

Rev Glenn Ingram - Minister's Message

In the Name of Progress

What price do we pay for progress? Life has rapidly changed and benefits have brought much blessing but do we reflect on what we've lost along the way?

In his book called '**Technopoly**,' Neil Postman briefly traces cultural change over the last millennia as it moved through what he calls a 'Tool Age' Culture to 'Technocracy' into an era of 'Technopoly'. In a Tool Age culture things were largely invented to serve a physical problem or a world of politics and religion. They did not attack cultural integrity or prevent belief in God or contradict the current world view.

However, change was coming. For instance, the advent of a mechanical clock in the fourteenth century by a religious order enabled monks to order daily prayer which Charles V then imposed on all daily life of Paris and material interests took precedence over spiritual needs. Copernicus and Kepler with crude instruments began to measure and speculate over the heavens and with the refinement of the telescope Galileo was afforded a greater opportunity to conclude that the earth was a lonely wanderer in an enormous galaxy. These among other things like the printing press were 'tools' which were no longer integrated into but actually attacked the culture and religion.

In fact, politics, ritual and religion had to fight for their lives. Francis Bacon went further in the next century by pointing to the connection between this science and inventions and the improvement of human life. It was now all about progress. Postman says '*The greatest invention of the nineteenth century was the idea of invention itself.*'

Nevertheless, while God did not die along the way, God as understood, lost much power and meaning to people. Technology did not destroy the social, religious world but slowly subordinated and even humiliated it with people becoming viewed as 'consumers' of invented goods and not God's children. Postman calls his third stage 'Technopoly,' meaning it has taken over and eliminated any alternative beliefs. It did not make them illegal or immoral or unpopular. It made them invisible and thereby irrelevant by redefining such things as our understanding of family, truth, marriage, politics etc. Does it ring any 'bells?'

Some of the thrust of all this has led to a loss of confidence in faith and the invisibility of the church and the only sure thing we're left to believe in we're told is our Technology. We can't stop progress. But what have we lost along the way? Families distancing themselves from the church is a tiny tip of a huge iceberg. Our age has brought great benefits to many but what is being lost in 'progress?' I can't help but think of Ephesians 6 where Paul says, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against .. rulers .. authorities .. powers of this dark world and .. the spiritual forces of evil .. Therefore, put on the full armour of God..." Technology has given much. It is even overwhelming.

But what are the forces at work taking what may well be good and turning it into instruments of greed, injustice or hate? What are the spiritual forces we ignore at our peril without the full armour of God?

Blessings Rev Glenn

Appeal to all parishioners – Nambour Uniting Church

Dear Parishioner, in the context of religion and ministry, finance is often a subject that is avoided. However, it is a necessity in order to keep the parish going. It is difficult for me to broach the subject, so I ask for prayerful reflection as you consider the requests being made. As we are a community worshipping and carrying out God's work, we pray for the courage and insight on how best to find a balance between the material and spiritual aspects of our church, bearing in mind that God asks us to not only care for each other in our church but the wider community.

For many years the membership of our parish has been falling, and revenue has declined. Just over a year ago the parish council met with Presbytery and agreed on a plan to revitalize the parish. It was endorsed by council and the whole congregation. We would take on a minister at 80% stipend and put our energies into growing the congregation, which in turn would grow the income of the parish.

It has taken longer than expected to find the right minister and we look forward to Rev Maile joining us at the end of the year. Sadly, the average attendance of the services and the parishioner donations of the parish have continued to decline.

The table below shows the overall position of revenue for the past two years

Revenue Source	2019-20	2020-21
Donations Direct Transfers	34625	34204
Donations Plate	57944	49633
Rent (Amity & Manse)	34575	38606
Parking	4987	4614
Hall Hire	10645	7080
Interest	10696	2631
TOTALS	153473	136768

As you can see the bulk of our income is from parishioner donations. Please note the **decline of over \$8700 in the Plate Collections and over \$12000 for Parking, Hall Hire and Interest.**

TURNING TO EXPENSES

The table next page, shows that our expenses for stipend were down significantly for 2019-20 and 2020-21, thanks mainly to Job Keeper and Rev Ian Stehbens generously taking a very low stipend. It allowed us to build up our cash reserves. However, from this year we will be running a deficit, budgeted at \$15800 and growing to about R35000 -\$40000 per year thereafter. We thus only have enough for 3-4 years if we don't grow.

Hopefully the new minister, with the help of all of us, will start to attract additional members, but in the meantime, we need to minimize the deficit of revenue over expenses by increasing donations from existing parishioners.

				Budget
EXPENSES	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Stipend	96621	43263	17229	67550
All other expenses (see details below)	59663	72489	62819	76242
TOTALS	156284	115752	80048	143792
Details of "All Other Expenses"				
Water, Rate, Electricity, Phone, Fire, Security, Pest, Stationery etc	17142	19254	15236	17560
Maintenance & Repairs	7061	16090	12650	23582
Insurance	9033	12177	14041	15000
Life Worship & Local Mission costs	4503	1252	2838	1680
Redress of abuse	0	3012	1852	1800
CPMP Mission Costs	20004	20004	16020	16020
Other Misc costs	1920	700	182	600
Total of All Other expenses	59663	72489	62819	76242

The council earnestly asks all parishioners to consider if they can help.

- To those who are no longer coming to the services because of the threat of the Corona virus, please think about continuing your donation so that there is a viable church to return to when the pandemic is finally over.
- To those that don't donate when they miss a service, due to illness, holiday or any other reason, please consider making your usual donation to cover the missed service.
- To those who can afford a little more, please give serious thought to do so.
- To those who can contribute by coming onto the council and helping with a fund-raising effort, please come forward.

Most importantly, please give some thought to making your donation by a regular bank debit order or bank transfer. This helps ensure that we have a more stable, and steady, income. Our bank details are at the bottom of this appeal. If anyone needs help setting up the stop order please contact the Treasurer, Lyn Metelerkamp, on 0439 243 499 for assistance.

To all of you dear parishioners, A Huge "Thank You" for your generosity and support in the past. May God bless you all.

THIS IS YOUR PARISH, PLEASE HELP US MAKE IT WORK!

Bank Details are:

ANZ Bank
Account name UCA Nambour Uniting Church
BSB 014010
Account Number 286751378

DAILY PRAYERS

God gives us a future – daring us to go!

Let us pray together



DAY 1

God gives us a future,
Daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers
On a path unknown
Our loving God, we humbly bring our prayers
to you – prayers for ourselves and those whom
we know, and prayers for others whom we
don't know, but whom you know and love.
We bring prayers for our congregation,
seeking your guidance as we make decisions
into the future.
You have blessed us over so many years in
many wonderful ways and our faithful people
have been able to reach out to the community
with love and care in your name. Be with us,
we pray, as we step into days ahead.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ.

DAY 2

We will face tomorrow
In the Spirit's power,
We will let God change us
For new life starts now
As we look ahead we can reflect on the past
and see that perhaps we have been too
comfortable in the ways we have served you.
Forgive us, Lord, for opportunities missed,
harsh words said, lack of love and support for
each other – keep us focused on life with you,
today and every day to come.
Help us be open to fresh ways of serving you,
even with uncomfortable decisions to be made.
Surround us with your love and wisdom we
pray.
Lord take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

DAY 3

We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way
We pray for those who are feeling disconnected
from their families in these Covid times, may their
loneliness be replaced with a sense of belonging to
their families and to you, dear Lord.
We pray for the wider world – for peace and well-
being among all peoples of the earth. Let terrorism
and arrogance be turned into peace and humility
right across the world
Give strength and guidance to those bringing
compassion and aid, often in spite of great
difficulties. Open our hearts so that we may be
part of those missions of mercy.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

DAY 4

Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back,
God gives hope and insight
And the strength we lack
We pray for our congregation. We give thanks
for your presence amongst us over the years
– both as groups and as individuals, but you are
challenging us to live with change in the near
future - change of personalities, possible changes
in style, change in choices and decisions.
We pray you give us wisdom and insight and the
strength to follow you with faith,
with love and with hope.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

DAY 5

Holy Spirit teach us
How to read the signs
How to meet the challenge
Of our troubled times
Our God of all, we pray for the church in many
lands, especially where it lives under pressure
and division and political threats. Bless your
people wherever they gather in the name of
Christ Jesus
– but Lord, you have promised to be with us
no matter what. May we be open to the
teaching of the Holy Spirit – in compassion,
in faith, in hope and care - working through
the Spirit day by day.
We thank you for the assurance of the Spirit
and ask for your continued presence with us
one by one and all together.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

DAY 6

Love us into action,
Stir us into prayer,
Till we choose God's life
And find our future there.
God our Creator,
We are made in your image,
Create and shape us anew for your purposes.
God our Sustainer,
Who sent your Son Jesus to be our servant,
By your grace, forgive us
where we have hurt your world;
God our Guide and inspiration,
open our hearts to receive your wisdom,
inspire and direct us – in Jesus' name.
Loving God, unite us as your family,
may the stronger offer support,
the wealthier share what they have,
the church offer hope and
all your children live together in peace.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

Minister

Rev Glenn Ingram 0453 677 303

Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

Nambour Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

DAY 7

God gives us a future, daring us to go,
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,
God gives hope and insight
and the strength we lack.
God of miracles, God of light and love,
however we are feeling, may we come
to meet you, expectant and hopeful.
Whether we are one or many,
whoever we happen to be,
you welcome us, arms wide open.
Teach us to be open to others,
to offer welcome, arms wide open,
giving your acceptance and love to all.
Lord God of all, hear our prayers and show us
where we might be part of your answers.
Lord, take our thoughts
And turn them into prayer.
Take our prayer and turn it into love.
Take our love, and turn it into life in Jesus Christ

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.

Church Council Officers

Ian Woodward - Chair

Helen Staines - Secretary

Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer

Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn

Property & Compliance

Church & Office:

5441 1135

37 Coronation Drive NAMBOUR QLD 4560

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: open most Tuesdays and Thursdays

9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

SABBATH - “Give me a Break!”



Have you heard anyone say, “Give me a break!” We live in a rather busy world. People are under pressure to perform, to meet deadlines, to fulfil demands. It does not help when society expects services such as supermarkets, shopping centres, and providers to be open seven days, available 24/7. Even Sunday has become just another week day. We have created a nonstop, relentless merry-go-round of activity.

The Old Testament Hebrew culture had a built-in safety valve: the Sabbath! At the very beginning, God provided the model of rest after seven days of “labour” (Genesis 2:2). From the beginning a “sabbath rest” was built into the weekly Hebrew life-cycle, establishing a rhythm of work and rest. People, lands and livestock all benefited from a regular, routine break. So “sabbath” became a vital component in maintaining a safe equilibrium in their society. This was enshrined in the fourth Commandment to “remember the sabbath day and keep it holy”, that is, to be set apart for God (Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15). The death penalty was applied to anyone breaking this law (Exodus 21:14). Now that is serious!

“Sabbath” means “to cease or pause”, and represents primarily a cessation from regular work activity, for both people and their domesticated animals.

However, it was not just a complete full stop; it was celebrated positively as a feast day. Sabbath provided “an opportunity to concentrate both in private and in public on the things of God. Its atmosphere was to be that of a joyful festival!”

The day became a day of joyful worship, thanksgiving and renewal, in acknowledgement of God's goodness.

The Sabbath-principle however applied beyond the weekly cycle. Every 49 years (7 times 7 years) was a Jubilee Year (the 50th). This was essentially a year of restoration. The land was to remain fallow for a year, working animals were to be rested, slaves released, and all outstanding debts cancelled. Leviticus 25 - 27 outlines the specific requirements for the Jubilee in precise detail.

However, that was not all! The New Testament interprets the whole Sabbath system as simply *a prefigurement of the rest we have in Christ* (Hebrews 4:8-10). Christ has come to give us rest from the struggle to please God by good works and law-keeping, including rigid sabbath rules (Matthew 11:28). The "Promised Land" for Christians is a spiritual environment of complete peace and security, found only in Christ. No longer do we need to strive to please God by "being good". We rest in the peace and joy of being redeemed!

While we are no longer under a legal requirement to keep Sabbath, we pay a heavy price for our failure to observe one! Our contemporary society has no in-built safety valves, and no time to reflect on our God-given purposes here on earth. While Sunday is not a formal Sabbath, we gather for worship on that day to acknowledge Christ's transformative resurrection and our eternal rest in Him. Failure to recognise this is not simply a matter of neglect, but is perilous to our personal and spiritual well-being.

Rev Graham Warne

=====



FRONTIER SERVICES GREAT OUTBACK BBQ

The Great Outback BBQ featured predominately in October this year to support our farming communities and Frontier Services.

Rev George Woodward lead our Sunday Worship Service. Woody and Ron BBQ'ed the food; AND the food was great, the social aspect wonderful and the helpers were terrific! Thanks to and to all those who helped organise, cater, set-up, clean-up, pack away and more.

Our Church was able to raise \$790 for FRONTIER SERVICES

A special thanks to Linda for her organisational abilities, AND for those ridiculously impossible trivia questions.

What a great morning it turned out to be!!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NOVEMBER 2021

PLEASE CLICK ON THE READING LINKS BELOW
TO ACCESS THE VERSES OF THE DAILY BIBLE READINGS
ON THE VANDERBILT LECTIONARY WEBSITE

Monday, November 1, 2021: Psalm 18:20-30; Ruth 2:15-23; Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10; Psalm 51;
Tuesday, November 2, 2021: Ruth 3:1-7; Acts 7:17-29; Psalm 51; Deuteronomy 28:58-29:1
Wednesday, November 3, 2021: Psalm 18:20-30; Ruth 3:8-18; John 13:31-35; John 13:31-35
Thursday, November 4, 2021: Psalm 127; Ruth 4:1-10; Romans 5:6-11; Psalm 146;; Romans 5:6-11
Friday, November 5, 2021: Ruth 4:11-17; Hebrews 9:15-24; Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 15:1-11
Saturday, November 6, 2021: Ruth 4:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
Sunday, November 7, 2021: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
Monday, November 8, 2021: Psalm 113; Genesis 24:1-10; Psalm 94; Ruth 1:1-22; 1 Timothy 5:1-8
Tuesday, November 9, 2021: Genesis 24:11-27; 1 Timothy 5:9-16; Psalm 94; Ruth 3:14-4:6
Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Psalm 113; Genesis 24:28-42; Luke 4:16-30; Psalm 94; Ruth 4:7-22;
Thursday, November 11, 2021: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; 1 Samuel 1:21-28; 1 Timothy 6:11-21; Psalm 16;
Friday, November 12, 2021: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; 1 Samuel 2:18-21; Colossians 2:6-15; Daniel 4:19-27
Saturday, November 13, 2021: 1 Samuel 3:1-18; Mark 12:1-12; Psalm 16; Mark 12:1-12
Sunday, November 14, 2021: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-18, 19-25;
Monday, November 15, 2021: Psalm 3; 1 Samuel 3:19-4:2; Hebrews 10:26-31; Psalm 13; Daniel 8:1-14
Tuesday, November 16, 2021: Hebrews 10:32-39; Psalm 13; Daniel 8:15-27; Hebrews 10:32-39
Wednesday, November 17, 2021: 1 Kings 8:22-30; Mark 13:9-23; Psalm 13; Zechariah 12:1-13:1;
Thursday, November 18, 2021: Psalm 132:1-12; 2 Kings 22:1-10; Acts 7:54-8:1a; Ezekiel 28:1-10
Friday, November 19, 2021: 2 Kings 22:11-20; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Psalm 93; Ezekiel 28:20-26
Saturday, November 20, 2021: 2 Kings 23:1-14; John 3:31-36; Psalm 93; Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18
Sunday, November 21, 2021: Reign of Christ 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37
Monday, November 22, 2021: Psalm 63; 2 Kings 23:15-25; Revelation 11:1-14; Psalm 76
Tuesday, November 23, 2021: 1 Samuel 17:55-18:5; Revelation 11:15-19; Psalm 76; Ezekiel 29:1-12;
Wednesday, November 24, 2021: 2 Samuel 2:1-7; John 16:25-33; Ezekiel 30:20-26; John 16:25-33
Thursday, November 25, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:6-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Friday, November 26, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
Saturday, November 27, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:26-31; Luke 21:20-24
Sunday, November 28, 2021: First Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Monday, November 29, 2021: Psalm 90; Numbers 17:1-11; 2 Peter 3:1-18
Tuesday, November 30, 2021: Psalm 90; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Revelation 22:12-16

CHURCH EMAIL

nambouruca@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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

WEBSITE

nambouruniting.org.au

2021 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website