

## HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB AT NETTLEFIELD *continued*

- Enough Volunteers
- Connections made for Explore & Sunday School recommencing in September, DV
- Glory of God in all we seek to do.

We really need more help, so please see Heather or get your name on the rota today! Thank you!"

### Proverbs 3v5&6.



### MEETINGS TODAY

- Morning Worship – 11.30am:  
18th Message in the Galatians Series:  
“The Ministry of Burden Bearing:  
Buttressing – Not Breaking – Those Bruised Reeds.”
- Evening Service – 7.00pm:  
“Detective Work on a Divine Wonder!”

### INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“Reader! It is among the highest proofs that the Spirit of Christ dwells in us when like Christ we show forth tenderness and compassion to the infirmities of His mystical body. And surely as the apostle adds, a consciousness of our own liability to error, becomes an unanswerable motive to be tender to the errors of others.” [Robert Hawker]

TO THE UNCONVERTED:

“... the heart sinks under the burden. Now what are you going to do? Time does not lessen the weakness. Waiting is not likely in any way to mend matters. This burden of want, of weakness, of fear is exactly what you have to roll off upon the Lord. Boldly go to Him and say, ‘Lord Jesus, Thou hast come into this world to save me. I am very needy and very foolish, but Thou knowest what I want; and Thou knowest all that I shall ever want. And now, Lord Jesus, I am just going to let Thee save me, now and always.’” [Mark G. Pearse]



### HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB AT NETTLEFIELD

An excellent door of opportunity has opened for us at Nettlefield Primary School to conduct an Explore Holiday Bible Club. Led by our Children’s Worker, Mr Phil Hartin, the dates are Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August 2018 at 2.30–4.00pm each day.

Notes Phil: “Just two weeks to go until the week commences. This is an amazing opportunity to serve Christ by reaching out to local boys and girls with the gospel. Let us **redouble our efforts in prayer** for the following:

- Good response
- Salvation
- Safety
- Final preparations with Nettlefield Primary School



## THE MINISTRY OF BURDEN BEARING

Text: **Galatians 6:1-5.**

American novelist Tim O'Brien published (1990) a collection of linked short stories about a platoon of American soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. It was based upon his own experiences as a soldier in the 23rd Infantry Division when he served in

Vietnam. He called it, 'The Things They Carried.'

The apostle Paul addresses a similar issue in another practical part of this epistle – 'The Ministry of Burden Bearing.'

### [1] THE MINISTRY OF BURDEN BEARING – AT THE BASELINE; 6:1.

The basic thought is: if someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him or her; you might need forgiveness before the day is out.

**(a) THE TRAPS THE SAINTS FEAR:** The term "*fault*" means to fall beside or near something – lit. "*a step to the side*", a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness; while "*overtaken*" refers to cases of surprise, or of sudden temptation. Having slipped from truth and righteousness, this person is now sinking in this sin and its consequences; now snared by it. Sin always entangles.

**(b) THE TASK THE SAINTS FACE:** Those who are walking in the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit, and keeping in step with the Spirit must do this work of "*restoring*" = to repair or "put in order", but can also mean "perfect" or "make complete." Any dealing with sin should always have restoration in mind.

**(c) THE TEMPLATE THE SAINTS FOLLOW:** "*Meekness*" is part of the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:23**; cf. **2 Timothy 2:24-26**). The word "*restore*" was used for setting a broken bone and for mending a fishing net. Our Lord responded with gentleness to those trapped in sin (cf. **John 4; 8**).

**(d) THE TREMOR THE SAINTS FEEL:** This work of restoration must be approached carefully. As we engage, we must remain aware that we all stumble in many things (**James 3:2**); we too can so easily fall (**1 Corinthians 10:12**).

(cf. doctor washing hands to prevent spread of infections).

### [2] THE MINISTRY OF BURDEN BEARING – AS IT BROADENS; 6:2-3.

While undeniably similar, there are significant differences between **6:1** and **6:2**. The apostle extends the scope of our burden bearing – so that it includes not only restoring the fallen but ministering to those hurting for whatever reason.

**(a) THE PERSONS IN THE BEARING OF THIS BURDEN.** General William Booth sent a one-word message to a large convention of Army workers and volunteers: "*Others!*"

**(b) THE PARTICULARS OF THE BEARING OF THIS BURDEN.** Paul does not focus on what the burden is or where it comes from; this overwhelming load that causes us to stagger along the highway of life represents any number of things.

**(c) THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE BEARING OF THIS BURDEN.** To fulfil "*the law of Christ*" is to live out grace – love the Lord and love your neighbour as yourself (**Luke 10:27**).

**(d) THE PRIDE AGAINST THE BEARING OF THIS BURDEN.** Paul draws attention to our susceptibility to fall foul of pride when we see our brother or sister suffering. Aesop said that every man carries two bags over his shoulder: the bag hanging on his back carries his sins; the bag hanging in front contains his neighbours' sins. Humility is the key to success.

### [3] THE MINISTRY OF BURDEN BEARING – WITH ITS BALANCE; 6:4-5.

**(a) THE DELINEATION OF OUR MINISTRY:** All who follow Christ have a duty (i) with respect to others, **1-3**; (ii) and with respect to ourselves, **4-5**. We must (a.) test our own work against God's standard, not against the moral failure of someone else (cf. **Luke 18:9-14**); plus (b.) bear our own burden.

**(b) THE DIFFERENTIATION WITHIN OUR MINISTRY:** Paul uses 2 different Greek words for "*burden*": in **6:2** it is an overwhelming burden [boulder] that we cannot carry by ourselves; in **6:5** it approximates to a soldier's backpack. Christ fills our backpack with gracious supplies for the journey (**Matthew 11:30**); He also provides the strength to help others with their 'boulder burdens.' This ministry is all about Him!

**(c) THE DIRECTOR OF OUR MINISTRY:** Christ is the ultimate Burden Bearer: the "things He carried" include our sins (**Heb. 9:26**; **1 Pet. 3:18**; **Isa. 53:6**); our sorrows (**Psa. 55:22**).