



# Ludlow Elim Christian Fellowship

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“Making families fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ”  
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“Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God”

(William Carey)



## Tim Says:

I believe the greatest focus of our lives has to be the worship of our God. So often we can be sidetracked in this by getting caught up on something which is good, but secondary to the main focus of our lives. For example, our ministry for God. I can tell you how easy it is, as the Minister of the church for me to get sidelined by programmes, planning and meetings. They of course have to be done, (tho' I am increasingly aware that not all of them HAVE to be done!) but the main focus has to be my worship of God.

I, the Minister, have to find time and space and energy, and fresh ways to tell God how much I love him, how I appreciate him for his character and how I recognise that without him in my life, I am empty and my life is totally meaningless; and my 'so-called' ministry is nothing but empty routine.

This is true for you too, and it can be a difficult conclusion to come to. Even harder perhaps, when you have had a correct perspective, only to lose it and have to come back again to re-learn some hard lessons!

Actually, I've discovered that my life and my every day activities, ONLY make sense when they are orientated around the worship of God; when that worship has the priority and everything else is secondary. As I chose to put administration to the background, and worship first, I discover that the important tasks are completed in double-quick time, or the need for them disappears.

I tell you this, as I expect that in a few weeks we will be able to announce some movement on the development of the building. It is not to become our prime focus - God MUST have that place, and he MUST have your worship as a sign of your devotion for all he has done for you. Everything else is tedious and empty.

## Texts for the month:

**Acts 17:28 For in him we live and move and have our being.**

**Proverbs 3: 5 & 6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

## Dates:

- Tue 1<sup>st</sup>: Quiet day at Elim - 10am - 4pm and 7:30pm - Jean leading  
 Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 10:30am at Elim- The Giant Killer - Tim speaking  
 Sun 6<sup>th</sup>: 6pm at Elim - DVD 2 - Gil responsible  
 Tue 8<sup>th</sup>: 7:30pm at Elim-missionary compassion-Karen leading  
 Sun 13<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am at Elim - Go with the flow  
 Sun 13<sup>th</sup>: 6pm at Elim - DVD 3 - Jackie responsible  
**Mon 14<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 am at Kathy Boulton's House - Prayer for Israel -**  
 see Kathy for details  
 Tue 15<sup>th</sup>: 7:30pm at Elim-Bishop Alistair  
**Wed 16<sup>th</sup>: 7pm at Elim DESSERT DELIGHT EVENING -FOR LADIES**  
 see notice below  
**Sat 19<sup>th</sup>: 8:45am Shropshire Prayer Breakfast-** see notice below  
**Sat 19<sup>th</sup>: 4pm - 6pm Garage Praise - BBQ @ Parish Centre,**  
**Church Stretton - see Jean Dancy**  
 Sun 20<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am at Elim - David the Palace Period - Tim speaking  
 Sun 20<sup>th</sup>: 6pm at Elim - DVD 4 - Rob responsible  
**Tue 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Small groups in Homes, EXCEPT Tim's group 7:30pm at  
 Church.  
 Sun 27<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am at Elim - David on the Run - Tim speaking  
 Sun 27<sup>th</sup>: 7:30pm at Elim - DVD 5 - Dain responsible  
**Tue 29<sup>th</sup>:** Small groups in Homes, EXCEPT Tim's group 7:30pm at  
 Church

## Notices:

### Desserts Delight:

Ladies just a reminder about Desserts Delight, we are in the process of printing the Tickets, I am sorry but we can not cater for more than 50 persons.

Please start thinking of bringing a friend or two, could even be your favourite hairdresser, doctor, nurse, teacher, someone who works in a supermarket, shop or even another church. To help us cover the cost, a donation of £2.50 would help us. thank you

See me, Barbara Pritchard for further details. Tel: 01568 613665

### Shropshire Prayer Breakfast

On Sat June 19th from 8:45 am the Shropshire Prayer Breakfast is taking place at the Shrewsbury Town FC Stadium. I hope that you will consider attending. It is an opportunity to pray for God to move in our county & to join with several hundred as we do. The new Bishop's of Shrewsbury & Ludlow will be participating, along with a speaker (Rob Small) from Christians against Poverty. Additionally invites have gone out to the Leaders of the councils & to the MP's & MEP's. What an opportunity this is for us! A full breakfast is included & the cost is £10.50/person. The morning will conclude around 11:30am. I anticipate several cars will be going so transport should not be a problem. Please see Tim urgently if you want a ticket.

## Prayer Requests

**Please pray** for Chris & Margaret Richards. Chris is currently undergoing aggressive Chemo-therapy at Russells Hall Hospital near Dudley. Pray that the treatment will work & that the bad cells in his bone marrow will be killed quickly, & the good cells will multiply quickly for Chris to return to full health. (You might like to send a card/letter to Chris Richards at Room 4 Georgina Isolation ward Russells Hall Hospital Dudley DY1 2HQ)

**Pray** that Dave Lines' treatment will work and that he will return to full health

**Pray** for Ken Pemberton who had a heart attack & suffered breathing difficulties late last month that he will soon feel well again

**Pray** for Trevor Poole that the Doctors will get the doses of medication right speedily.

**Pray** for our new National Coalition government. Pray that God would graciously grant good communication, understanding, tolerance & patience between the coalition partners. Pray too that the Press would not draw them into speaking about differences, but they would focus on the things they agree on & can work on together.

**Pray** for the new appointments imminent in/around Ludlow. Colin Williamson coming as Team Rector, & Frances Bisekar coming as Methodist minister.

**Please pray** for the Team Leaders who have an 'Away Day' on Sat 26th June at Regents, Malvern. Ask God to grant them wisdom, & that they will hear him speaking.

## Poets Corner:

### JESUS CARES

Jesus is with us through our pain and sorrow,  
Because we know He loves us we can face tomorrow.  
Knowing He is there in the darkest night,  
Holding our hands until the morning's light.

Where would we be without His guiding hand ?,  
We share with Him our problems, as we know He'll understand.  
Giving Him our burdens when we speak to Him in prayer,  
And trusting in His guidance as we know He's always there.

Sometimes when we're troubled and we think God doesn't care,  
When problems overwhelm us and life's too much to bear.  
Just remember Jesus loves us and He feels our every pain,  
He surrounds us with His comfort until we're strong again.

### PRAYING FOR THE WORLDWIDE PERSECUTED CHURCH

On the last Monday of each month a small group of us meet to pray for the worldwide persecuted church. The Lord has promised 'I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint' (Jeremiah 31.25), and many Christians living in ongoing situations of discrimination and persecution are weary and faint, worn down by the year-in, year-out struggle to survive and the frustration of the injustices they suffer. We trust and hope that by praying for them The Lord will strengthen them in their suffering. If we want to leave an indelible mark on the world there is no more powerful way to do it than by joining in God's purposes through prayer. Our prayers can go where we cannot. There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed when we pray. We are so blessed in our country that we are able to meet together and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you feel that you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. We meet at my home at 2 Friars Garden, just below Elim, at 3pm, and our next meeting will be on Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>. *'The ministry of preaching is open to few; but the ministry of prayer - the highest ministry of all human offices - is open to everyone'* (Leonard Ravenhill). Carol Woodcock

**Summer Camp:** Nobody has told me that they want accommodation for the Elim Summer camp, so if you want to go to this you will now be responsible for making your own arrangements! The camp is from July 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, & is to be held at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern. You can also buy day passes for £15. We are intending to go as a church (as our mid week meeting) on July 27<sup>th</sup> & the cost will be advised when we know it.

## Prayer For Israel:

The next prayer for Israel meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June - starting at 10:30am and finishing at 12:noon.

This group meet at Kathy Boulton's house, for more details please see Kathy or phone her on - 01584 873685  
or

Speak to Dave Lines  
Jackie Shaw

## Missions Fundraising:

If you sponsored Tim for the 10 mile walk he did for Elim Missions, PLEASE PAY HIM, so that he can pass the funds on. Around £300 will be sent from Ludlow Elim.

## Finances:

Our building fund has now reached its £18,000 target; (thank you to those who have recently given generously!) HOWEVER the general fund lives "hand to mouth." We cannot yet move forward, until we have a clear months expenses at the start of the month. Please consider tithing & Gift Aiding your gift to the church. See Jean, or Tim for details. Thank you

## Prayer Ministry:

Prayer is vital for the Christian, & at Ludlow Elim we want to encourage prayer. Below you will find 3 different ways that you can get involved. You don't have to do all of them, but at least one would be good!

- For the Church - On Sunday evenings as we move into the church, we will be inviting you to come from 5:30pm to pray for the church at this pivotal time in our history. You could pray, for example, for the leaders, the finances, for revival, for chances to proclaim the Gospel, for our work in the schools & the work of Open Door.
- No chatting - pure prayer! Then our evening time together will start at 6pm.
- For UCB radio. Ken & Olwen Smith recently had the chance to tour the studios at Stoke, during their time an invitation was given for churches to set up as part of the Prayerline ministry of UCB. Training is given & all equipment provided, but you have to be prepared to man a phone for 2-4 hours per week in order to pray with folks struggling with life issues. If you feel you would like to get involved with this, please see Tim ASAP, & chat to Ken & Olwen for more details on UCB.
- For Willowdene Farm. Willowdene is a Christian Drug Rehabilitation centre at Chorley near Bridgnorth. They have a number of males going through their programme & would like us to support them in prayer. It would mean receiving a profile of one of the men going through the programme, and then praying for them throughout the 9 months they are there. Tim has profiles available now, please see him if you would like one. These are highly confidential, and should not be openly discussed.

## WOMEN WITH A MESSAGE

### Hagar

**Her Character:** A foreigner and slave, she let pride overtake her when she became Abraham's wife. A woman with few resources, she suffered harshly for her mistakes.

She obeyed God's voice as soon as she heard it and was given a promise that her son would father a great nation.

**Her Sorrow:** That she was taken from her homeland to become a slave in a foreign land.

**Her Joy:** To know that God saw her suffering and heard her cry and that He helped her when she needed Him most.

**Praise God:** Because He is a loving father who listens to the cries of His children. Nothing that happens to us can ever escape His notice.

**Offer Thanks:** That the Lord pursues the weak and the helpless, to show them His mercy and His plan of blessing for our lives.

**Confess:** Any pride, selfishness, or other sin that may have contributed to your present circumstances.

**Ask God:** To open your eyes to the way He is protecting and providing for you and your children. Ask Him to help you to live each day, not as a slave to the law but as a child of grace.

Let us have YOUR contributions for the next newsletter by 18 June, if possible send by e-mail to [trcoles@talktalk.net](mailto:trcoles@talktalk.net) or Jackie Shaw at [jackieshawskye1@btinternet.com](mailto:jackieshawskye1@btinternet.com) Thank you

### Report from Romania

Last month Tim went to visit Onesimus and Ella Cirriuc with their children Onias (6) & Dennis (3) in Alexandria, Romania. We have supported Onesimus for around 8 years, and never cease to be impressed with the work that he does. Although Romania was firmly held in the grip of the communist dictator Ceausceau for many years, the transformation in the country is remarkable. To visit Bucharest, the capital is much like visiting many capitals around the world. It has become wealthy, particularly under European Union membership and the trappings of materialism, are everywhere. Sadly there are poorer spots and here you are quickly struck by how far apart the worlds are. People in Romania are either very rich or very poor, and there doesn't appear to be many in the middle.

Alexandria where Onesimus is based has around 50,000 people in the city and although poorer than Bucharest the symbols of modern life are still increasing. Onesimus lives with his family in the middle of the town, in a typical communist block of flats. They have an open plan Kitchen, Lounge & Dining Room, along with 2 bedrooms and a small bathroom. They have knocked it around a bit and made it into a modern light airy living space, but it is still quite small for them, with 2 lively children. The flat is on the 4th floor..... and most of the time the lift works!!

Onesimus works with 9 churches totaling around 300 people. They are gypsies, quite poor who predominantly live off the land. They will typically have small & old houses with limited facilities but with a large patch of land from which they grow crops & keep animals which sustain each family & provide some small means to sell excess at Markets or to neighbors/friends. Most of the churches we visited have been converted from homes, so 30-40 people will gather into what was the living space of the house for the meetings. They sing (& you would recognise some of the songs!) & pray. Actually when they pray everyone stands! They quite often stand too for the reading of the Word of God. They are keen to engage with the message preached responding with Amen & Hallelujah. Most folks have Bibles, though to buy one has probably cost the equivalent of 2-3 weeks wages. We send Onesimus £135/month & he feels rich on that wage. Ella earns £1/hour at the local supermarket.

From North to south of the area that Onesimus covers as he visits these congregations, it is around 80 miles. Many of the main roads are good, but "B" roads are very potholed, and anything less than that is just a dirt track. It can take a long time to travel a short distance in these conditions. The land is worked from dawn to dusk using hand tools & lots of labour, or shared tractors between communities. The people love God and are hungry for the Word of God. They will listen to preaching as long as you want to preach. They have 3 main services in the week: 2 on Sunday and one mid-week. A few of the churches have air conditioning, but most do not! In the summer 35 degrees celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) is possible! Onesimus is doing a great work witnessing to civic leaders & we visited 2 mayors whilst we were there. Please pray for:

- Safety in all his travel, & health and strength to minister
- For Patience for the Family as Onesimus is often tied up
- Finance to finish the buildings & equip with proper resources
- Readiness amongst the people to work with Onesimus as he trains them
- For more folk, especially amongst civic leaders to be saved
- For hunger to grow in God to continue

### And Finally:

Did you know that an Eagle can sense that a storm is coming, long before it breaks? As the storm approaches it flies to some high spot, and then as the winds increase it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. As the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. It does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher.

All of us will experience storms in our lives, but if we are used to being in a 'high place' where we worship and commune with God, we will discover that the storms will simply lift us closer to God. The setting of our minds and our spirits on God are the key to enable us to rise above the things that could destroy us.

Remember it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, but how we handle them. Isa 40:31 says those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint!