

SWM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - THE NEW NORMAL



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Sis Odette Kpessou

Endure – Joy awaits 2020!

What a year! So many challenges, so many upheaval, so many crises but yet there have been so many blessings, so many opportunities and so many new beginnings. I have heard it said so often from many that they want to cancel 2020 because it has been a horrific year.

I can understand the thinking behind such feelings but as I ponder this my mind is taken to the birth of a new-born baby. I had the opportunity to partner with a friend as she gave birth to her first child. When I saw her response to the excruciating pain she was in, I had a very strong desire to be able to bear some of the pain for her (well that was after I chuckled silently at some of her antics). I saw the pain and hurt etched in her face as her body contorted to bring that bundle of joy into the world. I heard the agony in her voice and felt the tight grip of her hand. But I also saw strength and courage as she pushed and travailed to bring new life into being. When that bundle of joy was held in her arms it seemed as if an artist had taken a brush and painted over the pain and agony felt just a mere few moments before. Instead of the grimace and anguish creasing the face, joy shone from her eyes and a darling smile bright as the noon day sun beamed from her face. She was happiness personified.

SONG OF THE MOMENT:

'Voice of God' -
Dante Bowe Feat.
Steffany Gretzinga &
Chandler Moore



And the joy she felt I guess could not be compared to the anguish and pain felt before. The year 2020 has brought a lot of bewilderment, pain and loss. There have been moments when it seemed as if the whole world was contorted; bowed low beneath the strain of the many disasters.

However, I am convinced that if we only wait and allow the Lord to give us the courage and strength to endure, we will see the fruits of our travail. We will see the new births it brought. 2 Corinthians 4:17 tells that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. It seems very hard and difficult now but be encouraged my sisters and my brothers. It is a process and painful though it be, joy awaits us. God is faithful and he is able to turn that which seems to harm us into everlasting joy.

God bless.

2020 LOCK-IN : THE LOCKDOWN EDITION REVIEW

Sis Lorna Logan-John

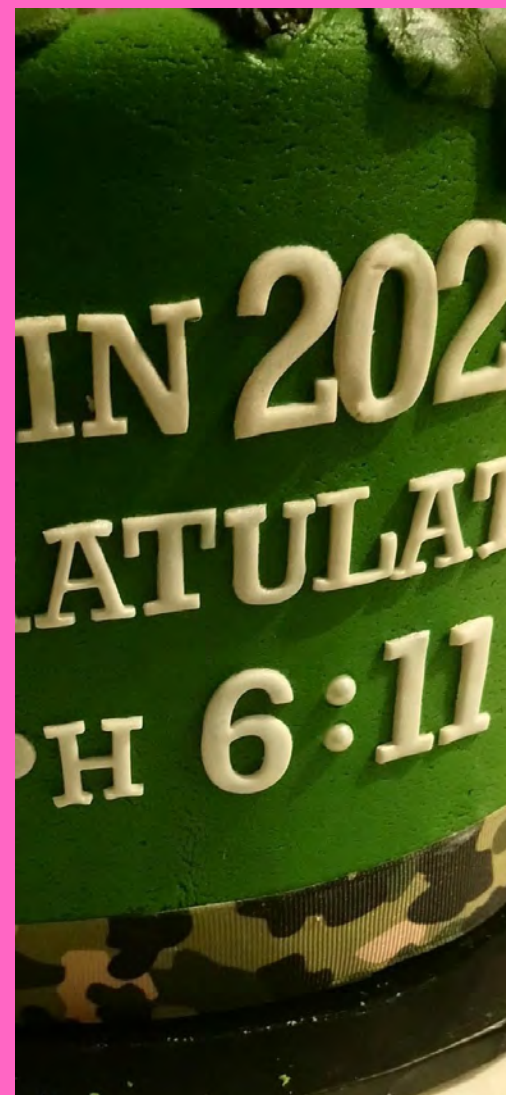
This year a daunting question lingered and uneased the organisers; could the Lock-In aims be met virtually? The question could only be answered by a strategic 'stepping out' in faith.

Today we give Almighty God much thanks for His guidance, grace and holy presence because the answer was 'indeed it could be!' On the 19th, 26th September 2020 and 3rd October 2020 another safe, nurturing and supportive place existed, this time online, where the will of God was explored without the dark cloud of condemnation. It was governed by rules of confidentiality and love and facilitated by the bold, courageous and caring. The participants were able to discuss 'Masturbation and sexual morality', 'LGBTQ and the Church community' and 'BLM: A race within the Race'.

The 6am morning devotions were as beautiful backdrops displaying dedication, commitment, discipline and sweet fellowship.

Tickets went very quickly this year. We were tempted to produce more as we faced an influx of disappointment from those unable to secure a place. But we did not. We had a greater commitment. A commitment to intimacy. We will continue to be committed to this integral aspect of the Lock-In and so we encourage you to register without delay when the date for the LOCK-IN : AFTER PARTY is announced to avoid disappointment. Until then soldiers, remember "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason /defend the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15)

More information about the lock in can be found
https://youtu.be/vpFHEB8vrb8_



NEW NORMAL

Missionary Issac - Senior Member of COG
(seventh day) Croydon, Derby Road

Lockdown 2020.....for me lockdown 2020 came with great trepidation, in December 2019 during the Christmas week to be precise I became extremely ill. It began with a horrific headache that refused to go even with painkillers, leading to a persistent cough. This prompted me to call my daughter she advised me to call 111, who in turn sent an ambulance to my home and I was taken to Croydon University Hospital. At the hospital a few tests were conducted and at around 3.30am a young doctor spoke to me and said there was nothing wrong to go home, if I felt any worse to call 111. So my daughter drove me home.

Within a week I was rushed to St George's Hospital. I could hardly stand up all my joints were weak. I wasn't able to speak clearly I remember a nurse in the ambulance asking me what year it was and I replied 1983 and not 2019. At the Hospital they took blood tests, chest X-rays and monitored my heart. When the result came back I was told that I had a chest infection. I questioned the nurse what it was and she said I had a virus and I would be given a course of antibiotics for seven days.

Trying to piece events together is really hard even now I struggle at times, I found it difficult to read the Bible openly.

To concentrate even cooking a meal, standing for a long time became hard for me. On two occasions I fainted at my daughters home whereby she and my son-in-law had to assist me back into bed. Using the bath was nigh impossible I could climb into the bath but could not raise myself to climb out I slid back into the water on numerous occasions.

I am truly thankful to God for giving me wonderful children my daughter, son in law, even my son insisted I stayed at my daughters home until I was fully recovered. From one of my recollections it was said that this illness would take a long while to get over and boy has it taken time. I stayed at my families home from December 2019 until February 2020. For all my brethren who wanted to come and visit me during those dark days and couldn't I apologise it was inconvenient but thank you for all your sincere prayers and calls.

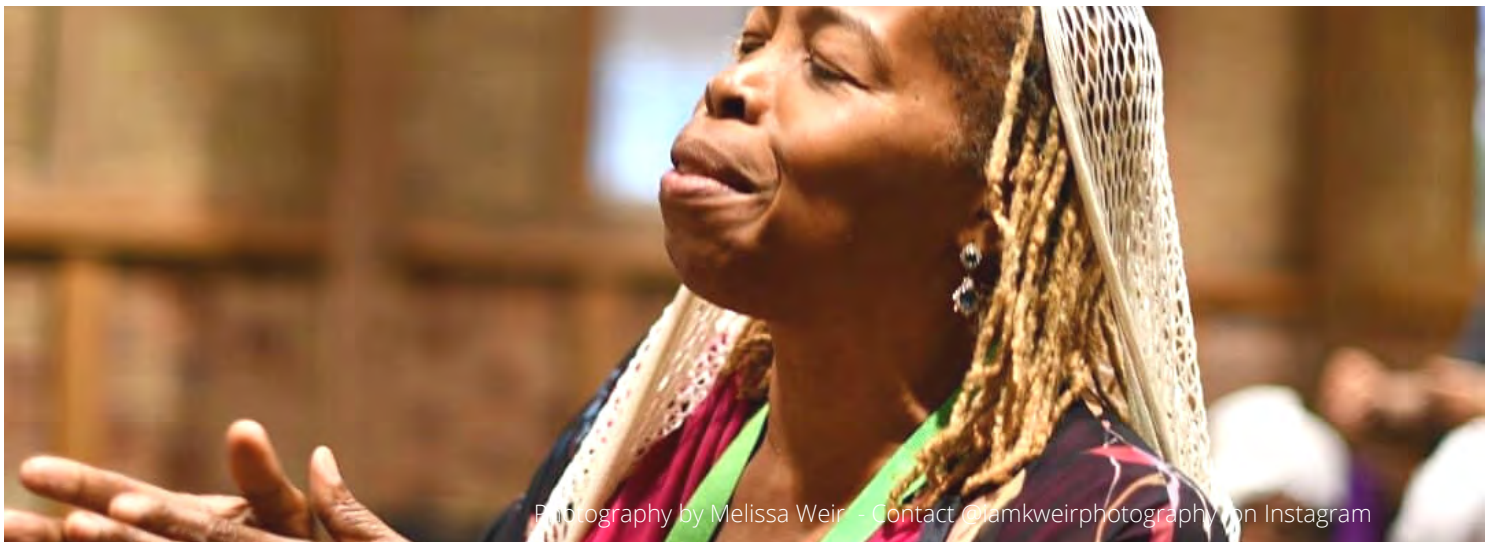
I now go on to mention the groundwork of the Church of God seventh Day. God is using his people despite Coronavirus now called COVID-19 to network and bring people together. I am able to pray with my brethren near and far, thanks to Pastor Collin Harrison and the COG UK prayer ministry we can reach the shut-ins, the lonely and bereaved, this list goes on and on it's just great. How can I forget the Technology Department they have truly worked hard in allowing all of us to support each other. We have heard messages from Pastor Reid in Jamaica 'Don't feed Satan' and others have responded to the call in various ways and blessed my soul.

Our God is a way maker miracle-worker light in the darkness!

In concluding did I like lockdown? Absolutely not! But as my son says to me often times "It is what it is" meaning we cannot change things. We may not know but I know one who can change things In His own time, according to Ecclesiastes chapter 3 : 'A time for everything, and this too shall pass!'

Remain focused on the prize at the end of the race saints.

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair." - 2 Corinthians 4:1 KJV



Photography by Melissa Weir - Contact @iamkweirphotography on Instagram



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DEVOTION

Great Expectations - A time to build

Most of us have expectations. By the time we leave childhood behind, we are planning our futures, looking forward to the next stage in life that will, hopefully, secure us the lifestyle we dream of. We want good exam results, a place at uni or college, maybe fit in some travel too. We'd like to get our first car. We're aiming for good degrees and a fulfilling career. We'd love to meet our soulmate, marry, buy a home, raise a family. Nice holidays and leisure pursuits would be a bonus too. Then again, we might have different aspirations. Perhaps a role that changes the world and improves the lot of humankind. Or discovering or inventing something that will have far reaching benefits for everyone. Whatever our ambitions, most of us have at least some idea of what our futures might hold.

All well and good. But there are no guarantees we'll get our hearts' desires, despite our best efforts. This present Post-Christian world is an increasingly unstable place to be. We cannot be sure that when we go shopping or traveling, we'll be safe, that our jobs are secure, our pensions reliable or our money safe in the bank. New diseases raise their heads. Terror stalks the earth. Standards slide and shift. Doctors' prescriptions for anxiety, which has been described as fear spread thin, reach new levels.

But in the midst of all this, there is a safe place to be, a rock on which to stand secure, the rock Jesus Christ, who came into the world to live as a man and redeem us by his death. When we decide to follow him, we know that we are safe—not in the sense that nothing bad will ever happen to us, but secure in the knowledge that in every storm, every joy or sorrow, good times and bad, he is with us and will never leave us. His love endures for ever and will never change. And he has a perfect plan for each one, a blueprint especially designed for us.

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT - Tanya McLean

If there's anything I can share its that life isn't all roses! Sometimes you are thrown a bone that twists things upside down. 2020 has been a bit of a whirlwind and its taken some real adjustments to rules and routines. I took a moment to reflect. I took a walk by the river and I was reminded how beautiful it is to be by the water. Theres something serene about the sound of the waves crashing, rolling back on itself and creating a wonderful melody that is pleasing to my ears and calming to my soul. Theres something refreshing about the wind as it blows, and the sight of the lights reflecting back the beauty of all that surrounds. I pondered for a while and I thought about how wonderful it is to be planted by the rivers of waters, and how beneficial it is to bring forth fruit in EVERY season BECAUSE you are planted. I hope that thought sinks in, and you recognise that to be by the water is absolutely beautiful, but to be planted by the Source, is so much more surreal and enthralling.

What a joy and a hope to know that God is the Source of our strength! And our purpose is not defined by anything other than our creator.

NEWS & EVENTS

SWM EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020-

Online Nurturing Retreat - See flyer and register on eventbrite : www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-southern-womens-ministry-online-retreat-tickets-125162196499

See www.cog7thday.org.uk for all other events, blogs and news.



The Evangelism Programme

Every Week On-line

Facilitated by The Church Of God 7th Day
& The Southern Women's Ministry



Contact: Avril Hargreaves 07776492206 or Avril.hargreaves@cog7thday.org.uk



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

AN ONLINE NURTURING WEEKEND FOR MALES AND FEMALES

An exciting weekend not to be missed filled with speakers, praise and worship, discussions and activities.
Tickets start at £25 PP which will give you access to all sessions and a weekend pack.
Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite link which can be found on the COG7D website.
All sessions will be held via Zoom.
BOOK NOW!!! to avoid disappointment as limited spaces are available!



Friday 4th Dec - Sunday 6th Dec 2020

TO REGISTER INTEREST PLEASE TEXT: 07950430346
OR KEEP UP TO DATE VIA SWM FACEBOOK PAGE

WWW.COG7THDAY.ORG.UK

The Evangelism Programme

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Southern Women Ministry is:

"working to support the key British Conference objective - evangelism - with a programme to reach those in our community who have no knowledge of God, and who, especially in this current climate, are searching for answers and for "something more" but perhaps don't even know what they are searching for"

The Programme:

- Utilises the now commonly used on-line platform, via TEAM, to meet its aim as this gives a wider remit in terms of potential contact with no distance barrier.
 - Is specifically tailored via a 13 week stepped approach (1.5 hrs per week) to take attendees from a clear understanding of who God is through to their final decision making of "where they stand with God".
- Topics
- Who is God, what is he to us- humanity, (bible & science)
 - What is it when we talk about "human Nature" - (Sin- how did it come about and what is God's penalty for sin)
 - Who is Jesus- "did he really live and die? Why? What did he do?"
 - What are Jesus's teachings and why?
 - How do we follow Jesus's teachings & life examples in our daily living? (the Holy Spirit)
 - Exploring the meaning of Life - Hope for a Brighter Future (Life ends.. What then?)
 - Living the Biblical Reality (if Jesus returns today are you ready? What does this mean for/to you -individual bespoke mentoring or bible studies via agreed method.
 - Invitation to Church meetings etc

We need your support for Longevity

The programme started 21 July 2020 with 6 committed attendees from Jamaica, Tenerife, and the UK and is ongoing.

We would be grateful if you could all be part of this evangelising challenge by individually talking with persons you know (or may not know), sharing this information with them, getting and forwarding their contact details so we can then move to really work together to promote God's Kingdom Glory in our community.

CONTACT US

Keep up to date via the following outlets :



Search groups: Southern Region Prayer and Praise Retreat



Text our enquiry line on :07950430346



To email any enquiries please contact Avril:
Avril.hargreaves@cog7thday.org.uk



If you are interested in writing an article in the next newsletter
please contact Danielle : Danielle.john@cog7thday.org.uk

