

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I guess like many of you I have had an eye on the Olympic games over the past 19 days. A wonderful display of discipline and achievement in the sporting world. Watching people perform at their peak after many years of training and self-discipline. It was good hearing many of our athletes who won medals acknowledging that it was a team effort, from supportive families and friends, coaching staff, fellow athletes, and other people who had contributed to their success.

It is interesting but I think watching the Olympics gives us a connection with Paul's writings of encouragement to both the Church in Corinth (Corinth was the venue of the second most important Games in ancient Greece) and Timothy. Where like part of that supporting family he uses the metaphor of such competitions to inspire his readers and us to persevere in the faith. Athletes do this in the hope of winning a medal, a prize, we do it because of the great reward we have already received in Christ, eternal life. Here are a couple of those passages from Paul...

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. -! Timothy 4:7-8

⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8

Here are the notices...

Worship Sunday August 18th

Come and join us for worship at one of our three sites this week, as we continue our journey through the Gospel according to Mark. Each site has its own feel and style, but you will receive a warm welcome and be encouraged to encounter the presence of God amidst sung worship, prayer, scripture reading and expository preaching.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Mark 10:13-16 (Lorne Campbell)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Mark 10:17-31 (Pauline Hampshire)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Mark 10:1-12 (Howard Carter)

Zoom service August 18th 9:30am

The zoom service will be the 9:30am service from HopeCentral. Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429062440>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the Meeting ID is 83429062440
If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is 83429062440. There is a waiting room and then our host will let you into the live stream.

" Remember your creator in the days of your youth 🙏 Ecclesiastes: 12:1

It was great last Sunday at Central to have a group of younger ones up front leading singing and sharing testimonies.

Ben Butler and Bryn Whale shared about their Leadership Development weekend at Nelson Lakes through their involvement with Boys Brigade ...

Venia Chaffin led some of the songs alongside her Mum Vicky ...

And we also heard how Jess van Zyl has been appointed co-ordinator for two Mainly Music outreaches into early childhood centres.

In the photo below, Amelie, Ben, Bryn, Travis (Boys Brigade leader), Riley, Vicky and Venia led the congregation in "Father Abraham had many sons ..."

What a joy filled service it was!



Staff Matters

Colleen our receptionist is away on Holiday till Monday August Monday 19th. Other staff and volunteers will be covering over that time.

Pauline will be on holiday from 18th August to 3d September.

Staff Hours

A reminder of our staff ***non days of work***

Howard-Monday; Karen – Monday; Lorne - Thursday, Friday



Connected through Hope Women's Morning Tea Saturday August 31st 10-11:30am

A warm invitation to this women's morning tea on August 31st. the theme this time is 'who am I?' ... as well as a wonderful morning tea there will be an 'on the sofa panel discussion with 'Ladies of Hope'

sharing their experiences of God's goodness and grace and connections with one another in our Hope setting. Contact Glenys Currie 027 3091907 or Jenny Forbes 021 1498246.

The Bible Course: an eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story?

It is not too late to sign up...



“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.”

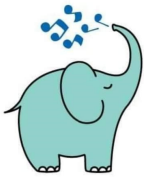
Starting August 13th we will be running the Bible Course here at HopeWhangarei. The course is put together by the Bible Society UK. There is a **cost of \$15** for the course participants booklet.

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 13th but if you can’t make the first session you can still join us.

Please contact Howard (howard@hopewhangarei.nz) or Colleen (colleen@hopewhangarei.nz) or by phone at the office 09 4381 667 to book a place.

Father’s Day @MainlyMusic



The Mainly Music team is planning to make Father’s Day gift packages of home-made biscuits. (Chocolate chip, Afghans or similar.) We are wondering if some kind people would like to help us. We would require these by Tuesday the 27th of August. Could you please phone Glenys Currie 027 3091907 if you are able to help. Thank You.

Grace Fund

Hope Whangarei operates Grace Fund which is a fund that offers small interest free loans to congregation members who may find themselves short of funds. Loans have been given in the past for new washing machines, car tyres and minor repairs to enable a warrant on a vehicle, credit cards on high interest rates etc.

If you wish to know further information please contact our Senior Administrator, Karen Cullen on karen@hopewhangarei.nz

Mission in our Communities

We are making welcome packs for new residents in the Kainga Ora facility in Wanaka Street. Bring donations of these items or make a \$25 donation. On-line banking or in envelope with **ref. WANAKA. Bank Account: Hope Whangarei 020492-0208093-00**



Team Action Meeting 14th August @ 1.30pm to put together the packs. We will be joined by Zephyr Marshall, Community Manager, Kaingaora. The opening day of the new complex is planned for September 12th. Please contact Pauline Hampshire for further information

Blessing

In keeping with the Olympic theme the writer of the letter to the Hebrews picks paints a picture of an Olympic stadium to encourage their readers to persevere in the faith... in Hebrews 11 like a camera picking out well known faces in the stands he gives us an overview of the old testament heroes and uses their example and support to call us to follow the example of Jesus.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Nā, i tēnei kapua nui o ngā kaiwhakaatu e karapoti nei i a tātou, whakarērea e tātou ngā whakataimaha katoa, me te hara whakaeke tata, kia manawanui hoki tātou ki te oma i te omanga e takoto nei i tō tātou aroaro; ²Me te titiro pū anō ki a Īhu, ki te kaitimata, ki te kaiwhakaoti i te whakapono; i whakaaro hoki ia ki te hari i tōna aroaro, ā whakamanawanui ana ki te rīpeka, whakahāwea ana ki te whakamā, nā kua noho ki matau o te tōrona o te Atua. ³Whakaaroa hoki ia i whakamanawanui nei ki taua totohe nui a te hunga hara ki a ia, kei hōhā ō koutou ngākau, kei ngākaukore koutou. ⁴Ko tā koutou pakanga, kāhore anō kia tae noa ki te toto i a koutou e whawhai nā ki te hara.

Hebrews/Hiperu 12:1-4

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGAREI

August 13th 2024

PS:- I was in the office this Monday so didn't get out with my camera. However here is another Tui photo from Matapouri last week.

