

Dear friends,

I have been struggling with finding joy recently. It may be the result of emotional exhaustion after two years of wrestling with COVID. It maybe a result of facing health challenges at the start of this year (although I know many of you face greater challenges than I have). I've found many things I used to enjoy becoming a chore. My old self-doubts keep coming to the fore. No matter how much I do there just seems to be so much more.

I talked about it with my spiritual director, and simply admitting it was a healthy step forward. Since then it's been amazing how often Joy has come up: Be it in conversations, or in print. In a Facebook post Shane Claiborne, who I follow, wrote *"no matter how heavy things get, don't let this world steal you of your joy. Joy is defiant, joy is contagious. Joy is good for the soul and for the world... protect your joy."* Gayle Martin shared her mother's favourite passage from Philippians 4 as a call to worship on Sunday at Onerahi... which starts "rejoice always and again I say rejoice". So I've been noticing places where joy has managed to step into my life. An hour spent with Spoonbills and White face Herons. Where it wasn't about performance, taking a good photo, it was simply just capturing a moment with them, which felt like a gift from God. Sunday lunch on Mother's Day with Kris and all our children, at a Matakana Pub. Hearing them talk about their lives and work. Then my son James, letting Isaac know he prays for him, and wants to hear how he's going. Bethany talking of worship, something that brings her joy. Going adventuring (be it in a relatively safe Sunday drive kind of way) by driving back along the winding back road from Matakana though Mangawhai Heads, Langs Beach and Waipu cove.

Beyond that the passage in Nehemiah 8:10 keeps coming to the fore, "for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Nehemiah had read the book of the law to the people, and they had grieved over their sins and wrongdoing. However Nehemiah and Ezra tell the people it is a holy day and they are to celebrate, and find Joy in the Lord. Joy does not come from our circumstances but from God's great love for us. Be it the wonder of his creation, or his providence, but mainly in God's great grace and mercy. For the people of Nehemiah's day it would have been bringing them back from exile, just like He had bought them out of Egypt in Moses day. For us it is the great grace shown in Jesus life, death and resurrection, being set free from bondage to sin and death. It is the abiding presence of God, Christ dwelling in us by the Holy Spirit.

**Here are the notices.**

### Sunday Worship May 15<sup>th</sup>

We continue our look at the Lord's Prayer this week in all our service.

Hope Tikipunga @ 10am - Adrian Whale (seek, ask, knock)

Hope Central @ 9:30am - Howard Carter (forgive us our sins, as we forgive them)

Hope Onerahi @ 9:30am - Lorne Campbell (lead us not into temptation, deliver us from Evil)

We are under *orange* in the governments COVID suppression plan (aka Traffic Lights) there are no limitations or restrictions on attendance at worship services. Wearing masks in recommended and normal COVID health and safety regulations are in place. Please stay home if you have COVID symptoms, sanitise hands and respect people who wish to maintain physical distancing.

### Zoom Service May 15th

The zoom service is a streaming of the 9:30am HopeCentral service.

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.

### Up-coming private movie-showing: "Sabina"

Winner of Best feature Film Christian Worldview Film Festival 2021; Rated M

#### **Thursday 12th of May @ 6:30 pm - Event Cinema, 18 James Street**

The Powerful True Story of Sabina & Richard Wurmbrand (The founders of Voice of the Martyrs) "Great character is sometimes forged amid great turmoil. Sabina is the story of how God's love transformed an ambitious, atheistic hedonist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century. The film opens with Sabina Wurmbrand risking her life to show Christ's love to a trio of Nazi soldiers. Why? Why would a Jewish Christian risk her life to help her enemies – members of the army that killed her entire family? Experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world"

Get your tickets now before they all sell out!!

Purchase tickets over the phone 03 352 9568 or by emailing: [events@vom.org.nz](mailto:events@vom.org.nz) or go on line to [vom.org.nz](http://vom.org.nz)

### Marjory Smith (102) has passed to be with the Lord

Marjory passed away last evening in Puriri Court with her great friend Pat Parker by her side. Lorne had been with her in the afternoon and they had communion together. She just wanted to be with the Lord.

Marjory had been attending Hope Central for the last 6 years or so and just loved the fellowship here.

She had many friends in the community and had been involved in The Salvation Army for many years.

Her funeral will be at Hope Central at 11am on Friday this week.

*"I know that my Redeemer lives ... and my eyes shall behold Him"* from Job 19:25, 26

### Prayer Care training and equipping - Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-10:30am @ Central

One of the important ministries in our services is the prayer care ministry offered at the end of the service.

This is a time when people's particular needs can be met in prayer.

At all three sites we have a number of people who serve in this ministry.

On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, we are asking as many that can come to gather at Central for a refresher.

## Gospel and Healing service @ Central - Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

This is an opportunity to bring a friend to hear and experience the good news of Jesus ... that He is alive ... that He loves people ... and He can heal the sick and the broken-hearted.

There will be personal testimony ... song ... a message ... and an opportunity for people to receive Christ, and prayer for healing. Do come and bring your friends!



## Inspire Presbytery Conference June 18<sup>th</sup> St Columba Botany

If you would like to come along to this Leadership conference in June please let the office know. We can take the van down and make a day of it.

The Keynote speaker is Craig Greenfield on his blog he writes My name is Craig Greenfield. During two decades of living in slums and inner cities (in both Asia and North America), I founded a grassroots youth

discipleship movement called *Alongsiders International*, now reaching thousands of vulnerable children across 21 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

To register go online to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFMR-tvofHMiuQtFVltkwEbKOZ1PfrHtUkHpNXuQkIaKJv\\_w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFMR-tvofHMiuQtFVltkwEbKOZ1PfrHtUkHpNXuQkIaKJv_w/viewform) and let the Hope office know so we can book a seat on the van.

## Tikipunga Challenge July 2022



Knitted beanies, scarves, booties, slippers, blankets or whatever takes your fancy. All items will be delivered to "Family Works" (part of Presbyterian Support), based in Mair Street. Morning Tea in July, exact date and time yet to be confirmed.

Enquires to Helen McGregor

## Unlocked Gospel Concert with Nicki Moran 7; 30pm, Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 at HopeCentral

Nicki comes to us through our connections with Gini Shepherd and He Waka Eke Noa (Prison Fellowship New Zealand), as Nicki has done many gospel concerts in prisons round New Zealand.

For a taste of Nicki's music here is a link to a YouTube clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyDqkAJhni4>

## Lawnmowing

I want to take this opportunity **to thank some wonderful men** who have been on the lawn mowing roster for HopeCentral for over thirty years and for a variety of reasons are now 'retiring'. **Thank you**



We are now looking for some new lawn mowing volunteers. If this is something you could help with please contact Gordon Wright or the office on 4381667.

very much Ted Greenwood, Peter Schultz and Dave Roke, your service in this very practical matter has been a real blessing to the church.

### Blessing

Just a simply bible verse to finish the newsletter off with this week.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

*Kia hari tonu i roto i te Ariki: ko tāku kupu anō tēnei, Kia hari.*

### Blessings

Howard Carter

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Ps: - From one of my joy filled hangouts with Motuku Moana (white faced heron) this week. The image is called *a touching reflection*. It was taken on a very still Monday morning at Onerahi.

