

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: July 2020



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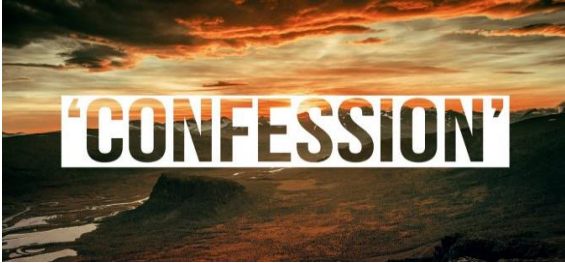
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MINISTER'S LETTER



I wonder what goes through your mind when you think of the word confession?

For many, when they hear 'confessing your sin', they think it's reserved for monks in a monastery or of paying penance to God by entering a church confessional. But the Bible teaches us it is an important practice for the life of every Christian. The answers to these questions about confession in the Bible may surprise you:

What does the Bible say about confession?

What will happen if we don't confess our sins?

Psalm 32 offers us several powerful reasons to confess our sins and shows us the consequences of unconfessed sin. King David felt weak and was miserable when he did not confess. Verses 3-4 says; *"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer."*

Before confessing his sin, David was exhausted. Why? Because the life was being drained out of him by sin. If you

do not weaken sin, it saps your spiritual strength. It weakens you.

So why should we confess our sins?

In addition to avoiding the negative effects of unconfessed sin, biblical confession is a way to experience more of God's grace. Biblical confession should be a joy, in some ways, due to the rich benefits God gives us through it.

1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

This doesn't mean that God will forgive a sin only if it has been specifically confessed. When a Christian repents all of their sins, past, present, and future are immediately forgiven!

So why do we need to confess our sin if God already knows our sin?

We confess our sins to God to practice humility and to confess or 'fess up' as they say today to the wrong things we have done. It takes a humble person to admit their mistakes! Humility is a vital part of confession.

So, as we come before God this week, is there anything in our lives that we need to confess to Him so that the Holy Spirit will have free and unhindered access to our lives?

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve, June 2020

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CLARIFICATION OF LEGACIES MENTIONED IN THE JUNE CLARION

To confirm that there were just two legacies left to Wesley. All mentions of legacies were accurate, but the one in Tina's report is that of David Johnson. This was also listed in my note along with that given by Percy Pritchard.

Eileen Simmons

26.5.20



NEWS

Many congratulations to Viv and Keith Threadgold on their recent

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

WESLEY CHARITY NEWS: July 2020.

July 12th is Action for Children Sunday. Plans had been made. I was taking the church service. An Action for Children speaker was joining me, and a collection was to be taken. The speaker has been furloughed.

At the time of writing none of this is possible, but of course this may change. If we are not back to having church services at Wesley, we will need to do things differently from previous years. I suggest that if you wish to give, that you either:

(a) Send a cheque to Action for Children, 3, The Boulevard, Watford WD188AG (Write on the back. *Wesley, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1SJ* and *Gift Aid* if you want it Gift Aided)

Or (b) Send by bank transfer to Action for Children: Sort code 40-02-06 Acc No: 10950149 Your reference will be Wesley, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1SJ (add gift aid if relevant).

Or (c) Call 0300 123 2112. They will take a card payment using the above references. (add gift aid if relevant)

I have explained all this to Action for Children and said I would detail these payment methods for you.

From Action for Children:

“Thank you so much to everyone at Wesley Methodist Church for continuing to support AfC. We know this is a strange and difficult time for everyone and we truly appreciate you still supporting our anniversary service this year. Coronavirus has thrown all our lives, our communities, and the UK into an unprecedented crisis. Families who were already struggling to feed their children before the pandemic hit, now find themselves unable to afford food and basic essentials. We have thousands of key workers across the UK working on the frontline helping the most vulnerable children and families. Your continued support can help us to ensure these children are supported and that they have a safe and happy childhood”

“This year, our theme for Action for Children is ‘Choose Childhood’. AfC believes that every child should grow up safe and happy. To make this vision a reality, we offer practical and emotional care and support making sure children’s’ voices are heard. Our work is only possible with your support. Tragically there are still thousands of vulnerable children who desperately need your help Together we can choose safe and happy childhoods for every child”.

Eileen Simmons 19.6.2020
eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Tel: 472521

From Revd. Margaret Jones – a voice from the past?

To all the dear friends at Wesley (including people I do not know in person).

It is quite a time since I was minister of Wesley and Belfairs (1994 – 2002), living in the manse next door to Wesley with my husband Chris, who was superintendent of the Southend and Leigh Circuit at the same time. I see from the 'Minutes of Conference' (the official list of all ministers and their circuits), that a good number of ministers who served in the circuit have decided to live there in retirement – I can quite understand why! Chris and I, however, when the time came to retire (in 2008 and 2009 respectively) decided to move to Salisbury, where we have lived happily ever since. Our family (Rebecca and Matt) are still in eastern England and, until recent events, we see each other regularly.

I had an interesting time in fulltime ministry! After we left Leigh I had two years part-time in a delightful multi-cultural church in Hendon, with the other part of my time devoted to the training of ministers. Then five years as 'Secretary for Presbyteral Ministry' in the Connexional Team (otherwise known as 'them in London'), basically looking after the training of ministers – a varied, challenging and sometimes terrifying sphere of work. And how I missed being a circuit minister! And then retirement and getting more closely involved with churches again (as well as candidates for ministry, their training, etc.). And also, time

for holidays here and abroad, families, interests, hobbies etc. etc.

I always look forward to getting the 'Clarion' month by month, finding so many familiar names still there, and also those new names over the years of people taking an active part in the life of the church. Of course, there are losses and changes: I was sad to hear recently that David Johnson had died. He was a real 'tower of strength' at Wesley in many ways, especially from my point of view. I seemed to specialise in my ministry in working with a church to set off on a development of some kind – in your case a major building scheme – and then moving on while it was still only halfway there ... but what a joy it was to come back for the opening of yet another stage in your refurbishment!

And what a joy it is also to see in the 'Clarion' those names to which I can't put a face, and those activities with which I am not familiar – signs of the ongoing and changing life of a church. Like many churches (and surely it should be 'all' in some way or other), you are likely to be not just wondering, but thinking and planning, how your life together will be different when you are once again able to worship and share and grow, face to face with one another – and with new people in new ways.

So – whatever the future may bring to us all, be assured that I remember you with love in my prayers.

Margaret

Black Lives Matter



Statement from The Methodist Church: Racism in our communities

A personal message from the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson

It is with outrage and deep sorrow that we have witnessed the recent brutal killing of George Floyd in the United States.

But outrage and sorrow are not a sufficient response to racism and inequality in society. How to begin a process of change? It starts with self-examination and listening to the people whose lives are affected by discrimination and hate.

This week I received these words from a Methodist living in south London:

“The young people whom I have worked with for over the last 15 years have felt the impact of racism in every institution they have been part of from schools, to university, to various work places, and other than local support and informal church networks they have not found the Methodist Church as a place that speaks up for them.”

As your President, I start by saying I am sorry. Sorry for being silent when we should have spoken out against the everyday injustices that affect BAME communities. I am sorry that, despite our efforts, we have not done enough for those who feel excluded and we need to do better. We know

this includes people of all ages from the Windrush generation to the very young. I am sorry when we have not listened carefully enough and not challenged the assumptions of white privilege and bias.

Repentance can lead us to change, to embody a gracious, loving spirit of inclusion and understanding. There is no excuse for racism. All people are made in God's image. We are one body in Christ Jesus.

I hope we can listen more carefully to the voices of BAME members, especially younger people, who face racism, discrimination and violence on a daily basis. Then our Church must be brave, speak out, speak up and challenge racism wherever we find it, especially when we find it in ourselves.

I have been in contact with the Vice-President who joins me in supporting this statement.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Notes

The Methodist Church 'believes that racism is a denial of the Gospel' - standing orders, SO 013B. The Methodist Council is undertaking a substantial piece of work to shape the Methodist Church to be an inclusive church. More details of the background and measurable proposals to

bring about attitudinal, cultural, and systemic change are available on the Methodist Church website.

Prayers from the Joint Public Issues Team:



Loving God,

As the sins of systemic racism and police brutality rear their heads once more,
meet us in our anger, sorrow, and frustration.
Guard us from indifference, ignorance, and silence.

As Black lives continue to be taken too soon,
and because all were named and loved,
we lift names to you, in remembrance and resolve:
George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Belly Mujinga, Darren Cumberbatch, Olaseni Lewis, Sean Rigg, Mike Brown, Breonna Taylor,
and so many more.

As righteous anger overflows onto the streets,
we join in with the holy cry of “how long O Lord?”
While we pray for peace, may civility not become the enemy of justice.
We lament that past protest has fallen on deaf ears,
and pray for a world transformed by your love.

We plead, for Black communities: justice, safety, equality.
For those who could choose to look away: repentance,
education, solidarity.

Help us to declare in word and deed:
Black Lives Matter.

Amen.

Prayer taken from Churches Together in Britain & Ireland website www.ctbi.org.uk - resources for Racial Justice Sunday 2017:

God of all peoples, we pray for all victims and targets of racial hatred, discrimination, and injustice. We pray for your protection especially for those affected in our churches, our institutions and in our communities.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We pray for reconciliation through the work of God's Spirit. Wherever there is division and divisiveness between us and others, because of our culture or ethnicity we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation, understanding and acceptance.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Amen

Resources:

Many useful resources including books, essays, podcasts and talks from their archives can be found on the Greenbelt Festival website www.greenbelt.org.uk

The Story of the Rainbow



[Taken from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Racial Justice resources for 2009]

Once upon a time, all the colours in the world started to quarrel; each claimed that she was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite...

Green said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves — without me all the animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

Blue interrupted: "You only think about the earth but consider the sky and the sea. It is water that is the basis of life and this is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace you would all be nothing but busybodies."

Yellow chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun."

Orange started next to blow her own trumpet: "I am the colour of health and strength. I may be scarce, but I am precious for I serve the inner needs of human life. I carry all the most important vitamins. Think of carrots and pumpkins, oranges, mangoes and pawpaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or

sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you.”

Red could stand it no longer. He shouted out: “I’m the ruler of you all, blood, life’s blood. I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight of a cause. I bring fire in the blood. without me the earth would be empty as the moon. I am the colour of passion and love; the red rose, poinsettia and poppy.”

Purple rose up to his full height. He was very tall, and he spoke with great pomp: “I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me — they listen and obey.”

Indigo spoke much more quietly than all the others, but just as determinedly: “Think of me, I am the colour of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me you would all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight, and deep waters. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace.”

And so, the colours went on boasting, each convinced that they were the best. Their quarrelling became louder and louder. Suddenly there was a startling flash of brilliant white lightning; thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours all crouched down in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort.

Then Rain spoke:

“You foolish colours, fighting among yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Do you not know that God

made you all? Each for a special purpose, unique and different. He loves you all. He wants you all. Join hands with one another and come with me. He will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of colour, as a reminder that he loves you all, that you can live together in peace

— a promise that he is with you,

— a sign of hope for tomorrow.”

And so, whenever God has used a good rain to wash the world, He puts the rainbow in the sky, and when we see it, let us remember to appreciate one another.

— *based on an Indian legend*

WESLEY PRAYER CHAIN/PRAYER FOR YOU

A prayer chain is a way for people to gain God's assistance through prayer for any need by permitting the intercessor to pray as Jesus prayed. It is interceding or praying on behalf of one another. We use it at Wesley to pray for the needs and emergencies of our church family, friends and those close to us in the community.

Telephone anyone below and they will set off the chain.

Gabrielle Greenway 557071 mob 07554884780

Isobel Wratishlaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175



TIME FOR HEALING

Time for Healing – In common with most other church activities the Time for Healing Prayer Group is suspended until further notice. We will continue to pray for healing for all at this uncertain time.

Bible Names

U	U	B	O	E	Y	M	D	J	S	O	N	M	O
H	K	E	W	L	S	H	D	B	T	V	O	H	U
A	A	L	O	V	O	A	T	A	C	H	A	E	H
R	S	A	L	D	N	B	P	A	V	A	H	A	J
E	O	C	A	A	J	R	L	A	I	I	I	L	S
H	L	I	Y	S	O	A	T	C	J	L	D	N	H
T	O	W	S	S	S	H	E	A	D	S	O	O	T
S	M	E	M	L	H	A	L	A	B	D	H	G	I
E	O	H	E	U	U	M	U	M	O	E	U	A	M
E	N	T	A	K	A	L	A	J	O	E	L	A	O
U	E	T	M	E	O	M	P	W	U	S	E	A	T
E	A	A	E	J	E	S	U	S	E	V	E	A	H
A	R	M	N	H	O	J	E	M	C	S	S	S	Y
Y	A	N	O	S	J	A	O	L	U	A	S	E	L

TIMOTHY
 JESUS
 ABRAHAM
 MATTHEW
 DAVID
 CAIN
 PAUL
 NOAH
 ABEL
 LUKE
 JOSHUA
 MARY
 CALEB
 SOLOMON
 EVE
 ESTHER
 GOLIATH
 SAUL
 MOSES
 JOHN

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2921/>

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the August Clarion by Friday 17th July 2020

If you would like to donate towards to cost of The Clarion, there will be a plate out during the Coffee Shop mornings and on a Sunday morning, should anyone wish to donate.

Judy Taylor – ukspud@talktalk.net

**Wesley Methodist
Southend and Leigh**



Church is a member of
Circuit

www.southendandleigh.org

and part of the

Beds, Essex and Herts District the Methodist Church

A dementia-friendly community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported and confident they can contribute to community life.

