

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I shared on Psalm 121 for devotions at Te Aroha Noa this morning. It is one of my favourite Psalms and has been meaningful at various times in my life. I was asked by my mother to read it at my father's funeral and she asked that it be read at hers, which we did. Along with Psalm 23 (the Lord is my shepherd) it speaks of God's lifelong presence care and guidance.

Every time I read it the psalm speaks to me in different ways. I can't help reading it now without Prof. EM Blaiklock's wonderful commentary on it. Painting the picture of a pilgrim in desert caravan, praying their evening prayer, as the caravan stopped and set up camp for the night. The caravan guides who had skilfully led them during the day, setting guards around the camp, The heat haze dying away and the hills of Judah appearing in the distance. But as the pilgrim looked at how far his destination was and the road still to go, the stars come out and his eyes are drawn even higher than the hills, to the wonderful array of the milky way and the stars. He is aware the one who made all this is the one who is really helping and guiding. The truth of a blessing they received as they left on the journey comes to mind 'May the Lord watch over your going out and coming in, all the days of your life'. The pilgrim, we, can see the reality of that. It does not mean we will not face the hazards and difficulties of the trip, but that God, the maker of heaven and earth is our help and our guide.

Eugene Peterson in his book on the psalms of ascent says

'The promise of this psalm- and both Hebrew and Christians have always read it this way- is not that we shall never stub our toes but that no injury, no illness, no accident, no distress will have evil power over us- that is able to separate us from God's purposes in us'

Our hope is in the transcendent, immanent, faithful God who loves us.

Here are the notices,

Worship Sunday August 25th

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 11: 12-25 (Billie Portch)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Mark 10:32-45 (Howard Carter) Communion

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Mark 10: 46-52 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service August 25th 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.

Staff Matters

Welcome back from Australia Colleen. Thank you to Lorna Child who stood in as our receptionist for much of the past two weeks.

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

Staff Hours

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

Howard-Monday; Karen – Monday; Lorne - Thursday, Friday Pauline;- Monday (off), Thursday afternoon and Friday (study days)

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.

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.

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**



It was exciting to see the first twenty welcome packs made up and ready for the official opening of the Wanaka St development on September 12th. Pauline and the team met with representatives of Kainga Ora as well... Who are so grateful for the efforts of Hope in this matter.

There are still a lot more welcome gifts to be provided for this development.



Another one in our fellowship ... "CHOSEN" !

Patricia Shelton was chosen by Miriam in the Alito community in N Uganda to be her sponsor.

Heres' a photo of Patricia with Miriam - what a blessing this will be for Miriam and her community, but also for Patricia as our Lord said it is even more blessed to give than to receive! (Acts 20:35).



Jeff Jarman.

Some from Central will remember Jeff Jarman who was in the St Andrews fellowship for many years.

Last week on Friday, Jeff died, and his funeral is this Thursday in Napier.

Jeff had been a regular member and attended the Pearce's connect group for many years.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11: 25,25.



Alpha Marriage Course

We will be running the *Alpha Marriage Course* here at HopeWhangarei in the fourth term this year. The Alpha Marriage course is a six-week course designed to help couples strengthen their relationship.

Tentatively we are looking at a Tuesday Evening 7pm- 9pm starting on October 15th. One of the good

things about this course is that it is not about talking about your relationship with others rather its 'time and space to focus on your relationship' an intentional date night

We would also be looking for a few people to join us to help run this course... Relax we are not looking for people to do the upfront teaching (that is done by video) but people who can help with set up and behind the scenes. Contact howard@hopewhangarei.nz

Blessing

I think we've used this one before. I try and remember it each time I close the automatic garage door on my way out or when I open it as I go home. To remind me that God is with me at home and when I am out and about.

The Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Mā Ihowā e tiaki tōu haerenga atu, me tōu haerenga mai āianeī ā ake tonu atu.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGAREI

August 20th 2024

PS:- I managed to get a walk in along the Hatea River Loop track on Thursday. At low tide it is amazing the amount of bird life along the rivers edge. Here is a Matuku Moana (White Faced Heron). Spring is very close as this bird is fully decked out in its breeding plumage.

