

SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Why We Fellowship

A call to persevere
Hebrews 10:23-25



HEBREWS 10:23 · NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

HEBREWS 10:23 · NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.



HEBREWS 10:24-25 · NIV

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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Where we are going

1 Feasting

A God who loves celebration: Tabernacles, Trumpets, Luke 15.

Deut. 14 · Luke 15

2 The Wedding Feast

An invitation to us all that we must not miss.

Rev. 19:7-8 · Luke 14:15

3 The Flight

The date, the pick-up point and the venue.

1 Corinthians 15

4 In expectation

What is expected of us while we wait.

1 Cor. 15:58 · Titus 2

5 Hold each other

Persevere together with expectation.

Hebrews 10:24-25



OPENING REMARKS

Remarks & Gratitude

A month of fellowship at IFC

A rich month of fellowship

Teaching

Growing Together in Fellowship.
You are not meant to walk alone.
Every Part Doing Its Work.

Cell fellowships

Bearing the fruit of the Spirit and its impact on my cell group: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Panel discussion

Our theme for the year:
“Transformed to bear much fruit in my cell group.”

Our panel discussions

Panel 1: The joy and value of fellowship

Attoban, Anono, Bingerville & Cocody

Panel 2: Growing together and bearing fruit

2 Plateaux, Synacassi, Palmeraie & Angré

Not enough time to digest the subject: apologies again to all panelists and the audience who still had a lot to share.

The quiz and the harvest

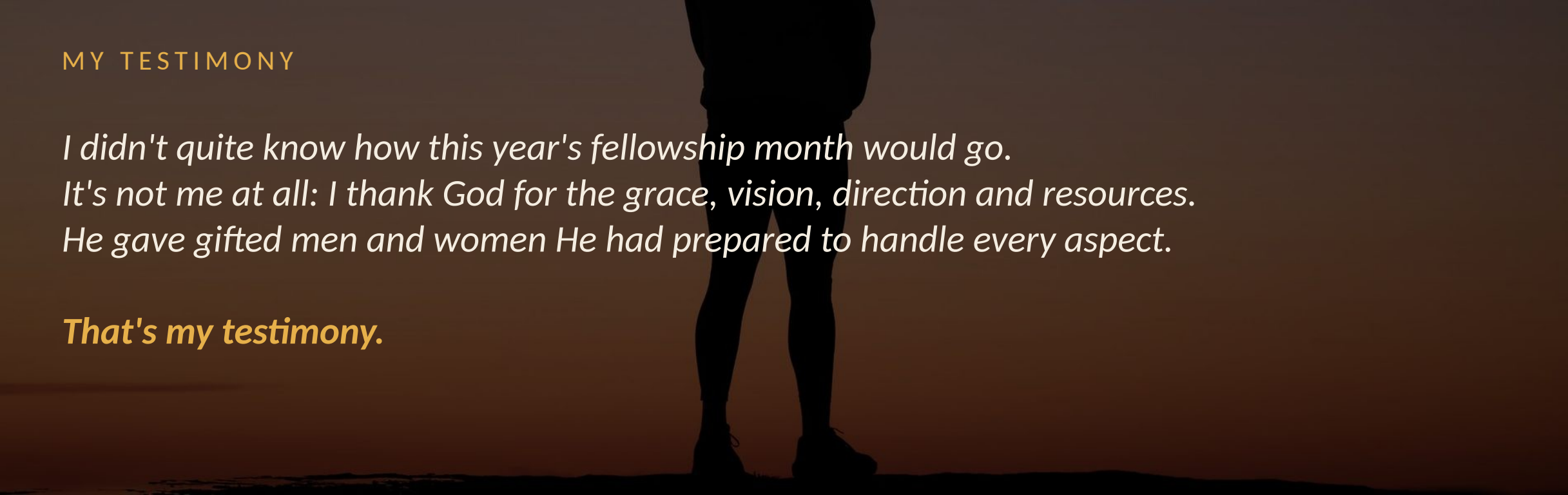
The Bible quiz

World-class production and moderation.
Congratulations to all contestants: winners, you deserve it!

Call to action: come to the house and improve our memory of Scripture.

35 souls won to God

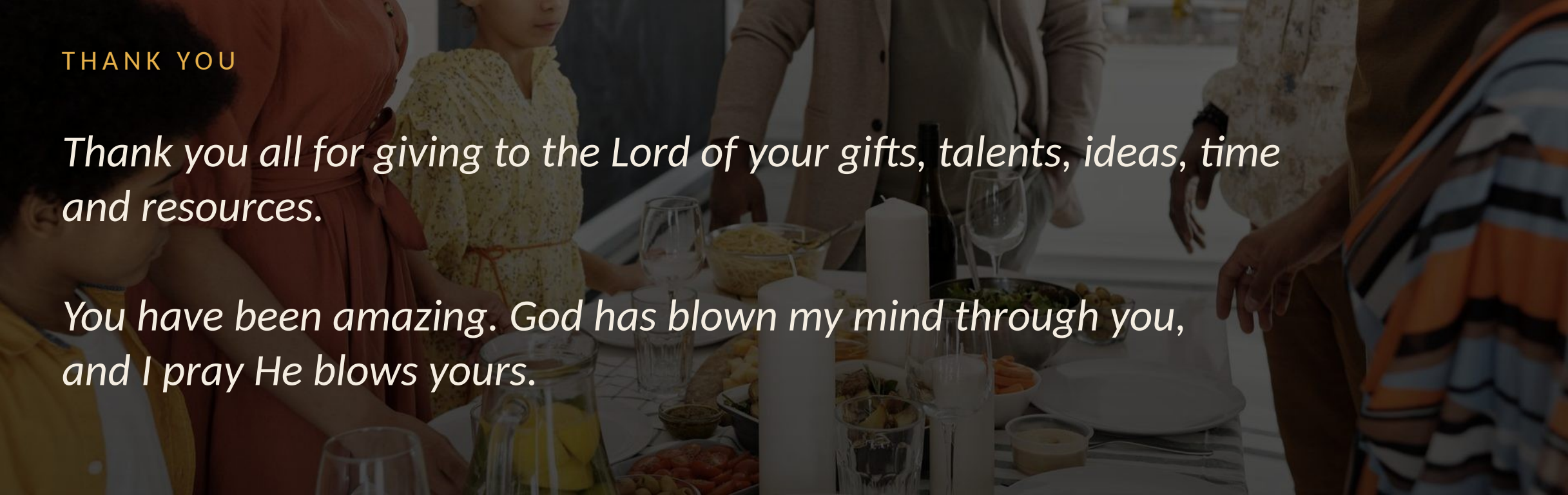
At the juvenile prisons yesterday: a team of 9, led by the Cocody Cell, with Synacassi, 2 Plateaux, Angré and other cells supporting.



MY TESTIMONY

I didn't quite know how this year's fellowship month would go.
It's not me at all: I thank God for the grace, vision, direction and resources.
He gave gifted men and women He had prepared to handle every aspect.

That's my testimony.



THANK YOU

Thank you all for giving to the Lord of your gifts, talents, ideas, time and resources.

You have been amazing. God has blown my mind through you, and I pray He blows yours.

With gratitude

Our Pastors

For enriching teaching and the platform for the Area Fellowship ministry to grow and express itself.

Council & Elders

The council and the Board of Elders, for your prayers and spiritual leadership.

Cell Leaders

Cell Leaders, Assistants and all cell members.

Committees

Planning & Organising, Picnic, Quiz and Panel Discussions; all ministries and church staff.



PART ONE

A God Who Loves to Feast

Tabernacles · Trumpets · The Great Feast · Luke 15



TODAY IS A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND FEASTING FOR IFC

Our God is not a boring, gloomy God. He loves celebration and feasting. You can tell His nature from the seven feasts He commanded in the Old Testament.

Jesus went to the wedding in Cana, and to feasts with Pharisees and "sinners".

The seven feasts of the Lord

1 Passover

Salvation comes through the sacrificial blood of the Lamb.

2 Unleavened Bread

A call to live holy lives, separated from sin.

3 Firstfruits

Points to Christ's resurrection and the promise of ours.

4 Weeks (Pentecost)

God's provision and the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower His people.

The seven feasts of the Lord

5 Trumpets

Calls God's people to repentance, readiness and expectation of the Lord's coming.

6 Day of Atonement

The need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God through atonement.

7 Tabernacles

God's presence and provision: we are pilgrims journeying toward our eternal home.

Trumpets and Tabernacles speak to the crux of this message.

Why Tabernacles and Trumpets?

The Feast of Tabernacles

It looks like our set-up outside today.

God's presence and provision for pilgrims on the way home. “If anyone thirsts…” John 7:37-39

The Feast of Trumpets

Revelation's seven trumpet blasts.

Christ's second coming will be ushered in by the blast of a trumpet.

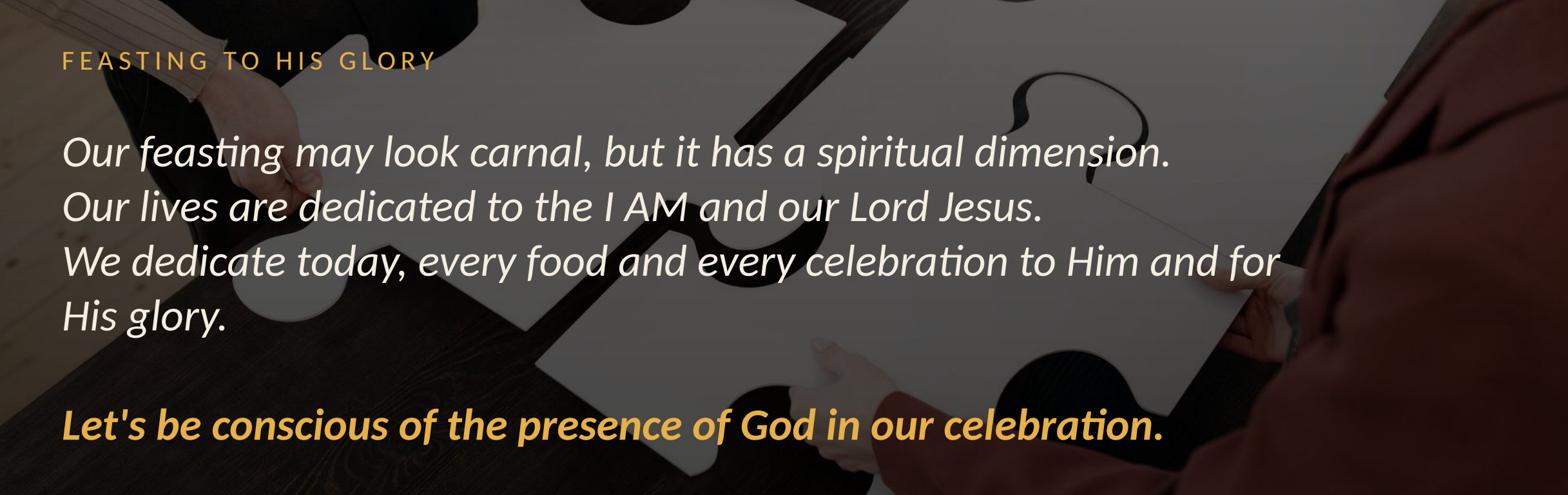


JOHN 7:37-38 · NIV

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

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FEASTING TO HIS GLORY

Our feasting may look carnal, but it has a spiritual dimension.
Our lives are dedicated to the I AM and our Lord Jesus.
We dedicate today, every food and every celebration to Him and for His glory.

Let's be conscious of the presence of God in our celebration.

Feasting in His presence

Old Testament: the festival tithe

Brought before the Lord and eaten by families in His presence (Deuteronomy 14:22-27).

God approves of planning and setting aside resources for sacred feasting.

New Testament: a feast for the found

Luke 15: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

A story of repentance and restoration that shows the merciful character of God.

LUKE 15:7 · NIV

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.



LUKE 15:7 · NIV

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Lost and found: every return ends in a feast

1 The lost sheep

He joyfully carries it home and calls his friends and neighbours together.

Luke 15:5-6

2 The lost coin

She calls her friends together: there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels.

Luke 15:9-10

3 The lost son

The father kills the fattened calf: let's have a feast and celebrate.

Luke 15:23-24



LUKE 15:5-6 · NIV

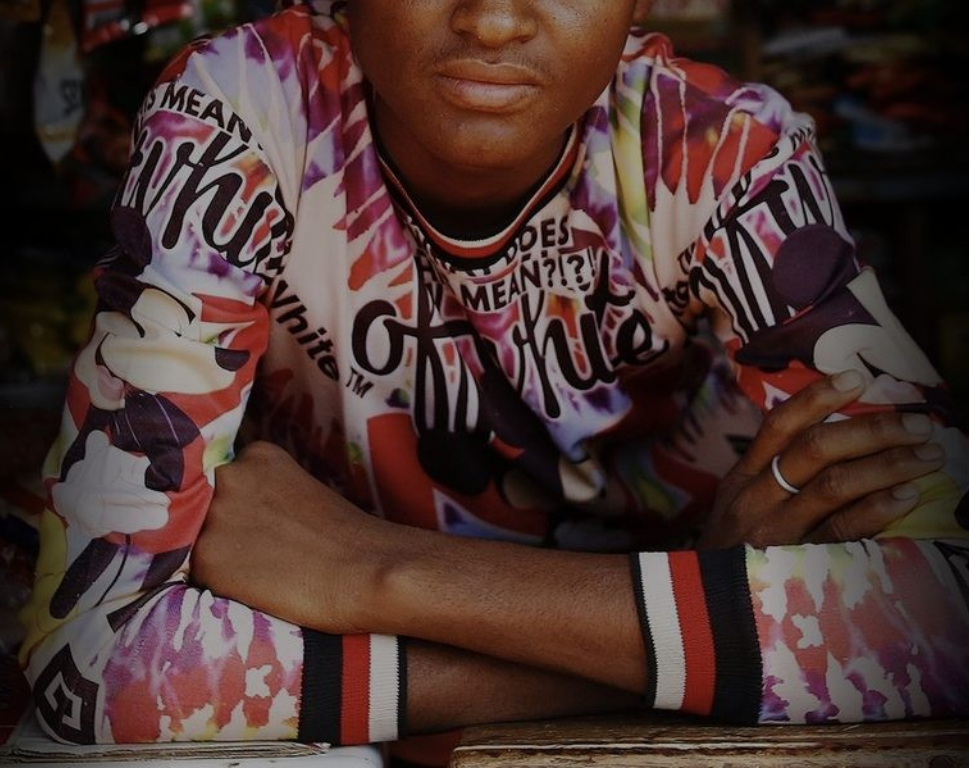
And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

LUKE 15:5-6 · NIV

And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

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And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.



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And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

LUKE 15:23-24 · NIV

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.



LUKE 15:23-24 · NIV

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PART TWO

The Wedding Feast Invitation

What is all this about feasting? · Revelation 19:7-8



WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT FEASTING?

We had 2 weddings in October, and on 29 November we celebrate Thanksgiving: great fellowship and feasting!

But there is a Wedding Feast invitation to us all, which we must not miss.
All our fellowship and "swallowship" points towards that Wedding Feast.



REVELATION 19:7-8 · ESV

For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

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LUKE 14:15 · NIV

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”



LUKE 14:15 · NIV

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PART THREE

The Flight

What gospel have you received? · 1 Corinthians 15





1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 · NIV

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 · NIV

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22 · NIV

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22 · NIV

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:23-24 · NIV

But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:23-24 · NIV

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52 · NIV

Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52 · NIV

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Your flight details

1 The date

No one knows the day or hour, not even the angels, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be ready.

Matthew 24:36-51

2 Pick-up point

The dead in Christ rise first; then we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thess. 4:16-18

3 The venue

Heaven: where the wedding takes place, where Christ ascended, and from where He will come back for us.

Rev. 19:9-11 · John 14:2-3



MATTHEW 24:36, 44 · NIV

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

MATTHEW 24:36, 44 · NIV

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16 · NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.



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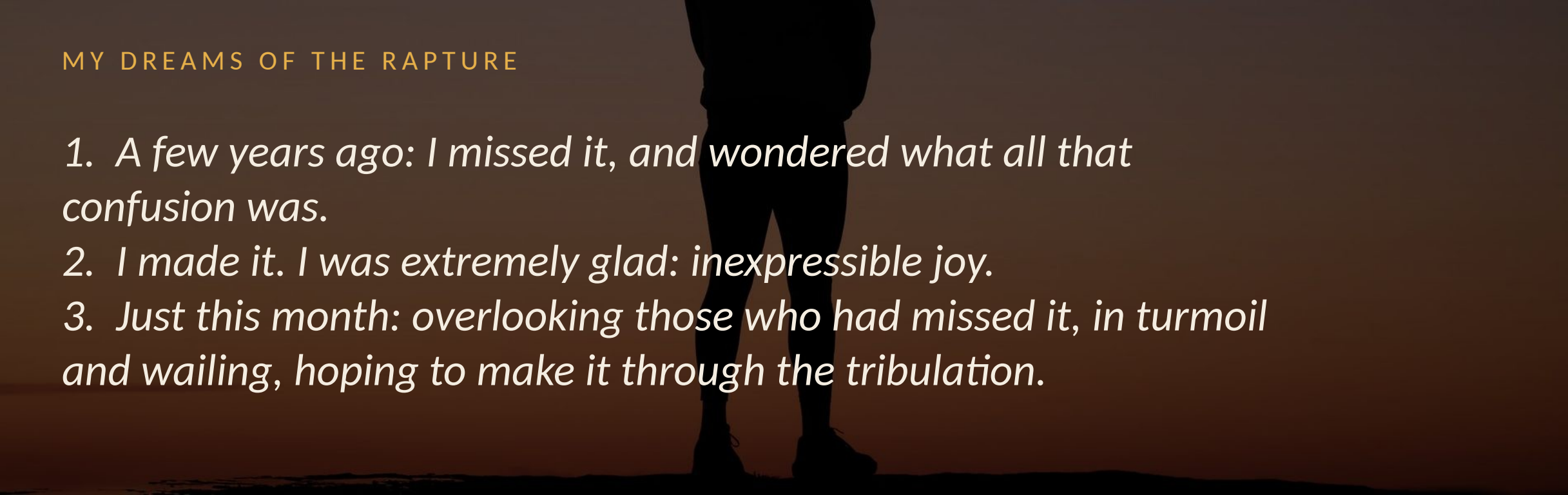
1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 · NIV

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 · NIV

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.



MY DREAMS OF THE RAPTURE

1. A few years ago: I missed it, and wondered what all that confusion was.
2. I made it. I was extremely glad: inexpressible joy.
3. Just this month: overlooking those who had missed it, in turmoil and wailing, hoping to make it through the tribulation.



MATTHEW 24:40-42 · NIV

Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

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PHILIPPIANS 2:12 · NKJV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.



PHILIPPIANS 2:12 · NKJV

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PART FOUR

What Is Expected of Us in Expectation

Do not get tired of doing good

Keep going

1 Keep serving

Stand firm. Give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord: don't get tired.

1 Cor. 15:58

2 Your first love

Return to it, or keep it. Remember from where you have fallen and repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

3 Keep doing good

The time is near. Let the one who does right continue to do right.

Rev. 22:10-11

4 Stay holy

Blessed are those who wash their robes. Stay away from sin, or be outside.

Rev. 22:14-15



1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 · NIV

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 · NIV

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

REVELATION 2:4-5 · ESV

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.



REVELATION 2:4-5 · ESV

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REVELATION 22:10-11 · NIV

Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

REVELATION 22:10-11 · NIV

Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

REVELATION 22:14 · NIV

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.



REVELATION 22:14 · NIV

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

REVELATION 22:15 · NIV

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.



REVELATION 22:15 · NIV

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Keep loving and watching

1 Remain in His love

Keep His commands, so that His joy may be in you.

John 15:9-12

2 Bear fruit

Mature in the fruit of the Spirit. Win souls by the fruit in you.

Galatians 5:22-23

3 Watch and pray

That you may stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36

4 Love each other

Deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Pet. 4:8-9 · John 13:34

5 Look eagerly

For His coming: the blessed hope.

Titus 2:11-13

JOHN 15:9-10 · NIV

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.



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As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

JOHN 15:11-12 · NIV

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.



JOHN 15:11-12 · NIV

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.



GALATIANS 5:22-23 · NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

GALATIANS 5:22-23 · NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

LUKE 21:36 · NIV

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.



LUKE 21:36 · NIV

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.



1 PETER 4:8-9 · NIV

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 PETER 4:8-9 · NIV

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

JOHN 13:34-35 · NIV

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



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TITUS 2:11-12 · NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,



TITUS 2:11-12 · NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,

TITUS 2:12-13 · NIV

and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



TITUS 2:12-13 · NIV

and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



IN CONCLUSION

Let Us Hold Each Other and Persevere with Expectation

Hebrews 10:24-25, 36-37 · Matthew 25:1-13

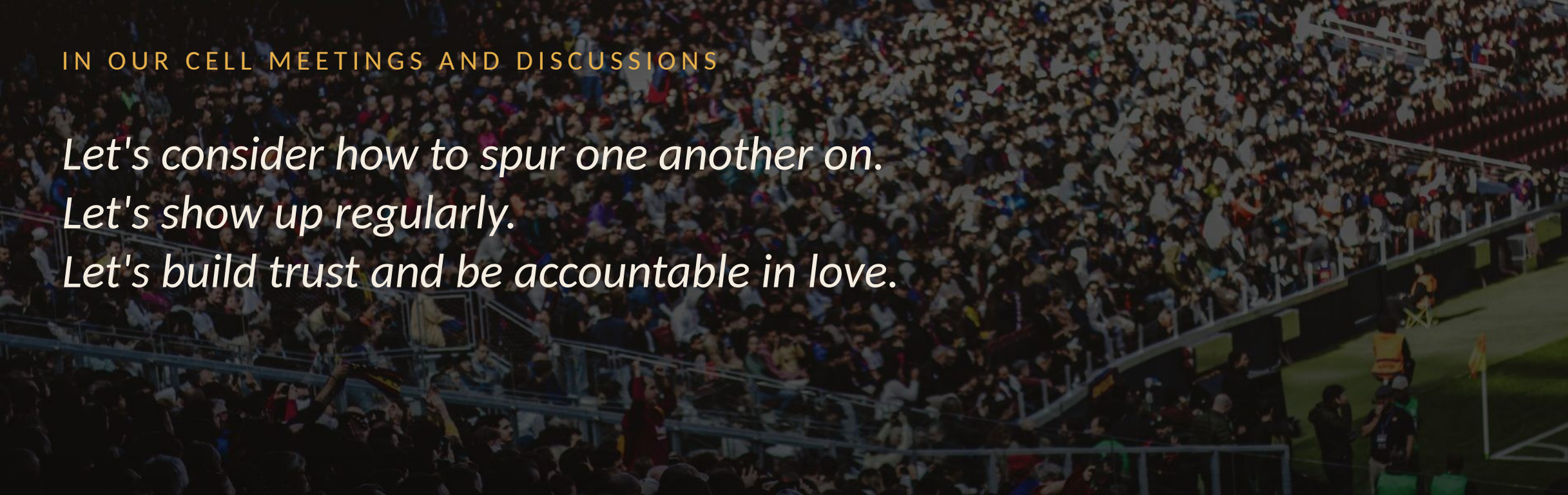


HEBREWS 10:24-25 · NIV

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IN OUR CELL MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Let's consider how to spur one another on.
Let's show up regularly.
Let's build trust and be accountable in love.



THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

The five wise virgins would encourage the five foolish virgins in love
to fill their jars before the bridegroom shows up.

Matthew 25:1-13

MATTHEW 25:13 · KJV

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.



MATTHEW 25:13 · KJV

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

HEBREWS 10:36-37 · NIV

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”



HEBREWS 10:36-37 · NIV

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Call for prayer

1. Ready for the call

A constant consciousness of our Christian walk: He can come even now, during the picnic, or call us home before the flight.

Hebrews 10:36-37

2. Abide and bear fruit

May Christ the vine help us to abide in Him and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

John 15:9 · Galatians 5:22-25

If you haven't yet accepted God's invitation to the Wedding Feast, this is the time.

It is the Holy Spirit who convicts our hearts.





JOHN 16:8-9 · NLT

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.

JOHN 16:8-9 · NLT

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.


GOD BLESS YOU
Let us hold each other and persevere with expectation.
He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23