

Greetings dear friends in Christ at Hope Whangarei.

Howard is on holiday this week and so I am hosting the pastoral email.

Today I want to talk about "The book of life".

In our sermon series on Revelation, the "book of life" has come up a few times. Revelation 20:15 declares, *"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."* The Book of Life, in this context, is the set of names of those who will live with God forever in heaven. It is the roll of those who are saved. This Book of Life is also mentioned in Revelation 3:5; 20:12; and Philippians 4:3. The same book is also called the Lamb's Book of Life because it contains the names of those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus (Revelation 13:8; 21:27).

The question that many of us want to be sure of – Is my name written in the book of life? How can I be sure? I guess the answer to that is this ... are you saved? Do you know that you are a child of God?

Many years ago, my earthly father, Iain, wrote his own autobiography. He then had it published and a copy was given to each of his children – myself and my three siblings. The book was called "Portraits from a pepper pot – IPC an improbable pedagogue". The book was divided into chapters based upon his career as a teacher and headmaster, starting off with his school days at Canford School in England. (*Note – Maurice Robinson went to this school too – a coffee for you Maurice if you ring me by Thursday this week having read this!*).

When I received my copy ... guess what I did? I opened it up to see if my name was mentioned in it! How silly and self-centred of me. Of course I would be in it – I was his first born son! How would I not be in it!

I think it's the same with the book of life. You either know you are God's child, or you don't. You are either saved by the blood of the Lamb or you aren't! When we are saved, God's Holy Spirit comes into us and gives us that reassurance or guarantee of our son ship.

Paul writes in Romans c 8: *"if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ..."* <sup>14</sup> *for those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.* <sup>15</sup> *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to son ship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."* <sup>16</sup> *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.* <sup>17</sup> *Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory"*

May each of us come to know that we are in "the book of life" ... by knowing we are God's Child as we receive Him by faith by sincerely repenting of our sins, receiving the Holy Spirit, and continuing to be led by Him.

Amen!

### **Our services this Sunday**

**Hope Central:** 9:30am. Howard Carter Revelation c 19. With Communion

**Hope Tikipunga:** 10am Lorne Campbell Revelation c 20

**Hope Onerahi:** 9:30am Roland Schreurs Revelation c 21.

### **Zoom service July 24th**

The zoom service is a streaming from 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.

## Notices

### The Tikipunga challenge

#### Thank you to everyone who contributed to the outreach for Family Works



It is encouraging that we have been able to bless so many young people with wonderful warm gifts; blankies, booties, jackets, slippers, scarves & beanies.

The staff at Family Works (Presbyterian Support in Mair Street) were 'blown away' with the number of cartons of goods we unload into their office. The gifts will be distributed to communities in Northland.

Next year's challenge all of the above plus socks, or whatever you can knit or crochet.

Helen McGregor

### Admin staff (Karen & Colleen) and Sunday mornings

As the Senior Minister one of my responsibilities is the wellbeing of the administrative staff (Karen & Colleen) here at Hope Whangarei. So I am writing to remind people that our staff are not at work on Sunday mornings, rather they are here to worship. PLEASE respect that and direct issues to them during office hours rather than Sunday mornings.

Howard.

### ZOOM hosting at Central in Term 2 at Central

We are starting a Children's ministry in the morning service and we have a team of wonderful people who are going to help lead this. Kris Middendorf-Carter, has volunteered to be actively involved. However for this new venture to grow and develop we need to replace Kris as the host for the Zoom component of our service on Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to host ZOOM on Sunday. Yes there are some technical components, but it's mainly welcoming people and facilitating the fellowship time after the service. There is Training and mentoring available and we do have someone who will be alongside to help with the tech stuff. Please let Howard Carter know if you are interested phone 027 7508602 or via email

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

## Open Arms Homeless Shelter



My name is Ray Evans. I would like to thank all the people that helped in my quest to help the guys at Open Arms with towels, face cloths, soaps and other items. They were very happy at the shelter and given much thanks to you all. God bless everyone  
Ray Evans



## Gospel and healing Services – Sunday July 31st at Onerahi (9:30am) and Tikipunga (10am)

*“After sunset all who had friends who were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; he placed his hands on every one of them and healed them all. “ Luke 4:40*

It's interesting that people brought their friends to Jesus for healing. Do you have a friend or neighbour who needs healing? A simple invitation could be ... “hey, have you tried God for your healing? We have this healing meeting at Church this Sunday where the sick will be prayed for. Why not come with me and let's see what God could do! You really have nothing to lose and possibly everything to gain”!!

Service times are:

- **Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> - Hope Onerahi at 9:30am**
- **Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> - Hope Tikipunga at 10:00am**

Please note: There will be a service at HopeCentral on that Sunday focusing on ‘whispers of the future’ some of the challenges and possibilities that lie before us as a church.

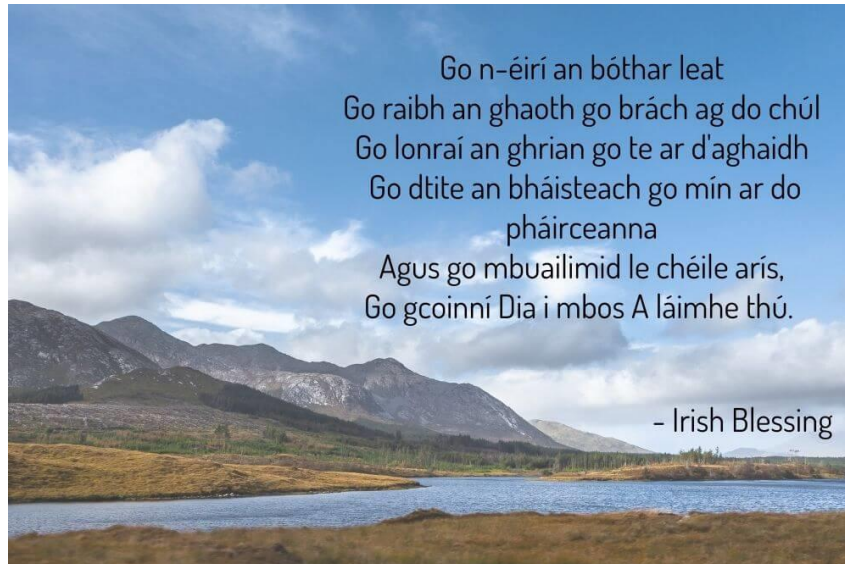
## Combined city wide prayer meeting. Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> at Kamo Baptist Church



**NOTE: The Alpha Course ... will not be run at Church this year BUT will be in Term 2 - 2023**

## An Irish blessing

(For those of us who may be grieving over the loss of our national rugby team to Ireland)



While the exact origins of this blessing are unknown, it is thought to have been first written as an Irish Gaelic blessing and only later translated into English.

This blessing is mostly known by its English translation, although this differs slightly in the meaning from the original Irish version. For example, one of the main mis-translations is Go n-éirí an bóthar leat, which literally translates as “May the road rise with you”. This can best be interpreted as “May you prosper along your journey”.



May God bless you as you continue on into this week Lorne