

Dear Christian family,

The Levi family from Kumasi, Ghana in the Ashanti Region, was struck by a sudden challenge when their teenage son, Kofi, was diagnosed with leukaemia or sickle cells. The initial fear and despair were overwhelming. But the Levi family rallied together. Parents, Vida and Oslo, sought the best treatment options for Kofi. Their teenage daughter, Sofia, put aside her own worries to be a pillar of strength for her brother.

Through online resources, support groups, and open communication, the Levi family learned to cope with the emotional and logistical hurdles of Kofi's illness. They found strength in their cultural traditions and embraced laughter and joy whenever possible. Kofi underwent treatment bravely, supported by his loving family in Kumasi, Ghana.

The Levi family's story exemplifies the power of family in overcoming challenges. Here are some key takeaways for families or individuals facing similar situations, which worked for us as a family.

1. Communication and support: Open communication and emotional support are crucial for all family members. "My personal tool at all times. This is like my wallet in my pocket." Nothing stops me from seeking help from trusted colleagues, family members or organisations when in need or trouble.
2. Strength in unity: Family unity and shared goals can provide immense strength during difficult times. Something Kofi's parents did each day when the going was tough.
3. Embrace joy: Find moments of joy and lightness even amidst hardship. Kofi's parents always gave praise and thanks.
4. Seek help: Don't hesitate to seek professional help, online resources, and support groups.

Above all commit your needs and wants to the lord whom we serve and worship. Indeed, God blessed Kofi's life and that of his family.

Let us reflect on the familiar, powerful hymn written by preacher and songwriter Joseph M. Scriven in 1855 to comfort his mother, who was living in Ireland while he was in Canada. Scriven originally published the poem anonymously, and only received full credit for it in the 1880s. There seemed to be a fourth stanza to this hymn.

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised  
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;  
May we ever, Lord, be bringing  
All to Thee in earnest prayer.  
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,  
There will be no need for prayer—  
Rapture, praise, and endless worship  
Will be our sweet portion there.

My deep-seated heart prayer for the Church and all for God's people.

*Lord, in this ever-changing world, grant my family the resilience to adapt and thrive. Let us support one another, lifting each other up during hard times. Give us the inner strength to face challenges head-on, always confident that with You on our side, we can overcome anything. Remind us to encourage one another, reinforcing the love and hope that resides in our family. Amen.*

*Father, sometimes misunderstandings and hurt feelings can create distance in our family. We ask for Your healing touch to mend what's broken and bring us back together. Give us forgiving hearts and the humility to apologise when we're wrong. Remind us that family is a gift, one that should never be tarnished by pride or resentment. Help us reconcile and renew our love for each other. Amen.*

Thank you.

God bless us all.

Devotedly Yours,

Rev George.

## Resources/Good News

### **This Garden Isn't Finished Without You**

In the circuit letter on 12 June, we shared the story of the first garden to be sponsored by The Methodist Church at the RHS Flower Show, Tatton Park.

We're pleased to announce that the garden was awarded a Gold medal, the Environmental Innovation Award and the Best Show Garden Prize!

[The Methodist Church's garden wins two major awards at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park - Methodist Church](#)

### **Samaritans Awareness Day - 24/7**

Samaritans Awareness Day is today (24/7) and the Samaritans are raising awareness throughout July to let people know that they can call, day or night, 24/7.

Every year in July, Samaritans branches in the UK and Ireland hold local events to raise awareness that Samaritans are here to listen to anyone who's struggling to cope, at any time of the day or night.

[Samaritans Awareness Day - 24/7 | Samaritans Campaigns | Previously Talk to Us](#)

### **Saturday 27 July, Knaphill Coffee Morning:**

**MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING**

**AND SALE**

TEA  
COFFEE  
BISCUITS  
BACON BUTTIES

**BOOKS, DVDs,  
JIGSAWS, CAKES,  
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

**KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

**4th Saturday every month (except December)**

**10am to Noon**

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# COFFEE AND CAKE AT ST. MARY'S QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

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MAY – AUGUST  
2024

10.30 – 12.00



*Everyone welcome*

**Thursday 23 May**

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**Thursday 27 June**

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**Thursday 25 July**

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**Thursday 22 August**

*- each month features a different charity*

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