

Dear Friends,

Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> is ANZAC day and the office will be closed so we are getting the Pastoral email out to you earlier this week.

This year as I thought about ANZAC day I reflected on the fact that both my parents served in the armed forces during the Second World War. I was adopted so my parents were older (40 and 42) when I was born. My Mother served as a WAAF out at Whenuapai, serving in the officer's mess. Apart from tales of dashing American pilots and parties, she used to talk of the sadness of watching air crews take off for the Pacific and knowing that she may never see them again, and the pain of reading familiar names in the list of casualties. My father served in the army for a period in the Pacific as a driver, then after a bout of malaria, transferred to the Airforce where he was a navigator. He never talked of his military service. Dad stayed in the Airforce till the early 1970's, retiring as a squadron leader. My vivid memories from those times are, being 'on base' were that I could differentiate which plane was flying over our house by engine noise when I was three. Then later, when we moved into our own home in Titirangi, driving round in a matt grey air force mark 4 Zephyr, and well before that became an Iconic West Auckland ride...and the air force barber making house calls every few Saturdays and my Father's orders for my hair... 'give him a short back and no sides regulation cut'.

In the US when someone says they are a veteran it has become almost a ritual to say 'thank you for your service' and when I think of my parents I realise that idea of service and willingness to sacrifice for a cause come to mind. We can often think about success in life in terms of achievement and what we have and manage to gain. But Jesus in Matthew 20:26 frames things in a different way, one which focuses on service and sacrifice for a cause... "Whoever will be great amongst you, let them be a servant" ... Bless you... and thank you for your service.

Here are the notices...

### [Worship Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023](#)

As it's the fifth Sunday in the month we take a break from our normal sermon series. At central we have a gospel and Healing service. If people are wanting prayer for healing or have neighbours, whanau and friends who they know need some prayer please invite them along. At Onerahi and Tikipunga we have a missions focus with Shane and Helen Blaxland sharing about their time in Cambodia at Tikipunga and Elaine Holwell sharing about her time in Vietnam at Onerahi. I'm sure people will be happy to pay for you at these services as well.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Shane and Helen Blaxland shares on their time in Cambodia

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Gospel and Healing service - James 5:13-18 (Lorne Campbell)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Elaine Holwell shares on here visit to YWAM in Vietnam

## Zoom service starting May 7<sup>th</sup>

As the weather gets colder we will be reinstating our zoom service. It will be the 9:30am service from HopeCentral. We were going to start it in April but have postponed its start to the beginning of May.

The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84819102883>

If you have the app on your phone or other device then the meeting ID is: 848 1910 2883

If you are joining by landline then dial 09 884 6780 and follow the instructions. The meeting ID is the same as for mobile devices.



## Healing Service this Sunday at Central @ 9:30am

Do come along and be a part of this special service when we focus on the healing ministry of Jesus.

Do you have a friend who needs a touch from the Lord? Please invite them to come with you.

Remember the four friends who brought their paralysed friend to Jesus?

## Easter Sermon series - Witnesses to the Resurrection

From Resurrection Sunday through to Pentecost we will be exploring Paul's list of people and groups who met the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) and in particular looking at the gospel narratives of those encounters. I am hoping this will give us assurance of the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead which is the central event of our faith and enable us to be confident in sharing this with people. In his Book the Verdict, UK lawyer and Christian Val Grieve says "A famous QC once said, 'when I have a poor case in court, I make a long speech; but when I have a really strong case, I simply call the witnesses.'" For the resurrection the witnesses provide us with a strong case for its validity.



## An informal Hui with Te Parawhau (the Mana Whenua connected with the site at HopeCentral 10:00 am Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>)

As we have been looking at possible redevelopment of the business block and the Hope Central site we have started to make some connections with the Mana Whenua, Te Parawhau, who historically have deep connections with this site. Before it was in European hands and gifted to the church, it was the site of a village called Pihoi.

On Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> we are having an informal Hui (gathering and talk) to share stories about this land. People are most welcome to come and attend. There will be a cup of tea after the talks. If the weather is good we will be outside, if it is inclement we will be inside. If you could email [Karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:Karen@hopewhangarei.nz) so we have an idea for catering.



### Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2023

The past four years we have had a challenge to support Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

2019- Pyjamas -2020 Beanies, scarves & Booties

2021– Knee rugs, throws, cuddlies 2022 All the above were well received

**2023 - Any knitting/crochet is acceptable**

**We will have a morning tea June/July at Hope Tikipunga** and will invite a representative from Family Works to come along and receive the projects.

**There are several ways you can contribute**

- Crochet a small rug
- Knit peggy squares and sew together
- Polar fleece is a good option
- Patchwork throws are popular.
- Or you might like to donate some wool for someone to use.

**Enquiries to: Helen McGregor 027 437 3016 or Kaye Anderson 021 109 9002**



**Coming up a ladies morning tea**

**Hope Central 8<sup>th</sup> July - 9-30am**

Our speaker will be Helen Blaxland speaking about her time in Cambodia and her work in Hospice Whangarei

All welcome

Keep this date free ladies!!!



## **Alpha @ BOB ... only a week away!**

At the time of writing, there are about five more places before we start next Wednesday at BOB café.

Is there someone you can invite???

The question that is asked on the first night is *“Is there more to life than this?”*

There will be good BOB food ... an ice breaker game ... a very funny joke ... a couple of live testimonies from those whom God has touched through Alpha ... a 22 minute talk on the above ... and an opportunity to hear more about the course, and for people to sign up.

Please be praying for the team as they meet this Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April as they train together.

Thanks for all who have been so supportive to get this mission off the ground.

Lorne and the Alpha team

### **Giving and Tax Receipts**

Tax receipts for the financial year are now available. Please let Karen in the office know, via email [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz), if you wish to receive your receipt via email or a hard copy posted or picked up.

### **Staff matters**

Our wonderful receptionist (No she didn't write this) Colleen is away on holiday for the next two weeks. Please pray for her and Heine to have a great refreshing break... the office will be open and manned Monday to Friday... 9:00-1pm.

### **Blessing**

I love the benediction that Paul gives at the end of his prayer for the church at Ephesus (3:20-21). Robert M Solomon who writes the daily devotions for the Ephesians book in the Journey through series captures something of the joy and wonder of the verses when he says

“Having spelt out the glorious mystery of Christ and His gospel and the beauty of God’s plan for the Church, and having prayed for the church in the context of God’s lofty truths and mission, Paul breaks into an exhilarating doxology in praise of the triune God. The apostle was on a spiritual high as he breathed the invigorating truths of the gospel and God’s manifold wisdom.”

So let’s join Paul in this wild praise of our awesome God...

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

“Nā ki a ia, e kaha nei ki te mahi i ngā mea nui whakaharahara, nui noa atu i ngā mea katoa e īnoi ai, e whakaaro ai tātou, he pēnei anō me te kaha e mahi nei i roto i a tātou, Waiho atu i a ia te korōria i roto i te hāhi i runga i a Karaiti Īhu, ā taea noatia ngā whakatupuranga katoa, ake ake. Āmine.”

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIOR **MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

PS: - It wasn’t really bird photography weather this week. Although Kris and I did go to Tawharanui Regional Park on our way up from Auckland and as we walked in the replanted coastal bush we were dive bombed by a flock of saddlebacks, and north Island Robins (a special place). But let me share another photo I’ve called weave. An image of Flax and pampas. Beauty in God’s creation in the juxtaposition of the two plants.

