

Welcome to the InsideOut newsletter, which is designed to celebrate the testimonies of the beloved men in our ministry, lifting them up and inspiring you with hope. In this issue, we look at themes of family, support, and the grace of God. We pray that you will be encouraged to reflect upon your own relationship with Jesus and your loved ones, humbly rejoicing with them and carrying each other's burdens in caring respect, tempered by the precious Holy Spirit.

Help me to be humble
Unbending in submission to you
My own will surrendering
In obedience in all I do
Learning truly to follow
In your steps day by day
Totally committed and focused to
Your Lordship, never to stray.

Help me to be humble
Under your loving care
Making conscious decisions
In willing sacrifice to bear,
Lovingly, carry others' burdens
In caring respect and love
Tempered by your precious Spirit,
Yielding to your word from above.

Help me to be humble
Ushering in a new way of life
Modest in speech and in deed
In a world where boasting is rife
Learning how best to interpret
Instruction found in your Word.
Teacher train me to appreciate
Your mercies so undeserved

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ* Galatians 6:2

*Humility by
Martin Langford*

Written by one of our beloved men who has recently returned to prison

I can only speak on the benefits BlessUp has had on my life – and speaking from experience BlessUp has offered me something that has been greatly lacking for mass periods of my life – continuity and stability. The BlessUp team have been there for me in various ways: financially, emotionally; they have been a shoulder to cry on, an ear to complain to. And what's more, not even the dreaded reality of being recalled to prison stops the team from reaching out to you, dearly and gently convincing us that Jesus is with us wherever we go, and even our own mistakes are not enough to put him off us. Also, the very practical links the team have with organisations and charities that can provide extra support to us – is a big help as well. (e.g. housing, and positive correspondence with probation.) I will soon be released again and greatly look forward to being part of our BlessUps again.



An Almighty Father

One of our beloved men, John C reflects on his relationship with his our almighty Father in heaven, his earthly father and his spiritual parents...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

I never knew my real father from a young age as there were bad problems between both sides of the family. I have two younger sisters. My youngest sister's father was very violent at times towards my mum, me and one of my sisters, usually under the influence of alcohol.

I rebelled when young against all authority; at the age of nine, I spent two years in boarding school, got expelled from three schools after this for fighting, and by age 16, I was sentenced to Brixton prison. I was sentenced to a youth offenders prison three times after this, right up until the age of 22 when I'd become out of control completely. I had to be taken to Greenwich old hospital's lock-up unit, with my hands and feet cuffed by the police.

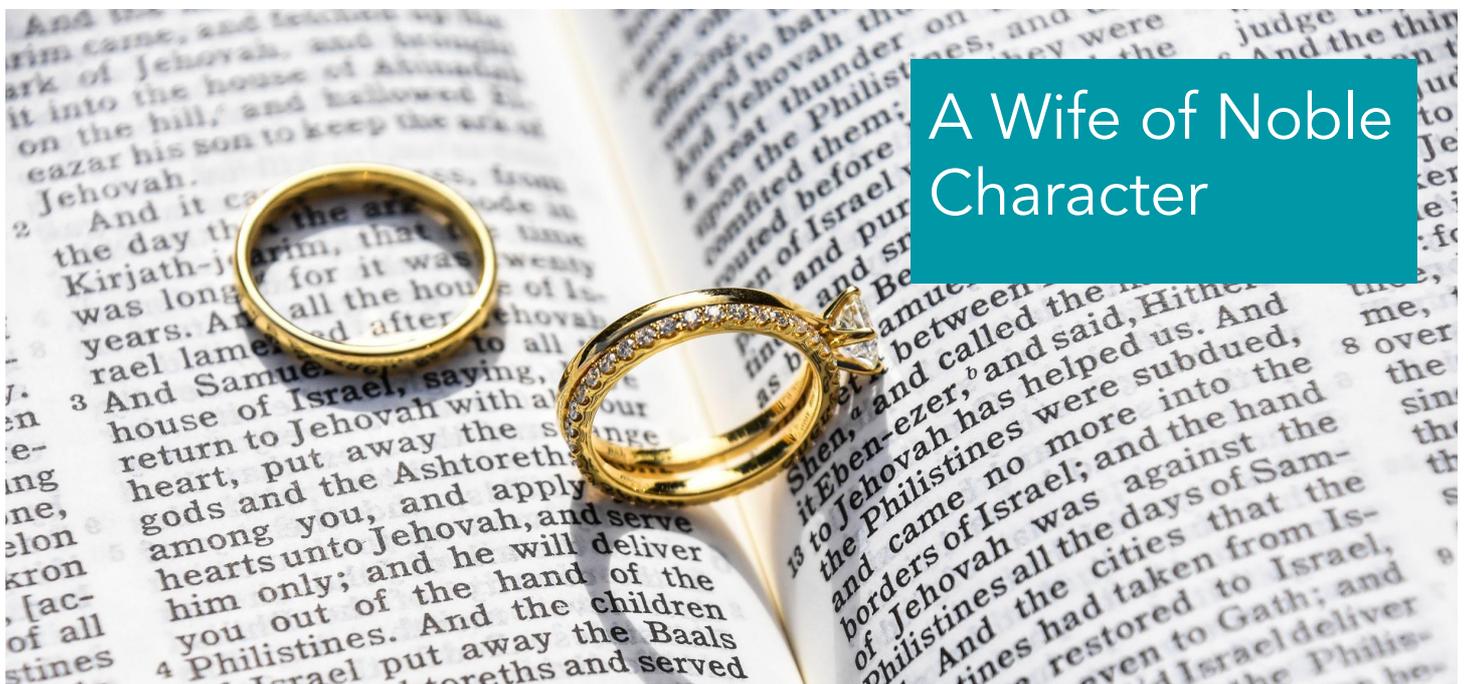
"For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."
Proverbs 3:12

While in lock-up-unit, my heart cracked and in this time, I reached up to God for help. The power of God fell upon me and I received a powerful deliverance, I met God. I asked Christ into my life and got baptized, out of the old and into the new with lots of ups and downs.

I have 2 sons, aged 22 and 26. I raised them as a single father for 11 years. They are both doing well and I have been a good father to them both.

Yes God is our powerful God, an almighty father! I'd like to honour minister Joseph Boadu as we've known each other 20 years through all the ups and downs of my walk with the Lord. Joseph has been my spiritual father as the head of CLF church. I look up to Joseph with respect and trust, love his ministry and the church. THANKS!

Our beloved InsideOut Minister helped house me for nearly 2 years after my baptism which really helped me. She is a bit like a Godmother to me and I love everyone involved with InsideOut. I like the fellowship mainly, eating takeaways and enjoying food together, as well as going to other church ministries and groups, especially Hillsong. God bless our souls. Amen



A Wife of Noble Character

This year we have been thrilled to celebrate not just one marriage but two! We were honoured to witness and contribute to two of the weddings of our beloved men. Frankie was even best man! Here, Richard shares some of his story...

How can a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed thereto according to your word.
Psalm 119:9

Greetings in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ... I would like to thank our beloved pastor and the team for seeing it fit in allowing me to share a fraction of my testimony. To the men that are temporarily behind the prison wall, I'm here to encourage you to hold the faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. I would like to honestly say I have a deep brotherly love for all brothers and sisters. My life is a living testimony of the transformational power of the Word. I first cried out to the LORD when I was in jail, and he is a faithful God. I've been home 6 years after serving 5 years behind the door and I'm free from crime. Life is great, I'm happily married... My wife and I got married in Greece earlier this year my and we are expecting a baby early next year, I've had a steady job the the past 5 years as a construction supervisor and I actually love my job, I bought my home a few years ago, without having to do crime. All legally purchased with the favour and guidance of The Lord. I completed Bible school and now serve in my church and in the prison ministry, visiting and encouraging prisoners through the word of God all over the UK. I write to prisoners in many UK prisons, encouraging them in their walk with the Lord. My own newsletters are called from Prison to Purpose. This is what Almighty God has done in my Life, literally taking me from prison to living a purpose filled life. All this has happened in my life through trusting, believing and following Almighty God.

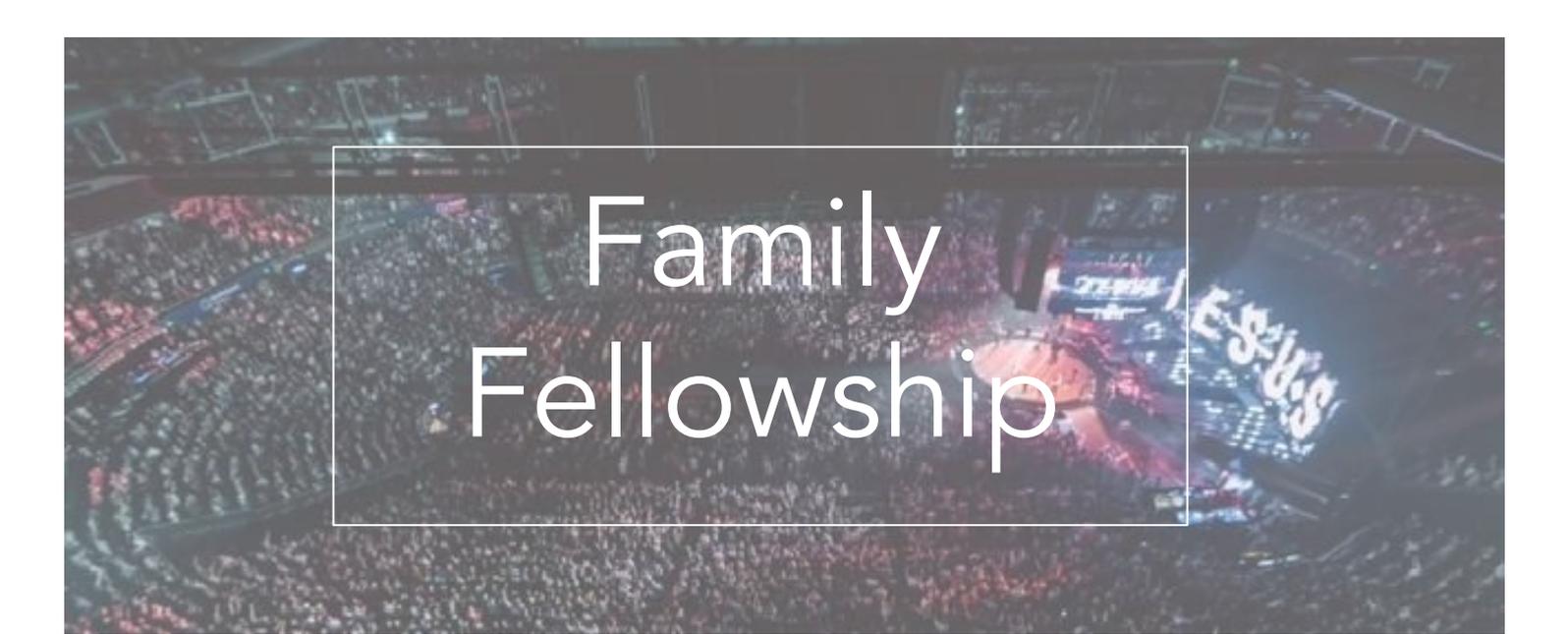
When I was in my cell reading my bible, praying and regularly going to the prison chapel I couldn't see my life as it is now. But I took it day by day, not letting God go. The Lord's power has overshadowed me in every area of my life. So I encourage you to continue putting your trust in God!

Celebrating a Mother's Life

We were also extremely honoured to attend the life celebration of one of our beloved men's mothers, who passed away earlier this year. The whole ministry came together to support the event, ushering, preaching, praying, reading and reciting poetry.

"I was touched to be asked to read a devotional. I've personally never felt so close to the body of Christ, as when I experienced the ministry comforting and encouraging each other as one family, acting with total love and a heart of service for our brothers and sisters."

Lorraine, team member



Family Fellowship

Hillsong 2017

Ola reports: It was a great honour to be invited to Hillsong 2017 conference at the O2. Our guys & team had powerful encounters in an electric atmosphere of worship, powerful Word ministry and workshops. We were truly inspired, refreshed and intent on growing in leadership over the 3 day conference.

A key speaker on the first night ministered from Ezekiel 43:12-13 referring in particular to the cubit measurement. From your elbow to the tip of the finger is 6 handbreadths (1 cubit)

Man builds many things with the effort of 6 hand breaths but without God it cannot have spiritual impact. The 7th hand is the Holy Spirit, the grace of God. We need this for building our family, fulfilling purpose, living a transformed life etc. To have eternal value in anything we do, we need the 7th hand.

"What should I say!! the conference was tremendously great. I had a wonderful and blessed time which will remain with me forever. May God Bless you again." SG

"I really look forward to nights like this. I love the great time of worship. Thanks so much for putting me down to attend." SA

Christ for all Nations

I first heard of CfaN when our beloved pastor asked me if I would be interested in going to a concert about the Holy Spirit. I went on two occasions and found it helped to integrate me back into society. I came out of belmarsh prison five years ago when I got involved with the InsideOut ministry. I have always found them to be helpful and supportive and always willing to listen. My wife and I would like to thank the team for all their help and support over the last five years. JW

InsideOut Picnic

Our picnic is always a highlight and this year did not disappoint! With wide-ranging contributions and a great turnout, all the men, families, friends and team were thoroughly blessed.

"It was nice to see everyone from the church looking after people that society often casts aside and showing them the value that we all humanly deserve, bringing their family and friends together and sharing a real sense of belonging. I hadn't realised the lengths IO go, to bring Matthew 25:36 to life." MA

NEWSFLASH

Dates for your diary

Pastor Joseph preaching at Sunday service in Belmarsh Chapel - Sun 15th Oct
Black History event in Belmarsh - Wed 25th Oct
Hillsong Men's Conference - Sat 11th Nov
Fire Conference at ExCel - Sat 18th Nov
CLF InsideOut team take Sunday service in Belmarsh Chapel - Dec 3rd
Thanksgiving buffet for BlessUp family - Sun Dec 10th