

Dear friends across Hope sites,

It was good to be together on Sunday as we gathered to ordain Adrian Whale as an elder, but also to hear about the work of World Vision and their latest project called "Chosen". Sue and I have been WV Child Sponsors over the last 35 years, and so it was a special privilege on Thursday last week to be on a zoom meeting with the NZ World Vision staff and the team headed by Emmanuel Akorimo for the Alito district of Uganda.

Emmanuel took us all through the difficulties that district faces in terms of poverty, but also the programmers World Vision are putting in place to lift children and families out of poverty. I was interested to know that one of the historical factors that have impacted this area is the past influence of coercing children and youth into fighting for the National Resistance Army against the Ugandan government forces in the 1981-86 uprisings, known as the Ugandan Bush War. Following that the Lord's Resistance Army also recruited young people to fight against the new government.

Though we are now some 40 years on, this had a big influence on family life in many areas of Uganda resulting in poverty and family breakdown. The Alito area is one such area.

One of the questions I asked Emmanuel was ... "As a child sponsor, how much of my giving goes directly to the child and his/ her family?" His answer helped me to understand that the monetary support goes to help community projects in the child's village, such as child education, farming projects, health services and life skills teaching, which my child ... and many others benefit from. Then about twice a year, the project team gives a special gift to my child and his/her family from me based upon the specific need. The website for Alito states:

*"Through decades of experience, we have proven that the most effective way to help a child is to strengthen their entire community, caring for every child along the way. In fact, because of these community-focused solutions, for every child you sponsor, 4 more benefit too! Together, we are tackling the hard problems, such as changing mindsets and behaviors to address the root causes of poverty. We're focusing on building skills, hope and opportunity for the children of Alito community"*

You can see more on: World Vision Alito link:

<https://www.worldvision.org.nz/locations/africa/alito-community/>

As I close, the words from James' epistle comes to mind:

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:14-17

*Rev Lorne Campbell.*

## **Worship Services across our sites this Sunday, July 14th**

We will be back at our three sites this Sunday

- 10:00am HopeTikipunga Mark 9:42-50 (Lorne Campbell)
- 9:30am HopeCentral Mark 9:30-37 (Howard Carter)
- 9:30am HopeOnerahi Mark 9:38-41 (Pauline Hampshire)

### **Zoom details:**

..... Include .....

## **Staff News:**

It is good to welcome back Pauline who has been on her block Course down in Dunedin. Howard is away on holiday this week and will be back for next Sunday's service. Lorne will be away visiting his Mum in Rotorua hospital, and will be back in the Office Wednesday till Friday.

## **Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>. World Vision Reveal Sunday!**

Following the launch Sunday by World Vision of project "Chosen" this last Sunday where some people may have signed up to be chosen by a child in Uganda, World Vision will be letting the people in our fellowship know who have been chosen by a child to be their sponsor! More details to come

## **Alpha News**

The Alpha Course at Dickens Inn has this week moved back to Central for the last two sessions "Does God heal today?" July 10<sup>th</sup>; and "What about the Church?" on July 17<sup>th</sup>. It has been a worthwhile experience using the Dickens Inn site, and it is our hope that some of the people who have come along will carry on the journey in doing the Bible Course starting on Tuesday August 13<sup>th</sup> at Central. ( see details below)

If you haven't done that course, why not come along and not only learn more about how the Bible has been put together, but also come and meet new friends and help them to get to know others in our fellowship.

## **Pauline is leading us to engage in "Mission in our Communities".**

Group meetings at Hope Tikipunga:

### Next dates:

Tuesday 16 July, 2-4pm, Planning our action  
First week of August - MISSION ACTION such as

- Loving service responding to human need
- Doing something which aims to better society
- Caring for God's creation

Final meeting Tuesday Sept 10 (review and continuation)

## The Bible Course; an eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story.

### The Bible Course



“Big, complex, old ... just some of the words people use to describe the Bible. Sound familiar? That’s where *The Bible Course* comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world’s bestselling book.”

**Starting August 13<sup>th</sup>** we will be running the Bible Course here at HopeWhangarei. The course is put together by the Bible Society UK.

Who is it for? The course is accessible for people new to Christianity, ideal as a follow-on from courses like Alpha or for mature Christians wanting to increase their understanding of the Bible.

**We will be running 7pm Tuesday Nights for eight weeks from Tuesday August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Please contact Howard ( [howard@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:howard@hopewhangarei.nz) ) or Colleen ( [colleen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:colleen@hopewhangarei.nz) ) or by phone at the office 094381667 to book a place.

### The blessing:

Grant Norsworthy, who preached at our Combined service this week, is actually the co-producer, with his wife Brook, of the Aotearoa Blessing that you may recall went viral a few years ago during covid

That blessing is based upon the Aaronic blessing found in Number c6.

*24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;  
25 the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."*



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZQPifs2kjo&ab\\_channel=MoreThanMusicMentor](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZQPifs2kjo&ab_channel=MoreThanMusicMentor)