

2015 - 2016

CHARLES & JOYCE



Our Golden Year

This is the year we have celebrated 50 years of marriage! We are so grateful to God for the way He has been with us in every way. We have had a wonderfully exciting and fulfilling life together with so many adventures that God has led us through. The greatest blessing has been our 5 children, their spouses and our 18 grandchildren.

On July 25th we achieved something that we have waited to happen for 18 years, we gathered all 30 of us together for our brilliant

Golden Celebration.

We started the day at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm wandering around enjoying the animals especially to newly arrived elephants. We then moved on to Claverham Village Hall for the photo shoot and a meal together, and ended up back at our home Firbank where we ate cake and later a massive pile of chips! Sunday after church it was back to Firbank for Cornish Pasties and ice lollies before everyone had to depart. An unforgettable occasion!

Encouraging faith

... is the focus of our life and ministry. Isaiah 48:16 in The Message sums it up well, **"I am God, your God who teaches you how to live right and well. I show you what to do, where to go."** That is what we seek to do and then we are promised. **"When you listen to what I tell you, your life will flow full like a river, with blessings rolling in like waves from the sea."**

Our life is rich and varied, we preach at various places and times, we spend a lot of time with people, we are in touch with many more through email and social media, we send out our Word for the Week, and we enjoy keeping up with our large family.

This year has been a little different, we haven't travelled abroad as much as usual. It has been our Golden Anniversary year celebrating 50 years of marriage, which didn't quite go as planned.



Joyce writes...

Looking back over 2015, I see for myself two major themes - 1. Pressing into to knowing God more intimately. 2. Loving hurting people and seeking to connect them with the only one who can give them hope, i.e. Jesus.

At times I have been overwhelmed with human need. It comes in so many forms; bereavement, relationship breakdown, sickness, discouragement. Alongside there has been much cause for rejoicing, we have been to a number of weddings, seen healing, deliverance, breakthroughs and encouragement.

Only by knowing God more intimately can we see His power and ability, and when He decides to involve us in what He is doing - it's glorious! A lot of time this year has been spent with people, listening, praying, eating

together - giving hospitality, always seeking to encourage. Around 30 - 40 folk each month, in addition to our own family have sat around our table, and it is often in that context that "ministry" takes place. When we give time to individuals it honours them and gives significance and value.

At times I have questioned what have I been doing, but as I have reported back to the Master, I have been very conscious He has sent the people He wants, and 'one to one' is as important as the things that take place in a larger context.

I seek to be one who encourages whoever I meet, as well as being a challenge, a light and a carrier of Jesus. There have been times this year when I've wanted more adventures, but as I look back I see God's wisdom and purposes worked

out, and I seek that these words of Job be true of me,

"I've followed him closely, my feet in his footprints, not once swerving from his way. I've obeyed every word he's spoken and not just obeyed his advice - I've treasured it."

- Job 23:11-12 in The Message

Next year, God has spoken about taking "Missionary Journeys" to encourage those who need affirming by someone outside their immediate circles, who will listen and leave them with new faith and hope. Watch this Space.

Oooops!

We had planned to start our Golden Celebration with a special holiday, however our celebration day Wednesday 8th April did not quite turn out as we have planned. On Monday 6th as we were about to go to the Isles of Scilly for our special time on Tresco, while I (Charles) was manoeuvring the car in order to park it, I drove into Joyce and broke her leg! So our special day was spent with Joyce in the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro undergoing an operation to fix the leg, by inserting a titanium plate and nine screws! We began the day opening some cards in hospital by her bedside, she then spent 4 hours in surgery and recovery, and I was able to return for another hour to be with Joyce as she



emerged from the anaesthetic. She was alert and had come through well. Not quite the day we had planned!

I was very blessed to receive instant forgiveness from Joyce, and we immediately chose to make the time of forced inactivity a blessing. So

Joyce was on crutches for 6 weeks, and we got a wheel chair from the Red Cross and I became chief cook and bottle washer.

We were able to take our Scillies break in September and had a wonderful time, worth waiting for!

Family News...

Craig, Milena, Gillian (24) Tegan (19)

Craig and Milena live in Bulgaria and spend a lot of their time supporting Roma gypsy churches and pastors, they also lead a Bulgarian church. Craig comes back to UK from time to time to work, the last contract was in Shetland working on the construction of a Gas Terminal. Tegan has left school and is working in a call centre linked to an IT company where her perfect English/Bulgarian is a rare commodity. Gillian is still in Leeds enjoying her work as a Website Design project manager.



Jo & Iain, Molly (18), Reuben (15) Theo (6)

We have made several visits to Cornwall this year, it's fun going back to our old stomping ground. Iain, now a freelance lawyer is both defending and prosecuting in the Crown Court, and seeking to open up work mediating in the workplace. Jo is involved part-time in the Pre School and they are all involved in the New Wave church in Perranporth. Molly, now in her last year at 6th Form, also has received offers from two colleges for the next stage of her studies. Reuben loves his rugby and our constant prayer is to seek to keep him injury free! Theo is often very conscious that he is the youngest of the family, so having time with his Mankel cousins has been great fun.

Jo & Iain were stuck in a traffic jam as they travelled to the Golden Celebration so they wiled away the time composing this song - to the Doh Ra Me song from Sound Of Music.



S FOR SCOTTISH HOLIDAYS
I FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
B FOR BMW'S
T TIMES CROSSWORDS TO UNRAVEL
H FOR HAPPY IN A TENT
OH AND WRITING LOTS OF BOOKS
R YOU ON THEIR BIBLE-READING PLAN
P FOR SUCH A PERFECT TEAM
EVERY ONE OF FIFTY Y-E-A-R-S

Daniel, Tanya, Ella (20), Campbell (22)

The family headed off to Australia in February to celebrate Tanya's mum (Nolene) 80th Birthday, a great celebration surrounded by all her family. No-one was to know then that in September Daniel & Tanya were to return as Nolene's health failed and they had a brief time with her before she died. Campbell continues to lead worship in church and beyond, he has just made an EP recording of three of his songs which has sold out and is widely acclaimed. Ella is still working in financial services, but her creativity finds its expression in our worship team and she has just written our church's Christmas production. Daniel & Tanya still lead Living Waters Church.



Back Row - Alice (15) Ben, Anne, Jack (12).

Front Row - Edith (5) Estella (8) Olivia (11)

The family were back from Australia for 7 weeks during the summer. Ben continues as Chief Engineer for MAF Mareeba with a team of 14 engineers and also is a Scout leader, Anne overseas the home improvement department and the multitude of children's activities, she has also begun to get her hand back into teaching. Alice spent part of her holiday in France as she continues to keep improving her French. She started her schooling in French, when the family were in Chad. Jack is becoming a filming guru with the GoPro camera the family were given last year, he recently won an award at school for one of his films. Olivia is the one who usually answers the phone when we call, she loves her animals, is also doing very well with a special computer based reading programme. Estella is a peoples person and is very often the centre of attention as everyone loves her colourful personality. Edith, who starts real school in the new Year, loves dressing up and adding the bling, as one of her birthday pics displayed so vividly. Anne makes the most amazing birthday cakes; we love seeing the pics on FaceBook.



Back Row - Jowan (11) Jens, Coralie, Julian (18)

Front row - Judson (8) Finola (17) Eliana (14) Jaden (6)

Coralie and Jens are enjoying life in Guildford, their closeness to London leads to many interesting and exciting trips. Coralie is teaching full time, which is challenging, exasperating, yet rewarding. Jens is in the second year of his post-graduate degree.

Julian celebrated his special birthday here with a family trip to the Ten-Pin Bowling Alley, he is in his last year at school and has a weekend job at Sainsbury's. Finola, is achieving lots of A's at school in her GCSE's and is pursuing her goal to become a doctor, she works on Saturday's at a Garden Centre. Eliana, is very creative and has her heart set on becoming an interior designer. Jowan, is now at secondary school, enjoying cello playing by ear, so is being encouraged to learn to read the dots. Judson, is a great jig-saw puzzle fan (takes after Grandpa) and probably the most sporting of the family. Jaden, although the youngest, is the boss of the family, and told his teacher he wants to become a policeman!

...if you want to grow



A daily plan for reading through the whole Bible in either one or two years

BY CHARLES SIBTHORPE

As the year began **"If you want to Grow"** my 2 year Bible Plan needed reprinting. There are thousands of folk around the world who use the Bible Plans that I wrote nearly 30 years ago.

We received this recently from a lady who had been at one of Joyce's ministry days, Abi writes: **"You exhorted us to read our Bibles regularly. I have tried to do this many times before but been unsuccessful. This time, however, using your, "If you want to Grow" (brilliant title!) booklet, I have done a year and have started again.** I read the whole Bible. You also suggested that we should actively listen to God and I've been using the Bible reading to help with this and writing down what I've heard."

Why not copy Abi and get a copy, or encourage your whole church or home group to get into a good habit of reading the Bible through in 2106.

You can buy them from our website.

Our Facebook Page

We have a Charles and Joyce Facebook page where we seek to write things that will stir faith and bring hope and healing into people's lives.

Our lives are devoted to pointing folk to Jesus and his life transforming power as Paul said, "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

If you are a Facebooker and don't get these posts, just go to our page and "like" it.

Word for the Week

Our weekly message goes around the world and we enjoy all the feedback that comes from those who receive it. We always seek to bring a 'word' that will be relevant to today's need. So it is written on Tuesday by each of us alternately so that it is fresh and alive.

Here are some of the comments that have come during the past year:

"I do thank you for your "Word for the Week" and I treasure them. Some I print and file and this is one that has delighted me and I thank God for - and you two."

"Every Word for the Week touches me.. But I rarely let you know! Today's message is especially moving to me..."

"I found the article on Baptism so very enlightening."

"Great message again, you both are so encouraging to others, so be encouraged yourself for your posts are just so good to read."

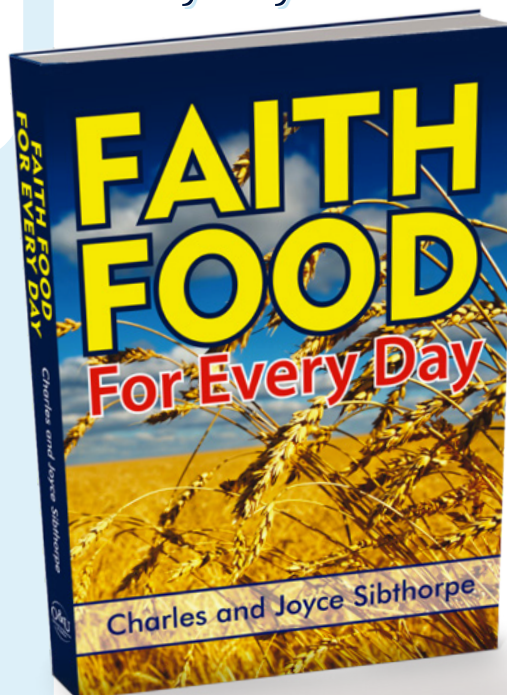
"Your message on "Forgiveness" towards those who have drifted away from the Lord and the fellowship of the Church has resonated so powerfully in my own life and experience now over many years."

"I am sorry I have not told you before this, (I keep meaning to)... Your weekly words are so life giving to me and I often forward them to others so they too can be encouraged by them."

"A timely word for our day. I am preaching on yielding to Jesus our Lord on Sunday. Good to be reminded that there is power in the name of Jesus."

Anyone who is not receiving "Word for the Week" can sign-up on our website.

Faith Food for Every Day



The feedback we receive from folk who are using this daily devotional is a constant encouragement to us. Here is what John said,

"I'm so enjoying your company every morning! Sue bought me your daily devotional and I'm on my second trip through it, I like to start my day with you both."

As this newsletter is going to all who receive "Word for the Week", you know what its all about. We would appreciate you recommending it to friends, and suggest that it would make a great gift the Christmas!

Buy it for £14.50 from our website. We would love to make it cheaper but for the high postal costs.

