

Newsletter

2nd May 2021

Family Service

Sunday's Reading: **John 10:1-10** **Jesus the True Vine**

Ps. Andrew Everson will bring us the word this week.

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for teachers and students as they start a new term, may it be a productive term for all.
- Rosalie Hinch is recovering very well and if all continues well, she is at McLaren Vale for rehabilitation his week. They are thankful for your continuing prayers. Give thanks for their strong faith and God being with them.
- Pray for those who are unwell, having tests and awaiting results that God's healing hand will be upon them. This can be a very stressful time when unwell.
- Pray for the countries of the world who are struggling with massive numbers of covid19 cases daily, in particular the desperate situation in India. Give thanks for our safe country and the state governments doing the best they can in dealing with pockets of covid19 outbreaks, pray they make wise decisions.
- Give thanks for the successful completion of Samuel 1 by Dave and Lil Barnett and the team at Ernabella and the successful launch of the Pitjantjatjara hymn book.
- There are many who are coping with difficulties and really appreciate the support of the congregation with the "Tithe a tin Pray a packet" outreach, thank you.

Notices

Can you help with Crèche? In recent years our church has had an influx of younger families. A creche was re-introduced as a way to bless those young mothers by giving them some time to enjoy being part of our service while knowing their children are being well cared for and safe. If you are able to help with the creche as part of our roster, can you please let Oriel know.

Open Night: Saturday May 8th at 5.30pm at the church

Speaker will be Dan Fennell.

Please bring a casserole or savoury plate to share, a sweet will be supplied.

Tom Golding will be speaking on Saturday May 15th at 94 Woolwash lane Stewarts Range (Trevor Barnett's place)

BYO Bible and chair

9.30am Session 1 "Mt Sinai is our past".

10am morning tea

11am Session 2 "The New Covenant is our Present".

12.30pm Lunch BBQ lunch meat supplied please bring a salad or dessert

2pm Session 3 "Mount Zion is our Future".

3pm afternoon tea

RSVP May 10th to Trevor (0407390565) or Sue (0473201347)

Marriage Course

We will be holding the Marriage Course in June.

The updated Marriage Course has new teaching content, creative short films, global stories, and expert insights –hosted by Nicky & Sila Lee.

7 episodes of the Marriage Course:

- Strengthening Connection
- The Art of Communication
- Resolving Conflict
- The Power of Forgiveness
- The Impact of Family
- Good Sex
- Love in Action

We are looking to hold this over 7 Thursday evenings in Wesley Hall. Meal and refreshments included.

Attached is a link to a short video giving an introduction to this course:

<https://youtu.be/qba2wYpXgUs>

Contact Andrew 0417 811 773, Simone 0425 809 760 or Robbie 0455 663 556

Name tags: As our congregation is growing, please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

Prayer Chain

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733).

Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

Mid-Week Bible reading Acts 8:26-40 – Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home, was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

The true mission of the Church is entirely driven by God. God prepares the hearts of his followers, creates the circumstances, calls, and sends his evangelists and missionaries, and with impeccable timing draws people together over his word.

Philip's mission to Samaria where he “proclaimed the Christ” had been characterised by miraculous signs in which “with shrieks evil spirits came out of many and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So, there was great joy in that city”. (Acts 8:4-7)

Philip's mission to Samaria had been very successful. Philip obviously trusted God to bless the work, so when God calls him to “go south” with minimal explanation of exactly why he was going – he simply goes!

God had been preparing the heart, mind, and spirit of the Ethiopian official. The man had been steeped in the worship and prayer in Jerusalem and was continuing to absorb God's word as he travelled home. This man displayed the three key requirements to accept Christ. Firstly, he was open to hearing about God. Secondly, he looked for

knowledge outside of himself. He didn't look to find God within his own mind. He was humble enough to seek Him from scripture. And thirdly, he understood the difference between reading and spiritual understanding. So, he unselfconsciously calls for help in interpreting God's word.

The Ethiopian was open, humble, and teachable. God, in his grace, provided the teacher.

Philip baptises him at the man's request. Baptism doesn't make the man a Christian. Rather, it recognises that Christ accepts the man, and that the man has accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour.

In fact, Jesus has already "accepted" us all. (That's the all-inclusive message of the cross.) He is simply waiting for us to accept him.

In these days of divisive identity politics, it is important to stress that "all-inclusive" nature of the gospel as the story of the Ethiopian eunuch demonstrates. The book of Acts tells repeatedly how the gospel embraces people across the human divides of race, religion, culture, sex, occupation, and worldly status. As Paul puts it:

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11)

Andrew