

Greetings everyone at Hope Whangarei

Howard is away on holiday with Kris this week, so he has asked me to write the pastoral email.

Last week on Tuesday 27th Sept, Andrew van der Bijl, passed away at the age of 94. You will know him by a different name: "Brother Andrew". He wrote the famous book "God's smuggler" and ... was famous for smuggling Bibles into countries where sharing the Christian faith or owning a Bible was forbidden.

For example, in 1955, he travelled to Poland to share the gospel at a youth festival. Over the next two years, Brother Andrew spent over 10 weeks behind the Iron Curtain, sharing the gospel and delivering Bibles to communities who were persecuted and isolated for their faith.

In 1981, the ministry of Brother Andrew, carried out a radical mission. The operation known as 'Project Pearl' saw 1 million Bibles smuggled into China overnight. After the success of Project Pearl, another 5 million pieces of Christian material were delivered across Latin America in 1985, bringing much-needed hope and wisdom to believers for generations to come.

Later in his life, Brother Andrew turned his eyes towards the Muslim world. He visited the Middle East several times throughout the 1990s, meeting with Muslims of all backgrounds to discuss faith and share the life-changing message of Jesus. He also met with Christians throughout the region, seeking to find a place for peace and unity — encouraging Palestinian and Israeli Christians to meet as fellow believers.

When he was 24 he prayed this prayer:

"Yes, I'll go Lord. Whenever, wherever, however You want me, I'll go. And I will go this very minute"

He did – for 70 years until his death last week. The ministry he began in 1955 called Open Doors, has grown to serve the persecuted church in over 60 Countries.

Isaiah encountered the Lord in the Temple and suddenly realised his own sinfulness. He then experienced God's gracious forgiveness. The Lord then said:

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us"

To which Isaiah responded:

"Here I am send me"

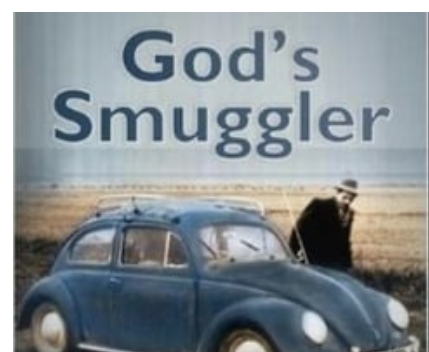
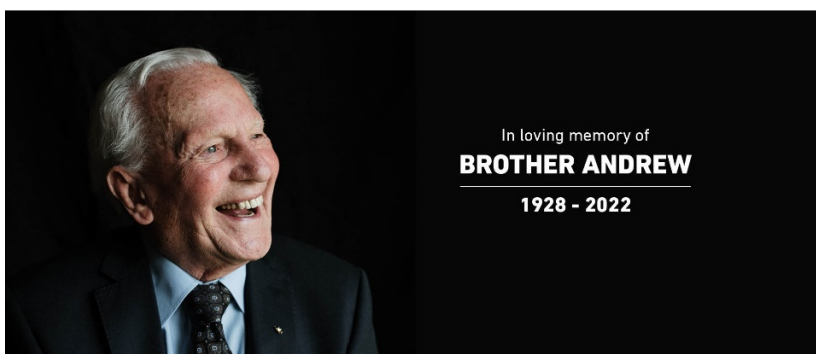
The Lord then told him to GO to the people of his community and call them to repentance. (Isaiah c6: v1-13).

May our response be the same ... as forgiven sinners, may we be ready and willing to reach out to those around us – some we know and others we don't – with the good news of our Risen Saviour.

Prayer: "Thank you Lord for your love and forgiveness for all my wrong doings ... please give me the courage and strength to go and tell others, for Jesus sake. Amen"

NB ... for anyone that would like to see a short YouTube testimonial to Brother Andrew, here's the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL_9UNCOBWg



Our Services this Sunday

We are continuing our series of Paul's letter to the Colossians that we began last Sunday as follows:

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

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

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

Sunday Zoom Service Sunday 9th October

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:

**WARNING EMAIL SCAMS AGAIN addressed FROM REV HOWARD CARTER
If you receive any emails from Howard with a request to purchase anything for him please send straight to spam or junk folder.**

CAN YOU HELP?? Morning tea shout for Court Staff this Friday, October 7th

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. Please can you bring your baking in by 9am on Friday?

If you could let Elaine Holwell (0220812784) know if you able to help, that would be very helpful.

Church AGM 2:30pm Saturday October 15th - Devonshire tea and AGM

The Annual General meeting is on Saturday October 15th at HopeCentral. Come and join us for yummy Devonshire tea and hear what God has been doing in our midst over the past twelve months.

Our foodbank at HopeCentral

We are looking at having some pre packed food parcels made up for people who just drop into see us here at HopeCentral. Robyn Carr-Smith, Edna Paul and Lorraine Greenwood currently make up food parcels for Women's Refuge about once a month with the donations of food that come in. Thank you so much to our regular givers. Items that are most needed are non-perishable items e.g. canned baked beans, spaghetti, fruit, stew and quick easy meals, pasta, rice, noodles, breakfast cereals, flour, sugar, salt, tea, coffee, . Bonus items are nappies, baby formula, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary items, body wash, wash powder,

snack bars, biscuits etc. If you want to be part of this ministry just drop food off at the office during the week or put in the food hamper cane basket by the umbrella stand on Sundays. Thankyou

Hymn Along Sunday 16th October

Come join us for a sing along to some wonderful old Hymns on Sunday 16th October after morning tea. Everyone is welcome. Enquires Ph. Jan Newman 4300485

Blessing

In memory of Brother Andrew – who certainly lived this out in his life!

“Go as far as you dare to those far from Christ – for no one can go beyond reach of God.

Give as extravagantly as you can to those in need of God’s provision– for you cannot spend all the riches of God’s inexhaustible supply.

Care as lavishly as you are able for those in need of tenderness and compassion - for you cannot exhaust the love of God.

Keep journeying a servant of Christ Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit – for God will always be with you.” Amen

Lorne Campbell

4th October 2022