

# The thought for the month

AUCKLAND DEAF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May 2020 – No. 25

Church Service 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at Rosebank Peninsula Church, 1 Orchard Road, Avondale



## Services are cancelled until further notice



Because only 10 people get together and must be 1 metre apart

### Bible Quiz

John the Baptist Book of Luke 1, Mark 1 and 6

- 1 Who are John the Baptist's parents and what did his father do?
- 2 Why did John's father think it was funny when told John's mother would have a baby boy?
- 3 What did John baptise people with?
- 4 What river did John baptise Jesus in and what happened when Jesus came out of the water?
- 5 Who killed John the Baptist and why?

### Birthdays coming up

Bev Jordan – 18 May

Gavin Gibbons – 30 May

Elsa Garner – 2 June

June Whiting – 17 June



### Dates for your diary

**21 June** - Sunday at 2.15pm ACDF service at Avondale. A committee meeting after.

**5 July** - Sunday at 2.15pm ACDF service with communion at Avondale.

**19 July** - Sunday at 2.15pm at Avondale. A committee meeting after.

**2 August** - Sunday at 2.15pm ACDF service with communion at Avondale.

### Committee meeting decisions

No meeting held and no meeting will be held until services are running again

**Please  
pray  
for**



Pray for God's blessings on these people

Mavis, Elsa, June W, Bev J and Phyllis (in care homes)

Barbara – Her daughter Brenda is living with cancer. She now has more pain.

Wendy – pray for her health.

Des – Des is now in Arron Court with Mavis. Pray for his general wellbeing.

Johanna – Please pray for continued healing

Fiona There are 3 special needs people in Fiona's family. Please pray that all their needs can be taken care of at home.

All people of New Zealand – Please pray for all people and that the Coronavirus becomes controlled

If anybody has any prayer requests, please contact Michelle or any one of the Committee members and this will be added to the newsletter

# RIP Barry Garner 19 April 2020

Barry was a husband to Elsa, father, uncle, friend and a long-time member of the Deaf community.

He was a hearing man who embraced the Deaf culture and the Deaf community. He spent his later years in Oakdale Care Rest Home in Cambridge.

Thank you God for the gifts we have been given because we have known and been helped by Barry.

Thank you God for Barry's life lived with courage, honesty, determination, sincerity and kindness.

Elsa and Barry Garner's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.



**WHEN IT  
COMES  
TO  
PRAYER,  
DON'T  
QUIT  
BECAUSE  
IT'S  
QUIET**



If you would like to have a social at your house or have any suggestions for a social get together. Talk to a committee member

**Keep safe and be kind.**

**God is with us. He will comfort us through this time.**

**Keep your faith.**

### Quiz answers

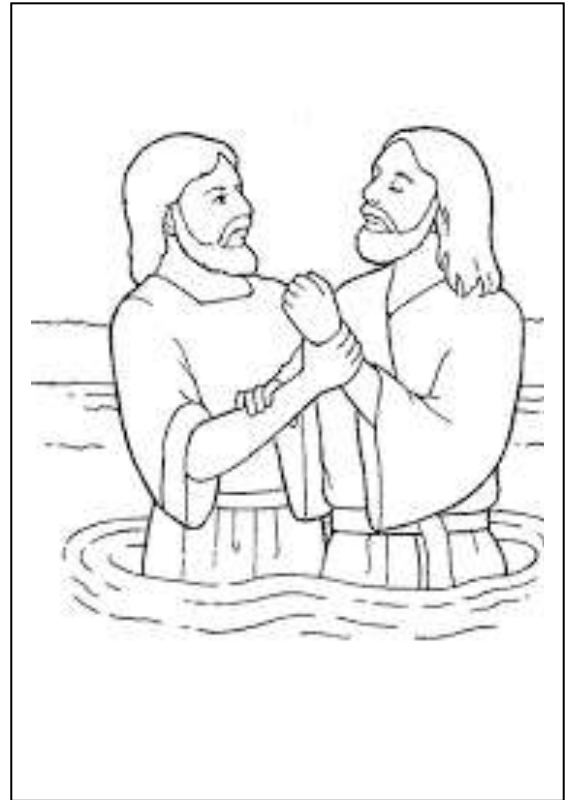
1 John's parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth. Zechariah was a Priest.

2 John's mother was too old to have children so John's father thought what the angel told him could not be true.

3 John baptised people with water.

4 John baptised Jesus in the Jordan river. When Jesus was coming out of the water, the holy spirit came down from heaven like a dove. A voice from heaven said "You are my son and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

5 The reason why is that Herodias wanted John the Baptist dead because John spoke publicly against King Herod marrying Herodias, who was his brother's wife. John said it was wrong to marry your brother's wife. At King Herod's birthday dinner, his daughter danced so well that he told her he would give her anything she wanted. After talking with her mother, Herodias, they decided the daughter should ask for John the Baptist's head on a platter. King Herod gave the order to kill John the Baptist.



## Parable (story) of the Friend at Midnight

From Holy Bible, English Version for the Deaf

Luke 11 v 5-8

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you went to your friend's house very late at night and said to him, <sup>6</sup> "A friend of mine has come into town to visit me. But I have nothing for him to eat. Please give me three loaves of bread." <sup>7</sup> Your friend inside the house answers, "Go away! Don't bother me! The door is locked. My children and I are in bed. I cannot get up and give you the bread now." <sup>8</sup> I tell you, maybe friendship is not enough to make him give you the bread. But he will surely get up to give you what you need if you continue to ask.

## Study notes from New Living Translation (adapted by Michelle Smith)

In parables, Jesus teaches us what we need to do to be ready for his return and how to live until he comes. A parable describes one part of the whole picture.

This Parable is about the power of prayer.

Luke 11 v 9-10 explains this parable

9 So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock and the door will open for you. 10 Yes, if a person continues asking, that person will receive. If a person continues looking, that person will find. And if a person continues knocking, that door will open for you.

When you continue to pray about your needs and the needs of others, it does not change God's mind. **God hears all prayers.**

What prayer about the same thing many times (persistent prayer) do?

- It helps us focus on (think about) our need or someone else's need.
- Tells God how important our need or someone else's need is to us.
- Tells God how we feel about this need.

Also, continual (persistence) praying helps us to see the wonderful work God does in answer to our prayers.

Great reasons to pray often.

## Some of the Parables we have studied so far

November 2019 – *Parable of the Yeast* - God's kingdom starts quietly and from small beginning. It will grow and have a big impact on the whole world (Luke 13 v 20-21 and Matthew 13 v 33).

December 2019 – *Parable of the pearl* – God's kingdom is worth a high price and we should be everything to get it and every person that follows God is precious to him. (Matthew 13 v 45 – 46)

February 2020 – *Parable of the Growing Seed* – Follows on from the Parable of the 4 Soils. About the growth of God's Kingdom. God uses the tiny bit we do and magnifies it to be a magnificent harvest. (Mark 4 v 26-29)

March 2020 – *Parable of the Nobleman's Servants* -Each of us is talented in some area, these are gifts from God. These talents are to be used. (Luke 19 v 11-27)

April 2020 – *Parable of the Servant's role* – We should not expect to receive praise because we have done what God expects / wants us to do. We should think of it as a privilege to serve God (Luke 17 v 7 – 10)

May 2020 – *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* – Is about the power of prayer, do it often and take all your needs and the needs of others to God. God hears all prayers.

Next month's Parable will go here

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Please contact me with news or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter

I have included a reading from each of the 3 daily devotion books the committee looked at. These books get you to read a little bit of the bible every day.

The books are

Deaf Devo. This is written for Deaf people and comes from America. Deaf Devo will be finishing at the end of the year but one lady wants to continue to give daily devotions. I (Michelle) have a spare book of Deaf Devo that goes to the end of the year. Please contact me if you would like it. My spare book is free but future books may have a cost.

The Word for You Today. This is written for a young adult audience and is a bit harder to understand than Deaf Devo and easier than the next book. Gives encouragement for daily life from the bible. It comes from Rhema in New Zealand. This book is free.

The Word for Today. This is the hardest book of these 3. This book is designed to help Christians keep focused (determined or single minded) on their relationship with God. This comes from Rhema in New Zealand too. This book is free.

You can get the books from Rhema posted to you every 3 months.

Rhema's contact details are

The Word for You Today

Freepost Rhema  
Private Bag 92636  
Symonds Street  
Auckland 1150  
Or email [admin@rhemamedia.co.nz](mailto:admin@rhemamedia.co.nz)

The Word for Today

<https://www.rhema.co.nz/the-word-for-today/hard-copy-sign-up>

If you need help getting your books, please contact me (Michelle)

## Wait for God

Everyone today seems to be in a hurry. They want faster cars, faster ways to communicate and faster ways to prepare their food. No one wants to wait!

Many people are even too busy to spend time with God every day. When they do have some quiet time, they hurry through their devotion and Bible reading and move on to their next task. If we truly want God to use us and bless us, we need to slow down and wait for Him.

What does waiting for God mean? Maybe it means spending more time praying and reading the Bible. Or maybe it means that we just take time to wait quietly for God to fill us with His love, encourage us or show us solutions to our problems.

Psalm 33 lists ways that God provided for His people, the Israelites. The writer ends the psalm with this message for us in verses 18 and 20. ***"The Lord watches over his followers, those who wait for him to show his faithful love. So we will wait for the Lord. He helps us and protects us."***

Be sure to wait for God today. He always knows what is best for you. And you can depend on His love, protection and strength.

– Linda Lamb

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Psalm 33:1-22**



## The Word for You Today Comes from Rhema

**Fri 15 Nov**

**Strength for the battle**

**'You armed me with strength for battle.'** Psalm 18:39 NIV

We all face battles in life. We always have a choice as to how we respond: we can keep fighting or allow the struggle to become all-consuming. In order to keep fighting, we need to have a faith that refuses to quit.

King David had many struggles. But he understood the importance of maintaining the right perspective. He said, 'You armed me with strength for battle' (Psalm 18:39 NIV). We're not built to handle everything on our own. God will always give us strength when we ask him for it. In Isaiah 41:10, God says: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand' (NIV). When we realise that God is there to take our burdens and give us the

strength we need to make it through, we won't feel despondent and overwhelmed. We'll develop an 'overcomer' attitude – after all, 'we are more than conquerors through him who loved us' (Romans 8:37 NIV).

Once we've made it through to the other side of the battle, we need to realise that we got through by God's strength. In Psalm 18, David pursued his enemies and didn't give up, but he acknowledged God's help and strength. It's great to celebrate our victories when we've overcome a battle, but we also need to acknowledge and glorify God.

**So what now?** Think of a hard situation that you've been through. Then thank God for giving you the strength for the battle.

**SoulFood: 2 Chr 12-15, John 11:28-37, Ps 50, Pro 26:27-28**



## The Word for Today – Comes from Rhema

**SUNDAY 16 JUNE**

**A FATHER'S PRAYER**

**'Manoah prayed... "tell us what to do for the son we are going to have."'**  
Judges 13:8 CEV

The following prayer was written by General Douglas MacArthur, a hero of World War II, on behalf of his son whom he loved dearly. If you're a parent you may want to use it as the basis for your own prayers for your children:

'Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory. Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know you...Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail. Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the lessons of the past. And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humour, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

**SoulFood**     Matt 28:16-20     2 Cor 13:14     John 1:18     John 15:18-26  
(Trinity Sunday)