

## ICHTHUS [Fish] BANNER

A most impressive piece of creative and artisan work welcomes all who come into the Nambour Uniting Church. I refer to the ICHTHUS Banner. It hangs in a most appropriate place, catching the eye and the heart of all who enter.



Week by week it may be but a background, perhaps taken for granted by familiarity, but stunningly engaging for those who see it freshly. Appreciation we all feel is expressed whenever attention is drawn to it.

"I love its vibrant colours, creative design, theological story, and the fine skills that were applied. But it really is also a missional work," says Rev Ian Stehbens.

This banner that is permanently hanging in the foyer of our Church complex, was designed by Rev Geraldine Wheeler and assembled and stitched by members of our congregation.

The idea to make a wallhanging emerged from the Patchwork Group who met regularly in the church hall. The extensions had been completed and thought was given to the presentation of the newly finished foyer. Anne Kent approached Rev. Geraldine Wheeler, a very competent artist, for a design concept. Geraldine's design was then drafted onto paper by David and Jan Bird, enlarging it to 1x3 metres.

**IXΘΥΣ** is an acronym used to identify Jesus as Lord.

**I = Jesus X= Christ Θ= of God Y= Son Σ=Saviour**

And is also the Greek word for fish. In the early Church, when Christians were being persecuted, Christians would use the fish symbol as a secret sign symbolising to others that they were Christians.

The Patchwork Group put in many hours during their meetings as well as at home to: gather the suitable fabrics, copy the designs onto tracing paper, then trace them onto fabric after which the (very small) pieces were cut out and sewn onto the background panel. It was a major undertaking and took many, many hours!



It was first revealed, though unfinished at the 'Festival of Flowers, Arts and Crafts' in August 1992. The dedication of the hanging took place in August 1993 during a worship service.

Besides the Patchwork Group, several members of the congregation volunteered their time to sew parts of the wallhanging.

It is now difficult to recall all the people involved its creation, but they include Anne Kent, David Bird, Dell Giess, Eva Donaldson, Geraldine Wheeler, Helen Staines, Jan Bird, June Ehrenberg, June Harris, Linda Woodward and Val Ganzer.



From the left we have the fruits of creation, water, wheat and grapes, then within the fish itself, the dark days of the crucifixion are followed by the light and joy of the resurrection with the women at the tomb.

Next, we have the coming of the Holy Spirit with the followers sharing in the bread and the wine.

The yellow section shows the people praising and worshipping, while the tree depicts the whole of life as part of God's creation. The right hand section draws on the imagery of Isaiah expressing the final harmony and peace in God's world.



**The work was  
done to the Glory of God**



## **MINISTER’S PASTORAL LETTER** to the people of Nambour

There is much for which I am grateful and in it all I know God’s working among us.

Though we anticipated that another ministry agent may have been working among us during this year, that did not eventuate in the end because of COVID Epidemic. However, that period has given us a full year by which we have been able to reassess our ministry, and the financial resources available to us. I believe that God has clearly confirmed this delay as his will for us.

There are many instances and contributions to be commended:

the generosity of our people,

the intentional actions taken by our teams to ensure our congregation remained connected, spiritually fed, and appreciated through digital communication, recording, editing, publication of worship on digital platform and the production of Nambour NeXus

the sacrificial service of our Compliance Team led by Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn

the acceptance of an extra load by our Office Administrator, Jim Stewart,

the thorough, competent and gracious service of our new Treasurer & Financial Manager, Lyn & Tim Metelerkamp, our Secretary Helen Staines and by Graham Kent who oversees the rented manse;

the constancy and competence of all those involved in the production of worship, both online and in the church, including musicians, cleaners, flower arrangers, graphic designers, worship coordinator and IT people;

those who interceded regularly in private prayer for me and for the whole congregation;

that you have continued your voluntary service, personal caring and professional lives through the changed social, medical, educational and economic circumstances.

In the early weeks of the Pandemic, I was asked to continue in supply ministry until September 30, which I agreed to do, and then that was confirmed by the availability of Job Keeper. One of the consequences of Job Keeper was that there could be no employment mobility in the nation, and thus no ministers were available for call or appointment.

As September 30 neared, I arranged a meeting of key Presbytery staff with our congregational leaders. We can be most grateful for those who attended that meeting (on 20 September), for the feedback I have received indicates that the meeting was most positive, missionally framed and cohesive.



The outcome for me personally, is that I have been asked to continue in Supply Ministry and that I am also to have a holiday.

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**Rod Ehrenberg with Ken Palazzi  
at Imbil – Rod’s childhood home**

I have reflected prayerfully and consulted with Margaret and with the Presbytery Minister, and I have **agreed to take leave from 5-26th October, and continue in Supply until January 31st or earlier if another minister is appointed to Nambour before January 31.** Rev Graham Warne and Rev Dr Peter Hall (both members of this congregation) will conduct worship on 11th, 18th & 25th October.

**The vision is for a new minister to be appointed to Nambour** when the she/he is identified. Our stipend support capacity for the calling of our next minister has returned to between 80-90%. This is very positive and affirms your generosity which has more than compensated for lost income due to COVID-19 restrictions (on hall hire, carparking for showground events, restricted attendance at worship).

During the last months of my ministry with you, there are some further contributions that I have offered, and they have been endorsed by Church Council. I believe they may contribute to a strong missional and pastoral future.

1. **Enable the congregation to clearly define its missional goals for the next phase of its ministry.** The method I can offer is 3-phased interactive approach. In the first phase we will be canvassing any ideas from you which may be part of shaping the desired future. Then I will use a structured model of the congregation (known as Interactive Structural Modelling) to sort out priorities.
2. **Explore possibilities for establishing another congregation that focuses on 2 younger generations:** those of children/youth in formal education years and that of their parents.
3. **Offer to organize a School of Prayer (Friday night & Saturday) which we host and invite ecumenical participation.** *I have pencilled that in for January 28-29.*
4. **Establish a process whereby spiritual gifts of many of our congregation are identified along with your God-given desires to make a difference in our church/society/world. Knowing that allows us to have** a clear God-given basis for ongoing ministry. It is also very affirming to know your special God-given gifts. It is an excellent approach to human relations, for it enables each of us to serve in the right places for the right reasons.

I remain pastorally pro-active.



Recently we have celebrated some of our special past with two services. One focused on the artwork of Frank Wesley (The Forgiving Father) and the other on the creative fabric work of some of our women through the visit of Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler, a former Nambour minister and artist.



As we dream our future, I am asking you to pray regularly for your congregation and its missional future. Thank you for your encouragement and support, whilst you have faithfully carried out your responsibilities and ministries in your families and community as well as in the congregation's life.

I am enjoying the privilege of journeying with Nambour UCA.

May the Spirit of Jesus continue to lead and accompany our people as we seek to be evidence of God's love breaking into the world.

Rev Ian Stehbins

## *The Second Mile Smile*



Big cities can be cold, heartless places. However, I was most pleasantly surprised to discover, even in the middle of a big city, someone who really cared enough to go out of their way.

I had gone to Sydney to be with a family whose nineteen year old son was undergoing extremely delicate neuro-surgery following a stroke. The surgery took place at St Vincent's Hospital, and the young lad was on the operating table for over 10 hours! It was a most harrowing experience for the family as they waited anxiously for news of their son. We spent the day in the Hospital Chapel, the gardens, having coffee at the Cafeteria, and just waiting, waiting, all the time conscious that their son was in theatre! It was a very long day.

It was 6PM before he came out of theatre, and transferred to intensive care. We found him sitting up in bed with bandages covering his head. With slow, slurred speech he greeted us each by name. "Hello Mum... Dad... Graham". What relief: he still recognised us. We spent a short time with him, grateful that he had come through the operation successfully.

Seeing that he was comfortable, we left him in the care of the nursing staff. It had been a long hard day for us, so we made our way to the Cafeteria for some tea. It was now 7.30 p.m. and the Cafeteria had officially closed at 7. When we arrived it was quite empty. The staff were busy cleaning up after the day's business, all the food had been put away, and the all serving areas cleared. The Staff supervisor saw us wandering around and asked if she could help. "Well", we said, "we've had a rather big day and were wondering if it was possible to get a meal?" (There were three of us).

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“No trouble”, she said, just sit down and I’ll bring it to you.”  
She then proceeded to take three meals out of the fridge, and heat them in the micro-wave. It was only a matter of minutes before we were being served a beautiful meal, piping hot, served with a smile!

We could not help but notice that most of the domestic staff were new Australians. We wondered how many “dinkum Aussies” would be prepared to go the second mile, as these had done. I imagined the more likely response to be, “Sorry mate, we closed at 7 p.m.!” (In fact, we had had that very experience on another occasion!) But no, here in the middle of a great bustling city was someone who cared for others above their own needs. She had gone the second mile - with a smile!

But it didn’t stop there! After our meal, we returned the empty plates and thanked her for her kindness. She responded in broken English, “That’s OK. It’s orright. How is your boy? Don’t you worry, he be orright!”

There *are* good people in the world after all! How much better the world would be if there were more people prepared to offer second-mile service, with a smile!

***A smile can make a 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 care for the  
land and participate in the reconciling  
journey, for God requires this of us.

The NEXUS between our mission and our  
spiritual power is the gathered  
congregation. While God comes to us by  
His Spirit thus transforming us by his  
grace, we are drawn into precious  
fellowship with each other. As a  
congregation gathers for worship, it is  
being strengthened, then sent out again  
for a missional purpose.

In times such as these, this copy of  
**Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you  
may have resources to assist you in your  
personal or household worship of God,  
to assist you in growing your faith,  
and to encourage your concern and  
prayers for others.

**We are called to be Evidence of God's Love  
breaking into the World  
BIBLE STUDY in ACTS 13 & 16**

Rev Ian Stehbens

As our congregation is preparing to embark on a new phase of its mission, let us think about our mission strategy. Through the generosity and faithfulness of our people, we have been able to envisage calling a new minister, who we trust can be fully supported financially and faithfully as we join in partnership with her/him.

Because of my love of New Testament and the encouragement that I find as I observe the early church of the first century AD, I thought it may be very helpful for us to look again at that early church in Antioch, Syria for inspiration, guidance and encouragement.

The church in Antioch was a coming together of a collection of refugees who had been forced to flee Jerusalem because they were threatened with arrest and capital punishment by stoning because of their encounter with the risen Jesus. As witnesses of the resurrected Jesus they were gripped by a new certainty and confidence in God. It was a mixed bunch of people. It was inclusive of Jews, and non-Jews (whom the Jews called Gentiles), of former slaves and people of high status, women and men, theologically educated people and children, and a diversity of ethnic identities, and was multi-lingual.

In this embryonic church, we find The Gospel of Matthew being formed and written, we meet John Mark (Gospel of Mark), the man and his wife and children who was press-ganged to carry the cross once Jesus fell, early leaders including Barnabas, and then Paul. Luke who becomes a travelling missionary with Paul writes about the church in Antioch.

So, this early church is a critical place for us to understand the purpose and nature of the church. The profound teachings of Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel's of Mark and Luke, and the letters of St Paul are connected and rooted in this centre. It was in Antioch that people were first called Christians. It was in Antioch from which the first missionaries were sent out to Cyprus, Turkey (Asia Minor), Greece, Macedonia (Europe). It was in Antioch that the church learnt that reconciliation is the essence of their witness and ministry. It was in Antioch that we find the roots of the teaching that in the church there is to be no distinction or discrimination on the basis of culture, status, gender for there is "neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for all are one in Christ Jesus."

Now I want to make 10 points that might guide us as a church as we embrace our calling and dreams for the future. Each point is drawn from the story of the earliest missionary journeys in Acts of the Apostles. Read each heading and then recognize that idea in the Biblical passage that follows:

**A STRONG ENCOURAGED CONGREGATION CAN BE COURAGEOUS & FRUITFUL AS WE  
BREAK INTO THE WORLD**

*13:1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off*

**BE CLEAR AND CONFIDENT OF THE GOSPEL**

*13:26 "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. <sup>32</sup> "We tell you the good news: What God promised... <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, ... by raising up Jesus.*

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## **PREPARED LEADERS AND COMPATIBLE MISSION TEAMS ARE THE MEANS OF EFFECTIVE MISSION & EVANGELISM**

*15:35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.<sup>36</sup> Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."<sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,<sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.<sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,<sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.<sup>41</sup> He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.*

## **UNDERSTANDING OF & SENSITIVITY TO THE CULTURE OF THE COMMUNITY MINIMISES BLOCKAGES TO MISSION & EVANGELISM**

*16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.<sup>2</sup> The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.<sup>3</sup> Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.<sup>4</sup> As they travelled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.<sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.*

## **RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADING & OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY EMPOWERS PEOPLE AS THEY REALISE THAT THIS IS GOD'S IDEA**

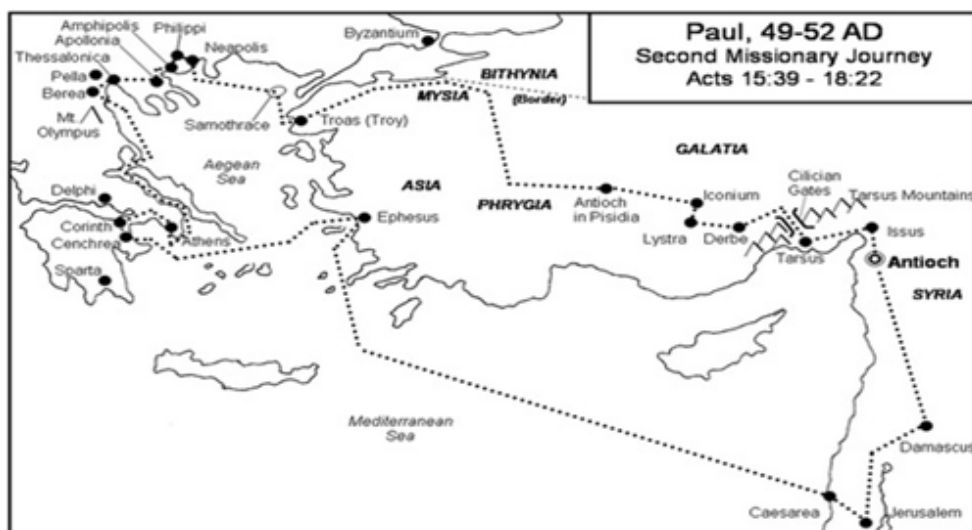
*16:6 Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.<sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.<sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."<sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

## **BE STRATEGIC THINKERS WHO ARE OPEN TO GOD'S LEADING**

*16:10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.<sup>11</sup> From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis.<sup>12</sup> From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.*

## **RENEWAL, REVIVAL & FRUITFUL MISSION RIDE ON THE BACK OF PRAYER**

*16:13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.<sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.*



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## **THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AND ITS IMPACT IS LONGTERM**

*16:15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.*

## **SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION IS REAL BUT FUTILE FOR SUFFERING GIVES US NEW LENSES TO SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY**

*16:19 They seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

*<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

## **CHRISTIAN MISSION CHANGES LIVES AND SOCIETY POSITIVELY**

*<sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

*<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."*

*<sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.*

*<sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.*

*<sup>35</sup> When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." <sup>36</sup> The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."*

**In summary then,** here are my 10 points. Now I would ask those of you who pray regularly and those who have a commitment to intercessory prayer to take these points and make them into prayer for our congregation and for our leadership team. Please pray;

- **A STRONG ENCOURAGED CONGREGATION CAN BE COURAGEOUS & FRUITFUL AS WE BREAK INTO THE WORLD**
- **BE CLEAR AND CONFIDENT OF THE GOSPEL**
- **PREPARED LEADERS AND COMPATIBLE MISSION TEAMS ARE THE MEANS OF EFFECTIVE MISSION & EVANGELISM**
- **RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADING & OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY EMPOWERS PEOPLE AS THEY REALISE THAT THIS IS GOD'S IDEA**
- **UNDERSTANDING OF & SENSITIVITY TO THE CULTURE OF THE COMMUNITY MINIMISES BLOCKAGES TO MISSION & EVANGELISM**
- **BE STRATEGIC THINKERS WHO ARE OPEN TO GOD'S LEADING**
- **RENEWAL, REVIVAL & FRUITFUL MISSION RIDE ON THE BACK OF PRAYER**
- **THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AND ITS IMPACT IS LONGTERM**
- **SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION IS REAL BUT FUTILE FOR SUFFERING GIVES US NEW LENSES TO SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY**
- **CHRISTIAN MISSION CHANGES LIVES AND SOCIETY POSITIVELY**

## Volunteers Lifted Our Spirits

Megan has worked on her brother's farm since 2003 and has had a really heartbreaking decade. Megan moved onto the farm in NSW with her brother to look after her sick parents.

Sadly, they have since passed away and her biggest reminder of them is the farm. Megan feels a huge connection to the land and it brought her to tears to see it all become nothing when the drought was at its worst. I could hear the sadness in Megan's voice when she spoke about what has happened to the farming industry. Although, it was lovely to hear a little perk in Megan's voice when she spoke about the rain and how that has provided some hope for her and her brother.

"It really did lift our spirits and the whole community. Everyone was feeling a bit better and it was great to see the animals in good condition again. But it will be a long time till we are out of the woods," she said.

Megan said that last year when times were really tough and she felt like giving up, her spirits were lifted with the Qantas volunteers who were organised by Frontier Services. They camped in her neighbour's backyard and brought much needed laughter to the farm. All Megan felt for a long time was sadness until the volunteers came and lifted her spirits. I feel this really shows how vital our Frontier Services volunteers are. "One of the biggest highlights in this terrible time was when Frontier Services organised the amazing Qantas crew to come and help build fences for us and our neighbours.

We camped out at night and ate food and chatted for hours. It was just so good for our souls," Megan said. Megan and her brother have struggled immensely with the hardship of the droughts and their mental health was at an all-time low but she said that when the Qantas volunteers came it brought such joy to their lives.

"It was a really beneficial time for us, both practically and as a mental health circuit breaker," she said. "We can't thank Frontier Services enough for that incredible time. We will cherish it forever.

Just at a time that things started to look better, COVID-19 hit and really affected all farmers on multiple different fronts. Farmers are struggling financially, having to borrow money and live week to week, with demand for meat dropping with COVID-19 restaurant closures and the wool industry majorly affected by strained relationships with China.

Our farmers also tell us and Bush Chaplains that since the lock-down finding the right products for crops and cattle has been impossible. The rain brought hope to the farmers but COVID-19 came and shut that down. "If there is one thing I couldn't stress more it is to shop local and support organisations like Frontier Services!" said Megan. I hope that we can continue to help people like Megan and her brother who were at an all-time low until the Frontier Services volunteers stepped in.

## JUMBLE WORDS: Theme = Our Daily Readings and Prayer

Rearrange the letters in each set to form a word used in this copy of NeXus.

Write your answers in the blank grid.

The first letter from each word, reading down, is to spell a word found in this NeXus journal

DIFFICULTY: EASY

IEESZ  
IENRN  
DAILY  
OLLAW  
DAVES


DIFFICULTY: CHALLENGING

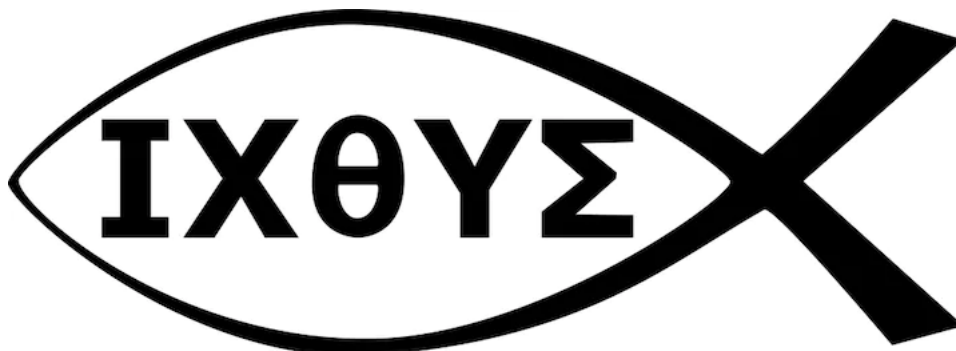
RICOTVY  
CHHISTU  
ABEPTZ  
EEFGUR  
ACHINTO  
ABMNORU  
HIMOTTY


Answers last Month:

Easy: Debts, Altar, Voice, Inner, Daily > DAVID

Easy: World, Heals, Olive, Loved, Edify > WHOLE

Challenging: Courage, Opening, Morning, Magadan, Amazing, Nations, Drachma > COMMAND





## A Greek Word for your Mind: *Ichthus* - Symbol of the Fish

How do you identify yourself as a Christian? Put a flag outside our house? Wear a uniform? Certainly, one can identify a Muslim woman by her dress! Some people wear a cross around their neck, but to many this is simply just another piece of jewellery. Some may wear a head scarf, which identifies them as a particular kind of Christian. We don't have a secret handshake, like some organisations. The early Christians developed a very clever way of identifying themselves, by means of a simple, secret sign: the sign of the fish. After all, the Disciples were fishermen, so the fish sign was most appropriate! (see Matt 4:18; Mark 1:16-17.)

The sign was based on a very cleverly designed acrostic based on the Greek word for “fish”(*Ichthus*)! It worked like this:

I - Gk Iota = 'Iesuos, that is, the name of the human Jesus

X - Gk Chi = Christos, that is, “Christ”.

Th - Gk Theta = Theos, that is, “God”.

U - Gk Upsilon = 'uios (huios) = that is, “Son”.

S - Gk Sigma = Soter, that is “Saviour”.



Altogether, the letters spell the Greek word “Ichthus” or “Fish”, forming an acrostic, meaning: *Jesus Christ, God's Son and Saviour*. The sign of the fish thus became a confession statement of one's personal faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:16).

This symbol became a means of recognising fellow believers. In a time of persecution, Christians needed to find ways of safely identifying who was one of their own, whether a friend or foe. **“One story passed down about the fish symbol states that the fish was used as a way of communicating whether someone was a Christian or whether he/she was someone looking to persecute Christians. When two people encountered each other, the Christian would draw the first half of the fish in the sand. If the other person drew the remaining half of the fish, correctly, then the Christian knew he/she was with a fellow Christian. If it was drawn and the other person didn't finish the fish, it would look as though an innocent person was just drawing in the sand!”**  
(Blair Parke, Internet website).

If our lives were at risk, I wonder how we would identify ourselves. I once knew of two people who both worked in the same Sydney office and who did not discover they were both Christians for years! Now there's food for thought!

Rev Graham Warne

# 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

**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

## 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.

## THURSDAY

**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.

## 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

Deliver us, O God, from a lazy mind,  
from all lukewarmness of heart, and all depression of spirit.

We know that these must deaden our love for you;  
mercifully free our hearts from them all.

And give us such a lively, enthusiastic and cheerful spirit  
that we may vigorously perform whatever you command,  
thankfully suffer whatever you choose for us,  
and always be eager to obey your holy love in all things;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John Wesley

## 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 that when we gather to worship you, will hear your word to us, and that we will live it.

We pray for those of us who are unable to join in worship with the congregation. Speak to us and comfort us with your Holy Spirit's presence and love.

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.

We pray for our minister, and that at the right time our next minister will be identified and be assured of your calling to Nambour. We pray that we may discern the future directions that you desire for Nambour Uniting Church.

# DAILY READINGS OCTOBER 2020

Thursday, October 1, 2020: Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 2, 2020: Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, October 3, 2020: John 7:40-52

Sunday, October 4, 2020: Matthew 21:33-46

Monday, October 5, 2020: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 6, 2020: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 7, 2020: John 11:45-57

Thursday, October 8, 2020: 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 9, 2020: James 4:4-10

Saturday, October 10, 2020: Mark 2:18-22

Sunday, October 11, 2020: Matthew 22:1-14

Monday, October 12, 2020: Jude 17-25

Tuesday, October 13, 2020: Philippians 3:13-4:1

Wednesday, October 14, 2020: John 6:25-35

Thursday, October 15, 2020: 3 John 9-12

Friday, October 16, 2020: 1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, October 17, 2020: Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, October 18, 2020: Matthew 22:15-22

Monday, October 19, 2020: Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tuesday, October 20, 2020: Revelation 18:21-24

Wednesday, October 21, 2020: Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday, October 22, 2020: Titus 1:5-16

Friday, October 23, 2020: Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, October 24, 2020: John 5:39-47

Sunday, October 25, 2020: Matthew 22:34-46

Monday, October 26, 2020: James 2:8-13

Tuesday, October 27, 2020: James 2:14-26

Wednesday, October 28, 2020: Matthew 19:16-22

Thursday, October 29, 2020: Romans 2:17-29

Friday, October 30, 2020: 2 Peter 2:1-3

Saturday, October 31, 2020: Matthew 23:13-28

## CHURCH EMAIL

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## YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[nambouruca.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/nambouruca)

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## Assistant Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

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## Nambour Congregation Chairperson

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