

Greetings everyone across our three communities – Tikipunga, Onerahi & Central.

Howard and Kris both are at home with covid, and so I (Lorne) am writing this week's pastoral email.

What a blessing it was to have a day off work yesterday ... to celebrate the life and service of Queen Elizabeth. The Queen was a faithful servant of God right to the end of her life. She also is remembered for her joyful spirit, her infectious smile and serenity where she had the capacity to put people at their ease.

One amusing story of her was here in New Zealand in 1983 on a Royal visit. She had been working hard and was to have a secret day off on Motuarohia Island in the Bay of Islands. Four Policemen were sent in civvies with their dogs to clear the island of visitors for security reasons, and so the Queen could be on her own without any formal engagements. They themselves were to be scarce when she arrived.

It started to rain heavily and so they thought the Queen wouldn't come. So they left their boat and took shelter in a house called the Eagles Nest. They had a couple of cans of beer, then heard a noise. It was the Queen coming to shelter in the house. They all hid. One man, Sgt Harvey Fergusson, hid behind a curtain in the bathroom. The Queen went in to the bathroom and found him. She looked at him and exclaimed with a smile "Are you hiding?" to which he replied "Yes ma'am". Well now you have found me, it must be your time to hide"! Apparently she let out a huge belly laugh.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they hid from God. They were ashamed. They were afraid to face God.

Genesis 3:8-10

"The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Adam and Eve obviously thought that God would not find them! But He did. He knew everything about them ... He knows everything about us too.

When you think about it - It's a silly thing to try and hide from God! The psalmist tells us that He knows our very thoughts and a word before we speak it. We can hide from Him in all sorts of ways – our habits, our thoughts, our grief and sadness's, our motives for our actions, our secret sins etc. But we have no need to hide as His purpose is to help set us free and enjoy fellowship with us.

Jesus said: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30)

I find it most reassuring that I can be completely honest with Him about my own issues and shortcomings. He longs, like God in the garden, to have unbroken fellowship with us. Why not take a few moments to bring to the Lord those things that you may have been hiding from Him... and receive the Lord's rest and peace.

Lorne Campbell

Our Services this Sunday, October 2nd

We are beginning our 9 week series on the letter to the very young Gentile church in Colossae that Paul wrote whilst in prison. Although Paul hadn't planted this Church, he had heard about their struggles with teachings and ways of thinking that had infiltrated the young fellowship concerning the deity of Christ. As a result, Paul wrote to them that he might bring his wisdom to bear on this difficult and trying situation. It was critical to him that this church know God in His greatness and glory so that their witness would not be ineffective.

Hope Tikipunga: Lorne Campbell. Colossians 1:15-23 The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ

Hope Central: Howard Carter. Colossians 1: 1-14 Introduction and prayer of Thanksgiving

Hope Tikipunga: Elaine Holwell. Colossians 1:24- 2:4 Pauls work as a servant of the Church

Sunday Zoom Service September 25th 9:30am Sunday

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.

PLEASE



Morning tea shout for Court Staff this Friday, September 30th

As part of our Central City Chaplaincy we are reconnecting with the Court after COVID. To facilitate that we are going to **give a morning tea shout** for the staff

at the court. There has been a high turnover, over the past eighteen months and it is a great way of re-establishing a relationship with the court... **So we are in need of folk to cook, especially savouries if possible. We are going to need morning tea for about forty people THIS FRIDAY.**

If you could let Elaine [Holwell \(0220812784\)](tel:0220812784) **know if you able to help**, that would be very helpful.

REMINDER: Church AGM 2:30pm Saturday October 15th afternoon tea and AGM

The Annual General meeting is on Saturday October 15th at HopeCentral.

Come and join us for afternoon tea and hear what God has been doing in our midst over the past twelve months.

Rev Lorne Campbell

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