



## Something Different ...

When we started this weekly email we didn't know how people would use it and were happy to let it evolve.

As we move on from Easter and go forward into a longer time of isolation it seemed a good moment to look at it again and give it a proper name!

I realised that what it was reminding me of was the occasional Sunday evening services we used to have, called ... Something Different.

Quiet and gentle. Thoughtful and thought provoking. Sharing. Sometimes they focused on service. Sometimes on a Bible Story. Sometimes on a different way of worshiping.

We had The Stations of the Resurrection and a Julian Meeting.

We looked at poetry and we went for a Prayer Walk.

That seems to be what this email has become and how we might let it grow.

Maybe there is some aspect of our faith that you have found helpful.

Something you know about that not many others do.

A group or charity that you are involved with. An author whose books help you.

A musician whose music helps you.

Tell us about it! Share it with us! Write a "meeting" about it.

Give us **Something Different** to think about!

There is, of course, still space for personal items such as the beautiful Easter card from Barbara Hellicar. Thank you Barbara!

Also lots of opportunity for single ideas. You don't have to do the whole thing!

The words of a favourite hymn. A poem. A prayer.

A picture of the flowers in your garden!

Please continue to send them in!

As I was preparing this on Wednesday I realised that it was the anniversary of the birth – and death – of Corrie Ten Boom, one of the modern heroines of the Christian faith. So this is about her ...

## CORRIE TEN BOOM



### **THE TEN BOOM FAMILY**

In 1837, Willem ten Boom opened a watch shop. He lived with his family in the rooms above the shop. The home was later passed down to Willem's son Casper, and then to Casper's daughter, Corrie.

The Ten Boom family were devoted Christians who dedicated their lives in service to God and their fellow man. Through the years the Ten Booms were active in social work in Haarlem. Their faith inspired them to serve the religious community and society at large. In the 1920s and '30s, the Ten Boom family took in many foster children, whose parents were doing missionary work.

### **A HIDING PLACE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

During the Second World War, the Ten Boom home became a refuge, a hiding place, for fugitives and those hunted by the Nazis. By protecting these people, Casper and his daughters, Betsie and Corrie, risked their lives. This non-violent resistance against the Nazi-oppressors was the Ten Boom's way of living out their Christian faith.

During 1943 and into 1944, there were usually 5-6 people illegally living in the Ten Boom home: some of whom were Jews and others members of the Dutch underground. Additional refugees would stay with the Ten Booms for a few hours or a few days until another 'safe house' could be located for them.

Through these activities, the Ten Boom Family and their many friends and co-workers of 'the BeJe group' saved the lives of an estimated 800 Jews and other refugees.

## **ARREST**

On February 28, 1944, the Ten Boom family was betrayed and the Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service) of the Nazis raided their home. That day, more than 30 people were arrested, among whom were father Casper and Betsie and Corrie, his two daughters that were living at home. Corrie's brother Willem, sister Nollie and nephew Peter were at the house that day and were also taken to prison.

Although the Sicherheitsdienst arrested many visitors, they could not find who they were really after. Safely hidden behind a false wall in Corrie's bedroom were two Jewish men, two Jewish women and two members of the Dutch underground.

Although the house remained under guard by the Sicherheitsdienst, members of a local police resistance group were able, by cunning means, to liberate the refugees from the 'hiding place' 47 hours later. The four Jews were taken to new 'safe houses', and three survived the war. One of the underground workers was killed during the war years, but the other survived.

## **PRISON AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS**

Ten days after his arrest, father Casper died in Scheveningen Prison. Betsie and Corrie also spent some time in that same prison. From there, they were transported to camp Vucht and then to the notorious Ravensbrück Concentration Camp in Germany. Life at Ravensbrück was almost unbearable, but Betsie and Corrie spent their time sharing Jesus' love with their fellow prisoners. Many women became Christians in that terrible place because of Betsie and Corrie's witness to them. Betsie died at Ravensbrück (age 59) but Corrie miraculously survived.

## **RELEASE AND SPREADING THE MESSAGE**

After her release from Ravensbrück Concentration Camp (age 53) Corrie travelled all around the world to tell everyone that "there no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still" and that "God will give us the love to be able to forgive our enemies." In more than 30 years, Corrie visited over 60 countries to testify to God's love and to encourage people with the message that "Jesus is Victor."

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1983, on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, this remarkable woman died in Orange, California.

<https://www.corrietenboom.com/en/information/the-history-of-the-museum>

Some quotes from Corrie Ten Boom

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom, *Clippings from My Notebook*

“If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom

“There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom

“Happiness isn't something that depends on our surroundings...It's something we make inside ourselves.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom

“There is no panic in Heaven! God has no problems, only plans.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/102203.Corrie\\_ten\\_Boom?page=1](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/102203.Corrie_ten_Boom?page=1)

Thanks to you tube we can sit at home and listen to Corrie speaking. I love that! Here she is speaking about prayer and the part prayer plays in her life ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xAJA1hNcUI>

I confess I've never watched it but there is a famous film of her life story ... The Hiding Place ... which you can watch here ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tipsbcfuB4>

Because it is still the Easter season ... A Traditional Easter Hymn

Maybe take time to read the words thoughtfully and use them as a prayer.

This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,  
not burst His three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain;  
but now has Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen;  
but now has Christ arisen!

Death's flood has lost its chill  
since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver: [Refrain]

My flesh in hope shall rest  
and for a season slumber  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number: [Refrain]

[https://hymnary.org/text/this\\_joyful\\_eastertide\\_away\\_with\\_sin](https://hymnary.org/text/this_joyful_eastertide_away_with_sin)  
Listen to it here ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tipsbcfuB4>



And a more contemporary Easter song ...

God sent His Son  
They called Him Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives  
Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

And then one day  
I'll cross that river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

Songwriters: Gloria Gaither / William J. Gaither  
Because He Lives lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

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Listen to it here ... a recording made earlier this week! ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI0jfzwqVNY>



A prayer by Eddie Askew reflecting on the story of the Road to Emmaus.

Lord, as I try to build my life today  
a few bricks at a time  
help me to build it on reality.  
To face the present with the courage  
only you can give.  
It's tempting now and then  
when life's a little rough -  
I try to keep it in perspective, Lord -  
to look behind,  
imagine life was easier,  
grass greener,  
than it is today.  
So tempting, Lord  
to let nostalgia rule,  
to play the tapes  
that tell me life was better then,  
and try to turn my back on now.

Lord, help me face the day.  
Help me to seize the time and shake it  
'till the joy it holds  
spills out  
and fills my life.  
Help me to sense your presence on the road,  
and in those moments  
when I seem alone  
give me the faith that say's you're there.



Text and painting ... Eddie Askew ... Cross Purposes.

And saving the best till last ... Barbara's lovely card ...



*Wishing you a peaceful Eastertide  
May God's Blessing with you abide  
Jim and John are on the prayer list today  
Our Church remembers and all will pray  
For loved ones whose special day is here  
We'll join in the "At Home" service this year  
In this very anxious time, perhaps isolated, feeling alone  
Distanced from neighbours-out of our comfort zone  
We stand firm together in faith as we clap and give voice  
The Lord is risen, lift up your heart and let us all Rejoice,  
**REJOICE!***



*Happy Easter  
Love from Barbara*



*11th April 2020*