



P I C T O N Baptist Church

**“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as
unwise but as wise – making the most of every
opportunity, because the days are evil.”
Ephesians 5:15**



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

TODAY'S SERVICE

*Opening Song..... All together
The Joy of the Lord
Welcome & Notices..... Deo
Tithes & Offerings All together
*Singing..... All together
As We Gather
Video clip: *God's Beautiful Creation*
Prayer(s)
*Singing..... All together
We Believe
(In this time of desperation)
Communion..... Led by Garry
Message Deo Vistar
“Living Wisely”
Ephesians 5:15–20
*Closing Song All together
Make Me Like You
Prayer & Blessing Deo Vistar

*Led by the Praise Team: Gwenda Galbraith (leading),
Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Judith Stretton (singer), Te
Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (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 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

Kia ora! Welcome to our worship this morning. If you are a first-time guest, I encourage you to fill out a blue visitor card and hand it to the welcomers or drop it in one of the offering bags.

The past two weeks have been rather challenging for my family healthwise. I was downed by flu for several days, and I have yet to fully recover from an apparent sinusitis, which has me on antibiotics for several days now. Then Guan and baby Nathan were

simultaneously downed by flu also. Thank God they're well on the road to recovery.

It has yet to be mentioned on this newsletter that Ted Hutchison, who was for many years an active member of our Church family, has gone home to be with the Lord last week. Pray for his wife Ena and the family.

We also express our deepest sympathies to the family of Nelson Dodge, whose brother-in-law in Picton passed away a few weeks ago. Pray for the surviving wife and the rest of the family.

Dr Jan Shapcott's sister Julie in Australia, who earlier underwent a procedure for cancer, is in a worsening condition. Pray for Jan as she travels to Brisbane today and helps Julie and her family for some time.

We will have a quarterly Church Family meeting today. I trust we can all attend it. We're going to have a shared lunch first after the service.

We're continuing today our study of Ephesians, a book on the Church as God's new humanity in Christ. As I mentioned before, Eph 1–3 is the doctrinal, foundational section of the book, and Eph 4–6 is the practical, application section. Both doctrines and application are important for our faith. Two weeks ago we looked at Eph 5:3–14, on “living in the light.” A sinful lifestyle – whether in sexuality, marriage, finances, speech, etc – does not suit the Christian anymore. Are you living a transformed life? Not a sinless, perfect life, but one that's growing in Christlikeness. If you wish to deepen your understanding of this subject or need help, come talk to me or with a trusted Christian friend.

Today we're looking at Eph 5:15–20, on “living wisely.” God wants us to live a wise life. Verse 15 says: “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise.” How do we do that? Paul discusses four ways. First, use your time well (v. 16). Seize every opportunity to do good, not only because we don't have much time on earth, but also because we are sometimes tempted to do bad (“the days are evil”). Second, allow the will of God to guide our life including our decision-making (v. 17). We often make decisions based solely on our feelings or what will make us happy or what our family and friends think, and leave out God's will. That's very unwise. Third, let the Holy Spirit fill you each day (v. 18). Whether you think of yourself as super-spiritual, the truth is we are all “leaky

vessels.” We need a repetitious in-filling of God’s Spirit, and this invariably results from our real encounter with God. Are you filled with God’s Spirit today? Do you want to surrender yourself to God’s Spirit today? Finally, be a committed participant in your local worshipping community (vv. 19–20). As true wisdom comes from God, godly wisdom can be found in a worshipping community, in the local church. If you need wisdom for your situation, speak with your church leaders and consider their advice. Proverbs 12:15: “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” Proverbs 19:20: “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

God bless you and your family!

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN TAJIKISTAN

From *The Barnabas Fund 2018*
 barnabasfund.org

Tajikistan is an Islamist hotspot, very poor, and a hard place for Christians. In 2017, Pastor Bakhrom Kholmatov, a 42-year-old father of three from the northern city of Khujand, was jailed for three years for allegedly “inciting national, racial, local or religious hatred or dissension.” Police charged Pastor Kholmatov after confiscating church hymn books, claiming that the songs in the hymnbooks, which included “God’s army is marching” and “Our fight is not against flesh and blood,” were “extremist and call on people to overthrow the government.”



The “extremism law” in Tajikistan (Criminal Code Article 189) punishes people “without requiring acts that involve violence or incitement or imminent violence.” The government uses this law to crackdown on anyone involved in certain religious activities. The Tajikistan government also imposes heavy restrictions on all religious groups, and the import, export and distribution of religious publications has to be approved by the authorities. Under laws introduced in 2011, children under the age of 18 are prohibited from taking

part in public religious activities – a cause of great concern for Christian parents. Christians from Muslim backgrounds encounter persecution from the authorities and are often subjected to physical violence from their relatives or are threatened with death.

Because of the dire economic situation in Tajikistan, many people are emigrating, including many Christians. At the time of writing, the three largest churches are in danger of closing down because of emigration of their members. Many pastors are amongst those who have left the country.

Pray for Christians in Tajikistan, who are being increasingly challenged by many restrictive laws for practising and sharing their faith. Lift up Christians who have been arrested and jailed under extremism laws; pray for their safe release and for their families. Pray too that church leaders who have left will return to Tajikistan and that more leaders, bold and free from fear, will rise up within the country.

NOTICES

Evangelism Team’s Meeting

15th Aug (Wed) 3:30pm at the Church

This Week’s Regular Ministries at a Glance

Tuesday 10am	Home group (Bible study) at 90 Linden’s Road	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 5 Amelia Cres	Contact Stu at 573 7769
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 90 Lindens Road	Contact Pene at 573 7785
Wednesday 6pm	Youth group in the Church Hall	Contact Mary at 573 5499
Thursday 7pm	Home group at Steve & Sue Dawson’s place (374 Waikawa Rd)	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Sunday 9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Children’s Ministry Room	Contact Steve Lavers at 021 0235 5728
Sunday 10am	Church Service	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Sunday 10:30am	Sunday Friends (Children’s Ministry)*	Contact Carol at 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

- 5th August.....Bill & Mary Pettigrew
- 12th August.....Ana Woolf & Linda Price (Communion)
- 19th August.....Nelson & Judith Dodge
- 26th August.... Daniel & Allison Le Heux (Communion)

Music & Sound

5th August: Garry Stanley (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Lynette Stanley (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

12th August: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Jude Stretton (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

19th August: (Deo Vistar) (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Jude Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

26th August: (Deo Vistar) (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Jude Stretton (singer), Steve Lavers (sound)

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

“Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterised by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour.”

James 3:17–18 (Msg)