

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 33 – November 8th



Growing in Church

more comfortable watching church in your pyjamas on your couch. It's more effort to get dressed and drive to church in person. Having to social distance at church makes it hard to talk to people properly. You love to sing and aren't currently allowed to at church. Your friends are going to a different service or aren't going at all.

I want to encourage you that meeting in person for church again is something we should value, praise God for, and not take for granted. Meeting together at church isn't just something we do because its tradition or because its expected of us. It is essential for our Christian life, because God made us to be in relationship with one another and with himself. Whenever I am tempted to think I don't need Christian community, I am reminded of this verse from Hebrews: *"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit*

by **Elise Brake**

Church Meeting

8, 9:30, 11am
Every Sunday

Call Adam
on 0457 775 538

Register Each Week.

As our church re-opens and we are given more freedom to gather safely again, some of us may be feeling hesitant to come back in person. There may be a number of reasons why you could be feeling this way. For those who have ongoing health issues, there is genuine risk and anxiety in being around groups of people. However, some of our reasons may be more to do with motivation. It's

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This Week



This article is not the one I intended for you. That article was about accepting God's will for us and rejoicing in it, when it seems unpleasant or inexplicable to us. It explained that we can rejoice in the Lord by using our resources to work with God's will for us, rather than simply withstanding it and persevering like some kind of martyr.

I drafted it on Saturday. It is now Thursday and my subsequent actions have fallen far short of those intentions. On Friday one of my staff resigned. I decided to have faith in God's plans

for me, and work with him, calmly accept it, use the resources God has given me to learn from it, and change my response.

In reality, I flustered about most of the week, frustrated at the processes to "offboard" someone. I have not focused on my other work. I am ashamed of my feelings of antipathy towards the person involved. I know I should not feel this way.

On Monday I felt like someone had slapped me in the face with a wet fish; I complained angrily and heartily to a friend about it. He let me flail about for a while, then drew me back, with truth, to the core issue and solutions.

By Tuesday, having reflected on his words and where I was, I was ready to leave shock and anger behind, and move forward positively. Then God threw something else at me. The power went out, everything in the house all dead. I work from home, this made everything much harder. This little thing completely undid me. I threw my arms up, looked towards the heavens, and cried "Why? What do you want from me?" God was silent. I resorted to what I always do in such situations. Not prayer, I switched on the kettle to make tea. What an idiot. Without electricity, I can't have a cup of tea.

Two more blackouts, visits from electricians; and the power was back on, but no one was certain for how long. Should I go to bible study? I did not feel at all like pursuing righteousness. I told my friend this; he suggested it would help me concentrate on the Lord. I looked up the study, and read the passage, Psalm 71, hope. I could use some hope. Should I get takeaway for tea, and hope the power stayed on? Should I stay at my mother's? I wanted to hide at home. I took so long to decide, I ran out of time for bible study. I stayed at Mum's, because I did not want to be plunged suddenly into darkness.

Wednesday morning, feeling miserable, I came home and the power worked. I planned my day a little, progressed some things, got frustrated at offboarding again, lost focus, and finished work hours earlier than I intended.

Wednesday evening, I was tired and fretting about work. I decided to knock over some emails. Scrolling through them absently, the first one I opened, completely at random, was the "Our Daily Bread" devotional. I read it, and smiled slowly as it sunk in. It was about having the wisdom to know when to relax, about God wanting us to balance work and rest.

I have not read that devotional regularly for a while. The Lord always finds a way to get through to us when we are being stubborn and self-centred.

I took my cup of tea, sat on the back step listening to the birds. I gazed at my petunias and impatiens. I watched "As Time Goes By" and laughed a lot. I dozed off early and went to bed.

Now it's Thursday morning. This week, my actions fell far short of my vision of who I want to be. I felt like God was throwing problems and obstacles at me; but I saw it from the wrong angle. A friend told me the truth. I spent time with Mum. I read Psalm 71 and felt uplifted. I enjoyed God's creation. I laughed. I sang. God is in control; of our obstacles and setbacks; but he always gives us what we need to get through, to rely on him, rather than our own feeble abilities. He knows we will fall short of our own standards, let alone his. I will fall short today. Things will go wrong. But they will also go exactly the way God intends. All I need to do is have faith in him.

by Kathy Hansen

of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb 10:23-25). I think there are a few key lessons we can learn from this passage:

1. We hold on together in hope

Notice that verse 23 does not say “let you hold unswervingly to the hope you profess”, but says ‘us’ and ‘we’. The writer of Hebrews is encouraging the recipients to hold on and profess hope in Christ together. We can be easily tempted to be distracted by the worries of the world, and need each other to point us to the sure and promised hope of eternal life

that we have in Jesus. I think this is especially important in what has been a very hard year for everyone!

2. We spur one another on in love

God has given us the good gift of fellowship with Christians because we are not saved in isolation, but into community together as the body of Christ. We all play an important role in the lives of other Christians, as God uses us to sharpen each other and help us to grow in Christ’ likeness. We need people to rebuke our patterns of sin, challenge us in love, point us to the truth of Gods word and correct our mistakes. We spur each other on to serve Christ faithfully: to share the gospel, to love our church family, and to

glorify Jesus with our whole lives.

3. We keep meeting to encourage each other

The writer of Hebrews is very clear: do not give up meeting together! We may be tempted to think it doesn’t really matter if I show up to church on Sunday. Your presence at church is an important encouragement to our church family, even when you are struggling. I know personally that I would not have grown in my faith and love of God if it weren’t for other Christians at church encouraging me to persevere.

We are encouraged to do these things “all the more as you see the Day approaching”. As we endure faithfully together as a church family, we can be confident that God is at work in our lives and in our wider community to bring glory to Himself through the gospel.

Find-A-Word

Challenge	Difficulty	Mistakes	Together
Christian	Frustrated	Obstacle	Wednesday
Church	Gathering	Profess	Writer
Community	God	Saturday	
Complain	Intention	Standard	
Darkness	Likeness	Subsequent	

K R Q K D L X N I A L P M O C
T E X W E B M I S T A K E S D
J T H M T S S E F O R P K P A
E I X M A S Y B D E Y S E S K
S R R R R D T E A P W X L S S
S W P E T I I C E S R N C E A
E N Y H S F N D G U G O A N T
N A A T U F U R N B A I T E U
K I D E R I M A E S T T S K R
R T S G F C M D L E H N B I D
A S E O G U O N L Q E E O L A
D I N T Y L C A A U R T D T Y
J R D O G T P T H E I N P D E
E H E S H Y W S C N N I W M G
P C W H C R U H C T G L B R J

PRAYER POINTS



- Pray for church, that we will be encouraged to come together. Pray that we will be able to reach out and care for those who have feel uncared for at this time.