

WORD FOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



Dear People of Inheritance,

Glory to God Almighty who has led us in triumphant procession through the Year 2020! We have many reasons to thank the Bishop of our souls and our Great Shepherd for making us lie down (not locked down) in 2020! Without a doubt, we walked through the valley of the shadow of death, but His Presence made a difference! We are in the crowning day/hours of the year by His grace!

Our Hallelujah (x366) belong to God!

Every year is unique. 2020 has been a Reflective Year as a whole! As the world was "Paused" in many ways than one, we were all hopefully, helped to sift between priorities and vanities, realities and fantasies! Our generation experienced a shaking of all that we held dear, mountains of society quaked, the rivers roared, but God mercifully spared us for His greater purpose.



Rising to the Challenge

By His grace, WFCM's response was remarkable. Personal and corporate responses to the challenges (including COVID-19) helped us to remobilise and restructure our services virtually. Among other things, we were graced to refurbish our Cowley Church; plan and deliver VoH online Bible Study; water baptismal

classes (10 baptised); naming ceremonies; birthdays; ran 2 sessions of Holiday Activities in collaboration with East Oxford Youth Partnership (EYOP); delivered Relief Packs in Summer, Autumn & Christmas. All undergirded by Bible Study and Prayer – All by His grace! This has been no small ask of our pastors, ministers, elders, departmental heads, and teams. Our sponsors and supporters all made a difference as every joint supplied.

2020 was not a lost year! It was a leap year and God helped us to leap over the walls and run through the troops! His Presence was tangible! We raise our Stone of Help (Ebenezer) to the glory of His name. Adapting to new ways of fellowship and working has been challenging, the creativity and collaboration among teams and assemblies have been admirable. The burden for reaching our communities did not wane. Our commitment to social responsibility of making our gathering safe by keeping social distance, hand washing, wearing face masks meant the reduction in number of people that could physically attend Cowley church while Croft School and Gosford Hill School could not facilitate hall hire. Nonetheless, the Throne of Grace was never in lock down!

The dedication of our frontline and key workers (Health & social care, transport, prison, military, postal, teachers, etc.) meant that some of our brethren were at higher risks of exposure or could not stop attending work spaces; our children had to adapt new ways of learning, manage boredom and other emotional strains while parents had to take up teaching tasks, etc. There were challenges of job/business losses or reduced income due to redundancies and those furloughed. Your resilience to the challenges while finding new ways through the problems and support one another has been exceptional. We stand with those who were bereaved and/or suffered any other loss or distress in the year. We pray that the God of all comfort will strengthen & encourage you in Jesus mighty name.



2021 - The Year of The True Vine!

Beloved, we are alive to hear 2021 knocking! By divine mercy, we shall close 2020 and open 2021 with rejoicing in Jesus name!

I will not be naive to suggest that the challenges are over. Rather, as we thank God for seeing us through 2020, we must surrender fully to His Lordship and allow the Way Maker to lead us like never before into the New Year & New Decade (if Jesus tarries). We must live in the consciousness that we are pilgrims on this side of eternity and put our lives, homes and church in order! These are not days for following a religion or following Jesus afar off! We must be truly connected to the True Vine for stability; daily draw Sap (Holy Spirit) for maturity and be fruitful for accountability.

Jesus is the True Vine!

The natural vine is known for its resilience. I read this about a massive fire outbreak ([Source here](#)) “As wildfires raced through Napa Valley and Sonoma County in October 2017, many newscasters forecasted the destruction of the vintage and even of the region. Indeed University of California Davis research proves that grape vines are very hardy (UC-Davis, 2017). If not burned too badly, the vine can recover and produce grape clusters again the following year. Leaves that were covered in smoke will not impact the quality of the wine the following year, because grapevines naturally drop their leaves and grow new ones.”

Beloved, it's of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. In 2021 those of us in the UK and Europe will discover the implications of BREXIT; and globally, we continue to seek the degradation and elimination of COVID 19 among other things. It's time to REBOOT!

Don't just make a list of Resolutions. Rather, press into God to know His heart for you and all yours and follow Him. As a branch of the True Vine, tap into His ability and capacity to recover and produce new wine!

Thank you to our leaders and brethren, our youths and children (far and near) for being part of the journey! Beneath are the Everlasting Arms! In His Light, we have light.

Pastor Dupe Adefala

