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Fellowship of Independent Methodist Churches
Statement of Faith

The Independent Methodists are a body of Christians who evidence their genuine experience of God's saving grace by practical godliness and by earnestly seeking to conform to the whole will of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

They do not believe that God or the Bible has changed to accommodate the fashionable tendencies of the age and solemnly protest against any introduction of worldliness into the Church.

The cost of discipleship is the same as it was in the days of the Apostles, therefore if any will be His disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Christ. It is necessary to come out from the world and be separate, renouncing all vain pomp and glory, adorning oneself with modest attire. In doctrine we are Methodist. We believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, a general atonement, the necessity and possibility of the New Birth for all men, the witness of the Spirit, the ministry of divine healing, future rewards and punishment, the Second Coming of Christ and that it is the privilege of every believer to be sanctified wholly and to be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. All our members are expected to enjoy this blessing or seek diligently until they obtain it.

We are also opposed to the present false Ecumenical Movement and to the World Council of Churches and we will not share in any of their activities. We are glad to have fellowship with born again members of other denominations.

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Walking recently on the shores of Lough Erne my eye was drawn to the bare silhouette of two life-belts hanging silently in stark contrast to the fiery glow of the setting sun behind them. They commanded attention…their strong, dark circles were so totally different from what lay around them.

I could tell from a distance they were life-belts; I didn’t have to go any closer to read a sign or find instructions; they were obvious and accessible to anyone who would need one.

My thoughts turned to Jesus, the only source of rescue and life there is in these sunset days, and how the world needs to hear his name and see the reality of his presence and power in our lives!

And I ask myself…how clearly can the world see Christ in me… in you? Is he lying trampled and unseen in the grass verges of our lives or is he lifted up and visible?

[Jesus said] And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. (John 12:32)

Alison Brown

Cover: Lough Erne, from Trory Jetty
On Friday 31st May we held a welcome service for Scott McFarland who is joining the work as an assistant pastor. We had been looking forward to this service for some weeks and were delighted to see many of Scott’s family and friends taking their place for the service.

From the opening note, the singing of Charles Wesley’s hymn, ‘Arise my soul arise,’ set the spirit of the meeting. Rev. Eric Lewis committed the meeting to the Lord in prayer before Nathanael Brown brought his first message in song.

Pastor Scott McFarland shared a word of personal testimony which outlined his childhood, conversion and his later call to the work of God. He paid tribute to his parents and family for the upbringing and encouragement he had received and to his pastor and friends from the Omagh Independent Methodist Church where the challenge of the gospel led him to give his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

He attended the Faith Mission Bible College in 2015 where he then completed two years of training for Christian service.

During this time God dealt with Scott about being wholly surrendered to the Lord and filled with God’s Holy Spirit. It was while he worked with the Faith Mission that he was invited to take the church services in Bloomfield Independent Methodist church. Scott had been seeking the Lord for his future and the place that God had planned for his life. The Lord gave a burden for the work in Belfast. Scott told of the clear direction that led him to apply to the Fellowship as a pastor and his acceptance by the General Council to be placed under the supervision of Rev. Eric Moore.

Rev. William Park spoke on behalf of the General Council welcoming Scott to the work and led in prayer for God’s blessing upon his life as he takes up the work in Bloomfield and Lisburn.

Mr. Noel McClintock from the Faith Mission shared of his time working with Scott and of the great encouragement it was to watch him
develop in his walk with God. Pastor Bobby Mackay then spoke on behalf of the Bloomfield Church.

Rev. Philip Johnston who had been Scott’s pastor brought God’s Word from 2 Timothy 4. Paul’s charge to “Preach the Word”, must never be neglected and there is no greater calling or greater privilege. There is no method of impacting and changing the hearts and lives of the young and old in our world apart from the clear, faithful, powerful, anointed preaching of the Word of God.

We commend Scott to your prayers that he might know God’s hand of blessing upon him as he takes up the challenge of the work of God.

Rev. E. Moore

**Youth Meetings** - Bloomfield Independent Methodist Church
85 Bloomfield Rd, Belfast BT5 5LU
(at 8 pm)

- 1 Oct ‘19 - Testimony - Rev. Thomas Martin
- 5 Nov ‘19 - Speaker - Mr David Cranston
- 3 Dec ‘19 - Speaker - Pastor Nathan Purdy
- 4 Feb ‘20 - Evangelist - Mr John Weir

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**Junior Camp- (1-5 July) - enjoyed by all!**

Monday 1st - Friday 5th July was an action-packed week in Millisle. God blessed us with a good group of thirty-six campers and an excellent team of leaders. Using this year’s theme ‘God’s Masterpiece’ and with God’s help, we endeavoured to teach the campers of their importance to God.
and how much he loves them. The evening lessons, taught by Mrs. Yvonne Aiken, focused on the life of Rev. Thomas Martin; a man whose life of turmoil was turned around by God. During the morning lessons I reminded the children of how God used difficult circumstances in the life of Joseph to mould him into a masterpiece for God. With great enthusiasm, Emily Rooney and Keith Campbell led the services while Peter Johnston conducted the quizzes and Lydia Hadnett taught the verses.

The children enjoyed many activities including craft, zipline, high-ropes, archery, ten-pin bowling, beach activities, campfires, etc. and of course, camp is not complete without an afternoon of shopping.

We would like to sincerely thank all who prayed for us, gave financially, and donated food. The leaders and cooks who gave of their time and invested so much in camp were deeply appreciated. Above all, praise and thanks go to our Heavenly Father for his help, for speaking to hearts, and for his saving grace in those who sought him.

Rev. S. Aiken

Memories from the Big Youth BBQ - 6 Sept

On Friday 6th September the fellowship’s young people gathered together at Portadown Faith Mission Centre, for the second youth barbeque in as
many years. The purpose of this event was similar to last year’s, with the main priority being the opportunity to see unsaved young people under the sound of God’s Word, while also uniting the youth from our churches for a night of fun. After the barbeque, the young people gathered for a meeting, in which Stephen and Linda Park shared of their work as missionaries in Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda. Aaron Brown provided a word of testimony, telling of how God helped him through a time when he was isolated as a Christian during a year away in New Zealand.

Paul Deans brought a gospel message to conclude the meeting, challenging the young people with the story of the rich farmer, who valued material things more than spiritual. The night was concluded with some games and all involved were encouraged to see a large turnout, and blessed by the sense of God’s presence in the meeting.

Peter Aiken, Omagh
We never really think of the amazing miracle of breath in our body – without it for just a few moments we will die and without it we certainly cannot sing. The words of the hymn “While I’ve breath, I mean to sing: Christ for me, Christ for me” have been ringing in my head and more especially in my heart since the evening of Monday, 20 May this year.

I was attending the meeting of General Council in Dungannon church. I began to feel unwell and within a few seconds my lungs had filled up with fluid and I was literally gasping for breath. I could not speak, only groan for help. I tried to ask Rev. Robert Maxwell beside me to phone my wife Eileen. Someone phoned 999 for an ambulance. Someone with First Aid training said I should lie on the floor in the ‘recovery position’, but I was still gasping for breath - I’m afraid I caused a frightening experience for all the delegates present at the meeting. That was the scary scene which my wife Eileen encountered on arrival a few minutes later at the church hall.

The prayers of those present were a great support and comfort to both of us in the middle of such a shock. The ambulance did not come for almost fifty minutes - it was an awful time. The staff were very helpful and took me to the Emergency Department at Craigavon Hospital.

I was given immediate treatment and was soon able to speak again more freely. I learned that I had taken a sudden attack of Acute Pulmonary Oedema. I was kept in hospital for almost a week. I am so thankful to God for the ministers, friends and family who visited and prayed for me at that difficult time. When Eileen brought me home on the Sunday evening I felt very vulnerable not having the constant support of the nursing staff. I was frightened that this life-threatening condition could just return at any time.
I went to bed and slept for a couple of hours but at around 3.00 am I awoke feeling most unwell. Eileen contacted the Out-of-Hours doctor to seek advice and a very nice lady doctor phoned back. I’ve no idea who she was but she was certainly God’s angel to me. She spoke so sympathetically and in such a calm way. She advised me to wait a while before calling 999. I fell asleep and some time later wakened feeling a lot better. I had got through that night without having to go back to hospital although I did still feel weak. Thankfully I continued to improve although some nights were difficult with the lurking fear of another attack.

The first night after I got out of hospital and the early days and nights afterwards I felt the devil was really mocking me. I knew I was not afraid to die because of God’s saving grace in my life over many years. It was just that Satan used everything I had testified to, and spoken about as a lay-preacher over the years, to taunt me. “When you need it most it does not work”, he seemed to say. I had tried to claim many of God’s promises but could find no peace - I was shattered.

I shared these problems with my Pastor Rev. Maxwell and he reminded us that this is how the devil works - by attacking God’s children when they are down. I of course also knew this in theory but it is altogether different when you are at the receiving end of Satan’s daggers.

In his love God did get my mind more settled on his promises:
Psalm 27:14 “Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart”. Psalm 31:24, James 4:7 “Resist the devil and he will flee from you”. A very special promise which I cling to often is Psalm 56:3, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee”. These and many other promises are a great source of comfort and strength. The reality is that nobody knows what is just round the corner. When I left home to go to a normal General Council meeting, I little knew how seriously ill I would become. I’m glad for the day I trusted Jesus as my Saviour – how vital it is that we are ready to answer the call whatever time it may come.

That is why the line from the hymn has become so real to me now that I have my breath back – “While I have breath, I mean to sing, Christ for me”.

9
New Laws
by Jonathan Patterson, The Christian Institute

I grew up attending the Cookstown Independent Methodist Church where I heard the Gospel, and was taught from a very young age about the need to be saved. When I was 11 years old God very graciously spoke to me, and showed me my sin, and the need of my heart. After conversion, I loved getting to youth meetings like the Haven, where there was a great emphasis on living for God and submitting to the Lordship of Christ. After university, I worked full-time in a hardware store for three years.

Whilst working there, I began to realise that God was leading me to apply to the Christian Institute. I wasn’t sure where I would fit in, as my previous work was in a shop, and sometimes a History degree isn’t the easiest to use! But I applied for a job, and the Lord opened the door for me to work in the Admin. department. It’s eight years now since I started working at the Institute. Since then I’ve met my wife Jenny, and we now have a little daughter called Daisy. We go to a church on the outskirts of Sunderland where we enjoy fellowship with other like-minded believers.

At the Institute I work with Rodney Aiken, Sophie Honeyman, and Sandra Mackay – who all come from Independent Methodist Churches. Rodney and Sophie work in the Legal Department, while Sandra is based in the Belfast office with Callum Webster. There has been a lot happening back home in Northern Ireland, that I am sure most folk in our churches are already aware of.
Back in August, politicians at Westminster voted to impose abortion and same-sex marriage on Northern Ireland unless the Stormont Assembly is restored by 21 October. Sensible amendments to ensure the freedom to disagree with same-sex marriage were rejected. Because the bill lacked any real scrutiny, the imposition of same-sex marriage will make Northern Ireland the least protected area of the UK. Please pray that Christians, churches and others in Northern Ireland will remain free to stand for traditional marriage.

The UK Government will also have to bring forward regulations for abortion in NI. Pray that these would include protections for conscience, and pray against moves to liberalise abortion law in the rest of the UK.

Please join us in giving thanks that the ‘No-Fault divorce bill’ has fallen with the *prorogation of Parliament. This would have weakened divorce law in England and Wales, and put pressure on other areas of the UK to do the same.

In our church in Sunderland we have been studying Isaiah 40. In verse 28 we are told “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.”

We are shown here that God is everlasting, all powerful, and his ways unsearchable. It is good to remind ourselves in these uncertain times that we can pray to this great God.

If you would like to be kept up to date about our work please visit www.christian.org.uk. Thank you for your prayers.

Jonathan, Jenny and Daisy Patterson

* This situation has since changed.
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. We all know what comes next, right? God speaks the various aspects of creation into existence, and that’s how we, along with everything else, are made. Everything he makes is good. He sets humans apart as the only created thing made ‘in God’s image’. He gives them dominion over the rest of creation. And on the seventh day, with the work complete, he rests. It’s a passage as familiar as the back of our hands. But, have you ever paused to consider what it means to be made ‘in God’s image’?

Scholars have pored over this question for centuries, pondering in depth its complexities and possibilities. If we take it at face value, we may assume that humans look like God physically, and move on without a second thought. But John 4:24 tells us that God is Spirit, so that can’t be it. In what sense, then, are we made in God’s image? Is it our capacity for emotion? For reason? Well, after spending much too long down the rabbit hole of the many different theories, I came across some refreshing simplicity from John Piper. He writes:

[…] what would it mean if you created seven billion statues of yourself and put them all over the world? It would mean you would want people to notice you. God created us in his image so that we would display or reflect or communicate who he is, how great he is and what he is like.

Of course, when sin entered the world it obscured the image of God in each of us, but Jesus’ work on the cross means that those who repent of their sin can be freed from its curse, and live to reflect God’s
character, as they were made to do.

University can be a difficult place to bear God’s image well. As a recent-graduate myself, I know all too well the temptation to live in a way that points to who you are, rather than to the One who created you. That said, I firmly believe that grasping our status as image-bearers of a Holy God will shape dramatically the way we students live out our faith. Here are two ways that it should change us:

1. **We will desire to grow in holiness.**

It’s no secret that we fail every day to display God’s communicable attributes in the way and to the extent that we should. But, while it may be tempting to throw up our hands in defeat, the correct response is not despair, but hope! Colossians 3:10 tells us that Christians are those who have “*put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*” You see, sin may obscure God’s image in us, but we Christians are being sanctified to make the image of God clearer in us day by day. That’s why it is vitally important that we each establish a good practice of Bible study and prayer in our lives. And, where better to form this habit than at university? With university comes the responsibility of managing our own time, and if we’re honest, much more of it is free time than we would care to admit! Why not use it to grow in your walk with God?
It's through his Word that he speaks to us, changes our hearts, and moulds us to become more like him.

2. **We will get involved in evangelism**

The Bible tells us that all humans, whether believers or not, are made in God’s image. Yet, many choose to live as though life were all about themselves. As Christians, this should trouble us. Shouldn’t we long to see them living to glorify God? And shouldn’t we be doing whatever it takes to help them see the need to do so? After all, it’s only through the gospel that they can change!

Again, there is arguably no better place to get involved in evangelism than at university. Christian Unions across the U.K. run a wide variety of programmes that exist with the purpose of sharing the gospel with unsaved students. Whether it’s handing out flyers for events, serving on a committee, reading the Bible one-to-one with another student, or just bringing your friends along, don’t waste the gospel opportunities that university affords. Remember, though, that your conduct as a Christian is of paramount importance to your evangelism. Your friends will look to your life to see what God is like; make sure that what they see points to who he really is!

The task may seem daunting, but what an example we have in Jesus! He is not just a reflector of God’s image — *he is* God’s image (2 Corinthians 4:4, Hebrews 1:3), and his perfectly sinless life gives us a flawless blueprint to live by. Let’s be quick to fix our eyes on him as we seek to grow in our faith, and point others to God at university.
While we seem to find so many reasons here, there and everywhere why a whole generation is missing from some of our congregations and why the interest of many in the things of God is nonexistent, Voddie Baucham brings it closer to home – the family.

The book centres on the premise that the family is the delivery mechanism of the gospel to the next generation. Not the church with all its activities and programmes for various age groups, but the family.

Based on Paul’s letter to Titus, Voddie Baucham shows that the biblical perspective on discipleship has a three-pronged approach: 1) godly, mature men and women in the church, 2) godly, manly pastors and elders and 3) biblically functioning homes. And in the homes, a special role has been given by God to the husbands and fathers.

The initial chapter of the book could make one feel rather inadequate and discouraged as some of the statements are general and presented in a way that might suggest there is no one out there who gets it right. This impression, however, quickly gives way to acknowledging the usefulness of the practical approaches presented in the following chapters, in how to help your family to come to know and follow Jesus.

After detailing the need to equip ‘family shepherds’, the focus moves to discipleship, evangelism, training and discipline with a primary focus on the next generation. However, these topics are interwoven with a heart-warming reminder of the pre-eminence, above all others, of the husband-wife relationship within the family union, with the obvious exception of our relationship to Christ himself.

The book concludes by encouraging us to evaluate our lives in the light of
church membership and the use of time, while reminding us of our dual citizenship. Due to the times in which we live, helpful guidance is also given to those managing households where the father is missing.

Whether you are in the process of setting up your own family or if you would like to give some good guidance or pray intelligently for those that have been entrusted to you, Family Shepherds will encourage you to do so by seeing Jesus – “in a way that drives you to pursue him personally and to keep him before your wife and children in a way that causes them to seek him as well”.

From the Archives...

How to do the job you don’t really want to do...

Elisabeth Elliot,
A Lamp unto my Feet, Day 25

Certain aspects of the job the Lord has given me to do are very easy to postpone. I make excuses, find other things that take precedence, and when I finally get down to business to do it, it is not always with much grace. A new perspective has helped me recently:

The job has been given me to do.
Therefore it is a gift.
Therefore it is a privilege.
Therefore it is an offering I make to God.
Therefore it is to be done gladly, if it is for him.
Therefore it is the route to sanctity.
I first fastened an aeroplane seat belt in January 2006. The definite click of the buckle signalled a dividing point in my life. It had the finality of a full-stop at the end of a chapter. It also marked the moment when a point of no return had been passed - a new chapter was beginning. I was leaving home and family to go to a new country, meet new people, and study at a new college. I knew that God had called me to go, which should be enough. However, thoughts like, 'God could use me so much more if only my IQ was higher or if my personality was different', sat heavily in my heart. As the plane was climbing over the Atlantic my heart was sinking - ‘Maybe I should have stayed at home?!’ Thankfully, God has taught me that it's not about me; it's about him. Weakness does not disqualify us from ministry, it qualifies us. As he puts it, “My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).
This principle is woven throughout the Bible. It's the way God works. Few examples illustrate it more clearly than Gideon. In Judges 6, the people of Israel have pushed God away by their sins. When they come under attack from the Midianites, God keeps his distance.

Consequently, Israel reaches a low ebb. Each year before harvest, their enemies pour over the horizon like a swarm of locusts, descending on Israel's lush valleys and wreaking havoc by destroying crops and stealing animals. In their wake, they leave empty fields, empty barns, and people with empty stomachs. It was a perfect metaphor for the emptiness of life without God. Finally, seeing the utter impoverishment of life without God, Israel cries for help. In his mercy, God intervenes to rescue them. Who will he choose to lead his people to freedom?

He chooses neither the smartest, the wealthiest, the most charismatic, nor the most credentialed. He chooses Gideon, whose riposte to God is that he comes from the weakest clan, and is the weakest in his clan! God has chosen the weakest. In Gideon's mind, there is no one more unfitted to this task. How deep was this conviction in Gideon's heart? Deep enough that after he sees an angel, sees flames engulf meat, and after a fleece is sopping wet while the ground is bone dry – he still wants another sign!

This doesn't represent doubt in Gideon’s mind about God, so much as it represents the tidal wave of doubts about himself. He is utterly convinced of his weakness. Why did God choose Gideon? When God brings deliverance, Gideon won't take the glory – he'll give it to God. Gideon is nothing without God, and he knows it.
In fact, God is systematically clearing away everything that could be misconstrued as being behind their rescue. God asks Gideon to destroy a public altar to Baal – the idol god that the people of Israel were turning to. The devotion of Gideon’s compatriots to Baal, including that of his own family, was real. Deeply and intensely so. When they discover Gideon has broken the altar, they want to kill him! How dare he insult the one they trusted would help them!

God, however, was ensuring that when the victory came – no one could live under the illusion that Baal had been behind it. Baal was on his face, broken, and in pieces; unable to get up. He couldn’t fight to defend himself, never mind fight off the Midianites!

Finally, God painstakingly removes even the subtle things the people of Israel might trust in or credit with securing their freedom. Gideon gathers a 33,000 strong army. Only, God thinks it’s too big. Why? He knows that when the deliverance comes, the people of Israel will strut home, with a lot of high-fiving and back-slapping about what a great job they’d done, and how great they were as soldiers. So, this army is famously trimmed to 300. Now, when Gideon follows God’s ‘weak’ and ‘foolish’ instruction of trumpet blowing and pitcher smashing, God steps in with deliverance! Who gets the glory? Gideon? No. Baal? No. The army? No. It’s God. The glory belongs to him.

God’s way is to use weakness. When he calls Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses protests on the basis of his weakness. Jesse doesn’t even bring David to the audition for king! Paul writes, “God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:27). Why? “That no flesh should glory in his presence” (1 Corinthians 1:29).

Moses, Gideon, and David are all pointing us to the ultimate illustration – Jesus (John 5:39, Luke 24:27). We all pushed God away by our sin and stood at the mercy of enemies we could never conquer – sin, death, and hell.
A little boy walked into a police station pulling a small dog on a piece of string behind him. The desk sergeant peered over the counter at the boy and said to him, “I see you’ve brought us a lost dog sonny”, to which the boy replied, “’Ee ain’t lost mister; I found him.” It was like that with two men who had witnessed the baptism of Jesus.

The day after Jesus had spoken with Peter, Andrew, James and John, he met a young man called Philip from Peter’s hometown of Capernaum. He, like Peter and the others, had travelled about 80 miles south to hear John the Baptist who was preaching that the longed for Messiah had come.

Thankfully, in his mercy, God didn’t keep his distance! His arrival to rescue us was hardly a show of shock and awe – it was in the utter weakness of a baby.

God’s method of defeating our enemies was no show of strength - Jesus was pinned to a cross to suffer an excruciating death, a quintessential spectacle of shame and weakness. It was through this ‘weakness’ and ‘foolishness’ that he slew our enemies!

And for those who have been rescued by this King, whose hearts beat with love for him, and whom he calls to serve him – weakness does not disqualify, it qualifies. That way, there can only ever be One Hero. And it’s not you, or me, or Gideon. It’s God. To him be the glory!
When they met, Jesus simply said to Philip “Follow me”.

Phil, who was already certain that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, God’s Son, instantly obeyed the call. He couldn’t wait to tell his friend Nathanael the news. Notice that he says, “We have found him” rather than just “I”. Did he mean Andrew and John? Peter wasn’t sure, and so they had all set off for home without doing anything about it, but Philip was absolutely certain who Jesus was and he wasn’t afraid to say so.

Nathanael wasn’t convinced either, because he was looking at the place where Jesus came from, Nazareth, and not the person who bore the name. To come from Nazareth was bad news to a religious Jew, and Nazarenes were viewed with disdain and contempt which shows in his reply, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” But Philip didn’t give up on his friend, he simply said, “Come and see”.

As Nathanael met Jesus, he experienced something remarkable. Jesus called him an Israelite in whom there was no guile which meant that he was a sincere seeker who feared God, and who wanted the real Messiah and not a sham. Then when he asked Jesus how he knew him, Jesus referred to the private conversation between Phil and himself under the fig tree. Nathanael recognised that Jesus had something which belongs to God alone. We call it omniscience; the knowledge of everything.

At that moment Nathanael knew he had found the One he was looking for, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the king of Israel”, he said. The question is had Nathanael found Jesus, or had Jesus found him? Had he been praying something like this?

“Someone show me the way, I’m lost and needing to know, The tangles of doubt and what life is about; What answer can anyone show?”

Is there someone who’s lost in doubt and needs you to say with confidence to them, “I’ve found him”?

As far as Jesus was concerned it was mission accomplished here, and then he heads for Capernaum to help Peter with the same problem – doubt.
Crabs are very interesting creatures. Almost all of them are decapods, meaning that they have ten legs (which includes the two pincers). If you have ever watched them run you will know that they can scuttle sideways at a pretty impressive speed!

But all those legs have other uses too. If you put a crab into a tub it will probably escape by simply clawing its way out...as long as it’s the only crab in there.

When fishermen trap crabs they throw them in a bucket on the deck, or on the pier, but the amazing thing is.... they don’t need to put a lid on the bucket because if one crab tries to escape the others will pull him back in! Although any one crab could easily escape, its efforts will be thwarted by the others, meaning all of them will probably end up in a cooking pot.
This is sometimes called ‘crab mentality’. It is an attitude that is best described by the phrase, ‘If I can’t do it, neither can you’.

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever wanted to hold someone else back because they are succeeding at something you would like to succeed at, but can’t? The Bible teaches that Christians should encourage and build each other up…not pull each other down.

Hebrews 10:24 says ..........................................................
..........................................................................................
..........................................................................................

If we know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour then we will have love in our hearts for others. It will bring us joy to support and lift them up, just as Jesus has lifted us up!

If 1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = C etc. what does this Bible verse say?

9,6  7,15,4  19,15  12,15,22,5,4  21,19
..........................................................................................
23,5  15,21,7,8,20  1,12,19,15  20,15
..........................................................................................
12,15,22,5  15,14,5  1,14,15,20,8,5,18
..........................................................................................
Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;

1 John 4:7