

P I C T O N Baptist Church



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

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called – His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.”

Ephesians 1:17–18

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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD (Cand)

TODAY'S SERVICE

*Opening Song.....	All together
<i>My Saviour, Redeemer How Great Is Our God</i>	
Welcome/Notices/Offering	Deo Vistar
*Communion Song.....	All together
<i>Glorify</i>	
Communion.....	Led by Garry Stanley
*Singing.....	All together
<i>Wairua Tapu There's Nothing Worth More Jesus Be the Centre</i>	
Scripture Reading	Lynn Whitlock
2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 Mark 9:2–9	
Prayer	Deo Vistar
Sermon	Deo Vistar
<i>The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation</i> Ephesians 1:15–23	
*Closing Song	All together
<i>Jesus Be the Centre</i>	
Prayer & Benediction	Deo Vistar

*Led by the Music Team: Mara Riwaka (leader), Jonathan Duffy (guitarist), Bronwyn Duffy (pianist), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Steve Lavers (sound), Lynette Stanley (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 not only by God's grace that we have become His children; it's also by His grace that we are able to remain in faith. In the Christian life and walk, it's perseverance, not speed, that truly matters. This past week I have been blessed by the realisation that here at PBC we have a good number of members – in their

70s and 80s – who have remained steadfast in faith. Praise the Lord for their example of faithful endurance.

This reflection is worth correlating with the fact that this coming week (on the 14th) PBC's youth ministry will resume here in the church hall. This is significant – it's been a while that the youth ministry was not held at our church premises. Now it's coming back, and we want it to be vibrant and blessed – where young people encounter Christ in a life-changing way.

Continue to pray for Pene, Daniel and Allison in their ongoing mission work in Africa.

Also, continue to pray for Andy Baldwin, who is still suffering from severe pain in his back. Pray that he may get the proper medical attention. Overall, pray for God's healing and guidance upon Andy.

I will be taking a two-week leave from church work from the 13th to the 26th of February. Pray for a good rest for me and family. I'm thankful to the Elders for this opportunity, and for overseeing the church while I'm away.

John Tucker, the new principal of Carey Baptist College, when asked about his focus in the first 12 months in the role, said: “Carey has an incredible culture, rooted in a rich love for Jesus, the Bible, the gospel, the church and mission. In my first year as principal, I want to take steps to preserve and deepen those values ...” I say “Amen” to that – we share the same focus and priorities here at PBC. We love Jesus and His Word. We are committed to the church – the Body of Christ. We are committed to mission and evangelism.

We've been having a series of messages on Ephesians, and thus far we have reached 1:14. The summarising verse is 1:3: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

Today we're looking at 1:15–23, where Paul prays for the Ephesian believers. There's so much truth in this passage, and the gist is this: we need to grow in our faith, in our knowledge of and relationship with God. For that to happen we need the ongoing help of Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and revelation from God's Word. We need the eyes of our hearts and faith to be continually open and focused on our eternal hope in Christ.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN KAZAKHSTAN

Taken from *The Barnabas Fund 2018*
barnabasfund.org

Kazakhstan is around 70% Muslim with a large Christian minority estimated at 26%. Many of the Christians are from a Russian background, but some are ethnic Kazakhs who have converted from Islam to Christianity. Protestant Christians, and especially those from a Muslim background, are viewed with great distrust.

There is a secular constitution guaranteeing freedom of religion and, from independence in 1995 until 2010, the situation for Christians (apart from former Muslims) was relatively easy. However, 2010 legislation designed to prevent terrorism and religious extremism has greatly reduced religious freedom.

The 2010 law, together with subsequent amendments, has increased restrictions on registered Christian organisations (including churches). Expected further legislation might hinder the ability of churches to hold meetings

outside of church buildings and require churches to register buildings they use. It is unlawful to challenge anyone's religious beliefs.



Harsh action has been taken against unregistered and registered religious activities especially outside of church buildings.

Most evangelical congregations find it very difficult to get registration; unless they are registered all their activity is illegal. Christians are therefore subjected to police raids on meetings and homes; fines, detention and imprisonment; seizure of church equipment and Christian literature; and the closure of church buildings.

A government commission began reviewing the legislation in September 2017, investigating such issues as extremism, "destructive" religious movements, protecting children and respecting individuals' religious views and cultural beliefs. In practice, the 2010 law has amounted to criminalising evangelism. The commission did not accept Christians'

proposals regarding 61 draft amendments to the 2010 law that at the time of writing are being considered.

Pray that the Church in Kazakhstan will not become inward looking, but reach out fearlessly to spread the Gospel to the Kazakh nation. Ask that God will strengthen those suffering persecution at the hands of the authorities, that they may persevere (James 1:2) and "commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good" (1 Peter 4:19). Pray that restrictions on religious freedoms in Kazakhstan will be lifted.

NOTICES

Train to Share the Gospel

It starts 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

STAY CONNECTED THIS WEEK!

- One home group is on this week:
 - Tuesday 7pm at 5 Amelia Cres (Stu's place). Contact Stu at 022 323 3691.
- The Tuesday 10am home group at 90 Lindens Road will resume on 27th Feb.
- The Thursday 7pm home group at 12 Lincoln St will reconvene on 1st March.

Pastor's Leave

Deo will be away on a two-week leave on 13–26 February. Pray for a restful and meaningful time with God and family.

Guest Preachers

- Julian Hawken on 18th February
- Linda Price on 25th February

ROSTERS*

Hosting

4 Feb..... Laurie Stevenson & Steve Lavers
11 Feb..... Nelson & Judith Dodge (Communion)
18 Feb..... Bill & Mary Pettigrew
25 Feb..... Ana Woolf & Linda Price (Communion)

Sunday Friends' Teaching

4 Feb..... Linda Price
11 Feb..... Guan Vistar
18 Feb..... Carol Tapp

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

Worship & Music

4 Feb: Guan Vistar (leading), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Judith Stretton (singer), Steve Lavers (sound), Lynn Whitlock (projector)

11 Feb: Te Mara Riwaka (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Andy Baldwin (sound), Lynette Stanley (projector)

18 Feb: Te Mara Riwaka (leading and guitar), Steve Lavers (sound), Gyllian Macdonald (projector)

25 Feb: Te Mara Riwaka (leading and guitar), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Andy Baldwin (sound), Lynn Whitlock (projector)

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

"I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven."

A. W. Tozer