

**People, Participation and Prayer:** a church isn't a building of brick and wood. It's a group of people gathered by God who are building their lives around Jesus. That's why belonging to church means more than just Sunday services. In this **Newsweek** are some of the things we are doing, events and activities we think are worthwhile, and people and things to pray for. Pray regularly for our Church family.

**Please pray for our world, our community, and each other**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ*  
Philippians 4:6, 7

**The next Congregation Prayer Meeting will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30PM**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:-**

\* **SRE Classes** have resumed in our local Schools for Term 3 – Rev. Ian is teaching the Year 6 SRE Class at Belrose Public School every Wednesday morning – please pray!!

**Healing, Strength & Comfort for:**

- \* Gwen Gatford
- \* Len Broadbent
- \* Gordon & Jan Allan
- \* Gordon Richardson & his family of the recent sudden death of Gordon's grandson Jason
- \* Church members who are still self-isolating
- \* Church members grieving the loss of family or friends
- \* those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for those who are vulnerable to infection;
- \* local businesses & their staff
- \* those who have lost their jobs
- \* our health care service personnel
- \* our Governments & those in leadership



**August Mission of the Month**

**Gyanankur English Medium School** is an independent Indian school for Preschool to Year 10 in Kesnand, a village near Pune in India, 4 hours' drive southeast of Mumbai.

The school has a Christian board to oversee it, and many Christian teachers. Anne Weeks' friend Melinda Parker, who now lives in Sydney, is the Honorary Director. Anne helps out with admin work.

Gyanankur enrolls some students from very poor families and the school provides them with uniforms & textbooks. With our financial support we can enable these students to receive this education, and hear and see Christians sharing Jesus.

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**Please keep giving!** You are encouraged to make use of the electronic funds transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:

**Belrose UC Property Committee**  
BSB 634-634 Acc Number 10000-1487

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**The next edition of the Good News Quarterly** will be coming out soon. Editor Venessa would welcome your contributions by email: [venessac@tpg.com.au](mailto:venessac@tpg.com.au)

**The Manse landline phone** is still out of action 😞 but you can still contact Rev Ian on his **mobile 0408 308 196**, or by email [mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Belrose Uniting Church**

Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose  
**TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN**

**GOOD NEWSWEEK**

*“ at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord”*  
Phil 2:10, 11

**Sunday 23rd August 2020**  
**Covid-19 Suspension 2/2**

**Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from Frenchs Forest to Terrey Hills; from the beaches to the bush, since 1916.**

**Who are we?** We are all about following Jesus.

**We are part of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the UCA**, joining with other UCA Congregations in contending for the Biblical faith: *Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the Truth and Renewing the Church.*

**We are “evangelical” Christians**, which means that Jesus shapes the heart of our worship, the Bible shapes the heart of our life, and the Gospel (the Good News about Jesus) shapes our heart for a broken world.

**Before the throne of God above**  
**I have a strong and perfect plea**  
**A great High Priest whose name is Love**  
**Who ever lives and pleads for me**  
**My name is written on His hands**  
**My name is hidden in His heart**  
**I know that while in heaven He stands**  
**No power can force me to depart.**  
C L Bancroft  
(1841 – 1923)

**August Theme: Who is in Control?**

In a world that seems to be increasingly chaotic and out of control, we may well ask the questions: Who is in control? Where is God is all this? Has God fallen asleep at the wheel? Has God lost control? Throughout August I am exploring what the Bible has to say about these questions.

In the stories of Joseph, Ruth and Esther, and in the experiences of the early Church, I hope that we will see that no matter what is going on, God is still with us and working His good and perfect plan, in spite of disaster, catastrophe, human failings, wickedness and rebellion.

**But Joseph said to them, “Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**  
Genesis 50:19, 20

**Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks**  
**(M) 0408 308 196**  
**mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au**  
**Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)**

**Church Website: <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>**  
**Prayer Requests: [prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au)**



## Breaking News: Covid-19 Developments

It is with a heavy heart and much sadness that the Church Council has decided, based on the strong advice of the UCA Synod following the recent announcements by the NSW Premier, that **Sunday Services have been suspended again as from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August.**

**The closure of Sunday worship services will be at least for the remainder of August, during which time the Church Council will review the situation based upon the advice of the Synod and the pronouncements from the NSW Government.**

You will be advised in due course when the Services can resume and when we can meet again on **Sundays at 9.30 am and 5.30 pm.**

**Please pray** for our nation at this time, and especially for a breakthrough in the pandemic that will allow us to meet together for worship again as soon as possible.

The doors may be shut but we are still the Church and God is in control: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35 – 39)

**In the mean-time, want to “worship at home”?**

Look out for live Services on the internet such as:

**FF Baptist Church** Sundays 9.30 am [www.ffbc.org.au](http://www.ffbc.org.au)

**St Faiths Anglican Narrabeen** Sundays 9 am & 6 pm <https://stfaiths.church>

**Pittwater UC** 9.30 am & 6 pm Sundays: <https://pittwater.online.church>

**Wesley Mission** 10.00 am Sundays:  
[www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online)

**St Matthews Anglican Manly** Sundays 10am & 6pm [www.stmattsmanly.org.au](http://www.stmattsmanly.org.au)

## WHAT'S ON @ BUC – Mark Your Diary for August 2020

**(Please note that due to the Covid-19 restrictions, some activities may not yet be able to be held on the Church premises.)**

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> August** Church Council meeting **7.30 pm**

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> August** Congregation Prayer Meeting **7.30 pm**

### NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATION MEETING:

It is still anticipated that the Congregation Meeting will go ahead on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 10.30 am. Agenda & papers coming soon.

## The Story of the Early Church: A Higher Authority

After the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) the followers of Jesus were boldly proclaiming that Jesus was alive! It seemed that nothing could stop them as they went about preaching and teaching about Jesus the Messiah. A message of triumph, power and hope – who could possibly have difficulty with that!?

But it wasn't long before the early church was subject to great persecution – violence, imprisonment, even death. As the Christians were hunted down and consequently many fleeing Jerusalem for fear of their lives, they could have raised a number of questions: *Why is God allowing this? How come the good news is being rejected? Why are we suffering like this? Will the Gospel mission of Jesus be halted and God's plan for the salvation of the world be thwarted?*

Despite the oppressive and violent actions of the civil and religious authorities of the day, we see in the book of Acts that the followers of Jesus knew that they were answerable to a Higher Authority – the Almighty God was still in control, and even working all these evils for His good purposes for the spread of the Gospel.

**1. Persecuted for doing good in Jesus' Name** **Read:** Acts 3:1–10 & 4:5-16 Peter & John healed a crippled man in the name of Jesus (Ch3).

Their good deed and their bold proclamation brought them before the religious leaders who jailed them and then subsequently interrogated them (Ch 4)

Unable to refute the obvious – that the man was healed – and seeing the positive response of the crowd, the Jewish leaders commanded Peter & John to no longer speak of Jesus. Peter responded: *“Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”* (Ch 4:19, 20)

**2. Confidence in a Higher Authority** **Read:** Acts 4:23 - 31

Peter and John return to the gathered believers and tell of their ordeal.

The Church prays! They could have asked God to bring down great punishment upon their enemies. They could have prayed that God would spare them from such danger. They could have complained to God that they shouldn't have to suffer these things. **But no!** They praise God for His sovereign power and glory, and even ask God to help them speak more boldly about Jesus!

**3. God's is still in control and the Gospel spreads**

Throughout the Book of Acts we see that whenever the Church suffered, the Gospel spread and more people believed. In fact the disciples considered it a blessing to suffer disgrace and violence for the name of Jesus (see Acts 5:42).

The persecution of the Church actually led to the spread of the Gospel and the fulfilment of Jesus' mandate for the disciples to bear witness to Him to the ends of the earth (see Acts 8:1)

Even the Apostle Paul could see the hand of God at work in his own suffering and imprisonment: **Read** Philippians 2: 12 – 14

**Reflection:** How might the believers' prayer and Paul's attitude influence the way we respond to opposition, persecution and the challenging times in which we live?