

God's book of 'one liners'

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Some of us read books like there's no tomorrow; others of us struggle to read anything - books are hard!! We're all different! For those of us who struggle, here is some good news! Proverbs is a book of one-liners, catch phrases or, you might say, bumper stickers!!

I've been reading the book of Proverbs recently, and found it so helpful! Proverbs begins with a section on why it is important to choose wisdom not foolishness (Proverbs 1- 9). Then there are about 700+ proverbs which were spoken or collected by Solomon (see 1 Kings 4:32) and fill the middle of the book (Proverbs 10 - 26). The last few chapters introduce other proverbs from other people (Proverbs 27 - 31).

Here are seven just from Proverbs chapter 15!

- A gentle answer turns away wrath (15:1)
- A happy heart makes the face cheerful (15:13)
- Better a dish of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred (15:17)
- Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed (15:22)
- How good is a timely word! (15:23)
- Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise (15:31)
- Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honour (15:33)

Proverbs belongs to the group of books in the Bible we call 'Wisdom books'. The word for 'wisdom' basically means to have a skill. In other words, it's wisdom for something. For example, there's the skill to survive, wisdom will give you that skill, where you need cunning and intelligence and all your wits about you! Proverbs has got a lot to say about friendships, spouses, children and parents, employer and employee, political life - how we become skilful in all sorts of social relationships.

Proverbs is a very practical down to earth sort of book. Wisdom it believes is not just about head knowledge, its not about being clever and having a high IQ. Someone has said 'You can have as many degrees as a thermometer and still be a fool!' Some people are very clever but they don't seem to have any common sense, no practical ability to get by in the real world. And Proverbs is interested in wisdom that works, DOING - it's not enough to just know it in our heads, it's interested in a wise life - which results in goodness, and justice and fairness. Here is a book of the Bible that's designed by God to help you and me to gain wisdom - the skills needed to navigate the ups and downs of life well.

If you want a time alone with God why not read through Proverbs? There is one chapter for each day (of a 31 day month) or you could set yourself 12 verses a day. Then pray them back to God like this: 'Lord you tell me 'don't be wise in your own eyes' (3:7) but I do keep thinking I know best. Help me today to learn what I don't know, to go with your Word and not my opinions - and help me to grow in true wisdom'. OR Tim Keller has a great book out called 'The Way of Wisdom'. It takes a proverb or two for every day of the year, has a helpful comment explaining it and then a prayer. Why not pick up a copy from the bookstall at the back of church?

Much love in Him



David Gibb (Vicar)



We all need wisdom! Wonderfully, we have a God who has given us a whole book of it - let's read it and then act on it!

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Jeff's Brazilian Adventure

Hello everybody, during October 2017 I went on a 'Mission Direct' venture to South Brazil, after visiting their stall at the Keswick Convention.

Brazil has many problems with a quarter of its population having food insecurity. There was twelve people in my team, of differing ages and coming from different backgrounds. We all pitched-in together and there was always work for everyone to do.

As you may have seen at the back of church, I received a certificate for being a 'Brazilian Brick Layer'. Mission Direct has been working in partnership with a Brazilian Evangelical organisation called 'Open Hands' since 2007; building homes to help disadvantaged and vulnerable families move from the favelas (slums). These homes provide a stepping stone, for up to five years, so that families can move onto a better life.

The outreach visits included -

- Local Christian schools in the favelas, where we played games with the children from different drug gangs, so they come together and leave their differences aside. This helps challenge the culture and belief that drug trafficking is the only way out of poverty for young people.

- CEIFAR where we helped in the adult addiction treatment centre (supported by a Christian trucking family, equivalent to our original Eddie Stobart family).

- ABBA where we visited downtown Curitiba. This church provides food, support and Bible Study for the homeless, poor and prostitutes in the red-light area. Following the Church services we distributed food and drink and, where possible, prayed for those who asked for it.

The last two days we visited Cananea National Park to experience the world famous wildlife; and paddle in the South Atlantic. Here we also spent some time with the local South American indigenous Indian Tribe.

As a seventy year old, I hope my experiences will encourage our younger members to have a Christian venture abroad. God Bless, *Jeff Fearnley*

Prayer Update from The Harkers

The Harkers are a family we have supported whilst they have been working in Kenya however February sees them return back to the UK. Please pray for a safe return and a quick and smooth adjustment to life here in the UK. Please also pray for the family as they continue to adjust to life after the recent death of Andy's dad who passed away just before Christmas. Pray also for the friends, colleagues that they leave behind that they can continue in the work of teaching and mentoring apprentices and developing ministries across Africa. Pray for the work of iServe Africa and Crosslinks that it continues to be routed in the gospel with the different work that they do. *SEND Task Team*

GROW Task Team (Discipleship)

In the last edition of Grow News we explained a little about the SEND (World Mission) Task Team, this month we focus on our GROW Task Team (Discipleship)

Who is on the team? - Revd Dr Duncan Bell (Chair), Paul Moran (Church Warden & PCC), Bruce Sinclair (PCC), Pam Wilkinson, Phil Wynne, Rita Young & Tom Williamson.

What is the team's remit? - Our Vision as a Church is to REACH, GROW, & SEND. The GROW Task Team's role is to encourage all at St Andrew's to GROW healthily with one another into mature disciples of Jesus. The primary tool for growth outside of our main services is Growth Groups. The Discipleship Task team is responsible for overseeing growth groups, training leaders and encouraging multiplication of growth groups. Other tools for helping people grow will be considered as appropriate.

How can you be involved? - The best way to get involved is to join a Growth Group! Talk to any growth group leader about joining their group or see Duncan.

> DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 8th March, 7.15pm
Women's Curry Night, tickets £12 each which includes food, coffee & testimonies. A great relaxed evening to bring friends or family along to, please sign up at the back of church.



Thursday 3rd May, Colin Buchanan live at St Andrew's, tickets £4.50 each (infants 2 years & younger are free) Australia's #1 kids Christian artist is coming to entertain us all! Book tickets on our website or contact the office.