

NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

TAKE NOTE:

11th October 2020

MISSION SUNDAY

The second Sunday of every month is observed as the Mission Sunday in all three services. We pray for church supported missions and missionaries during the service

17th October 2020

MEMORY VERSE COMPETITION

The Memory Verse Competition that was scheduled for the 3rd October is postponed to the 17th October.

WEEKLY HOMEGROUPS

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Since the lockdown restrictions are eased and we are Level 1, ministry activities at church have resumed. Please check with your respective pastors.

**2020 TARGET: Praying for , 50
Born Again Experiences, 200
Witnessing's**

IN AND OUT OF LOCKDOWNS

It has been quite a roller coaster ride for all of us the past few months. All over the world, all people have been affected by the pandemic in some way or the other. But life goes on, and it should go on with a purpose if you are a believer. A believer knows how to work around challenges and disruptions to life. A believer knows that God is on the throne and knows that those who look to Him will be radiant with joy - Psalm 34:5. Verse 4 describes a believer who is gripped by fear seeks the Lord and the Lord delivers the believer from all fears and transforms his/her face from fear to radiant joy. How wonderful it is! Moreover, there is a promise there - He will never allow shame to cover their faces. That is our God whom we love, worship and serve. Keep your eyes on Jesus and He will take you through whether you are in lockdown or out of lockdown or not knowing when the next one will be. He will keep your face joyful and radiant in times of distress, suffering and even an unknown future. Do not lose heart, but trust in God and seek Him always. A believer may never know what blessing lies around the corner even in a terrible pandemic.

PAINTING COMPETITION:

The Painting Competition held on the 6th September, was successful, surprising and inspiring. One only realises that children become so creative when they are given a challenging task. Here the task was to bring their creations through drawing and painting on the themes of Life and Creation. All kids did a fantastic job. The judges were excited and inspired to see their art work. Congratulations and blessings to all the children who took part in the competition. The results will be announced soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FASTING PRAYER MEETING -
Friday, 2nd October from 8pm-
10pm @ Church

COMMUNION SUNDAY: Sunday,
4th October - in all three
Services.

OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING -
23 October from 7:30PM @
Mears Room

HAMILTON MINISTRY - 10
October, 5:30pm @ Discovery
Christian Centre

PRAYER NEEDS

PRAY FOR .

- Pray for God's protection and for this pandemic to end soon and life to return to normal as many are struggling.
- Pray for God to lift up the spirits of people when they are frustrated and find themselves in hopeless situations
- Pray for the gospel be preached and souls be won at this time.
- Pray for parents, elderly and those who are vulnerable to infectious viruses and diseases.
- Pray for the upcoming Christmas season that the Lord will bring back the joy and peace during this season.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Deuteronomy 32: 4
"He is the Rock, His works are perfect and all His ways are just."

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: from Rachel Jacob

The Missions Committee are beginning to plan the Christmas Missions Project. If there are any ideas or suggestions, please feel to approach the team to discuss. Pastor Das has recently stepped down from the team, and we would like to thank him greatly for his support and involvement. He will be dearly missed.

CELL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDIES

The Cell Groups and Bible Studies will resume at church premises. The English meet for their Bible Studies at Mears Room on Wednesdays. Tamil Cell Group will still meet online on Zoom. The Chinese meet on Fridays for their Bible Studies. Please do tune in on Zoom if you are unable to go to a meeting physically.

SISTER LILY - FROM CHINESE CONGREGATION:

How the Church came together for our suffering Sister Lily was remarkable. Thanking God for creating a loving and generous OCBC. Please check the report from Ps. Grace on page 5. Please do continue to pray for Sister Lily.

MEMORY VERSE COMPETITION:



Memory Verse Competition rules and regulations are given in this flyer. The participants should bring a copy of your verses in an A4 sheet, in the language and the version that you will be reciting for Judges' reference.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Combined Service on 15 November 2020, 10:30am

CAROLS & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS - more information will be given next month.

PLEASE CONTACT PASTORS FOR PRAYER NEEDS

A Leader who is Elected by God - by Pastor Mike

It's not very often that I write or talk about politics to the Church. But since our Government elections are upon us, and as a way to take a break from talking about Covid-19, I want to remind us that Government elections are in the Bible, and the Bible tells us to pray for our national leaders.

One day in Israel's history, a very important election took place during the days of the Prophet Samuel:

"Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. And he said to the people of Israel, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.'" - 1 Samuel 10:17-19

By the people, Saul had been elected to become King over Israel. Saul was said to be tall and very handsome, he was the people's favourite choice to be their national leader.

God, in this instance, allowed the people to make their choice...but as it would turn out, this was not God's choice.

Saul would represent the people's choice, but it would be David who would represent God's choice! For we read in 1 Samuel 16...

"The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'" - 1 Samuel 16:1

Elected as King in God's Plan

Samuel's visit to Bethlehem alarmed the leaders. They probably thought that they were in trouble. Samuel assured them that he was coming in peace and invited them to join him in a sacrifice. When Samuel began to see the sons of Jesse as the Lord had told him, the obvious choice would be to select the eldest son Eliab, but neither he nor the next six sons met God's qualifications.

It would be David, the youngest and the shepherd boy who God would tell Samuel to anoint. David was God's choice to be the King of Israel.

So often we measure people's worth on the basis of their looks, education, size of house and type of car. Even Christians can think that only the attractive or well talented can be used of God.

But God says very clearly that He is not impressed by the outward appearance of a person...

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7

For us Christians during this time of Government elections in New Zealand, it can be very hard to know who to vote for - who would I like to see elected as Prime Minister of New Zealand?

At all times it is most advisable to pray for whoever the elected candidate will be, that although they might not know God personally as we do, yet during their time in office they would realise the awesome responsibility that is in their hands, and therefore seek for the guidance of God's wisdom through prayer and the Word of God.

Praise the Lord that King Jesus is returning to rule this world soon! Choose Christ. God bless.

STRUGGLES WITH YOUTUBE DURING LOCKDOWN IN ENGLISH SERVICES



CHINESE CONGREGATION REPORT - Ps. Grace

Dear Church...



As many of you know already, our dear sister Lily is currently facing a cancer diagnosis with no options of treatment in NZ and has been told she has 6 months left to live. Let us continue to intercede together for healing and for our sister, her family, and her young children(6yrs & 15yrs). By the grace of God we have been able to establish a 24hr intercessory prayer chain for sister Lily, we would love for you to join us in this and set aside time each day to pray for our sister. This prayer chain is also shared by our brothers and sisters in various countries, so let us unite in this daily proclamation of faith for our God's amazing healing.

Thank you all, Tamil and English congregations, for your combined support, alongside the Chinese congregation, of Lily in these difficult circumstances.

Thanks to the generosity of our church family we were able to support the family financially with a total of \$6073.80 in addition to various preceding expressions of support by the church financially and otherwise; \$1660 from the Tamil service, \$413.80 from the English service, and \$4000 from the Chinese service.

Sister Lily received these donations during our Sunday service just past alongside a combined prayer for her family, safety, and journey ahead. By the grace of God we were able to accompany her to the airport and send her home prayerfully. She departed to China and arrived safely in GuangZhou the following day.

Currently in quarantine in GuanZhou, she had planned to travel to ShenYang on the 19th October to begin treatment, unfortunately due to government restrictions, after her current enforced quarantine concludes, she now has to return immediately to her home in the countryside for another week of quarantine before she is able to go to the city and hospital for treatment. Because Lily has not returned for 10 years, she is not accustomed to the environment there, especially the heat/humidity alongside the busyness and noise of the city, so is really struggling, both mentally and physically, to rest properly.

Despite these unforeseen circumstances, praise the Lord that this now allows her to visit her family, for the first time in 10 years, before undergoing any treatment. However, let us all continue to pray and intercede for her during this time that her health improves and God blesses her with His almighty healing. Hallelujah! We believe in a God of miracles and answered prayers so let us experience his faithfulness together!

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