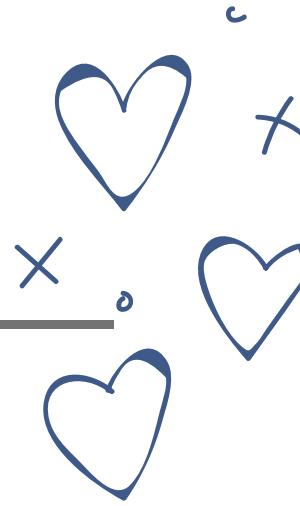


THE HUB

Newsletter



DEEPER-WORSHIP NIGHT

BY SAMUEL NKE

There is an extreme juxtaposition of the two positions I felt during the last worship night. On one hand I felt the desire to go deeper, whilst on the other hand I felt a slight fear of the unknown. A verse that reassured me was Psalms 42:7-8 NKJV

“Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me— A prayer to the God of my life.”

Moving forward with God and going further can be a scary notion but I don't want to be found in the past so I will go deeper. However, as the scripture states, we are all called to go deeper, not just a select few, so can we do this together as a community? Reinforced by the fact that the sounds that come from finding new depths with God can move so many things in our lives and in our Hub community forward.

RELATIONSHIP SERIES

BY SHAUN OMOGBAI

The HUB relationships series could not have come at a better time. In the past, I had not been able to attend the HUB as often as I liked, but God knew I needed this series at this specific time.

This series had some really insightful sessions on 'maximising singleness', 'getting ready for a relationship', 'dating and boundaries', and 'preparing for marriage'. I found the session on dating particularly useful, as it gave me clarification on a current situation I was going through. Without the series, I would have struggled to receive any conviction on a decision I had to make for my growth.

Pastor Scott said something that has stuck with me and it is quite a simple and practical idea, which, unfortunately, is usually ignored when you meet someone with my previous experience. He stated that we must ask ourselves, 'Are you in a position to bring the person you're seeing closer to God? And vice versa'. Going forward, this is certainly something I will adopt and put into practice.



FEAR OF GOD

BY JOSHUA OKOLI



The scripture says the 'fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'. Having the fear of God is a great place to be. It is not restricting, rather it is liberating, and there are blessings attached to it.

Psalms 34:7-9 says 'the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing.'

These verses and many others, profess that there is provision and protection for those who fear God.

Having the fear of the Lord is a great thing, as we can see from the Scriptures; it will lead us to life, peace with God, wisdom and understanding, holiness, and righteousness. As Christians, we must practise daily 'the fear of God' and live a life for the Lord, where we desire to please Him through our lives.

Then we will become a living sacrifice which is holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1-2), by running away from the things that do not please Him, out of respect and a holy fear. This will lead us to holiness, which God's call for us (1 Peter 1:14-16). We are to be holy and detach ourselves from the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

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DISCIPLESHIP

BY KWABENA OPOKU



Simon Foster and Scott Templeton have introduced some interesting conversations on the topic of discipleship at the Impact service, (the 3-part series 'I Disciple' is available to watch on the Kensington Temple website, www.kt.org).

I've been prompted to consider the meaning of discipleship and how I am seeing the reality of this according to Christ in my life. At one point, I was drawn to the Scriptures where Jesus describes the cost of discipleship. In Luke 14, He says if anyone comes to me and does not hate their father and mother – his wife and his children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple (v26). He caps the point by saying 'And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple' (v27).

So am I meant to abandon everything and become a self-loathing recluse lugging a wooden cross around? That's not the point being made here. The point here is to recognise that the value of a relationship with Jesus is superior to everything you have –this is the foundation to live from. To hate in this context is not to despise everyone, but it is highlighting the need to disregard any notion that people, including us, can bring about the highest form of satisfaction in life. To come into discipleship with Christ is to step into instruction and direction of eternal life. What we must recognise is that this may draw us into waters that will be at odds with some of our natural social dynamics, however to be obedient to the call, we must have our hearts aligned with the heart of Christ.

