

# FAITH MATTERS

## Transition

We are transitioning once again as we re-commence physically gathering together. We enter this new season with anticipation at all that God is going to do through each one of us as together, we reach out to our community to make disciples.

The Lord has placed us here for such a time as this with it's challenges and opportunities. There are several organisations that we could partner with to minister to our local community. Please pray as we push doors presented to us, that God will open wider those he wants us to pursue.

We thank God for His faithfulness and need not fear what lies ahead as we have confidence that our God is with us and goes before us.

Every Blessing

Pastor John.

## Keeping in touch

Pastoral care line: 07387 775011

Email: [office@sunderlandelim.org.uk](mailto:office@sunderlandelim.org.uk)

Website: [www.sunderlandelim.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandelim.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elimchurchsunderland/>



## Inside this issue

Elim Summertime .....	2
Faith Story .....	3
Call to Prayer .....	3
Life's Daily Doses .....	3
Kairos .....	4
Saturday Bible Smiles ....	4
Leadership Update.....	5
Children's Church/SYC....	5
And Finally.....	6





## Elim Summertime

It was a great blessing in August to feature 'Elim Summertime' with various speakers. Rev. Dominic de Souza from City Church Cardiff and Elim's National Leadership Team, brought a message: 'The Invisible War'. Focusing on 2 Kings chapter 6:8-23 he highlighted 3 points.

1) There is more to the world than what we physically see. The Bible vividly illustrates an-

other realm that is just as real and even more powerful. There's a war raging between the Kingdom of light and the Kingdom of darkness, between the forces of good and the forces of evil. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and going through a battle right now, you are not alone. It may seem like you're surrounded by the enemy but actually you're surrounded by God!

*"Don't be afraid those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 2 Kings 6 16*

### Current Programme

**Sunday** 10am and 12noon  
Meeting at Church  
10 am Sunday Live Stream  
on Facebook

11am Zoom Catch up

**Tuesday** 7.30pm  
Prayer Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday** 7.30pm  
Reflections via Zoom

**Thursday**  
Throwback Thursday

**Saturday**  
Saturday Bible Smiles

2) Every Christian is engaged in an invisible war. The Bible tells us that there are three enemies that are warring against us: Firstly, the world, not the world as in people but the world as in the system of ideas and values that are organising active hostility and rebellion against the things of God. Secondly the flesh, as in the nature that is inclined towards disobeying God and thirdly the devil. The devil seeks to destroy God's purposes in your life and wants to tempt you, to deceive you, accuse you and wants to ruin your life. However, the blood of Jesus, the blood he shed on the cross when he died to take away your sins, that blood ultimately gives us victory over Satan.

3) There is real power in prayer. Your prayers are more powerful than you will ever know. Although, we are involved in this invisible war, we do not fight for victory, we fight from victory. The resurrection validates everything that Jesus stood for on the cross and everything that he achieved. Jesus has already won the war. We are now just applying the victory. We are in the clean up operation that will last until Jesus comes again. Satan is already a defeated enemy, his legal authority was rendered null and void by the finished work of Christ on the cross, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead proves it.

## Faith Story

God is at work transforming lives even during a worldwide pandemic. Kieran is a young man who has come to faith in Christ during lockdown. A friend at work shared how Jesus had brought change to her life. She spoke of how praying to Jesus gave her the strength to carry on in difficult times. Kieran started watching the online service of the local Elim church and really found it appealing. As he listened, it seemed that the Pastor was talking to Kieran directly which had a powerful impact on him. Kieran started to pray and just took it one step at a time. He got himself a Bible and over a bit of time started to read it.

Since then he has joined an 'Alpha Course' and discovered more about Jesus and Christianity. Kieran shared that originally, he was supposed to start a new job on the 25th of March which he didn't get to start due to lockdown. Although it has been difficult financially, finding Jesus and having God speak to him in a couple of dreams, has had a very profound effect on him. Let this be an encouragement to us all, to share our faith, confident that our God is not locked down.

## Call to Prayer

Elim's National Leadership are calling us to three days of prayer and fasting with online prayer sessions throughout the day.

As we head into the autumn, our NLT sense that things are shifting again and believe that there is a need to respond with prayer and fasting. From Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 September, the Elim Prayer team will facilitate 3 days of prayer and fasting with a mixture of morning, daytime and evening online prayer events.

This call to prayer and fasting for the whole Elim movement is a significant opportunity to gather together online in united prayer. Let's pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, seeing many people experience the love and life of God, entering into His Kingdom!



### LIFE'S DAILY DOSES

Life is measured in daily doses  
Of trials and pleasures each.  
Day by day grace is dispensed  
To meet our immediate needs.  
Comfort comes to the weary  
We find that which we seek.  
A bridge is built at the river  
And power is given to the weak.  
One day's load we have to bear  
As we travel on life's way.  
Wisdom is given for the occasion  
And strength to equal each day.  
We are never required to stagger  
Under tomorrow's heavy load.  
We journey one day at a time  
As we travel life's rugged road.  
God's mercy is new every morning  
And His faithfulness is sure.  
God perfects all that concerns us  
And by our faith, we will endure.

Lenora McWhorter

## Saturday Bible Smiles

Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

A. He just knew there was something fishy about it.

Q. What's the best way to study the Bible?

A. You Luke into it.

Q. Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his bible ?

A. He thought he saw a job.

## Kairos



Bank holiday weekend saw SYC taking part in Kairos Christian Youth Camp with 'Couch Kairos'. The online camp by Youth for Christ, North East, enabled our young people to take part in a range of fun activities using resources provided in boxes, which they received as prize giving gifts.

The theme was 'Worth It' – God thinks you're worth it, that He is worth living for and worshipping. This theme was explored via teaching sessions, worship, Couch Talks, and journal. The weekend concluded with Communion and Commissioning. The Couch Kairos boxes provided all the resources for crafts and challenges. Various Couch Master challenges featured the most creative way to get on your couch, human Elephun (based on the childhood game), and throwing tea bags into cups. After hours each night on Zoom, (quiz night, virtual campfire, and mystery night) allowed young people from around the region to connect.

We shared our craft activities etc with each other via WhatsApp and we have to say our young people have done much better in the craft activities than the Leaders!

Our young people shared their thoughts:

*"I loved my Kairos experience. I learned new skills and most importantly got to connect and become closer with God"* Erica

*"It was very good because it taught me about my self-worth in the eyes of God"* Cerys

*"Fun engaging experience!"* Ethan

*"It was fun and engaging as there were many activities, but it also taught me of self-worth and confidence"* Megan

We enjoyed being able to participate with the teachings, worship, craft activities and much more from our very own couches and it was truly been amazing!

## Leadership Team Update

We thank God for His financial provision and for your continued financial support. Our Roof fund now stands at 19931.37.

Temi has served on the Leadership Team for several years and we have benefited from her contribution and wisdom. She has decided to step down from the Leadership Team after prayerful consideration. Over recent months, numerous aspects of life have made greater demands upon her time. We value her continued support as we continue in this new season. Please pray for God's blessing upon Temi and her family.

We have had opportunity over the summer to reevaluate our church identity and future purpose and believe God has given the words 'Community, Hope, Transformation'. We are excited to introduce our new church logo which is a visual reflection of the direction in which we are moving.



## Children's Church and SYC

We have visited the children and young people this month to deliver their prize giving gifts to celebrate their attendance, commitment and enthusiasm. Children's Church received a 'Through The Bible' doodle book along with some goodies and craft activities. SYC received their resource boxes for Couch Kairos.

Over the holidays, we have been learning about some of the Judges including Deb-

orah and Gideon. One of our new favourite worship songs is Ask, Knock, Seek and of course it has actions to go with it!

We have used Zoom to enjoy another joint SYC/ Children's Church quiz night, giving us the chance to catch up with each other.

At the beginning of August, we took part in Elim's Limitless Festival, with worship and teachings aimed at our young people.



Elim Pentecostal Church Sunderland

We passionately believe that God has a plan and purpose for you He loves you and wants you to come to know him through Jesus. We are a Christian community for all generations and nationalities.

We would love to hear from you too, so please send in any news, stories, prayer requests or praise reports.

Thank You..

## And Finally...

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tyre made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.

Funny thing is," he smiled," when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Elim Pentecostal Church  
Sunderland

South Hills Crescent  
Durham Road  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR2 7PD

Phone: 07387 775011

E-mail:  
office@sunderlandelim.org.uk



Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance  
Registered Charity No. 251549 (England & Wales) and SC037754 (Scotland)