

Central Baptist Church News

September 2017 - Edition 747

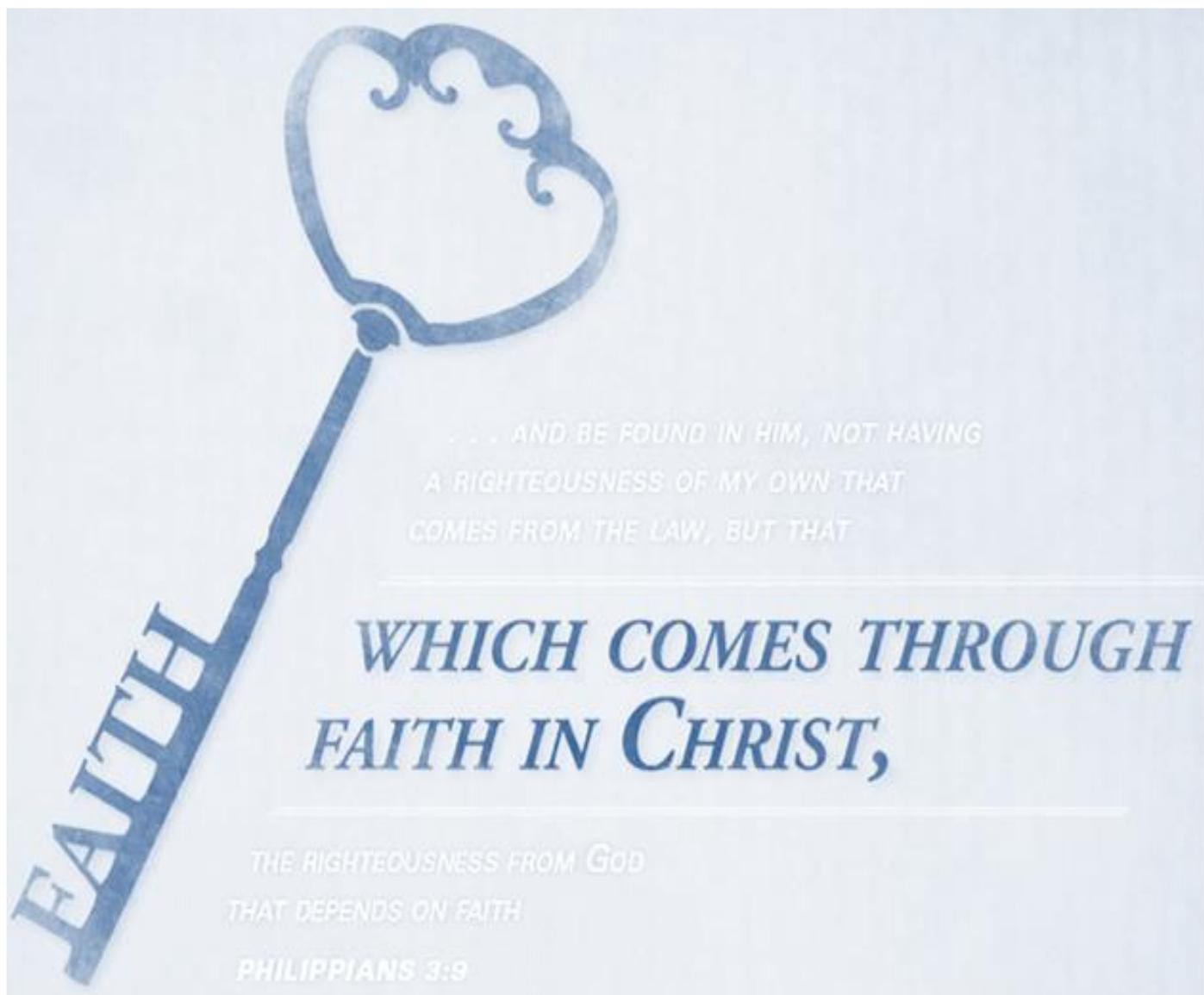
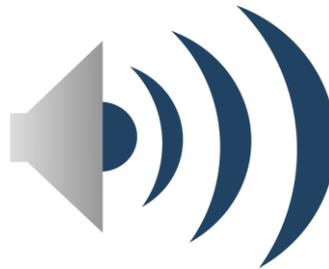


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LISTEN ONLINE

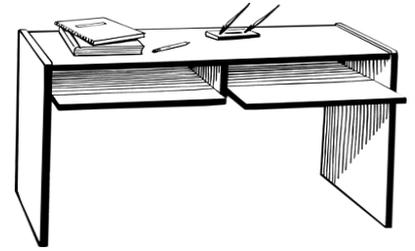


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New series on Joshua now online

Central News Articles for the **October 2017 Edition**.
Please submit items by **10th September** or earlier to:
e-mail address: cbcnews@live.com.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Dele Oke



Speaking to the Fig tree

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. (Mark 11:12-14 ESV)

The above account of Jesus speaking to a fig tree is a curious one. Firstly, you will note that verse 13 says that '*it was not the season for figs*'. So the Fig tree was doing nothing wrong by not producing fruit. Yet Jesus seemed so upset with it he declared '*May no one ever eat fruit from you again*' (verse 14).

When the disciples first heard these words they must have been stunned and rather confused. Yet the key to what is happening here is found in the following verses. In Mark 11:15-19 we witness Jesus driving out of the Temple those buying and selling.

The New Testament calls us the Temple of God:

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV)

What Jesus did to clean out the physical Temple in Mark 11 is a reflection of what the Word of God can do in his Temple today – and you are that Temple.

Continue reading Mark 11:20-25 and you will see the power of the spoken word:

20 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. 21 And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." 22 And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. 23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea', and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:20-25 (ESV)

Let me summarise the above like this.

Jesus set out to give us a practical demonstration of the power of the spoken Word of God. In speaking to a fig tree, that was doing the thing that comes to it naturally, Jesus highlighted the power of the spoken word over the natural world.

By linking this incident with the cleaning out of the Temple, the scripture is giving us a, not so subtle hint, that this was not about trees and physical hunger, but rather a demonstration of the power of the spoken word

What 'natural circumstances do you have to speak God's word too?'

Is it sickness in your body? – try speaking 1 Peter 2:21-25. Are you facing difficulty with getting on with certain people in your life? Ask for wisdom on how to cope - James 1:5-8. Are you facing financial or material difficulties? Try Philippians 4:19

Jesus has given us a model of how we can speak God's word into the natural circumstances around us. Let's use it.

SEPTEMBER DIARY 2017 AT GLANCE



Deacon on Duty: Jane Young

DATE	EVENTS & PEOPLE	TIME
1st Sunday each month	COMMUNION	Evening
Wednesday: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th.	Bible Study & Prayer Time (7.30pm Teas & Coffees) Starts at 7.45pm	7.30pm– 9.00pm
Every Saturday	Praise & Worship Practice	5.30pm
Every Sunday	Prayer Time before Church Service – All Welcome	10.30am
Last Sunday each Month	Visiting Team go out	After morning Service

DATE	EVENTS & PEOPLE	TIME
Sunday 3rd Morning	FAMILY SERVICE Lead: Men's Fellowship Preach: Pastor Dele Oke	11.00am- 1.00pm
	Women's Fellowship After Service	1.15pm- 2.00pm
Sunday 3rd Evening	COMMUNION Lead: Suzanne Gudgeon Preach: Pastor Dele Oke	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Saturday 9th Afternoon	Youth Meeting	3.00pm
Sunday 10th Morning	WATER BAPTISM Lead: Jane Young Preach: Pastor Dele Oke	11.00am- 1.00pm
	Men's Fellowship After Service	1.15pm- 2.00pm
Sunday 10th Evening	Lead: Jane Young Preach: David Ramsey	6.30pm- 7.30pm

DATE	EVENTS & PEOPLE	TIME
Saturday 16th Morning	Coffee Morning	10.30am- 12.30pm
Saturday 16th Afternoon	CHURCH MEETING Focus on Teams	3.00- 5.30pm
Sunday 17th Morning	COMMUNION Lead: Suzanne Gudgeon Preach: Pastor Dele Oke	11.00am- 1.00pm
Sunday 17th Evening	Lead: Steve Cooper Preach: Michael Conteh	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Thursday 21st Evening	Deacon's Meeting	8.00pm- 10.00pm
Friday 23rd Evening	Prayer Focus	8.00pm- 9.30pm
Sunday 24th Morning	HARVEST SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE Lead: Vivienne Oke Preach: Pastor Dele Oke	11.00am- 1.00pm
Sunday 24th Evening	Lead: Suzanne Gudgeon Preach: Anthony Ogbeifun	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Monday 25th Afternoon	Overs 60's Club	12.00pm- 2.00pm
Friday 29th Evening	FRIDAY NIGHT PRAYER 8.00pm TBA 9.00pm Anthony Ogbeifun 10.00pm Benson Adedeji	8.00pm- 11.00pm

ADVANCE NOTICE:

- Church Anniversary, 8 October
- Remembrance Sunday, 12 November
- Christmas Dinner / Junior Church Presentation, 10 December
- Over 60's Club Christmas Lunch, 18 December
- Carol Service, 17 December
- Christmas Day Service, 25 December

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY'S PEN

By Algi Dyer



My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

We have had a busy month in August at the Central. For those who were able to be at the Youth Worship Concert, I am told that it was excellent, beautiful singing, poetry and testimonies. I unfortunately was unable to get back from Lincolnshire on time.

Today (15 August) I switch on the TV to find there has been a natural disaster in Sierra Leone, a great loss of life – pray that those who have lost family and friends will find comfort. Psalm 23:4 NIV - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they **comfort** me.

In preparation for the BBQ there was a clean-up of the Church gardens. The Fern Tree unfortunately had grown very tall and the roots were pushing through and damaging the ground and Church wall. This has been removed and the roots cut and treated. The overgrown plants were cut back and those that had perished removed.

I would say the BBQ this year was wonderful. What a beautiful sight to see our wonderful congregation at the BBQ. Not only were they cooking, serving, face painting, to name a few, but they also fellowship with those who came. Alan from Teen Challenge who comes to our drop in centre came out to help. The Evangelism team worked beautifully, and many who may have passed by came over, and those who did not come in, did speak with our team. This was God blessing the day and I pray we have many more. Fantastic work everyone.

Let us remember Harvest in our prayers - Pray that we are able to receive a bountiful Harvest in 2017, and also bless those who will be giving in abundance. May God's will be done as we distribute to those who are in need of this offering. Continue to pray for all those attending Central and especially for those who are too ill to attend Church on Sundays. Please pray continually for our young people to meet the right person(s) in their lives giving them empowerment and strength to walk away from any situation, in Jesus name. Amen

REPORTS

Reports from across the Church



PRAYER

By Vivienne Oke

I always learn something from our Children, it was therefore interesting listening to the scripture the youth read, when they opened the service the other day. One word stood out UNITY.

Psalm 133:1 – How good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity.

Prayer this month

- Please pray for unity in the Home
- Please pray for unity in the Church
- Please pray for unity in the Nation.

- Pray for the Children Ministers who teach our children in Central Baptist Church Stratford. - protection, health and guidance.
- Pray for our children as they return to University, School, College. Pray that God will lead them and protect them in all they do.
- Pray for yourself; pray that God will continue to cause his face to shine on you.
- Pray for the Prime Minister and all those negotiating **BREXIT**.
- Pray for the **Stratford** area and London. Peace on our streets.
- Pray for the Hospitality team. We need more workers in this area
- Pray for those in the workplace. God's favour will surround them like a shield.
- Pray that God will add on families to the Body of Christ.
- Pray for Marriages.
- Pray for the Pastor and the Deacons. Pray that Jesus will continue to be glorified in all they do.

Along the lines of prayer - Please note that the Women's Fellowship will be observing the **Baptist Women's Day of prayer on Saturday 4th November @CBC STRATFORD**. Please put this date in your diary and plan to attend.

Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests

By Nab Mills-Robertson/Visiting Team (14/08/2017)

- Ethlyn Salmon – She is doing well and is encouraged by the support she receives. She feels lonely sometimes and wishes she had a constant presence. Her husband has been doing a lot for her and so have her children. Please, let's pray for her family.
- Doreen Waterman – She's not feeling as much pain now but she keeps losing her voice. Her recent appointment went well. She has other appointments coming up in September and December.
- Virginia Reynolds – In terms of her health, she is becoming more frail but still possesses an inner strength and is good at communicating. We ask for God's grace and enduring spirit for her children in caring for their mother.
- Myrtle & Frank Smith – Miss Myrtle celebrated her birthday recently with great joy and hope. Her eating is improving with each day. Let us continue to pray for her and Uncle Frank, for their wellbeing.
- Icilda May – As always Icilda was very pleased to see us but emotional and tearful due to her inability to get out. Nab reassured her of God's hand over the situation and will speak to family to find a practical way of assisting her to get to church and also prayed for family concerns. After a hymn she took communion with her son Cecil & daughter Veronica. Please pray for her family members mentioned as well as daughter Eileen; granddaughter Monique and great granddaughter Zoe.
- May Gardner – May was very pleased to see us. Her daughter Linda & nephew from Jamaica would be there to celebrate her birthday the following day; The Visiting Team members gave a card and flowers which were beautifully arranged by her daughter. May also shared her concerns about pain and swelling in her hands. Hands were laid on her declaring God's healing. Thank God for His grace to her in the love expressed by her family. Stand with us as we believe in God for a breakthrough over this pain and her GP appointment. May was eager to share her birthday cake with us.

- Yvonne Thomas – We praise God that she is improving in her health. Please continue to pray for her.
- Mr. Williams – There has been a great improvement to Mr. Williams' health. Please pray that the family will continue to be committed to the care of their father.



CHURCH EVENTS

Over 60's Club

By Jackie Trotman/Rose Tucker

We will meet on Monday 25th September. Keith White (White Homes) will be our speaker for September. It would be nice if you could manage to bring a few non-perishable groceries for him to take back to the Home for the children; this will be very much appreciated I am sure. Many thanks in advance. God Bless.

Coffee Morning

By the Over 60's Group



The next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 16th September. God willing, from **10.30am to 12.30pm**. We really appreciate your support so please come along and help as we reach out to the community. If you are passing by the church going to the shops or on your way home from shopping why not drop in for a cup of tea or coffee, it would be good to see you. Thank you and God bless.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers required – Fire Wardens

By Steve Cooper

We continue to looking for more people to become Fire Marshals for the Church. We are looking for another four to join this group. If you would like to know what this will entail please let me know. God Bless.



Ministry of Flowers

By Suzanne Gudgeon



This month the flowers are being provided by the following friends:

Date	Provided by
3rd	Central Baptist Church
10th	Claudette Burke
17th	Claudette Ramsay (in memory of Arnold)
24th	Harvest Sunday - Central Baptist Church

If you would like to contribute to the ministry of flowers to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or another special occasion, please put your contribution in an envelope with your name and the date you are providing flowers, and place it in the collection at least two weeks, before the date you have selected. **The Flower list is available on the noticeboard at the back of the Church,** please check and see what dates are available to use for your special occasion. God bless you all and thank you for your support in this ministry.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

By Leadership/Central News Team

To help us keep our birthday / anniversary list up to date and celebrate with you – please let us know if you are not mentioned below or would like to be included in the month of your Birthday, or Wedding Anniversary. Please inform Algi ☺ or send an email to cbcnews@live.com. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date		Date	
3rd	Rogini (Rose) Sachithanantham	17th	Claudette Burke
3rd	Colin Lucking	19th	Cindy Murray
4th	Andrew Brown	22nd	Suzanne Gudgeon
5th	Glad Paul-Emerald	22nd	Reece Hudson-Campbell
6th	Issahaku Sofo-Wuni	22nd	David Oke
6th	Lynsey Man	23rd	Kathleen Lucking
8th	David Ramsey	23rd	Donna Bachan
8th	William Turner	24th	Nab Mills-Robertson
9th	Ottoh Owoh	27th	Patricia Antoine-Ramsey
15th	Richard Horrabin	28th	Mary Nwabuzor
17th	Jackie Bailey	29th	Laura Eni

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
2nd	Doreen & Ron Meloy	56
2nd	Rogini (Rose) & Vellupillai Sachithanantham	11
3rd	Dot & Brian Sheekey	57
4th	Folu & Allen Olatuja	13
20th	Mary & Theophilus Nwabuzor	9
27th	Esther Madu-Kwatamdia & Issahaku Sofo-Wuni	21

**BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL, FROM ALL OF US AT
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

EARLY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Date		Date	
1st	Jean Powell	3rd	Avis Horrabin-Newman
1st	Isaiah Murray	4th	Doreen Waterman
1st	Rose Tucker		

EARLY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
2nd	Terry & Avis Horrabin-Newman	



Other Events

Faith at Home – Masters Dissertation

By Efua Mills-Robertson

Last year I was undertaking my Masters research within the church. The dissertation was titled: *“Family Ties and Church Bonds: A case study exploration of how families with children develop their faith together in their home and the role the Baptist Church that they attend plays in that development”*.

I am happy to say that I received a pass result for the dissertation, and achieved a final result of a Pass for my Masters.

I was motivated to take this path of research after reading literature that evidenced that parents are the most influential people to shape the religious lives of young people and that the home is the primary place for religious education. However, many parents do not know how to utilise their influence, and how best to develop faith together as a family through embedding faith practices in their everyday life.

The findings of the research can be read in a small report I have prepared (distributed on request), but in summary:

“Parents participated in faith practices together with their children, they also talked of the importance of living out a faithful life for their children to observe and learn from. Prayer was the most common practice that families participated in daily and weekly whereas Bible study and

devotion took place less often or never. The Church acts as an extended family member and provides spaces for families to share and encourage one another.”

Having had the time to step back and reflect on the study, I feel that the church has a great opportunity to further support families to develop faith in the home. Church is not just a Sunday thing, practices in church should continue in the home and parents need to feel equipped to do so. I will be providing tips and advice from research monthly to help support families practice faith at home. It will also be great to hear from families on what they do at home to nurture their children’s faith.



OUTREACH

By Nab Mills-Robertson

- ❖ **Food Bank** – Please leave your contribution in the box labelled ‘Food Bank’ in the kitchen.
- ❖ **Teen Challenge** – **Stratford Drop-In**: A few people are coming which gives more opportunity to chat with everyone.

Bus Outreach every Saturday: 8.30pm – 11.30pm.
‘Drop In’ at CBC every Monday: 3.00pm – 5.00pm.
Anyone interested in helping should speak to Nab.



NEWS FROM CORNWALL

By Ron Meloy (7th August 2017)

Our grand daughters’ wedding last month was a wonderful event particularly because so many of the people present were active Christians including the five bridesmaids. We also had the opportunity of meeting friends who once worshipped with us at the Central. For the next two years the ‘happy couple’ will be working in Hong Kong.

Saturday St. Agnes Carnival was held, led by the giant Bolster and his helpers closely followed by the village brass band and following on from them representatives of many of the activities that take place during the year, charities, hotels, work places and anybody else who wanted to join the celebrations. It took 90 mins to pass by.

Sunday evening Songs of Praise was held in the church grounds which was very well supported, music once again from the brass band. Scripture Union are again holding events on the beach at Perranporth for children and young people and some of their team came to our morning service. At this time of the year many people of all ages are enjoying the beaches and the sea hopefully keeping to the safety rules.

Recently four men from Essex fishing from a boat landed a blue shark 9ft long weighing 18st. 4lb. a new British record. I'm sure that they will be talking about that for the rest of their lives but it's nothing compared to what happened to Jonah.

Our organist has played our two organs for many years and it is only when she is away that we realise how fortunate we are. She also has a good sense of humour. Someone has pinned to the organ a cartoon with the caption 'This lady plays the organ according to the scriptures – Let not your RH know what your LH does'.
[NIV Matthew 6/3].

A PRAYER: Generous God, touch us again with the fire of your Spirit and renew us by your grace, that we may profess the one true faith and live in love and unity with all who follow Christ. Amen.