

September Mission of the Month:

Pioneers - the Edwardes Family in Ireland

Pioneers Australia:

JESUS. YOU. UNREACHED PEOPLE.

Pioneers mobilises teams to glorify God among unreached peoples by initiating church planting movements in partnership with local churches. Some cultures in the world have no neighbours who can tell them about Jesus Christ. Pioneers hopes to share God's love with those people in places where the gospel is yet to be effectively proclaimed.

BUC partners with Graham & Sarah Edwardes, with their children Sydney & Enzo, who are sharing the Gospel and church planting in Ireland. You can follow them on Facebook.



Please keep giving!

We may not be meeting physically for worship, but we still have bills to pay and ministries to support. You are encouraged to make use of the electronic funds

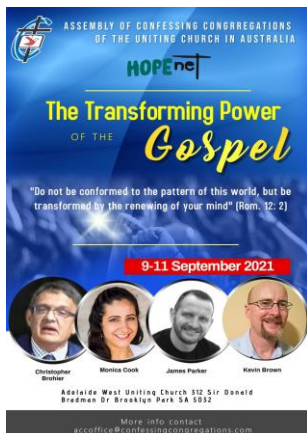
transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:

BUC Property Committee BSB 634-634 Acc 10000-1487

Mission of the Month giving can be done electronically as well: write "Mission" in the description.

WHAT'S ON @ BUC?

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



ACC National & HopeNet (SA)

On-line Annual Conference

Sept 9 – 11, 2021

The Transforming Power of the Gospel

Book for the free on-line conference
<https://www.hopenetsa.org.au/conference/>

Check out the promo video:
https://youtu.be/V_IBxN9x_G8

Anyone can join the on-line conference for free



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 5th September 2021

11th Sunday of

Covid Lockdown 4.0

Happy Fathers' Day

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him – his name is the LORD.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

Psalm 68:4,5

Fathers' Day gives us an opportunity to remember our fathers for who are they, or perhaps, in spite of who they are or were. We know our earthly fathers are not perfect – but thankfully we have a Heavenly Father who is; and who models to us what true fatherhood is. So give thanks to God for your father, for without him, you would not be! But more so, give thanks that you have a Heavenly Father who loves you perfectly.

A Fathers' Day Hymn (to tune Woodlands – "Tell out my soul")

On Father's Day we praise our God and King

Our perfect Father to whom glory bring

Model to us a Father's love and care

That we might in your love the Gospel share.

Today we pray for men in a broken world

Give them O Lord the strength to speak Your word

Mould them we pray and by Your Spirit fill

The fathers who will dare to do your will.

Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks

(Ph) 9451 3916 (Mob) 0408 308 196

Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)

mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au

Prayer Requests:

Prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



September Sermon Series: Philippians Joy in the Gospel

Philippians Ch 1 – Joy in Suffering

Philippians – A Letter of Joy

In the struggles of life, and particularly in amidst of a pandemic, with sickness, death, fears, anxieties, and lock downs confronting us daily, it can be hard to find joy.

The Apostle Paul, imprisoned in Rome, subject to deprivation of food and sleep, and probably occasionally beaten by the guards chained to him, certainly knew hardship and heartache, pain and suffering, and would have good cause to be miserable. Yet writing this letter to the Church in Philippi, we find him filled with joy! **How? Why?**

Pray: *The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.*

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. Ps 19:8
O Lord, fill my heart with joy as I read Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Read: Philippians Ch 1:1 - 30

Reflect:

1. The Joy of the Love of a Father

Philippians 1:1 - 11

God's love for Paul

v 2

Paul's love for the Philippians

vv 7, 8

Paul knew what it was to have the love of God – our Heavenly Father; could be considered like a “father” to the Philippians (Acts 16).

He rejoiced in that “fatherly” relationship with them, and even more so by the way they reciprocated that love in their generous and sacrificial support of him and his ministry. vv 4, 5, 7 & 8

Paul's love for them and joy in them prompted him to pray for them constantly, thanking God for them and praying that:

- * their love for God and the Gospel would deepen v 9
- * they may discern what is best for the Gospel v 10
- * they may grow in spiritual maturity (holiness) v 10
- * they may glorify God by the way they live v 11

A great prayer for us to pray for our fellow Christians!

3. The Joy of Gospel Proclamation

Philippians 1:12 – 19

If I were in Paul's situation, I think I would be asking God: **Why??**

It would seem God's plans for Paul have been derailed!

However, in Paul's eyes, his imprisonment has actually been a good thing for the ministry of the Gospel (v 12):

- * he has a “captive” audience – the guards v 13
- * everyone knows why he is there – a great conversation starter v 13
- * others have taken up the task, following Paul's example v14

Yes, some of these preachers may have less than pure motives (v 15), but Paul still rejoices that the Gospel is shared (v 18).

Paul rejoices that God is still in control, and even his imprisonment will be a positive thing (v 19).

4. Joy in Suffering

Philippians 1:20 – 30

Paul did not deny his suffering – it was very real. But for Paul, his life - whether free or chained, whether dead or alive – had meaning and purpose when he was proclaiming Christ, and others were coming to Christ, and growing in Christ. vv 21 – 26 He finds joy, even in the midst of suffering.

Therefore, Paul encouraged the Philippians to confront suffering with joy by:

- * lives that demonstrates the power of the Gospel v 27
- * standing firm together in the face of opposition vv 27, 28
- * trusting in God – their suffering won't go on forever vv 28, 29
- * persevere – following Jesus will always involve some suffering v 30

We will always encounter suffering – whether it's at the hands of others by wickedness, opposition and persecution; or in the brokenness of the world with calamity, sickness and death. But In Christ we have a bigger picture: of the Gospel being proclaimed, and of God's eternal plan.

There is a book titled: “*Suffering is inevitable, but misery is optional, so stick a geranium in your hat and praise the Lord!*” It may be in the Church library? How we respond to suffering is largely up to us.

Pray: Heavenly Father, when life gets too hard and painful, may I find comfort, peace and joy in Your steadfast love and abiding presence. Amen.

The physical weekly Prayer Meetings are in recess until covid lockdown restrictions are lifted, but all are welcome to join in the Zoom prayer gatherings. Click on the zoom link:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98976481554?pwd=WndnL1V5T0plYkJacFF3UGFHdUplQT09>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Jan & Gordon Allan
- * Jen Dinning
- * Marcia Schnabel
- * Joan Sena
- * Gordon Richardson
- * John Bishop
- * Matt Phillips
- * Sierk Dykman
- * Kin Allen – recovering from 2 hip replacement surgeries

* Those in our Church family and wider community who are in isolation as a result of the recent local covid outbreak; & pray for revival in our nation!

* World: global covid crisis; refugees & the persecuted Church; Christians in Afghanistan; our international mission partners (Bruce & Kathy in Nigeria, Edwardes Family in Ireland)

Have a prayer request? * Email: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au

