

WISHING
YOU A
VERY HAP-
PY NEW
YEAR FROM
THE COMMS
TEAM!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

There Is Hope... 1

Discipleship
Plan 2

Vote of Thanks 2

Action for
Happiness 3

What's Coming
Up 3

Children's
Corner 4

Puzzle Time 4

Check out our web-
site for previous
editions of The
Stokey Advent Times
on the "Read All
About It" web page.

There Is Hope...

So 2022 has pretty much come and gone—in a flash! It has been another year of unprecedented events. Globally, we have experienced the outbreak of war, eye watering rates of inflation, political instability on a grand scale, astronomical rises in gas prices, workers strikes and protests on mass and extreme weather conditions that has not only displaced millions, but has also cost so many lives.

The year has ended with so many still holding their breath, unsure of what the future holds and what is still to come. The festive period provided but a temporary distraction from reality, but as we enter the new year, many will be brought back to the cold reality of this life.

With so much going on, one can very easily become overwhelmed by what appears to be a

never ending spiral of unease, distress, disappointment and hopelessness. But for we that believe, there is Hope! A Hope that is found in **the precious Word of God.**

We are living in times where we must live a life of prayer and praise. A life full of gratitude for every moment we have to breathe again. To live again. To love again. To worship again. The Word



of God is the peace we seek. The Comfort for our weary souls. **And Jesus himself is Hope personified.** The One who has promised the unimaginable. The One that knows our deepest needs and desires, and has the power to meet every one of them. His love for us is relentless, yes you better believe it—The Creator of the Universe has loved us

from afar from time immemorial, wanting us to draw nearer and nearer to Him so we can truly experience His mind-blowing love that is all so encompassing.

As we enter this new untried year, let us reflect on how far God has truly brought us and give thanks. Let us remain hopeful. Let us look ahead to the plans He has for our lives, recognising that the trials of this life are but for a moment. Oh yes the very, very best is yet to come! He who has promised is faithful. The true

lover of our souls is coming back. We may not know the exact time, but Jesus IS coming again. So let's hold on to that Blessed Hope, let's get ready and remain ready for that Grand Rising when every eye shall see Him. Come Lord Jesus Come!

— Uzoma Clarke

Our Plan for Discipleship...

We believe that for our churches to grow and develop, a vision of deep discipleship, we must start with why we do what we do. If we begin our strategy by focusing on what: programs, curriculum, and a philosophy of ministry before we talk about why: God himself, then we will completely fail in becoming and making disciples for God.

It is our firm view that ministry that is not oriented to the presence of God would become focused on empty programs.

we will pursue a God centered vision for all our ministries. We believe that our philosophy of “God and God alone, is our highest good.” God is the single person that matters, there is nothing or no one more beautiful, lovely, pure, powerful, and limitless than God. Consequently, we will nurture a culture in which God is central, and his transcendent presence is celebrated rather than ministry practices. Remembering that we are admonished to love God with all our heart soul and

mind. Jesus in the great commandment repeatedly stressed “**with all**” to remind us that nothing is worthy of our entire self but God alone.

Matthew 22: 37.

In conclusion let us bear in mind the wise counsel the wisdom writer has expressed in Proverbs 19:21, Many plans are in a person’s heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.

May our God bless and prosper us and our plans as we commit them together with ourselves to his counsel.

— **Pastor Kwesi R Moore**

Vote of Thanks

The comms and media team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and patience as we have served the church throughout 2022 with all audio, visual and written aids.

I personally, would like to thank each member of the team for their time, ideas, commitment and especially through the more challenging times of dealing with technology. Also, not forgetting our honorary department members...you know who you are - **THANK YOU!**

Just of note - even if you are not an official member of the comms and media team, we appreciate help from all who may be interested, however big or small.

Finally, as we face the coming of a new year, just want to thank God for what he has done for us as a team in 2022 and what I know he will continue to do for us in 2023.

Donna Douglas
Head of Comms and Media

Happier January 2023

SUNDAY

1 Find three things to look forward to this year

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

MONDAY

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

16 Contribute positively to your local community

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

30 See how many people you can smile at today

TUESDAY

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

WEDNESDAY

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down



THURSDAY

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today



FRIDAY

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside



SATURDAY

7 Learn something new and share it with others

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

SOUTH-ENGLAND CONFERENCE
END OF YEAR PRAYER NIGHT

CALLING SEC BACK TO THE ALTAR

This far by Faith

ADAM BEST
CLARENCE JACKSON
PS. THOMAS GILL
PR. LINDA ASARE
PR. IVANA MENDEZ

31ST DEC. 2022
10PM - 4AM

ZOOM DETAILS
919 4553 8924
PW: 670468

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE 01923 232 728

Back by popular demand!

Secrets of Prophecy
Starts Thursday 26th January 2023

FREE
24 Week
LIVE Online
Course

What's this?

Join the course to find this out and much more...

What We Offer
FREE Online Registration
FREE Live Online Learning via Zoom
1 FREE Full Colour Folder
24 FREE Full Colour Study Guides
24 FREE Newsletters
Other FREE resources!
Q&A Sessions
Access to our Telegram channel
Graduation & personalised certificate

About Us
Secrets of Prophecy is a 24 week Bible class, run by members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. On this course, we consider prophecy with special emphasis on current and last day events.

Contact Us
info@secretsofprophecy.co.uk
07727152324 or 07736804299

REGISTER NOW FOR THE JANUARY 2023 INTAKE!
WWW.SECRETSOFPROPHECY.CO.UK

Once registered you'll receive the ZOOM details

Our Great Hope..

Memory verse:

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. (Lamentations 3:21-22 NIV).

Have you ever said something like, "I hope we win our game tonight," or "I hope the teacher doesn't give us homework over the weekend"? When we use the word **hope**, we're usually talking about something we really want to happen, but don't know for sure if it will happen. The Bible uses the word **hope** in a different way. In the Bible, our hope is in something that hasn't happened, but we know for sure it *will* happen, because God says so. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, God promises that he will never stop loving us and being kind to us. We share our hope with others by showing God's love and kindness in things we do and say.

Today's verse comes from the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah wrote this very sad book after he saw his city, Jerusalem, destroyed because the people who

lived there didn't obey God. But even in his sadness, Jeremiah found hope in God's promises to send a Redeemer to restore Jeremiah's city and to save his people from their sins. We can trust in God's promises too! We know he always loves us and is kind to us and that he sent his Son, Jesus—the Redeemer Jeremiah was waiting for—to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. This is our great hope!

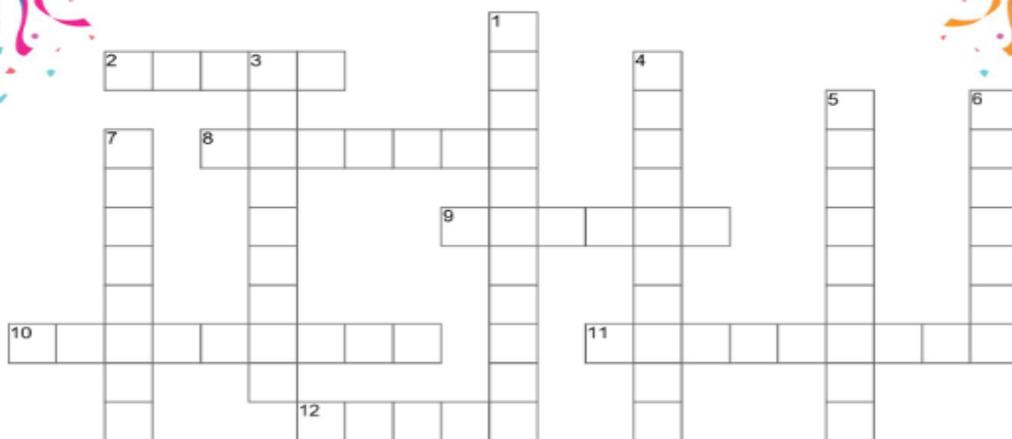
During the festive season, we can share this hope with our families, friends, and classmates by showing them God's love and kindness. Let them know that no matter how bad their troubles are God loves them... and so do you. Think of someone who is sad or in need. Find a way that you can show them God's hope this week.

Prayer:

Faithful Savior, with all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you! I trust your promises. Thank you for always being merciful and saving us from all our sins and troubles. Amen.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



ACROSS

- 2. A mechanical or electrical device for measuring time.
- 8. First month of the year.
- 9. All the descendants of a common ancestor.
- 10. the point in time at which something starts.
- 11. Low explosive pyrotechnic device used for entertainment purposes.
- 12. A social gathering of invited guests.

DOWN

- 1. January 1st
- 3. A white sparkling wine associated with celebration.
- 4. A firm decision to do or not to do something.
- 5. Counting numerals in reverse order to zero.
- 6. A person one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.
- 7. Twelve o'clock at night.