

Dear Friends and Family,

The other day I happened upon the following statement:

You have to work hard to offend Christians. By nature, Christians are the most forgiving, understanding, and thoughtful group of people I've ever dealt with. They never assume the worst. They appreciate the importance of having different perspectives. They're slow to anger, quick to forgive, and almost never make rash judgments or act in anything less than a spirit of total love....No, wait.....I'm thinking of golden retrievers!

OK, I am admitting to you that I laughed with a great relief when I read the end of the statement about the golden retrievers.

I laughed with relief because as I was reading about these perfect Christians, I was feeling condemned and guilty over my failings in these areas, but at the same time wondering, who all these perfect Christians were and where I could meet them.

Then I got to the punch line and I understood that this writer was calling us to remember what the gospel is all about.

All those wonderful attributes are Christ-like and yes, we should endeavor and pray that by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit that we can lead lives exhibiting these qualities. But if we are honest, we all fail. That is where the Gospel, the Good News, really becomes GOOD NEWS!

Jesus came for broken, selfish, sinners like you and me. In and of ourselves we are hopeless and helpless and separated from God. Jesus came as The Way to reconcile us to God. He did not come to call us to moral perfection and to follow a code of ethics, but Jesus calls us to come unto Him and follow Him. He calls us to receive Him and be forgiven. He came to make us new creations and assure us that God loves us and will never let us go.

In John 13:35 Jesus said that the world will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another.

By the grace of God, as a response to the love God has lavished upon us, we are called to live lives exhibiting love and forgiveness toward one another.

Beloved Christian, do not be discouraged. While on this earth, we will never live up to the ideal. Only Jesus lived that perfect life. You and I will fall, stumble, say and do things we regret and when we do, we are to run to the cross for forgiveness, be bathed in His mercy and grace, and then get up and walk on, receiving and giving His love.

May each one of us walk in loving thankfulness for all Christ has done for us. As we marvel at what Christ has done, may our lives express in word and deed that love of Christ to others.

Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Luke 7:47

*** * * WHAT'S GOING ON IN OXFORD? * * ***

******Two weeks ago Chuck preached a wonderful message out of Ephesians 6 reminding us of the very real presence of Spiritual warfare. Sometimes we tend to take on battles that are not ours to fight in the flesh, but rather on our knees.

**This summer has been a time of growth at Calvary Chapel Oxford. Two new families have joined us in the past month, as well as many other visitors. One family has 12 children, yes I said twelve! So our children's ministry has grown by about 1/3! The small classroom we use for Sunday School is just too tiny for all of us now, but we are doing our best and the children are very understanding. The past couple of weeks we have run short on chairs in the main hall. What wonderful problems we have for the Lord to solve!

Please do pray for a miracle for us. Practically speaking, there is nowhere for us to go that is big enough and has parking AND that we can afford. However, we know that nothing is impossible with God.

** We will be having a baptism soon as 6 people have spoken to Pastor Phil asking to be baptized!

***** SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES *****

Please continue to pray for the Sunday afternoon church service for learning disabled adults and their families and caregivers.

Last month we told you: Still waiting for the police checks to go through. We have a brochure being printed and are ready to go as soon as the legal and health and safety checks go through. We are calling this Sunday afternoon outreach The JOY Place. Please keep it in prayer.

UPDATE: The bad news is that the government changed the form on the CRB's, the police checks, therefore our forms we so painstakingly filled out have been voided and we are now awaiting the new forms to be printed and distributed so we can start all over.

The good news is that now we are officially affiliated with an organization called Causeway/Prospects that is a nation wide charity that will be helping us in facilitating The J.O.Y. Place. Here is the link to their website:

http://www.prospects.org.uk/index.php/causeway_prospects/

***Please keep this ministry in prayer. Also please pray for the board of St. Andrews' church in Oxford. They are meeting next month to decide if we can use their facilities on Sunday afternoons for the J.O.Y. Place outreach. Trusting the Lord for His provision in all things.

***** New Prayer Card *****

We had a new prayer card/postcard printed. If you didn't receive one, it is because we don't have your postal address. If you would like to receive one, please email me your address and I will get one in the post to you.

Please don't ever underestimate the power of your prayers for the ministry here in Oxford and the power you have to encourage us by your expressions of love and support. We thank God for you.

With love from your fellow workers in Christ,

Chuck and Anita

***** CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS *****

*Because of the growth the need for a place of our own is becoming more pressing. Our Sunday School room is too small. The school-hall the adults meet in is almost full capacity. Please pray the Lord will direct us to a building of our own.

*Pray for the church leadership, Pastor Phil, Jonathan, Chuck, John and Andy and Robin.
Love, wisdom and unity.

*Pray for the "special friends" ministry with the learning disabled.

*Pray that God will use Calvary Chapel Oxford to reach our community.

*Pray for the Youth ministry Alan and Anna are heading up.

*Pray for our children, their spouses and our grandchildren.

Our greatest desire, prayer, and joy for them is that they walk in truth (3 John 4), seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. (Matthew 6:33) *Pray the same for us!

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown or rejoicing? It is not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

1 Thessalonians 2:19

PS: If any of you are on Facebook, invite us! It is a great way to keep in touch.

*** Calvary Chapel Oxford Website***

<http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk>

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