



NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

TAKE NOTE:

7th February 2021

COMMUNION SERVICES

Communion Services will be observed on the first Sunday of every month in all three services.

14 February 2021

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission is the heart beat of God and at OCBC we give a big importance to missions that we support locally and globally. The second Sunday of every month is observed as Missions Sunday

19th - 21st February

CHURCH CAMP 2021

The long awaited Church Camp falls on the third weekend, from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. There will be a lovely time of meditation, reflection, lots of fun and great fellowship.

CROSS OVER

The LORD said to Moses, "Move on" when the people came to the Red Sea. They were terrified by the Egyptian army approaching them at the back and the huge roaring Red Sea in front of them. They were sandwiched between the two. Fear and uncertainty from behind and before them. At that crucial time, the Lord's command was - "Move On". The Lord knows how to lead us. We need not look back on the fear that gripped us in the past year nor we should wonder how it will be in this New Year. We need to be aware that God is going on ahead of us and leading us through rugged places and rough terrains. Let's, spiritually, cross over and move on in faith this year. Let's look forward to greater things this year. Let go of the past. Move on with a new perspective through the strength the Lord gives. He will take you to the promised land if you obey Him all the way.

BLESSED MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021

As we were ending the Year 2020, The Lord's faithfulness and His love for the church was seen and heard in all the ministries of the church during the months of December and January. Those months brought great celebration and renewed joy as opposed to how we were during the major part of 2020. We have some photos of the wonderful Christmas celebrations in December 2020 and New Year Service. All glory and thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FASTING PRAYER MEETING -
Friday, 5th February from 8pm-
10pm

OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING -
Friday, 12th February, 7:30pm @
Mears Room

HAMILTON MINISTRY - Saturday,
13th February, 4:00pm @
Discovery Christian Centre

MISSION SUNDAY - Sunday, 14th
February observed in all three
Services.

CHURCH CAMP 2021 - Friday to
Sunday, 19th & 21st February @
Christain Youth Camp,
Ngaruawahia

GUEST SPEAKER IN TAMIL AND
ENGLISH SERVICES - 28th
Febraury - Barry Raeburn from
World Vision

PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray for new beginnings in every individual and family this year
- Pray for new jobs to open up for those who are desperately looking for jobs
- Pray for peace in the marriages and families
- Pary for the Lord's blessings on all the ministries of the church.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

ISAIAH 6: 3 - "Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory"

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: from Rachel Jacob

We finished on a good note last year with our community food baskets. Thank you all for your support towards the missions of the church. Please do continue to support this year too. We will update you soon on our plans and our meetings for this year.

CHURCH CAMP

This year the whole church will join together for the Church Camp. There have been registrations from more than 85 people. Expecting about 100 people from all three congregations. Those who have not registered or not paid, we request you to do so as soon as possible.

FIRE DRILL

The first FIRE DRILL excercise is scheduled for the Sunday, 28th February after each service. Members of the respective congregations are requested to take note and participate.

RESUMPTION OF ALL CHURCH MINISTRIES

After a good holiday, all the church ministries, namely the Cell Group Ministries, Bible Studies, Sunday School and Youth Meetings and Outreach ministries will resume from this month.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR TAMIL AND ENGLISH SERVICES

On the last Sunday, 28th February, Barry Raeburn from World Vision will minister in the Tamil and English services.

PASSING AWAY OF LILY

The church mourns as our dear Chinese sister who was battling with cancer has finally finished her earthly journey and has gone to be with the Lord. The church members are requested to continue to pray for the grieving family. Thanks to all those who contributed towards Lily's travel to China. There is a report from Ps. Grace in the later pages of this Newsletter.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES: TAKE NOTE

SATURDAY, 6 MARCH 2021, 10AM - 2PM - LEADER'S RETREAT (Guest Speaker - Ps. Lindsay Jones)

'Those Who Celebrate' by Pastor Mike

No doubt that the Christmas of 2020 was something wonderful and extraordinary! We all as one Church really appreciated the fact that we had the liberty to really celebrate what Jesus means to us in a very powerful way. Thinking back over our Christmas celebrations, I am reminded of a prophecy from the Prophet Jeremiah, and what he proclaimed over the Jewish people...

“Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honoured, and they shall not be small.” - Jeremiah 30:19

Here we have God's people come together with specific songs and with voices to celebrate. Celebrate what? Celebrate what God is doing amongst His people. God is bringing victory to a people who were down trodden, He is increasing the people who felt small, and God is bringing honour to His people who previously were dishonoured.

What an amazing turn around of the situation for God's chosen people Israel. We as the Church in Christ can delight in that as well, because we want to see God's people strengthened and lifted up to praise and proclaim Him all over the world! When we come together we multiply our effectiveness for Christ, as our voices come together there is an increase in volume for the Lord, when we bring our talents and hands together for the work God has called us to do, we can get a lot more ministry work done, and God's power and love is seen in a greater way by the community around us!

Certainly the Christmas celebrations that we have just had extended us out from within the Church walls, and out onto the streets and paths of Otahuhu and beyond. At this point I want to thank all those who had “put their hands to the plow” and did an extraordinary amount of work to enable us and many people outside of OCBC, to celebrate and experience a Christmas packed with love and joy from the Lord.

Be encouraged from the words of Apostle Paul...

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” - 1 Corinthians 15:58

As we have now moved into gear, out of the holiday modes and into the routines of work and school, may the Lord continue to strengthen us in reminding us that we always have much to celebrate in the Life of Christ that has been given freely to us by His wonderful grace. I pray and wish you all, the very best for 2021, and whatever situations arise in the world around us this year, always remember that Jesus is the lover of souls, and that He desires to see precious souls saved from every tongue and nation, to be with Him for all eternity. Christmas has made that possible. So be of 'Those Who Celebrate' the LORD, all throughout this year!

***“The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” -
Numbers 6:24-26***

God bless.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT - ENGLISH CONGREGATION



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2020



Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

Praise the Lord! As we welcome the arrival of 2021, we farewell 2020 and begin a new chapter. Many of us experienced various struggles in 2020, but the Lord is always with us, watching over and protecting us. In this new year of 2021, we shall break through the darkness and soar freely under the leadership of Christ our Lord.



God's love for us has never changed or stopped. As we lift our heads and ask God "How much do you love me?", He stretches out His arms and tells us that His love is unconditional. This kind of love surpasses all situations and problems. This is a love that traverses all space and time.

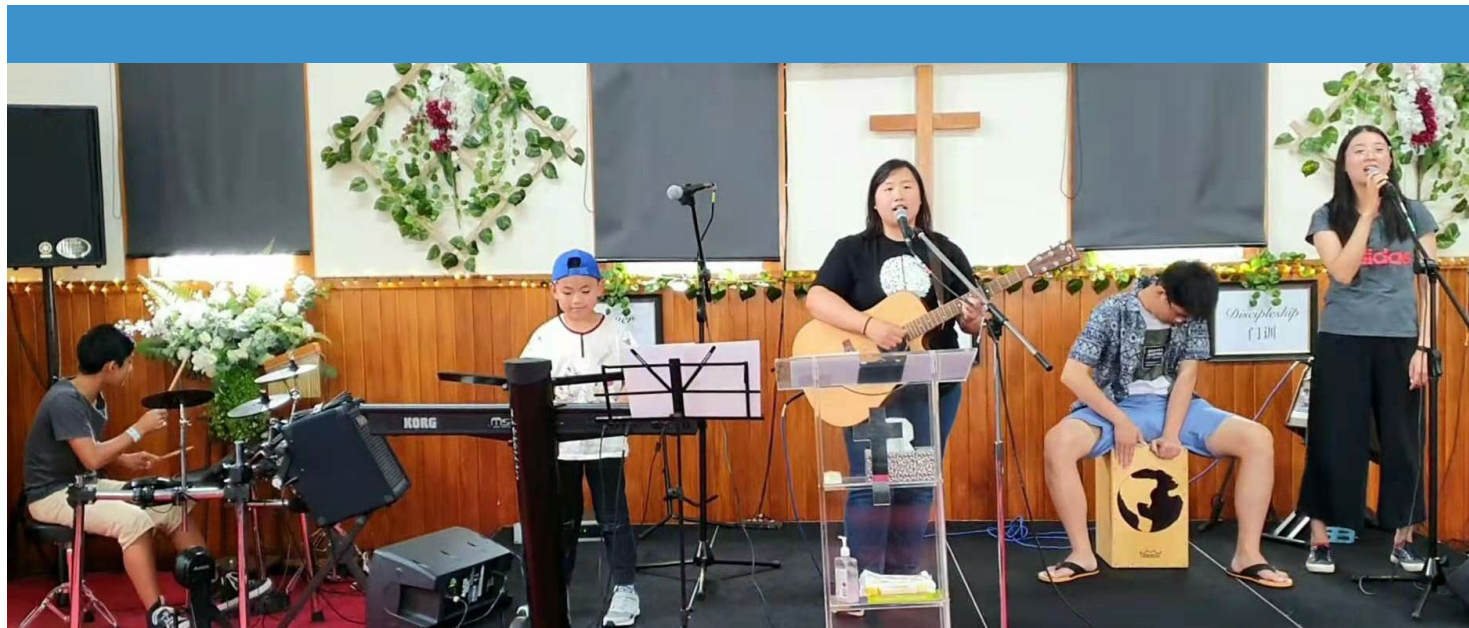
This kind of love can lead us through the sunniest of days while supporting us through all circumstances. God's love is greater than all the world, regardless of country or race, past, present, or future, His love never changes.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"
Romans 8:35

Dear brothers and sisters, regardless in life, work, or family, we will face various tribulations, experience times of hopelessness and suffering; such as sickness, marital struggles, relationships with children, and so on. But Paul encourages us saying "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?". Therefore, let us learn from Paul and return to this kind of Love. However, how can we approach this kind of love lest we separate ourselves from the love of Christ? Paul also reminds us of the vitality of relying on our loving Father and not ourselves, and in doing so we will emerge victorious through all difficulties and struggles.

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

DEC 2020 - JAN 2021



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CAMP

By the grace of God, we were able to facilitate a camp from the 21st to 23rd of December 2020 for international students who have been unable to return home over their summer break due to the pandemic, sharing the love of God with them. Praise the Lord! Three of these precious students accepted Christ as their Savior!!!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE/BAPTISM

On the afternoon of Christmas day, at 4 pm, we hosted a special Christmas communion and baptism service. We joyously celebrated the baptism of our sister Yanan, welcoming her officially as a member of our OCBC family. After the service we further celebrated and fellowshiped with a shared Christmas dinner feast.



Update on sister Lily

Thank you to our OCBC family's continual prayers for our sister Lily in her battle with cancer. On the night of 28th of January 2021, our beloved sister Lily was lifted from the pains of sickness to rest in our heavenly Father's embrace. Although we are saddened by the news of her passing, we also celebrate with her that she is living in the Father's house enjoying an eternity of joy where sickness and pain will plague her no more.

The week prior to her passing, we video called with her everyday so that she could see Jack and hear him sing for her. He knew that she really liked the song '主祢是我力量' which translates to "Lord You Are My Strength" and serenaded her daily. Although she was too weak to speak, sister Lily was able to communicate with her eyes and lips, expressing her love and encouragement for her son. On the Sunday prior to her passing, we were moved to let Jack serve on stage with the worship team, becoming the youngest member of the team. This was his first time serving on stage and behaved very well. Our sister Lily also saw, and we believe this was all in God's plans to comfort her and provide her with peace of mind as she returned to her heavenly home.

Dearest OCBC family, please continue to pray for sister Lily's family (parents, sister, husband, and two children), that our father in heaven will personally comfort them. And that Baoyan and Feifei can return quickly and safely to New Zealand.

