



Thursday 13th August 2020

Dear people,

What is a distraction? A distraction is when your attention is drawn away from one thing to another thing. Christians are distracted by so many things today. In addition to the usual suspects, such as sports, entertainment, hobbies, internet and food, there are the distractions of constant worry from COVID, BLM, economic doom, and the leftist attack against Christian-Judeo values. I don't know about you, but sometimes I find myself moving from one worry to another in a never-ending cycle of concern over the state of the community, the nation, and the world.

The Apostle Paul also had to deal with distractions. He writes about the trouble he had with false teachers, with the church plants he initiated, with constant persecution from the Jews, with a thorn in the flesh, and then a series of circumstances unimaginable to us today.

If these are the distractions, what are believers being distracted from? Paul writes this in Philippians 3:13-14, "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Within the context, the upward call of God is the call for us to know Christ. In spite of distractions, we need that kind of single-mindedness in our Christian walk. We can't change the past. We have so little control over the present. We don't know the future. But we can press toward the goal of knowing our Saviour. We need to make it a priority to carve some time out of every day, lay aside all distractions, and allow the Saviour to speak to us through His Word. It is in knowing Him that we strangely become like Him. Paul continues, "Let those of us who are mature think this way."

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike

Newsletter

Devotional By David Jeremiah

Worthy to Be Praised

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:34

The word worship comes from the Old English weorthscipe, or worthship. At the core of that word is the notion of worth, or worthiness, suggesting that our worship should only be directed to the person who is truly worthy. Many people may be worthy of our thanks, our appreciation, our gratitude, our respect—but only One is worthy of our worship.

The Bible is clear who that Person is: “I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised” (2 Samuel 22:4; Psalm 18:3). The pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, realized the same thing: Only the God of the Hebrews was worthy to be praised. He came to that conclusion after a prophecy about him was fulfilled in his own experience (Daniel 4:28–37). He had witnessed the power of God through Daniel before, but this time it touched him personally.

God’s worthiness grows with the realization of His impact in our life. Praise Him today for what He has done for you.

Children's Church Workers

Rachel and Katie (Combined Class) / **Creche Workers: Katrina and Pines**

Church Cleaners

August – Daniel Goh

This week please pray for

A church family – Lyn Palmer

A church ministry – OCC Shoebox Ministry

A church leader – Nelson and Ton Ton Yunzal

Announcements

16th August – Growing Kids God's Way – 4:30pm at the church

21st August – IGNITE Study Night – Hebrews – 7:30pm at the church

22nd August – OneLove Women's Livestream and FBC Women's breakfast.

Register at onelovewomen.com/register and sign up at bit.ly/FBC1Love. *Breakfast at 9AM at the church.*

29th August – Men's Coffee Club – Coffee Warriors (Wespoint Blacktown)

Upcoming Events

5th September – Our Hope – The Solid Rock with Jim Whitehall. 8AM at the church. Light breakfast provided.

Register here: bit.ly/ourhope-the-solid-rock

12th September – RECALIBRATE Young Adults Conference. 8AM – 5:30PM at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/recalibrate-conference-2020-tickets-112182659354>

Ministry Opportunities at FBC

Looking to serve at church?

We have opportunities in the following ministries.

Scripture Reading

Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

Music Item for Sunday Service

Pastor Brian (bkeggert@outlook.com)

Holiday Bible Club - 2021

Ann Millis (themillisfamily2001@gmail.com)

Children's Church and Creche Workers

April Kwok (apriljoy18th@gmail.com)

Church Cleaning

Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

McCays in PNG

Kol Update – July 21, 2020

Email address: mccay848@gmail.com

For financial support:

BSB: 033618

Account no: 158767 (GG & FM McCay)

Both of the cataract surgeries went well and Garry is pleased with the result. He still will need to wear glasses (especially for reading) but needs to wait another 3 weeks or so before returning to the optometrist to obtain a prescription for these. This period of time is required for his vision to stabilize. Thanks to those of you who prayed regarding this.

Our return to New Britain is dependent upon the resumption of international flights, clearance granted by the PNG government, and the advice of “N.T.M. Field Leadership” (some of whom remained in PNG). Up until about a week ago there were only about 11 ‘confirmed cases’ of people with the virus there. Only one of those cases was over in New Britain, the other 10 were on the mainland. Over the past few days though, 7 more cases were reported – some of these involved health care workers. Health authorities are worried that the virus is more prevalent in PNG than they had hoped.

We are able to use our time in a really constructive manner while we are here in Victoria. We have more translation work (involving the drafting of Bible lessons and of New Testament Scripture) than what we can handle. However, we would like to return to our location in East New Britain as soon as we can as we are unable to check off drafted material with Translation Helpers here and progress to the next phase. We are also unable to be involved in co-ordination matters which is quite an involved task at this stage of the work. So like you, we are watching the news regularly and wanting to see the outbreak of the virus in both Victoria and N.S.W. contained so that borders will eventually re-open and international flights can resume.

The following matters are current prayer and praise points.

Praise for a good result with Garry’s cataract surgeries.

Pray for the PNG Government as they monitor the situation regarding the presence of the Corona virus in their country, and as they take measures to endeavour to keep it contained.

Pray that there would be effective leadership in each of the 4 Kol churches and that services would be encouraging and effective in helping the believers to live faithful Christian lives.

Saapee (and his son Telteel) may be under considerable pressure due to a number of factors. Pray that their own personal faith in Christ would remain strong and that they both may be able to provide strong and exemplary leadership to the church at Peli, and a clear and faithful testimony to the people of “Village G” located nearby.

Pray that we can produce quality resource materials as we draft lessons and Scripture while we are located here in Victoria.

Kade is still experiencing significant problems with his neck and upper back region despite having consulted two different therapists on a number of occasions. Please pray that he might be able to see some progress in being able to overcome this problem.

Thank you for taking the time to pray for these matters.

Garry and Faith

(Thank you also to those of you who have provided us