

# In the Barn!

## Barneys Newsletter



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## What Hangs in Your Hallway?

The various pieces of art provide a window into their lives, and in the process a house transforms into a home.

In contrast to this is where we currently live at Macquarie Fields. In our main living areas, we have no art and we have no pictures on the walls. A large reason for this is that prior to moving to Macquarie Fields we have always rented and we were not allowed to place anything upon the walls. Therefore it was little use buying or obtaining anything, as there was no place to put it except storage. But blank walls have always felt cold, inhospitable, disconnected, somehow alien to me. Those blank walls insisted upon by Landlords for their convenience have always said to me, 'Get out! You don't belong here – this is not your home!'

Trudy and I are coming up for our 17th wedding anniversary, and in those years we have moved 8 times. That is roughly an average of once every 2 years. Moving

One of the things I look for when I walk into a house is the art they have on their walls. The pictures people hang of artworks, family pictures, bibles verses, even figurines or statues, they all tell a story, they all have meaning. And I like asking people about the meaning behind those pieces of art. As people tell me about the various hangings upon their walls, I get to know them.

**by Adam Richards**

## Your Links to Barneys

[www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream](http://www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream)

[www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/](https://www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/)

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# Does God Ride Dinosaurs?



by **Kathy Hansen**

**M**y friend is a scripture teacher. Recently one of her infants asked: Does God ride dinosaurs?

What a funny question. What was he thinking to ask that? Was he thinking about the timelessness of God, that he was around with the dinosaurs? Was he pondering God's power and authority over all his creation? Or was it simply: if I was God, and could do anything I wanted, the coolest thing to do would be to ride a dinosaur.

It may have been a combination

of those things that prompted his question. It made me wonder. If God was right in front of me and I could ask him one question that he would answer right then, what would it be?

There are lots of things I wonder about God and his plans. What does God do in heaven? What did he do before he made us? What will we do in heaven?

Maybe your question would be more practical. Should I take this job? Can you please fix my bung knee? Or the questions that affect us all. When will the pandemic end? When will Jesus come back?

## What is the most important question to ask God?

To thrive as Christians, there are only two questions we need answered. Jesus told us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

If we asked God: how can I love you, how can I love my neighbour; he would pull the bible out and say: It's all in here, everything you need to know. If you answered: what if I read it, and have more questions; he would reply: I'm always here for you, just ask. I'll answer.

The details we so want to know are often the very ones we do not need to know. They are equivalent to: does God ride dinosaurs. They distract us from what he has planned for us, what he has planned for his kingdom.

We don't need to know every detail of what will happen in our lives. We don't need to know when the pandemic will end, or when Jesus will come back. We are craving certainty right now, solid ground beneath our feet, hope for a brighter existence than being stuck in our houses. God knows we don't need that certainty; we only need to be certain of him. He knows we don't need to know when our lives become easier. We only need to know our joy is found in Him, and Him only.

God wants us to present our requests to him, and not be anxious. (Philippians 4:6) Ask God the

questions that are on your heart. But don't let details cloud our vision for God's true purpose for our lives – to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Driving all your other questions, seek and strive for answers to these two questions. How can I love God? How can I love my neighbour? If you feel your desire for these purposes is not strong enough, pray about it, God will grow these desires in your heart.

God has given us all we need to answer those two questions. In the bible. Through prayer. He will not disappoint us. Seek answers to those two questions and God will open your heart and mind in breathtaking, glorious, exquisite ways. You will have moments of victory over yourself; of tenderness, of beauty, of crystal-clear light-filled understanding and joy, in between the days of sorrow, confusion and fear. These moments will carry you through, God will make sure of it. God will tend those tiny shoots of life and joy and growth like a gardener lovingly coaxes and nurtures a tiny seed into a magnificent tree. One day, it will be as though you've been looking through binoculars backwards, and God gently takes them from you and turns them around. You can see clearly, and open your heart, your mind, your hands in loving harmony to love God, to love our neighbours.

**Read your bible. Pray. Seek answers to these two questions: How can I love God? How can I love my neighbour?**

is expensive and it is hard.

Having moved so often we have become quite proficient at it.

But that type of frequency makes you long for and value permanence, a sense of laying down roots as it were. It would be easy from here to say - 'Don't get to comfortable where you are - your true home is in heaven!' Here is the reality - moving is miserable!

Walls need pictures for houses to turn into homes. Our homes should be comfortable. They should be as welcoming as we can make them given whatever resources and circumstances we have. And certainly there

is a sense where we should realise that our true home is in heaven. But our homes should also invite people into our lives to know us, to wander through the hallways of our personal history and become part of that story. But as they do so, they should come to true picture that is nowhere to be seen, but hangs on every Christian heart - the picture of Jesus. And when they find that picture, then they will see that the home they are walking through isn't permanent. There they will find an invitation from Jesus Christ the builder of the heavenly city, the place where all his people long to take up permanent residence.

## COVID Memes

Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas



## Find-A-Word

Authority	Heavenly	Mirror	Question
Brighter	Invitation	Miserable	Roots
Christian	Invite	Neighbour	Stairway
Comfortable	Love	Pandemic	Statue
Confusion	Magnificent	Permanence	Strength

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

## PRAYER POINTS



- Give thanks for our church and the gift of each other.
- Pray that we will long for our spiritual home. Be in prayer for a friend or neighbour that you think you can reach out too.
- Pray for the Year 12 HSC kids. Pray as they prepare to sit trail and end of year exams that they will have peace of mind and perseverance as they prepare.