

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



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## Serving Today

### Opening Prayer

Gerald Lange

### Bible Reading

Zhonny Tavita

### Song Leader

Geoff Hodgman

### Lord's Supper

Jim Kirkham

### Closing Prayer

Stephen Behrmann

### Sermon

John Staiger

## Next Week

### Opening Prayer

Kevin Hogg

### Bible Reading

Dave Howell

### Song Leader

Kevin Hogg

### Lord's Supper

Yashu Zabawski

### Closing Prayer

Vilimaka Lehaul

### Sermon

John Staiger

## Communion Prep

### Today

Rani Timoti

### Next week

Lucy Hill-Khan

## Evening Clean up

### Today

De Steurs

### Next week

Cany/Anita

## Stimulating and Encouraging

Have you ever tried doing something, especially something challenging and difficult, without any encouragement? It's not much fun and it can end up being really discouraging, can't it? That's exactly how God has created us, to work and be together! As God created this world and all living things, He pronounced each part of His



creation as "good" (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). But Genesis chapter 2 backs up a bit and reviews God's creation and tells us the very first thing that God ever identified as "not good" (Genesis 2:18). That first "not good" thing was the first person being alone. As God corrects this first thing that was "not good," He creates the perfect, proper compliment to man, a woman. One of those interesting Biblical errors that everyone imagines is true until they actually read the text, is that silly term "helpmeet." Go ahead and check your Bible. "Helpmeet" is NOT there. What the King James English does say is "help meet," that is (as the translators knew the Hebrew words actually mean) a helper/assistant that is equal or a compliment to him. "Helpmeet" is technically a "ghost word" that was created and brought into usage by misreading and mistaken understanding. (More technically, "help" is a noun and "meet" is an adjective but people in the late 1600s began using it as a modified noun and changed the actual meaning of God's word.) The point God is making (and that's what counts!), is that people NEED people to help and work together with them to be complete and "good" as God intended. That, of course, is what leads to marriage as God defines it, a man and a woman working together for God. God goes on to show repeatedly that, while the marriage relationship is the first design of working together, there are also many other levels of partnership that are good in their own way. Family is meant to be, much like marriage, a reflection of the relationship between God and people. The Bible is full of parallels to the family as an example of God's people and their God (cf. Isaiah 63:16). Friendship is also a parallel to both family and our relationship with God. Solomon would remind us that there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24b). So, what has all this to do with stimulating, encouraging and helping one another? Actually, everything! In Christ we are called to be family. Brothers and sisters with Him who died for us and joint heirs with Him of our Heavenly Father (cf. Romans 8:17). And if family is designed by God to support, compliment and work together with each other, then it is to all our benefit to do more than just co-exist. We are NOT called to just get along but to encourage, help and support each other... just like God designed and called us to be! You recall the humorous challenge of Hebrews 3:13: But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Since it is ALWAYS "Today," this is ALWAYS our responsibility. The same inspired writer goes on to challenge us to draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:22-25) Look closely at those words. We "draw near" or

get closer to God because of His cleansing (forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ). And we hold on to that salvation by the togetherness of the family in Christ. Our stimulation, helping each other to continue together and our encouragement is just as vital to our salvation as is God's forgiveness. God knows that we cannot do this alone and He never asks us to do that. Jesus always sent His workers out to work together (cf. Mark 6:6-7 and Luke 10:1). And God commands us to not only work together but to be the stimulus, the encouragement for each other. No, you do NOT ever have to do it alone! God is ALWAYS there. And anyone that truly loves and serves God is ALWAYS there with you and for you. Together let us accomplish the work that He has given us to do. Together let us be the light in this world of darkness. Together let us go to live eternally with Him. — Lester P. Bagley

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

## Today

- 6pm Morningside Devotional—Speakers: Joshua Taylor, Nick Major and Shane Taylor.

## Next Week

- Fellowship Lunch.



1. Pirongia Youth Camp.  
(24-27 Jan.2020)
2. Morningside Camp  
(13-15 Mar.2020)



### Sue Beukes:

(Up-Date Monday 23 Dec.2019)  
“Sue is having some tough days after the chemo sessions. She is battling with nausea. It's debilitating and she tries to offset the nagging nausea by lying still and measuredly drinking liquids for fear it may come up. She's on a very good suppressant now and we hope that it helps. We pray that daily she'll improve and stabilise.”

### Sandra Setters-Tricklebank:

In February, Sandra was diagnosed with cancer in the spine, breast, stomach, and right eye. 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.

### Julie Christopherson (Lynda's friend):

Update (04-01-2020)

Julie has been admitted to the Northwest hospital with another small bowel obstruction. She is not allowed food or drink until it clears. You can imagine how difficult this would feel. Please pray for the obstruction to clear quickly. She is still on chemotherapy treatment.

### Brian Caitor (Matt's brother):

Please keep Brian and Matt Caitor in your prayers (Brian is Matt's brother). Brian has cancer and had an operation on the 28th of November. Brian is aged 37, with a young family.

### Ethan van Aswegen (in South Africa):

Ethan was on our prayer list before. His cancer is back for the third time. The family is devastated.

Please pray for him and his family.

### Betty Potgieter:

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



### JANUARY

21 Jim Kirkham  
22 Vai Lehauli  
25 Justin Joseph  
27 Alan Neill  
28 John Staiger  
Aria Fay

### FEBRUARY

16 Meryl Howell  
21 Leah De Steur  
22 Lulu Tenari  
27 Shavaughn Hill-Khan  
28 Gem Neill  
Jenna Maisey

### Duran van Niekerk (Francois' nephew):

(Update last Monday) Duran has been in a very bad motorbike accident, in SA. “My brother's son, Daren, is still in a coma, but they noticed movements from him on Saturday. Lillian and I visit him every 2nd day and had a special prayer service for him and Ethan last Monday. With God anything is possible. Just feel very sorry for my brother and his wife. But they are also staying positive and praying. They also appreciate our support.”

### Al and Donna Horne (Lynda's parents):

Continue to keep for Lynda's parents in your prayers. Donna's hand operation has been delayed because her RA factor is too high, causing her to have lots of inflammation in her body. She is under the care of a Belgian specialist, who is doing lots of tests and a new treatment on her, after which the operation may take place on her hand. Al continues to recover from his skin graft.

## Morningside Camp 2020

### Speaker: Spencer Ross

### Theme: “The Heart of Christianity.”

### Save the date – 13-15 March 2020

More details to follow as plans progress.

## Sweet Sisters

There is an update on our devotional submissions- they will continue to be accepted until the end of February. Sheila says she's been enjoying our entries so keep on sending them in! She is also looking for a title for the first volume of the devotional book- any suggestions will be gratefully accepted.

Check out the Sisters Servants Soldiers website as it's very encouraging for our faith. Go to:

**[www.sisterservantssoldiers.com](http://www.sisterservantssoldiers.com)**  
to subscribe. (Rani Timoti)

### There are the names of 16 books of the Bible in the paragraph below. Can you find them?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain Luke kept people looking so hard for facts and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers, to others it was a job. We want it to be a most fascinating little moment for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes the preacher to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how you will compete. Relax now for there really are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.