



# PBC NEWS

We're here to see lives changed by Jesus ... meeting Him and becoming like Him.

## PBC meetings on Zoom

- **Sunday Service** 10.00am 17th May (click [here](#) to join)
- **Home Group** - Tuesday 7.00pm (click [here](#) to join)
- **Prayer Meeting** - Wednesday 10.30am (click [here](#) to join)
- **Home Group** - Thursday 7.00pm (click [here](#) to join)

## Pray for:

Our world as it copes with the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and those who are struggling at this time with isolation and loneliness

*Almighty God, our Father in heaven, thank You for all Your loving care and great generosity. We ask Your help for people troubled by the coronavirus. Comfort the bereaved. Heal those who are ill. Help those who are sick. Guide those seeking a remedy. Give wisdom to our leaders. In our own need we also remember the millions in the world suffering from other causes - starvation, disease, war and strife. Bring all needy people to know Your love and to turn to You. May we remember that Your love for us is higher than the sky is above the earth. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

BUT THEY THAT  
WAIT UPON THE  
LORD SHALL RENEW  
THEIR STRENGTH;  
THEY SHALL MOUNT  
UP WITH WINGS AS  
EAGLES; THEY SHALL  
RUN, AND NOT BE  
WEARY; AND THEY  
SHALL WALK, AND  
NOT FAINT.  
- ISAIAH 40:31 (KJV) -



heartlight

## Greeting Church Family

I trust that you are doing well in Alert Level 2 and still keeping you and your families safe and sound. This week I spent time reflecting on the peace that Jesus offers. Jesus said to His disciples as He prepared them for His impending death:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14.27)*

And after the resurrection when He appeared to them, He again extended His peace:

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20.21-22)*

As we continue to adapt to the new normal through these different times, we can be assured that Jesus extends the same offer of peace to us. The key is to know who He is and what He has done for us and to continue to remain in relationship with Him through the presence of the Holy Spirit that He has given us. No matter what we face or experience, we can be confident that He is with us.

## Prayer for the persecuted church

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*Lord Jesus, as many Christians around the world are prevented from meeting together physically to worship You because of COVID-19, we remember Christians for whom this isolation is their normal situation – those who have never been able to worship You with others because of persecution. We think especially of secret believers in Saudi Arabia, converts from Islam and thus potentially liable to execution by the Saudi authorities. We know that You are the Bread of Life; whoever comes to You will never go hungry, and whoever believes in You will never be thirsty. Please satisfy the spiritual longings of our Saudi brothers and sisters, enabling them to grow up strong in their faith. Amen. (John 6.35)*

## Here are a few links that you may like:

- **Shine TV Schedule** – for week from 17th May
- **Radio Rhema** – Listen online, schedules, etc.
- **BBC Radio 4 Daily Service** – Christian podcasts
- **CBN News** – News from a Christian perspective
- **My Christianity Daily** – for today's news

## Do you need prayer?

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 If you are aware of special needs that the Prayer Team can pray for please contact Lynn Whitlock on 573 8858 or 027 733 9558.

Newsletter items to Deo on 573 6315 or email [pictonbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:pictonbaptist@gmail.com)

We continue to look forward to the possibility that we may be able to gather together again for worship soon. In anticipation of this happening, we have started preparation of some of the arrangements we will need to have in place to ensure that we can meet safely and in fulfilment of the obligations that we will be required to meet. We will provide guidance on this in the newsletter when the time is right.

In the meantime, please note:

- Our service this Sunday will still be via Zoom.
- The Tuesday evening home group will continue meeting via Zoom.
- The mid-week prayer meeting on Zoom will continue as well.
- The Thursday evening home group will be regathering beginning this week at Steve and Sue Dawson's place (374 Waikawa Rd). Rules on physical distancing, hygiene and contact tracing will be observed (see revised contact tracing register [here](#)). There will still be the option of joining the meeting via Zoom (please see link on the left) for those who can't attend physically.

*Communion:* Just a reminder that we will have Communion this Sunday during our service on Zoom. Please have a piece of bread and a glass of juice (or wine) prepared for every participant in your family.

*Thank yous.* Again, many thanks for all you are doing to support the ministries of our church at this time. Your gifts, your generosity, your participation are greatly appreciated and needed.

*Thinking ahead to Sunday.* To prepare for this coming Sunday, you may like to ponder the theme and Scripture text ahead of time:

- Theme: *Uncompromising Faith in the Fiery Furnace*
- Reading: *Daniel chapter 3*

With love and blessings

Deo

## A Lesson from the Migrating Geese

There is a very good reason why migrating geese fly in “V” formation. Each goose flapping its wings creates an upward lift for the goose that follows. When all the geese do their part, the whole flock has a 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew it lone. Also when a goose begins to lag behind, the others “honk” it into position. The spiritual applications here are tremendous. A Christian will also find life easier “flying in the flock” instead of flying alone.



1 Peter 5:8-9: “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

Jack Wellman says of this passage: “Peter is addressing ... being sober or serious-minded because we have an archenemy, the devil, who is like a lion in the wild. Satan is roaming or prowling about, crouching and hiding, ready to spring upon any of us in an instant. Who are the most vulnerable? It is those who are separated from the flock and the ones who are hurting from the sufferings that we all endure in our Christian walk. The flock, which is overseen by the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, is the only place that provides safety and protection and this protection is critical because Satan is ‘seeking someone to devour’ right now ... The Christian life is not a solo act but must be one in which we are growing together, praying for one another, and encouraging one another ... We can resist him if we remain ‘firm in the faith’ and this standing firm comes from the knowledge ‘that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your’ brothers and sisters ‘throughout the world.’ That is, you are not alone in this but in very good company.”

## A-Z of Life in Lockdown

By Jake Newbould (11 years old)

Alone with my family

**B**ut we are

Connected to others online.

**D**ays and weeks merge into one.

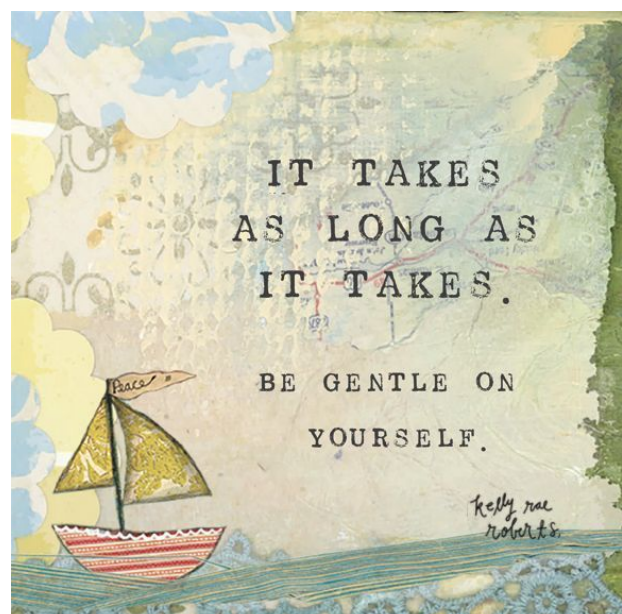
**E**verything is eerily quiet,

**F**or cars are crippled and sit with

**G**ears motionless, tyres still on deserted roads.

**H**ere in New Zealand,

**I** feel safe,



**J**ust worried about family in the UK  
**K**eeping watch of the news,  
**L**earning online,  
**M**eeting my classmates through my laptop,  
**N**ow all this is my normal.  
**O**ur bubbles are intact, but will  
**P**op at Level 2, and we'll shop, stroll and  
**Q**ueue less than 2 meters apart.  
**R**estrictions lifted, I'll once again  
**S**wim, see my friends and sneeze without stares.  
**T**ill then, we'll all take care, stay home and save lives.  
**U**nited against the  
**V**irus, which growls like a lion and constricts with boa strength  
**W**hen it reaches the lungs.  
**X**-rays, ventilators and doctors may not be able to help  
**Y**ou if COVID catches your breath, so  
**Z**ap this plague with zeal by staying safe.

## Mission Updates from Kim & Mary Robertson (May 2020)

*NZ & Thailand Flattened the Curve:* Thailand has been similar to NZ, significantly lessening restrictions on 17 May.

*Don Chedi Believers:* We are in contact with most of the believers by phone, although some have been difficult to keep in touch with. Pastor Bird has been videoing Sunday & mid-week messages for them but not all are able to access these. Pray that they will keep pressing into Jesus and stand firm in their faith in Him.



*Zume Discipleship Training Online:* Will Brooks, one of our CT Team, has started an online discipleship training group called Zume (Zume means yeast in Greek). The course is to train believers to make disciples who will make disciples who will make disciples ... There are six Thai Christian leaders and two missionaries (including Mary) participating in this 10-week training of 2 hours online every Thursday. At the end, each one is to hopefully start their own group. During a time when we can't get out, this is a way to encourage and equip believers to grow in their faith and to disciple others in a way that will keep going. Will is making for extraordinary prayer to get this going.

*New Members for our Central Thailand Team:* Phil & Julie & Sophie (2.5 years old) from USA, who will be joining the CT Team mid-June, will be placed with a young church in Lopburi and also have some



involvement with prison ministry. Pray for them as they prepare and adjust. They are expecting a second child in November.

*Praise God for:* (1) NZ & Thailand both doing well in “flattening the curve”! (2) Pastor Bird live streaming & videoing church services for Suphanburi Samphan Church & Don Chedi Church; (3) Harn & Vung after a long delay moving to their placement in Singburi 4 May; (4) Phil & Judie, a good placement worked out with a young church in Lopburi; and (5) family news: Anna & Andre expecting their second baby in September.

*Pray to God for:* (1) Zume Discipleship Training online course started, running every Thursday for 10 weeks; (2) Emanuel & Barbara still in Switzerland with their three children in Thailand. Hoping to fly here in July; (3) OMF Central Thailand Team: as we ease back into face-to-face ministry and for families with children to adapt to the new normal; (4) Wanpen & Wit (25kms away) and Bu & Lek & family (6kms out of Don Chedi) - that their faith would grow despite no cell groups or visiting; and (5) all missionaries' financial support in shaking times.

## Updates from NZ Baptist Missionary Society (21st May)

*Cyclone Amphan:* Originating in the Bay of Bengal, Cyclone Amphan made landfall in West Bengal on Wednesday afternoon, local time. The devastating impact of the cyclone has meant millions of people have been displaced from their homes in West Bengal and Bangladesh; thousands have lost their homes completely, and many more are faced with homes damaged by major flooding or wind damage. At least six of the women who work at Freeset have lost the roofs of their houses.



*Please pray:*

- That the millions who have been evacuated will be kept safe from the storm, particularly as they travel to seek refuge.
- For the Lord's hand of protection to be over the people of West Bengal. May they be protected from any further devastation.
- Give thanks that the damage in Bangladesh was not as bad as feared. However, we can expect that storm surges and flooding over the next few days will bring more hardship and damage.
- That local churches will be strengthened at this time, and will know how best to serve their communities.
- Those we have sent, and the communities they serve. May they draw close to God during this time, and trust in His protection and provision.