

TODAY'S SERVICE

PASTORAL NOTES



“Have you never heard? Have you ever understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth.”
Isaiah 40:27-28



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

- *Opening Song..... All together
Only King Forever
 - Notices Bill P
 - Offering All together
 - *Singing..... All together
One Thing Remains
Cornerstone
Boldly I Approach
 - Message.....Deo Vistar
Does God Care for These People
Isaiah 40:27-28
 - *Final song All together
My Lighthouse
 - Prayer.....Deo Vistar
 - *Led by the Worship Team: Garry (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Kirsty (singer), Nelia (singer), Bill (projector), Andy (sound)
- ✪ If you have any questions or need help, please ask one of the welcomers who will be happy to help you.
 - ✪ If you would like prayer after the service today, ask the people around you or come to the front and someone will pray for you.
 - ✪ A crèche is available for parents with little children. The service is relayed into the room so you are able to listen to it. Please ensure the room is left tidy.
 - ✪ We invite you to stay for a cup of tea after the service.

Kia ora! I'm glad you've joined us for worship today. If you are a first-time guest I encourage you to fill out a blue visitor card which the welcomers will hand to you.

As an Asian myself I am grateful for the work of the New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society in Asia. But Asia is an enormous continent, including in terms of population. Just think of China, which has over 1.6 billion people. Or India, which has over 1.4 billion people. The Philippines, where I came from, has over 100 million people.

As a Christian denomination we can't reach all of Asia, but we can reach some places and people there. And that has been what our denomination has done. We have ongoing work in South Asia – in India and Bangladesh – and that was our focus over the past 2 weeks of our Prayer & Self-Denial.

This week we focus on our work in East Asia. Below you find information on where and why we work in some parts of this region. There's also helpful information on pp. 8-9 of the Self-Denial booklet.

Next week, our last week of Self-Denial, we will be looking at NZBMS's overseas work in South East Asia.

In the meantime I trust that we continue to pray for NZBMS's work overseas and support it financially. Blessings, Deo

EAST ASIA: WHY WE WORK THERE

Christians have always been a minority in East Asia, and the Church has often faced hostility and persecution. Many East Asian Christians have been arrested, imprisoned and killed because of their faith. In some places the Church was forced underground. Yet, incredibly the Church has grown during these times of persecution and many people have become followers of Christ.

Tranzsend works in two different regions in East Asia. The first of these is home to over one billion people, and within this region Tranzsend serves within two different localities. Over the past three

decades the Church has flourished. In fact, Christianity is the fastest growing religion in this area! Yet, there is still much work to do, with many people either not knowing, or not understanding, the Good News of Jesus. Our workers build relationships with people, point them towards Jesus, and serve within the local Church as new believers are disciplined. Through education we are sharing the love of Jesus to the younger generation, and are extending a helping hand to families with special needs children. We are also supporting those sent from this region to serve elsewhere.

The second region where we work is renowned for being the largest gambling centre in the world. Nearly one sixth of the working population are employed in a gambling industry that, in 2013, generated seven times more income than the casinos of Las Vegas.

Gambling has brought social problems to this past of East Asia; growing consumerism and materialism, rising inequality between rich and poor, and various addictions and dependencies. Our workers here are pastoring an international fellowship, and empowering the local Church to be “salt and light” in the community.

Prayer and Self Denial Reflection

By David Allen*

Does God have favourites? We get to live in relative comfort and safety in New Zealand while many around the world live in fear and poverty. We get the privilege of hearing the gospel in words, images and language we can understand while many, many people have yet to hear. Is that fair? Does God care? Does God have favourites?

We can all throw out the easy answer, “Yes, of course, God cares”; “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.” Maybe the more helpful question is: How does God care? Let’s face it, life is unfair. So, how does God care for those who have received the short straw in life?

As I write this, we are in Holy week, leading up to Easter. There is much we don’t understand about our world, about suffering, about God. But this week

reminds us of what we do know – “God so loved the world that He gave...” It wasn’t “fair” that Jesus suffered and died, but He chose the cross to show that God cared. Not just for the Jewish world of the first century, but for every people, every tribe, every race across all of history. God cared so much that He gave Himself, to share our humanity, our pain and our frailty and to call us into his family.

God still loves the world and He is still giving – every time someone is loved in Jesus’ name, is helped, fed, listened to, respected, encouraged, freed, given choices or offered the gospel, in Jesus’ Name, the world sees once again that God cares.

*David Allen is currently Vice-President of the Baptist Union of New Zealand.

NOTICES

Thursday evening home group is off this week. Will reconvene the following week (18th July Thu 7pm at 6 Matai Place), studying the book of Nehemiah.

Next Sunday, the 14th, is the last Sunday of our Prayer & Self-Denial. We will collect contributions during the service so please bring your receptacles to church.

We’ll also have a church family lunch next Sunday to cap off our Self-Denial campaign. Please bring a plate. We will receive \$10 donation from families and the collection will also be a part of our Self-Denial giving.

Happening this week

- Home groups:
 - Tuesday 10am and 7pm at 90 Lindens Rd
 - Tuesday 7pm at 5 Amelia Cres
- Youth Group on Wed 6pm at Church
- Picton Ministers Meeting on Wed 12.00 noon
- Top of the South Baptist Pastors Cluster Meeting in Richmond (Nelson) on Thursday

Looking Ahead

- Tea@10 on 12th and 26th July (Friday) at the Marina Cove. All welcome!

- Service at Seaview Home on 17th July at 10.30am

Any Prayer Requests?

If you have any prayer request for the prayer chain, contact Deo at 927 3660 or 022 421 1405.

ROSTERS*

Cleaning

6th July..... Kirsty Baldwin
 13th July..... John & Jude Stretton
 20th July..... Lauraine Young
 27th July..... Bill & Mary Pettigrew

Hosting

7th July..... Stu & Ralph Henderson
 14th July..... D & A Le Heux (Communion)
 21st July..... Lauraine Young & Nelia Davis
 28th July..... S & R Henderson (Communion)

Music & Sound

7th July: Garry (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Kirsty (singer), Nelia (singer), Bill (projector), Andy (sound)

14th July: Allison (leading), Minette (singer), Bill (projector), Steve L (sound)

21st July: Garry (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Kirsty (singer), Nelia (singer), Lynette (projector), Andy (sound)

28th July: Garry (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Jude (singer), Lynette (projector), Gerald (sound)

*If the date doesn’t suit please arrange a swap with others on the roster.