

AUGUST 2020 NAMBOUR UNITING CHURCH

DESTINATION PHILIPPINES

 Lyn Nielsen

All I can say is that for one shy country girl, with no worldly or political persuasions, a month long study tour in the Philippines when I was a teenager, has had a lifetime impact on me.

The youngest child of a railway fettler, I grew up in Gatton. Then as I finished my schooling, my family moved to Yandina on the Sunshine Coast and retirement. My sister Heather took me to the Presbyterian Church (now Uniting Church) in Nambour where we joined the youth group.

In 1971, Elspeth Hagenow, our youth group leader told us about a programme that the Australian Council of Churches was running, which gave young people the opportunity to be hosted by a partner church in a third world country. The programme that year was arranged with National Council of Churches in Philippines. There was a \$50 fee for each member taking part, which we raised by a Walkathon. Two of us from our youth group took part. We studied up on Philippines, and went to a session in Brisbane with others from all over Queensland. There, the individuals to join the study trip were selected. I was excited to be chosen.

The trip to the Philippines is a whole story on its own. What an influence it has had on me, my faith, my commitments and my Christian service.

Coming back home I was always looking for some way to be involved with the Philippines and its struggle for that was the "Marcos era" in Philippines. I became involved through the next decades in social justice groups, including Action for World Development.



One day in 2002, while walking up Queen Street, Nambour, I saw an Op Shop with the photos of Filipino children on display. It was the Helping Children Smile OP Shop, and those photos were taken by a medical mission group that was on the same plane as me, when I did a return trip to Philippines in 2001. I was so excited. I knew this was a "God-moment" again. I walked in, asked the lady (Lorry Rowe) how I could get involved. I became a volunteer on Saturday mornings. Helping Children Smile shop is now in Howard Street. I love what they do. Their voluntary medical teams not only put smiles on children's faces through their reconstructive surgery, but change their lives overcoming stigma, discrimination, and shame.

I have since been on two mission teams to Philippines and Indonesia. As a member of the medical teams, I am a "Gofer" – an odd jobs helper. And, I continue to help with fundraising, and volunteering at the Op Shop. I just love what they do! In my mind, I am mixing with angels.

Dear Friends,

We have all been on a journey in the last few months – different, challenging, lonely for many, sad for others, stressful for all, but a Life Journey that we will never forget - and it is not over yet.

Some time ago our local Museum was having a special display featuring 'Journeys'. Journeys that the early settlers had made just getting here, journeys that were part of living in difficult, isolated conditions, journeys of having and raising children - all Life Journeys.. I was asked if I knew of an appropriate poem to go with the display - This is what I gave them.....

JOURNEYS

Life is the biggest journey
that each of us will take –
its beginning and its ending
are not our choice to make;
It's the middle that makes the journey
so worthwhile day by day -
with our doing - and our daring,
our laughing - and our crying,
our caring - and our sharing,
our hurting - and our healing,
our doubting – and our trusting
our giving - and forgiving
our living - and our loving -
that's what makes life
the richest journey
that anyone could take.

Thank you for everything you have done caring
for our Congregation as we have journeyed
through these Corona months,
and may God go with you as you journey on day by day.

Eva Donaldson
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

PASTORAL LETTER to the People of the Nambour Uniting Church

Thanks! In writing to you, the first word that flows is “**thanks**”. Thanks for your faithfulness, your friendship, your generosity, your participation in the witness of our congregation, and your confidence in God’s love for us and our world. Through this period when the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our country, you have responded in ways that are most commendable.

In recommencing gathered worship recently, we began with the song,

We’re Together Again Just Praising the Lord; we’re together again in one accord.

Something good is going to happen: Something good is in store,

We’re together again just praising our Lord.

The theme of the service was “COME!” Recently, we formally welcomed **Lyn Metelerkamp, Sheila and Victor Hodges** into membership of Nambour UCA, on transfer from their former churches. To hear them share their faith was uplifting and delightful. May each of you know the intimate love of God’s Spirit in every circumstance of life, and we are grateful for the different ways each of you is using the gifts God has given you, to make a difference in our world.

There is an open invitation to all to be in a love relationship with God. And those who are thirsty will be refreshed. Due to our Safe Plane for CoViD-19 period, we are celebrating **Holy Communion**, using pre-packaged individual serving of bread and wine. While that is a different way, it is a means of grace to us. The resumption of gathered worship was possible due to the amazing diligence, energy and wisdom of a **team led by Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn**. Thank you to all in the team.

More thanks: Since Easter, we have intentionally tried to keep everyone in our dispersed congregation connected. Jenny Thomas initiated our brief **videoed messages and devotional clips** which were received by those on email or on smartphones. Thank you Jenny, and Christine Bowden who forwarded the messages. And thank you to all those who were momentary film-stars, reading, praying, making music, or singing on camera! Thank you to those who assisted with production, editing and giving technical help. It has been a great journey together.

Ian Brown has accepted responsibility for **Nambour Uniting Church official website**, and through that site you will always have access to the recently recorded messages and devotional snippets. We want to make the website user friendly and a place which you might frequent, as well as a place to introduce our congregation to the world. Please check it out, and give us feedback so that we might achieve our aims.

Through the last year, financial giving of our congregation has grown, and particularly through the Covid-19 period. **This is exceptional generosity**. Thank you. May all our offerings become an expression of God’s love to the world. Giving during the financial year 2019-2020 totalled \$94,586 which is an increase from \$77,479 during 2018-19. Giving provides 62% of our income, 22% from rental, 5% from hall use and rental, 3% from parking (down this year) and 7% from interest. Setting that against lowered ministry costs resulted in equity credit balance for the year of \$30,138 compared with a credit of \$6,486 for the previous financial year.

The monthly distribution of **Nambour NeXus** has given me the great privilege of contacting almost all of our people regularly. Thank you for your encouragement, your sharing with me, and for your hospitality. I am impressed by the multitude of ways you are serving the Lord Jesus. May we grow more and more, as we seek to fulfil our commission **to be evidence of God’s love in the world!**

Rev Ian Stehbens

THE ANCHOR POINT

There's nothing quite like going over the edge of a cliff! One moment you are standing vertically on a level piece of ground, with a spectacular view below you, but the next you are horizontal and the cliff is vertical! Your whole orientation has changed. As you approach the edge of the cliff you lean back, and slowly readjust your body orientation to a new plane.



The Author on 50 mtr cliff-face, Binna Burra, Qld

That's when the real fun begins! Yet, it is all not as frightening as one might imagine, because of one simple fact: the rope to which you are attached is firmly anchored. The anchor point is critical. It may be a rock, a big tree, or a concrete bollard, but it is something solid and substantial. Once on the rope, you can feel the anchor, unseen, yet strong and secure, taking your body weight. It is your faith in this anchor which allows you to slip over the edge with complete confidence.

There is no doubt that we live in challenging and changing times. There are many areas of life which pose great uncertainty for the life-adventurer. We are constantly confronted with economic instability, uncertain employment possibilities, as well as challenges to the spiritual values which have guided us in the past. The very nature of our society is undergoing radical change. In changing and uncertain times, we need an anchor point.

A long time ago, a young Hebrew shepherd expressed his confidence in God, as the solid anchor point for his life. "You are my rock of strength, my stronghold..." he wrote (Psalm 31:2). Throughout his psalms, David expresses this same confidence in God. In the midst of the changing circumstances of his life, he found reassurance again and again in the "solidness" of God. God provided him with a solid, reliable, and trustworthy anchor for life.

Continued next page ...

There have been many times in my life when I have been pushed over the edge! There are times when all that you believe, and even faith itself is brought into question. Yet, in all these times I remind myself that God is my anchor point. I do not find my security in confessional creeds, in dogmatic statements of faith, or in the performance of religious rituals. Rather, my confidence is in the Living God alone, as the very ground of my being, my Creator and Sustainer in life, the One in whom I can rest secure.

Hanging off a cliff on a rope is an exhilarating sensation! There are moments when you can't see or hear anyone; it is just you, the cliff face, and the rope! Alone, your whole world takes on a new perspective. You can hang there for ages if you wish! But, all the time, far above you, out of sight, your lifeline is firmly secured. If it wasn't, there's no way you could abseil with safety. Similarly, I can live with confidence, knowing that "In God I trust". This simple truth makes the world of difference!

Rev Graham Warne

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

This land on which we live and worship is God's land
and God's Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people, traditional custodians
under God of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland.

We pay our respects and pray for their elders
and all their descendants.

We are thankful that we can share with them in our
community and nation.

We reaffirm our commitment to work
for reconciliation in this land.



A Celebration of Music in Worship

Nambour Uniting Church
9am Sunday 9th August 2020

Guest Organist : Dr Steven Nisbet OAM
Guest Vocalist: Adele Nisbet ~ Soprano

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev Ian Stehbens

Celebration of Music in Worship



To Comply with COVID-19 GUIDELINES, Bookings are required.
Please Phone **Jeanette 0417 780 151**
or email Church Office nambouruca@gmail.com

Can We Survive?

Rev Margaret Stehbens

Have you ever felt at the end of your rope, physically or emotionally? At such times we feel as if we are not able to keep going, that we will have to give up. Everything has become all too hard.

Marathon runners who 'hit the wall' while still kilometres away from the finish line, are an example of this. A friend is diagnosed with cancer while his wife is undergoing chemotherapy, and then his work trailer is stolen, with all his tools inside. An eviction notice is received by a struggling family because their rental house is to be bulldozed. The letter arrives the same day as their special needs baby comes home from hospital. In such circumstances it may feel that even God is against us. Can we survive?

When the disciples were caught, along with Jesus, in a violent storm, they asked the same question. Other than fishermen, the Jews tended not to be seagoing people. The sea was an alien environment for them. Even today the Sea of Galilee is notorious for sudden, violent storms. And it was night! That added extra terror, for that was the time when evil was abroad. 'Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?' they said to the sleeping Jesus. They were sure that they could not survive.

In the gospels, and especially in Mark's gospel, being in a boat together, particularly with Jesus, is symbolic of being part of the Church. Thus our Church, along with other Christian churches and organizations, uses the symbol of the boat to express Christian unity.

Jesus acted, and the storm abated, along with disciples' terror.

Often in churches we may feel the same. Everything seems too hard. We don't seem to be getting anywhere. And we cry out 'God, don't you care?' The sounds of the storms within and without often keep us from hearing the voice that gently reminds us that God is with us in the storms and will never leave us alone. If God is with us, we can survive. Do we have this faith in our God of love?

God revealed to us by Jesus is God who suffers with us.

God revealed to us by Jesus, suffered yet responded with grace.

God revealed by Jesus is the God who calls us to empathise with those who suffer and to work for justice and healing.

In our God is hope,

for life is greater than death,

hope greater than history, and

love the essence of our survival and of our existence.

Instructions from Romans 12

Bless those who persecute you: bless and do not curse.

Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not repay evil for evil.

The Truth Inside of You

Nelson Mandela: "After I became president, I asked one day some members of my close protection to stroll with me in the city and have lunch at one of its restaurants. We sat in one of the downtown restaurants and all of us asked for some sort of food.

"After a while, the waiter brought us our requests. I noticed that there was someone sitting in front of my table waiting for food.

"I told one of the soldiers: 'Go and ask that person to join us with his food and eat with us.' The soldier went and asked the man so. The man brought his food and sat by my side as I had asked and began to eat. His hands were trembling constantly until everyone had finished their food and then the man left. The soldier said to me: That man was apparently quite sick. His hands trembled as he ate!"

"No, not at all," said Mandela.

"This man was the guard of the prison where I was jailed. Often, after the torture I was subjected to, I used to scream and ask for a little water.

"The very same man used to come every time and urinate on my head instead.

"So I found him scared, trembling, expecting me to reciprocate now, at least in the same way, either by torturing him or imprisoning him as I am now the President of the state of South Africa."

"But this is not my character nor part of my ethics."

"The mentality of retaliation destroys states, while the mentality of tolerance builds nations."

A Greek Word For Your Mind: Pneuma (Spirit)

We sing “Spirit of God, unseen like the wind...” How else can one describe the dynamic, unseen yet powerful force of the Eternal God? Simply put, the “Spirit” is *the electricity of God*, working in the world and in and through us: unseen, but powerful.

The Old Testament word (Ruach) had to serve three purposes. It was used to describe:

1. “wind” (inanimate power, either gentle or gale force). See Genesis 1:2.
2. “breath” (the air which animates all life).
3. “spirit” (dynamic, hidden spiritual force),
i.e. the unseen, life-giving power of God as the Source of all life (Gen 3:7, 6:17).

Ezekiel 37 is a fascinating play on the different meanings of *ruach* as “wind” and “breath”. There are some further interesting extensions of meaning as “courage” (hidden strength, Josh 2:11); “anger” (deep breathing, Judges 8:3); and emotion, “agitated heart” (1 Samuel 1:15). In other words, “spirit” was used to describe a variety of human emotions. Some 25 times “The Divine Spirit is spoken of as enticing man (sic) for the purpose of giving life, power, wisdom or right feeling”. (Girdlestone, Synonyms, 60)

In the New Testament there are separate words for “wind” (*anemos*) and “spirit” (*pneuma*). In only one instance does *pneuma* carry both meanings (John 3:8). *Pneuma* (cf our English word *pneumatic* describing the “wind” in our tyres) occurs some 385 times and represents the unseen but powerful force of God, not as an inanimate wind, but as a personal, dynamic, life affirming power. The very first instance of this activity is seen in the Annunciation to Mary (“The power of the Most High shall overshadow you...” Luke 1:35), and in the prophetic work of John the Baptist (Luke 1:15).

The Holy Spirit, then, must be seen as the continuing Presence of God, active in Creation (Genesis 1:2), incarnate in the Person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14, 33), and following Christ's physical departure, through God's people, the church (Acts 1:8). It is then the one and same God, operating powerfully in and through all. Thus, Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ = Holy Spirit: the “electric energy” (*energeia*) of God flowing through us (Ephesians 1:19).

The pure materialist sees only the physical, perishable, material reality, that which can be scientifically “proved”; those with spiritual eyes (*pneumatikos*) see beyond the visible world to a Living Power, the Eternal Spirit of God operating in and through all that exists, animating it and giving it purpose and meaning (see 1 Corinthians 2:12-14).

Rev Graham Warne

Hope and a Starfish Theology

There are many ways to help in a time of fear, or of despair... let's explore one of them... Hope

Let's start with Peter: 3¹⁵ *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.*

Dr Google says: "Some common **synonyms of revere** are adore, reverence, venerate, and worship. While all these words mean "to honour and admire profoundly and respectfully," **revere** stresses deference and tenderness of feeling."

That's where our story of hope starts... it has to!

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

Only then comes the key verse: **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (verse 15).**

We need to be able to explain the hope that we have (based on "revering" Christ). Remembering people are (and were in St Peter's day) living in a context of fear. So how do we avoid the risk of a wishy washy "hope" that simply say's "she'll be right, mate?"

What are the key elements of **hope**:

1. **A sense of control**
2. **A belief in the value of something (values)**
3. **A community to belong to.**

All 3 are necessary for hope to grow and thrive!

Outline of Sermon preached by
Rev Chris Crause
Mary Burnett Presbytery Minister,
at Nambour UCA
2 August 2020

Parable of the STARFISH

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean for exercise.

One day, the old man was walking along a beach that was littered with thousands of starfish that had been washed by the high tide. As he walked, he came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

Puzzled, the man looked at the boy and asked what he was doing.

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the boy replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean.

Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!" [adapted from The Star Thrower, by Loren Eiseley]

e.g. Thanduluntu

Why would you care? Why should we trust you? Why spend time away from those paying your stipend?

Circle for dangerous thinking?

Eclectic?

Heart-bursts?

I've stopped dreaming too big. I'm glad some dream big, because we need big dreamers. But I'm a Starfish Theology person, seeking to make a difference where I can...

What is the "one" where you will make a real difference... and then two, and then three? Don't just hope for better... be better, and help others be better.

LIFELINE SAVES LIVES

A ministry of the Uniting Church, Lifeline Shops support the delivery of service by Lifeline Centres. Lifeline is Australia's leading suicide prevention service, formed through a partnership between 10,000 committed volunteers, and our centres, of which there are 40 around the nation. Lifeline provides the crucial moments of connection that bring



hope and save lives. Lifeline's vision is to achieve an Australia free of suicide and determined to ensure that no person has to face their darkest moments alone. You are welcome to become a volunteer: Nola de Jonge, Val Sims, Jenny Brown, Anne Kent currently volunteer and other members of the congregation including Yvonne Bowden, Dell Ford, Doreen Hetherington and Alison Staines have previously. The whole church expresses their gratitude to those who use their gifts of mercy, helping, creativity and leadership in these areas of ministry.



HELPING CHILDREN SMILE

Based here on the Sunshine Coast, **HELPING CHILDREN SMILE** is a voluntary organization that provides reconstructive surgery for Filipino children without cost to the child's family. It mobilises a team of plastic surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and carers to travel to Philippines

during their dry season. Children with cleft palates and other facial deformities are treated, but the restorative work does more than overcome physical problems. They are then able to attend school, and as adults find employment. Discrimination and shame are overcome. So, after surgery the children can look forward to a normal life. As adults they are able to gain employment.

Helping Children Smile has put smiles on the faces of hundreds of children in the Philippines since the first mission 25 years ago.

Helping Children Smile run an OP Shop in Howard Street, Nambour. It's an old-school op-shop, with hand-made price tags, staffed by volunteers, and is an Aladdin's Cave of clothes, bric-a-brac and books at unbeatable prices. This endeavour is staffed by volunteers including members of our congregation. The proceeds cover travel costs, surgical equipment, and accommodation for the medical teams. People in the teams give their expertise and time at no cost. Hospital fees, pathology and radiology costs are met by local government and community organisations in-country.

Lyn Nielsen and Julie Fleming are two of the volunteers. Talk to them after worship.

Donations are tax deductible. www.helpingchildrensmile.org.au is a registered Australian charity.

JUMBLE WORDS: Theme = ROMANS

Rearrange the letters in each set to form a Biblical word.

Write your answers in the blank grid.

The first letter from each word, reading down, is to spell a key word found in the Book of Romans.

EASY

1. EGTRE
2. WOLLY
3. ROFEF
4. WEREN
5. AENRY

Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, ... now revealed and made known... so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Romans 16: 25-27.

DIFFICULT

1. CFMNR OO
2. DLOORRU^{3,4}
3. AINNOST
4. CIORTVY
5. DEEJNOY
6. CEEIJOR
7. IINRTTY

Paul's experience on the way to Damascus was a dramatic turning point in his life and a remarkable revelation of God: Jesus as Son of God, Trinity, God identifying with suffering, grace transcending Law, and a gospel for all nations. Paul became a zealous evangelist and a leading Christian theologian and martyr.

Answers last month:

Easy: Gifts, Reach, Abide, Chose, Equip > GRACE

Difficult: Courage, Outward, Respect, Imagery, Nourish, Teacher, Healing >CORINTH

7 Prayers for the Week

MONDAY **Father**, I thank you for all that You have done.

You gave your Son freely for me,
and I praise You for calling me, drawing me near,
out of blindness you caused me to see.

Spirit of Life, you are God's holy fire,
You've kindled my heart with your blaze;
and I know you are refining me, changing my life,
and through faith you're revealing your ways.

Jesus, I need you as Lord of my life.

I give all I have unto you.

Lord I want to live under your heavenly hand,
and praise you in all that I do. Amen

Steve Stewart

TUESDAY **Dear Lord**,

We know that all things work together for good for those who love You.

You have called us

You have justified us through the grace of the Lord Jesus

We are not condemned

We have been freed from the law of sin and death

We offer ourselves to you.

We ask that by your Spirit's power

we may fulfil your will for our lives today.

In hardship, may our faith be strong.

In disappointment, may we respond with grace.

In sadness, may we show compassion.

In loneliness, may we know your presence.

In uncertainty, may we be truthful.

In challenges, may we live with hope.

In achievement may we be grateful.

In abundance may we be generous.

We thank you from the depths of our being,
that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Amen

WEDNESDAY **God of Creation**,

You created night and day.

You separated the sea from the sky.

You gave life to all living creatures and saw that it was good.

Help us to reconnect with the majesty of your creation.

God of Love,

Fill us with your love for all creation.

Empty us of apathy, selfishness and fear.

Inspire us to live simply and in harmony with creation.

Help us to be good stewards, caring for all creation with self-sacrificing and nurturing love.

God of Compassion,

Breathe into us solidarity with all who suffer now

and the future generations who will suffer

because of our environmental irresponsibility.

Help us to put people before profit and 'being' before 'having'.

God of Justice,

Empower us to work together as one global community,

To find creative and just solutions to protect those most vulnerable in our world,

and all of creation for future generations.

Move us into action for climate justice and to restore your creation. Amen.

THURSDAY Father and lover of life,

you know the depths of my innermost self, and you understand me. You protect me on every side, shielding me from all harm. When you put me together in my mother's womb, you knew all about me. I thank you for the wonder of myself, and I stand in awe at all that you have made. As you love me, so may I come to know and love you more and more. Guide me in your ways. Amen

Ps139

FRIDAY Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen

St Francis of Assisi

SATURDAY Jesus said, "I AM the way, the Truth and the Life."

Jesus, you came **from** the Father – we acknowledge you as the source of life.

Jesus, you **did** the will of the Father – may we do the will of God.

Jesus, you **spoke** the words Your Father gave you to say

– let our words reveal our love for you and for one another.

Jesus, you returned **to** reign with the Father – we thank you for the gift of eternal life.

Jesus, you and the Father **are** One – and we are heirs of the Father, God's children.

Accept our praise.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

IRS

SUNDAY Prayer for the Church

God, Source of all blessing, we pray for our congregation. We thank you for each other. May we experience your grace every day of our lives and always be ready to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of All.

We thank you for the many gifts your spirit has given to us. Enable us to encourage each member in the exercise of their gifts.

Open our hearts to desire your will for our lives. May we recognize your will as perfect, good, and acceptable.

We thank you that we are a forgiven people. We thank you for the ministry of reconciliation you have entrusted to us.

We pray for those who are unable to gather for worship with us. We ask that we will not forget them, and that we will be faithful in our intercessions, pastoral care, and communication with them.

We truly thank you for all those who have led the ministry of Nambour Uniting Church throughout our history. We specifically ask now, that You will guide us into the future as leaders are called and appointed. We pray for our leadership team. May you sustain them. May they be encouraged as they facilitate our worship of You and our fellowship with each other, manage our care, our giving, our facilities and our partnerships, and enable our congregation's engagement with the world in which we live.

God, Whom we worship, we pray for the whole church in Nambour in its various denominations and ministries.

We pray for joy and inspiration in gathered worship, we pray for clarity in initiatives to share the gospel, we pray for generosity and mercy in all ministries of compassion.

We pray for all who have been appointed to the ministry of the gospel, that they may faithfully proclaim your Word, administer your holy sacraments and encourage the people they lead to obey all that Jesus has taught us.

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you, each day, that you may be glorified because of our witness

God of All, we pray for the universal church.

We pray that in every nation the church may be an instrument of justice and peace.

We pray for opportunity and confidence to share the gospel of hope, that Jesus' grace may be known and embraced by others.

May the church have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

Pour your Holy Spirit on all your people as they respond pastorally, prophetically and purposefully to the crises in their respective countries, whether it be disease or calamity, poverty and daily struggle, injustice and abuse of power, ignorance or vacuum of leadership.

Father God may your will be done. Spirit of Jesus engage with us. Lord Jesus, we praise you.

AMEN

DAILY READINGS AUGUST 2020

Saturday, August 1, 2020: Matthew 7:7-11

Sunday, August 2, 2020: Matthew 14: 13-21

Monday, August 3, 2020: Romans 1:8-15

Tuesday, August 4, 2020: Acts 2:37-47

Wednesday, August 5, 2020: Matthew 15:32-39

Thursday, August 6, 2020: Acts 17:10-15

Friday, August 7, 2020: Acts 18:24-28

Saturday, August 8, 2020: Matthew 16:1-4

Sunday, August 9, 2020: Matthew 14:22-33

Monday, August 10, 2020: 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, August 11, 2020: Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday, August 12, 2020: Matthew 8:23-27

Thursday, August 13, 2020: Revelation 15:1-4

Friday, August 14, 2020: Acts 14:19-28

Saturday, August 15, 2020: Matthew 14:34-36

Sunday, August 16, 2020: Matthew 15:10-28

Monday, August 17, 2020: Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, August 18, 2020: Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, August 19, 2020: Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, August 20, 2020: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, August 21, 2020: 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, August 22, 2020: Matthew 16:5-12

Sunday, August 23, 2020: Matthew 16:13-20

Monday, August 24, 2020: Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, August 25, 2020: Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday, August 26, 2020: Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday, August 27, 2020: Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday, August 28, 2020: 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, August 29, 2020: Matthew 8:14-17

Sunday, August 30, 2020: Matthew 16:13-20

Monday, August 31, 2020: Revelation 3:1-6

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Assistant Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

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Helen Staines Secretary

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