

March 2025

Let God speak



Dear Friends,

“So I want you to realise that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps His covenant for all time to come. He keeps it with those who love Him and obey His commandments. He shows them His love.” Deuteronomy 7:9 (NirV)



Each year I like to set myself a little challenge to help me grow in my faith. Some years I’ve challenged myself to read the Bible in a year, other years I’ve challenged myself to pray for an organisation or cause on a specific day each week. This year, I want to challenge myself to memorise Bible verses. Initially, I thought I could memorise a new verse/set of verses each week - but as I’m writing this in mid-February, I have only managed to memorise two verses so far so I leave it up to you to judge how well I’m doing!

Deuteronomy 7:9 is the verse I’m trying to memorise at the moment and each time I read it I’m struck by the simple truth of the first part - **‘the Lord your God is God’**. God is God and that means that He is powerful, He is faithful, and He knows and sees all. He is in control of all things. As I watch the news, or think about the people in my life who are sick and hurting, I can feel quite overwhelmed because there is so little that I can do to help. But as Maryanne, one of our CEI Trustees, likes to remind us, I can pray and remember that I don’t have to have the answers, I don’t have to solve the problems. I simply need to remember that God is God... and that I am not.

So really, this year’s challenge isn’t about the number of Bible verses I’m able to recite at the end of December. This year’s challenge is all about allowing God to speak to me through those verses and teach me more about who He is.

If you’d like to join me in my Bible verse memorisation challenge, you can! I’ll include two verses in the newsletter throughout the rest of 2025. I pray that God may teach you more about who He is as you memorise these verses.

God Bless,
Janneke

Bible verses to memorise in March

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

“But they make themselves humble in my sight. They pray and look to me. And they turn from their evil ways. Then I will listen to them from heaven. I will forgive their sin. And I will heal their land. After all, they are my people.” 2
Chronicles 7:14 (NirV)

Thank you

Count Everyone In – so that no one misses out on Jesus but without you, your prayers, interest, time and financial support, it would be hard for us to do what God has called us to do. Thank you for whatever part you play in Count Everyone In. No contribution is too small. Thank you.

Turning dreams into reality

How far would you be prepared to travel to reach the church you would regard as your home church? Walking distance? One mile? Two, five, or maybe more if you have transport?

We dream of a day when no adult with a learning disability must travel more than five miles to reach a welcoming and accessible church. Even that may be too far. How will they find out that church is a place worth going to, never mind be aware that some are more welcoming than others. They probably need support to attend church and this is likely to be low on the list of priorities for staff and family members who have so much to do, unless they themselves understand the importance of faith and church. Will you join us in turning the tide so that our

dream can become a reality? CEI offers training (see Workshops, below), resources, inspiration, advice and encouragement.

Email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk if your group and/or church is interested in becoming **Friends with Count Everyone In**. Pete will send you an information and application form telling you about the scheme.

If you are thinking of supporting financially, thank you.

Donate to Count Everyone In
at www.give.net/20280624 or directly into Metro Bank
(business) account (Gift Aid form available on request) -
Sort code: 23 05 80 - Account no: 33248601



Prayer

The next of our monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings takes place on Thursday 27th March – meeting for just 30 minutes on Zoom at 12.30pm and 6.30pm. If you are on our list, you will receive the link automatically. We'd love you to join us, whether you pray out loud or silently!

These are some of the topics for prayer. We appreciate your prayers at any time and wherever you are:

1. Give thanks for safe travel despite bad weather and delays – we often drive on Friday afternoons, which is a notoriously busy time
2. Thank God for ministry groups around the country, some that are **Friends with**



CEI, for their leaders and attendees.

Pray for a new group soon to start in Telford, Shropshire that they will attract people who would otherwise miss out on knowing Jesus and living their lives for Him

3. Pray for our dream of a welcoming, accessible local church within 5 miles of every person with a learning disability – and that they will be supported to get there
4. Pray for Janneke and the teams as they plan for Spring Harvest at Skegness and Minehead
5. Pray for good health for Pete, Christine, Janneke, Bronwen, our trainers and Spring Harvest team members
6. Pray for wisdom in growing the CEI team and our reach across England and Wales
7. Prayer for the events that have already been booked – see Diary Dates

Answers to prayer – More miles and more people inspired and equipped to make a difference in their churches! In February Janneke's Know & Grow Makaton workshop at Fishponds Baptist Church in Bristol was buzzing with excitement. Some delegates are praying about starting a learning disability ministry in their own churches.

At the same time, some 150 miles away in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, Pete and Christine

**Thank You God
for Everything.**



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were joined by Gordon Watson, one of our new regional trainers, in delivering Know & Grow Longing to Belong. An extra voice and another pair of hands were a great help. One headline from the day was the huge amount of CEI and Through the Roof resources that were purchased, and we pray that they will be put to good use. We also sold all the New Testaments that we had taken with us – that's the New International Readers Version – accessible edition.

Workshops

One of the first tasks we set ourselves when starting Count Everyone In was to produce training material that is relevant and accessible for churches wishing to offer ministry to adults with learning disabilities. Over the past seven years or so we have therefore developed, and continue to review, the Know & Grow suite of training. <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/events/>

One of the three workshops has come out of a partnership with The Makaton Charity, after several years, much work and growing trust; this is Know & Grow Makaton. This is a unique training package in that it is the only Christian Makaton course that is accredited by The Makaton Charity.

We receive much positive feedback from all our workshops, many commenting on value for money and a desire for others to have attended even if they are not directly involved in this ministry. There are lessons for the whole church!

Know & Grow Longing to Belong

Know & Grow Life Matters

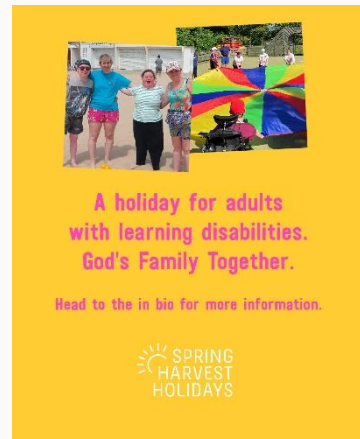
Know & Grow Makaton

To book a place or host your own, email: bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Have you thought about joining CEI in France?

Don't leave it too long before you book your 2025 Count Everyone In holiday from **2 – 9 June** with **Spring Harvest Holidays at Le Pas Opton, in the beautiful Vendée region**. It's for adults with learning disabilities, their families and/or support staff. We stay in luxury self-catering mobile homes and there's a coffee shop, heated outdoor pool, indoor and outdoor games facilities, and a celebration for everyone each evening. CEI runs daily accessible celebrations and leisure activities whilst their families and staff enjoy the optional morning Bible studies, the LPO programme or simply relax in the lovely surroundings. In the evenings there's even more to enjoy!

To find out more, contact Christine at christine@counteveryonein.org.uk. Bookings should be made directly with <https://springharvestholidays.com/booking> - it's best to phone their Guest Service Team on 01825 748318 to obtain **15% discount for groups that include adults with learning disabilities who book a mobile home.**



Resources

If you are interested in purchasing CEI branded t-shirts or full-zip hoodies, accessible Bible notes, teaching plans based on Joseph or Ruth, CEI badges, notebooks or Prospects worship albums, please email info@counteveryonein.org.uk for a full list.

Diary dates – please note that Janneke, Pete and Christine meet on Thursdays

Sat 8 March - Lichfield Diocese Reader Day

Sat 15 March - Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Catharine's Church, Gloucester
GL2 0RR

Thurs 27 March - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Tues 1 April - Reading groups' Easter celebration, Greyfriars
Church, Reading RG11EH

Sun 6 April - Cornerstone Church, St Albans

Mon 7 - Fri 11 April - Spring Harvest celebrations and exhibition, Skegness

Mon 14 - Fri 18 April - Spring Harvest celebrations and exhibition, Minehead

Thurs 24 April - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 26 April - Know & Grow Makaton, Solent Evangelical Church, Gosport PO12
3HF - in partnership with Through the Roof

Sat 10 May - Know & Grow Makaton, Aigburth Community Church, Liverpool L17
0AE

Sun 11 May - Fenland Community Church, Mill View, March

Sat 31 May - Know & Grow Makaton, Whitley Bay Baptist Church

Mon 2 - Mon 9 June - Spring Harvest Holidays, France

Sat 12 - 18 July Keswick Convention – exhibition, plus Mon-Fri CEI celebrations

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- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you
– <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>
 - **CCLI** Don't forget to include 'Prospects' songs in your Church Copyright
Licence (CCLI) reporting

GDPR We hold your contact details for the purpose of sending you this newsletter at your own request. We also hold details of people who serve on CEI teams or attend training days. If you have any questions about this, or you wish to be removed from mailing lists etc, please let us know.

Social media - See www.counteveryonein.org.uk and you can also keep up with us on Facebook, X & Instagram. Please follow, like and share so that more people find out what is happening.

May God bless you and all whom you love and care for,

Pete, Christine & Janneke