

# NEWS LETTER

## Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

### TAKE NOTE:

11th July 2021

### MISSION SUNDAY

This Mission Sunday we remember, pray for missionaries. We also think about how we support them now in challenging times

28 August 2021

### FAMILY RETREAT - POSTPONED

Please do note that the Family Retreat is postponed to the month of August. More details will be given closer to the date.

### PRAY FOR COVID AFFECTED FAMILIES AND MINISTRIES

Many around the world, have lost loved ones to the dreaded Covid-19. Many churches have also lost pastors and their churches and families are struggling. Please do pray.

### PRAY FOR MORE BAPTISMS AND SALVATION EXPERIENCES AT OUR CHURCH

### MISSION IS ALL ABOUT CARE



In this pandemic, we are hearing constantly that many pastors are losing their loves to Covid in India. They have left behind children and churches struggling to cope for very basic needs. Last Sunday, the Tamil Congregation heard a moving testimony from an Indian Pastor who thanked our Church for a very small donation we gave towards their missionary work. He was so pleased to receive just \$300/-, a meagre amount. The need was much more there. He mentioned that the funds came into his account at a crucial time when he heard that many blind children they were supporting were going without food and he did not have enough funds. The money the church sent through mission offering was a timely help. He went even further and said the money helped not only to feed the blind but five other pastors who were struggling to meet their daily needs. God does care. God is an ever present help in trouble. Mission is primarily about care, as we bring Christ's love to a needy world. Prepare yourself now to do such deeds. Even a small help will go a long way.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FASTING PRAYER MEETING -**  
Friday, 2nd July from 8pm-  
10pm, @ Church Auditorium

**MISSION SUNDAY - Sunday, 11th**  
July, observed in all three  
Services.

**FAMILY RETREAT - Postponed to**  
August 28th.

**CHURCH ELECTIONS -**  
Announcements and  
preparations for elections will  
begin from 25th July in all three  
services

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## PRAYER NEEDS

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- Thank God for bringing us through the first half of the year.
- PRAYER NEEDED - for India and for CoVid affected countries as family members are dying due to serious Covid infections.
- Please do take a couple of minutes everyday to pray for churches who have lost their pastors.
- Pray for the families stuck in India and are unable to come to rejoin their families here.
- Pray for those who are in desperate need of visas.

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## VERSE FOR THE MONTH

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**Proverbs 26: 27** - "He who give to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eye to them will receive many curses"

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## MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: from Rachel Jacob

This month the Missions Team sent our funds from the Food Festival to **four separate missionaries**. Young Yang, who is part of Pioneers Missionaries; Feed of Love; Revival Awakening Ministries and I Am TV Ministry in India.

We look forward to partaking in the NZBMS Self Denial in the month of July. This year's theme is - "**For such a time as this**". If anyone has any suggestions for missions they are wanting to support please speak to the Missions Team to put forward your requests. Thanks heaps - Rachel

## HAMILTON MINISTRY - UPDATE

The Hamilton Ministry which began in 2006 has come to a close after 15 years. The curtains have come down for now and a wonderful season has come to an end. Much prayer and thought was given about closing the ministry with the leaders at Hamilton. It was the right time to do that and the Lord gave us a lot of peace in this. Now, requesting the church to pray for a new season. May the Lord Himself begin something new for our church. Thanks to all the church members for your support over the years and thanks to Darwin for being very dedicated to the ministry at Hamilton. Please do continue to pray.

## BIBLE STUDY & CELL GROUPS

Every Wednesday the English Bible Study happens at the Mears Room at Church. If there is someone who is looking for a Bible Study, please do let them know. The Tamil Cell Group is on every Wednesday evening on Zoom. Please do participate in these meetings.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: AUGUST 2021

- **08 AUGUST - KIDS & YOUTH SERVICE - COMBINED**
- **15 AUGUST - ELECTION DAY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS MEETING**
- **15 AUGUST - ELECTION DAY**
- **28 AUGUST - FAMILY RETREAT, 9:30AM START**

## 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.

**Better is a Rebuke from a Wise Man than a 'Pat on the Back' from a Foolish Man**  
**- by Pastor Mike**

Can you remember the last time that someone gave you 'a good telling off', or the time that someone corrected you about something? A time when you were doing something or heading in a certain direction in life and you thought all was well, but someone, maybe who is relatively close to you, had something to say that was against what you were doing and with good reasons.

How did it make you feel? You knew the person was right in correcting you, but all the same it made you feel bitter toward that person, or at the least, you felt offended and in doing so you became very defensive. King Solomon in his writings of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in the Bible has much to say about receiving good correction and instruction from someone. Solomon highlights the type of responses that are typical when we receive instruction or correction. Either we will accept it as a wise person would, or we will reject as a foolish person would! -

***"It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity." - Ecclesiastes 7:5-6***

King Solomon is bringing to our attention that the 'songs of fools' are easy and enjoyable to be part of, but such laughter and enjoyment is like the dry thorn bushes that light up quickly when thrown onto the fire, but just as quickly it all fades away to nothing. So better to hear the rebuke from the wise man as it will have much long-lasting benefits and value for our lives.

Here are some more excellent quotations from the wisdom that King Solomon knew about in either receiving or rejecting wise counsel or correction, and the consequences about either -

***"Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray."***  
**- Proverbs 10:17**

***"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."***  
**Proverbs 12:1**

***"A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent."***  
**Proverbs 15:5**

***“A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.” - Proverbs 17:10***

***“Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprovener to a listening ear.” - Proverbs 25:12***

***“He who is often reprovved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.” - Proverbs 29:1***

What is revealed remarkably well and clear from this section of God’s Inspired Truth, is that receiving instruction and correction naturally goes against our human nature! We don’t naturally like it...but it’s a bit like having to eat our vegetables as a kid, they don’t taste nice but they are good for us, and on the other hand, it’s much easier and delightful to our tastes to eat things of sugar, but those things are not so good for us.

Or maybe you have heard the saying “The medicine might not taste nice, but it sure does work!”

So next time when a good correction or piece of instruction comes our way, how are we going to receive it?

May we realise more and more that rebukes and corrections when given to us in the right way, are really compliments turned inside out, designed to mould us and shape us in wonderful ways!  
- God bless.

**SOME EVENTS IN JUNE 2021**



**Sad passing away of Ps. Mike’s mom - Jean Catherine McHugh**



## Ps. Grace - Chinese Congregation

### The Day of Judgement

From Matthew 24 onwards, we see Jesus on the Mount of Olives, sharing the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven with His disciples. We see that chapters 24 and 25 are specifically addressed to His disciples and all Christians. In Matthew 24:30-31, Jesus speaks of the second coming of the Son of Man and further states that "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.". Jesus warns the disciples to be alert lest they are not ready for when the Lord returns.

Continuing, in Matthew 25, Jesus uses three consecutive parables to describe the Lord's return.

Beginning with the parable of the ten virgins in verses 1-13, Jesus reminds the disciples to be alert and prepared at all times, for man cannot foresee the time of the Lord's return.

Secondly, in verses 14-30, Jesus uses the parable of the talents to remind the disciples to be faithful and wise in using their entrusted talents. For all will face judgement when the Lord returns.

Finally, Jesus concludes with the parable of the sheep and the goats in verses 31-40. The parable serves as a reminder that when He returns in all His glory on judgement day, He will separate the people. The goats represent the stubbornness and rebelliousness of people, following their own desires. The sheep represent the people who are gentle and willing to be obedient to God. Upon his return, like the shepherd, He will separate the sheep from the goats. Those who genuinely love the Lord would willingly serve the needy with a heart to humbly serve the Lord.

A noteworthy point is that on the day of judgement, when Jesus praises the sheep(the righteous), they are surprised and ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" (Matthew 25:37-39). The righteous appear to be unaware that they were serving God through these seemingly insignificant acts, yet the Lord replies, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40). This sense of oblivion comes from serving others without an ulterior motive for personal benefit. They live righteously and have fully internalised God's laws in their lives, their good deed genuinely and naturally flowing from their hearts. Guiding them to live as testimonies of the Kingdom of God.

The three parables warn the disciples not to be deceived by thinking they already have "eternal life". Reminding them that if they are not wary of following God's calling, using the gifts they have been blessed with to fulfil the great commission, on the day of judgement, they may end up like the five unprepared virgins, the servant with 1000 gold pieces, or the goats: rejected from the gates of Heaven to a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We pray that the Lord bless us and that in these fallen times, we can continue to love one another, especially the weakest among us. That we are strengthened with each step we take so that the world will not drown our faith. Lord, help us that we still have the strength to continue forward in the end times, bringing the gospel to all nations.

**Updates:**

Praise the Lord that we can share about Yunfei and Jack with all our church brothers and sisters through this newsletter! First, we want to give thanks to the Lord that Jack's language and understanding abilities are improving; although he is still drastically behind from the norms of his age, we believe in God's grace towards Jack. Considering his family's beliefs that he is incapable of typical language and communication, his progress today is such an undeniable miracle and blessing.

Please continue to pray for Yunfei. With the loss of her mother leaving a yearning for love, as well as her current phase of teenage rebellion, she faces significant difficulty with studies and in forming healthy boundaries and friendships. Please pray for her and for us as we care for her and guide her in this time. That she would learn to love God, respect God, and to experience God in the midst of all that has and will happen.

Thank you all, brothers and sisters, for your continued care and prayers.

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Ps. Das' visit to Manurewa Baptist Church. This was the theme at their church for the month - **Disrupt. Expecting and allowing God to work, not when things are normal, but in our disrupted lives.** Wonderful! isn't it? God always works in unseen ways. It was a blessing to be at the church. Came away encouraged. Thanks to be God. Let God work at OCBC in unseen ways.