISIS, THE CHURCHES OF HIGHWORTH  
**WILL BE ESPECIALLY PRAYING FOR YOU**



Vincent and Helen Stokes

## AS SEEN ON FACEBOOK

Lesley Lambert  
24 May



Part of today's devotional by Neil Anderson.

*If you're beginning to think you are some one special as a Christian, you're thinking right—you are special! Your specialness is not the result of anything you have done, of course. It's all God's doing. All you did was respond to God's invitation to be His child. But as a child of God, in union with God by being in Christ, you have every right to enjoy your special relationship with your new Father.*

## TEAR DOWN THE BARRIERS

by Helen Stokes

I love the Lord's Prayer. Whichever version you use, it is such a beautiful and succinct way of expressing, well, everything. No less than you would expect from the heart of Jesus himself.

I came across something I had kept from decades ago which I hope will speak to you.

Can I say OUR if I live in a water-tight spiritual compartment concerned only with my own walk with God?

Can I say FATHER if I do not demonstrate something of that relationship with Him in my everyday life?

Can I say WHO ART IN HEAVEN if I am preoccupied with laying up treasures on Earth?

Can I say HALLOWED BE THY NAME if I don't live with an awareness of His holiness?

Can I say THY KINGDOM COME if I am not doing everything in my power to hasten its coming?

Can I say THY WILL BE DONE if I am resentful, disobedient and dissatisfied?

Can I say ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN if I am not prepared to spend myself bringing the ways of Heaven to Earth?

Can I say GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD if my relationship is to do with past experiences rather than daily connection?

Can I say FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US if I'm still harbouring grudges?

Can I say LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION if I deliberately place myself or remain in a position where I am likely to be tempted?

Can I say DELIVER US FROM EVIL if I am not prepared to fight it in the spiritual and Earthly realms?

Can I say FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM if I do not accord the King the disciplined obedience of a subject?

Can I say THINE IS THE POWER if I fear what men may do or think?

Can I say THINE IS THE GLORY if I live life seeking glory for myself?

Can I say FOR EVER AND EVER if my horizon is bounded by earthly time?

Can I say AMEN if I don't have any desire to make myself ready to give everything I have?

**BIG SUNDAY**

**12 JULY**

**10:30AM**



Laura Fisher

## NEAR, NOT FAR AWAY

by Laura Fisher

Over the past week, I have been reflecting on God's nearness in this current season. On Saturday I felt a quickening in my spirit to go back and look at song lyrics God gave to me whilst our family was in India on the outreach part of our Discipleship Training School with Youth With A Mission, back in April 2018.

This first one resonates with what I sense about God's nearness. Before lockdown, I seemed to be rushing all over the place. Since everything stopped, despite all the difficulties happening in the world at the moment, when I've given Papa time and space, He's been reminding me that he is very much present in his world, going about His Kingdom business.

### *I'm Here*

*The birds find the thermals so easily,  
Just watch how they glide.  
Majestic, graceful, sure and strong,  
They trust the instinct I placed inside.*

*The flowers of the fields dance and shift,  
Bloom the colours of the season.  
Beautiful, delicate, fragrant and free,  
They alone know of the reason.  
Listen to the bird song.  
Hear them call out My Name.  
Look at the beauty of the world I have made.*

*Watch the sea glisten in the sunshine above,  
Listen to the sounds of the waves.  
They roll and crash or gently lap land,  
All in the rhythm I designed.*

*Listen to the leaves as they rustle in the breeze.  
Hear them call out My Name.  
Look at the beauty of the world I have made.*

I penned the following verses whilst sitting on the open rooftop of our temporary Indian home early one morning. My heart was being stirred by the beauty, coolness and stillness of the dawn and sunrise, in comparison to the hot, bustling, noisy day and evenings. But as I re-read them at the weekend, I did so in the context of some of the nations in our world beginning to 'wake up' post-lockdown period.

### *Wake Up*

*As the world opens its eyes,  
You are there, you are there.  
The sunrise reflects your glory.  
The birds sing your praise.  
Lord, how can they not see?  
How can they not hear?*

*A world lost in darkness.  
A world lost in greed.*

*Give them eyes to see your glory.  
Give them hearts to sing your praise.*

*Forgive their sin.  
Let them know that they are free.  
Heal this land,  
So that all the lost may see.*

In the very depths of my soul, I cry out,  
World! Wake up. God loves you. He's here.

These next verses seem to exactly resonate in my heart and mind in this time too.

### *Hands and Feet*

*Father, thank you that you use me.  
Let us be your hands and feet.  
So that all the lost see Jesus,  
and Your work will be complete.*

*Bride, Church.  
Hear the call of your name.  
Don't let Jesus death be in vain.*

*Father, thank you that you hear us,  
all the hurting, broken, lost.  
You alone are quick to comfort,  
Knowing all pain through the cross.*

*Bride, Church.....  
(Repeat)*

*Let it come out of love.  
Let it come out of love.  
Jesus, light Your fire in us.*

*Bride, Church.....  
(Repeat)*

May we be those who are quick to hear God in this season. To be Jesus' hands and feet in this time!

If you need help or feel isolated, please contact us:

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