



BIBLEVERSE 100

From Him To Us

100 Favourite Bible Verses

collected and edited by

PAUL M HARVEY

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100 favourite Bible Verses with personal comments
collected between 2014 and 2021 by Paul M Harvey©2022
Many thanks to all who contributed. As time has now passed,
my apologies to any whose mini profile may be out of date.

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible is unique and has a word for every occasion and emotion. The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge said: “I have found in it words for my inmost thoughts, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs, and pleadings for my shame and feebleness.”¹

The reformer Martin Luther found that it is living and active, with a new message every day: “For twenty-eight years, since I became a doctor, I have now constantly read and preached the Bible; and yet I have not exhausted it but find something new in it every day.”²

It has power and relevance in a hostile, disinterested world. The Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon put it like this: “The gospel is like a caged lion. It does not need to be defended; it just needs to be let out of its cage.”³

It is the most influential, most precious book of all time. The Indian writer Vishal Mangalwadi, addressing Western civilisation called it the “Book That Made Your World.”⁴

And when presented to the reigning UK Monarch on Coronation Day, it is described as “the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is wisdom. This is the Royal Law. These are the lively oracles of God.”⁵

John Wycliffe risked his life for it and William Tyndale died for it. Thousands today yearn for it and celebrate when it is at last translated into their own heart language. The Bible is more than a book – it is the eternal Word of God.

Some people collect stamps, others collect comics – I like to collect favourite Bible verses. Several years ago, I started contacting people asking for a verse that meant something to them. I asked friends, church leaders, and even wrote to some well-known people in the public eye. I am very grateful to all those who replied and gave me a verse together with their thoughts about it. I am also grateful to Stuart Weir of Verite Sport, who shared some verses from interviews he had conducted with various sport personalities.

This collection therefore draws on the personal experiences of over a hundred people from all walks of life – some well-known, others less so. Through their favourite verses, with personal comments, we can take a glimpse into the “lively oracles of God.” I pray that as you read through them you will be encouraged, challenged, blessed, and uplifted.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – who makes regular reference to Jesus and the Bible in her yearly speech to the nation – was invited to contribute a verse, but graciously declined. Her private secretary explained that if she expresses her personal opinion on any topic, she is forever afterwards quoted on it!

So, whether you read the collection from cover to cover, dip into it now and then or incorporate it into your daily quiet time, my prayer is that you will be encouraged and blessed by the verses and comments it contains. These are the “lively oracles of God.” Let’s read and enjoy them!

1. **Samuel Taylor Coleridge.** Quoted in *A Diary for the Thankful-Hearted* compiled by Mary Hodgkin (in The Macmillan Treasury of Relevant Quotations, E Murphy 1978 p.92)
2. **Martin Luther.** Quoted by Dr. Richard P. Bucher (WA TR 5, no. 5193 www.orldutheran.com)
3. **Charles Spurgeon.** As told by N. Pearcey in *Total Truth*, quoted by [Chip Anderson](http://www.wordsntone.com) (www.wordsntone.com)
4. **Vishal Mangalwadi.** The title of his book (2011), subtitled *How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization*.
5. **British Coronation Ceremony.** www.oremus.org/liturgy/coronation/cor1953

A man with glasses, wearing a blue and grey zip-up jacket, is sitting in a living room. He is holding a large, dark brown leather-bound Bible. The room has a bookshelf in the background with various books and a laptop. A table in front of him has a white mug, a plate of cookies, and a vase with orange flowers. A large black number '1' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Bible Verses From Him to Us

Episode 1: Living & Active

Paul M Harvey in the opening episode of **BIBLE VERSES – From Him To Us**

Some of the favourite verses in this collection feature in a series of short videos presented by the Editor.

Filmed and produced by Jonathan Rhys Powell, these 3-minute videos are ideal for personal viewing or sharing with friends, Church home groups etc.

You can access them, free, along with many other Bible-based programmes and lyric videos at:

Bible Verses videos

<https://www.shoutgoodnews.com/bibleversesfromhimitous>

Lyric Videos, songs, programmes

<https://www.shoutgoodnews.com/paulmharvey>

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1. **Billy Graham** Bible Verse: **John 3:16** The Gospel in a nutshell

Evangelist Billy Graham preached the Gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history – nearly 215 million in 185 countries and territories – through an international crusade ministry, including Mission World and Global Mission, spanning more than six decades. Countless millions more were reached by television, radio and the Internet.

Over many years of Billy Graham's ministry around the world, this verse from **John 3:16** **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"** was the subject of a sermon at almost every one of his Crusades and Missions, translated into many languages, in stadiums and arenas around the world. It is the Gospel in a nutshell.

(Billy Graham Evangelistic Association – used with permission)

2. **Dr Richard Chartres** Bible verse: **John 3.16** God's love and generosity

Former Bishop of London and President of The Bible Society.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..."

The generosity of God is at the heart of our Christian experience. The verse could have read, "God was so displeased with the world that He sent his Son" but the accent is always on the divine love and generosity.

3. **Henry Olonga** Bible Verse: **John 3:16** Hope beyond the grave

Cricketer, evangelist, artist, singer plus many other interests. Born in Zambia to a Kenyan father and Zimbabwean mother, Henry became the first black player, and youngest person ever to represent Zimbabwe at cricket. He had to leave Zimbabwe after protesting against the regime, and lives in the UK with his wife Tara and their two daughters Talika and Liana.

**"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

I chose this verse because it provides everyone who is willing to respond and believe with hope beyond the grave.

4. **Andrew Masters** Bible Verse: **John 3:16** God loves you—yes, YOU!

My name is Andrew Masters and I have the privilege of going into over 30 of our local schools to take Christian assemblies twice a term. I have been leading assemblies in schools for 30 years and over that time I discovered that if I stuck with one song, the children remembered it, even years after leaving junior school. That song is: **'God loved the world so much, that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him shall have eternal life.'** So my favourite verse is **John 3v16**:

**"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son
so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life."
(Good News Bible).**

This verse has so much meaning if you put your own name in it:

God lovedso much that He gave His only Son that if believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

In the Amplified version the word 'believes' is translated 'rely' and that is what we do: we rely on Jesus' death and resurrection.

5. **Lord Carey of Clifton** Bible Verse: **Philippians 4:13** Nothing to fear

My favourite Bible verse is Philippians 4.13:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

I have proved the reality of this text throughout my Christian life - from the time I accepted Christ into my life as a teenager until now. When facing challenging times as Archbishop I was able to confront inward fears as well as hostility by saying in my mind: "I have nothing to fear because Christ is all-sufficient, He is my strength and therefore I will prevail."

George Carey

Lord Carey of Clifton, former Archbishop of Canterbury. 1991-2002

6. **Archbishop Justin Welby** Bible Verse: **John 15:16** Fruit that will last

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."

On 9 November 2012, Justin Welby was announced as the 105th Archbishop of the See of Canterbury. He was enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral on 21 March 2013. His interests include French culture, sailing and politics.

Justin Welby has chosen John 15:16, which was written on the inside cover of the bible that was given to him the day after he became a Christian. It has always assured him that God is in charge.

David Brownlie-Marshall

Press Officer to The Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace

7. **Bernhard Langer** Bible verse: **John 3:3** Born again

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.' " John 3:3

In 1985 I went to a golfers' Bible Study. The leader, Larry Moody, was speaking from John, chapter 3. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again. I had never heard this before, but it was exactly the message I needed to hear. I was amazed to realise that the only way to have eternal life was through Jesus Christ – that He died for our sins. And that it was not through worthy deeds or good behaviour that one received eternal life, because we can never live up to God's standard. I believed it and I have followed Jesus ever since.

**Bernhard Langer, twice winner of the US Masters
and former World Number 1**

Editor's note

I was pleased when Mr Langer responded to my **Bibleverse100** invitation. My own father was a keen golfer; he taught me to play as a boy. One Sunday after I'd become a Christian, I announced I was off to Church - this infuriated my non-believing Dad who'd had a golf outing planned. Over the years, however, his resistance to the Gospel softened, and I believe Bernhard Langer's victory speech at the Augusta Masters was one link in the chain of my Dad's eventually coming to faith. The final round that year was on Easter Sunday, and in his speech Mr Langer said it was an "honour to have won the Masters on the Resurrection Day of the Lord". This had a huge impact on my Dad, both that a professional golfer should be a committed Christian, and that he should have no qualms about telling the whole world about it. In his twilight years before his death my Dad never missed a Sunday in Church, while continuing to enjoy his time on the golf course.

8. **Franklin Graham** Bible Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord

The eldest son of Billy and Ruth Bell Graham, Franklin Graham serves as President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Under his leadership, Samaritan's Purse has met the needs of poor, sick, and suffering people in more than 100 countries. Thank you for your request for Franklin Graham's favourite Bible verse for your project bibleverse100 – 100 special Bible Verses from 100 special people. His favourite is actually two verses: **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and
lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.”**

9. **Graham Kendrick** Bible Verse: **1 John 1:8-9** Spiritual ripcord

**“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not
in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**

This is a favourite verse for me in the way that a disaster survivor might have affection for the 'exit' sign in a burning building, or a plummeting airman for the handle of a parachute ripcord. It confronts me simultaneously with the reality of sin and the wonder of God's grace in offering total forgiveness at Christ's expense.

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Editor's note

Many consider Graham Kendrick to be the pioneer and father of modern worship music - his classic worship songs such as "Shine Jesus Shine", "The Servant King", "Amazing Love" are still just as powerful today as when they were first sung. This collection of different people's favourite Bible verses started with Graham Kendrick, when I asked him if he had a personal favourite after a concert in Chalfont St Peter's parish church.

10. George VerwerBible Verse: **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Not in vain

George Verwer is the founder of Operation Mobilization (OM) and was director for many years. He presently heads up OM's Special Projects and continues travelling the globe, inspiring countless thousands to follow Christ and serve him in Mission. My wife Rose served on the OM ship Doulos 30 years ago (1980-83), yet even now we receive personal letters dictated by George and know that he prays for us by name. This will be also true for many of you reading this. He certainly lives up to his chosen verse!

**“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves
fully to the work of the Lord, because you
know that your work in the Lord is not in vain.”**

He sent the following reason for his choice from his mobile phone, no doubt while waiting in an airport terminal somewhere! “Its basic - we have to stand strong against all that comes against us and plenty will. I memorized it ages ago. It reminds me to keep on keeping on NO matter what.”

Editor's Note

It's a great verse, **1 Corinthians 15:58**, chosen by George Verwer & Jackie Pullinger (below), but I hadn't given it too much notice before. However, it came alive for me one day in a prayer meeting. Fifty or so of us were praying for Christians in difficult circumstances, and the focus was on a team living and working in Karachi, Pakistan. The team is small, the task enormous, the persecution very real. I wasn't sure how to pray but this 'favourite verse' jumped straight into my mind. I found it in the Bible, but just as I was about to read it a lady a few rows behind me took the words right out of my mouth! Same verse precisely. Coincidence? I don't think so. The Lord Himself was speaking into the meeting, raising our faith level and giving us a message to convey to the people for whom we were praying.

11. Jackie PullingerBible Verse: **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Give yourselves fully

This same verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58, was chosen by another dedicated, globe-trotting pioneer who has inspired thousands over the last half century. One of the first books I ever read as a Christian was **“Chasing the Dragon”**, so it's a joy to include a favourite verse chosen by its author, Jackie Pullinger. Her text message reveals what a busy lady she still is after more than four decades!

“Dear Paul, Can I reply later? If you need it quick - it's always 1 Cor. 15:58. Love, Jackie”

**“Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your work in the Lord is not in vain.”**

12. Revd Jim GrahamBible Verse: **Ephesians 2:10**

God's workmanship

Passing away in 2016, Jim Graham was Pastor Emeritus of Gold Hill Baptist Church and Adviser to Ellel Ministries International. He was a Scot with a remarkable and insightful understanding of the Word of God. His teaching makes the hard sound simple and brings extreme clarity to the vital topics of the day.

**“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

This verse is almost too much for me in that out of nothing God created something; and out of that something God created life; and out of that life God created man; and in the fullness of time God created me as I am. There is no one else in all the world exactly like me! I am not a higher animal; I am a special creation by God.

Not only is this so, but God also had a purpose in mind for my life even before He created the world in which I live and the universe of which that world is a part. I cannot understand the clear Biblical doctrine of predestination - but I believe it passionately. I cannot reconcile my free-will with God's sovereignty – but I hold on to both tenaciously. It may baffle me intellectually and theologically but emotionally it is so stabilising and satisfying –

**I am not an afterthought;
I am a forethought;
I am not here by chance;
I am here by choice (God's choice).**

God loves me enough to have a plan for my life and I have had to discover the best definition of peace as a result - **peace comes when I stop resisting the will of God for my life.** My creation; my redemption; my sanctification; my destiny; my relevance; my significance are all summed up in this incredible verse. This verse causes me to see God as He has revealed Himself to be and to bow before Him in wonder and worship; in submission and surrender. I cherish the thought that as I come towards the end of my life I would be able to say with my last breath, "I have finished the work You gave me to do."

13. Revd Canon J.John Bible Verse: **3 John 1:2** Body, mind and spirit

J.John is a speaker with an appeal that transcends gender, age, race, culture and occupation. His much-loved art of storytelling helps people to discover spiritual meaning in a way that makes sense of everyday life. For more information please visit: www.philotrust.com.

**"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all
may go with you, even as your soul is getting along well."**

I really like this simple Bible prayer because it is so holistic, and it embraces a desire for well-being in body, mind and spirit.

14. Revd Hugh Palmer Bible Verse: **2 Timothy 4:5** Four reminders

Former Rector, All Souls, Langham Place & Chairman of New Word Alive.

**"But you, keep your head in all situations,
endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist,
discharge all the duties of your ministry."**

A friend and fellow minister had this verse displayed in his study and he told me: "Every time I look at it, I realise I need one of its four reminders." They've proved invaluable encouragements for me too.

15. Revd Richard Bewes Bible Verse: **Revelation 1:17-18** First and Last

Former leader of London's All Souls Church, Langham Place, later involved in wider ministry on many fronts.

Here are words that have helped me in my declaring of a credible Christ-centred worldview across many years!

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.’ ”

16. Revd Donald R Hubbard Bible Verse: **Ephesians 2:8-10** By grace

Pastor/teacher for 42 years, including Calvary Baptist Church, New York City, Bibletown, Boca Raton, Florida & All Souls, Langham Place, London.

I stepped aside from the active pastorate in 1994 in order to train and equip pastors and church leaders overseas. I continue to do that today along with an international Bible conference ministry. This verse sets forth the essence of the message I teach my students to communicate to others. It is the truth I live by and what I mentor others to establish as an essential purpose in life.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and that not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

17. Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali Bible Verse: **Titus 2:11** The grace of God

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali was the 106th Bishop of Rochester, for 15 years, until 1 September 2009. He is originally from Asia and was the first non-white Diocesan Bishop in the Church of England. He was appointed in 1994. Before that he was the General Secretary of CMS (Church Mission Society) from 1989-1994. He is now President of the Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue (OXTRAD).

The Bishop texted the following: “One that comes to mind is Titus 2:11. Because it says something about both the uniqueness of the revelation in Christ and the universal scope of salvation. Hope this helps. Michael.”

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”

18. Bishop John Pritchard Bible Verse: **John 10:10** Life to the full

John Pritchard was born in Salford (under the shadow of Manchester United floodlights), the son of a clergyman. He was determined not to be ordained himself as there was no money in it and you rarely saw your father. He went to Arnold School, Blackpool and then read Law at St Peter's College, Oxford. While at Oxford he met his future wife, Wendy, who was doing a Maths degree. His summer job was as a Blackpool tram conductor and he has therefore seen the Illuminations more times than anyone could reasonably want. He is also fascinated with the mountain Annapurna and has been to the base camp (but no further).

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

This verse sums up for me what the Christian faith is all about. I came to faith through seeking a central hub or driver for my life which would give energy and direction and around everything else would fit. I then found this verse which summed up precisely what I was looking for and which Jesus offered, and for the rest of my life I've been trying to work out this promise in my daily life. I've always wanted to make the Christian faith attractive and accessible, both intellectually and emotionally satisfying, and all that is to be found in the fascinating, compelling, challenging, enigmatic figure of Jesus whose purpose was to give us life in abundance.

19. Bishop David Pytches Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 33:27** Everlasting arms

After serving curacies in Oxford and Wallington (Surrey), David went to Chile in 1959 where he became the bishop of the Anglican diocese of Chile, Bolivia and Peru. He returned to England to become Vicar of St. Andrew's, Chorleywood in 1977, which, under his leadership originated the New Wine and Soul Survivor conferences. David is the author of many books and though officially retired, he still does some speaking and writing.

**"The Eternal God is thy refuge
and underneath are the everlasting arms."**

This verse has been special for me when encountering illness, opposition, loss of loved ones and dangers in far off places, including a revolution and several serious earthquakes – one over 9 on the Richter scale.

20. Canon Andrew P B White Bible Verse: **Job 42:5** My eyes have seen

Canon White has been Vicar of St George's Baghdad and the International Director of the Iraqi Institute of Peace. Author "The Vicar of Baghdad." (Monarch Books)

"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you."

I live and work in the midst of violence death and destruction. I literally have had hundreds of my own congregation persecuted and killed. I have always known and loved Jesus yet it was only in the midst of this great darkness that I realised that before I had indeed heard of the Almighty but now I have seen the Almighty. Just as Job did in this "land between the rivers" thousands of years ago, so I and my people know this for a fact. For we realise that when you have lost everything, Jesus is all you have left and it is Him we see. That is exactly what drove Job to live and know this statement.

21. Revd Martin Williams Bible Verse: **Revelation 22:2** Healing of the nations

Martin was for many years Rector of St James Church with Fulmer, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

**"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."**

I have always found this verse incredibly inspiring and moving as it speaks of the fulfilment and consummation of God's redemptive plan and fills me with joy and hope as I see the suffering around me.

22. Stephen GaukrogerBible Verse: **John 6:68**

The only solution

Baptist minister for over 30 years, latterly Senior Minister at Gold Hill Baptist Church; President of the Baptist Union ('94-'95); prolific author & Bible teacher. Since 2008, the founder/director of Clarion Trust International.

**“Simon Peter answered him:
'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' ”**

I love this verse because it reminds me that Jesus is the unique Son of God, the only one capable of granting us eternal life. It energises my evangelism – proclaiming Jesus as the only solution to the human condition. It inspired my personal discipleship – encouraging me to follow the One who grants me eternal life now and on into the future.

23. James LeachBible Verse: **John 6:68**

Back to basics

Formerly Director of Training, St James Gerrards Cross with St James Fulmer.

**“Simon Peter answered him:
'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' ”**

Whenever I have my doubts, this verse brings me back to basics. Even if I don't have all of the answers, I know they're nowhere else if they're not with Jesus. When I read his words I can see they are the words of eternal life.

24. Mike PilavachiBible verse: **Zephaniah 3:17**

Mighty to save

Founder of Soul Survivor ministries and pastor of Soul Survivor, Watford.

**“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
he will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.”**

There is so much amazing truth in this one verse. I keep coming back to it because it never ceases to amaze me that God loves me; He doesn't just put up with me - He actually loves me, delights in me and rejoices over me!

25. Revd Ian Smale (Ishmael)Bible Verse: **1 Thessalonians 5:16-17**

Passing on the joy

Ishmael/Ish has been travelling around internationally in a 'full time' music capacity since 1970. He has written and recorded over 400 songs (including "Father God I Wonder") and released around 40 albums of his and other writer's songs. Ish has authored 11 books and 3 booklets, some of which have been translated into German, Dutch, Czech, Danish and Romanian. He has been on national television/radio many times. Up until recently he ministered at all the Spring Harvests except two (due to illness) and nowadays when not at the Cathedral his travelling time is divided into preaching, teaching, evangelistic concerts, Sunday morning all age services and family musical celebrations that he calls 'Praise Parties.' Ish and his wife Irene have three grown up children Joseph, Daniel and Suzy. Ish was ordained into the Anglican Church in 2007 and is now licensed to Chichester Cathedral as their non-stipendary 'Missioner Deacon' and is affectionately known to the Bishop, Dean and Chapter, and congregation as 'Deacon Ish!'

He was diagnosed with Leukaemia in 2008 but is now well into remission having completed 3 years of chemotherapy treatment. He now still visits his old hospital ward as a volunteer Chaplain and also spends time praying for and encouraging many cancer sufferers. He is now well and truly back on the road for Jesus...Praise God!

“Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I am so grateful to God that He gave me a joyful personality and whoever I meet I try and pass a bit of my joy on to them. Although I have ‘prayer times’ I like to converse with God throughout the day and night, like I would a best friend. Giving thanks in all things can be a little tricky, especially when I saw our little grandson die, but although there are many things that God does/allows that I don’t understand, I will always continue to praise and thank Him. Since the leukaemia when I thought I would die, I thank God nearly every day that I’m still alive and able to serve Him. I thank God I’m able to be with my family, travel and minister and yes, even play a round of golf...as these are all things that I thought I would never do again. Thanks be to God!

26. Malcolm Duncan Bible Verse: **John 1:3-5** Light in the darkness.

Malcolm was formerly Lead Pastor at Gold Hill Baptist Church, and is now lead pastor of Dundonald Elim Church in Northern Ireland. He is the author of many books.

“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”

This has been significant because of the light in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming the light – and it never will! Provides confidence individually and corporately that the light of Jesus can never be overpowered...light will always win.

27. Revd Nicky Gumbel Bible Verse: **John 14:6** Way, Truth, Life.

Vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton, London, and pioneer of the Alpha course, now running in 60,000 churches in 169 countries.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’ ”

For much of my life I was not interested in Christianity. My father was a secular Jew and my mother rarely went to church. I was an atheist. I thought Christianity was boring, untrue and irrelevant to my life. In February 1974, through reading the New Testament, I encountered Jesus Christ. Since then I have discovered that Jesus really is the way to a relationship with God; He is the truth by which all other truth claims must be judged; and in Him we experience life in all its fullness.

28. Michael Ross-Watson Bible Verse: **Isaiah 54:17** Weapon in prayer

Michael went to Glory in 2017. He was a dynamic and influential evangelist and Bible teacher for over forty years in the UK and South-East Asia (Indonesia and Singapore). Honorary Pastor of Church of our Saviour (Anglican, Singapore) and formerly member of Kerith Community Church, Bracknell in the UK. He and his wife Esther were members of WEC International (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ).

**“No weapon formed against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and
this is their vindication from me, says the Lord.”**

This verse has come to my spirit so many times in situations where we have felt the enemy attacking either directly or through other people. My wife and I often used this word as a weapon in prayer. Corrie ten Boom once said, “Do not defend yourself. If you choose to do so then God will allow you to get on with it, but if you let Him defend you then He will do a far better job than you can ever do.”

29. Patrick McElligott Bible Verse: **Romans 8:1** No condemnation

Church planting missionary to Japan for 34 years with WEC International, after 6 years in academia. formerly pastor at Wycliffe Baptist Church, Reading, UK. Author of the missionary book “On Giants’ Shoulders” which relates his experiences in Japan.

**“There is now therefore NO condemnation to them that are
in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law
of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”**

It took me a long time as a Christian to truly realise that as a disciple of Jesus I have “nothing to fear, nothing to hide and nothing to prove.” I can be myself as I fellowship with Him.

30. Andrew Graham Bible Verse: **Nehemiah 6:8** God’s opinion, not man’s

Pastor of Bradley Road Evangelical Baptist Church, Wrexham UK, from 2007 to 2021, and now Pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Michaelston-Super-Ely, Cardiff. Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, I met Sian (from North Wales) while serving with Operation Mobilisation on the MV Doulos. We were married in Wrexham in 2005.

“Nothing like what you are saying is happening: you are just making it up out of your head.”

This may seem like a strange favourite verse, but it always encourages me in the Christian ministry. Nehemiah experienced opposition to his work for the Lord as Sanballet, Tobiah and Geshem made up all sorts of stories about him. But he didn't care. What mattered was that he did what the Lord required of him. What counts is God's opinion, not man's! This verse is a reminder to us keep our eyes fixed on the Lord as we do His work.

31. Archbishop Dr Peter Jensen Bible Verse: **Philippians 1:21** To live is Christ

Retired Archbishop of Sydney, Former Principal Moore Theological College, General Secretary of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans.

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

This was the verse given to us by the Bishop when I was confirmed. It stuck in my mind, although it was a only couple of years later that I put my trust in Christ in a personal way. For me, it sums up the Christian life as consisting of an all-embracing trust and obedience toward Christ alone and a hope which gives the true perspective to everything which may happen to us.

32. Guus John Juan KesslerBible Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:14**

One died for all

From 1949 to 1958 I worked as a missionary of the Evangelical Union of South America in Peru. From 1958 I studied theology at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and in 1975 I was invited to work as Publication Secretary for the Evangelism in Depth movement in Costa Rica. Right at the end of 1999 my dear wife Margaret, daughter of a pioneer missionary to Peru died suddenly and in the following year I returned to the Netherlands. However, in February 2009 the Lord called me back to Latin America to warn the churches here not to commit the same mistakes which have led to the present wave of secularism in Europe. I have written a total of thirteen books.* I have five children, eleven grandchildren and a great grandson in the offing. **and was planning more at the time this was written.*

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.”

My favourite verse is **2 Corinthians 5:14** because it is not logical and points to a vital mystery of the cross of Christ. Logically if One died for all then one would expect all to live, but this verse says exactly the opposite. God by a miracle at the cross converted the death of One for all into the death of all in One. Accordingly, when Christ says in Matthew 16:24 that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him, we do not need to commit suicide, because God has already incorporated us into the death of His Son. Instead, we have to accept the fact and allow Christ to live His resurrection life in us.

33. Bridget BennettBible Verse: **Jeremiah 29:11**

Plans to give you hope

I am a missionary with Latin Link serving in Costa Rica, Central America. In addition to teaching English to young people and children in a shanty town, I am also firmly involved in our local church leading worship and taking part in the ladies' group and inductive bible study.

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

During a very difficult period of my life several people gave me this verse as an encouragement that God has good plans even when we are going through hard times. God showed me that He is in control, He allows trials to prove our faith, to make us grow closer to Him and ultimately to bring Him glory. He also blesses us abundantly in ways we can never imagine! This verse is special to both of us – my husband Ray and myself – as it was part of God’s bringing us together as a couple.

34. Sarah PlummerBible Verse: **Acts 1:3**

He showed Himself

Child of God, wife, mother and daughter, Director of Prayer Ministries for World Vision International and board member of the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelization. In God's abundant grace I have enjoyed sharing the love of Jesus for over 25 years of full-time ministry in churches and schools around Sydney, Australia and now internationally.

“After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”

This verse excites my heart soul and mind. I imagine myself as one of the early disciples in shock that Jesus actually did rise from the dead and having Him keep appearing to convince me and show me that the Son of God fulfilled everything He promised. That God does what He says He will do, and over forty days the early church really grasped what it was to live out the “kingdom of God” in words and deeds of

righteousness and justice. Then I reflect on Jesus' very first task for them in saying to go wait and pray. When Jesus defeated death... when death has lost its sting... when my own life journey experienced the reversal of death to life... I live my days with such gratitude for all God has done and is doing in this world and I want to constantly acknowledge Him in my prayers and honour Him with living out a life of righteousness and justice for others as a grace-filled response to His incredible love and mercy. Jesus is alive today!

35. Byung Kook Bible Verse: **Matthew 24:14** To all nations

Byung Kook and his wife BoIn are members of WEC International. We were in the Gambia just a little over ten years and established the WEC Korean Sending Base and served there another twelve years and recruited over 400 hundred Koreans into WEC. Now I am serving as Director of International Mission Mobilization (DIMM) and leading the team call IMM (International Mission Mobilization).

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

My favourite Bible is Matthew 24:14. I know many other people may have the same verse. My missionary work is focused to achieve this commandment. If there are so many other people that have given you this verse, my second favourite verse is Psalm 2:4. It is related to the previous verses. Nations and people plot against the Lord but the Mighty Lord scoffs at them and will achieve His work by all means:

“The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.”

36. Elliott Tepper Bible Verse: **Psalm 73:24-6** My portion for ever

Elliott is a missionary serving with WEC International. He is the founder and International Director of Betel, President of AEMC (The Assemblies of Worldwide Evangelization for Christ), and the Senior Pastor of Iglesia Betel in Madrid, Spain. The Betel family of ministries has grown from a single church and rehabilitation community in Madrid to over 100 churches and communities in 22 countries in the last 25 years. Elliott is a graduate of Lehigh and Harvard Universities, and has studied economics at Cambridge University and missions at Elim Bible Institute. He and his wife Mary (now in glory) are the parents of four sons who were raised in Mexico and Spain. He is also author of several books, the latest being “The Cost of the Kingdom”(AMC Amistad Comunicaciones), from which this profile is taken.

**“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel,
and afterward receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.
My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart,
and my portion for ever.”**
(King James Version)

I am fully persuaded that union with Christ now and knowledge of His person, mind and will are the supreme quests in this life. I am also fully persuaded that He is all we will ever want or need, not only in time, but also in eternity. His love is our great reward, not the praises of men now, nor even the praises of angels and saints in heaven. Every decision I make on the earth I make in the light of eternity. When that final endless day dawns, I know it will be better to possess and be possessed by Christ than even to receive and wear a crown. With this great hope and truth, we can face the failing of our human strength and flesh knowing that Christ and Christ alone will be our reward and portion forever.

37. Dr Ben Benhamou Bible Verse: **Isaiah 45:2 Psalm 25:1-3** I am the Lord

I, Ben Benhamou, from Morocco, medical doctor, served in the Middle East where I met my wife Valerie (medical doctor as well). We both did two years' Bible studies in the UK. We moved to North Africa for 11 years. Now, we are living in Switzerland, but serving in France. Concerning favourite Bible verses, I have two which were for me a real encouragement in my ministry:

Isaiah 45:2-3

**“I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.
I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”**

These two verses were given to me by our Mission leader, Renate, in 1992, during one of our prayer meeting before my departure to the Middle East. I was a new convert, “two years old in my new faith,” preparing to go into the unknown as a stranger, and not as an equipped soldier. The Lord indeed opened later many other doors (I got married, did two years of Bible Studies in the UK, and had enriched ministry later on in my own country).

Psalm 25:1-3

**“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.
Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No-one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,
but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.”**

These verses helped me to go through a hard period when we moved as a family to Morocco. We were caught in a dirty situation by some false believers. We started a business which was consuming our funds, time and energy. The Lord helped us to get out of it through a Christian lawyer.

38. Didier Bitá Bible Verse: **John 5:44** Honour from God

Didier has been Language Programmes Manager (LPM) and Director of SIL (*see below) of the Côte d'Ivoire Group, West Africa.

**“You gladly honour each other, but you don't care about
the honour that comes from the one who alone is God.”**

(New Living Translation Anglicised Edition)

At first my relationship to the Word was largely intellectual, but as Susan Arthur and I searched out the meaning of each passage of Scripture and grappled with the best way to express it in Kouya**, I began to think further about my own relationship to God. While translating that verse I realized that these words of Jesus applied to me because before then I had always been trying to please people. I owe John 5:44 everything I am today, and I am thankful to the Lord that He spoke to me through that particular verse.

*Founded in 1934, SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics, Inc) has grown from a small summer linguistics training program with two students to a staff of over 5,500 coming from over 60 countries. SIL's linguistic investigation exceeds 2,590 languages spoken by over 1.7 billion people in nearly 100 countries.

**Kuy (Kouya, Kowya) is a Kru language of the Ivory Coast. In March 2012, the dedication of the Kouya New Testament took place. Over 500 people were present.

39. Kola KehindeBible Verse: **John 9:24**

One lifetime

“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me.”

Kola Kehinde is Director Calvary Ministries (CAPRO) in the UK, from Nigeria. He says: This verse makes me remember that I don't have all the time in the world to do God's will – I only have one lifetime. While it is day I need to get into God's work, just like Jesus did when He was on the earth. This verse is always on my computer screen to remind me.

40. Napoleon ImperialBible Verse: **John 6:68 Psalms 73:25 Deuteronomy 6:5**

Life verses

Napoleon has a high-profile job in the Philippines, yet maintains a humble, servant heart. He came to the Lord years ago after discovering an evangelistic pamphlet that someone had dropped on the floor. He says: I would like to share with you my three most important life verses:

John 6:68

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have words of eternal life.”

Psalms 73:25

“Whom do I have in heaven but you, and there is nothing I desire besides you.”

Deuteronomy 6:5

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

I use and display **John 6:68** in my personal evangelism together with **Psalms 73:25**. I think that these two verses together have been etched at the bottom of my official calling card during the past ten years or more. If the bottom space on the card becomes too small when I reprint my cards, I drop the second verse. I feel that **John 6:68** will be striking enough and can pierce one's heart, especially of those without any knowledge whatsoever of the Christian faith or the Bible. With this verse being read by high officials and the other key persons I meet in important local and international gatherings, I suppose that they are already without excuse for not hearing or coming to grips with the Gospel in a capsule or in its simplest terms.

At the same time, **John 6:68** always serves as my succour when depressive thoughts and doubts set in. It is the verse that tells me of the superior claim of Jesus over everyone's life compared with other “prophets” or religious leaders or deities, hence, my eternal security. At the same time, when a sense or feeling of helplessness occasionally overwhelms the dark nights of my soul, **John 6:68** is reinforced by **Psalms 73:25** in giving me comfort at the thought and reality that there is no other escape for me, there is no one else and there is no other way I can go to but to Christ.

Before discovering the everlasting power of **John 6:68**, I used to display **Deuteronomy 6:5** on my calling cards. To me, this verse can serve both evangelistic and personal discipleship in purpose and application. I feel that when a non-believer reads or hears this, he will inescapably realize, that the only One Eternal God has a claim on his life and the Lord's command will haunt him wherever he goes or whatever he does to suppress such thought. As to personal application, this is the word of God that provides me with an all-time challenge that I should respond to every minute of my life. When I feel too tired to pray or tend to be lazy in doing God's work in any endeavour, I go back to this verse to test or ask myself how much do I love my God and up to what extent can my remaining strength be offered to Yahweh as my living sacrifice. Christ has given me all, including His precious unblemished life and blood; is my remaining minute of human strength too much to give back as my responsive worship? And I'm glad to know that God is prepared and happy to accept this humble offering.

41. **Kaka** Footballer, Brazil Bible Verse: **John 15:5** The vine and the branches

“I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

I need Jesus every day of my life. Jesus tells me that without Him, I can't do anything. What I believe is that without Jesus, we can't do anything. The gift and capacity I have today to play football is because God gave it to me. It is a gift from God that I try to improve on every day, but without Him, or if one day He doesn't want me to play anymore, I will not play. The day He wants me to do something else, I will do that something else - and this is why I need Jesus in my life every day.

42. **Fiona Castle** Bible Verse: **John 17:20** I am praying for them

Fiona Castle is mother of four and grandmother of three. She was a churchgoer all her life, but only discovered the reality of being a Christian at the age of thirty-five, which totally transformed her life!

Here is a verse which has had a huge impact on me – John 17:20.

**“I am praying not only for these disciples, but also for all
who will ever believe in me because of their testimony.”**

(New Living Translation)

It amazes me that Jesus was praying for us, because His disciples, and others throughout the ages have passed down the good news so faithfully. It also means we have to be faithful in passing on this wonderful message to others, in order that the world can hear this Good News. What a responsibility!

Below, Fiona shares on behalf of her late husband; musician and entertainer, Roy.

Roy Castle Bible Verse: **John 16:3** Peace in Me

Roy Castle was an entertainer, who was best known towards the end of his life for presenting a children's programme, called Record Breakers. Fiona says...

Roy had a very clear and simple faith to the day he died and benefitted so much from the teaching of the Revd Jim Graham, who was his Pastor, friend and mentor. It is hard at this stage to choose a particular Bible verse which stood out for him, but here goes...

**“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me.
Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.
But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”**

(New Living Translation)

43. **Doug Horley (Duggiedugdug)** Bible Verse: **Ephesians 3 v 20** Wow!

Duggiedugdug leads an international children's ministry and has composed many much-loved worship songs.

**“With God's power working in us God can do much more
than we could ever ask or think of.”**

(International Children's Bible)

The more I read about Jesus the more incredible I realise He is. He did some truly amazing things and yet what is equally remarkable is that the same Holy Spirit who enabled Him to heal the sick, raise the dead and calm storms lives in you and I! Wow, if we could only grasp the fact that the unlimited power of the God who set mountains in place, poured out oceans and sprinkled billions of stars through the sky dwells in you and I it would also be amazing. I'm not sure I'll ever quite get my head around it totally, but I want to grasp it enough to live an empowered life. What a great God we have and who knows what He'll do through us!

44. Helen Shapiro Bible Verse: **Genesis 24:27** The Lord led me

In the 1960s, Helen Shapiro shot to international stardom at the tender age of 14, with chart-topping singles such as 'You Don't Know' and 'Walking Back to Happiness.' In 1987, she really did **walk back to happiness** when, after searching the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament for several months, she became a committed believer in Jesus. She continues singing and touring to this day.

Website: www.mannamusic.co.uk

Autobiography: *Walking Back to Happiness* (Harper Collins 1993)

Shalom in Jesus. It's very hard to pick out one favourite verse. I have many! But the one which was brought home to me in a real way, recently, was part of Genesis 24:27:

"I, being in the way, the Lord led me."
(King James Version)

The reason I have chosen this is because time and time again, the Lord has shown me that when I have prayed to Him for wisdom and/or leading, regarding certain 'impossible' matters, and committed these things to Him, He has totally undertaken and accomplished everything in a wonderful way! Also, at other times, He did other unexpected things, simply because I was in His will and trusting Him to lead me. I hope this makes sense to you and is something that you can use and will bless others.

Yours in Yeshua, Helen Shapiro

45. Tim Vine Bible Verse: **Nehemiah 8:10** Joy!

Tim Vine is a well-known British actor and stand-up comedian. A master of the 'one-liner', he can hold an audience in raptures for hours. His 'one-liner' from the Bible has an appropriate note of joy:

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

46. Anna Starkey Bible Verse: **Colossians 3:23** Working for the Lord

Member of GB Goalball team (Paralympic sport)

Colossians 3:23
**"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters."**

I had this on a poster when I was a child and I used to look at it and think, "Yep, that is what I am going to do". And I think that is what has kept me working at goalball. I firmly believe God wants me in goalball. So, I am going to work at it as hard as I can.

47. Christine OhuruogoBible Verse: **Matthew 11:28**

I will give you rest

Christine Ijeoma Ohuruogu, MBE, achieved success as a British athlete, specialising in the 400 metres; the event for which she is the former Olympic, World and Commonwealth Champion. Her victory in the 2008 Beijing Games was the 50th gold medal for Great Britain in Athletics at Olympic Games. She also won the 400m at the 2007 World Championships and a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics in London.

**“Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”**

As a sportsperson you are being challenged every way possible, visually, physically and you can get overwhelmed by everything that is going on – and especially in a championship environment. You can get inundated by everything that is happening. I tend to worry a lot. I like it when Jesus says, “Give me your burdens and I will give you peace.” It is nice to have that safety net of Jesus saying that if you are worried, come to me and it will be all right.

48. Will ClayeBible Verse: **Psalm 91:7**

It will not come near you

Will Claye is an American track and field athlete, competing in the long jump and triple jump. He won a bronze medal in the 2011 World Championships in Athletics in Daegu, South Korea and the gold medal at the 2012 IAAF World Indoor Championships in Istanbul. In his Olympic debut at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Claye won a bronze medal in the Long Jump and a silver medal in the Triple Jump.

**“A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.”**

This verse lets you know that God has given you the strength. 10,000 may fall at your feet; bad things may be going on around you, but it will not come on to me. I will be fine if I keep faith in God. It shows that He strengthens you and you don't have to worry about anything. Just go ahead and do what you have to do.

49. Kirsty BalfourBible Verse: **2 Samuel 7:22**

No God but You

Kirsty, a Scottish breaststroke swimmer, represented Great Britain in major championships. She won gold in the 200 metres Breaststroke at the European Long-Course Championships in 2006 and took silver in same event at the World Championships in Melbourne in 2007. She represented Team GB in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games.

**“How great you are, O Sovereign LORD!
There is no-one like you, and there is no God but you.”**

I went to the Beijing Olympics as a medal contender. In the event it was a disaster. I did not even make the semi-finals. I felt very confused and disappointed. My first thought was of people I had let down, like sponsors, my family, my coach and my team-mates. As I waited poolside, the words of a song kept coming into my mind – “How great is our God.” There is line that says, “He's the name above all names and is worthy to be praised; My heart will sing, how great is our God.” My mind was a great mix of thoughts but that song was still in my head and I thought, “Yes, God is still God and He is worthy to be praised.”

50. **Andrew Syed** Bible Verse: **Romans 8:28** All things work together

Andrew is a former national table tennis champion at under 14 and under 17 level and England Senior International. Victories over Gatién (World champion from France) Zoran Primorac (World Cup champion) and many others. He has also appeared on television in more recent years as a coach for children and those with brain injuries and mental health problems.

My favourite verse is Romans 8:28:
**“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to His purpose.”**
(New Revised Standard Version)

This verse means a lot to me since having to retire at a young age from table tennis with a shoulder injury. Those difficult times worked together for good and have taught me a huge amount about difficult times and that what really counts in life is to be a loving, caring and committed Christian. It ultimately realises its fulfilment when we reach heaven.

51. **Denis Alexander** Bible Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6** Lasting promise

Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St. Edmund’s College, Cambridge, previously in the biological research community for forty years, of which fifteen were spent in the Middle East.

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”**

Verses given to me by Douglas Edmonds, missionary to S. America, when I first put my faith in Christ as Saviour at the age of 13 - a promise that I have proved true countless times through life.

52. **Baroness Cox** Bible Verse: **Joshua 1:9** Timeless reminder

Caroline Cox, Baroness Cox has been a crossbench member of the British House of Lords. A former Deputy Speaker to the House of Commons, she is also founder and CEO of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), travelling extensively and campaigning for a range of humanitarian causes. She is champion for the downtrodden and a ‘voice for the voiceless.’

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

My special Bible verse is Joshua, Chapter 1 verse 9, which was a text given to me by the Bishop at my confirmation many, many years ago. It is timeless in its reminder of God’s assurance of His presence especially at times when one inevitably feels dismayed, discouraged and afraid.

53. **Ann Widdecombe** Bible Verse: **2 Corinthians 4:13** I believed

Ann worked in marketing at Unilever from 1973 to 1975 and was Senior Administrator at London University from 1975 to 1987. From 1987 to 2010 she was the Member of Parliament for Maidstone which became Maidstone and The Weald in 1997. She held various posts both in government and

opposition. Apart from politics she has written fiction books, championed various causes, and appeared on television, memorably partnering Anton de Beke in the TV show Strictly Come Dancing.

“It is written: ‘I believed; therefore I have spoken.’”

My favourite verse is 2 Corinthians: 4 v13: ‘I believe and therefore speak.’ This has been my leitmotiv and it always gives me courage whenever people say that I should be more cautious about expressing my beliefs or views.

54. Ngaire Button Bible Verse: **James 1:2-5** Lacking nothing

Ngaire has served as Deputy Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand.

My story is that I was married and separated with 2 children by the time I was 21 years old. I was invited to church by a family friend and that first visit committed my life to Christ. I had some wonderful women disciple me, a young solo Mum. I grew in faith, knowledge and understanding and believed that I had a new start in life and that God had plans for my life greater than I would conceive with my natural mind and here I am. I have been involved in Local Government for over ten years and it has been a great privilege to serve as Deputy Mayor, particularly when we make history rebuilding Christchurch. My favourite verse is James 1:2-5.

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.**

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

I have returned to this verse many times during the almost 30 years I have been a Christian. The Lord’s promise that we will be “perfect and complete, not lacking anything” makes patience, endurance and trials worth the struggle.

55. Henry B Hargrave LL.M (Lond.) Bible Verse: **Psalm 84:10** One day in Thy courts

Formerly Solicitor of the Supreme Court 1960-86. Called to the Bar 1988. Became member of the Inner Temple, London EC4. Head of Westgate Chambers 1995 and thereafter. Retired at the age of 76 .A criminal lawyer (professionally speaking) for over 51 years and hitherto senior legal adviser to the Commissioner of Police, New Scotland Yard, London during such historic times of the " Great Train Robbery," The Krays, the Profumo Affair and the Christine Keeler Affair are but a few of the highlights in my professional career whilst serving at the Yard under various Commissioners of Police and household names of some of the greatest detectives of all times known to me. I have lived in troubled times of both international and national scandals – truly a reflection of society at large where I have come to realize the absolute sinfulness of society at all levels including government who should be a prime example of honesty and integrity but has often failed us.

Having conducted many prosecutions over a period of 25 years when first in practice and thereafter on the other side of the fence as a defence counsel, representing all strands of society, I have taken great strength from the words of Psalm 84 verse 10 which reads:

“For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.”

Yes indeed! I have been much encouraged, upheld and supported by reflecting upon this text and in

those quiet times enjoyed special times of fellowship with both my Christian friends and colleagues from whom I have received such support. Such words as these and from that great Christian Hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness' particularly those well-known and immortal words: "Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, strength for today and a bright hope for tomorrow."

To me that encapsulates the good news of the Gospel namely: (a) Pardon or forgiveness for the past, (b) Strength for today and (c) Bright hope for the future. As an active Christian I travel daily in this earthly life believing that the best is yet to come in the eternal hope that Christ will be victorious in the end.

Knowing and accepting that our days are numbered in our earthly pilgrimage, I am quite looking forward to the future when I will be in a much richer fellowship with our Lord and where his pure justice will prevail. Hallelujah!

Yours as always, Hargrave of the Yard

56. David Kerry Bible Verse: **John 10:10** Life to the full

General Practitioner in Hemel Hempstead, now retired. Member of Adeyfield Free, United Reformed Church where I am an ordained non-serving Elder. Complex personal medical history which helped me empathise with a significant number of my patients. Brought up in a Christian family from birth with one grandfather who was a Baptist Minister and previously missionary to China. Married with two delightful, healthy, grown-up children. My favourite verse is John 10 v 10 (b):

"I have come that they might have life and have it to the full."

I like this verse because it describes God's extravagance and His desire that we should not just exist but enjoy. I have wide-ranging personal and professional experience of many of the things which life can deal to us as individuals. There are no rules determining our lot just God's will. Nevertheless, He wants us to know a "full" life; not water but wine.

57. John Tromans Bible Verse: **Exodus 31:3** Filled with the Spirit

Professional Graphic Designer.

"...I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..."

Favourite verse? Yes, I do, and it's a bit of an unusual one too. . . As you know my business is called X313 Design Ltd. It's really unlike me but I woke one morning soon after I had been made redundant and the company name came to me almost like a revelation! It's a cryptic reference to Exodus 31:3 which, as an artist, I've always thought was a brilliant verse. As far as I can tell Bezalel was the first person God filled with the power of the Spirit. But what did He empower him for?... Not for great military exploits or for prophetic pronouncements but "with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts and artistic designs."

58. John Meyrick Bible Verse: **Psalm 121:1** I lift my eyes

Retired Head Teacher, an Area Coordinator Gideon's International UK. Came to Christ age 62.

"I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?"

My favourite Bible verse is Psalm 121 verse 1. My reason... At a very low ebb and an unbeliever, I came across a long, discarded Gideon Bible given by a friend, and was led to this verse. Reading on I realised I was not alone and not without help. This was a turning point in my life.

59. Robert Hughes-Penney Bible Verse: **Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us?

Investment Director, Rathbone Bros Plc. Former Common Councilman and Chairman of the Investment Committee in City of London Corporation.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

My Bible verse is Romans 8 verse 35. My reason... I often find life, particularly in financial markets, a great challenge with many things competing for my attention and vying to trump Jesus Christ's position as number one in my life. This verse is a powerful reminder in these times that Christ's love is abundant, constant and worth holding on to.

60. Nigel Young Bible Verse: **Ecclesiastes 12:13** The whole duty of man

I am a 60 something-year-old business and finance professional who became a Christian over 40 years ago in London and has pursued a career in industry.

**'Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.'**

My reason for this bible choice is that I am repeatedly struck by the simplicity and completeness of this statement.

61. Helen Roseveare Bible Verse: **2 Corinthians 12:9** My grace is sufficient

Dr Helen Roseveare was a missionary with WEC (then the Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade) in the Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo) from 1953 to 1973, including part of the period of political instability with the Simba uprising in the early 1960s. She practised medicine and trained others in medical work. She passed away in 2016 but left a legacy of insight and wisdom in 11 autobiographical books, including "Give me this Mountain", "Living Stones" and "Enough!" Her books are available from Christian Focus Publishers.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Here is what she wrote to me...

This became MY verse during the five months of captivity in the hands of the Congolese rebels. And it has become the basis of my last book, "Enough!" - God's grace is enough - sufficient - for every eventuality. I love the Lord Jesus, perhaps more today even than ever before - and I long to see Him face to face.

62. Susan Sutton Bible Verse: **Isaiah 26:3** Perfect peace

Author and speaker on the transforming life in Christ, member of the mission agency WEC International, serving for thirteen years in Chad, Africa, with her husband and three children, followed by seven years serving with her husband, Louis, as directors of WEC's USA headquarters, then in Singapore serving with Louis as International Directors of WEC International.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.”

Learning to rest inwardly while life challenges me outwardly is an on-going lesson. After forty years of walking through life with God, there is still much to learn. God continues to teach me what it means to live a life of full surrender and trust. This verse is one that I recall to mind over and over again when I need a reminder of His formula for inner rest. A mind that stays on Christ plus a heart that trusts Him brings His peace.

63. Mary Pytches Bible verse: **Colossians 3:12** Chosen and beloved

Mary is married to David and with their four daughters spent seventeen years in Chile as missionaries before coming back to St Andrew's Chorleywood, from where the New Wine conferences were birthed. Mary has written a number of books, and though retired, still enjoys a little speaking and writing.

**“Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...”**

As the family 'after-thought' I was often referred to by my mother as 'my little accident.' One night before going to sleep I was reading this chapter and the words 'chosen and beloved' jumped out at me. Since then I have rejoiced in the fact that to my parents I might have been an accident, but in God's eyes and for all eternity I am 'chosen.' It changed my life.

64. Jo Swinney Bible Verse: **John 15:4** Remain in Me

Writer, Speaker and Editor of "Closer to God" (www.joswinney.com)

**“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself;
it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”**

I have been a Christian my whole life and at times I have been anxious and stressed about whether my life reflects my relationship with God. These words of Jesus remind me that if I remain connected to Him, I will bear fruit, but also that it is not all my effort – He remains in me as I remain in Him. As a writer and a speaker on matters of faith it is vital that I stay attached to the vine, but God is working to keep me there too.

65. Pete Greig Bible Verse: **Isaiah 58:10** Your light will rise

Bewildered founder of 24-7 Prayer, team leader Emmaus Road Community Guildford, and Director of Prayer for Alpha International.

**“If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”**

This verse changed the course of my entire life. I was eighteen years old, had recently returned to faith (reluctantly), and was sorting through some Christmas cards at my grandparents' house in Scotland when this verse, printed on the back of a message from Brother Andrew, took my breath away. It was quite unexpected. I knew that God was speaking to me. As a result, I ended up working with Jackie Pullinger in Hong Kong and that changed everything...

66. Glenn Myers Bible Verse: **Matthew 5:3** Blessed are the poor

Writer of books, both fiction and non-fiction. www.fizz-books.com

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

I understand the word 'poor' here can be translated 'destitute' or 'shattered': happy are the spiritual basket-cases. All the ocean tide of God's goodness pours into the spiritually skint, not the smart or the devoted or the well-mannered or the highly religious. I find this truth goes very deep into who we are, who God is and on what grounds we find kindness from Him.

67. Jim Raymo Bible Verse: **Psalm 138** Unfailing love and faithfulness

My wife and I worked with WEC International for about 30 years, serving as the USA Director. Previously we worked on the streets of Europe doing evangelism and discipleship, and then teaching at WEC's missionary training college in Tasmania. More recently I have been a professor at a Christian college, continuing to mobilize and represent for WEC. My verses are portions of Psalm 138 (New Living Translation):

**"I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;
for your promises are backed
by all the honour of your name.
As soon as I pray, you answer me;
you encourage me by giving me strength. . .
The LORD will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever."**

The Lord used these passages at a critical period of uncertainty, fear and transition. This word encouraged my heart that God was at work, and I would see the fruit of that work in His time. At the time when He gave me this word it was as though I already had the needed results even though they were not yet visible. Bless the Lord.

68. Neil Wardrope Bible Verse: **Philippians 3:12b** Pressing on

International Director of CLC, a mission agency working with Christian bookshops, publishing and distribution, serving in both Spain and the UK over the last 30 years.

"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me."

I love the idea that Christ took hold of me – me! – so that I might, in turn, complete the circle by fulfilling the purpose in life that He has for me. I see both God's grace expressed towards me, and my active response to that grace. It gives me a continual sense of hope and purpose.

69. Martin Goldsmith Bible Verse: **Ephesians 2:6** Raised up with Christ

International speaker, teacher and missiologist, Martin Goldsmith is a Jewish Christian who trained as a Russian interpreter. He and his wife Elizabeth served for ten years with OMF in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Thailand. With Elizabeth they then had 24 years on the staff of All Nations Christian College and also developed a wide speaking, teaching and preaching ministry both around Britain and in many countries in all continents. Both Martin and Elisabeth have written several books.

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

In the amazing context of God’s grace towards ordinary sinful people like us we rejoice in the gift of a totally new life with a new beginning through and in the resurrection of Jesus. The old life we had before has passed away and everything has become new with a new start. And that is not all! We already have been joined to Jesus Christ in such a way that we are already “seated with Him in the heavenly realms.” We already have one foot in glory together with Jesus, so the future too is assured.

70. Patrick Johnstone Bible Verse: **2 Timothy 2:2** Four generations

Patrick has been involved in Missions most of his life, first with the Dorothea Mission and then with WEC International. He is the founder of the Operation World ministry, one of the most comprehensive prayer information tools available.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will be qualified to teach others.”

The four generations indicated that Paul wanted to impact. The test of any ministry is only proven by the vision and message reaching the fourth generation. My whole ministry must be geared to pass on to others who can pass on to others. It is the guiding principle of any ministry I undertake.

71. Eddie Arthur Bible Verse: **2 Timothy 2:2** The long tradition

Executive director of Wycliffe Bible Translators, then seconded to Global Connections. My wife Sue and I were part of the team who translated the New Testament into the Kouya language of Ivory Coast.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will be qualified to teach others.”

This reminds me both of my personal call as a Christian leader, but also helps me to remember the long tradition of Christians who have faithfully passed the Gospel on down through the generations, till someone told my brother who went on to tell me.

The Bible: the story everybody needs. Wycliffe Bible Translators believe that the Bible is the best way for people to come to know and understand who God is. Our vision is that by working with churches, organisations and individuals from around the world all people will have access to God's word in a language that they truly understand.

72. Gavin Calver Bible Verse: **Romans 8:31** God is for us

Gavin Calver was the National Director of Youth for Christ - a ministry working with over 250,000 young people a month in schools, prisons and churches - before being appointed as CEO of the Evangelical Alliance. He is a theology graduate, ordained evangelist, author of several books and regular public speaker. Gavin is married to Anne; they have 2 children - Amelie and Daniel.

“If God is for us who can be against us?”

I love it as it is a reminder that the Lord is on our side and that with Him, we are special, and anything is possible.

73. Martin Lee Bible Verse: **John 3:30** He must become greater

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

As a young man, I was totally inspired by the story of Jim Elliott and his martyrdom reaching out to the Auca people in Ecuador who had never heard the Good News. My own journey in Christian ministry was so easy by comparison – leading a successful and growing ministry, satisfaction at a job being done well and probably a sense of... well God must be pretty pleased with me and all I have done for Him! Then suddenly it all changed: funds got tight, key staff moved on to other agencies, one of my teams got thrown out of a key country... The list was endless. At the same time other ministries which I had worked closely alongside continued to prosper, both in size and people, often with MY people. What was God playing at?

I remember one day just feeling so distressed. Why had God allowed all this? I was upset because MY ministry was struggling while others seemed to be prospering. I had been faithful, generous, kind, giving away what was good to others...

I am not of a particularly charismatic bent, but God seemed to speak almost audibly to me that day. “He must become greater; I must become less”. What was my real motivation – that I might be acclaimed by others, be praised for my ministry, for what I had done? Why couldn’t I rejoice that God was blessing other ministries more than mine? Why didn’t I want that and praise God that His Kingdom was being extended?

That verse helped me to be released completely from the prison of acclaim, the life sapping death of pride, the black night of envy. Suddenly I came to my senses. Yes, I wanted God’s kingdom extended above all else, even if that meant God blessed other ministries more than my own, even if it meant mine would become less.

Jim Elliott himself had learnt that same lesson well before his sad and violent death. Perhaps the most inspiring book I have ever read is by his wife called **These Strange Ashes**. Not a bestseller like “Through Gates of Splendour” but deep sharing of their early experiences of ministry, and the realisation that the way of Christian ministry is not about me and my ministry, but “He must become greater; I must become less.”

Lord, make me someone who seeks Your glory above all else and praises you in the work of others, even my competitors.

“As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.” (C S Lewis in Mere Christianity).

74. Paul and Carol Lukins Bible Verse: **Romans 15:13** Banner of hope

With children Jonathan, Benjamin, Ellena and Kate, Paul and Carol are members of the mission agency SIM International, working in Ethiopia since 2001.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Working with the nomadic Mursi people in Ethiopia has been a challenge to our family, but we are thrilled to have witnessed God at work as He grows His church from amongst this tribe, just as He has in our home country. Some Chinese young people who had experienced work amongst the Mursi made and sent to us a banner declaring this verse. The banner has adorned our living room wall for the last ten years as a constant reminder that God’s promises are true, and that only His Spirit can empower us with joy and hope to keep living for Him.

75. Stuart Fitch Bible Verse: **John 15:16** Fruit that will last

Pilot - initially for thirteen years in the RAF and latterly for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) having lived in Kenya, South Africa and the UK.

MAF Mission: Sharing the love of Jesus Christ through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed.

MAF Vision: That all people have access to both the Gospel and the resources that advance God’s Kingdom.

“You did not call me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

As a 16-year-old just finishing high school, I had a strong desire to join the RAF and become a pilot. I knew this would not be easy and I didn’t want to do it unless it was God’s will for my life. This verse was given to me as a confirmation of God’s calling on my life to serve Him and as an encouragement that He had a plan for me and He had done the choosing, not the other way round! This verse has sustained me as I have followed my Saviour’s call on my life through flying in the RAF, seeing active service in Afghanistan and the Balkans, to flying small aircraft for MAF in Africa helping to transform people’s lives in Christ’s name. It is a constant reminder to me of the living, constantly relevant and immutable nature of God’s Word.

76. Alan Tower Bible Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:18** Reconciliation with God

Director of International Friends, formerly International Team Leader of Latin Link; worked in Bolivia for six years, born in 1964 and became a Christian aged 19 soon after starting university, having met Christian young people in Australia the previous year.

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.”

I would go for 2 Corinthians 5:18. God's reconciling us to Himself through Christ's death transforms our motivation so that we become part of God's ministry looking to see others reconciled to Him. For me, the theme of our reconciliation with God at His initiative is beyond anything I deserve and gives me hope for transformed human relationships too. That God wants to involve us in seeing other people reconciled with Him, and human individuals and communities reconciled as a sign of His work among us, is right at the heart of what we understand about God and His purposes for us.

77. Mike Wall Bible Verse: **Galatians 6:9** Do not give up

Formerly principal of All Nations College, whose purpose is to train and equip men and women for effective participation in God's mission to His multicultural world.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

I would choose Galatians 6:9. When I was the leader of Across (a mission agency working in South Sudan) during the civil war years we had so many struggles with famine, war, bombing and sickness that this promise kept me going. Now I can see real fruit from that labour and some of the Sudanese Christians we trained and disciplined are now in strategic church or even national leadership positions.

78. Paul Bendor-Samuel Bible Verse: **Hebrews 11:8** By faith

Doctor, served in Tunisia, North Africa for twelve years and mission leader with Interserve based in Kuala Lumpur.

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

In 1987 my wife and I finished postgraduate medical training and were offered jobs. The Lord spoke to me through this verse, confirming a long-standing sense that God was calling us to serve Him in overseas mission. We had no idea where that would be, but God led us first to Bible college (All Nations Christian College) and then to Tunisia. Despite serving in a context with very little visible spiritual fruit, this verse has been a constant reminder and promise that God will have an inheritance in that beautiful country.

79. Steve Brady Bible Verse: **Hebrews 12:2** Fix our eyes on Jesus

Former Principal of Moorlands College, a Christian training institute, and an itinerant preacher. Now involved in pastoral work overseas.

“Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”

I looked in so many places to find peace with God. But none of them provided it till I looked to Jesus as my only hope. For me, the key to pleasing God each day is still the same: fixing my eyes not on my own meagre resources and many weaknesses but on Christ and His all-sufficient grace to see me through.

80. Ian Bunce Bible Verse: **Ephesians 3:20-21** Immeasurably more

Baptist Minister, church planter and Head of Mission for the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

If our vision does not frighten us, it is not big enough! Lean on God – He can do it, through you. This causes us to take bigger risks for the greater things that are to come.

81. Martin Whaley Bible Verse: **Hebrews 12:1-2** Cloud of witnesses

Senior Minister of Wealdstone Baptist Church, London.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

I love sport, and there are many sporting analogies that can be found in this passage. One thing that always stands out to me however is this idea of the “cloud of witnesses.” They are those listed in Hebrews 11 who are now in the Church’s “Hall of Fame.” Those great Old Testament characters who faithfully set an example to us. They have since been joined by Peter, Paul, Timothy, Lydia, and all those New Testament servants of faith, plus every Minister, Vicar, Sunday school teacher, Missionary, Deacon, Bible study leader, church member, and every believer who has served the Lord in every generation since. Somewhere in that Hall of Fame is a space on the wall where my picture will be hung when I have finished my race and handed the baton on to the next generation...that inspires me!

82. Christoph Lindner Bible Verse: **Revelation 3:20** Light of the World

Formerly associate pastor at St James Church, Gerrards Cross, now rector of Denham. I am married to Edda, a worshipper, teacher and - living with Cystic Fibrosis and being in my mid-forties - pretty much a Methuselah.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

This is the verse I received at my confirmation, aged thirteen. The shared meal speaks powerfully of the intimate friendship Jesus offers. Holman Hunt’s painting of the verse (“The Light of the World”) shows a door with no handle on the outside - we have to welcome Jesus in!

83. Jeremy Brooks Bible Verse: **Song of Solomon 8:6-7** Love as strong as death

Team Rector, Beaconsfield Church of England Team Ministry

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.” (RSV)

This was part of the passage that was read at our wedding, and I have preached from it at numerous weddings since. It is a reminder of the power of love which is at the heart of humanity, and points us to the love of God. In this passage – and indeed in the whole book of Song of Solomon – some Christians have found an extraordinary parallel for God’s love for them and theirs for God, that takes them as deep as they can be into the love of God.

84. Abraham Nam Jung Bible Verse: **Genesis 17:5** Abraham

Pastor Abraham is from South Korea. He is Senior Associate Pastor of the London Full Gospel Church, Raynes Park – an international Church of some 25 nationalities.

“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.”

My favourite verse is Genesis 17:5. I was given this Bible name in 1989 when I was pastor of a student group in Pusan, South Korea. The leader gave me the name – it was a prophetic name, on receiving my missionary call to be an evangelist, and to be bold in going out from Korea. I came to Bible College in London, as I knew about London’s strategic importance in the world, and this verse is still being fulfilled today in my present role as pastor of a fully international Church. The verse reminds me to thank God.

85. Marjorie Griffin Bible Verse: **Philippians 4:6-7** The peace of God

After attending Mount Hermon Bible College, Marjorie worked for the Probation Service and was in charge of a hostel for girls on probation. Many years later two of those girls still came regularly to visit her, grateful for the input she had into their lives. She was a member of Wycliffe Baptist Church (Reading, Berkshire) for over 80 years, and in her time served as both deacon and elder. Positive and full of joy to the end, she passed away at the age of 104.

“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Marjorie wrote for me: I suppose crisis comes to us all at some time in our lives, and it came to me many years ago, when everything seemed to look hopeless and difficult, and I found it almost impossible to talk to God. Then one day as I looked in my Bible, a verse caught my eye in St Paul’s letter to the Philippians and I knew or was reminded then, that was the answer to all my worries and fears. I think too that “with thanksgiving” was something I sometimes forgot to include in my prayers! Now I know where to turn to in order to experience His “Peace”!

86. Andrew Waugh Bible Verse: **Psalms 34:4** I sought the Lord

Baptist Minister, now retired.

“I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.”

God saved me in 1975 through Campus Crusade for Christ (now Agape). They trained me to give my testimony in three minutes and end it with a Bible verse. This is it, because it sums up what happened and how, because of Jesus, I’m not the fearful person I used to be.

87. Graeme FairbairnBible verse: **2 Corinthians 12:9**

Perfect in weakness

Graeme has combined a professional career as a chartered engineer with church leadership in several churches, including being lead pastor at Wycliffe Baptist Church in Reading for a number of years.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

As a teenager I was asked to speak about “my favourite verse.” I chose 2 Corinthians 12:9 – “my grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” This has stuck with me. We think we can make it on our own, but actually we can't. And it's only when the pressure is on that we realise that God provides grace to meet our every need.

88. Pete LowmanBible Verse: **Joshua 1:2b-8**

Be strong and courageous

Pastor and author, oversaw the pioneering of the CU movement in European Russia.

“Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them – to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates – all the Hittite country – to the Great Sea on the west. No-one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Got lots of favourites but a key one is Joshua 1:2b-8. At the start of the book of victories it embodies what makes God's people victorious – solid, realistic faith in God's presence (verse 2,5), dreaming big dreams as a result (verse 3-4), God's global vision as the big-picture for our advances locally (verse 4), passion for 'this book'(verse 8), and passion to live by it (verse 7)!

89. Philip HolderBible Verse: **Galatians 2:20**

United with Jesus

I served in the Philippines as a missionary planting churches with OMF International for 25 years. On returning to the UK I was a minister of Wycliffe Baptist Church, Reading, until retirement, but then served for three years as chaplain and lecturer in Christianity in Gyosei International College in the UK, a large college of Japanese students in Reading who studied for qualifications and degrees, mainly with a British university. Since then with my wife*, we continued working with overseas students in Reading.

*After Margaret passed away, Phil later married again, and continues discipling many people from all around the world, including online. Countless people consider him their spiritual father.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

My verse is Galatians 2:20 because it tells me that I am united with Jesus for ever. This is one of the most profound, most stimulating, comforting and exhilarating truths of Scripture. I want to understand and experience what this means more and more.

I understand that before I received Jesus as my Saviour I was in the fallen, human family. I was in Adam. But now, I am saved from sin and death and all the dreadful consequences of being “in Adam” because He loved me as an individual and gave Himself for me. Now by faith I am united to Him. This has extraordinary implications, for it means that I was crucified with Him and I have been “raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly realms.” He now lives in me. It is clear to me that being a Christian is so much more than receiving things from God – the forgiveness of sins and eternal life – it is being a new person because I am united to Jesus. His life in me transforms my daily life.

90. David Fewster Bible Verse: **Psalm 31:15 John 20:27** In His hands

David, with his wife, was a missionary in Thailand for many years. Back in the UK he founded the International Christian Fellowship of Wrexham, but then in his 80s returned as a widower to Thailand for another few years to teach English. He is back in the UK now.

“My times are in your hands.” (Psalm 31:15)

In August 2021 I was faced with an operation to remove the lower lobe of my left lung to deal with the cancer there. We were told I had a 1 in 50 chance of not surviving the operation because of age and another issue in the lung. God was so good to me by impressing on me two verses: Ps.31:15 “My times are in Your hands” and John 20:27 “See, My hands,” said to doubting Thomas. I had perfect peace when I went into the hospital because I knew I was in the powerful hands of the Creator of the universe, and in the hands, with their nail marks, of the One who loved me so much that He died for me. I felt it was a win-win situation; either I would wake up in hospital after the operation and so could continue to see my family, or I would wake up in heaven where I would be forever.

91. Louis Sutton Bible Verse: **Isaiah 55:1-2** Your soul will delight

Physician. Delighted follower of Jesus. Worked in medical missions among Muslims in Chad for thirteen years that they might know joy in Christ. More recently International Director of WEC based in Singapore.

“Why... labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me... and your soul will delight...”

The Lord used this verse to turn my deepest motivations from “duty based” to “delight based.” Not that I always delight in every task, but increasingly my eyes are being opened to the amazing joy of knowing Christ and living for Him. And hopefully, as my soul authentically delights in Christ, then the value and worthiness of Christ becomes all the more evident to others.

92. John Bagg Bible Verse: **Colossians 3:10-11** To know Christ

Formerly Director of WEC UK & Ireland; now with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

This verse summarises my desire as a Christian – to know the person of Christ more deeply and intimately. The seeking of, and obedience to, His leading is a crucial part of this process – if we will follow Him wherever He takes us then, through circumstances and trials, He will deepen our knowledge and personal experience of Him – amazing!

93. Dieter Kuhl Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Temple of the Holy Spirit

Medical doctor, Bible school teacher, former International Director of WEC International and former Regional Director of WEC International for the Middle East and North Africa.

“Do you not know your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”

My favourite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. The two verses contain the Gospel and its specific consequences for my life in a nutshell – Jesus died for me. I am no longer my own but His. Therefore – worship, holiness and witness. This is possible, because the Holy Spirit lives in me.

94. Hans Walter Schütze Bible Verse: **John 1:6** A man sent from God

German, member of WEC International since 1984. Hans and his wife Rosemarie have given oversight to WEC’s activities in North, Central and South America. Together with their two sons they have been residing in Brazil since 1989.

“There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.”

This verse is both simple and profound, as many things that God does. Any man, with a name as common as John, coming from somewhere, can do something significant in this world. The reason: because he is sent from God. The sender makes all the difference.

95. Jan Bovey Bible Verse: **Hebrews 13:5 Deuteronomy 31:6** Never will I leave you

My early profession was as a bank officer. My husband and I have been working with WEC International (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ) since 1991, in three countries in Asia.

**“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
“...for the Lord God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

In 1991 when my husband and I were preparing to go to Nepal with our 10-month-old daughter, the Lord gave us these verses as a promise. No matter where we would be or what we would face He would always be with us and we could trust in Him at all times. We can say after all these years that He has kept His promise. We have faced many challenging and even life-threatening situations, and at all time we felt safe and had a peace that is beyond our understanding because of tangible presence of the Lord with us.

96. Norman Cuthbert Bible Verse: **Exodus 33:14** God’s presence

Missionary with WEC international for many years, working in Guinea Bissau and Ireland.

“The Lord replied, ‘My presence will go with you and I will give you rest.’”

This verse was given to me shortly before going to Bible College. God’s promise that has kept me on track all through my life.

97. Steve and Coralie Preston

Coralie Bible Verse: **Philippians 4:13** Through Him who gives me strength

Primary school teacher, member of the mission agency WEC International (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ), based in Spain and more recently in Australia.

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

I was a young university student who had gained some live-in employment as a boarding house mistress. The night before I was due to begin my first shift, I was petrified of the 30+ teenage girls waiting for me up the hallway. I picked up my Bible and the bookmark I had been using for a long time fell out. For the first time I embraced the words written on it which were from Philippians 4:13 and it became my life verse for each new situation the Lord has led me into thereafter.

Steve Bible Verse: **1 Samuel 30:6** Strength in the Lord

Primary and high school music teacher, member of the mission agency WEC International (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ), based in Spain and more recently Australia.

“But David found strength in the Lord, his God.”

David, the psalmist, had many mountain-top experiences; however he also went through deep valleys where he faced discouragement, temptation and cried out to God on many occasions for Him to come to his aid. This has been an encouragement to me to realise that my strength needs to be in God alone – He is the one who sustains me and carries me through the challenging times. What an encouragement!

98. Peter Clark Bible Verse: **Galatians 2:20** Live by faith

An American who lived for many years in a village in the Russian hinterland; English teacher and community developer.

**“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”**

The longer I dwell on this verse, the deeper and more profound it becomes. It is more than identification with Christ – it is union with Christ that is founded, not on my own tepid and fickle love, but upon Jesus' unshakable, unchanging love and sacrifice for me. And now by this grace I can partake in the divine nature, because the Divine has deigned to abide in me, and invites me to abide in Him.

99. Nicola Brown Bible Verse: **2 Chronicles 20:12b** Our eyes are upon You

Nurse/midwife, member of mission agency WEC International in the Gambia for 26 years, including as team leader. More recently involved in mobilising ministry in the UK. Now retired.

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

I frequently find myself in difficult situations, or others bring their overwhelming problems to me and I feel helpless. Just as King Jehoshaphat turned to God, I also can bring my burdens to Him so that He can work it out as seems best to Him.

100. Meg LapworthBible Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord

My name is Meg Lapworth, known to some as Margaret; a nurse; joined WEC an interdenominational missionary society in January 1961 and lived and worked in French West Africa until 1995, apart from seven years in the 80s when in UK for secondary education of our four boys. Now a widow and retired. *Meg remarried in her 80s and went to be with the Lord in 2020.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

She wrote to me: I’m writing back straight away as there is no doubt about the verse that God has reminded me of so many times! The verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. It’s important to me because I’m prone to doubt and want to know the whys and wherefores.

The Lapworth family

The Lapworths have lived and served God in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Senegal and the UK. In Senegal with WEC International, they were involved with outreach amongst the Wolof people, leadership of the team in the north of Senegal, and Ruth managed the WEC finances. The children attended Bourafaye Christian School, the WEC missionary school in Senegal. Paul is one of the “four boys” mentioned above by his mother.

Paul LapworthBible Verse: **Exodus 19:4-6**

On eagles’ wings

“You yourselves have seen what I did in Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all the nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”

It’s hard to choose a verse as it’s like being passed a box of your favourite chocolates and having to choose just one! I’ve chosen these verses because they inspire me every time I read them. They remind me about who God is, what He is like, what we as His people mean to Him and His plans and purposes for us.

Ruth LapworthBible Verse: **Psalms 139:9-10**

Wings of the dawn

“If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

As an 18-year-old I had a ‘gap year’ in France and these verses were given to me by several people as I prepared to leave home. That year was crucial for the development of my faith and for learning to trust God for myself. These verses have continued to be an encouragement to me throughout my life, reminding me that wherever I am in the world God is holding me fast and guiding me.

Simeon LapworthBible Verse: **Psalms 139:5-6**

Your hand upon me

“You hem me in – behind and before, you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”

I chose this passage because it explains that God is always with me and He knows everything I have done and ever will do.

Emma Lapworth Bible Verse: **Philippians 4:13** Through Christ

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

I like this verse because it reminds me that if I believe in Jesus I can do anything, no matter how hard it is.

Lucy Lapworth Bible Verse: **Psalms 23 (particularly verse 1)** My Shepherd

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.”

I chose this because it reminds me that God is always with me and looks after me like a shepherd.

Plus...

Paul Harvey Bible Verse: **Psalms 31:15** My times

**“I trust in you, I say: ‘You are my God.’
My times are in Your hands.”**

This was the first verse that “jumped off the page” at me after I became a Christian, aged 22. The first time, then, that I was aware God could speak directly to me through His Word. It assured me that all my times were in His hands – my past, present and future times; morning, noon and night; the good times and the not-so-good. Four decades later, my times are still in His hands.

Rose Harvey Bible Verse: **Proverbs 4:23** The wellspring of life

“Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

This verse reminds me of my daily walk with the Lord. God has given us responsibility as custodians of our own hearts, so we must constantly commit ourselves to His will, submitting all our ways and decisions to Him.

Eleanor Harvey Bible Verse: **James 1:17** The Father of the heavenly lights

**“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the
Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”**

This verse captures the majesty and awe of God, His eternity and reality. I like how it contrasts heavenly lights (the splendour of the galaxies and colours) with shifting shadows (dark schemes and the devil’s trickery) and how God remains Himself in both – radiant in the brilliance yet unphased by the darkness.

Miriam Harvey Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 6:4** **Mark 12:30** Love the Lord

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength.”**

I like this verse because it is a good example of Jesus quoting the Old Testament. Both Deuteronomy and Jesus are reiterating the First Commandment to love the Lord our God.

**And finally....if you're not sure whether the words written
in these Bible verses come from God, consider this...**

“This book (the Bible) had to be written by one of three people:
good men, bad men or God.
It couldn't have been written by good men because they said it was inspired
by the revelation of God. Good men don't lie and deceive.
It couldn't have been written by bad men because bad men would
not write something that would condemn themselves.
It leaves only one conclusion.
It was given by divine inspiration of God.”
(John Wesley)

**Your feedback is welcomed at
paulmh247@gmail.com**

Why not send me your own favourite Bible verse with
a brief profile and reason for your verse choice?
Who knows, in time we may have enough for
BIBLEVERSE 100 Volume 2

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PaulMH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the letters.