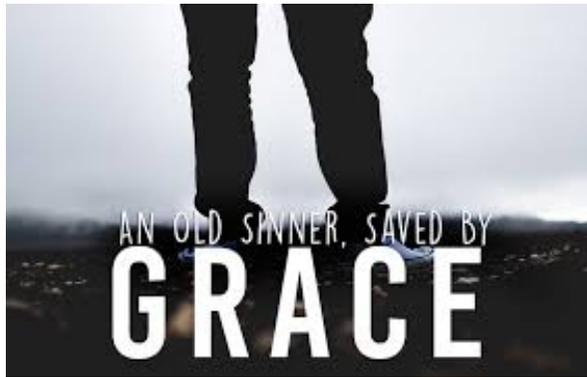


# P I C T O N Baptist Church



(Photo credit: <https://www.google.co.nz/>)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 1:17–18

293 Waikawa Road, Waikawa 7220  
Phone: (03) 573 6315

Email: [pictonbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:pictonbaptist@gmail.com)

Website: [www.pictonbaptist.org](http://www.pictonbaptist.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PictonBaptist/](http://www.facebook.com/PictonBaptist/)

Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

## TODAY’S SERVICE

\*Opening Song..... All together  
*Hosanna in the Highest*  
Welcome/Notices/Offering.....Deo Vistar  
\*Singing..... All together  
*Great is Thy Faithfulness*  
*Lord I Lift Your Name on High*  
*Amazing Love*  
Communion.....Led by Bill Pettigrew  
Sermon.....Deo Vistar  
\*Closing Song..... All together  
*Take My Life and Let It Be*  
Prayer & Benediction.....Deo Vistar

\*Led by the Music Team: Gwenda Galbraith (leader), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Johannes Hacker (guitar), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector)

- ✪ 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.
- ✪ We invite you to stay for a cup of tea after the service.

## PASTORAL NOTES

It’s great to be back at PBC! Thank you all for praying for me and my family while we were away. In hindsight it’s clear that God guided our decision to travel to the Goden Bay area (Collingwood in particular) during the first week of our leave because, as you knew, cyclone Gita struck that area in the following week, leaving that region isolated. Obviously God did not want my family stranded in Golden Bay! God is always good. Overall the two-week leave has been restful and enjoyable, and Guan and I are very thankful for it.

One of the impressions that God gave me during the break was that God is pleased with our focus this year on church health; that is, on our healthy relationship with God and with one another as a spiritual family. Two Scriptures came to mind as I was reflecting on this. The first one was John 21, where Jesus restored Peter back to discipleship (remember that Peter denied Jesus three times). In restoring

Peter, the question that Jesus asked him three times (to match the three denials) was, “Peter, do you *love* me more than these?” Do we love God (Jesus) more than anything else? The second passage is John 13:34–35: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this the whole world will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Here then is the measure of our spiritual health: our love for God, and our love for one another.

This reflection has been reinforced by the *Baptist Union Manual* (2016), where church health is understood as indicated by “the actual practices of church participation and the spiritual disciplines of its members (rather than whether people were ‘happy’ from a consumer perspective)” (p. 148). Let’s all grow healthier in our Christian walk this year.

Congratulations to Hamish and Jill White for the birth of their grandson – Harley Reece – on 15th February.

A warm “welcome back” to Claude Taylor, who has returned to Picton from Palmerston North.

Pray for Andy Baldwin as he undergoes a surgery this coming Tuesday (the 6th).

Praise the Lord for the good things happening with our youth group. Continue to pray for Mary Pettigrew and the young people.

Pray for Pene Sarjeant, Daniel and Allison Le Heux as they return to NZ this coming week.

Pray that the coming Easter will be a good opportunity not just for Christians to celebrate the victory of Jesus’ resurrection, but also for non-believers to know what Easter truly means. Pray particularly for blessing upon the Easter evangelistic event that we are going to hold here at PBC.

This morning we are continuing our series on Ephesians, and we are now on 2:1–10. We’re reflecting this morning on the truth that “every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.” Verses 1–3 talk about our past (we were dead in sins, etc.), and the rest of the verses talk about our present and future. Note particularly v. 10: we are God’s workmanship in Christ, created to do good works. Of course, what makes a sinner a saint is the fact of God’s grace: God in His love and mercy has made us alive in Christ in order that we may do good for His glory.

# PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN LAOS

Taken from *The Barnabas Fund 2018*  
barnabafund.org

Laos' approximately 150,000 Christians are targeted both at a local level and by the government. Locally, they are subjected to harassment and violence, while the government imposes tight restrictions on religious activity.

In 2016, the communist government introduced new laws governing religious practice. Under the new legislation, religious organisations continue to be required to register with the government. Churches have to get approval to conduct services and to import printed or electronic literature. The laws also require them to refrain from disturbing the "social order" or "national harmony."



While Buddhists enjoy comparative religious freedom in some parts of the country, local officials are typically highly suspicious of Christians, partly because of a perceived connection with the West.

Some believers from Hmong ethnic minority have been evicted from their land and homes for refusing to renounce their faith. Christians from ethnic minorities have also been denied access to medical care and education.

Christians imprisoned for their faith, especially pastors and evangelists, are sometimes tortured. Congregations that are not able to complete the onerous registration requirements can find it very hard to meet, as local authorities have been known to ban house churches. Authorities have also confiscated Bibles from Christians, even from those belonging to registered congregations.

Laos is one of the poorest countries in south-east Asia. Around 80% of the seven million population, which is mainly Buddhist, works in agriculture.

*Pray for believers in Laos that, despite harassment and violence from local authorities and the threat of imprisonment, they will boldly proclaim the truth of their Saviour without fear, knowing that the Lord is on their side (Psalm 118:6). Pray that restrictions that require*

*churches to register will be lifted and that Christians will be able to freely access the Scriptures.*

## NOTICES

### Train to Share the Gospel

Happening today at 4–5pm here at church. Come and be a part of it. Here's the whole program at a glance:

- 11th Feb: What is the Gospel?
- 18th Feb: How to Share the Gospel
- 25th Feb: How to Start a Normal Conversation
- 4th March: Three Easy Questions that Open a Conversation
- 11th March: Six Benefits of a Conversational Style
- 18th March: The Power of Your Story and How to Share Your Story
- 25th March: The Simple Invitation that Can Change a Person's Life

### End of Life Choice Bill

It's important to have our say. The closing date for submissions is midnight on Tuesday 6th March. You can submit online – just type "End of Life Choice Bill – New Zealand Parliament."

### STAY CONNECTED THIS WEEK!

The following home groups are on this week:

- Tuesday 10am at 90 Lindens Road. Study pp. lesson 6 (pp. 31ff) of *My First Steps* (contact Deo at 022 421 1405)
- Tuesday 7pm at 5 Amelia Cres (contact Stu at 022 323 3691)
- Wednesday 6:30pm at 35 South Terrace (contact Clive or Lynn at 573 8858)
- Thursday 7pm at 12 Lincoln St (contact Deo at 022 421 1405). Study Acts 4:5–21.

## ROSTERS\*

### Hosting

- 4 Mar .....Stu & Ralphia Henderson
- 11 March .....Lauraine Young & Nelia Davis (Communion)
- 18 Mar .....Nelson & Judith Dodge
- 25 Mar ...Pene Sarjeant & Gyllian Macdonald (Communion)

## Children's Church Teaching

- 4 March ..... Guan Vistar
- 11 March ..... Guan Vistar
- 18 March ..... Linda Price

Note: There will be no *Sunday Friends* session on the last Sunday of each month, as we would like to provide an opportunity for children to worship with their parents.

## Music & Sound

4th March: Guan Vistar (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Judith Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

11th March: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Johannes Hacker (guitar), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector)

18th March: Georgine Raj (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Pare Rad (singer), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Lynette Stanley (projector)

25th March: Allison Le Heux (leading), Johannes Hacker (guitar), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Lynn Whitlock (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

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