

NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

TAKE NOTE:

8th December 2019

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE

The end of the year, the much anticipated Christmas production will be presented at the Christmas Celebration Service. This is a Combined Service starting at 10:30am.

15th & 22nd December 2019

THANKSGIVING SERVICE - TAMIL

The Tamil Congregation will be having Thanksgiving Services on two consecutive Sundays, where every family brings a testimony of thanks to God for 2019

31st December 2019

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

New Year Eve service starts at 10:30pm. It's a Combined Service.



BAPTIST HUI 2019

From the 7th to 9th November, Ps. Mike and Ps. Das went to the Baptist Hui. This years Hui was all about an enriching experience to centre around Jesus as our National Leader

Charles Hewlett called the churches to focus our lives and ministries in Jesus. For many delegates it was an emotional Hui as we got to reflect on the present state of affairs and also a hopeful Hui as we all pastors of leaders of various churches knew that when we put our hope in Christ things will go according God's plan. **We came away refreshed, reenergised and hopeful about looking forward to fruitful ministries in the coming year at OCBC.**



Christchurch has changed a lot since the earthquakes and we can see new buildings right next to devastation that we can still see. Even with the recent shootings the spirit of the city has not died down. Our dear friend Charles helped us a lot there with our transport and also he fed us

with a lovely home cooked meal. Thanks to Charles.

Thanks to God for a lively, life changing experience at Christchurch's Baptist Hui 2019.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION SERVICES :
Sunday, 1st December in all the three services of the church at 8:15am, 10:30am and 4pm.

FASTING PRAYER MEETING:
Friday, 13 December, 8pm - 10pm @ Church. Notice that this month it is not on the first Friday

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - ENGLISH: Tuesday, 24th December @ 5:30pm.

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE - TAMIL : Wednesday, 25th December @ 7am

CHRISTMAS EVENING SERVICE - CHINESE: Wednesday, 25th December @ 4pm

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE: Tuesday, 31st December @ 10:30pm - Combined Service

PRAYER NEEDS

Pray for all the Christmas ministries this month. May God give us success as we give and share with the needy and most importantly share the gospel to the lost.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Luke 2: 11

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord"

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Rachel Jacob

The local missions Christmas project has been going great so far! A big thank you to everyone who brought something in, we are certain that the children will be ecstatic to receive them. The gifts will be given in on the 16th December and distributed to the children at Fairburn School through the Social Worker. Thank you to our Sunday School Children who took part and made Christmas cards for the children. Please contact Rachel for more information on missions.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Please do note that this year all the three congregations are having their own Christmas Services. The English have a New Year's Eve service at 5:30pm. The Tamil have the early morning 7am service on Christmas day and the Chinese have the Christmas day evening service at 4pm. Members are requested to inform their friends to attend a service that suits their liking.

CELL GROUPS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Cell Groups, Bible Studies and Sunday School will take a break during the holiday season and will resume in the next year 2020 in the month of February. However, the Bible Studies every Wednesdays at Mears Room will continue during the holiday season.

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

The New Year's Eve Service will be at 10:30pm. This is a Combined Service and Communion will be served at this Service.

YOUTH TRIP TO AWHITU PENINSULA, WAIUKU

A great day organised by Peter, of fellowship, food and fun! Praise the Lord for fine weather and His creation!



PASTORS COLUMN: *Revival is the Exaltation of Christ above self!* - by Ptr. Mike.

A revived heart has one ambition - to exalt Jesus Christ.

This is because revival comes as we see the Lord high and lifted up. Either on the cross, or wearing His crown. In fact, one should lead to the other!

When Christ is lifted up, it is first and foremost because he is holy. As the Prophet Isaiah said when he saw the vision of the Lord *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" - Isaiah 6:3*

With that holy sight, the Prophet saw the need to repent as he replied *"Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;"*

From repentant hearts of ourselves then, we will want everyone to know the reality of Christ's holiness and to see him exalted. ***Revival isn't about us; it is about Jesus!***

Exalt Christ Personally

We easily build the idol of 'self' in our hearts. But a revived heart desires to see Jesus exalted *above self*.

A *revived* heart personally has fellowship with Christ, desiring his truth, from the innermost part of their being. The evidence of such a heart is loving the Lord, walking with the Lord, and rejoicing in the Lord.

A). Love the Lord. Love him in accordance with his Word. *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* - Mark 12:30. Such a heart and love, is exalting the person or object of that love. In this case the Lord your God, because He has revived the heart.

Are our hearts satisfied in the love of God, exalting Him? Or, do we love and exalt something or someone else? Is our love given to 'idols', or whole heartedly to the Lord?

B). Walk with the Lord. Colossians 3:3-4 says *"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

How then can we walk with Christ if we have died as the verse above says? It is because we walk with Christ in the new life of Christ, as it says *"Christ who is your life..."* This is the new life, the resurrected life, which is the 'power of God' life in the believer that exalts Christ. This is the *only* life that can walk with the Lord. The old 'self and sin life' cannot exalt Christ, and neither does it want to, because it is not a life based on God's truth.

Are we walking with the Lord in the new life, so that the life we now live, is exalting Him?

C). Rejoice in the Lord. In revival, whether personal or public, Church or community, true rejoicing happens because it is in the Lord. In reality, the rejoicing is not just because of revival, it is because of the Lord!

"May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD." - Psalm 104:34

Rejoicing in the Lord therefore is a rejoicing that will truly exalt Him. Many people rejoice when they get what they want, or their favourite sports team wins, or even when a new born baby is born, and this is perfectly normal. But these things are temporary by nature, and so the rejoicing will be also.

So much more will our rejoicing be, all the day long, every day, when we know that our life, has been *revived* in our heart and in our walk, for all eternity, to exalt the Lord forever! God bless.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2019



**30th November - Combined Carol Service @ Church,
(6pm - 7pm Potluck Dinner ; 7pm - 8:30pm - Carol
Singing)**

1st December - Carol Rounds 5 from 4pm

7th December - Carol Rounds 6 from 3:30pm

**8th December - Christmas Celebration Service ,
10:30am**

13th December - Fasting Prayer Meeting at Church

14th December - Hamilton Carols and Program

15th December - Carol Rounds 7 from 4pm

**24th December - Christmas Eve Service (English),
Service at 5:30pm followed by Christmas Dinner**

25th December - Christmas Morning Service at 7am

31st December - Watch Night Service at 10:30pm