

Enniskillen Reformed Presbyterian Church

# Faith



in Fermanagh





## Hello and greetings from Enniskillen Reformed Presbyterian Church

My name is Robert Robb and I am the pastor of Enniskillen Reformed Presbyterian Church. This is a relatively new church that has been set up in the town and we would like to tell you something about it and invite you to come along. I am originally from Belfast and married to Lynn. We spent the last fourteen years ministering in Limavady

Reformed Presbyterian Church and moved to Enniskillen in March 2009 to establish a Reformed Church in Co Fermanagh. We want our church to reach across existing religious and cultural barriers and to be a centre for a community of Christians who love God and love one another.

Does Fermanagh need another church? We believe it does. There are many people in the County who have no church affiliation or who may have a loose connection with a church but rarely attend worship services. There are others who have become disillusioned with Christianity as a result either of bad personal experiences they have had in the past or because of the scandals that have been associated with some churches in recent years. We believe we can minister to and meet such people's spiritual needs.

We are a Bible believing Church. Our form of worship and the message we teach are solidly based upon the teaching of the Bible. Our worship service is plain and simple and the teaching is easy to understand and relevant to practical daily living in the 21st Century. We encourage and enjoy a loving bond of true Christian unity and have a genuine loving concern for one another. There are a number of young people in the fellowship and we have a program that seeks to meet their social and spiritual needs. We take our young people to various youth events that take place in the wider denomination and encourage them to attend our church's fantastic summer camps which attract over 300 young people each year. There are also a number of weekend camps throughout the year.

We have a monthly meeting for the women of the congregation which gives them an opportunity to discuss issues that particularly affect them. Several of the monthly meetings are social evenings aimed at drawing the women closer to one another in their friendship and fellowship. The men of the church have a similar meeting each month. There is also a weekly Bible study and discussion time.

Our Sunday services are held in the 'Curtain Room' in The Clinton Centre. We deliberately chose The Clinton Centre as we wanted to have a 'neutral' venue within our community to which everyone felt they could come.

Maybe you have become disillusioned with Christianity or with your church. Maybe things that have happened in the past have turned you off religion. We would encourage you not to turn your back on spiritual things. Why not come along and meet us; worship with us; ask us questions. Discover the true message of the Bible which has changed our lives (some of them quite dramatically). In this booklet you will find personal testimonies of how God changed the lives of three of our members. We believe that true authentic Christianity is the best thing an individual or a family can ever experience and enjoy. We believe we have that and we would like to share it with you. You may be anxious about coming. Don't worry, we will make you feel very welcome.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We hope you find it helpful.

## How I Became a Christian

By Howard Allen



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Hello my name is Howard and I live just outside Enniskillen. I am married to Suzanne and have five children. I would like to briefly tell you how God has shown me mercy and turned my life around.

Up until 3 years ago my life was very different from what is now. Obsessed and focused on work, on the outside my life seemed to be a success but increasingly my relationship with my wife, children and family was becoming more and more stressful and strained. Knowing deep down that there was a God I had always chosen to ignore him and block him out of my life. Increasingly my thoughts were beginning to question the reason for my life. Surely there was a reason why I as a human being existed?

In July 2006 feeling I needed to support my family in their Christian lives I agreed to go with them to church. I went with an open mind and from that day, gradually, week by week, I felt that God was beginning to work in my life. I was starting to enjoy the service. I was beginning to understand the sermon. I was more attentive to everything that was taking place and being said. Was this God starting to work in my life? Over the following weeks and months questions and doubts that I had had were being answered from the Bible. Life was now taking on a purpose and reason and relationships were being rebuilt. I was now understanding that Jesus Christ died for my sin on the cross and that I as a sinner could through personal repentance and faith in Jesus have my sins forgiven.

In December 2006 I asked the Lord to forgive me, to help me, to have mercy on me and to bring me under his guidance and care. That day I felt a burden had been lifted from my shoulders.

Like every Christian I am far from perfect but since that day I can and do rejoice in knowing that my sins have been forgiven. I now look forward to each day and to coming to the Lord in prayer on my own and with my family. Attending church and times of Bible study with fellow believers is such a blessing. God has introduced me to many Christian friends and given me courage to talk and witness to others about my Christian faith.

God's mercy towards me has been amazing and each day I thank him for helping me to grow in grace and wisdom through the Bible which guides me and directs me in my daily life and in my relationship with Him. In 3 years my life has completely turned around. He has done and continues to do wonderful things in my life. As a committed Christian I have a desire to see the people of Enniskillen and the surrounding countryside, people like you, come to know and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and experience the joy and peace that I now know.

**Romans 5 v8 *But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..***

# Great Free Booklets

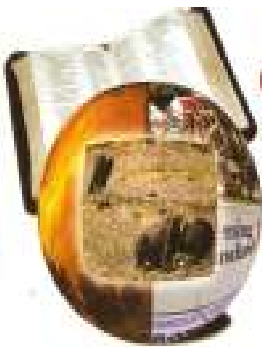
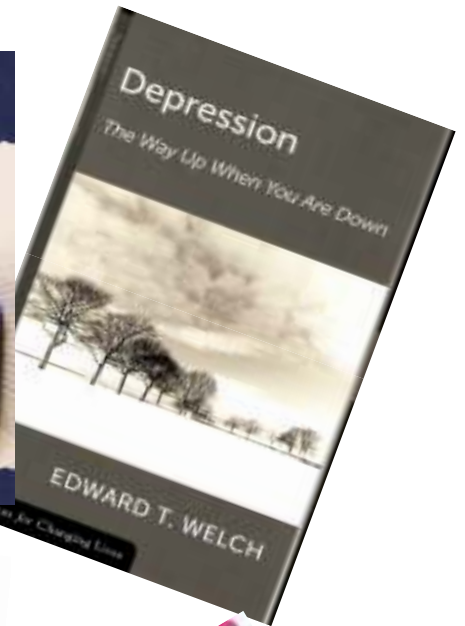
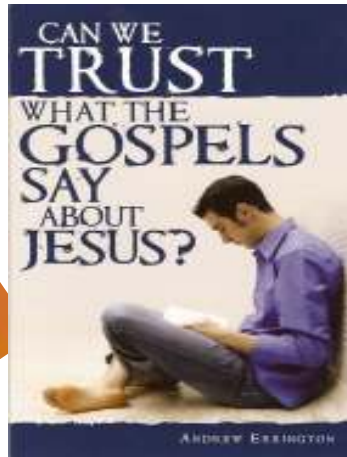


**English**

Ultimate Questions is also available in Polish and other languages. Contact us for details.



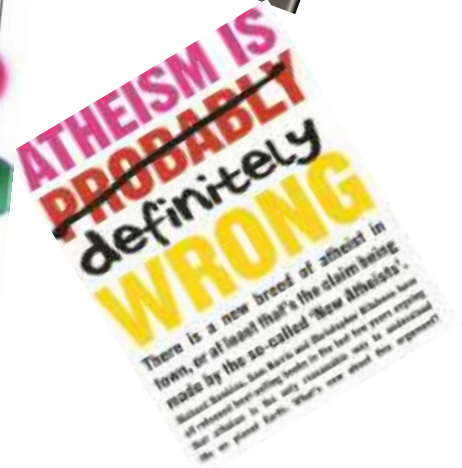
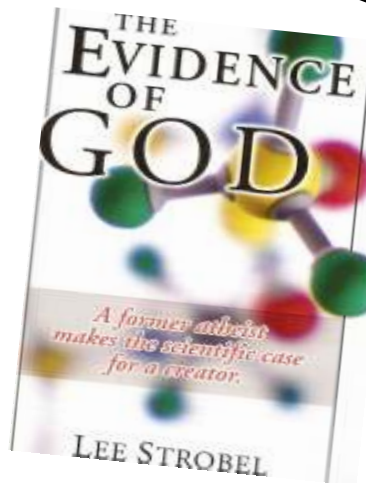
**Irish**



**How can  
God allow  
suffering?**

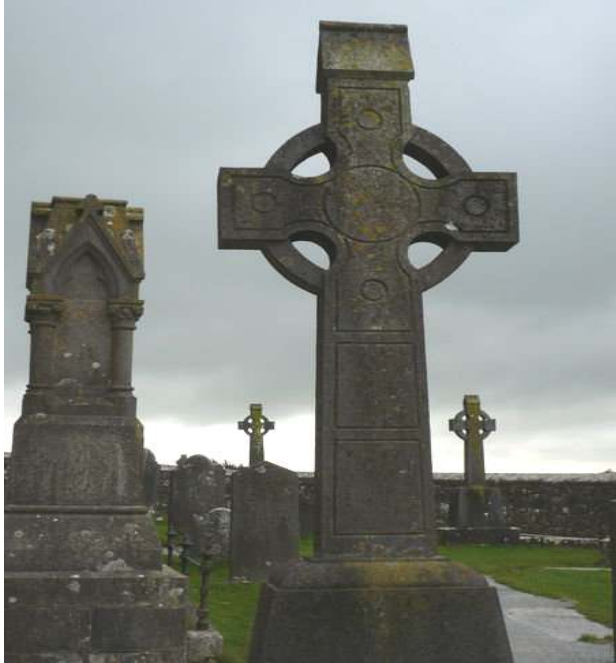
Gerard Christoph

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## HOW TO ORDER FREE BOOKLETS

To request a free booklet simply telephone Robert on 66320286 or email to [revrobbrp@hotmail.com](mailto:revrobbrp@hotmail.com). Give the title of the booklet(s) you want, your name and address and we will see that you get them delivered to your home within seven



**“The Time of My Departure is at Hand”**

*There is an hour when I must part  
With all I hold so dear  
And life, with its best hopes will then  
As nothingness appear*

*There is an hour when I must sink  
Beneath the stroke of death  
And yield to him who gave it first  
My struggling vital breath*

*There is an hour when I must stand  
Before the judgment seat  
And all my sins and all my foes  
In awful vision meet*

*There is an hour when I must look  
On one eternity  
And nameless woe or blissful life  
My endless portion be.*

**Have you ever thought about this?**

# NEED HELP ?



**Is this really the solution?**



**Are you breaking someone's heart?**



**There is a better way !!**



**Why not let us help?**  
**Total confidentiality assured.**  
 You will find we have a listening ear, and understanding heart and helpful advice.

**Contact Robert on 66320286**



- What is it all about?
- Who was Jesus? What did he do?
- How is this relevant to me?
- Does it matter if I belong to a church or not?
- What does it mean to belong to a church?
- What church, if any, should I belong to?

Time to discover ...

**This short course seeks to answer these and other questions about Jesus and the Christian faith.**

**Christianity Explored** gives you the opportunity to consider the question “**Who was Jesus?**” and to investigate the beliefs of the Christian faith. The course lasts 6 weeks (can be adapted to suit your needs) with each section lasting around 45 minutes. The course can be held in your own home or in a mutually suitable place, as a one-to-one study or with a group of friends. The approach is informal and allows opportunities for questions and discussion. Interested? Contact Robert on 66320286 for more details or to chat about it.



## Suzanne's Personal Testimony



**A**t the age of seventeen I deliberately left home, wanting to break free from everything that I saw as restricting. I fully embraced everything adventurous - work and play. I wanted to be the best at everything I did in every part of my life. I wanted to find love, hopefully in my husband.

Some years on I achieved success in the workplace, I had a great social life and I married 'the man for me.' I had everything I wanted but I still couldn't settle. Even after the birth of my first child I still felt there was something missing. What I had was not enough!

**G**od had other plans for me. Slowly, over a period of time, I realised I was risking everything; my marriage, my relationship with my daughter, and most importantly my relationship with God. One night in Church God seemed to be giving me an ultimatum. I knew from what I heard that night from God's Word that God was saying to me 'Now or never.' That night I told God I was sorry for all that was wrong in my life and for the selfish way I had been living my life and cried out to God for help and trusted Jesus as my Saviour.

**I**nitially nothing much changed, but slowly over time God, through the Holy Spirit was pricking my conscience and showing me things in my life that needed to change. God brought people into my life whose attitude to Him was very different from what mine had been.

These people actively sought to learn more about God and about His ways. He was clearly a massive part of their lives and they were so different – magnetically so. They loved everything that was good and lovely about life because everything that was good and lovely was ultimately from God. This attitude was clearly seen in their relationships with their family members, their fellow Christians, in their whole approach to Church and in their attitude to people in general. It also was clearly seen in how they coped with daily life and the struggles that they, like all of us have to face. This was so attractive to me that I wanted what they had.

**God has not finished with me yet. He has been and still is working in my life, teaching me and helping me to be what he intends that I should be—a kind, patient, loving wife, mother and friend.**

**I** began to read my Bible each day to learn more about God and how to live so as to honour Him. I sought a church that would be faithful to God and that had a genuine concern for its members and I sought help from God in daily prayer. I wanted to know more and more about why He gave His Son, Jesus, to die the horrific death on the cross and what all this meant for me.

I still struggle, make mistakes and let God down, but thankfully God has not finished with me yet. He has been and still is working in my life, teaching me and helping me to be what he intends that I should be—a kind, patient, loving wife, mother and friend. He is moulding me and making me fit for Heaven ..... **I can hardly wait !**

## Faith in Fermanagh ?

If a survey were to be carried out in Co Fermanagh asking the question "Do you personally have a religious faith?" that survey would show that most people would answer "Yes" to that question. Despite the fact that, with a few exceptions, numbers attending church services are falling and an increasing number of people in our society give very little thought to God or to spiritual matters, nevertheless, most people would still claim to have some sort of a "Faith".

The Bible teaches that "Without faith it is impossible to please God..." (Heb: 11v6). But what is 'Faith'? Is the 'Faith' of the church-goer the same 'Faith' as that of the person who rarely attends church? Is the 'Faith' of Methodist church goer the same as the 'Faith' of the person who goes to the Church of Ireland. Is the 'Faith' of a member of the Presbyterian Church (whatever shade of Presbyterian one considers) the same as the 'Faith of the Roman Catholic, Baptist or Pentecostal member? Is the 'Faith' of someone who claims to be a Christian the same as the 'Faith' of a Muslim, a Hindu or a follower of some other religion?

'Faith', in Biblical terms, is much more than believing in the existence of God. After all even the Devil believes in God in that sense (James 2v19). Biblical 'Faith' not only believes that the God of the Bible is the only true God but also believes what this God has said about Himself and about us, in the Bible, is also true.

The main message of the Bible is that we all are sinners (a fact that few people would deny) and as such guilty before a Holy God and subject to punishment for our sins. God sent His Son, Jesus,

to pay the penalty for sin for every person who, believing the message of the Bible, repents of their sin and looks to and depends upon JESUS ALONE for forgiveness and salvation. The God of the Bible, in love, presents the offer of forgiveness to us as a free gift from Him. Biblical 'Faith' is the hand which in repentance reaches out and receives that gift.

Biblical 'Faith' therefore is something that is the product of genuine personal repentance from sin and which has Jesus Christ alone as its object. He is the only way by which a person can be made right with God. There may be many other religious pathways which a person may choose to travel along in life but there is only ONE WAY to God – through Faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said ***"I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me."*** The

Bible affirms, (speaking of Jesus) ***"neither is their salvation in any other, for there is no other name given among men by which we must be saved."*** Attending Church, or even being a member of a church doesn't save a person; doing good deeds (no matter how many) doesn't save a person or contribute to a person's salvation; going to confession or participating in Holy communion doesn't save a person; praying doesn't save a person. The ONLY thing that saves a person is genuine Biblical Faith in Jesus Christ. There is no doubt there is much religion in Co Fermanagh but what about true Biblical "Faith"? Do you have such faith? ***"without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11v6).***

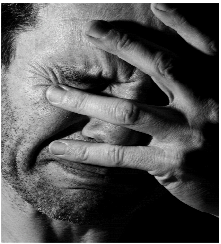
**Jesus Said "I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me."**

Want to discuss some of these issues? Email [revrobbp@hotmail.com](mailto:revrobbp@hotmail.com)

## Everybody Hurts—Sometimes

***“When the day is long and the night, the night is yours alone,  
When you’re sure you’ve had enough of this life, well hang on  
Don’t let yourself go, ‘cause everybody hurts sometimes.”***

These are the opening words of the 1993 R.E.M. hit ‘Everybody Hurts’ sung by Michael Stipe. Perhaps one of the reasons the song was such a hit was because so many people were able to identify with the sentiments that are expressed in the powerful lyrics - people who were hurting as a result of the death of a loved one; or hurting as a result of a break-up in a relationship; or hurting because they felt worthless because they had lost their job and were no longer able to provide for their family; or perhaps it was the hurt that only a parent can feel when their much loved son or daughter goes of the rails and becomes drug or alcohol dependant or gets into serious trouble of one kind or another. There are many ways in which we can be hurt and experience deep emotional pain. It’s often then that the questions come thick and fast into our heads—Why did this happen? Why me? Why would God allow this to happen?



The fact of the matter is there are no easy answers to such questions nor indeed to the problem of pain and suffering in the world. We live in a world that is far from perfect. In fact the world we live in is the way it is because of the effects of sin. If there were no such thing as sin there would be no such thing as pain or sorrow. It is interesting that in describing heaven God says that it is a place where there is “no more death...sorrow...crying...or pain” Sadly, here on earth we will experience these things. The Bible teaches that sin is the root cause of all our suffering. Whether we are suffering and grieving as a result of bereavement or relationship problems or family problems or whatever other problems we may be facing it can all be traced back to sin.



Sometimes God allows suffering to come into our lives in order to stop us in our tracks and get us to take stock of life. In the midst of suffering we are forced to think more deeply than we would at other times. C.S.Lewis once wrote “*God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience but shouts to us in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.*” Sadly most people don't listen to God until He uses his megaphone. God often uses trouble to draw people to himself. He wants sinners like us to know Him and to enjoy Him and to enter into the forgiveness that He has provided in His Son Jesus. But we are too busy and too preoccupied with other things to think about God. However, when problems and hardships and pain come into our lives we tend to set aside the superficial things that formerly preoccupied us and begin to think about the more important questions in life. Suffering is an opportunity to draw near to God and to get to truly know God. Knowing God will not make the suffering in this world go away but it will enable you to experience a wonderful sense of inner peace and contentment even in your suffering. When one truly knows God one is able to rejoice in the Lord even in hard and difficult circumstances. This is not a superficial false joy but a true deep inner joy and peace that only God can give to those who know Him and love Him. And when the sufferings of this life eventually come to an end God will take those who truly know Him to heaven where there is no more suffering. The Apostle Paul wrote ***“I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8v18.*** Free booklet on suffering available. See page 4



## A testimony to the faithfulness and mercy of God

By William Armstrong

I'm one of those people who likes talking face to face. It's so much easier to do and you know if the person you're talking to is interested in what you are saying. I feel the same way about giving my testimony. But when I was asked to give my testimony for our magazine I couldn't refuse. It's not that our minister has particular persuasive abilities (though he can be) but rather God says that we are to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" 1 Peter 3:15. I've only ever given my testimony in a public event which was about 6 weeks or so after I was saved way back in 1988. This then is only my second time I've had to do this publicly as it were, but it gives me a great opportunity to tell you about the faithfulness of God and His mercy to me and our family.

Over the years as a family we have experienced many of the usual family trials and traumas and what it is to be unemployed. I had lost my job in Ballymena because I refused to work on the LORD's Day and found it extremely difficult to get back into employment. I entered upon several government schemes (New Deal) and re-trained and after almost 2 years it pleased the LORD to give me a job. During that time of unemployment we had to learn very quickly how to stretch the pound in our pocket and be careful how we spent our money. We had an ever increasing family (we have 5 boys)

and the demands for food and clothes were great. However through all of this time the LORD greatly blessed us as a family. We did not have much, but we were never lacking. The LORD seen to that. I remember of one particular occasion I had scraped up enough money to get a broken spring replaced in the car. My wife Heather, was in hospital having our third son at the time. The car was ready the day before Heather and our new born son was to come home. I knew that I had enough money as I was given a quote. I budgeted for the car repairs, nappies and other basics necessary for a new born child and enough money for food to

**K**now therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

*Deuteronomy Ch7:9*

last a week. The house was literally like old mother Hubbard's cupboard! I went to collect the car and pay the bill when the garage man told me that he had to do extra work. This "extra work" took up almost all the remaining money that I had for nappies, milk powder and food. I

couldn't believe it when I got the bill but what else could I do but pay. I visited Heather that night in hospital and brought Jason and Jordan to see their new baby brother. It was great to have the car on the road again but I didn't tell Heather that we had hardly two pennies to rub together and of the bare cupboards. This I would leave for the next day. The big day came for the new arrival and mum to come home. It was great to have the whole family back together again. When the new baby was settled in and his brothers had gotten used to the new addition to the family in the home, I then took the opportunity to tell Heather of our dire straits. She was thankful that we had all that we needed for the new baby, but was shocked to find out that we had absolutely no money for any food and it would be the following week

before any money would be available. After many tears from the both of us, we gave thanks to God for how He had provided for the new born baby and prayed that our Heavenly Father would help us with our "daily bread". It was almost 4 o'clock and there came a knock on the door. It was a friend and they had heard of the birth of our new son and wanted to give us a gift. Usually whenever people come to visit you and your new baby and bring gifts its normally something for the baby, a baby-grow, or in our case a wee blue jumper. But on this occasion it was a gift of money. We couldn't believe it! This caused great joy and thanksgiving in the home. I made a quick visit to the shop and was able to buy enough food for 2 days. It was a wonderful answer to prayer, the LORD provides! Some homes have a granny or two. My granny, Granny Short was the greatest granny ever. Granny loved all her grand children and loved her great grandchildren even more and nothing would do but that we had to go up the next day to visit her. Granny doted on her latest great-grand child but was apologetic that she didn't have time to buy anything for him. Granny could never let anyone leave empty handed, many a freshly baked soda bread - still warm, was handed out! Granny didn't know of our predicament, and yet the LORD used her in our time of need. In her usual caring way, she couldn't let us go empty handed. She headed for the freezer and give us a selection of sausages and meat joints as they had just bought "half a cow" and put it into the freezer. This was exactly what we needed.! We had plenty of baby clothes which we had carefully kept from the other two boys. The LORD seen to it that it was the things that we lacked that was given. In the space of 3 days the LORD brought about £300 to our home enabling us to pay the electric bill, put fuel in the car, square the telephone bill and stock up the cupboards.

Tears flowed that week-end at the goodness and faithfulness of God. He really does take care of His children. A good number of years have passed since that day and we could tell you of other wonderful ways that the LORD has cared for us. When you read the Psalms you see the pains and struggles of every day life and yet they are filled with sweetness, joy and comfort as you see the psalmist recounting the wonderful works of God both in Israel and in his own personal life. This is something that we as a family can testify also. I personally can testify to you, of the lovingkindness of God. He has never deserted me, despite my failings, he has never turned His ear away from me but has always heard my cries.

One of the things that has given me the greatest comfort is knowing that all my sins are forgiven. It's a problem that we all face and have to deal with. I'm so glad that I don't have to try to work my way to heaven. If so, I know that hell would be a certainty for me. A man once asked the question, "How good do you have to be to get into heaven?" The minister responded with a very simple answer. "As good as God!" Maybe you can now see why I'm so glad. Often we think that we're "really not a bad person" and that we've never done anyone any real "harm." But what we are really saying is that we think that we are good enough to get into the heaven and that we have no sin (well not much anyway) and that our sin doesn't really matter. But it does. I thank God for His mercy in that he sent His Son to die for a sinner like me. God's provision of His Son for sinners is what joys my heart the most and I would urge you to come to Him today. Jesus came to die for the sin of His people. That's right, He only came for sinners. His sheep hear His voice. Do you hear Him calling you to repentance? God gives faith and repentance to those who seek but above all He has given Christ. Come to Jesus, today.

**Times of Services**  
**Meeting each Lord's Day (Sunday)**

**10.45am Sabbath School**

**11.30am Morning Worship**

**6.30pm Prayer Meeting**

**7.00pm Evening Worship**

**Thursday 8.00pm Bible Study**

**Sunday meetings are held in The Clinton Centre and Thursday's Bible Study is held in Pastor's home.**

Contact Details:

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