

Dear friends,

In My devotions at the moment I am working through bible passages on harvest. They are encouraging, as they speak of that season when the endeavours of our labour come to fruition. In my reading this morning I looked at Luke's account of Jesus calling the disciples to come follow him and he would make them fishers of men (Luke 5:4-11). It is a passage that I instantly relate to. You see I'm not a great fisherman, in fact my fishing career consist mainly of standing by an estuary mouth with my line in the water for a few hours, catching nothing. In Luke that is Simon Peter's experience, they'd been out all night and hadn't caught a thing. I guess that's why they call it fishing not catching. Jesus tells them to go out into the deep, not the usual fishing technique of the day, and to let down their net over the other side of the boat, not the normal way of doing things and they get a catch that almost sank the boat. I remember a friend of mine having a similar experience in a dinghy on the Manukau, not because of the volume (number) of fish they caught but the volume of the fish (size) that they caught, a giant ray whose fins hung over the side of the boat and which literal had jumped into the boat. This Miracle (Peter's not my friends) caused him to admit he was a sinful man and in need of salvation and then willingly accepting Jesus call to 'follow him, and he would make them fishers of men.'" They could trust Jesus after that demonstration of his power.

As a church it can often feel like the start of this bible passage. We feel like we've been fishing all night and haven't really caught much. We do things the way we've always done them. It can even be that the weather conditions are against us as well, like the storm over the weekend or the COVID season we are having to weather. Things like last year's Alpha course give us a glimpse of what is possible. However, the call is for us to keep listening to Jesus, his call to go out into the deep, take risks, be brave, follow him, and to be willing to do new things, let down our nets on the other side. Our Mission plan and process says that mission starts with listening. Listening to the voice of Jesus, listening to our neighbours, and community for that voice, and being prepared to respond and step out. At present it seems that Jesus has been whispering to us about the way forward about following him into the deep. And we are working through some possibilities: a child and family worker, expanding the central city chaplaincy, exploring a fresh expression of church to plant alongside Hope, even possibilities of a vision for the business block. They are whispers at the moment, faint callings that need to be listened to, checked for the voice of Jesus, and as we explore them I believe we will find places where as a church we will be lead to let down our nets and start the work of harvest...

Here are the notices.

### Sunday Worship February 13th

**This Sunday we have services at all three of our sites.** We continue with the second part of our Series looking at the book of Revelation. The series is called Revelation: Eternal hope and encouragement in the face of present difficulty.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Howard Carter (Revelation 4)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Cath Bremner (Revelation 6)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Lorne Campbell (Revelation 5)

All sites will require a vaccine pass, a non-vaccine pass service is available in the lounge at HopeCentral.

We will also be zooming the service.

## Zoom service

The worship service at Central is zoomed each Sunday.

The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting ID number is: **89285364673**

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780 you will need to input for the meeting

The number when Meeting ID prompted: 89285364673 followed by the # key. Then you will be asked for a further ID number or to press the # key again. Press the # hash key again. The host will ask for your name so we can put it on the computer screen so after the service people will know who you are.

After the service we will break into small groups so people can catch up, pray with each other. If you are on a landline you can unmute yourself by pressing \*6. If you have someone on a landline in your group please introduce yourselves to them.

## Music Connect group Wednesdays 7:30pm HopeCentral

Every Wednesday there will be a connect group in the worship area at HopeCentral. Primarily it is for musicians and while the core group will be those who help lead at HopeCentral, we hope that people who want to be involved in worship music from all our sites might feel like joining. If you are musical and you want to get some confidence in playing with others and try out playing at church then this is a good way to start. Plus it'll be fun and fellowship, prayer and care. So if you are interested come along on Wednesday.

## Meet the WEBBYs for morning tea, HopeOnerahi Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>

Come join us for morning tea with Greg and Lisa Webby.

Greg & Lisa Webby have served in the Arab world for 27 years, 17 years in North Africa, and for the last 10 years in the Arab Peninsula. In North Africa, they were involved in an Agricultural community development project in the Middle Atlas Mountains in partnership with the local department of agriculture. In the Arab Peninsula, besides personal outreach to friends, they have been involved in training in Arabic language and cultural fluency for new workers coming to the field.

Greg is originally from Whangarei and his parents were part of the Onerahi branch of Hope Whangarei. Lisa is from Brazil and they met in North Africa. Contact Glenys Currie to book a spot.

## Connect Groups at Hope Whangarei

At Hope, we value relationships. The new Testament has something like 35 "*one another's*" in it ... "*love one another; encourage one another; build one another up; pray for one another*" etc. One of the ways we can get to know one another more beyond gathered worship on Sundays, is to be in a connect group. There are 14 connect groups at Hope (**see the attached list**). Connect groups meet usually weekly, and have times of rest usually during school holidays. A couple of groups are "full" but most welcome new people. Four particular groups worth noting are:

- The Tuesday night group at Central which are beginning a 6 week prayer course can host up to 25 ( this is a non-vaccine pass group)

- The Wednesday morning men's group meeting in Onerahi from 9:30am where they have fellowship over a game of pool and end with devotions and prayer.
- The new Wednesday night group meeting at Central at 7:30pm which invites any singers and musicians to join them.
- The Friday morning men's group that meets at Central at 6:30am to pray, then go off to breakfast together before the working day begins.

At this time of the pandemic, and due to the government guidelines, we are keen to respect the guidance we are given. So,

When Connect Groups meet in an individual's home it does so at the invitation of the householder who has the right to determine who can or cannot enter. Members of the group are guests in the home for the period of the meeting. It is required that a record of attendees is kept and ensure this record is communicated to the Health and Safety Officer, Karen Cullen on:

[karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz)

More information on groups will be communicated from time to time.

*Rev Lorne Campbell*

### Morning tea, Greeters, Ushers Roster @ Central

Due to ill health, vaccine pass requirements and the new omicron variant lurking over us we are struggling to get greeters and ushers and morning tea rosters sorted **without using the same people** for these areas.

**We have decided to have 1 usher only instead of 2 which will solve the usher roster immediately.**

**We need x2 lots of 2 helpers to assist kitchen Ladies already on for us to have a roster of being on every 6 weeks if we want to keep enjoying morning tea together.** Could you help???

We could do with **2 more new greeters who are happy to ask for vaccine passes** that would help being rostered **on every 6- 8 weeks.** Could you help???

Please contact Colleen at the office between 9-1 Monday to Friday on 4381667

### COVID Health and safety

Basic health and safety measures for COVID will remain constant under the new COVID Protection Plan.

*Hygiene:* washing and sanitising hands.

*Mask wearing:* Mask wearing at gatherings like worship is "strongly" encouraged...

Scan or sign in using the COVID tracing app: This is mandatory for gatherings such as worship.

*Please respect physical distancing:* we are aware that some people are still very conscious of physical Distancing and we ask people to respect this.

*Stay at home if you are unwell:* The best way we can protect one another is to stay home and join worship via zoom if we are unwell.

The government's best health advice is to get vaccinated.

### Government COVID suppression plan

Under the government COVID suppression plan (AKA traffic light system) Northland is under Red.

Our services will require the vaccine pass and numbers at each service are limited to 100. A non-differentiated service will be held in the lounge at HopeCentral, under Red it is limited to 25 people.

**With omicron in mind the government are also encouraging people to have a buddy system with another person or household,** if in the eventuality of having to self-isolate then you have someone

to check on you and shop for you if required. Please feel free to let us know at the church if you need assistance. Ring church office: 438 1667 or Howard Carter on 0277508602.

## Blessing

I leave you this week with the words of our PCANZ assembly Executive Secretary, our own ex minister at St Andrew's Wayne Matheson. Words of encouragement as we both face Omicron and also as we step out into mission, these words in Isaiah 40 are echoed in Jesus own last words to his disciples as he commissioned them to go and make disciples... "and Lo I am with you till the end of the age"

*"As we continue to navigate these uncertain times – let us be reminded of these words: 'Kaua e wehi; kei a koe nei hoki ahau; kaua ano e tiro tiro; ko ahau nei hoki tou Atua: maku koe e whakakaha, ae ra, maku koe e awihina, ka tautokona ake ano koe e te ringa matau o toku tika.'*

*'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.'* (Isaiah 40:10)" - Wayne Matheson

Howard Carter

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

PS: - I was out at McLeod's Bay on Sunday Afternoon and watched the many different types of shore birds there cope with the stormy conditions. The Oystercatchers stoically kept on feeding and washing in the fresh water stream, the black backed Gulls stood staunch along the watermark, the young ones perfectly camouflaged against the sand and rocks, the Poaka (pied stilts hid behind tufts of grass and leant into the wind still posing on one leg. Fledgling terns (Tara) and black billed gulls hid amongst the rocks. Here is a photo of a young tern who has found a rock shelter against the storm...

