

SCARBOROUGH BULLETIN

What is happening at Scarborough Baptist Church?



THIS WEEK
LISTENING FOR
GOD

PRAYER
continued

FORGIVENESS

Thank you for joining us this morning. Many people find it difficult to sit quietly and listen to the Word of God being expounded. We

are so used to rushing that sometimes when we sit down and are forced to become silent, all the thoughts that we have outpaced in our business suddenly catch up with us and crowd our thinking so that the preacher's words turn into background noise. At other times, our bodies finally catch up with us, and demand a bit of rest. Drowsiness slowly creeps into our thinking and before we know it, we have no idea on what the pastor was on about.

The preacher must, of course, take some of the blame for the situation. Perhaps if his sermon was more relevant to the real issues you have to deal with, it would be easier to concentrate. And yet, how can we find it boring, when we are dealing with the message of the King of the Universe who is interested enough to sit down and share himself with us. It is perhaps, sometimes, too easy for us to forget in whose presence we are. We may lose sight of the awesome privilege to be invited to get to know God better. We, perhaps, have to repent of the off-hand manner in which we take God's presence for granted. "Speak Lord," we pray.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday morning 9.30am No Bible Study on Zoom or at the church due to holiday

Thursday evening Bible study Will be on this Thursday evening on Zoom

Brighton Kids: The holiday programme is on the go again this week..

Sundays @ Six: The team is meeting to decide when to restart.

Offering: Please continue using EFT as it needs to be our main means of doing our offering at present. Our bank details are: Scarborough Baptist Church - BSB 306-054 Account number 4186613

Prayer: Please pray more contributions towards the **Cafe/ Refreshment** Centre so that it can be completed soon and will become a place of blessing for many people in the community. Please pray for **Joy Watterson** who has not been able to share with us for many weeks now,



Prayer operates in the context of faith. It is grounded on the heart-felt belief that God 'is'; that God is a willing listener to our prayers; that God is committed to act in response to our prayers to transform the world and that God does so because He is willing to invite us, human beings who are not divine, not only into fellowship with Himself, but also to participate with him in the historical outworking of his plan for the world. Faith grows and feeds off these statements, They are at the heart of the gospel message. Without the certainty that God is alive, that we can know him and talk to him, that He is someone on whom we can depend to act on our behalf; that he can change our circumstances; that He is interested in our prayers and not just an abstract concept or idea, the Christian faith would be just another set of ideas, an abstract philosophical belief system. At the same time, faith is aware of, and open to be challenged by a world at odds with any form of certainty. The command to pray allows the believers' faith to be tested in this world. Prayer thus always contains a great personal risk for those who pray. This risk is encapsulated in a sermonette entitled "The threat of healing":

Joshua pulled the trigger. By accident he fired a bullet into the roof sending a spark into a container of gun powder which exploded in a flash, slammed him against the door of the room and gave him burns over 70% of his body (60% of these full thickness or 3rd degree burns). His chances of survival were slim. But here he is with us today: handsome and healed. God granted an amazing recovery. Prayers were answered almost every day. Healing came from God. Brothers and sisters in Christ, how does that make us feel? Honest now! How does that make us feel? First of all we praise God for being so good to Joshua and his family. We are happy for the Phelps family – and maybe Joshua's football team. From what I've heard, he's a competitive player. Good to have him back kicking and passing the ball.

But – dare we to admit it – Joshua' amazing recovery also threatens us. We are challenged in our faith that may not accommodate a God who heals people, who outperforms modern medicine, who listens to prayers and then answers. We are challenged because we may feel that God may not want to be the same towards us. What happened to Joshua is great but what about my own problems? A friendship falls apart. I can't get a job. I am not good at anything. There is never enough money. My back hurts. Arthritis bends my joints. Pain tablets space me out... (Mayer n.d., p.1)