



## P I C T O N Baptist Church

“Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of  
the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”  
Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

### TODAY'S SERVICE

Opening Songs ..... All together  
Welcome & Notices.....Bill Pettigrew  
Tithes & Offerings  
Singing ..... All together  
Message ..... Rev Kaye Dyer  
Closing Song..... All together  
Prayer & Blessing

- ✦ 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 down at the foyer. 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.

### PASTORAL NOTES

**D**ear Church Family! Greetings from Palmerston North, where the annual Hui of the Baptist Union is currently in progress (as of Friday). It's great to be here, to be inspired by many good messages, and to be able to meet and form relationships with pastors from other regions of our nation. It's quite encouraging to meet a migrant pastors like myself. On Saturday evening I will take part in what is called “Multicultural Inclusion Banquet.” Our denomination is not exempt from the growing racial diversity that characterises New Zealand. From a missional point of view this is not a bad thing.

Our AGM is coming up in less than 2 weeks – on 24th November (Sat) at 5:30pm. Please do your best to come, as not only your presence but also your input will be helpful as we discern God's direction for us in the future. I want you to pray and think about what it will take for us to be the people that God has called us to be here in Picton. There are two sides to this. The first is us as a believing community. What can we do to strengthen our church, to equip ourselves, to attain

what Paul describes in Ephesians 4:13? I have my own thoughts on this, but I'm also interested in hearing yours. The second side is that of our witness in the wider community. Again I have my own ideas on this, but I'd like us to dream new dreams and think of few ways of being God's salt and light in the community. During the AGM we will give some time to discussing these questions.

We are not a large church by any measure, but God can accomplish great things through us. I hope you remain open to the opportunities where the Holy Spirit may actually use you to accomplish something of eternal significance here in Picton.

Yesterday I had an opportunity to share the gospel with the owner of the AirBnB where I'm staying. His name is David, a young man in his mid 20s, and he was with his partner yesterday when we got talking about our beliefs. It all happened naturally – it was actually them who asked me to talk about my beliefs, after they knew that I'm a church minister. David is a sort of Pakeha Kiwi whose knowledge about Christianity is almost zero. He is not very different from someone who comes from a Muslim country where Christianity is banned. Not that he is irreligious. Initially he did describe himself as not religious, but it turned out his beliefs are derived from Buddhism, something which he himself acknowledged later on.

We talked for well over an hour, and I had more than enough opportunity to share the gospel, and although David and his partner did not embrace Christ at the time, the seed of the truth has been sown. It may be because I'm their customer that David and his partner were friendly and kind enough to exchange faith views with me. But this experience shows some nonChristians may in fact be willing to talk about faith issues. But we will only find that out if we connect with them.

Thanks to Rev Kaye Dyer for bringing God's Word to us this morning, and to Bill P for coordinating and facilitating the service.

This coming Sunday I'll be preaching again on the Sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6:17b. I have printed the article “How to Use the Sword of the Spirit” to help prepare our hearts and minds this week.

“My Word ... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire” (declares the Lord) (Isa 55:11)

## HOW TO USE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

www.backtobasicsradio.com

Now, when Paul spoke of the “word” of God, he used the Greek word *rhema*, not the more familiar Greek word *logos*. *Rhema* is an interesting word that refers to “a saying,” or in our context, a particular verse or a number of verses. By using this Greek word, Paul is emphasizing the need to know the Word of God in a detailed manner in order to effectively use it against the devil.

Paul communicates the same idea to Timothy, instructing him to “*rightly divide the word of truth*” (see 2 Timothy 2:15). The idea is to be able to bring the right word from God to bear upon a given situation. A brief consideration of the earthly ministry of our Lord will enable us to see exactly what Paul is talking about. We have already considered the confrontation between Christ and Satan in the wilderness and have seen how Jesus put Satan to flight with the Word of God. Throughout our Lord’s ministry, He repeated this same approach as He dealt with the scribes and the Pharisees.

### Skillfully Using the Sword of the Spirit

On each occasion, our Lord’s skillful use of the sword of the Spirit silenced His enemies. Take for example the situation recorded in Matthew 21, verses 15 and 16. The religious leaders were angry with Jesus for allowing the children to refer to Him as “Messiah.” Do you remember His response? “*Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’*” (see Matthew 21:16).

How about the time when the Sadducees posed to Him a hypothetical situation that they thought to be an airtight argument against the resurrection? He responded, “*Your mistake is not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God*”; and again He said, “*Have you not read what was spoken to you by God?*” (see Matthew 22:29, 31).

### Captain of Our Salvation

One last example is found in the Lord’s response to the Pharisees’ assertion that Christ was to be merely the son of David:

“*How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms:*

‘*The LORD said to my Lord, ...’ therefore David calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?*” Luke 20:41–44

In each of these examples, the Captain of our salvation is teaching us indirectly how to effectively wield the sword of the Spirit. Therefore, we must study to show ourselves approved, workmen able to rightly divide and apply the word of truth.

### Knowledge of the Scriptures

Our ability to effectively use the sword of the Spirit depends upon our knowledge of the Scriptures. Our knowledge of the Scriptures will increase as we spend time reading, meditating, studying, and memorizing them.

## NOTICES

### Stu’s Home Group (this Tuesday 7pm)

Will be held at Laurie’s place at 7 Victoria Close

### Men’s Night

Saturday 17th November at 6pm at 3 West Terrace

All men welcome!

### Annual General Meeting

Remember, our AGM is on 24 Nov (Sat) at 5:30 here at the church.

### STAY CONNECTED THIS WEEK!

We have several home groups running during the week. Find out a group that may suit and help you in your Christian walk. See schedule and contact details below.

Tuesday 10am	Home group (Bible study) at 90 Linden’s Road	Contact Deo on 573 6315
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 5 Amelia Cres	Contact Stu on 573 7769
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 90 Lindens Road	Contact Pene on 573 7785
Wednesday 6pm	Youth group in the Church Hall	Contact Mary on 573 5499
Thursday 7pm	Home group at Steve & Sue Dawson’s place (374 Waikawa Rd)	Contact Steve on 021 688 071

Sunday 9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Children’s Ministry Room	Contact Steve Lavers on 021 0235 5728
Sunday 10am	Church Service	Contact Deo on 573 6315
Sunday 10:30am	<i>Sunday Friends</i> (Children’s Ministry)*	Contact Carol on 027 7735 263

\*Except on the last Sunday of each month

### Any Prayer Requests?

If you have any prayer request for the prayer chain, contact Judith Dodge at 573 9245.

## ROSTERS\*

### Hosting

4th Nov..... Stu & Ralphia Henderson (Communion)  
11th Nov..... Daniel & Allison Le Heux  
18th Nov..... Bill & Mary Pettigrew (Communion)  
25th Nov..... Laurie Stevenson & Steve Lavers

### Music & Sound

4th Nov: Deo Vistar (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Allison Le Heux (singer), Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

11th Nov: Allison Le Heux (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Mara Riwaka (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

18th Nov: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Deo Vistar (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

25th Nov: Garry Stanley (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Jude Stretton (singer), Lynette Stanley (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

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