

Dear all

### Teaching Programme

In 2016 we studied James, Exodus (1-13), Matthew (Jesus teaching from the Sermon on the Mount) and the 1 AM statements of Jesus from John's Gospel (1st Sundays of the month); 1 Corinthians, Habbakkuk, Ruth and the Covenants (Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy and Jeremiah). A special series on Knowing God was also followed. These studies represent around 21% of the **scope** of scripture - though we have been by no means exhaustive! In 2017 we have studied Mark's Gospel (Parables); Psalms 1-3, 22-24; Jonah; Daniel; Acts; Exodus (14-33); Philemon; Kings and Chronicles (Davidic Kingly line); Spiritual Gifts Jude and Leviticus. A special series on Knowing Jesus was also followed (including three extended Open Worship sessions). These studies represent around 31% of the scope of scripture. In 2016 we had a special Christmas series and we will also do the same in December 2017. Your prayers for a new initiative in 2018 will be appreciated as we expand the group that has looked at the syllabus for our studies. Steve Braithwaite chairs that group for programming issues and I have contributed a framework that will see us cover 100% of the **scope** of scripture over a five year period. The balance of the scriptures each year will be between Old and New Testament but we will always cover a Gospel in our Family Services and we will also do some topical subjects in the evening that are 'theological' (so, Knowing God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church and Salvation). We are also trying to reach a balance between character studies, topics, large sections and small sections of God's Word. Add to this that we are also trying to ensure that there is some kind of balance in the speakers (some from outside TCF including two or three that are more local) and that I undertake around 50% of the preaching and teaching to try to give consistency and continuity as well as a pastoral context for the public proclamation of God's Word. We are also trying to make sure that we address each of the five strategic aims we outlined to the church in 2016 (and which we include in our 'Vision Sunday' each year). These aims inform the teaching and preaching programme and it is our sincere prayer that over the remaining three years of our 'framework' (so called because we also want to be flexible each year in response to the growth and development of the church) we will see lives changed by the Spirit of God through God's Word. Please pray for the team that will meet on **14 November** to pray and discuss 2018 and also as we take some new steps to capture the gifts of preaching and teaching that God has given to TCF. We can't say that we get everything right but we can say that we are committed to discerning God's will for us as a church and that we are also committed to the TCF Family as a **people of the book!** When we undertake a series of teaching, it is always thrilling to see how God uses it to help specific individuals and in the case of our Leviticus Studies, it was special to hear Sam Gordon remind us that Leviticus was really all about Jesus and how we keep Him at the centre of our lives. Spot on with our theme this year!

### Bible Reading Scheme

The TCF Bible Reading scheme is posted each month on the TCF Facebook page and also the website to provide a reading scheme of one chapter of the bible each day that sits alongside our Sunday preaching and teaching studies and our Home Group studies (so we have recently read Leviticus and Ephesians and Acts together). It is my hope that at least some find this linked reading to be helpful as we go through the year. I intend to keep it going in 2018 but if you have any comments about how to make this more helpful, please just let me know. My own personal quiet time now includes writing a summary of each chapter of the bible.

### Echoes International

We will welcome Jim Armstrong of Echoes International to our Wednesday prayer meeting on 29 November 2017. This will be an opportunity to hear first hand how this new organisation (bringing together two organisations with over 240 years of support to global mission) will serve our own Janey and Evans and also TCF as we continue to keep a mission focus in fulfilment of Christ's command to His disciples. As you may know, I worked with Echoes of Service and I will be one of the new Trustees of Echoes International so I will probably give it a plug every now and then. I have had TWO PEOPLE ONLY say that they would like to have the free monthly magazine from Echoes International throughout 2018 - please don't be too shy to say! Let me know soon... or sign up yourself or speak to Jim Armstrong when he comes!

### Leadership Development Initiative

At the event near Barcelona I had the opportunity to mentor some leaders in addition to taking a teaching programme. One individual was a young muslim background believer called Hatun who is of Turkish origin and serves God in London. I have a burden for her in her isolated ministry among muslims - 400 of whom she has led to the Lord Jesus over a number of years. Pray for her as she conducts bible studies within mosques, meets Imams and challenges radical muslims at Speakers Corner weekly. She taught me so much during our discussions including a singular love for Christ and the Gospel. Thank you for praying for me.



Thank you ...

for faithfully praying ...

for me!