

Sunday 10am Bible Classes
 11am Worship
 6pm Devotional
 Wed 7.00pm Bible Study - Morningside
 7pm - West Auckland



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4 August 2019

Serving Today

Opening Prayer

Trevor Timoti

Bible Reading

Thomas Lehauli

Song Leader

Geoff Hodgman

Lord's Supper

Gavin de Steur

Closing Prayer

Louren Ryan

Sermon

John Staiger

Next Week

Opening Prayer

Stephen Behrmann

Bible Reading

Francois van Niekerk

Song Leader

Trevor Timoti

Lord's Supper

Geoff Hodgman

Closing Prayer

Jonathan Reid

Sermon

John Staiger

Communion Prep

Today

Rani Timoti

Next week

Lucy Hill-Khan

Evening Clean up

Today

Justis/Laurie

Next week

Neills

The Gift of Giving



Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give."

That statement is never more accurate than in the life of a Christian. It was the Apostle Paul that informed us of something Jesus said that is not explicitly mentioned by any other New Testament writer. The setting is Paul meeting with the elders of the Ephesian congregation as he is on his way to Jerusalem for the last time. Paul reminds them both, of the time they'd spent together as he

taught them, and of their responsibility to now assume the duty, the responsibility of teaching the souls God has entrusted to them. He tells them, In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35). Jesus illustrated this lesson many times but perhaps nowhere more poignantly than as He washed the feet of the 12 on the night of His betrayal. Even Judas Iscariot was treated as an honored guest by the Savior (John 13). Hours before Jesus would shed His blood for their (and our!) sins, He was giving to others rather than having them serve Him. Recall, too, that the disciples had often debated which one of them was the greatest. Jesus had more than once caught them in the debate and taught them that the greatest giver or servant was the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Of course, Jesus would be the one to lay aside His Godliness to take the role of servant in giving His all for us (Philippians 2:5-8). The repeated lessons by Jesus highlight the importance of giving over receiving. Consider another example: Many Christians mistakenly speak of tithing as their manner of giving to the Lord. Under the Law of Moses, the basic responsibility of giving was explicitly spelled out as one tenth of everything that they gained. (As an aside remember that the tithe did NOT include the additional gifts of thanksgiving and free-will offerings.) But for us under the New Covenant God never commands a tithe, a tenth for our gift. Instead, He asks us to show our understanding of our greater blessings by giving as we prosper or as we have been blessed (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:2). When you really think about it, only the most selfish would dare to give God a tenth and suggest that we are cheated and much less blessed than those under the Old Covenant! In fact, Paul would underline this lesson again by praising Christians that, before they gave even though in poverty, first gave themselves to the Lord (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5). We may well enjoy and be able to live with what we are given. But we will never have real life and real joy until we learn to give purposefully and cheerfully (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7). If you look closely at Paul's use of those terms you will also notice that he prefaces them in verse 6 with the reminder that the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Until we learn and apply God's gift of a generously giving heart to our practical lives, we are simply being greedy misers. Appreciate God's gifts by sharing, for that is the living fulfilment of the Great Commission!

(Lester P. Bagley)

Information for Bulletin

Francois van Niekerk is preparing the Bulletin. Please forward information to Francois on francois.vanniekerk@demix.org or message him on 02108544979.

Web Site: <http://www.morningsidechurchofchrist.org.nz/>

Today

➤ Evening - Joint Fellowship at Morningside



- * **Wed** - Ladies Coffee/Tea
(Café @ Kings Plant Barn)
- * **10 Aug** – Youth Rock Climbing
- * **22&23 Aug** – Leadership Retreat
- * **23&25 Aug** – Men's Challenge



Sandra Setters- Tricklebank:

In February, Sandra was diagnosed with cancer in the spine, breast, stomach, and right eye. Sadly, due to the advancement of the cancer, there is very limited treatment possible. The doctors estimate that Sandra has only two years left. Some of you will remember Sandra from her days with the Hamilton church (the Setters family were a big part of the church there). Please keep Sandra and her loved ones in your prayers.

Joshua Stokes:

(Bryce Christensen's cousin) has had a recurrence of brain cancer. He had an MRI last Thursday and there are more cancers on his temple and other parts of the brain.

Doctors say to prepare to go to the palliative centre. Please pray for his health and for strength and faith for his family.

Betty Potgieter:

"My Mom is back at Halldene Rest Home, in Whangaparua." (Felicity). She is very frail. Please keep her in your prayers.



Food prices continue to rise, and some families have lots of mouths to feed. Please bring food, e.g.

canned food, peanut butter, milk products, etc. All supplies are low. Place the items in grey cabinet in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.



AUGUST

- 04 Rotorua Lehaul
- 07 Lucy Hill-Khan
Serene Hodgman
- 09 Erika Anacan
- 12 Cyndy Neill
- 26 Francois Van Niekerk
- 27 Lillian Van Niekerk
- 28 Merania Timoti

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Maryann Anacan
- 02 Hester Unkovich
- 03 Elizabeth Csengo
- 07 Michal Fay
- 12 Jasmine Tavita
- 16 William Hodgman
- 19 Rob Hood
- 20 Isaiah Papalii
Sinem Essien
- 23 Ava Hodgman
- 24 Hector Reid
- 28 Jericho Martin
- 30 Logan Martin

Youth Events

Rock Climbing (10 August)

The next youth event will be on 10 August at 4pm, which is various climbing facilities.

\$14 per head, food & drinks included.

Where: 5 Waikaukau Rd, Glen Eden, Waitakere.

Contact Cyndy on 0212891492 or Alan 021615560 if you need a ride.

Leadership & Men's Challenge

Topic: Struggles for the Kingdom

The annual leadership retreat and men's challenge are taking place next month. See details below.



Below are the planned topics:

Leadership Retreat 22nd & 23rd August

- Struggles to see beyond baptism.
- Struggles to accept responsibility
- Struggles to deal with conflict.
- Struggles to identify "disputable matters".
- Struggles to deal with "disputable matters".

Men's Challenge 23rd – 25th August

- Struggling with the past wrongs.
- Struggling in the face of division
- Struggling to strengthen our souls
- Struggling for the prize.

Leadership Registration: from 1.30pm, on 22nd.

Men's Challenge Registration: from 6.00pm, on 23rd.

Camp address: 359 Hamurana Rd, Ngongataha, Rotorua. 3072.

For detail contact Geoff Fairest on +64272491306 or Email him on mirrormirror@xtra.co.nz.

Palmerston North Ladies Challenge

Attention ladies – 31 October to 2 November

Check out the bulletin boards if you're interested in going to the Palmerston North Ladies Challenge this year.

The theme is *Decisions Determine Destiny* which is very apt when considering how such ladies retreats boost your spiritual walk.

Email Rani on meraniatimoti@gmail.com or call/text **027 702 2354** for more information.