

CHURCH OF CHRIST NAPIER NEWS

Vol:19

05 July 2020

No. 26

Let your faith
be bigger than
your fear.

ROSTERS:

TODAY:

Prayer/

Announcements:

Barry

Lord's Supper:

Peter

Song Leader:

Les

Lesson &

Discussion Group:

Mark Willis

Greeter:

Paige

Morning Tea:

Peter & Marguerite

Counting

Contribution:

Kathy & Marguerite

NEXT WEEK

12 July 2020

Prayer/

Announcements:

Richard

Lord's Supper:

Raymond

Song Leader:

Les

Lesson &

Discussion Group:

Titus

Greeter:

Richard

Morning Tea:

Les & Narelle

Counting

Contribution:

Richard & Narelle

DOES EVANGELISM FACE NEW CHALLENGES TODAY?

Why is evangelism so difficult today? The Catholics find it difficult because they are essentially a hierarchical institution, and hierarchy is very unattractive to post moderns. Bible based Christians also find difficulty as people are repulsed by the need for Biblical obedience such as repentance, baptism, faith and self denial, provoking the question "Who is going to tell me what to do?" Intellectual argument today leaves most people cold. Because of this depressing lack of an overall framework with which to make sense of the world most people are left very much on their own. There is first and foremost the denial of all absolutes in truth or morality. There is a general distrust of authority and cynicism about institutions: law, government and the church. There is a good deal of scorn for the past and loss of hope for the future. The result: look after number one, and don't bother about other people. Live for now; buy on the never-never, and don't worry about the future. It is an age with no foundations, and a future without hope. People have tasted the fruit of materialism and found nothing satisfies for long. "There must be more to life than this" they say. This accounts for the fascination with new cults, Eastern religions, spiritualism, New Age mysticism, and bizarre sexual experimentation, anything to fill that persistent sense of emptiness so many people feel. Licence replaces God's Law. Escapism grows. There is a noticeable self loathing and decreasing value for human life arising from moral abandonment. People accept drift, a meaningless determinism as if our efforts cannot make any difference. Matthew tells us "because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold". Truth claims are an attempt at power and must be resisted. This is all part of the deconstruction of society which post modernism advocates and is intolerant of those who don't toe the politically correct line. In such an atmosphere in society today, ***it would be easy for Christians to buy into thinking no one wants the gospel message at all.*** Isn't that what Jonah thought about Nineveh? Didn't Jesus remind his disciples, "I tell you open your eyes and look to the fields, they are ripe for harvest?" We are witnessing today the emptiness of people living without God. Let's face it has there ever been a time when the gospel has been needed more? The prophet Jeremiah said, "*Therefore His Word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed I cannot*" (**Jeremiah 20:9**). Evangelism has new challenges we say, but have they ever been any different? People still yearn for the Gospel, and the solid meaning it brings, the real challenge is in the church's method, to change from the mindset of filling the building to actually go out and serve, have we learned to mentor people as Jesus did? Titus has challenged the church to change our thinking, will it be empty words or real action?

John Shepherd.

Faith does not mean
trusting God to stop the
storm, but trusting Him to
strengthen us as we walk
through the storm.

-AMEN-

FAMILY NEWS

Welcome to our worship this morning, especially Mark and Bernadine Willis. Mark is bringing us the lesson and discussion group this morning.

After visiting with the Dr it was decided that John would not be having any more treatment, so please keep John and Anne in your prayers.

Sinai has a new phone number
021 0262 0490

Moira is in hospital, If anyone is visiting her could they please take a newsletter and read it to her.

Singing at Summerset on the 15th
July at 1.30pm

Contribution: \$239.20

Warwick Badham will be bringing us the lesson on the 19th July as well as Chris Miller on the 26th.

Meeting times.

Prayers: All the time,

Morning Tea: Sunday, 10am

Worship: Sunday – 10.30am

-- 4pm

Contact Information

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OUR MISSION
To guide people
into growing,
healthy
relationships
with God

Hate no one,
no matter how much
they've wronged you.
Live humbly, no matter
how wealthy you become.
Think positively, no matter
how hard life is. Give much,
even if you've been given
little. Forgive all, especially
yourself. and never stop
praying for the best for
everyone.

Let Us Pray For:

- Those with health issues: Moira, Michael, Sally, Marie, John, Rosalie, Les, Norman, Judith Bing, Judy Bannister and Judy Martin.
- Personal growth and outreach opportunities.
- The men as they lead the body.
- Our Missionary workers in Fiji and Vanuatu.
- The Coronavirus (COVID 19) as it spreads around the world. We are at level 1 which really only effects our borders and we need to keep a diary of our contacts. We pray that our faith remains strong or becomes stronger through this period. Our hope is in Jesus, may it always continue to remain so. We have COVID19 back in our country because of failures at the boarder, we pray that the outbreak does not become unmanageable
- Those who are alone and are struggling, May we all reach out to them through prayer as well as the phone and internet and visiting.
- The elections are coming up in September, may the people of New Zealand make the right choice when they are casting their vote.
- 2020 will bring the truth to all those searching and even those who are not aware.
- All those who have been affected by the adverse weather conditions.



Remember that every season is not a growing season. Every season is not harvest. There are seasons of watering, seasons of planting, seasons of pulling up weeds, and fertilizing the ground. These are important seasons. They are times of testing where God is seeing what you're made of. Are you going to keep a good attitude when you're not making progress? Are you going to do the right thing when you're not seeing growth? Have faith & patience.