



ST COLUMBA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE VOICE OF ST COLUMBA

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Since we have begun a preaching series on prayer, I thought I should share how important prayer has been in my life. I was blessed to grow up with Christian family members who demonstrated the power of prayer. As a child, I would pray for what I think now are silly things. For example, when my brother and I would play cricket, and the tennis ball we were playing would get lost after one of us had hit a six, I would pray that the ball would be found and more often than not it was. Prayers were sometimes answered but many times they weren't. Another time, I prayed for a camera and one was given to me as a Christmas present. There were serious things that were prayed for and God answered some of those prayers. In the last edition of the voice, I mentioned how my legs were healed from burns after a church prayed with my mother for me. I am therefore without excuse to committing time to praying for others. If God can heal me, then he can surely heal others, if we pray for them.

James 5:14 says, "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." We should also be praying for the sick, so it is great that we have a Friday morning prayer group that consists of 'elders', who pray for the sick and for other needs of our congregation. I have valued the prayers of those who prayed for me to recover after my last two weeks of sickness. I have also enjoyed the privilege of praying for others in the church. One of the things we tried to introduce before lockdown hit, was having people pray for others after the church service. I have found this to be something powerful, as there are always people in church who have a need that can be prayed for. Please feel free to ask someone after a church service to pray for you or your need. When I was in a church in Feilding, I would pray for people with the oldest member of the church. If someone was sick, she would anoint their head with oil in keeping with the mentioned verse. While I didn't feel it was essential to do so for the prayer to be answered, people appreciated her doing that for them, and I am sure God heard her prayers because of her faithfulness to scripture.

At the first church I was a minister for, I felt that I was led to pray for the people in my church by sitting in the seats they would usually sit in. I have since done this in the other churches I have served in but it does take time to know who has their usual spot and then remember that when I am alone in the church praying for them. In one church I invited others to join me and we spent about an hour moving around the church praying for different people in quiet. Some would have smiles on their faces while they prayed and it was because you knew that they were praying for one of the children who sits in that spot at the back of the church. Other times, people had tears rolling down their cheeks. I don't know why but sitting in the spot of someone else and praying for them was very different to praying for the same person when seeing their name on a list for example. Maybe the physical act of praying for someone in their place of worship has extra significance.

My hope is that through the series on prayer, and from other sermons that are related to prayer too, that you will be encouraged in your prayers. Asking God to act on what we see as important is amazing! We should be praying more for God to bring about His will and His purposes so that people may come to know Him and be under His protection and His blessing. I am looking forward to seeing how we move forward as a praying church in what are times that need prayer more than ever. God bless.

QUARTERLY COMMUNION

An invitation is extended to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ to join us for the Communion Service

On the 12th Dec



RUTH'S RAMBLINGS

I love watching everyone wander past my door,
Those who come to **exercise** on a Tuesday , no lyrca to
be seen - the neat music and rhythms they move to.
Fitness Fun.

Bowls when they come back on a Monday, chatting, pairing up, eyeing up the skip, setting up that sometimes elusive curve.

Ballet, as they enter every day of the week making use of our great hall floor, pirouetting and plie-ing, Battement tending as they stretch and point, with grace and poise - which one debates if working in the Boutique (grin)

Playgroup, with little ones to entertain and mums to chat with - socialisation! For all!

Care n Craft when they come back with 50ish people to do crafts and exercises with, show movie snippets and clap along with an Irish jig.

Arabian Spice Belly Dancing with their bright colours and swishy dresses, the ethnic music and the fun and vibrancy.

Ballroom Dancing, just a few enjoying their craft, a craft that brings fitness and a flair that lights up the hall.

Ukelele, strumming and humming, downstairs on a Friday night, tapping along to favourites for all to enjoy.

JPs Justices of the Peace come every Tuesday from 10-12pm and sit patiently waiting for someone to help, something to sign, a smile to give.

The **Dept of Corrections** - who we minister to and foster, showing a different, calmer, forgiving way of life. What a privilege!

The **subcontractors** who regularly service our premises: Fire Security services, Judea Electrical, Alba Property Services, Triac Light and Sound, Satori Digital, Fuji Xerox, Neil Hitchiner Lawns, Complete Cleaning, and Bay Building Compliance. All wonderful people and companies that keep us free and relevant.

We are very blessed to have all of these people coming and being part of our community, they are the fabric of our community that make us who we are.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

UPDATE

Since August, Äiwoo Translator Luke completed two **Introductory Hebrew** courses at **IBM (Islands Bible Ministries)** in Honiara, achieving very high marks in his exams. He's now enrolled in the **Intermediate Hebrew** course, continuing to make remarkable progress despite several major challenges. In September, when Luke and Anna's apartment on the **SITAG (Solomon Islands Advisory Group)** campus was burgled, they lost a new laptop and a new smartphone. The thief managed to uplift the phone resting beside Luke's head as he lay fast asleep in bed. Thankfully, the new director for SITAG was able to replace Luke's laptop with an older laptop on hand. The thief was so pleased with the results of his first attempt, he decided to return the next night. Thankfully, Luke spotted the intruder as he tried to enter a window, and chased him off. Pray that Luke and Anna – along with all the families living on the SITAG campus – will be protected from further intrusions.

Luke's chronic respiratory problems returned in October, leading to a couple of weeks of coughing. However, we praise God that he reports he's now recovered from the coughing. May God continue to protect his and Anna's health.

Praise God for Äiwoo Translator Edmund's excellent work in revising **Äi Päko iie Luk** (Good message Luke wrote,) now that he's back in the Reef Islands. Ask God to help him complete the revisions before the end of this year, and encourage the Balipaa Reviewing Team to resume their review of **Äi Päko iie Matiu**.

Prayers are appreciated for **SITAG Director** Paul Nelson as he meets mid-November with **ACOM (Anglican Church of Melanesia) Diocesan Bishop of Temotu**, Bishop Willie Tungale, to discuss next year's plans for the Äiwoo Translation. May God guide their conversation and give them wisdom from above, especially as they consider Father David Toaki's future involvement.

Thanks again to all of you in the St Columba Family for your prayers and for your partnership with us as we serve the Bible translation movement in the Solomon Islands.



EDMUND IS THE AIWOO TRANSLATOR

given him such a burning heart and compassion for the lost, that he would share the gospel to people he would come across, wherever he goes.

And so when I went to Dubai in 2006, where I worked for 12 years as a PA (Personal Assistant) to a CEO/Managing Director, my heart was to share the gospel with my workmates and flatmates. I also had the chance to pray for the healing of my Emirati boss (who used to curse Jesus) and witnessed how God healed him physically. Being away from home and living in the Middle East where women were treated lower in value, was where I exponentially grew in the Lord, particularly in my identity as a child of God. I used to be fearful, insecure and felt insignificant. Then I grew in the knowledge of the Father's extravagant love; this gave me a sense of belonging, security and purpose. I also had committed reading the Bible from cover to cover during this time.

I was privileged to be part of a worship team, as a piano/keyboard player, at one of the growing churches in Dubai. It had a peak of about 700 people attending at that time. I had also served in various ministries such as co-leading a home group, intercessory prayer, evangelism, youth, healing and prophetic ministry.

I will be forever grateful that God has blessed Alec and I with a beautiful baby boy Aidan. I remember when I received a word of promise in my heart after we lost our first baby through an early miscarriage in October 2019. The word I received was similar to Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed your child in your womb I already knew him".

As we recently celebrated Aidan's first birthday, Alec and I were reminded of God's faithfulness. Aidan has been such a joy to us and we couldn't be more thankful for him.



GETTING TO KNOW AMY

I was born in Manila, Philippines. I grew up believing that God is so distant and impersonal that I need to work for His acceptance by doing good works/religious duties such as going to church, reading the Bible and obeying his commandments, otherwise I will be punished.

When I was a teenager, my Dad shared with us the gospel and I have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Since then I have grown in my relationship with a gracious loving God. Baptism followed at a youth camp at age 14 in Batangas, Philippines. I'm blessed to have a dad who loves the Lord and His Word. My dad has been a big influence in my Christian walk. God has

OSHIMA.

Several years ago I picked up a small booklet at a book- fair in Mt Maunganui.

It was a collection of poems written by Japanese lepers on the island colony of Oshima.

Background reading; quote:

Islands of Shame

In 1907 Japan enacted the Leprosy Prevention Law.

Under this new segregation law and despite the fact that a cure had been developed and drug therapy could allow leprosy patients to live in society, Japanese authorities forced thousands of patients to be confined in sanatoriums.

Japan's lepers remained quarantined until the law was repealed in 1996.

By 1955, more than 15,000 sufferers had been rounded up, and thousands more would join them until 1996.

For more than 89 years, lepers would have to live a life of imposed deprivation from family ties and humiliation on top of their medical condition. Heavy labour for the able was the rule, as was sterilization for men who wanted to marry and forced abortions for women who became pregnant.

The traditional shame culture of Japan induced most patients to change their family names, so as not to embarrass their relatives, and to accept their fate as imposed by a law violating their human rights. Since being allowed to leave the lepers' colonies in 1996, very few have left the sanatoriums, since they have no place to go and no families awaiting their return. Most of the colonies were set up on islands, chosen for the many advantages they offered for segregation.

These islands are still home to the majority of Japan's lepers. Unquote.

(http://www.novopix.com/Texts/islands_text.html)

The booklet contains the most poignant poems I have ever read.

Bearing in mind that these unfortunate people were forcibly removed from their families, relatives and society in general and condemned to a living death in Leprosariums with no hope, no love, and no chance of restitution - yet some of them wrote the most moving poetry.

Here is the poem I mentioned:

Lilies abloom,

And in my heart no room,

Except for thoughts of Him

Who conquered death. (Takamoto)

Only four lines, but what lines they are!

Of all the deprivation, injustice, heartache and utter hopelessness felt; yet here was a man who, surrounded by decay and death, could sum up his situation and his standing, not before man, but before God with wonderfully clear, concise poetry.

From his unloveliness he portrays the picture of utter beauty - the lily, of which Jesus said,

" Solomon, in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. " (Mat. 6:29)

He is stating that aside from all my shame, disfigurement, abandonment, there is no room for the beauties of this world - my heart is full and my spirit is solely occupied with "thoughts of Him who conquered death."

He has overcome his situation being utterly sustained, being so totally Christ-centred, that there is no room in his heart for any 'lilies' the world has to offer.

The Lily is temporal - Christ is eternal!

Leprosy in scripture is a picture of sin.

We have seen in the world's appraisal,

leprosy is a place of shame, deprivation, isolation, hardship, suffering, man's inhumanity to man and so on, but beside this island of ignominy - this place of sin - there is a Rock and moreover, there is a Cleft in the Rock. The leper has availed himself of the 'cleft' and experienced the love of God through his Saviour Jesus Christ. (I will never leave thee nor forsake thee...)

1 Cor.15:53 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality."

He knows that corruption will have its way, but that in Christ, he will put on incorruption, he will receive a new body in resurrection. Hallelujah - what a Saviour!

"Lilies abloom,

And in my heart no room,

Except for thoughts of Him

Who conquered death."

Submitted by Alan Smith



A PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY AT WORK.

Chinese gold miners with Reverend Alexander Don, outside a sod house at Tuapeka, Otago. For those at St Columba who find reading Chinese characters a wee struggle, the sign reads, '**Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Light is forgiveness, purity, brightness and sureness. Light brings kindness, brings life and brings peace. Jesus is the light.**'

Although Anglican ministers and Catholic priests dominated missionary work in NZ, the Presbyterian Church saw a need, in their home base of Otago and Southland, and it was the Rev. Don's job to spread the Word to the Chinese communities that were scattered across the gold fields. More on the remarkable Rev. Don in the next edition of The Voice



THE PROMISES OF ISAIAH 41:10

"Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My **victorious** right hand of rightness and justice. " - Isaiah 41:10 AMP Sometimes, we can read certain verses from Scripture a hundred times and fail to take them to heart, the way the Lord wants us to. Other times, we can linger on a verse or two, and let them minister life, healing, and comfort to us. Isaiah 41:10 is so rich with the promises of God, that it warrants some special attention from us. The first thing that the Lord wants to impart to us through this verse is that He doesn't want us to be afraid. "Fear not [there is nothing to fear]." It's been said that there are 365 "fear nots" in the Bible; one for every day of the year. One reason why God warns us against fear is that it can short-circuit the answered prayers and blessings that He has in store for us. Just as the Lord has plans for our lives, Satan and his dark forces do, too. While God's plans for us are good plans (Jeremiah 29:11), the devil's plans for us are evil (John 10:10). And the Lord knows that while faith in Him and His Word opens the door to His plans and purposes for us, fear can open the door to Satan's. If we keep these things in mind when adversity hits, we will do everything in our power to resist becoming fearful--including praying, praising, and immersing ourselves in God's Word. "I am with you." And here's the best reason of all for us not to give in to fear--we have the Lord's presence to accompany us at all times, everywhere we go. (Joshua 1:9) Jesus Himself said, "I am with you always/ even to the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20 TLB) In desperate times, our feelings will often tell us that we're all alone in our troubles. We can live by feelings, or we can live by faith--the choice is ours. If we choose to live by faith, as the Bible instructs (2 Corinthians 5:7), we will position ourselves to receive the rewards and victories

that the Lord has in store for us. "Do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God." When we give the Lord His rightful place in our lives, He becomes responsible for our welfare and well-being. He becomes our Protector and Provider. He fights our battles for us. And He makes Himself available to us every moment of every day. If we will let God be God in our lives on a daily basis, we will witness Him moving heaven and earth to fulfill His purposes for us, and to bless us with His best. "I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you." Sometimes we may feel as though we've been "ambushed" by sudden calamities or troubles, but nothing that comes our way is a surprise to God. That should give us great comfort in desperate times. Before we ever have a problem, God's got a custom-made solution prepared for us. And we know that no matter what happens, we can endure it--and even overcome it--when we rely on Him to strengthen and help us. "Yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My **victorious** right hand of rightness and justice." The Bible tells us repeatedly that our God is a God of justice. Because of that, He is committed to seeing that His faithful ones eventually come out on top in every situation. It may seem at times that we are the losers, but whenever we deal with our problems using godly principles, our victory can be delayed, but it can never be denied. Let me challenge you today to take these precious promises to heart. Make them your own by claiming them in faith, and open the way for our loving and mighty God to reveal Himself to you like never before!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all of the blessed promises of Isaiah 41:10. Give me revelation from heaven where this verse is concerned, and help me to apply it to my life. Thank You that as I delve into the limitless treasures in Your Word, I will live the abundant, victorious life that You have planned for me!

Devotions by J M Farrow.

Submitted by Neville Wilson

(ON THE WAY TO RAKA)



My husband and I spent the 60s and 70s working for an Aid company, not as missionaries but teaching folk how to make roads where there were none. Well he did; I just went along for the ride. In the summer of 1960 he was asked to go to Raka in Syria along with several others. There was a Project Manager and 3 other men from various countries, and as they were allowed to take their families we ended up a group of about 10.

You have to be careful what you wish for sometimes, because I can well remember saying to my lovely husband, "I will go anywhere in the world with you as long as we can be together. We had two children, one in boarding school in the UK and one that I home schooled. Paul had been in enough schools that Arabic would have been a bridge too far, so he was quite happy at home being schooled by his Mum.

My husband said to me, "I will go ahead and get the lie of the land and the accommodation, and get the house set up, if you can pack up and see to the kids. " Roughly translated that means "I'm off and you can sort everything out."

This is where our adventure began and I am not going to bore you with life in Raka which was very restricted for women as you can imagine, but rather I am going to tell you about certain decisions I made and you can judge them as stupid or gutsy. I like to think it was the later.

My son Paul, then aged 8, and I dropped Karen off at boarding school and left Newcastle on a plane to catch another at Heathrow, then to Munich which then went to Aleppo and from there I was to contact my husband who would collect us and drive through the desert to Raka.

My geography was rubbish and I knew that Raka was in Syria, so when we got to London and found the plane had gone, decisions had to be made. Our luggage had long gone to Munich which was a bit of a problem but not serious, but how to get to Syria? I decided to call on British Airways and explain the situation and ask when there was a plane going next to Syria. Luckily there was one

going to Damascus, so we booked on that. Crisis averted we were on our way. Paul was so excited it was a peaceful journey. We met a nice American family doing much the same as us but in the city and it wasn't until I mentioned Raka that he gasped and said that is on the border with Turkey, 3 days ride through the desert overland. Still not fazed, Paul and I thought we would see the countryside, not realizing that women are not supposed to be out travelling alone.

We stayed long enough to catch our breath with this lovely American family, and indeed became firm friends in the future. They had a son too and so Paul had found a friend. They put me on the bus, paid my fare and set us off with a bag full of sandwiches and told us to keep quiet and keep our heads down. 3 days we travelled, only stopping for toilet stops, with a bus full of men and ending up in hotels that were less than salubrious. On the last day a young man, a student, got on the bus and spoke English. Oh the joy of talking to him, and he was able to take Paul to the toilet without my being afraid I would never see my son again. He was so kind he took us to the Aleppo hotel which was where we were to meet my husband.

It was a beautiful building but I don't think it had ever been dusted since Laurence of Arabia had ridden through! We were so glad to be there; we had something to eat and went to bed with our socks on, the floors were so dusty. My husband of course was nowhere to be seen, we were of course 4 days late so it was unrealistic that he would still have been there.

The next morning a call was made to him and he came in the jeep to take us to Raka, miles from anywhere. Our luggage arrived the next morning.

So now you can decide; was I just stupid or gutsy?

Submitted by Maureen Cox

QUOTATIONS

- ◊ Do you want to impress people, or influence them?
- ◊ Do you want to leave your family just money - or a Christian example?
- ◊ Could we desire anything more than Christ's approving smile?
- ◊ We long for heaven, but God is interested in our journey.
- ◊ When I give place to self-pity, resentment, pride or fear, I am denying the Lordship of Christ.
- ◊ God's love and mercy are unlimited, unfailing and often unsought.
- ◊ Fight your battles on your knees; let God do the worrying.
- ◊ Can God trust me with sorrow and pain? Or does my faith falter beneath the strain?

God, help me to live each day, quietly, easily.

To lean upon you strength, trustfully, restfully.

To wait for the unfolding of your will, patiently, serenely.

To meet others, peacefully, joyfully.

To face tomorrow confidently, courageously.

God, so help me to live this day and every day. Amen

Column submitted by Norah Jones

**The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.**

**He named it
"Prayer"...**

**It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!**



**The oldest computer
was owned by Adam and Eve.
It was an apple with very
limited memory. Just 1 byte
and everything crashed!**



© NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING



HOW MANY OF THESE CITIES HAVE YOU VISITED?

New York
 Kiev
 Manila
 Seoul
 Toronto
 Los Angeles
 Las Vegas
 Dubai
 Tokyo
 Sao Paolo
 Vancouver
 Lagos
 Bangkok
 Istanbul
 Jakarta
 Warsaw
 Melbourne
 Montreal
 Shanghai
 Lisbon
 Mumbai
 Beijing
 Cape Town
 Auckland
 Hong Kong
 Singapore
 Stockholm
 Hanoi
 Beirut

Abu Dhabi
 Paris
 Honolulu
 Moscow
 Cairo
 Casablanca
 Vienna
 Perth
 Dublin
 Glasgow
 New Delhi
 Munich
 London
 Prague
 Osaka
 Rio de Janeiro
 Barcelona
 Taipei
 Chicago
 Copenhagen
 Budapest
 Santiago
 Rome
 Amsterdam
 Miami
 Zagreb
 Berlin
 Athens
 Milan
 Dar es Saalem
 Eindhoven
 Quezon City
 Manukau City

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

Sunshine is not cancelled
 Spring is not cancelled
 Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled
 Reading is not cancelled
 Devotion is not cancelled
 Naps are not cancelled
 Music is not cancelled
 Dancing is not cancelled
 Imagination is not cancelled
 Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled
 HOPE is not cancelled



I have visited 16 of these cities. Ruth.



JUST A GIGGLE

One day a new priest decided to visit one of his parishioners, so he knocked on the door. He could hear footsteps but no one came to the door. After a few minutes, the priest decided to leave a note for the parishioner. He wrote on it "Revelations 3:20, Behold I stand at the door and knock."

At the Sunday service the following week, the priest found a note in the offerings with the verse Genesis 3:10, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."



CHRISTMAS QUIPS

* What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker!

* Why was the turkey in the pop group?
Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

* Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
A mince spy!

* What do you call a deer who can't see
No eye-deer!

* How many letters are in the angelic
alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has "no E!"

* Why can't Christmas trees knit?
Because they always drop their needles!

* What did the stamp say to the letter?
Stick with me and we'll go places!

* What happened to the man who stole an
Advent Calendar?

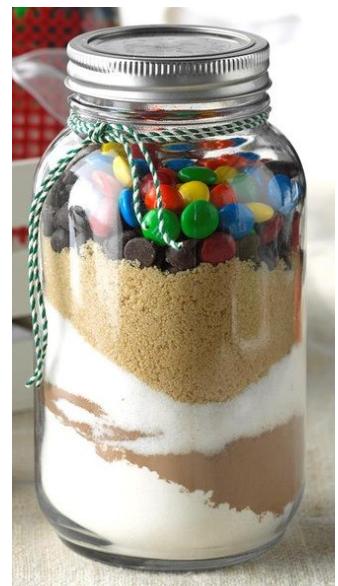
He got 25 days!

* How did Mary and Joseph know that
Jesus was 7lb 6oz when he was born?
They had a weigh in a manger!

GIFT IN A JAR FOR CHRISTMAS

Ingredients

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate M&M's
- **additional ingredients:**
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Directions

Combine flour, salt and baking powder. In a 1-qt. glass container, layer flour mixture, cocoa, sugar, brown sugar, chocolate chips and M&M's, packing well between each layer. Cover and store in a cool, dry place up to 6 months. **Yield:** 1 batch (about 4 cups total).

To prepare brownies: Preheat oven to 350°. Beat eggs, oil and vanilla. Stir in brownie mix. Pour into a greased 8-in. square baking dish. Bake until center is set, 26-28 minutes (do not overbake). Cool on a wire rack.

Places in the Old Testament

V K E J S A C T Y A Y O V Z Y O C L I Z
Z B Z T E R Y Y I Z G B R H G P N V V A
A Q U O S R F Y A J N A K D D Q W C A L
I U J G N I U O T N I B V L H N B I B B
R V I L U Z Y S M N B E Y I B Y M B Q O
Y E H X W R E Y A E Z L M J B U M D P G
S O U A L S U V T L N F N Z Q M C A U H
S B H H T Z K H Y J E J I G I O D E P Z
A W A E S P E K I Q T M T Y J W C L W S
R D Q V L L Y L E A R S I U V L U I B J
C P M E Z V E X B U B F D E D O M G V C
K N Z N S H E B R Q G A B M S S K W Y T
O Q M I W G V U C R H H V R H O R E B V
C C E N Y Q F T N L J V J S F H P U X N
O B R P C T Y T V E D E N A N P I S P A
K O T B R N S S I N A I I K U D J J X A
X M X K E Z J E R I C H O S N N E Z C N
B Q A B J Q I T J N Y A F A R G O A S A
S M P Z G K J D X V M F S A M A R I A C
H Y L K G L B A B Y L O N S H E C H E M

Assyria
Babel
Babylon
Bethel
Canaan
Eden

Edom
Egypt
Gilead
Horeb
Israel
Jericho

Jerusalem
Judah
Nineveh
Samaria
Shechem
Sinai
Ur

©A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com

Did you know we have a
Justice of the Peace?
Here, onsite, every Tuesday 10-12pm
No appointment necessary.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Each year we have written some information in the newsletter for your (parishioners') safety in an emergency. Every other year we have had an organised evacuation of the church so that everyone is familiar with the exits and the plan we have in place.

This year, due to Covid and other changes in our congregation, it has proved a bit difficult to arrange the emergency evacuation, so after some consideration we have agreed to write the plan in "The Voice" and leave the actual evacuation of the church until next year.

1. In the event of an earthquake we ask you to remain in your seats, and if it is possible for you to get down between the seats that would be a good thing to do. You will be advised when it is safe to leave the church and will be guided to the exits.

2 If someone collapses in Church, we ask that you call someone capable to help you lay that person into a suitable position (lying on the seat or floor) and if assessed as requiring help, someone should call 1-111 from the foyer or on their cell phone. The ambulance should arrive directly and take care of the situation. Please consider the privacy of the person. Do not move them unless they are conscious and able to be assisted to the foyer or office.

In the chapel there is a wheelchair and in the cupboard is a bowl/ small emergency wheelchair and towels.

3 Fire, which is most likely to occur in the kitchen area, would require everyone to leave the church quickly by the nearest Exits. There is a double exit door on the left hand side of the front of Church and also exits behind the communion table on either side. People should gather outside the church on Otumoetai Road. I suggest you should take note of who is nearby to you but PLEASE do not hold up the line of evacuation by assisting everyone else.

Our security person who is stationed in the foyer and the minister, who would be in the front of the church, would take charge. There are banners and a fluorescent vest for them and the O team members to wear and they will do the assisting and guidance. The security person would be responsible to arrange for a call to the fire brigade. (They have been asked to always have their cell phone available but there is the foyer phone as well.)

We believe these events are unlikely to happen but if we are prepared, we can be more responsible should something occur. There is the possibility these events could happen on occasions other than our Sunday service. I would hope the plans above could be helpful and an organizer of the event would assimilate the ideas to suit the situation. If there is an emergency which requires you to leave the Church the meeting place is on Otumoetai Road. However, if you are in the lounge or Basement Boutique, the meeting place is out by the Medical Centre. We do not want people climbing steps and going around the buildings to Otumoetai Road.

The main message is, "Think calmly and responsibly and don't panic. Follow instructions."

Blessings to all, Mary Findlay

ST COLUMBA CALENDAR

SERVICE OF WORSHIP Sundays at 9.30 am

MONTHLY MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

First Wednesday of month @ 10 am in the Chapel

EACH WEEK—REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays	6.45 pm Indoor Bowls
Tuesdays	9.00 am Staff Meeting 10.00am Playgroup
Wednesdays	9.30 am Care & Craft (excl school hols) In recess.
Wed/Thurs/Fri	10.00 am Basement Boutique (till 4 pm)
Thursdays	9.45 am Bible Study in Creche 10.00 am Conversation Café (incl school hols.) In recess
Fridays	9.00 am Prayer Meeting 10.00 am Cuppa & Chat in Lounge
Saturday	10.00 am-1pm Basement Boutique
Sundays	8.45 am Prayers

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Tuesday	1.30 pm Session
3rd Wednesday	10.00 am O Team 2.00 pm Service at Mitchell Court 3.00 pm Service at Radius Matua
3rd Thursday	11.00 am Service at Bob Owens Village every third month Men's Breakfast; is in recess
2nd Saturday	WOW breakfasts

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths: "in memory"

8 - August 2021 Barbara Marion Smith

7 - September 2021 Ronald George Gordon

31 - October 2021 Karlo George Klinac

5 - November 2021 Joan MacFarlane

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE

www.stcolumba.co.nz/sermons

www.stcolumba.co.nz/musings



CONTACT DETAILS

St Columba Church: 502 Otumoetai Road

Cherrywood, Tauranga 3110;

PO Box 8009 Tauranga 3145

Pastor: Alec Wallis

Session Clerk: Neville Wilson 576 4814

Office Phone: 07 576 6756

Office Hours 9 am-noon Monday-Friday

Email: office@stcolumba.co.nz

Website: www.stcolumba.co.nz

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To know, enjoy and share Christ.