

SCROLL DOWN FOR CANTONESE

KINGS NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 5th January 2025 10am

Motto text Job said: **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.** Job 13:15

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Opening Scripture.

Hymn MP 33 And can it be that I should gain

Scripture Isaiah 26:1-19 (page 709)

Prayer

Children's talk In the storm - Learning to trust

Chorus MP 258 I am trust Thee, Lord Jesus

Covenant Reading from OT, KNBC, then Ps 1 (page 543)

Notices BCM Day of Prayer. 10 am – 4pm ½ whole day

Evening service - 5pm

Masefield

Chorus

Lord's prayer - offertory box home - pray reference to giving

Reading Job 13:13-19, 14:13-17 (page 519)

Hymn MP 41 At the Name of Jesus (with explanation)

Sermon *Living by faith – 'you can trust Him'*

Hymn MP 473 My hope is built on nothing less

Prayer _____ End

Motto text Job said: **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.** Job 13:15

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." Isaiah 26:3

Message

Charles Blondin was a famous tightrope walker who lived over 150 years ago. He would amaze people with his feats, fixing wires between tall buildings and then walking along the wire. In July 1859 he stretched a wire across the Niagara Falls. A large crowd gathered and held their breath as Blondin walked on the thin wire knowing that one slip would bring certain death. Not only did he walk across, Blondin rode a bicycle across, then he took a chair, balanced it in the centre of the wire and sat on it! He then took a wheelbarrow with a sack of potatoes in it and traversed the wire from one side to the other. When he arrived to the cheering crowd he asked, "Do you believe I could carry a man in the barrow instead of the sack of potatoes?" "Yes, yes" the crowd shouted. Blondin looking at one man in the eye, one who had been particularly vocal, said simply, "get in"

Blondin was saying "You can trust me. get in" How much more when the Lord of heaven and earth says to you and I "you can trust me".

Today is the first Sunday of 2025, what will the year bring? ... and how will you face it? We have at KNBC a New Year motto text, a scripture from the Lord to set ourselves, like a compass, in the right direction.

In my mind it has been easy to decide on the Motto text for this new year.

✚ It is to do with trust, trust.

What will the year bring? ...you can be sure that it will include troubles and difficulties. How will you face them? How are you facing them?

When I listen to you speak, much of your conversation is on your troubles – therefore much of your thinking is on your troubles. The devil would love nothing more than you lie in bed and muse over your troubles. He's always ready to point out the worst case scenario. He's always trying to persuade us that our Lord is not sufficient! You can't trust Him.

■ A manager at work years ago was nicknamed 'doom & gloom'

To see the worst of our troubles, to be knocked down by them, is what those all around us do. They do not have the Lord, so it is understandable.

✚ But that is not how we as Christians should be. x2

We have the Lord, who is real and powerful. And we have the example of the men and women of God who have proved His total sufficiency. Let us take help, comfort and encouragement from their example this morning.

Physical ailments, aches and pains and sickness are the lot of us all in one way or another. The other person suffers in a way you do not know, as the car sticker goes "**not all disabilities are obvious**". Go back a few decades and even unbelievers rarely spoke of themselves and their problems. It was considered a self-centered thing to do.

Problems we will have, troubles are our lot in life in this fallen world. And as Christians, hardships and sufferings are allotted to all who share in Christ. Do not be surprised at it. The main point this morning is simply this: **You can trust Him in them** x2 Whatever happens, **you can trust Him**

Motto text - Job said: **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.** Job 13:15

In life – and in death - **you can trust Him** Hold up motto text.

Job affirms, and testifies. **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.**

There are many passages I could point to, - but this one is v. memorable!

Job

The Lord has given us the book of Job. In the centre of our Bibles his life is there for our instruction.

James who starts his sermon letter speaking about perseverance through trials ends with these words: **As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.** Jas 5:11

Let us learn from Job. He had tremendous physical suffering that caused his 'friends' to look on aghast. He lost his possessions, He lost his children, and he received no help from his wife who spoke like a fool.

After hearing of these disasters, he says to her "**Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?**" Job 2:10.

Notice he says trouble, not 'evil' from God. He is careful not to attribute any evil to be from the Lord.

Lesson one is that the Lord does not bring evil.

Lesson two, Job does not blame the devil even though the devil is the agent of all this and seeks to do his utmost to harm and discourage. Job always looks up to the Lord. **I will hope in Him.** So should we.

We do not blame others, we do not blame the government, it is not the NHS, it is not Trump, or Putin.

People and demons are just agents. The Lord is God and in charge of everything that comes to you. **You can trust Him.**

As the Lord brought Job through, so the Lord will bring you through.

Job's life is a picture of Jesus' life. As the Father brought Him through His trials, so when you suffer he will also bring you through too.

Job said: **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.** Job 13:15

Are not these words echoes of Christ on the cross. Was it not the Father who said of the Son: **'I will strike the shepherd'** Zech. 13:7, Mt 26:31, Mr 14:27

And did not the Son say "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**" Lu 23:46 quoting from Psalm 31:5

Here is Jesus our great example going through the sufferings and punishments of hell itself. As the Father was in charge of His Son, so too he is in charge of every true son. You and I can likewise say **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.**

Part of our problem is that we do not believe we should suffer. People around us in the world hate to suffer, their main priority in life is to avoid suffering, to get out of it as quickly as possible.

Peter says to us: **Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.** 1Pe 4:12

Peter is talking to Christians primarily suffering for Christ.

There are different causes of suffering. Some suffering is self-imposed. Peter says **if you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.** 1Pe 4:15

There is suffering through the consequences of sin. Job's so called friends said he was suffering because he was sinning. Make foolish sinful decisions and I will suffer for them. There is suffering as a result of an addiction, there is suffering as a result of adultery, or suffering as a result of greed or hate, or jealousy, or

anger, all of which – and more - have consequences. The remedy is to immediately repent and with the Lord's help stop. The Lord will forgive – but the consequences often remain.

Sometimes we can see the cause of our suffering, which we like - but the Lord usually hides the reason – that we might trust him through it.

The second half of the motto is the promise of God to those who do trust him. **You (He) will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you (Me).** Isa 26:3

A Christian can know that perfect peace, remember Jesus said **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** Joh 16:33

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you'. Joh 14:27. This was the great resurrection message to His people **'Peace be with you.'** Lu 24:36, Joh 20:19, 20:21

Peace in suffering, peace when anxious about heating bills, family problems, loneliness whatever it is for you. To walk with Christ and know that peace changes everything. It is His great gift to his people.

Job likely lived in the days of the patriarchs, the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And Abraham the man of faith teaches us how to live by faith.

Abraham showed us

1st he was told to go. **'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'** Ac 7:3

That is faith. It is a big deal to leave everything behind, to make all the preparations and to go. Especially when I am not clear as to where. **By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."** Heb 11:8

But the Lord lead Abraham. **I will show you** he said, and Abram believed Him, trusted Him. So too the Lord will lead you, you can trust Him.

If the Lord has spoken – you must obey. You can trust him every step of the way. Who will go from KNBC? Why is it that this church does not send out missionaries? Why is it that no-one has obeyed the call to go – and stepped out in faith. **I will show you** the Lord said, he will, you can trust him. Did not Abraham have 101 reasons not to go? But he did go!

I work with a man called David Ridler. His father was here at KNBC and he went for a while as a missionary to Iceland. That was in the 1970s, have there been others since? A few short term.

Who was the last Missionary sent from here? It was me. There was a members meeting, the call was recognized, and supported, and I was sent to be a Missionary with BCM - to the area of Kings Norton. That was at the end of 1993. Sorry you've been stuck with me!

Who here is willing to trust the Lord and go in 2025? Will it be you?

The Lord will direct. Abram went first to Haran and then on to Caanan. So the Lord will direct you. Today few go straight to China and spend the rest of their days there as a missionary. You start off with a week here, a month there, and the Lord confirms you in the direction you are to go. You learn the lesson that he is with you through the storm. Faith to trust the King - and set out for His Kingdom.

■ **Emily here for 3 months, at only 18 it was the first time away. A number of her peers from church, she mentioned five, are already in the Mission field, some short term, some longer term.**

Who will go from here? Will it be you? Will you trust Him and go?

Masefield is a way to step out and to extend, hear KNBC Motto 2018..

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." Isa 54:2 = expand

You and I daily pray that the Lord's Kingdom come and extend. For the missionaries of the past, it started with a concern and burden of the heart.

Why is that missing here? Where's the missionary concern? Where is the concern to see the kingdom expand? For the Gospel to be heard?

- **Ina prints out Missionary news from Judy Cook, for the most part it is left untouched at the back.**
- **One of a group of Americans here two years ago commented on how many magazines etc. we had. But how much is read? How much is prayed over? I print off sheets thinking shall I print off 4 or 5?, I print off 4 and 3 or 4 remain. "Lord, give me a concern"**

Secondly Abram was told that he and Sarai "will have a child". Yes even in their old age. Impossible. x2

But they did. Abraham believed Him. **By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.** Heb 11:11

The Lord can be trusted to keep His promises. Why not go through the Bible this year and write down his promises? There used to be 'promise boxes'. For ex; He will **never to leave or forsake you**, No giving up on you.

You may be living with an unbelieving husband or wife, you may be the only Christian in your household and it all so difficult and uphill. You feel you are surrounded by those indifferent to the things you hold dear - you strive to maintain the Lord in your heart and mind.

But note; the Lord has put you in that situation to show He is able. He is able to keep you, and he desires to grow you, and he knows you can grow more where you are now - than if you were in a place of ease.

Testing is painful but in due time, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.** Heb 12:11

■ A Christian woman wrote to me recently and asked what I thought of the 'footprint's poster. Do you have one up at home? Does it chime? It's not helpful. It represents a sentimental 'me' centered faith. The Lord is with His people through the difficulties He brings to us. We are not passively 'carried' through them, but are helped through them. A baby is carried, a child is helped. And the more mature the more trained in godliness the more the Lord stands back and is glorified through us, as we trust His promises. You will find sufficient Grace in Him.

That is how you and I should see it. "Lord, I trust you, what are you doing here? What valuable lesson are you teaching me, I trust you in it".

It is the same through illness, you may feel held back physically, - or mentally **Many of the men and women of God we revere had melancholy or depression or other fairly severe mental illnesses.**

Test 3 - All the Lord's purposes centered in that promised child Isaac - now kill that child!

What pain must have shot through Abraham's heart at the thought of it! God would never want that!, killing their children is what the pagan nations did, it was abhorrent to God who brought judgment on them for it.

Yes, why haven't we seen more of God's wrath on us for so many unborn children killed on the altar of the God of convenience. Cnews

Here Abraham is not seeking the Lord for direction, here is something contrary to every fibre and inclination he has. Is not the Lord countering His own will? Yet Abraham had heard correctly – and He immediately obeyed, he did not rely on logic, or his intellect, he did not try to understand it, he obeyed. **By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.** Hebrews 11:17,19

It is as with Job: **Though he slay me, - yet will I hope in him.** Job 13:15

Jesus made it clear that whatever happens He will bring Glory to himself. The Apostle **James** was **put to death with the sword** while the Apostle Peter lived Ac 12:2. We cannot work out why, But *I can still trust Him*, The Lord has a different purpose for each of his people, - whatever it is - to bring Glory to Himself through your life. It might be years of fruitful ministry, it might be to suffer death nobly and glorify the Lord through it.

✚ J.C.Ryle wrote in 1890 'Why were our reformers burned?' 288 were martyred during the reign of Bloody Mary between 1555-1558. It didn't happen before with Edward VI - or afterwards with Elizabeth I

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Ro 14:8

Hear Daniel who when threatened with the **blazing furnace**, said: "**the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.**" Da 3:17-18

More are likely to be martyred in 2025 than any year before. Will it be one of us? Why isn't it one of us? Why shouldn't it be one of us?

Doesn't that thought cause us to stop musing over, and filling our minds with, our problems? These are what the Apostle Paul describes as **our light and momentary troubles**. 'That's a bit insensitive Paul, with all I am going through, how can you say that?' But Paul is trying to help us. He wants us to take our eyes off of our problems - and onto the Lord. **Is it pain? Visa status? Finances? Housing issues? Relationship problems?**

Unbelievers fret over these because they are on their own in this world and have no hope. Not us, we Hope in Him. He is our Hope. Paul wants us to look up, to see the glorious One seated on the Throne. He said those words for they **are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.** 2Co 4:17

As we go through this difficult life remember “He will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in Me.” Isaiah 26:3 **Let us be steady, steadfast, holdfast, hang on!**

■ Blondin showed he could take the sack of potatoes across and therefore we need have no fear, He can do it. Get in, hang on!

So the Lord will see you safely through, safely across.

Rev Stephen Dancer Memorial service yesterday, A faithful minister...

Trust in God's promises, He is bigger than your problem, and Christ's Grace is sufficient, more than sufficient to cover all of it. If he can raise the dead Eph 1 then he can see you through your difficulty.

As with Stephen and a million and one other saints who have gone before, we are part of a long line of men and women of faith from Abraham, Job and onwards, who have all trusted the Lord in adversity. The Lord has chosen to receive Glory through you - in life, and in death, in want and in plenty. He will receive more Glory through your troubles than relieve you of it. For in your suffering your faith becomes strong, and is seen by all. **Repeat Motto Text.** The psalmist said as **Righteousness looks down from heaven, let faithfulness spring forth from the earth.** Ps 85:11 **END**

金斯諾頓浸信會教堂

Cantonese

2025 年 1 月 5 日星期日上午 10 點

座右銘約伯說：即使他殺了我，我仍會對他抱持希望。約伯記 13:15

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開篇聖經。歡迎大家

開篇經文.....

聖歌 MP 33 我能得到

經文 以賽亞書 26:1-19 (第 709 頁)

禱告

露宿滑梯見證孩子們的談話在暴風雨中一學會信任

副歌 MP 258 我信靠你，主耶穌

聖約讀經來自舊約、KNBC，然後是詩篇 1 (第 543 頁)

禱告

40 歸因於偉大

MP 782 主啊，祢是配得的

通知 BCM 祈禱日。上午 10 點至下午 4 點半全天

晚間服務 - 下午 5 點

梅斯菲爾德

合唱團聯誼午餐、三叉戟星期一、會員會議

主禱文 - 奉獻箱首頁 - 禱告奉獻

讀約伯記 13:13-19, 14:13-17 (第 519 頁)

聖詩 MP 41 奉耶穌的名 (附解釋)

講道 憑信心生活 — “你可以信靠他”

埃

聖歌 MP 473 我的希望建立在

禱告_____結束

座右銘約伯說：即使他殺了我，我仍會對他抱持希望。約伯記 13:15

「堅心倚賴你的，你必保守他十分平安，因為他倚靠你。」以賽亞書 26:3

訊息

查爾斯·布朗丹是 150

多年前著名的走鋼索者。他會用他的壯舉讓人們驚嘆不已，在高樓之間安裝電線，然後沿著電線行走。1859 年 7

月，他在尼加拉瀑布上拉了一根電線。布隆丹走在細細的鋼絲上，一大群人聚集在一起，屏住呼吸，他們知道，一旦失手，就會喪命。布隆丹不僅步行過去，還騎自行車過去，然後他拿了一把椅子，平衡地放在電線中央，並坐在上面！然後，他推著一輛手推車，車上裝著一袋土豆，從電線的一端穿過到另一端。當他到達歡呼的人群時，他問道：“你們相信我可以用手推車抬一個人而不是一袋土豆嗎？”

「是的，是的。」人群喊道。布朗丁看著一個男人的眼睛，那個人特別直言不諱，簡單地說，“進來吧。”

布隆丹說：「你可以相信我。進來吧」，何況天地之主對你我說“你可以相信我”呢？

今天是2025年的第一個星期日，這一年會帶來什麼呢？.....您將如何面對它？在 KNBC，我們有一句新年格言，這是來自上帝的經文，就像指南針一樣，指引我們走向正確的方向。

在我看來，決定今年新年的座右銘是件很容易的事。

這與信任、信賴有關。

這一年將會帶來什麼？

.....你可以肯定這其中會充滿麻煩和困難。你會怎樣面對他們？你是怎樣面對他們的？

當我聽你說話時，你的大部分談話都是關於你的煩惱——

因此你的大部分思考也是關於你的煩惱。魔鬼最喜歡看到的就是你躺在床上，沉思自己的煩惱。他總是準備好指出最壞的情況。祂總是試圖讓我們相信我們的主是不夠的！你不能相信他。

幾年前，一位經理被暱稱為“厄運與憂鬱”

看到我們最嚴重的困境，並被擊倒，這就是我們周圍的人所做的。他們沒有主，所以這是可以理解的。

但身為基督徒，我們不應該這樣做。 x2

我們有主，祂是真實而有能力的。我們有上帝的僕人作為例子，他們已經證實了上帝的完全充足。讓我們從他們今早的例子中獲得幫助、安慰和鼓勵。

身體上的疾病、酸痛和病痛是我們每個人或多或少都會經歷的。另一個人承受著你不知道的痛苦，正如汽車貼紙上所說「並非所有殘疾都是顯而易見的」。回顧幾十年前，連非信徒也很少談論自己和他們的問題。這被認為是一種以自我為中心的行為。

在這個墮落的世界裡，我們生活中難免會遇到問題，煩惱就是我們的命運。身為基督徒，所有信仰基督的人都會遭遇艱辛和痛苦。請不要對此感到驚訝。今天早上的重點很簡單：你可以相信他 x2 無論發生什麼，你都可以相信他

座右銘—約伯說：即使他殺了我，我仍會對他抱持希望。約伯記 13:15

無論生死，你都可以信任他。

約伯確認並且作見證。即使他殺了我，我仍對他抱持希望。

我可以指出很多段落，但這段落卻令人難忘！

工作

主賜給了我們《約伯記》。聖經的中心記載著祂的一生，教導我們道理。

詹姆斯在他的講道信中開始談論在考驗中堅持不懈，並以這樣的話結束：如你所知，我們認為那些堅持不懈的人是有福的。你們聽過約伯的堅持，也看到了主最終帶來的成果。主充滿憐憫和慈悲。雅各書 5:11

讓我們向約伯學習。他遭受了巨大的身體痛苦，令他的『朋友們』驚呆了。他失去了財產，失去了孩子，而且他那說話像傻瓜的妻子也沒有給他任何幫助。

在聽到這些災難之後，他對她說：“我們應該接受上帝的恩惠，而不接受災禍嗎？”約伯記

2：10。請注意，他說的是麻煩，而不是來自上帝的『邪惡』。他小心翼翼，不把任何邪惡歸咎於上帝。

第一課是，上帝不會帶來邪惡。

第二課，約伯沒有責怪魔鬼，儘管魔鬼是這一切的幕後黑手，並竭盡全力去傷害和阻止。約伯時時刻刻仰望主。我將對他抱有希望。我們也應該如此。

我們不怪別人，我們不怪政府，這不是NHS，不是川普，也不是普丁。人與魔只是媒介而已。主是上帝，掌管你所遭遇的一切。你可以信任他。

正如主幫助約伯渡過難關一樣，主也會幫助你度過難關。

約伯的一生就是耶穌一生的寫照。正如天父幫助他度過考驗一樣，當你受苦時，他也將幫助你度過考驗。

約伯說：即使他殺了我，我仍會對他抱持希望。約伯記 13:15

這些話不是基督在十字架上的迴響嗎？不是聖父對聖子說過：「我要擊打牧羊人」嗎？ 13:7，太 26:31，可 14:27

聖子不是說過「父親，我將我的靈魂交託在你手中」嗎？路 23:46 引自詩篇 31:5

耶穌是我們的偉大榜樣，他經歷了地獄的苦難和懲罰。正如聖父掌管他的兒子一樣，他也掌管每一個真正的兒子。你和我同樣可以說，儘管他殺了我，但我仍對他抱持希望。

我們的問題部分在於我們不相信自己應該受苦。我們周圍的人都討厭受苦，他們生活中的首要任務就是避免受苦，盡快擺脫受苦。

彼得對我們說：親愛的朋友們，不要對你們所遭受的痛苦考驗感到驚訝，就好像有什麼奇怪的事情發生在你們身上一樣。彼前 4:12

彼得主要在與為基督受苦的基督徒交談。

造成痛苦的原因有很多種。有些痛苦是自己強加的。彼得說，如果你受苦，不應該是因為殺人犯，或偷竊者，或任何其他罪犯，甚至不應該是因為愛管閒事的人。彼前 4:15

因罪孽而產生的後果是痛苦。約伯所謂的朋友說他受苦是因為他犯了罪。做出愚蠢的、有罪的決定，我將為此受苦。有因上癮而導致的痛苦，有因通姦而導致的痛苦，有因貪婪、仇恨、嫉妒或憤怒而導致的痛苦，所有這些以及更多的痛苦都會產生後果。補救辦法是立即悔改，並在主的幫助下停止。上帝會寬恕——但後果往往還在。

有時，我們可以看到我們受苦的原因，這是我們所樂意看到的，但是主通常會隱藏原因，這樣我們才能信任祂。

這句格言的後半部是上帝對那些信任祂的人的承諾。你要堅心倚賴你（我），你必保守他十分平安，因為他信靠你（我）。賽 26:3

基督徒可以體會到完美的平安，記住耶穌說過“我告訴你們這些事，是要叫你們在我裡面有平安。在世上你們有苦難。但你們要放心！我已經勝了世界。”約16:33

我留下平安給你們；我賜給你平安。約翰福音 14:27。這是復活後向祂的子民發出的偉大信息：「願你們平安。」路 24:36，約 20:19，20:21

痛苦中的平靜，為取暖費、家庭問題、孤獨等煩惱時的平靜，無論它們對你意味著什麼。與基督同行並知道和平會改變一切。這是祂賜給人民的偉大禮物。

約伯可能生活在族長時代，即亞伯拉罕、以撒和雅各的時代。信仰之人亞伯拉罕教導我們如何憑著信仰生活。

亞伯拉罕告訴我們

首先，他被告知要離開。上帝說：「你要離開你的國家和你的人民，去我要指示你的土地。」徒 7:3

這就是信仰。拋下一切，做好一切準備，然後出發，這是一件大事。尤其是當我不清楚在哪裡的時候。亞伯拉罕因著信，蒙召的時候就遵命出去，往將來要得為業的地方去，雖然他不知道要去哪裡。希伯來書 11:8

但主引導了亞伯拉罕。我會告訴你他說了什麼，亞伯蘭相信他、信任他。所以主也會引導你，你可以信任祂。

如果主已經說話了，你就必須服從。你可以每一步都信任他。誰將離開

KNBC？為什麼這教會不派遣傳教士？為什麼沒有人聽從號召，滿懷信心地踏出這一步？我會向你表明主所說的話，祂會的，你可以相信祂。亞伯拉罕不是有101個理由不去嗎？但他確實去了！

我和一位叫大衛·里德勒 (David Ridler) 的人一起工作。他的父親曾在 KNBC 工作，他曾作為傳教士去過冰島一段時間。那是 1970 年代的事了，此後還有其他人嗎？一些短期的。

從這裡派出的最後一位傳教士是誰？是我。在一次會員會議上，這個號召得到了認可和支持，然後我被派往 BCM 擔任傳教士——前往金斯諾頓地區。那是 1993 年底的事了。

這裡有誰願意信靠主並在 2025 年前往？你會是嗎？

主必指引。亞伯蘭先去了哈蘭，然後去了迦南。這樣主就會指引你。如今，很少有人直接前往中國，並在那裡作為傳教士度過餘生。你從這裡開始一周，從那裡開始一個月，主會向你確認你要走的方向。你學到了一個教訓：在風雨中他一直陪伴著你。堅信國王——並出發前往他的王國。

艾米麗在這裡待了 3 個月，這是她只有 18

歲的時候第一次離開家。她提到的教會裡的許多同儕（其中有五人）都已經投入傳教工作，有的人服務時間短，有的人服務時間長。

誰將從這裡走出來？你會是嗎？你會信任他並且前往嗎？

梅斯菲爾德 (Masfield) 是走出去和延伸的一種方式，聽聽 KNBC 2018 年的座右銘。

「要擴大你帳幕的地方，張大你帳幕的幔子，不要止住；要放長你的繩子，堅固你的橛子。」以賽亞書 54:2 = 擴展

你和我每天都祈禱主的國降臨並擴張。對過去的傳道者來說，這始於內心的憂慮和負擔。

這裡為什麼沒有這個？傳教士的關懷在哪裡？對王國擴張的關心在哪裡？他聽到福音了嗎？

伊娜印製了朱迪庫克 (Judy Cook) 發來的傳教新聞，大部分內容都原封不動地放在後面。

兩年前，一群美國人中的一個人評論了我們有多少雜誌等等。但讀了多少呢？祈禱了多少？我印了幾張紙，想著應該列印 4 張還是 5 張？“主啊，請讓我憂慮”

其次，亞伯蘭被告知他和撒萊「將會有一個孩子」。是的，即使他們已經年老了。不可能的。 x2

但他們確實這麼做了。亞伯拉罕相信他。憑著信念，亞伯拉罕雖然已經過了年紀，撒拉自己也不生育，但他還是能夠成為父親，因為他認為那位做出承諾的人是忠實的。希伯來書 11:11

我們可以相信主會遵守祂的諾言。今年為什麼不通讀聖經並把他的承諾寫下來呢？曾經有‘承諾箱’。例如；祂永遠不會離開你或拋棄你，不會放棄你。

您可能與不信教的丈夫或妻子生活在一起，您可能家裡唯一的基督徒，而這一切都是如此困難和艱難。您感覺到周圍的人對您所珍惜的事物漠不關心——但您努力在心中和腦海中保留上帝。

但請注意；上帝讓你處於這種境地是為了證明祂有能力。他能夠留住你，他希望你成長，他知道你在現在的環境中可以比在安逸的地方有更大的成長。考驗是痛苦的，但在適當的時候，它會為那些經過訓練的人帶來正義和和平的收穫。希伯來書 12:11

一位基督徒婦女最近寫信給我，詢問我對「足跡」海報的看法。你家有嗎？它會發出鐘聲嗎？這沒啥幫助。它代表了一種以「我」為中心的情感信念。無論主帶給我們什麼困難，祂總是與祂的子民同在。我們並不是被動地被『帶著』度過這些時光，而是得到了它們的幫助。抱著一個嬰兒，幫助了一個孩子。我們越成熟，越受虔誠的訓練，主就越能透過我們而得到榮耀，因為我們相信祂的承諾。你會在他身上找到足夠的恩典。

你我都應該這樣看待它。「主啊，我信你，你在這裡做什麼？你教我什麼寶貴的教訓，我相信你」。

同樣，生病時，您可能會感到身體或精神受到束縛。

測試 3 - 上帝的所有旨意都集中在那個應許的孩子以撒身上 - 現在殺死那個孩子！

想到這，亞伯拉罕心裡一定很痛苦！上帝永遠不會希望那樣！

殺害自己的孩子是異教國家所做的事，這是上帝所憎惡的，他因此對他們進行了審判。

是的，為什麼我們沒有看到上帝對我們有更多憤怒，因為這麼多未出生的孩子被殺在方便之神的祭壇上。新聞

在這裡，亞伯拉罕並沒有尋求主的指引，而是尋求了一些與祂所有的性格和傾向都相反的事。這不是違背主自己的旨意嗎？然而亞伯拉罕聽錯了——他立刻服從了，他沒有依靠邏輯，也沒有依靠他的智力，他沒有試圖去理解它，他服從了。亞伯拉罕因著信，在上帝考驗他的時候，把以撒獻上為祭。亞伯拉罕已經得到了應許，但他即將犧牲自己唯一的兒子，他認為上帝能夠使死人復活，從形象的角度來說，他確實從死亡中領回了以撒。希伯來書 11:17,19

就如約伯一樣：即使他殺了我，我仍會對他抱持希望。約伯記 13:15

耶穌明確表示，無論發生什麼，祂都會為自己帶來榮耀。使徒雅各被刀殺，使徒彼得卻活著（徒 12:2）。我們不知道為什麼，但我仍然可以相信他，

上帝對祂的每一個子民都有不同的目的——無論是什麼——透過你的生活帶給祂自己榮耀。這可能是多年卓有成效的事工，也可能是英勇地忍受死亡並藉此榮耀主。

J.C.Ryle 在 1890 年寫道「為什麼我們的改革者被燒死？」1555 年至 1558 年血腥瑪麗統治期間，共有 288 人殉難。愛德華六世和伊莉莎白一世時期都沒有發生過這種事

我們若活著，是為主而活；如果我們死了，我們是為主而死。所以，無論我們是生是死，我們都屬於主。羅 14:8

聽聽丹尼爾在受到烈火威脅時說的話：「我們所侍奉的上帝能夠拯救我們脫離這種危險，國王啊，他將救我們脫離你的手。即或不然，王啊，你當知道，我們決不侍奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。但 3:17-18

2025 年殉職的人數可能比以往任何一年都多。會是我們中的一員嗎？為什麼它不是我們中的一員？為什麼不能是我們中的一員？

這樣的想法難道不會讓我們停止思考並讓我們的頭腦不再充滿問題嗎？這些就是使徒保羅所描述的我們這暫時的輕微的苦楚。

「保羅，你太不敏感了，我經歷了這麼多，你怎麼能這麼說呢？」但保羅正在努力幫助我們。他希望我們不再關注自己的問題，而是將目光轉向上帝。痛嗎？簽證狀態？財政？住房問題？感情問題？不信者為此而煩惱，因為他們在這個世界上是孤獨的，沒有希望。不是我們，我們希望他。祂是我們的希望。保羅希望我們抬頭仰望，看見坐在寶座上的榮耀者。祂說這些話是因為它們為我們帶來了遠超過一切的永恆榮耀。林後 4:17

當我們經歷這段艱難的人生時，請記住“堅心倚賴我的，神必保守他十分平安，因為他信靠我。”以賽亞書 26:3

讓我們堅定、堅定、堅持、堅持下去！

布隆丹已經證明他可以將一袋土豆運過去，因此我們不必害怕，他可以做到。上車，撐住！

這樣，上帝就會保佑你平安度過難關。

昨天舉行了史蒂芬·丹瑟牧師追悼會，一位忠實的牧師...

相信上帝的承諾，祂比你的問題更大，基督的恩典足夠，足以解決所有問題。如果祂能使死人復活（弗

1），那麼祂就能幫助你度過難關。

正如司提反以及之前的無數聖人一樣，我們也是亞伯拉罕、約伯等眾多信仰男女的一部分，他們都在逆境中信靠主。上帝選擇透過你來獲得榮耀——無論是生是死，無論是匱乏是富足。祂會因您所遇到的困難而得到更多的榮耀，而不是為您解除困難。因為在你的苦難中，你的信仰變得堅強，並且被所有人看見。重複座右銘文字。詩篇作者說，當公義從天上垂看時，讓忠誠從地上湧現。詩篇 85:11 結束