

Rev Maile Molitika - Minister's Message

The Spirit of Pentecost moves Dr. James Egan Moulton to Tonga

A few days ago, we experienced the ascension of Jesus while his disciples were witnessing his amazing departure. According to Acts 1:8, Jesus promises to his disciples; "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We experience that promise on Pentecost Sunday. They were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven the Holy Spirit, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. This is one of the great stories in our history, about the guidance of God through the Holy Spirit, enabling a great missionary to go to Tonga. Dr James Egan Moulton travelled from England and his first priority was to go to China, but at that time King Thakompau of Fiji required a missionary for his group of islands to which the gospel dawn had just begun to break. So, Dr Moulton started to learn Fijian, and had prepared a written sermon in the Fijian tongue.

Upon his arrival in Australia, he had all the qualifications to start this new institution of Newington College in 1863 and was the first Principal of Newington College. He got married in December 23, 1863 in Melbourne. They returned to Sydney to await their calling to Fiji. Then a letter reached the President begging the conference to send Dr. Moulton to Tonga for the purpose of setting up an educational establishment there, the letter was signed by King George Tupou of Tonga. It was unanimously decided to accept that request from Tonga. Dr. Moulton went to Tonga in May 1865 and started Tupou College on the 14th February 1866.

Rev Siupeli Taliai, past principal of Tupou College quoted this: "There can be no doubt, however, that Dr Moulton was a great servant of his Lord, a rare faithful and gifted missionary par-excellence, a remarkable man with strong and distinctive educational views. He could have qualified as a genius, with vast and varied powers, all under the control of one who set his face like a flint as he strove to do the will of Him Who sent him to this little Kingdom in the Pacific."

So, why did he end up in Tonga? The Spirit of God led him there!

Grace & peace, Rev Maile

Part of the Family



Warne Family Photo from September, 1930

With jumbo jets landing every few minutes, disgorging passengers returning from overseas, Sydney's International Air Terminal on a Saturday morning is a seething mass of people. We had gone to Mascot to meet my sister-in-law, who was returning from missionary service in Indonesia. With such a crowd, we had no idea how we would find her, as she wasn't expecting us to be waiting for her and would not be looking out for us.

What a shemozzle! There were so many exits from customs that we were quite perplexed as to where we should wait. Eventually we stationed ourselves strategically, one at each end of the reception area, hoping to "head her off" whichever way she should come. I was most fortunate, and found a relatively clear space as my lookout. My wife, however, found herself in the middle of an excited crowd, apparently a family of Greeks, out in full strength to meet a relative returning on the same flight. Aunts and Uncles, brothers and sisters, and children were all there. The only problem was that my wife (who could be easily mistaken for a Greek!) was caught up in the middle of them! So, when their Greek relatives appeared through the doorway, the crowd around my wife surged forward in a wild frenzy of hugs and embraces, welcoming the newcomers. I am not at all sure that she missed out on it either! This unknown Greek family are still trying to work out who the stranger was in their midst!

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From our point of view the whole incident was quite amusing. In fact, we found ourselves sharing something of the joy and excitement of that family's reunion. Such enthusiasm is quite contagious. But there were deeper elements to the whole thing. For a few brief moments, we experienced something of being part of a world family. We were all in it together as just one family.

I am reminded of the injunction which God gave the Hebrew people to welcome those who were "strangers" among them.¹ God was seeking to teach his people to recognise that all are part of the human family, as all were created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27).

The inclusiveness of God's family reached fuller expression in the Christian church where once again the people were instructed that they were "no longer strangers, but fellow citizens, members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). Indeed, Christ came to break down social and racial barriers, enabling all to experience what it means to be "one family" under God.

It is a tragedy of the modern era that we do not recognise others as fellow travellers, human creations of the same Creator. Recognition of the "other", not as a stranger, but as a fellow citizen, brings a sense of joyous excitement to the human experience.

*In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of love,
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord,
Close binding humankind.*

(John Oxenham, 1852-1941.)

There's nothing quite like being part of God's family!

Rev Graham Warne

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. 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.

DAILY PRAYERS

Gifts of the Spirit

On Pentecost Sunday we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' Disciples on the first Pentecost, giving them courage, and empowering them to share the Good News with others.

Prayers written by the Lay-ministry of Eva Donaldson

DAY 1

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we show the gifts of the Spirit in our lives.

Paul listed these Gifts as - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self Control.

It is a fairly daunting challenge if we think we can live up to all these aspects all the time on our own.

But that is where the Holy Spirit steps in. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to be with us all the way, to help us express these gifts in our lives.

Our loving God, you have led us throughout our lives in days of bright sunshine and in the days when the clouds have weighed down on us. We thank you for your constant presence with us.

DAY 2

LOVE

One of the Gifts is LOVE

As Jesus said -

Love one another as I have loved you.

The difficulty is that the Love that Jesus gives us is so perfect that we have trouble living up to it in our expression of love.

But that is where God's gift of the Holy Spirit steps in.

We can see it in the stories of the early Church where their generosity and sharing of possessions spread their love to others. And we can see it today in the love in families and communities who show their love in caring ways - patient, kind, reaching out to others.

We thank you, Lord, for the love we have known in our homes and in our community may we always be willing to share it with others.

DAY 3

JOY

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say **Rejoice!**

Joy can come as a spontaneous reaction - good news, surprise family visit, birth of a baby ... or it can be a deep lasting feeling of peace and contentment. Both come as God's precious gifts to us. We pray for those who are celebrating today - the birth of a baby, a milestone in life's journey, joy in a family reunion, renewed health and vigour, relief from anxiety and uncertainty. We also pray for those who have a very special long-lasting joy within them.

We thank God for the joy he brings when we trust in him. **Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!**

DAY 4

PEACE

My Peace I leave with you -

not as the world gives, but the peace that comes from the Holy Spirit

How we all long for peace! Peace in the world seems so difficult to keep. At the moment we specially pray for the people in Ukraine with so many of them become refugees. May our newly elected Government seek peace in their dealings with countries across the world.

Peace in our own hearts is a wonderful gift but not always easy to keep as it is tugged in different directions day by day.

That is where we need our Peace with God. Christ, the Prince of peace, gives his peace through the Holy Spirit. He says, My peace I leave with you. - what a gift!

DAY 5

PATIENCE & KINDNESS

Generous God, we thank you for all your gifts to us and that we have your way of love as our example and guide throughout our life.

Kindness comes in many forms, but always from the Heart.

Gentle God, please touch us with your healing love and make us whole so we can be there for others. We ask you to be with us and shine through us this week - and may we be kind and patient to bring hope and healing to others, even if it is different for us and usually out of our range.

God made me a whole person, he made me specially me, He made me in his image, he wanted me to be.

And yes, I know I'm different, my body's not quite right, He made me in his image, I'm perfect in his sight.

My thoughts come rather slowly, my words are often slurred, He made me in his image, He wants me to be heard

Remember I have feelings, I laugh and cry like you, He made me in his image, He shares my feelings too.

Please see me as a person whom God loves through and through, He made me in his image, the same as He made you.

May God be with us all this week and every week to come.

DAY 6

FAITHFULNESS

Faithfulness relies on trust in both directions - to me and from me - to the other and from the other. God's faithfulness is everlasting so I can put my trust in him to live a life of integrity. John tells us that the Law came through Moses but God's faithfulness and infinite love came through Jesus Christ.

It is not really a matter of our faith or even our faithfulness - that would never be enough; our trust is in the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God. Faithfulness is part of the Fruits of the Spirit and should be evident in our lives day by day. Faithfulness is not needed only in big matters, but is essential in the smallest contacts too. Little things really matter!

We pray for the worldwide Church that she may be faithful to the roots of the gospel, that we as members of the Church will be faithful to you, proclaiming boldly and fearlessly that you are God and our hope is in you. We pray for the church where there is persecution and where there is indifference. (cont...)

(cont...)

We give thanks for those who have been faithful over the years and reflected God's Faithfulness in their lives, day by day, passing on an awareness of God's faithfulness to us.

DAY 7

GENTLENESS & SELF CONTROL

Loving God, we give you thanks for those in our lives who have witnessed to you through their words and actions over the years, from our earliest days to our adult years and even to our ageing years.

You are our God of the past, present and future, help us....help us to see you at work in all things, to see you at work in our daily lives, in our growing and our changing.

In Psalm 42 we hear the 'Cry of the Exile' - who feels God has forsaken him -

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

But perhaps My God, it is I who has forsaken you? I left you in those far-off lands and locked you in those distant times,

My God my God, why have I forsaken you?

Please hear my cry and answer me'

'I am here, my child, waiting - for you, just for you.'

Minister

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Nambour/Yandina Youth Group Re-union

The Nambour / Yandina Youth Group from approx 1978 to 1989 held a Re-union on Sunday afternoon 15th May 2022 in the Nambour Uniting Church Hall.

In spite of Covid infections, ill health and flooding, 40 folk from South East Qld gathered to celebrate and share memories.

We were all thankful to Church Council for providing us a safe, dry place to meet during this lengthy wet season.

It's nearly 45 years since this Congregation invited Richard Whittington to move from Johannesburg in South Africa to his role as Youth Worker.

He and his wife Colleen still live on the Sunshine Coast, and it was a great joy for them to catch up with many adults who were just teenagers back in the late '70s.

Members of that Youth Group regularly spent many Easter weekends at Kenilworth Homestead, Beach Missions at Coolumb Beach in January, and lots of other camping at Camp Cal, Dickey Beach and Fraser Island.

Lots of our youth were Leaders at the Day Camps in the 1980's school holidays.

Over the years, folk have moved to Chinchilla, Longreach, Toowoomba, Vanuatu, Brisbane, Boonah, Jimboomba, Caboolture and many other places.

Our time at Youth Group was an extremely important time as we grew in strong faith, developed relationships and deep friendships which will never fade.

We always appreciated the prayers, support and love from our Church Family throughout all these years.

Such a wonderful time was enjoyed by all, and so another time has been booked for Sunday 28th August 2022.

Below is a record of our "Youth Group" members attending our re-union on 15th May 2022.

Blessings, Pete and Chris Bowden



In The Holy Spirit

What happened on the day of Pentecost?

Peter said it was the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus (Acts 2).

Jesus had told his disciples that the spirit was “with” them and one day soon would be “in” them (John 14:17). Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit came to live within those who trust Jesus.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son, is God.

Can you imagine how special it is to have God living with you?

Here are just a few things the Holy Spirit will do for you;

- When you pray, the Holy Spirit will pray with you and for you – Romans 8:26
- When you face temptation, the Holy Spirit will give you the strength to do what is right – Romans 8:9-11
- As you live a Christian life, the Holy Spirit will give you joy, peace, and many other blessings – Galatians 5:22-23
- As you keep on living a Christian life, the Holy Spirit will transform you so that you become more and more like Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:18

What do you have to do?

Simply step out in faith to do what you know is right, trusting the Holy Spirit to give you the strength and the wisdom you need.

Oh yes! We believe in the Holy Spirit!

We believe that God himself is with us.

And we count on him to enable us as we live to please Jesus.

Source: Teen Study Bible NIV (We Believe)

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WEBSITE

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2022 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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS JUNE 2022

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

Wednesday, June 1, 2022: [Psalm 29](#); [Ezekiel 3:12-21](#); [Luke 9:18-27](#)
Thursday, June 2, 2022: [Psalm 104:24-35b](#); [Isaiah 32:11-17](#); [Galatians 5:16-25](#)
Friday, June 3, 2022: [Psalm 104:24-35b](#); [Isaiah 44:1-4](#); [Galatians 6:7-10](#)
Saturday, June 4, 2022: [Psalm 104:24-35b](#); [2 Kings 2:1-15a](#); [Luke 1:5-17](#)
Sunday, June 5, 2022: **Day of Pentecost** [Acts 2:1-21](#); [Genesis 11:1-9](#); [Psalm 104:24-35b](#);
[Romans 8:14-17](#); [Acts 2:1-21](#); [John 14:8-17 & 25-27](#)
Monday, June 6, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Joel 2:18-29](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1-11](#)
Tuesday, June 7, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Ezekiel 11:14-25](#); [1 Corinthians 2:12-16](#)
Wednesday, June 8, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Numbers 24:1-14](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#)
Thursday, June 9, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 3:13-18](#); [Ephesians 1:17-19](#)
Friday, June 10, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 3:19-26](#); [Ephesians 4:1-6](#)
Saturday, June 11, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 4:1-9](#); [Luke 2:41-52](#)
Sunday, June 12, 2022: **Trinity Sunday** [Proverbs 8:1-4 & 22-31](#); [Psalm 8](#); [Romans 5:1-5](#);
[John 16:12-15](#)
Monday, June 13, 2022: [Psalm 124](#); [Proverbs 7:1-4](#); [Ephesians 4:7-16](#)
Tuesday, June 14, 2022: [Psalm 124](#); [Proverbs 8:4-21](#); [Ephesians 5:15-20](#)
Wednesday, June 15, 2022: [Psalm 124](#); [Daniel 1:1-21](#); [Luke 1:46b-55](#)
Thursday, June 16, 2022: [Psalm 42 and 43](#); [Genesis 24:1-21](#); [Romans 2:17-29](#); [Psalm 22:19-28](#);
[Isaiah 56:9-12](#)
Friday, June 17, 2022: [Psalm 42 and 43](#); [Job 6:14-30](#); [Galatians 3:15-22](#); [Psalm 22:19-28](#);
[Isaiah 57:1-13](#)
Saturday, June 18, 2022: [Psalm 42 and 43](#); [Proverbs 11:3-13](#); [Matthew 9:27-34](#); [Psalm 22:19-28](#);
[Isaiah 59:1-8](#)
Sunday, June 19, 2022: **Proper 7** [1 Kings 19:1-15a](#); [Psalm 42 and 43](#); [Isaiah 65:1-9](#);
[Psalm 22:19-28](#); [Galatians 3:23-29](#); [Luke 8:26-39](#)
Monday, June 20, 2022: [Psalm 59](#); [2 Kings 9:1-13](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [Psalm 64](#); [Job 18:1-21](#)
Tuesday, June 21, 2022: [Psalm 59](#); [2 Kings 9:14-26](#); [Ephesians 2:11-22](#); [Psalm 64](#); [Job 19:1-22](#)
Wednesday, June 22, 2022: [Psalm 59](#); [2 Kings 9:30-37](#); [Luke 9:37-43a](#); [Psalm 64](#); [Ezekiel 32:1-10](#)
Thursday, June 23, 2022: [Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#); [1 Kings 22:29-40 & 51-53](#); [2 Corinthians 13:5-10](#);
[Psalm 16](#); [Leviticus 9:22-10:11](#); [2 Corinthians 13:5-10](#)
Friday, June 24, 2022: [Psalm 77:1-2 & 11-20](#); [2 Kings 1:1-12](#); [Galatians 4:8-20](#); [Psalm 16](#);
[2 Kings 1:1-16](#)
Saturday, June 25, 2022: [Psalm 16](#); [Deuteronomy 32:15-27 & 39-43](#); [Luke 9:21-27](#)
Sunday, June 26, 2022: **Proper 8** [2 Kings 2:1-2 & 6-14](#); [Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#);
[1 Kings 19:15-16 & 19-21](#); [Psalm 16](#); [Galatians 5:1 & 13-25](#); [Luke 9:51-62](#)
Monday, June 27, 2022: [Psalm 75](#); [2 Kings 2:15-22](#); [1 John 2:7-11](#);
[Psalm 140](#); [Genesis 24:34-41 & 50-67](#)
Tuesday, June 28, 2022: [Psalm 75](#); [2 Kings 3:4-20](#); [Ephesians 5:6-20](#); [Psalm 140](#); [Jeremiah 3:15-18](#)
Wednesday, June 29, 2022: [Psalm 75](#); [2 Kings 4:1-7](#); [Matthew 10:16-25](#); [Psalm 140](#);
[Jeremiah 23:16-22](#)
Thursday, June 30, 2022: [Psalm 30](#); [2 Kings 4:8-17](#); [Romans 7:14-25](#); [Psalm 66:1-9](#);
[2 Kings 21:1-15](#)