Sittingbourne Baptist Church

July & August Magazine & Diary 2017

Summer Special

www.sbc-church.org.uk

An Article from Nathan Gordon our Youth Pastor

Dear SBC Family,

I would like to update you on our upcoming camping extravaganza known as Soul Survivor! We are excited Soul Survivor is just two months away, and this year there is a new location at the East of England Showground in Peterborough.

Soul Survivor has become synonymous with SBC over the years and without question, SS is the biggest event of the youth ministry calendar. The team who organise Soul Survivor really do an incredible job to facilitate a variety of activities and include two worship services every day. There is no chance of young people being bored at SS as there is so much to do. I really enjoy the quality time you get to spend with the youth over the 5 days and the unity that is strengthened amongst the group that attends.

This year we have 16 young people and 7 leaders registered to attend Soul Survivor, and we anticipate there will be some late additions. Let me appeal to our parents and young people reading this article, if you are thinking about Soul Survivor but worried about the costs please speak to me ASAP. There is a designated bursary for Soul Survivor which has already helped some of our young people attend this year. We are grateful to our Members, who have fundraised throughout the year, because of a burden to help as many young people as possible attend Soul Survivor (THANK YOU).

We kindly ask if the Church would pray for the leaders and young people travelling to Peterborough, and most importantly that amongst all the fun, our young people will be greatly inspired spiritually through the worship and teaching of God's word.

To finish the article I thought I would include a Q&A about our upcoming trip.

WEEK B
PETERBOROUGH
19TH - 23RD AUGUST

Q. When is Soul Survivor this year?

A. Saturday 19th August - Wednesday 23rd August 2017.

Q. Who are the leaders going with our youth?

A. Nathan Gordon, Grahame Atkinson, Lisa Emmett, Diane Bray, Beverley Sills, Natasha Osoba & Nicole Smith.

Q. How are we getting to Peterborough? A. 6 Cars and a minivan for the equipment.

Q. What are the cooking arrangements? A. Bev has kindly volunteered to cook again this year :)

Q. What is the theme this year for the fancy dress on the final evening?

A. What I wanted to be when I was 5 years old.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister

CHRIS HUGHES

Minister in Training

ROBIN BRENCHLEY

Youth Pastor

NATHAN GORDON

Deacons

ADMINISTRATOR

SHAUN HENDRY

TREASURER

MARK WRIGHTON

GRAHAME ATKINSON

PAUL BLAKE

DAVID CASSE

ADRIAN CHEESMAN

IAN DERHAM

BRIAN DICKSON

Church Office details

Office open 9am-2pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. and Wed evenings 6-9 pm **Tel: No**. 420990
Email: office@sbc-church.org.uk **Web:** www.sbc-church.org.uk
Office Manager: marion.brenchley@sbc-church.org.uk

MARION BRENCHLEY

Morning Service 10:30am and Evening Service 6:30pm

(refreshments served after each of these services)
Communion is taken in the evening on the 1st Sunday in the month and in the morning service on the 3rd Sunday.

Plant Ministry Continued from June Magazine...

By Natasha Osoba....

Week 6 - Straight after church, even before lunch! we were out in the garden, trying to see how we could make a space appropriate for the sunflowers to go out into the natural light and weather. After careful scrutiny, it became obvious that we would have to move the plants into bigger tubs before moving them at last, into the ground. The picture of the garden explains why. Life is like that too – God can move you to several places at school, work or home before you finally get to somewhere you feel you belong. When God sets you in a place, it is like He knows your post-code. This is why it is so important that we don't plant ourselves where we think we should be, but listen carefully to where He has prepared a place for us – He promised that to Abraham in the Bible, and He promises that to us for our future home in heaven (John 14:2). That place will be cleared of weeds and things that would stop our growth, but He also leaves things that would challenge us, but rest assured He trusts you to fight your way out with His help. Dani made a big sacrifice by walking to Asda to buy the 2.5kg bag of compost needed for the plants, as it became evident that the compost in our garden was not good enough. God too, made a big sacrifice when He gave His Son, Jesus, to take away our sins. He looked around and saw that nothing else was going to be good enough to do the job, and only Jesus could fulfil the task.

If we look at the plant parts: **roots** – dig deep into the ground and stabilise the plant so that it can withstand the winds. The roots spread wide to find nutrients that the plant needs and water to help it grow. I heard that a plant's roots are as wide as its widest branches! Our "roots" are important to the person we grow up to be. They help us find a good moral compass, and that can be founded in culture, upbringing or what we learn as we grow. However, I believe anyone can make a conscious effort to change, and with enough determination, decide to be a better person if their past was not ideal.
Thinking of my African roots is why I prefer people to call me by my first name **Kuda** (meaning to love) instead of Natasha, my second name, as that means a lot to me personally. The **stem** of the plant has to be strong as it holds up the plant, and is the part that is exposed to the environment. Our sunflowers were bending towards the light when they were in the house, and that is because the plant seeks the auxin it needs – sunlight. Our lives should bend towards what feeds us best – God and following Him. We need to lean towards Him in every area of life, so we get complete growth. If we don't bend to God's will, He could break us, but He chooses to give us freewill and we should flow in that path – it is less painful. The **leaves** of a plant can show us what is happening inside the plant. If leaves get brown and fall off, it can be a sign that a plant is not getting the right nutrients or enough water if the leaves wilt. Everyone around us has signs to show when they are not getting the right things in their lives – enough rest, enough food, enough love etc. As a church and body of Christ, we can learn to "read" the people around us by being aware of when their patterns change or if we feel that they are not behaving as they normally do. All parts of the plant work together, and as a community, we should try to work together to give each other support, as we are part of the bigger plant that God is growing – His church. Sometimes leaves fall off a plant, because they have fulfilled their purpose and they need to make room for new growth. There are times in our lives where we need to shed some activities that are no longer useful to us, and we need to make space for new ventures that God may be opening up for us.

The plants have survived their first night outside and seem to be thriving in the sunshine. We now have 4 names and measurements – Emmanuel's plants are Pig - 24cm, Potpie measures 29cm. Dani has Meat, who is smallest at 19cm, and gigantean Potato stands at 30cm – all have had the same treatment and bedding. Again seeing that we all grow and develop at different rates in spite of being in the same economic structure, home, town or school.

Week 7 – Dani has not been happy with the name Meat, and has renamed her smaller plant Steak. She feels steak goes better with potato! God does that in our lives sometimes, when He turns our focus and when our lives have a different meaning to what it had when we were named. You now know how I think it is important what people call you, as in my culture this makes a difference as you can become what people call you. I think Natasha means "gossip" and that is not me! I want to be love, like God is love! God has changed names in the Bible – in the Old Testament Abram, Sarah, Jacob and Jabez, and in the new –Simon who Jesus called Peter and Paul are good examples. So let what others call you matter to you, because you, as well as others are listening.

We have not had that tragedy recently, but sometimes things die when we are not ready for it. When Rescue I and Rescue II died, the children were not particularly moved as they did not have an emotional attachment to these plants. But just the thought that anything could happen to Pig, Potato, Potpie or Steak, makes my children shudder! But it is a cycle of life that things die, and something that we have to prepare for. At times, we have lots of time to prepare if there is illness involved, but other times we are left in great shock with the suddenness of loss. Either way, there is a hole left where we know we have lost something or someone and we feel the emotional pain. There are places and pains so deep in our lives only God can provide the balm to soothe us. Again the Bible provides such comfort in the promises He makes throughout its pages. We should go to it as a source of comfort, but I find giving or getting a hug says a lot when words aren't enough.

Week 8 - further growth and the plants are working hard to grow bigger than their supporting sticks. They are thriving and the other day we noticed something sobering, small but meaningful - the stalks are now turning brown, not from ill-health but as a sign of maturity as they became stringer bark. There are many signs of people maturing, from babies holding their own bottles, toddlers putting on their own socks and shoes, to going to high school or university, buying homes or getting jobs. All these should be celebrated, especially the small signs that mean a lot to people around us. Regular watering and adding compost has brought great growth. *Continued on pg 4...*

..Continued from pg 3

This had been better than getting a pet as the plants are stationary and cleaner than any dog. But the love, care and attention they have received from the kids has been impressive - no complaints in watering them before school or checking on them in the recent heat wave. Jerome has been influenced by all this love of plants and now has his own little group of "Monty's". These are lemon flavouring herbs that we were given when we went to Big Church Day Out to remind us of the bitter taste of there being so much poverty in the year 2017. I am glad to say Monty is doing well and brings a lovely smell to the kitchen where he sits on the windowsill. Our actions should flavour other lives around us, leaving a fresh aroma, not a stench. Like Jerome, others should see what we do and want a piece of that too, not be repulsed by our actions - wanting nothing to do with us. So God's love is certainly growing in our lives and the plants are bringing us together and giving us common ground upon which to base so many discussions.

In our September Magazine, God Willing, we will see a beautiful Sunflower and what that has to show us. Watch this space...

On Friday 23rd June, the Foodbank Distribution Centre that runs from the Hub, had a visit from the "Little Legs Nursery" with some donations of food for the Foodbank.

Speaking with Danielle, one of the teachers at the Nursery, she said "The children really enjoyed going around the local community, they donated toys and clothes to other charities as well as food to the Foodbank. It taught them a lot about helping in the local community ."

Jesus said "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

Yesterday,

Today and

Forever

Hello I am Ruth Wiseman and I wish to thank you for this opportunity to share my role in CAP (Christians Against Poverty) in Swale, as well as the National Vision of CAP.

I began my involvement with CAP Money in 2008, when I saw a need to review my personal finances. I was in-between jobs. I gained experience in building budgets with people and empowering them to make decisions about how they spent and saved their money. This proved effective as I became the Local CAP money Coordinator for SWALE. This means I support 11 other churches by encouraging them to run CAP Money courses in their own communities. I recently went on a day's training authorised by Sittingbourne Baptist Church to train as a CAP Money coach and I have never looked back.

Running 3 courses a year, it is free to all delegates and deals with Budgets, covering spending, savings and goal setting.

On the 26th May, my husband and I attended the CAP Speaker team training in Bradford. I had been trying to get onto this for 6 years. I have lists of things to achieve dating back to 2011. They all had a CAP Speaker on them. Finally, God brought all the right conditions together to enable Stan and I to be added to the CAP Speaker Team for Kent. This is an incredible achievement. We now can join Ruth Millard from Gillingham Baptist Church. to go and speak to other churches and communities about how they can get involved with CAP, and to bring the Good News of Jesus to their communities through CAP Services.

CAP Money courses, together with the Local Food Banks, have seen the greater need for a SWALE CAP DEBT HELP CENTRE. There are four churches; Sittingbourne Baptist Church (SBC), Holy Trinity Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne Family Church and the Methodist Church which have agreed to partner with CAP to open this new service as soon as possible. Through CAP's partnership with local churches running Debt Help Centres, Job Clubs, Release Groups and Life Skills, God is transforming people's lives both for today and forever. We'll also be inspired how we personally can get involved; whether that's through prayer, volunteering or giving regularly to CAP.

CAP's work only exists because of the local church. Every family helped out of debt; every person helped back into employment; every person set free from an addiction; every person helped to budget and given life skills to live on a low income; all this happens through the local churches.

CAP's vision is to double in size in the next five years, so that we have 1000 poverty relieving services available through local churches across the UK by 2021. Currently, 600 frontline services are in place. This vision means we need to double the number of Christians who are prepared to give regularly to make that happen so we can reach thousands more people like those in the book *"Journeys of Hope: 12 Lives Changed by God"* If you are interested in hearing more stories of lives transformed, and how you can get involved with supporting CAP, please ask. I would be delighted to help you discover what that help looks like for you. Maybe consider inviting a CAP Speaker to your church / community group, by contacting www.capuk.org https://capuk.org/get-involved/your-church/book-a-cap-speaker

Future events:

9th July - Talk in South London – Speaker: Stan.
9th July -New CAP Money course 5pm at The Hub, Sittingbourne Baptist Church.-Speaker: Ruth.
28th July-Ashford Debt Centre Launch - Speaker: Stan & Ruth.
10th Sept-CTIS CAP Sunday event 6:30pm at Sittingbourne Baptist Church
17th Sept-10:30am CAP Speaker at the Methodist Church Sittingbourne

Ladies Afternoon Tea

FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Tuesday 11th July –2:30-4pm

Venue: Sittingbourne Baptist Church (use the side door)

Includes a variety of sandwiches, cakes, scones and plenty of tea!!

FREE ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY, AVAILABLE FROM JULIE STRIDE, & DORIS THOMSON

Hunger Lunch

CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice

On Sunday 25th June, straight after the morning service, we held a Hunger Lunch in aid of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Our thanks go to Fay Graham who organised the event and to the Catering Team for their part in preparing the delicious meal for those who attended.

The idea of the event was to eat a frugal meal and donate the amount usually spent on a Sunday lunch towards the charity that was being supported.

We collected **£312.16** for "**C**hristian **S**olidarity **W**orldwide" who support Persecuted Christians all over the world.

Testimony of God's Mercy..

By Emmanuel Osoba

From barely being able to walk to winning a 6-a-side Faversham Strike Force tournament in one week is more or less impossible, right… wrong! It all began on the 3rd day of June when my skilful football team arrived at the Bearsted 9-a-side tournament where we thrived, coming top of our group and destroying the quarter-finalists 5-0, with my good friend George scoring 3. Another one of my friends scoring one from the half way line, and I scored a goal too. Every-thing was going great until we encountered the team we would be against in the semi-finals: Ebbsfleet Academy – this was going to be a tough game.

I was extremely excited to play this game but as I turned on my first touch, a player charged at me studs up onto my left knee. I was rushed off the pitch and my team went on to lose 4-3 on penalties.

My Coach, Martin, carried me to the car and we drove home to eat before zooming to the hospital. A kind doctor had a look at me then sent us to have it x-rayed in the other room but first, the waiting room. We grabbed a wheelchair and that's where I sat for the remainder of our time at the hospital. Finally, the doctors had given me an X-ray and knew what was wrong – thankfully no bones were broken. We left with crutches and arrived home at 23:28 where we instantly prayed and went to bed. The week that followed was boring without being able to play football or any other sport. I was on crutches all day, every day of that week, praying that God's healing would take effect. On Thursday, I was able to train cautiously with the team, but my mum stopped me overdoing it. Sunday came and another tournament was on the cards. I was only allowed to play half the games but performed well and we got to the finals! We dominated the finals only scoring once, but that was enough to win the tournament! That day I fully realised that The Lord would always be with me and would answer my prayers. And He will answer yours too no matter the situation, where you are or who you are. He will always be with us.

It's time for a lick of paint...

During August we usually set aside time for some maintenance work as many of our regular activities take a break.

We are planning to refresh 2 of the rooms on the first floor with a lick of paint from **Monday July 31st– Friday 4th August** inclusive.

All equipment will be provided so we just need some willing hands.

If you are able to give a few hours, or even days, to this task please put your name down on the list, which is on the noticeboard in the lounge.

Thanking you in advance,

Paul Blake

New

Come and join us for messy fun!

Mucky Ducks is a church based activity with plenty of messy play activities to explore different stories from the Bible for babies, toddlers and small children. One of our first sessions was based on Jonah and the Whale.

The children explored the story whilst having fun painting the Whale, and searching for Jonah in slimy looking pasta and other messy but fun Activities.

Mucky Ducks meets every 4th Tuesday of each month from 13.00.
Next dates: Tuesday 18 July 1:00 - 2:30pm Please contact Hanna on 07511 749504 for more details

SITTINGBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH

SBC YOUTH

Our young people's representatives monthly column in the SBC magazine.

Ethan Emmett

Dani Osoba

Youth reps Dani Osoba & Ethan Emmett are delighted to announce our second fundraising event for the year, which will take place on **Saturday 12th August 2017.**

Fundraising Film Evening

Film: Heaven is for Real (PG)
Time: 18:30pm

tearfund

Free entry and all ages are welcome.
* A Tearfund collection will take place during the evening & refreshment sales will also be donated to Tearfund.

NEW Regular Worship

The
Worship Lounge

Informal worship practice

Every 2nd Thursday Evening
of the month from 7.45pm

Do you play a musical instrument?
Do you love to sing to the Lord?

New regular worship practice – The 2nd Thursday of every month

The FIRST worship practice will be held on 13th July from 7.45 to 9.30pm

All Welcome

Not just for those in the worship team. If you regularly come to SBC, and you play an instrument or love to worship the Lord in song, then please come along and join in.

Informal & relaxed

Come along if you can, don't worry if you can't. Practice sessions are there to be enjoyed, not stressed over.

Instruments

Bring your instruments, especially if you play the keyboard. Bring whatever you need to play and to hear yourself alongside other musicians and singers.

Themed

Each Month will be different and Each Practice will have a theme.

New Songs

This is the place to learn and practice new worship songs.

Getting Creative

This is also the place we get to try out new ideas and get creative with our worship.

Find Out More

If you play and/or sing you are welcome to come along and take part. If you want to find out more, please come and ask me.

Brian Dickson (Deacon & Worship Coordinator.)

Preachers for Sunday Services.

JULY

2nd	10:30am	Chris Hughes (Baptism)	6:30pm	Robin Brenchley (Communion)
9th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Chris Hughes (Mission)
16th	10:30am	Robin (Communion)	6:30pm	AFTERSHOCK Youth Service With Nathan.
23rd	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Chris Hughes (Testimony)
30th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Chris Hughes (Training & Equipping)

AUGUST

6th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Brian Dickson (Communion)
13th	10:30am	Robin Brenchley	6:30pm	Nathan Gordon
20th	10:30am	Alan Cole (Communion)	6:30pm	Robin Brenchley
27th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Chris Hughes

Seeking Employment

A church member is looking for employment as a children's nanny.
30 years' experience of working with children aged from birth to five years, fully DBS checked (details can be provided on request), seeking employment with an immediate start. Ideally looking for term-time work but I am prepared to be flexible depending on the circumstances.
If you know anyone who is looking for a nanny I could be that person.
Please contact me on 01795 229351 to discuss further, or email me – sralph02@outlook.com
Sarah Ralph

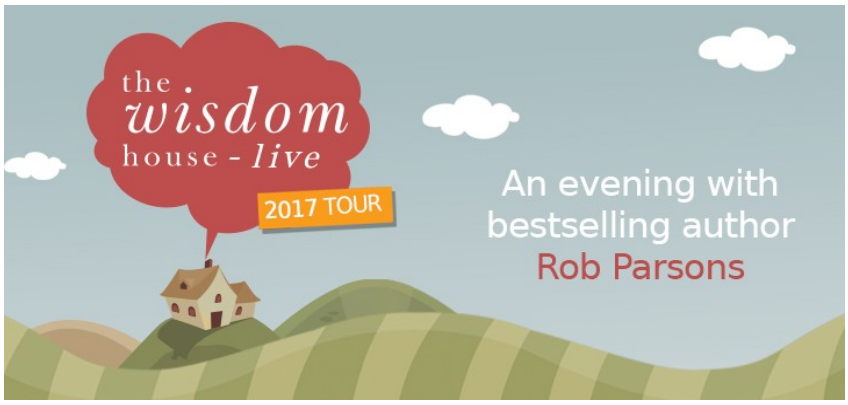
All communications and agreements between Sarah and anyone from the church is completely between the two parties involved and is not in anyway a responsibility of SBC.

AUGUST 2017

Friday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	**10am noon**-Food Bank in Hub **10pm-2am**-Street Pastors in Hub
Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	**10am--12 noon** -Contact Centre
Sunday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	**10.30am**-Morning Service **6.30pm**-Evening Service (Communion 1st Evening & 3rd Morning)
Thursday, 10th	**7.45-9.30pm** The Worship Lounge in the Sanctuary
Friday, 11th	**12 noon** Thanksgiving Service for Diversity House in Sanctuary
Saturday 12th	**4-10pm** Movie Night (hosted by the Youth) in Sanctuary.
Thursday, 17th	**7.30pm** -Soul Survivor meeting, planning & prayer in Lounge

JULY 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 **7-10pm** *Private function*					1 **10am-12noon** *Contact Centre*	2 **10.30am Morning Service-Baptism** **6.30pm Evening Service with Communion**
3 **2pm** *Rendezvous-Kent Air Ambulance* **7-10pm** *Private function*	4 **9.30-12** *Private function* **7.45pm** *Leadership Business Mtg.* **7.45pm** *Ladies Contact Club*	5 **10.-12 noon** *A.B.C.* **1.30pm** *Afternoon Housegroup in Hub*	6 **11am** *C.T.I.S. Prayer* **2pm** *Bright Hour* **7.30pm** *Creche & Ignite Mtg. In Lounge*	7 **10am-12** *Food Bank* **12.30** *Evangelism Team* **7-9pm** *Underground* **10pm-2am** *Street Pastors-Hub*	8 **10am-12 noon** *Contact Centre* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub*	9 **10.30am Morning Service** **5.-6.30pm C.A.P. Course-Hub** **6.30pm. Evening Service-Mission**
10 **2pm** *Rendezvous-Time in the Met Peter Jones* **7-10pm** *Private function*	11 **9.30-12.** *Private Function* **2.30-4pm** *Ladies cream Tea in Hub*	12 **10.-12 noon** *A.B.C.* **7.30pm** *Church Prayer Meeting* **7-8pm** *Underground Bible Study*	13 **11am** *C.T.I.S. Prayer* **12.45pm** *Lunches* **2pm**-*Bright Hour* **7.45pm** *The Worship Lounge in (Sanctuary)*	14 **10am-12** *Food Bk* **12.30** *Evangelism Team* **7-9pm** *Underground* **10pm-2am** *Street Pastors - Hub*	15 **10am-12noon** *Contact Centre* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub*	16 **10.30am. Morning Service- Communion** **4pm. Youth Band** **5.-6.30pm C.A.P. Course-Hub** **5.30-6.30pm Soul Survivor Meeting** **6.30pm– Aftershock Youth Service**
17 **2pm** *Rendezvous-Baltic Cruise-Ann Cattoor* **7-10pm** *Private function*	18 **9.30-12.** *Private Function* **12.30-2.30pm** *Mucky Ducks* ***7:45pm*** *Leadership prayer*	19 **10.-12 noon** *A.B.C.* **1.30pm** *Afternoon Housegroup in Hub*	20 **11am** *C.T.I.S. Prayer* **2pm** *Bright Hour*	21 **10am –12noon** *Food Bank-Hub* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub* **7-9pm** *Underground* **10pm-2am** *Street Pastors*	22 **10am-12noon** *Contact Centre* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub*	23 **10.30am. Morning Service** **5-6.30pm C.A.P. Course-Hub** **6.30pm. Evening Service–Testimony**
24 **2pm** *Rendezvous-S/bourne Community Choir Sanctuary* **7-10pm** *Private function*	25 **9.30-12.** *Private Function*	26 **7.30pm** *Underground Production Team Mtg. In Lounge*	27 **11am** *C.T.I.S. Prayer*	28 **10am-12 noon** *Food Bank-Hub* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub* **10pm-2am** *Street Pastors*-Hub	29 **10am-12noon** *Contact Centre* **12.30** *Evangelism Team in Hub*	30 **10.30am Morning Service** **6.30pm-Evening Service-Training & Equipping**



Member's recommendations

Alison Savage and Lisa Emmett came back from Spring Harvest inspired by a talk given by Rob Parsons from Care for the Family.

So much so, that they have given us some information of an event featuring Rob Parsons called, "The Wisdom House" There are many events around the country but he very rarely comes to our area which is what makes this one so special. It is being held in Maidstone on the **Tuesday 17th October 2017.**

If you book up before 29th August the tickets are only £4 pp, after that they will be £5 or £7 on the door. Alison and Lisa said *"he was really good, funny and made you think"*

If you are interested you can book up your tickets online at the web address below. If you do not have access to a computer and cannot get friends or family to help you, then please see Marion in the Church Office.
https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/other-events/the-wisdom-house-live

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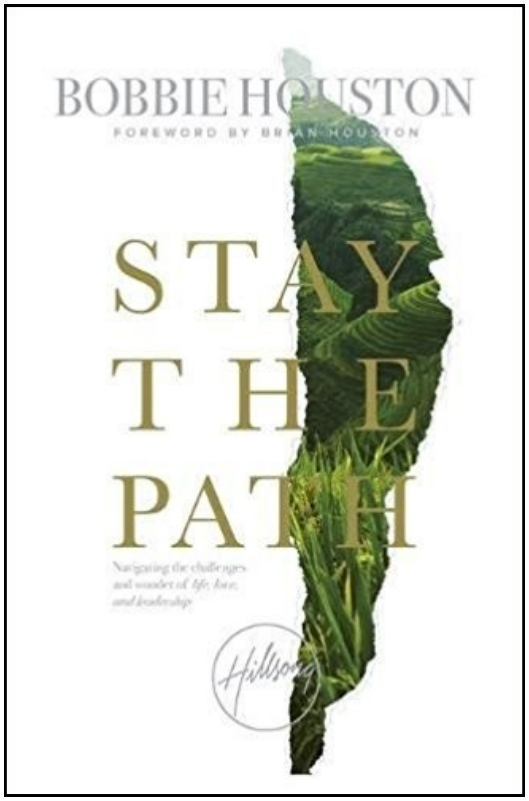

Holiday reading...

This book from Bobbie Houston called *"Stay the Path"* is encouraging and faith building.
"A pure delight to read"...Marion Brenchley

Quote from Bobby Houston

"Jesus came to create a divide in a road that was headed one way to destruction.-a fork where salvation, rescue and everlasting life is offered, and where humanity gets to make a choice in favour of life over death." (see Deut 30:19)

Have a wonderful summer time...