



2014 - 2015

CHARLES & JOYCE

## Resurrection Hope

Joyce Sibthorpe

Handel's Messiah has this wonderful chorus,

*“Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

It sums up the hope of Christmas, fulfilled at Calvary where Jesus became the sin bearer, God accepted His blood sacrifice and with the resurrection came the certainty of everlasting life. Available to all who receive the 'gift of God' - new life in Christ. Because of the birth of the baby at Bethlehem, we have hope of life beyond the grave.

This year we have been present at many services celebrating a life that has come to an end on earth, and rejoicing in the 'sure and certain hope of the resurrection.' Charles Finney wrote of how the Lord spoke to him when his wife died, and I found these words challenging and yet profoundly moving.

“One day I was upon my knees, fellowshipping with God upon the

subject, and all at once He seemed to say to me, “You loved your wife?” “Yes,” I said. “Well, did you love her for her own sake or for your sake? Did you love her or yourself? If you loved her for her own sake, why do you sorrow that she is with me? Should not her happiness with me make you rejoice instead of mourn if you loved her for her own sake?”

“Did you love her,” He seemed to say to me, “for my sake? If you loved her for my sake, surely you would not grieve that she is with me. Why do you think of your loss, and lay so much stress up that, instead of thinking of her gain? Can you be sorrowful when she is so joyful and happy? If you loved her for her own sake, would you not rejoice in her joy and be happy in her happiness?”

Enjoy being alive, celebrate the incarnation, and rejoice in the reality that if you are a Christian you have already passed from “death to life,” and can await the glorious moment when we will be united again with those who have already passed into resurrection life.

## Faith Food for Every Day

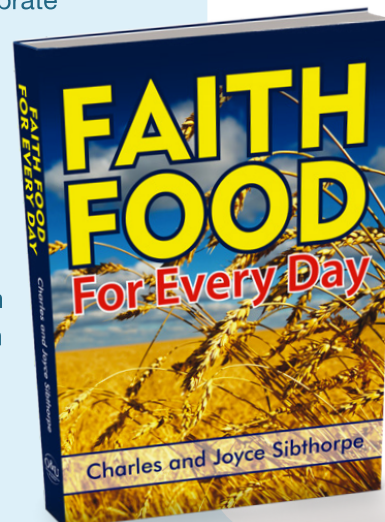
by Charles & Joyce Sibthorpe

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We are constantly hearing from folk who are being encouraged and built up in faith through using Faith Food - enrich your personal devotional time with this book which will also make an ideal Christmas gift.

This book is a daily devotional with short faith filled messages for every day. At the foot of each page are the two Bible Plans that Charles has written which will take you through the Bible in One or Two Years. Each day's devotional is given a theme title to help you search for a specific word to meet your situation at the time.

Faith Food is also available on Kindle from Amazon.



### Special Faith Food Christmas Deal

If you can collect the books in person before Christmas or buy them at Living Waters Church in December - **£11.99**

*All our other books are available from our website.*

# A Year with our Family

The easiest way to get you up to date with our family is to take you through our year.

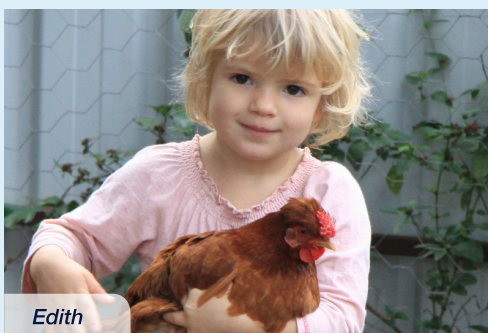
In mid January we flew to Australia to be with **Ben, Anne and the family in Mareeba**. Ben has been made Chief Engineer at the MAF Mareeba engineering base and Anne has her hands full with a family of five and also manages to fit in some DIY as they improve their home. We had great fun with the family, **Alice (13)** is enjoying school, is the leader of her school band and is growing in confidence and fluency on her flute. **Jack (11)**, all action, enjoys Scouts, swimming and also playing the trombone. **Olivia (9)** loves her guinea pigs and hens which were laying well when we were there. **Estella (7)** quite the lady, enjoys her girly Lego, all pink and pastel colours but great fun. **Edith (4)** despite being the youngest, is feisty and holds her corner well. Australia provides for a great outdoor life that the family really enjoy.

We drove a camper van from Cairns to Brisbane and visited with Audrey (Joyce's sister), and Bill and the family, before setting off for the Philippines to join the Living Waters Mission Team.

Once back home, in late March, we went down to Cornwall to look after **Molly (17), Reuben (14)** and **Theo (5)** while **Jo and Iain** celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary with a trip to the Isles of Scilly. Molly is in first year of her A levels, has lots of friends and a busy social life, Reuben is a budding rugby player and good at a lot of sports, he has recovered well from breaking his leg at Easter. Theo is doing well and enjoys school, his progress can be seen because wants to read everything he can



Ben, Alice, Anne, Jack, Olivia, Estella & Edith



Edith

see when he is driving with us in the car. Iain left the CPS at the end of last year because of its unrealistic demands, and is now developing his career as a defence lawyer, doing some mediation work and delivering training. Jo is teaching at the Pre-school three days a week. They are all also involved in a new Church plant in Perranporth.

In the summer, **Daniel & Tanya** celebrated their Silver Wedding, and the family gathered to join in the fun. The main event was a picnic at the Park in Clevedon which was ideal for all ages with tennis courts, skateboard park and fishing for crabs providing something for everyone. In church on Sunday we had a shared lunch with their wedding video being shown and cards, gifts and a cake. Daniel and Tanya continue to lead Living Waters Church which is challenging with many joys



Daniel & Tanya



Gillian, Ella & Tanya



Coralie & Jens

and sometimes disappointments. **Campbell (21)** is working in an IT company, continues with his photography and leads worship in our church as well as being invited to many other places to lead worship as his anointing grows. **Ella (19)** works in financial services, is part of the worship team at church and has a wide and varied social life.

It has been a very busy and demanding year for **Coralie and Jens**, who are living in Guildford. The children have all settled well into the English school system after leaving Germany. Coralie was offered a full time teaching post in her school which is proving to be a real challenge. She loves teaching her class but the administration that is required in today's education system is off the scale! Jens has started a two year post graduate degree at London University which

he is enjoying very much. **Julian (17)** is doing his A levels and looking to pursue a career in the aircraft industry, and also enjoying being in the Air Cadets. **Finola (16)** is aimed towards a career in medicine and has got back to her piano playing where she shows real skill. **Eliana (13)** is very artistic, is quietly developing her skills and also loves cooking. The whole family love Masterchef and all get involved in producing their own culinary creations. **Jowan (10)** loves school, has been made Head Boy, and is making real progress on his cello. **Judson (7)** and **Jaden (5)** are both in the same school, received glowing reports at a recent parents evening and we were able to see Jaden perform in his Nativity production on our way back from our visit to the States.

In September we flew to Bulgaria to spend time with **Craig, Milena and**

**Tegan (18)**. We hadn't seen Tegan for over two years. She is a talented artist following in her mother's and grandfather's footsteps, she leads worship on the guitar at church and keeps in touch with a multitude of friends. Craig did a civil engineering contact near Oxford in the spring, but then returned to Bulgaria to support the Roma churches he is involved with and to continue to develop the Mole Coal business. Milena takes a major role in the Bulgarian church that they lead. In late November we received the sad news that Baba Julia, Milena's mother had passed away in her sleep. We had enjoyed spending quite a lot of time with Julia during our visit. She was in her mid 80's and had a vibrant faith. Their older daughter **Gillian (23)** graduated with a good degree from Leeds University and now works in a Web and Digital development company.

We were able to take Gillian out for a birthday meal in October after a ministry trip to Wigan.

Our year ended with a trip to USA when we experienced an American Thanksgiving with our cousins who live in California.

**Having a big family takes lots of time, but is great fun.**



Joyce, Jo and Molly



Eliana, Julian, Finola, Judson, Jaden & Jowan



Baba Julia & Milena



Finola



Jowan, Judson & Campbell



Reuben & Theo



Eliana



Tegan, Milena & Craig

# The Breath of the Spirit

Charles Sibthorpe

*“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.”*

- John 3:8

Recently I received this message, “It’s hard to believe that it was 30 years ago in December when you prophesied over me at the Hyde, during a Leader’s Week, which resulted in my going to Roffey! God bless you for that word!” Today, the

same friend is engaged in a powerful teaching and healing ministry.

Over the past year both Joyce and I have heard from many people who, sometimes many years ago, received a prophetic word or a word of knowledge from one of us that had a profound effect on their lives or led to a significant healing. We have found this both encouraging and challenging.

I believe that the greatest danger we face today in the church is of squeezing out the working of the Holy Spirit. We plan our services to the precise minute, so where is the space for that prophetic word that can lead

to supernatural happenings? Even in our conversations we can rely too much on human wisdom rather than revelation from heaven.

In the days after we were filled with the Holy Spirit, every time we gathered with other believers there was an air of excitement. What is going to happen tonight? We shared testimonies of healing and miracles expecting them to happen regularly.

I am challenged to examine my level of expectancy and my willingness to give the time and space to receive words from heaven that will bring miracles on earth.

## Ministry News

The highlight of our year was the visit to the **Philippines** in February. After our visit to family in Australia we arrived a little earlier than the main team in Manila and spent the weekend with **Victor and Rosilee Fernandez** and their church. It was Valentines Weekend and we spoke at a special event for couples and at the service on Sunday. Victor Jnr. and his wife Rosilee have pioneered this church which is growing and reaching a wide cross section of people. There is a vibrant youth work, but they are also meeting the profound needs around them and feeding the poor. We were most encouraged by what we experienced there.

We then joined the Living Waters Church team and flew to Iloilo for two weeks of hard work refurbishing the church building which we had provided almost 15

years ago. We were primarily there to do practical work but on the Sunday many of the team shared in the Sunday Worship service which was a powerful and significant time.

Back at home we continue to be actively involved with Living Waters Church and have travelled to Norwich, Wigan, Scotland, Wales and Hemel Hempstead for ministry weekends and Joyce has spoken at special Ladies Day’s. We see a lot of folk on a one to one basis and the Word for the Week opens up many situations where we are able to bring help and encouragement to those who make contact.



Victor Jnr. & Rosilee Fernandez



Victor Sr. Fernandez



Before & After

