



Church Family Update No 9

Overcoming Worry (4)

Worry is the greatest robber of joy. Our minds seem to naturally hone in on those things that bring about anxiety and concern. However, the best way to face each new day is to consider God's character and faithfulness. The Bible says no one or no one thing can take away the joy of our salvation. Life is full of difficulty and pain, that's true, but God promises to care for us and provide for all our needs. How can we be down in the dumps when we lift up our eyes to God. I often worry, so I know it's a real challenge to overcome. But I also know that God is good and faithful. When my mind hones in on Him, then joy replaces the worry.

When my soul is in the dumps, I rehearse everything I know of you, From Jordan depths to Hermon heights, including Mount Mizar. Chaos calls to chaos, to the tune of white-water rapids. Your breaking surf, your thundering breakers crash and crush me. Then God promises to love me all day, sing songs all through the night! My life is God's prayer. Sometimes I ask God, my rock-solid God, "Why did you let me down? Why am I walking around in tears, harassed by enemies?" They're out for the kill, these tormentors with their obscenities, Taunting day after day, "Where is this God of yours? "Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues? Fix my eyes on God—soon I'll be praising again. He puts a smile on my face. He's my God. Psalm 42 MSG

Stage 1 Restrictions

As you are no doubt aware, restrictions are slowly easing with a three stage plan. This is how stage 1 looks for the church (starting May 16 for a 4 week period) As you can see we are still some way from our normal services restarting. Life groups look like being a possibility when stage 2 starts. Other smaller meetings (max 10 people)at the church may be possible with conditions. We will have more information next week once we've looked at all options. Please contact me if you have any questions about the availability of the church facility.

- Weddings may have up to 10 guests in addition to the couple and the celebrant
- Funerals may have up to 20 mourners indoors and 30 outdoors
- Religious gatherings may have up to 10 attendees
- Every gathering must record contact details. Maintain 1.5m distancing and good hygiene. Stay home if you are unwell.

May : Missionary Month

Sunday's interview is with Nathan Wheeley. Nathan and Pip are working with Gentle Hands an orphanage in the Philippines. This is one of the missions that we support as a church. I'm sure you will enjoy an update on this amazing ministry.

Congratulations

James Durand and Thea Bevan were married at Wellington Point on May 5. As a church family we pray God's blessing over you both as you start out on this new chapter of your life.

Letterbox Drop

Last week you would have received in our church email a brochure which you could download and print. Contact the office if you would like us to print some for you. (If you are unable to collect them we will deliver them to you) It would be a great outcome, if as a church family, we take a walk down our street and those close by and deliver this information. It will be sometime until church restarts and some of the challenges people are facing are only beginning.

Pastoral Care

If you are aware of anyone who is needing support or is facing a challenging time, please contact me. I'd much rather receive several emails about the same circumstance than not be aware. So please let me know if there are any opportunities to encourage and support.

Free Digital Library

If you google Coronavirus Digital Church Library you can see what's on offer. The number of resources is great, so I cannot offer any endorsement, or necessarily support all views - but at a quick glance, it is mostly Christian classics and older material where there is no longer royalties etc. You normally have to purchase a base product to have access to these books, so this is a good opportunity.

Church Facility Upgrades

This time of isolation has certainly not been wasted when it comes to improvements to our church facility. The exterior painting is completed as well as finishing touches to the new entrance, A new epoxy finish to the floor of the outdoor area and our solar power has also been completed. Things are looking really good. A huge thank you to all those who served the church so faithfully. Much appreciated.

Take care – God bless – Stay safe

Paul