

Rev Maile Molitika - Minister's Message **A grateful heart**

for all your generosity to Tonga

On the 15th January this year, all Tongan's will remember that day for ever.

The huge explosion of the Volcano's Hunga Tonga and Hunga Ha'apai caused a big Tsunami that wiped out the nearest islands and damaged the coastal areas of the main Island.

The Tsunami swept away houses and properties along the waterfront of the main Island. The western villages were the most affected. Ashes from the volcanos covered the whole country.



BEFORE



AFTER

But the good thing about this natural disaster, only a few died as a result.

The scientists could not believe the strength of this disaster, and they reckoned this explosion was more powerful than the bomb that was dropped in Hiroshima.

The result of this magnitude should have drowned the whole country, but our Island Kingdom is still there. We believe that God alone saved us from that ending.



Australia and New Zealand were the first to respond with aid to Tonga.
I am writing this article with sincere thanks and a very grateful heart to all who have contributed goods, electrical tools, furniture and bedding & mattresses, clothes and tin foods, bottled water, sugar and flours, rice and all the stuff that you have donated. There were farmers and people from the community who have contributed so much. I have to acknowledge our congregation, who have helped with so many gifts to be sent to Tonga.



There is no word to express my appreciation, and the “Pili e Tauhala Committee” for all your love to Tonga. The generosity of the Swire Shippings Company who negotiated with the Office of the High Commission in Canberra, allowed us to pack 8 containers to Tonga from Brisbane. May God continue to bless you along the way as we all walk together as one community in Christ.

With a grateful heart grace & peace, Rev Maile



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.

Reflection from Pastor Phil Smith

John 20 is one of the Gospel chapters I cannot escape in trying to understand and perhaps encourage new communities of faith.

In this chapter, we meet four very different people as they encounter the risen Christ in ways that speak, to me at least, of Jesus's tailor-made love for each and all of us.

We have Mary, who 'wears her heart on her sleeve' and encounters Jesus with all the emotions we experience. Perhaps that's you?



We have 'boots and all' Peter, who elbows John aside at the tomb and steps right in. He's a bloke who grabs this Jesus journey with calloused workman's hands. Perhaps that's you?

We see John – very much a Uniting Church fellow – not rushing in, stroking his chin. He thinks this through and wants to understand the theology. Perhaps that's you?

However, in Thomas' encounter, we meet each of us and all of us! Have you ever felt like you were late to the party? Everyone else in the church is fired and enthused, seeming rock-solid in their faith and discipleship.

Then Thomas finds *the courage to doubt*. He puts his cards on the table!

Notice verse 26: "A week later his disciples were again in the house, *and Thomas was with them*." THAT'S a community transformed by the power of the resurrection! THAT'S a community I want to belong in!

That verse could have said, "**So the brethren said unto Thomas, "Be thou dismissed from among us, doubter! On yer bike, son!"**

What they said was, "**Stay, mate. We know this truth and will wait with you and make space here in our community for you, and your honesty, because we believe Jesus will turn up in His good time and show Himself to you in the way He knows you need.**"

**By The Way... The Orthodox Church does not know him as Doubting Thomas. He is Thomas, the Believer. If we follow the early church's traditions, Thomas went further than any apostles – to India's west coast, beyond even the Roman empire.

Blessings, Phil. **Pastor Phil Smith, BELLS Faith Community.**

DAILY PRAYERS

OUR DAILY PRAYERS THIS MONTH ARE FOR CARING, SHARING, DARING

Prayers written by the Lay-ministry of Eva Donaldson

DAY 1

Lord, you call us to care, for each other and for the world.

Our Caring God, You show your care in such absolutely wonderful ways, in fact you go 'over the top' in caring.

You have chosen us to care with you, and yes, we do care. Yes, it is fairly easy to care for those we love; it is not too difficult to care for others, like us, whom we know a little,

But Lord, it is much harder to care for those we don't really like, and just too difficult to care for those whose faces we will never see, unless there is a major calamity and we glimpse them on T.V. Then we care with a donation and the hope someone else will do the hands-on stuff for us.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 2

We think that caring is something we are pretty good at in our Fellowships and congregations, but we confess we just do not care enough.

We are a long way from caring in your way, going 'over the top' in care for those we love, for those we know a little, particularly for those we don't really like, and even for those we will never know as real people.

In your name, forgive us and help us to care and care and care again.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 3

Lord, you call us to share with each other and with the world.

Our Sharing God, You share yourself in such absolutely wonderful ways. - You have gone 'over the top' in sharing, giving your very own son in life and death.

You have chosen us to share with you. Yes, Lord, we do share ourselves but we still like to hang on to such a lot of ourselves.

It is easy to share with those we love, sacrificially sharing our time, our resources and ourselves.

It is not too hard to share with those of similar interests, sharing some time, some resources, some of ourselves.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 4

But Lord, it is harder to share with the community at large. We always have limited time, energy and cash to spare.

We confess it is even harder to share with those people we do not know or see. We hold on to ourselves: we have no time, no interest, no cash.

Dear Lord, forgive us when our vision is limited to sharing ourselves and we forget that all we have is gifted by you. Lord, help us to share in your way, going 'over the top' in sharing with those we love, with those of similar interests, in the community at large and in the world, and especially sharing with you in all things, in life and in death.

In your name, forgive us that may we share and share and share again.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 5

Our Visionary Lord, you call us to dare to change, for you, and for others.

Daring God, what things you have dared to do! 'Over the top' indeed!

You have dared to use very ordinary, imperfect people to show your way; you dared to trust your Son to such imperfect people, and still you dare.

You have even chosen us and dared us to change, for yourself, and for others. But, Lord, we are very ordinary folk and so imperfect in caring and sharing.

You dare us to show your way to the world, to change and adapt to different ways. it's not easy, Lord.

I just get comfortable with this new way and you call me on to something different; you dare me to step out where I might feel threatened. You dare me to speak out where I might be criticised when it would be easier just to follow the crowd.

It would be easier and safer to do nothing.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 6

Lord, You dare me to accept as your children those whose lifestyle troubles me: it would be easier to ignore the issue.

You dare me to be open to change where I know I would feel uncomfortable and awkward: it would be easier to stay the same.

But, Lord, you promise to be with us no matter what, for you promise us your spirit to uphold and strengthen us. Thank you for that promise!

When we are dissatisfied and impatient, restless for visions, hesitant to change so that you may lead us on until your way is shown and your way is known throughout the world.

In your name forgive us that may we dare, and keep on daring to change.

Change my heart, O Lord, make it more like you.

DAY 7

*Change my heart, O Lord,
make it ever true*

*Change my heart, O Lord,
may I be like you,*

*You are the potter, I am the
clay,*

*Mould me and make me -
this is what I pray.*

*Change my heart, O Lord,
make it ever new*

***Change my heart, O Lord,
make it more like you.***

(SiS)



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SNOW MAGIC

There's something magic about snow! Soft, silent, falling gently, it covers the landscape with a mantle of pure white, transforming the ordinary into something spectacular.

Ordinary rocks, trees, mountains, plains, even ugly roads and rubbish heaps are given a new lustre! It is not surprising that the Old Testament prophet used snow as a metaphor for the transformation of human lives:

“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”...

(Isaiah 1:18 c.f. Psalm 51:7)

Even the ugliest, “vilest offender” can be forgiven, restored, and transformed.

Grace, like snow, is transformative.

Despite the cold, snow invites us to play. We just rug up. Children revel in tobogganing, making snowmen, or having a snow fight, while adults will take to their ski's or snowboards. The sensation of skiing, even cross country, is absolutely exhilarating. Speeding down a slope on frictionless ski's is quite frightening! Unforgettable indeed.

But it will be short lived. Sooner or later the snow will thaw, and disappear.

Winter must give way to Spring. So our enjoyment of it is ephemeral...

to be admired and enjoyed only while it lasts.

The blessings of life may be brief and unexpected, but are to be accepted and enjoyed with thanksgiving.

The real wonder of snow is the snowflake itself. It has been claimed that no two snowflakes are exactly the same, and this is substantially true. It is certainly true for larger, mature snowflakes (I have had them the size of a 20c coin land on my shoulders!). Smaller, immature flakes, however, may have the same form.



A snowflake starts as a dust grain floating in a cloud. Water vapour in the air sticks to the dust grain and the resulting droplets turn into ice. Then a prism forms with six faces.

A cavity forms in each prism because ice grows fastest at the edges... six branches form the corners of a hexagon”

(Britannica Website).

Every snowflake is simply frozen H₂O in hexagonal form, yet each has its own distinctive “fingerprint”. Every mature snowflake is different. Imagine! That's mind boggling!

Check the web for images; they are wonderfully endless!

How many snowflakes does it take to make a snowdrift? How can each one be the same in structure yet have a different pattern? Is this purely accidental, the result of endless evolutionary events, or does it reflect the awesome mind of an intelligent Creator?

I have an American friend who was “socked in” by snow last Christmas. He wrote to me

“Our morning was wet, but our evening became blanketed in white. We worshipped the **snowflake Maker**....So early this morning I walked through new snow and followed the tracks (I assumed, then confirmed) were from squirrel feet. I worshipped the **squirrel Maker** as I walked Because of icy slick roads we hibernated and the church gathering was cancelled. We worshipped the **calm day Maker** Remembering Christmas’s past.”

Our Great Creator devised a complex yet simple, individually distinctive droplet of ice, which is replicated in thousands and millions of different forms. How amazing is that! Rev Graham Warne

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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 JULY 2022

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

Friday, July 1, 2022: [Psalm 30](#); [2 Kings 4:18-31](#); [2 Corinthians 8:1-7](#); [Psalm 66:1-9](#); [Jeremiah 51:47-58](#)
Saturday, July 2, 2022: [Psalm 30](#); [2 Kings 4:32-37](#); [Luke 9:1-6](#); [Psalm 66:1-9](#); [Zechariah 14:10-21](#)
Sunday, July 3, 2022: [Proper 9](#) [2 Kings 5:1-14](#); [Psalm 30](#); [Isaiah 66:10-14](#); [Psalm 66:1-9](#);
[Galatians 6:1-16](#); [Luke 10:1-11, 16-20](#)
Monday, July 4, 2022: [Psalm 6](#); [2 Kings 5:15-19a](#); [Acts 19:21-27](#); [Psalm 119:73-80](#); [Jeremiah 6:10-19](#)
Tuesday, July 5, 2022: [Psalm 6](#); [2 Kings 5:19b-27](#); [Acts 19:28-41](#); [Psalm 119:73-80](#); [Jeremiah 8:4-13](#)
Wednesday, July 6, 2022: [Psalm 6](#); [2 Kings 6:1-7](#); [Luke 10:13-16](#); [Psalm 119:73-80](#); [Joshua 23:1-16](#)
Thursday, July 7, 2022: [Psalm 82](#); [Amos 1:1-2:3](#); [James 2:14-26](#); [Psalm 25:1-10](#); [Genesis 41:14-36](#)
Friday, July 8, 2022: [Psalm 82](#); [Amos 2:4-11](#); [Acts 7:9-16](#); [Psalm 25:1-10](#); [Genesis 41:37-49](#)
Saturday, July 9, 2022: [Psalm 82](#); [Amos 2:12-3:8](#); [John 3:16-21](#); [Psalm 25:1-10](#); [Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37](#)
Sunday, July 10, 2022: [Proper 10](#) [Amos 7:7-17](#); [Psalm 82](#); [Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#); [Psalm 25:1-10](#);
[Colossians 1:1-14](#); [Luke 10:25-37](#)
Monday, July 11, 2022: [Psalm 7](#); [Amos 3:9-4:5](#); [James 2:1-7](#); [Psalm 25:11-20](#); [Job 24:1-8](#)
Tuesday, July 12, 2022: [Psalm 7](#); [Amos 4:6-13](#); [1 John 3:11-17](#); [Psalm 25:11-20](#); [Proverbs 19:1-17](#);
Wednesday, July 13, 2022: [Psalm 7](#); [Amos 5:1-9](#); [Matthew 25:31-46](#); [Psalm 25:11-20](#);
[Ecclesiastes 9:13-18](#)
Thursday, July 14, 2022: [Psalm 52](#); [Amos 5:10-17](#); [Hebrews 5:1-6](#); [Psalm 15](#); [Genesis 12:10-20](#)
Friday, July 15, 2022: [Psalm 52](#); [Amos 5:18-27](#); [Ephesians 3:14-21](#); [Psalm 15](#); [Genesis 13:1-18](#)
Saturday, July 16, 2022: [Psalm 52](#); [Amos 6:1-14](#); [Luke 8:4-10](#); [Psalm 15](#); [Genesis 14:1-16](#)
Sunday, July 17, 2022: [Proper 11](#) [Amos 8:1-12](#); [Psalm 52](#); [Genesis 18:1-10a](#); [Psalm 15](#);
[Colossians 1:15-28](#); [Luke 10:38-42](#)
Monday, July 18, 2022: [Psalm 119:17-32](#); [Amos 7:1-6](#); [Colossians 1:27-2:7](#); [Psalm 119:97-104](#);
[Exodus 18:1-12](#);
Tuesday, July 19, 2022: [Psalm 119:17-32](#); [Amos 8:13-9:4](#); [1 John 2:1-6](#); [Psalm 119:97-104](#);
[Proverbs 9:1-18](#);
Wednesday, July 20, 2022: [Psalm 119:17-32](#); [Amos 9:5-15](#); [John 6:41-51](#); [Psalm 119:97-104](#);
[Deuteronomy 12:1-12](#);
Thursday, July 21, 2022: [Psalm 85](#); [Hosea 4:1-19](#); [Acts 1:15-20](#); [Psalm 138](#); [Esther 2:19-3:6](#)
Friday, July 22, 2022: [Psalm 85](#); [Hosea 5:1-15](#); [Acts 2:22-36](#); [Psalm 138](#); [Esther 3:7-15](#)
Saturday, July 23, 2022: [Psalm 85](#); [Hosea 1:11-2:15](#); [Luke 8:22-25](#); [Psalm 138](#); [Esther 4:1-17](#)
Sunday, July 24, 2022: [Proper 12](#) [Hosea 1:2-10](#); [Psalm 85](#); [Genesis 18:20-32](#); [Psalm 138](#);
[Colossians 2:6-19](#); [Luke 11:1-13](#)
Monday, July 25, 2022: [Psalm 44](#); [Hosea 2:14-3:5](#); [Colossians 2:16-3:1](#); [Psalm 55:16-23](#); [Esther 5:1-14](#)
Tuesday, July 26, 2022: [Psalm 44](#); [Hosea 6:1-10](#); [Romans 9:30-10:4](#); [Psalm 55:16-23](#); [Ester 6:1-7:6](#)
Wednesday, July 27, 2022: [Psalm 44](#); [Hosea 6:11-7:16](#); [Matthew 5:43-48](#); [Psalm 55:16-23](#);
[Esther 7:7 to 8:17](#);
Thursday, July 28, 2022: [Psalm 107:1-9, 43](#); [Hosea 8:1-14](#); [Romans 11:33-36](#); [Psalm 49:1-12](#);
[Proverbs 23:1-11](#);
Friday, July 29, 2022: [Psalm 107:1-9, 43](#); [Hosea 9:1-17](#); [Ephesians 4:17-24](#); [Psalm 49:1-12](#);
[Proverbs 24:1-12](#);
Saturday, July 30, 2022: [Psalm 107:1-9, 43](#); [Hosea 10:1-15](#); [Mark 10:17-22](#); [Psalm 49:1-12](#);
[Ecclesiastes 1:1-11](#);
Sunday, July 31, 2022: [Proper 13 \(18\)](#) [Hosea 11:1-11](#); [Psalm 107:1-9, 43](#);
[Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23](#); [Psalm 49:1-12](#); [Colossians 3:1-11](#); [Luke 12:13-21](#)