

Greetings everyone

At the time of writing this, Howard is in hospital with another spell of cellulitis. Please be in prayer for him.

Often in our church life calendar, Christmas and Easter overshadow the event of Pentecost. Pentecost is a very important event ... that is to be repeated in every Christian's life!

Jesus said to his disciples just before His ascension: "John *baptised you with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now*" Acts 1:5 After 10 days of waiting AND PRAYER ... the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Following that Peter declared " *This promise (i.e. the baptism of the Holy Spirit) is for you and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call*" Acts 2:39. Before being baptised with the Spirit, the disciples had received the Spirit (John 20:22) ... but they were not filled, baptised, empowered by the Spirit.

Before being baptised in the Spirit, the disciples were fearful, weak, argumentative, doubting and ineffective. After they were baptised, they were fearless, powerful, united, full of faith and effective. And this is the experience in so many Christians lives ... they have the Holy Spirit, but are not filled, baptised, empowered by the Spirit. If they were, our churches would be full to overflowing and alive! John Stott put his finger on it when he once said: *What we (the church) need is not more learning, not more eloquence, not more persuasion, not more organization, but more power from the Holy Spirit.*

When I look back over my own life of faith, I have to say that the day I was filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit was the most transformative and revolutionary day of my life. It was a totally unexpected and indescribable moment as rivers of "liquid love" and power flowed into my heart and through my body. I had been a Christian for 16 years ... but never really encountered the Spirit in such power. It "happened" one evening in April 1994, whilst sitting up in bed reading a psalm before turning the light out! I had had it revealed to me through Proverbs 20:27 that I needed the Holy Spirit more in my life ... Proverbs 20:27 says *"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart"*. Knowing this, I had spent about two weeks reading about and seeking this experience. This encounter took about 2 hours ... and following it I could not sleep. I was so excited and just wanted to tell the world! It marked a real change in my walk following Jesus.

And so today, I want **to commend to you the 10 day season of prayer starting this Thursday, Ascension Day ... and running through to Pentecost Sunday.** If you haven't yet got the photocopied Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal, please come to the office at Central to collect one! The Introduction reads: "The aim of this small booklet is to enable and stimulate your personal prayers ... and desire for a fresh outpouring of The Holy Spirit".

"Come Holy Spirit"

Amen.

Here are the notices...

Our Services This Sunday are as follows

Hope Onerahi: 9:30am. Howard. Acts c 1 – preparing for Pentecost

Hope Central: 9:30am. Lorne. Gospel and healing service (see note below). John 5: 1- 15

Hope Tikipunga: 10:00am. Howard. Acts c 1 – preparing for Pentecost

Zoom Service May 22nd

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.

Betty Dixon – celebration of life notice

We have just heard that Betty Nixon passed away on May 13th at the age of 95.

She was an attender for a few years at St Andrews, and was part of Elizabeth Shanks' connect group.

Her funeral notice reads *"An inspiring tramper, caring nurse, keen gardener, avid environmentalist and generous philanthropist"*

A celebration of her life will be held **THIS SATURDAY, May 28th** at Mair Park at 11:30am.

If anyone is going, they are asked to rsvp to Rose (her niece) on 0275141964 or

rose@mindtexture.co.nz

Gospel and healing Service this Sunday at Central at 9:30am

This Sunday our service format at Central will have a different flavour and focus.

One of Jesus' main ministries was the healing of the sick... sick in mind, body and soul.

Matthew 4:23 says: *"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people"*. As Christians, we are called to do what Jesus did ... and he told us to heal the sick. We do this in faith and obedience.

We believe that God can work through the health professions ... BUT there are also times when God heals Divinely as people lay hands on the sick and pray.

This is an opportunity to invite a friend who is not well ... to receive prayer oneself ... and to lay hands on the sick and see them healed in Jesus' name.
Please come expectantly! We will also have a surprise visitor who will share their testimony of coming to Christ 4 years ago!



Thank you to Barbara and Kath

Barbara (for over 20 years) and Kath have prepared and cleaned up our communion elements faithfully over many years.

Last Sunday was their last as health issues have made it more trying for Barbara in particular.

We thank them for their loving and loyal service to the fellowship at Central



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 *Alongsidars 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-tvofHMiuQtFVltkwEbKOZ1PfrHtUkHpNXuQklaKJv_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

Remember next week...

Unlocked Gospel Concert with Nicki Moran 7; 30pm, Thursday June 2nd 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>

With Howard being in hospital, Lorne has chosen this bird picture from the internet to go with his pastoral email this week



“The Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him ...” (Luke 3:21)

Conclusion:

A prayer of St Augustine of Hippo:

“Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work too may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit that I love that which is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.”

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always. Amen.

Rev Lorne Campbell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER HOPEWHANGĀREI