



“Devote yourselves to prayer ... Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.”  
Colossians 4:2-3



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

## TODAY'S SERVICE

\*Opening Song .....All together

The Mountain

In Christ Alone

Notices.....Bill P

Offering .....All together

\*Singing .....All together

Boldly I Approach

10,000 Reasons

High Above

Message .....Deo

The Power of Prayer

(Colossians 4:2-4)

\*Final song.....All together

Boldly I Approach

Prayer .....Deo

\*Led by the Worship Team: Garry (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Kirsty (singer), Nelia (singer), Lynette (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.

## PASTORAL NOTES

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.

When I was in Bible college, one of my fellow students, who was my senior by two years, preached a sermon at our chapel service entitled “When Blessings Become Curses.” He based it on Deuteronomy 8 where God forewarns His people of the dangers of blessings. If we are not on guard, the same blessings that we receive from God can turn us away from Him. The Lord says: “When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you ... Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God ... Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God...” (vv. 10-14).

I remember the time when I was in South Korea. Many of the Koreans I interacted with were in the age bracket of 40-60, and that's the last generation of Koreans who experienced poverty. They knew how it was to have little or no food on table, etc. Up until the 60s and 70s South Korea was a very poor country. Their economy boomed beginning in the late 70s until the next several decades and what has happened was nothing short of a miracle (even secular historians would say this). Now South Korea belongs to the developed world with an advanced economy, and South Koreans enjoy a wealthy and comfortable lifestyle.

Koreans who grew up in poverty and are now enjoying the benefits of a developed country tend to be more appreciative of their blessings, and they sometimes complain that their children, who did not experience the same hardships, tend to take so many things for granted.

One of the first things that our dear Pene said to me when I was new here – and I believe she said it because she saw my passion to reach out to the Picton community – was that New Zealand is a hard

place spiritually. She didn't say it to discourage me, but to forewarn me not to be discouraged when, sooner or later, my attempts at outreach would not bear as much fruit as I expected.

From the start I kind of knew theoretically that New Zealand wasn't an easy place to evangelise, but now that I've been here for about two years, I certainly can confirm that to be true from experience. At the risk of sounding too simplistic, I think the blessings Kiwis enjoy on a daily basis – the comfortable life, the availability of money and food and the like, the beautiful outdoors, the comparatively safer neighbourhoods, etc – have spiritually seduced so many people into thinking that they don't need God, etc. Our blessings have become curses for our souls!

Why are you talking about this?, you may ask. I'm not complaining. I'm not discouraged. For me there's much to learn from what's happening around us. Not least to remain humble and be thankful for the blessings we receive from above.

I'm as excited and committed to our calling and task as a church as I was from the beginning. I trust you are as well. Beyond what our physical eyes can see, Christ is building His church. I just pray that we together will have the faith to keep doing our part in fulfilling the Great Commandment ("Love the Lord...") and the Great Commission ("Go and make disciples").

Moreover, we don't magnify the observation that NZ is a hard place for the gospel. We saw last week that a place like Thailand, which is very different from NZ, is also very hard to reach out for Christ. And it's not just a problem of our age either, because even when Christ was on earth, the majority of the people in Israel didn't accept Him. But in spite of all, isn't it amazing that the church has spread throughout the world and reached us even here in Picton?

I ask your prayers for Guan, Angela and Nathan as they travel to China this Tuesday. Among other things, pray that the kids will be able to adjust to the abrupt change in temperature, as it's the peak of summer in China now.

God bless us all, Deo

## NOTICES

**Speaker next Sunday: Linda Price**

### Happening this week

- Home groups:
  - Tuesday 10am and 7pm at 90 Lindens Rd
  - Tuesday 7pm at 5 Amelia Cres
  - Thursday 7pm at 6 Matai Place
- Youth group Wed 6pm at Church
- Tea@10 Friday 10am at the Marina Cove (upper lounge)

### Any Prayer Requests?

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

### Wanted: Accommodation

A Christian woman in her mid-20s, from Nelson, and works for one of the Cook Strait ferries, needs an accommodation for 6 weeks beginning in August. Her work means that often she comes home late and/or leaves early. But she's a quiet and considerate person. She has a car and will pay a reasonable price for the accommodation. If you have a place or know someone who has, please contact Colleen Butcher at 027 4389 250.

## 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 ..... Bill & Mary Pettigrew (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.