

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 38 – 8th August 2021

ALONE



Home Alone Again - AGAIN!

Yes, here we are again in a lockdown more severe than last year. During the previous lockdown I was able to go next door and watch their church service on-line. I cannot do this now. Last year I had a weekly visit from HammondCare at home. This has been suspended so Arlana who was a great help last year with her weekly visits will not come until further notice. My CD player is being fixed so I cannot play my music, so for me this is worse than last year.

How many of you living alone find you are talking to yourself more than before or talking back at the T.V? When an interviewer asked a gold medal winner how did she feel, I said, "how do you think she would feel, down in the dumps. No, she

would be over the moon stupid." I see Campbelltown and Camden down to 1 degree and I am telling the presenter to mention it but she doesn't and ignores what I think is an important part of the whether report for all of Sydney. I wonder whether they are more interested in what summer temperature reach than the minimum temperatures of winter.

There was a different response when I saw the Australian swimming relay team receive their bronze medal. When one of the swimmers received his bunch of flowers he looked at it, turned it over and looked at it again and I imagined him saying, "These are very nice, but I did not bring vase." I then asked myself, "how am I coping mentally" seeing one day I walked out to the mailbox three times and there was still no mail. Having some kind of routine always helps.

Of course there are DVD's to watch. I have recently bought the movie, "Mr Holland's Opus" and an Australian movie, "Backyard Ashes" and books to read

**by John
Mason**

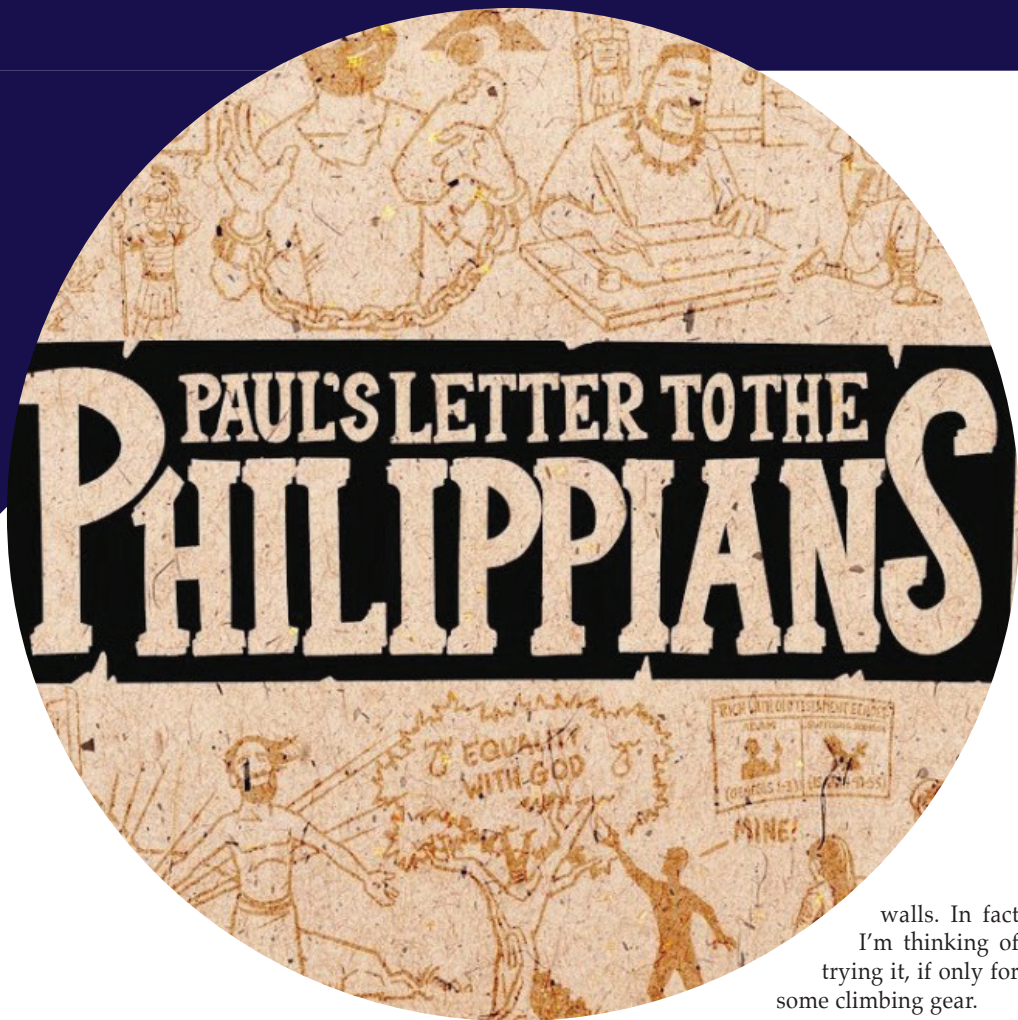
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by Adam Richards

Present circumstances can feel monotonous. The constant drudgery of being locked away in doors, the imprisonment of the situation dragging us down. Though the questions for a lot of us are different, the drudgery of same circumstances occurring daily can be soul-sapping. Whether it be how do I entertain my children, too how do I occupy myself or how do I look after my staff team - isolation has many people climbing up the

walls. In fact I'm thinking of trying it, if only for some climbing gear.

Youth has been considering the book of Philippians and I thought that I would so a series of pieces considering what Paul has to teach the church struggling from a relational breakdown. And he write to the church from prison. Paul stresses throughout the letter that the church shouldn't allow their presents circumstances to dictate their actions, instead they should allow the gospel to understand their present circumstances. And he uses his imprisonment as the example.

The Citizenship that Changes the World

And so when he speaks of them he says

"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

(Philippians 1:3-5)

Paul is not reflecting upon his own present circumstances, the drudgery and deprivation of prison. Instead he reflects upon all the good things God has done for the Philippians. He wants the Philippians to know how his imprisonment has provided an opportunity to preach the gospel to the guards, a group who most likely would not have heard the gospel except for Paul's imprisonment.

Paul wants the Philippians to reflect upon the power of the gospel to reconcile them to God. The importance of this will come out later in the letter. But he wants them to be aware of how the gospel has changed their relationship with God, and from there how it changes their relationship to the world. We read

"And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are

superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."

(Philippians 1:9-11)

As I've reflected upon the letter, the idea of our new citizenship in heaven kept coming to mind. In

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the midst of constant monotony of lockdowns, it is good to remember that we do have a new citizenship in heaven. This citizenship was given to us through Jesus and changes the way we should look at the world. As I have been praying for people in lockdown, Paul's prayer has been on my mind often for people. Though we might be feeling separated from each other, God as always wants us to evermore grow in him and be thankful for that new citizenship we have in heaven.

which cause me to ask, "how am I coping spiritually?"

The situation in which we are living is an opportunity to focus on Christ being in the wilderness when he was fasting and all alone with His Heavenly Father. He had no one to ring Him up or send him messages, no books or DVD's. He was in the absolute extremity of loneliness so He knows and understands what we are lying with, so invite Christ into our loneliness.

Perhaps God is waiting for an opportunity like this to have our full attention when we are not distracted by activity and

other people. Use this time to sit quietly, put all concerns aside and say, "here I am Father God, do you want to tell me something?" It may be guidance, conviction or encouragement that is received and whatever it is must check out with the Scriptures. After all when Jesus spent all night in prayer, I am sure He didn't talk all the time.

I found I am reading the Bible more leisurely and am being helped by the the Truth of Scripture. E.g "The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while."
(1 Peter 5:10)

What a future, Hallelujah. Then there is the question, "How am I coping emotionally?" This brought back a situation with my wife June when she was in HammondCare. I heard her say, "I don't know" and did not finish the sentence. I said, "I don't know either June. That makes two of us who don't know." June replied unexpectantly, "Oh, Bugger!" So here we are in lockdown again – Where am I emotionally? Oh bugger. God Bless, John mason.

(P.S. My son Peter has just ordered two 500 piece jigsaw puzzles for me, so that will help fill in some time.)

Find-A-Word

Attention	Drudgery	Isolation	Situation
Circumstances	Emotionally	Knowledge	Spiritually
Citizenship	Entertain	People	
Considering	Fasting	Philippians	
Discernment	Imprisonment	Separate	

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

PRAYER POINTS



- Give thanks for our citizenship in heaven we have through the grace given in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that *your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.*