

August 2024

Joy



Dear Friends,

I will be glad and full of joy because of you. Psalm 9:2 (NirV)



Joyful but not necessarily happy. This week we heard that a man we've known for years has received the sad news that his latest cancer treatment has been unsuccessful and he is likely to have only months to live. That is despite the fervent prayers of thousands of people across the globe and despite his and his family's utmost trust in a loving and kind God. So, what does he do? He goes off to New Wine to fulfil his commitment there and to live his life to the full for however long he may have left. Joyful in a situation but not because of it.

This summer we seem to be surrounded by similar stories and it may be the same for you. As you will read in Janneke's piece about the Keswick Convention, Christians have a sure and certain hope that isn't a wishy-washy, 'cross your fingers' type of hope but a promise of eternal life from the One who rose from the dead to prove that it is not just possible but it's true!

Whatever you may be going through, hang on to God's promises and know the joy that He alone can give.

Mountains, lakes, rain, sunshine, tears, laughter, a Roman soldier, Lazarus who wasn't quite buried, a life-size camel and bad jokes... can you guess where we have been? July saw Janneke and an amazing team of volunteers descend upon the Keswick Convention where we had the privilege of spending time with about 35 friends with learning disabilities and their families. We thought about Jesus' resurrection – what it meant for the disciples who witnessed it, and what it means for us today. In the midst of sadness (illness, loss and bereavement), we praised God for the joy that the hope of eternal life with Him brings us. The week was filled with opportunities to minister to and with our friends with learning disabilities, but also with supportive and encouraging conversations with parents and carers and Keswick guests who wandered into the CEI sessions or past the CEI stand.

On Wednesday evening we had the opportunity to lead the Keswick congregation in a song of worship (if you haven't already seen it, do check out Keswick Ministries' YouTube channel or click on the link below and find the evening celebration from 17th July). I might be a little bit biased, but I think our guests were amazing!

Janneke Klos



You may like to look at this link to Keswick the evening that CEI were involved in the evening celebration. Start watching just before 20mins in. Enjoy!! Well done Janneke and team. <https://www.youtube.com/live/z00V4xslTHc?si=dzFevPjru9O9xHkY>

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 supporting Count Everyone In. No contribution is too small. **Thank you.**

Prayer

Our monthly Zoom prayer times for **Friends with Count Everyone In*** take a break this summer but that doesn't mean that we don't need your prayers.

Here are some ideas of what we would appreciate prayer for and you may think of others:

- Thank God for the wonderful week at the Keswick Convention, celebrations, the team and for new contacts made that they will bear fruit
- Pray for preparations for Commission Festival 22–26 August at Shepton Mallet, for Pete and Christine, their team and for all who will attend the celebrations
- Pray for the appointment of an administrator and a team of trainers across the country
- Pray for Janneke, Pete and Christine for health, rest, safe travel, energy and inspiration
- Pete's health, for the radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer which ends on 2 August to be effective
- For whatever else God lays on your heart



* 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. **Perhaps you will be Friend no.40!**

Holidays and festivals 2024

We'll soon be publishing the dates for 2025 but it's now time to slow down just a little as we take stock of a busy season of events and festivals, with just one remaining:

22 – 26 August Commission, Shepton Mallet <https://www.commission.global/events/cf24>

Please let us know if you will be attending this event, especially if you have anyone with a learning disability in your group as it helps us with planning. We'd love to see you.

Know & Grow workshops

The office is open and we will be happy to book you onto one of these workshops (see **Looking Ahead** section below) or work with you for your church to host one in the 2024/25 season. We can send you an outline of the training programme and an information sheet for host churches. These workshops are for everyone, welcomers, teamakers, worship leaders, singers, musicians and preachers as well as team members.

Email bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk



Know & Grow Longing to Belong – an introduction to learning disability, helpful tips to make churches more accessible for people with learning disabilities (and therefore everyone!), how to run a ministry group – and more!

Know & Grow Life Matters – facilitating conversations about big questions that affect adults with learning disabilities, just as they do everyone else: relationships, healing, mental health, loss and bereavement. We end the day with a fun-packed creative activity.

Know & Grow Makaton – a practical, fun day of learning signs and symbols for everyday communication as well as for Christian worship. This is the only workshop accredited by The Makaton Charity to teach signs and symbols for Christian vocabulary and has been developed through our partnership.

Warning! Here's a word we don't like to think about in August!!!

Why not buy your Christmas cards from CEI this year? Your purchase will benefit the charity and give joy to the recipients of this delightful card which is unique to Count Everyone In with its artwork done by Maryanne Stanley who is one of our trustees.



Packs of 10 cards including envelopes cost just £6, plus £3 postage and packing for up to 3 packs.

Wording inside: *Joy and peace this Christmas*

Email your order to info@counteveryonein.org.uk and make your payment ideally by BACS to our Metro Bank (business) account, using the reference 'cards':

Count Everyone In – Sort code: 23-05-80 – Account no: 33248601

Resources

Top sellers at the Keswick Convention last month were our CEI branded t-shirts (£10.50), especially in the new colours of Sunshine Yellow and Fuchsia Pink. We also stock them, and polos (£16) and full-zip hoodies (£25) in our original colours of sapphire blue, burgundy red and charcoal grey. They come in unisex sizes Small through to 2XL (also 3XL for t-shirts).

To purchase any of our resources just drop an email to info@counteveryonein.org.uk. We add £3 for postage and packing and ask for payment by BACS transfer or cheque. If your order is outside of our normal weight/size we reserve the right to pass on actual delivery costs.

Apart from clothing we have undated Bible notes, based on the New International Readers Version – number of readings in brackets

What is the Gospel? (31) £4.50
Prayer (30) £4.50
Psalms (20) £4.50
Christmas is coming (25) £4.50
Easter (9) £2.50
Jesus returned to Heaven & what happened next (14) £2.50
Who is Jesus? (14) £2.50
The Holy Spirit (7) £2.50
Hope (5) £2.00

Other items are:

- A choice of two guides to Holy Communion priced at £2.00
- Two teaching plans, Joseph (7 sessions – £8) and Ruth (4 sessions – £4)
- ‘Prospects’ albums of easy to sing worship songs, available on CD or MP3: Jesus the Start of it All, No god is greater and Say the Word
- CEI branded mugs, notebooks, pens, badges and car stickers

We hold some New Testaments in the New International Readers Version (NIRV Accessible Edition), with large, clear print, plenty of ‘white’ space (actually, light grey) and line drawings. Hardback costs £9.99 and softback is £7.99. These can also be ordered from Bible Society

at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/product-search/NIRV%20accessible/>

Looking ahead – please note that Janneke, Pete & Christine meet on Thursdays

2024 – correct as at 29 July

Thur 22 – Mon 26 August – Commission Festival, Shepton Mallet

Sat 7 September – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Austell, Cornwall

Sun 8 September – Morning Service, Helston

Sat 28 September – Beds, Cambs & Herts Regional Celebration, Cambridge

Tues 8 – Weds 9 October – Christian Resources Exhibition, Milton Keynes

Sat 19 October – K&G Makaton Taster Session with Through the Roof, Gosport

Sat 26 October – Oswestry Deanery Mission Day

Sat 26 October – Know & Grow Makaton, Skipton Baptist Church BD23 1ET

Sun 17 November – Morning service, High Street Baptist Church, Tring HP23 4AB

Sun 1 December – Christmas Celebration, St Nic's Newbury and livestreamed

2025

Sat 18 January – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe

Sun 19 January – Morning service at Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe

Mon 7 – Fri 11 April – Spring Harvest, Skegness

Mon 14 – Fri 18 April – Spring Harvest, Minehead

***Please note that the best times to contact the main office is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm**



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

- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you – see link for your online shopping at the foot of this letter.
- **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, Twitter & Instagram. Please follow, like and share so that more people find out what is happening.

Every blessing,

Pete, Christine & Janneke