



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 21

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Holiday time?

As with everything else this year's holiday time is very different. In normal time this last week would have seen the fun of the children's Holiday Club at Central. Then all of us, families and older folk, would have gone far and near for a holiday break. This year, when so many need that break, plans have to be abandoned or postponed. But as always we will find ways to rest and relax with unusual or familiar places to visit. The reality is that normal will not return for sometime yet.

The tiny size of Perry Chapel means we are NOT ABLE to hold services at the moment; so our weekly newsletter will continue.

I am pleased to say that all those who would usually minister to us at Perry are willing to continue their contributions to the newsletter. The mainstay as always is our Central leadership team, but we are grateful to our busy friends, from many local churches, who so willingly send us their items.

But, especially I must thank Peter, without whose skill and commitment our weekly newsletter would not be possible.

Thank you to you all.

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Genesis 32 : 22 - 32    Psalm. 17 : 1 - 7, 15.

'I call on you O God, for you will answer me' (Ps. 17: 6)

In today's readings we have two men coming to God in self-examining prayer. We know a great deal about the lives of these two. David, the shepherd boy psalmist, who became a great, if flawed, king of Israel. And Jacob, the trickster twin, who became Israel, the father of a nation.

In Genesis 32 Jacob is returning to the land of his fathers. He had left as a young man to escape the anger of his tricked brother. On the first night of that journey, at Bethel, he had experience of God. God promised to be with him and to bring him safely back. Jacob promised to try to live God's way, to trust him.

Twenty long years have passed and Jacob is coming home with a family, flocks and riches. But, he is fearful about facing his brother Esau. Jacob makes sensible arrangements and then prays a short prayer

(Genesis 32 : 9-12). He admits his unworthiness and his fear for his family, but he recognises God's 'kindness and faithfulness'. His prayer is simple and clear, 'Save me from the hand of my brother Esau'.

For many of us in times of trouble or difficult decisions our prayers are equally direct. And having committed the situation to our faithful God we may sleep; trusting the Lord for the next day. But sometime for various reasons we find that difficult.

Certainly it was for Jacob; he was 'alone and a man wrestled with him until daybreak'. With whom or what was Jacob wrestling, his deceitful ways, his conscience, his fears, his lack of trust? Probably all these things, but as is made clear (v28), he is 'struggling with God'.

In this struggle he realises that, even though it was through suffering, he needs a real relationship with the Lord and God's blessing on his life and decisions. Jacob has met with God face to face.

David's prayer in Psalm 17 reflects his close relationship with God. He has examined himself and he is coming into the Lord's presence willing to be examined by God. He says with confidence, 'My steps have held to your paths, my feet have not slipped'. Yet David knows that he is trusting, not in his own good deeds, but in the righteousness of the Lord. He says, 'May my vindication come from you'. (v2).

And trusting in that vindication brings David that close relationship with the Lord. We too, know that relationship as we come in the vindication that Christ Jesus bought for us on the cross.

So, with David and Jacob we can say, 'And I - in righteousness I shall see your face'.(Ps 17:15)

God bless you and your loved ones during this very different holiday time.

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Open my eyes that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.

*Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit Divine!*

Open my ears that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear.

Open my mouth and let me bear  
Tidings of mercy everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Open my mind that I may read  
More of Thy love in word and deed;  
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead?  
Only for light from Thee I plead.

