

NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

TAKE NOTE:

13th June 2021

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday Services have become an important ministry in the church. Fervent prayers and support are needed for missionaries, especially in this time of pandemic. Let's continue to do that.

26 June 2021

FAMILY RETREAT

This day is a ministry for families of the church. Families do struggle with many unseen and unwanted pressures. Praying that this Retreat will be a blessing to all families.

PRAY FOR INDIA

Many of our church members have lost their loved ones in the recent wave of Covid infections. Requesting the church to uphold all members who have suffered losses in their respective prayers

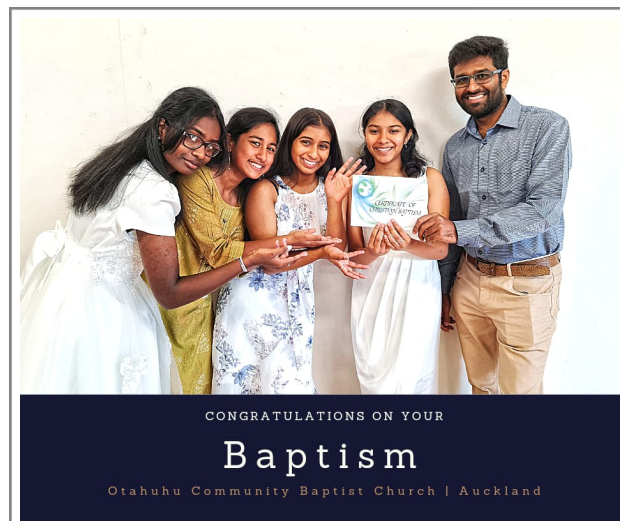
PRAY FOR MORE BAPTISMS AND SALVATION EXPERIENCES AT OUR CHURCH

MEMORABLE MILESTONES

The month of May 2021 will be remembered.....

Thanking God for creating some beautiful memories this year. Just think back of 2020 where we were not able to have any church events at all. By God's grace we are able to celebrate and achieve even more this year.

In May, there were two big events: Baptism of 5 young people & Church's 9th Anniversary Celebration. What a glorious day it was to see 5 young people commit their lives to the Lord. It was quite emotional and at the same exhilarating to see how our children have grown up from childhood in this same church.



On the last Sunday in May, we celebrated our church's 9th Anniversary. Peter Browning, the Chair of Northern Baptist Association described it as, joyful, colourful and filled with lot of energy. Reti Ah-Voa, the Regional Leader prayed and blessed the church. It was truly a remarkable day celebrating many cultures. Thanking God for all that He is doing in this multicultural Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FASTING PRAYER MEETING -
Friday, 4th June from 8pm-
10pm, @ Church Auditorium

MISSION SUNDAY - Sunday, 13th
June, observed in all three
Services.

FAMILY RETREAT - Saturday, 12th
June, @ Church Auditorium from
10am till Noon

HAMILTON MINISTRY- Members
meeting on the 12th June @
4pm.

OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING -
25 June, 7:30pm @ Mears Room

PRAYER NEEDS

- Take a moment to THANK GOD - for baptisms and anniversary celebrations
- PRAYER NEEDED - for India and for CoVid affected countries as family members are dying due to serious Covid infections. Many pastors have perished in this deadly wave and churches are struggling. Please do take a couple of minutes everyday to pray for the above mentioned.
- Pray for the families stuck in India and are unable to come to rejoin their families here.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Isaiah 35: 3 - 4 - "say to those with fearful hearts, your God will come, He will come with a vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you"

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: from Rachel Jacob

The Missions Team met on 21st May to discuss the success of our Food Festival. We raised a grand total of \$3000/- and we already know our Pioneers missionary will be grateful! Our Team are also looking forward to supporting missions in India during this difficult time. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to approach any missions committee member to share your thoughts. Thanks heaps for your contributions and prayers.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the anniversary celebrations. The Sunday School Team did a great job in their special song and dance numbers. Well done team. A big thanks to those who helped with food, the team who prepared food and cooked food for the church. Thanks to you all. Also thanking everyone from leaders to volunteers for your help to make the anniversary a success.

BIBLE STUDY & CELL GROUPS

Please do take part in Bible Studies and Cell Groups. They happen on every Wednesday's. It will surely be a blessing to your spiritual growth.

HEART FELT CONDOLENCES

We send our heartfelt condolences to Ps. Mike as he lost his mom and to Shea for losing her aunt and cousin back in the Philippines. Also, our condolences and prayers to the many church members who have lost their loved ones and relatives for Covid. Upholding all the abovementioned families in prayers and for the Lord's strength and peace to guide them at this time of grieving.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **11 JULY - KIDS & YOUTH SERVICE - COMBINED**
- **MONTH OF JULY - EACH CONGREGATION WILL PREPARE FOR ELECTION OF ELDERS**
- **15 AUGUST - ELECTION DAY**

PRAYER NEEDS :

- For all your prayer needs, please do contact the Pastors of the church.
- Please do inform leaders, if some family is struggling or if someone is facing some need.

FROM: PASTOR GRACE**Renew our thinking**

I want to share a story about a baby elephant that was tied to a wooden post. Tied to a post for several days, the baby elephant tried to break free of the rope holding him down but was unsuccessful. Day after day, he tried to break free. After several months, he could not still break free of the rope and give up hope of breaking the rope. Years go by, yet the now-adult elephant stays obediently tied to the wooden post each day. The wooden post remains the same, yet the elephant had lost all confidence in his ability to break free, such that he has stopped even trying to break the rope.

The mindset described above is called "habitual thinking" and is a relatively stable and stereotyped way of thinking. We each have our own perspective that often limits our thinking and behaviours, leading us into making improper judgments.

The Bible says, "Don't imitate the world, but renew your mind and change so that you can test what God's good, pure, and pleasing will is." (Romans 12:2). God's way of thinking and His words break our inherent thinking processes, renewing our thoughts. The Word of God allows us to renew our thinking to become more like Him, seeing and thinking from His perspective.

When we start to think like Him, we will also start acting like Him. When we allow Christ to come into our hearts, we are reborn, and God's way of thinking replaces our previous ways of thinking. God wants us to become beacons of his glory through our renewed thinking that we may see and think in the same way He sees the world.

Think in God's way. Gradually, when we allow our mode of thinking to change, we will find that we understand the answers God provides when we face various situations in our lives. Using the biblical way of thinking, we can understand that suffering is by no means God's punishment and judgment on mankind. Let us not linger in our old ways of thinking; instead, let us meditate on God's Word every day to renew our minds. Seek God's will in everything you do, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Congregation updates :

- Congratulations to Mu-Ming Marcus (Pastor Grace's son) on his graduation, now working as a doctor at Tauranga Hospital.
- Congratulations to Anne (Pastor Grace's daughter) on her Science and Music conjoint graduation, now pursuing further post graduate studies in Psychology.

➤ Congratulations to Isabelle, on her Science and Health Science conjoint graduation, now completing her teaching diploma to become a secondary teacher.

Congrats!

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23 APRIL 2021 - BAPTISM PHOTOS





OCBC'S 9TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS





OCBC'S 9TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

