

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.

The physical weekly Prayer Meetings are in recess, 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



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 12th September 2021
12th Sunday of
Covid Lockdown 4.0

*Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*
Psalm 127:1

The "Song of Ascents" Psalms (of which Ps 127 is one) were Psalms that were usually sung while going up to the Temple to worship God. While we might currently lament that we cannot join together physically for worship, Psalm 127 reminds us that as we continue to trust God & rely on Him, He will build us up.

It also provides us with a timely reminder to keep praying for our city, and our country, in the midst of this covid crisis.

The remainder of the Psalm comments on other foundational aspects of life: work (v 2) and family (vv 3 – 5). If we are not surrendering these things to the sovereign rule of God, as worthwhile and blessed they may be, they will fall short of God's glorious plan, which is for us to do all things to honour Him - "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Cor 10:31).

So I pray that all my relationships, activities and attitudes to others, and especially how I respond to this pandemic, might be built by God and glorify Him. Might that be your prayer too?

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September Sermon Series: Philippians *Joy in the Gospel* Philippians Ch 2 – *Joy in Service*

Dear Friends,

When Paul began a letter such as to the church at Philippi, he began with his name so that people instantly knew who it was from. Depending on the audience this might mean the letter was eagerly read or perhaps quickly discarded. When I tell you who's writing these words to you this week I hope that your response will be the former rather than the latter.

So, I might begin these words to you with something like:-
Anton, a servant of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Belrose.

If all had gone according to Ian's original plan, I would be taking the service with you live and in person today and Ian would be enjoying his holidays on some pristine sands on a beach somewhere in the South Pacific. I took a bit of liberty with the location, but let us pray that Ian and Anne will be able to enjoy their stay-cation and at least benefit from not having to prepare a message for this week. Let us keep them in our prayers for they are great exponents of our topic for today "*Joy in service*".

Read: Philippians Ch 2:1 - 30

Reflect:

Paul's letter to the Philippians is outstanding as the NT letter of joy. The word "joy" in its various forms occurs some 16 times. So let me start with a definition of joy taken from the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology. "*Joy is a delight in life that runs deeper than pain or pleasure. From a biblical perspective it is not limited by nor tied solely to external circumstances. Joy is a gift of God, and like all of his other inner gifts it can be experienced even in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.*"

At first glance it might seem strange that Paul was writing about joy to the church while he is in prison but as the definition reminds us joy can be experienced in even the most difficult circumstances.

In our society people don't typically aspire to be servants. They might accept that they can't start at the top and need to be one who serves for a time. They might even find some fulfilment in this interim role. But as we read the Scriptures we see it is characterised by those who are willing to serve and go on serving. Let me take you on a short journey through Philippians 2 and examine some of the greatest exponents of our faith and how their lives were characterised by serving, and serving with joy.

Jesus (vv 1-11)

This is one of the greatest passages in Scripture which describes the humility of the Lord Jesus "*Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*" (vv 6-7)

Take a deep breath and try and take this in.

Take another deep breath.

No, I'm not there yet either. But wait, there's more.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus"

I believe we can have this attitude but only as we rely upon the strength supplied by his indwelling Spirit.

Paul (vv 12-18)

Paul was also a wonderful exponent of joy in service. We read of how he faced so much suffering in his life but he counted it all joy. In v17-18 we read "But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. He gives us some practical advice on how to achieve this too in v14-15, where he counsels us to "do everything without grumbling or arguing".

Timothy (vv 19-24)

Timothy was also a servant of the faith who did so with joy. If the apostle Paul commends him he must have been a great exponent of the Christian faith. We know from Paul's letters to Timothy that Timothy was sometimes a little timid. Perhaps we can relate to him in this. I know I can. But Paul exhorts him to be bold and rely on the Spirit of Christ which dwells in him. He reminds Timothy that this indwelling Spirit is not one of timidity, but of power, love and self-control.

But as Paul reminds us, Timothy has served with him in the work of the gospel (v23) and hopes to be able to send him to the Philippians soon. Timothy also showed us what it means to live a life characterised by joy in service of Christ the King.

Epaphroditus (vv 25-30)

Paul also gives Epaphroditus a ringing endorsement as a brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier. He almost died but God had mercy on him and he is keen to be back in service with the Philippian Church. Paul exhorts the Philippians to "*welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honour people like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ....*" (v30).

Pray: Father God, Cleanse us from our sin and fill us anew with your Spirit that our lives may be characterised by serving you and doing so with joy. Amen.



Join with Venessa Crane Supporting the Cerebral Palsy Alliance *YourSides STEPtember StepaSiders Team* fundraiser. See the video on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOCmajW_eR4
Donate on the *Stepember* website: <https://www.stepember.org.au/fundraisers/YourSideAustralia>