

## July Sermon Series: *The Joy of Giving*

Throughout July, I want us to reflect on the joy and privilege it is to give. Out of the abundance that God has given to us, we are invited to give generously as an *investment in the Gospel*, as *partners in ministry*, as a demonstration of *Christian discipleship*, and as a way of *celebrating God's grace*.

### **Giving as Celebration 2 Corinthians 9:1 - 15**

*"These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."* (Isaiah 66:2)

**Pray:** *Heavenly Father, give me a humble heart that I may receive with gratitude what You may teach me from Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:1 – 15

**Reflect:** Earlier in his letter (2 Cor 8), Paul reminded the Corinthians that generous giving is a sign of serious Christian discipleship, and a symbol of the fellowship they share with other Christians.

In Chapter 9, Paul also reminds them that our giving is something we should do joyfully, celebrating God's generous giving to us, both in His Son, the Lord Jesus, and in His continual gracious provision.

**1. Generous Giving is Expectant** - It expects God to do amazing things! *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* vv 6 – 9, 10, 11

**2. Generous Giving is God Pleasing** - God is pleased to bless generous givers: *"...for God loves a cheerful giver."* v 7

**3. Generous Giving is Evangelistic** - It draws attention to the Gospel. *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."* vv 12 - 15

**Generous Giving is a Joy!** - Generous giving brings to joy to self and to others. Think of the times you have seen people's faces light up upon the receipt of a gift! As the saying goes, *"It is better to give than to receive!"*

**Pray:** *Generous God, thank you for your indescribable gift and Your gracious provision of all my needs. Help me to be a joyful giver as I remember how You have given to me. In Jesus name. Amen.*

C.S. Lewis said, *"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."*

### **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:

**BUC Property Committee BSB 634-634 Acc 10000-1487**

**Thank you for your generous support for the work of the Gospel.**



## Belrose Uniting Church in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia

Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

**We aim TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN**

*Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.*

## GOOD NEWS WEEKLY

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Covid Lock-down Edition

As we enter into our 5<sup>th</sup> week of covid lockdown I hope and pray that you are enduring in faith and hope amidst all the uncertainties of this time.

Thankfully, in times of uncertainty, we have a solid rock of certainty in the faithfulness of God, who is always "on duty", always watchful, always, present, always caring. As the Psalmist reminds us:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber,  
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
(Ps 121:1 - 4)*

We await with anticipation news that the lock down order may be lifted on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. However, we are being reminded daily that this will only be possible if the covid situation improves in the days ahead, and at times I feel this will be most unlikely. But I continue to pray it will be so.

In the mean time, I hope that your time in lockdown is giving you opportunity to rest, read, pray, and maybe catch up on those things on your "at-home-to-do list", but also to reflect on the promises of God.

I am certainly looking forward to when we can meet in person again for worship and fellowship. But until then, I am grateful for the time I can spend meeting with God in isolation. I hope it is a time of blessing for you as well in spite of the circumstances. May God bless you with peace, comfort & strength as we persevere in faith.

*Ian Weeks*

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Prayer Requests:  
[Prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:Prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au)



## July Mission of the Month: *The Bible Society*



The Bible Society is Australia's longest-living organization, over 200 years old!

The Bible Society is creating new ways to advocate for the Bible, to promote it, and offer people new ways to engage with it. Its vision is to see all people engaged with the Bible in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford.

The Bible Society is also the publisher of the monthly *Eternity* newspaper and owner of Koorong Bookstores.



**MARK THE DATE:**  
**ACC National Conference**  
**Sept 9 – 11, 2021, Adelaide**  
***The Transforming Power***  
***of the Gospel***

**Book to attend in person**  
**or at home via Zoom:**

<https://www.hopenetsa.org.au/conference/>

Check out the promo video:

[https://youtu.be/V\\_IBxN9x\\_G8](https://youtu.be/V_IBxN9x_G8)

Email ACC Office for more info:  
[accoffice@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:accoffice@confessingcongregations.com)

## Coming Up in August:

**Good News Quarterly for August – October** will be coming out soon.

This quarter will feature some personal accounts of how the covid lockdown experience has affected some of our Church members – the impact it has had on their work and social life, family and friends, and maybe what God has been teaching them through this time.

**In the Morning Services** throughout August we will be exploring the theme: *Light in a dark world* from the **OT book of Judges**. You might like to start reading this fascinating book a chapter per day (only 21 chapters). You will come across some very familiar stories and people - Deborah, Gideon, Samson & Delilah, to name a few. You may also see the hand of God at work bringing light to a world darkened by calamity and human wickedness.

**The Weekly Thursday Prayer Meetings** are open to anyone who wants to come. We share prayer points, read and reflect upon a Psalm, moving us to praise God & to pray. All welcome, even to sit and just listen.

**The weekly Prayer Meetings are in recess until covid lockdown restrictions are lifted.**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

\* Gordon Allan                      \* Jen Dinning                      \* Gordon Richardson  
\* John Bishop                      \* David Keiller                      \* Sierk Dykman  
\* Marcia Schnabel                      \* Matt Phillips

\* World: global covid crisis; refugees & the persecuted Church; our international mission partners (Bruce & Kathy, Edwardes Family)

\* Those grieving the loss of loved ones; affected by disasters and covid-19.

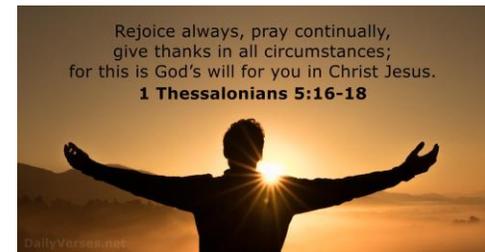
\* Schools – for Scripture Classes at Mimosa (Mel Mottau) & Belrose (Ian Weeks) PS; and for Henri Simpson & his team at Davidson & The Forest High Schools.

\* Forest Kirk Congregation seeking a new Minister

\* Evangelistic opportunities to share the Gospel & vision for our future direction; pray for revival in our nation!

**Have a prayer request?** \* Email: [prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au)

\*Give to Rev. Ian or place a note in the prayer box near Church front door



**WHAT'S ON @ BUC – Update your 2021 diaries**  
**Property/room bookings to Denis Wall:** [deniswall30@gmail.com](mailto:deniswall30@gmail.com)  
Using the Church premises: Please turn off lights & air con, & lock up.

**All meetings at the Church are post-poned until the covid lockdown order is lifted.**