



October 2017

**...we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.
- 2 Corinthians 4:2**

Dear Friends,

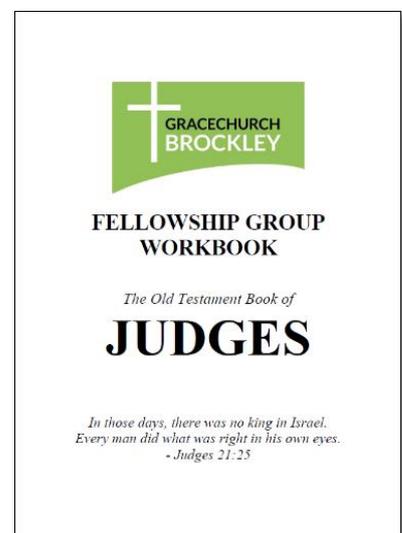
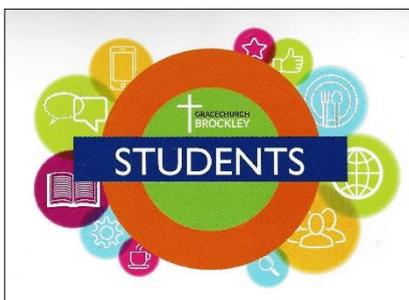
This autumn at GCB we have been learning about Authentic Christian Ministry from 2 Corinthians 2-7. It has been good for both preacher and people alike to refocus on what ministry is all about at the start of a new academic year. Raymond has been helped and encouraged in his preaching on these chapters by a great little book called *Style or Substance* by Taylor and Dargue. Published last year and under 150 pages, it's well worth a read.

At Church

Our Fellowship Groups have seen a few changes this year. We have started a sixth group and reshuffled the previous groups, something we plan to do every three years. Our groups will spend September to May studying the Old Testament book of Judges, the first time we have taken on OT narrative in our small groups. Please pray that group leaders would lead well, groups gel well, newcomers feel welcomed and that everyone gets to grips with the issues thrown up by this challenging OT book.

For the first time this year, we are starting a separate group for students; particularly those studying at Goldsmiths University. Please pray that a good number sign up and commit to coming. We will be

feeding them and spending our first eight weeks in Mark's Gospel. Pray for Ray Brown and Chris Webster (our student worker) as they speak at the CU this term. GCB also partners with the International Student Café at Goldsmiths. This week we hosted a BBQ for around 30 international students. Pray for relationships to be built with these students many of whom are a long way from home and have never heard the gospel.



We have a mission weekend (13-15 October) with guest speaker Gavin Peacock, former ex-Chelsea footballer and match of the Day pundit who is now a Christian minister. Pray for safety as Gavin travels from Canada to the UK, for good preparation and clear faithful bible teaching. Please pray that our three events are well attended; particularly our two evangelistic events on 13 and 15 October. We are hoping to have 100 local men attending a mini-men's convention on Saturday 14. During the afternoon of the same day a group of women from GCB will attend the Twilight London

Women's Convention. Please pray that many men and woman attend these two events and find both to be a challenging and encouraging time.

At Home

Rebekah has now returned once a week to The Cornhill Training Course as a Tutor to a group of women in training. This term she will be helping them with their talks from 1 Peter. She continues to be actively involved at GCB and is up for re-election as a school governor. Running and swimming with Ray is keeping them both active.

Naomi (18) after interrailing around Europe with friends over the summer, is now studying French, German and Italian at Bristol University See photo of car packed with her stuff ready to go. Pray that her faith would continue to grow and that she would settle well into her local church and the CU, make some good friends and enjoy her course and university life, while also taking care to manage her energy levels.



Nathanael (17) is now in year 13 and is hoping to start learning to drive soon. Pray for guidance as he explores whether to go to university or do an apprenticeship in something engineering or construction related. Pray that he continues to grow in his faith. Pray also for his school friend who has been attending church and youth group but has not yet come to faith.



Natalia (15) is now in year 11 with GCSEs fast approaching. She continues to work hard and enjoys playing the piano and Cello. She had a great time at Sparkford 2 with her two older siblings (see photo). Please pray for her as she wrestles through various questions she gets asked by school friends and that these would grow and strengthen her faith.

Noah (12) is still enjoying Gymnastics, piano and clarinet. The whole family had a great time watching him and Naomi perform in their summer musical - School of Rock. He also enjoyed Beechwood camp. Pray that camp, church, Word Alive and family life would continue to be a positive experience that grows his understanding of the gospel and enables him to make a stand for his faith.

We would love to hear from you. Do let us know if you no longer wish to receive our prayer news.

With love,

Raymond, Rebekah, Naomi, Nathanael, Natalia & Noah

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the challenge that 2 Corinthians 2-7 is to our understanding of ministry.
- Give thanks for the GCB preaching group and their faithful sermons over the summer.
- Give thanks for a restful break over the summer and some valuable family time.
- Pray for fellowship groups to have an edifying year studying God's word together and for group members grow to know and love each other better.
- Pray for GCB student ministry to grow and the student group to get off the ground this term.
- Pray for conversions among our younger members as well as people in the local community.
- Pray for wisdom for the elders as they consider doing a church plant in partnership with Co-mission.
- Pray for Naomi to settle well into university, CU and church life in Bristol.
- Pray for fruitfulness and faithfulness before, during and after the October mission weekend.
- Pray for Raymond as he preaches and teaches at GCB each week.
- Pray for perseverance in meeting and reading the bible with new or not-yet-Christian women.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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