

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

*This month the magazine letter has been written by our Treasurer, Nick Tustian.
Thank you Nick.*

With best wishes for the month ahead.

Eddie

I have to be honest and say that my piece in the Newsletter I really owe to someone else. At a recent service, Derek Copley mentioned a Christian author by the name of Larry Crabb, which reminded me of a book that I have found inspirational in my own journey of faith entitled "Finding God", by of course, Larry Crabb. Over the past few weeks I've dived back into this book and as ever I've found that Larry somehow captures exactly where I am and gives me so much encouragement.

You see I'm struggling a bit at the moment and "*finding God*" in things that I'm really not coping with has been a bit of a challenge. I'm sure that many of you will have had a similar roller coaster ride with many ups and downs and sometimes it does feel like there are more downs than ups. Perhaps like me you've been faced with personal difficulties which you've prayed about and which sometimes you feel have fallen on deaf ears. For me things certainly haven't got easier. In fact, in some instances, they have got more difficult. Sound familiar? Larry's book says many things about our faith in times of difficulty (worth a read if you want to borrow it) but I feel drawn particularly to these words:

*Finding God in this life does not mean
building a house in a land of no storms;
rather it means building a house that no storm can destroy*

I'm the first to admit that the problems I have in my life do mean that I often lose sight of the vision that God has for me and that Jesus never promised that having faith in him would somehow give an easy and trouble free life. However, it is the assurance that he knows what difficulties life can throw at us but that he is stronger and greater than anything that might befall us.

What does Jesus say in Matthew chapter 11: "*Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest*". How incredible is that? So my message, I hope, is simple. I do hope that in your life you've many more ups than downs but Jesus did promise that we're never alone. A faith in him builds a house that "no storm can destroy" Thank you Larry for reminding me of this simple but powerful truth. Or perhaps I should say, thank you Derek.

Nick Tustian