

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 7 – May 9th

Home & Alone?



**by John
Mason**

A

ll who are living alone during these restrictions have their stories to tell. May I share mine with you.

John 16:3b Jesus says, “yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.” God is always with us regardless of how we feel. A mother reminded a frightened small girl of God’s presence amidst her fear, the little girl replied, “yes, but I would like a presence with flesh”. This sums up the feelings we can have when alone and it is great when phone calls are made or messages sent to see how we are.

Not having an internet connection, my next door neighbours have invited me in to watch the on-line service from their Baptist church. Those of you who attended my wife’s funeral will remember the three daughters

from next door singing so beautifully. Each Sunday I again hear two of the daughters singing along with those on screen. It is so uplifting to hear them singing in glorious harmony. Their pastor also preaches very good sermons. Their mother Mericel regularly comes to see if I am all right and if there is anything she can do. I am fortunate to have such a Christian family as neighbours.

They also gave me a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle which I persevered with for three weeks until completed. Some days were very frustrating and one day I verbalised my frustration at the puzzle. So it was with some surprise over the next couple of days the progress that I made as pieces came together. Those little surprises make the day interesting and different.

Each day begins with devotions, prayers and Bible reading after which I have been going for a walk. Morning coffee break occurs at 10:30 with a delightful red vovo biscuit. Reading follows until

Your Links to Barneys

www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream

www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/

Email: leonie.russell@barneysingleburn.com



Meet Sue

Dunaajcik



Who are you?

I'm me! Sue, married to Mick, and I have three adult children.

What do you do during the week?

I'm a teacher at Glenfield PS. I teach EALD, which is English as an Additional Language or Dialect. I've been at that school for over 20 years.

I work there five days a week. Whilst school has been different during COVID and we've been told we can work from home I've been choosing to go into school each day. I've been making resources to go online and doing my normal work.

How has the COVID crisis been affecting you?

I've been well, for me I don't feel

that my life has changed that much, because I have been able to go to work. Going to work still has meant my routine has stayed mostly the same. I get up, walk the dog, and go to work. I feed the chickens at school on Saturday and Sunday and visit my mum on weekends. Thankfully, I've been able to feel quite upbeat, mostly because I've been able to keep doing the same kinds of things.

The school holidays were a bit different. Normally I'd catch up with friends which I obviously couldn't do, we had a holiday booked in Shellharbour that we weren't able to go on, and we couldn't celebrate a friend's 70th birthday party. It was a shame to miss out on those things.

I did have a cough and wasn't feeling 100% and so I wanted to be responsible and I got tested, thankfully it came back negative.

What is something that has been hard?

It has been hard not being able to go to church physically. One thing that has been amazing has been our church leaders going over and above to get things online. Its commendable the devotions that have been available and the services.

Its' been good that we have be able to do Bible Study via Zoom, but it is a little bit hard because you're used to chatting and eating together, and so I miss that.

What is something you've learnt or been surprised to find good coming out of time?

Earlier on in April Wendy Dewar sent me a text to check in and ask how I was going, I thought that was a really lovely surprise. I felt the warmth of that action. I was prompted to try and do the same. So, I've been going through the directory and sending texts to some people that I had connected with at church. I've just been trying to encourage them and ask how they were going.

I've just been trying to encourage them and ask how they were going.

I think something good that has come out of this is people appreciation for teachers and for our frontline staff and also people working at places like Woolworths and Coles. I think people have a new appreciation for what is important in life.

I've also been reminded that as Christians in uncertain times like this, we can be certain that God is with us.

Home & Alone? - cont'd

lunch, after which I juggle watching DVD's, listening to CD's or doing word search puzzles and solitaire on the computer. I enjoy a coffee break at 3:30pm with a spicy fruit loaf biscuit. Most nights there is something on TV to watch. This daily routine is enjoyably broken on Thursday afternoon when Arlana comes to do some cleaning. She is bright, cheerful and I enjoy her company and the chats we have.

April 6th was a low day for me as it was three years since my wife June walked out the front door for respite care. This turned into full care as June never returned

to our home. This was the first April 6th since June's death and I found myself walking around feeling quite lost. Mericel from next door saw me and asked what was the matter. She took me into her home and gave me a cup of tea. That afternoon I was still grieving the loss of June. Emotions can take time to catch up with our mind, as that afternoon I was experiencing the permanence and grief of June's death. The two and half years June was in HammondCare helped me to cope with living alone, yet the grief and loneliness still come.

Humour can distract and help

face the reality of the situation. No doubt many have heard this joke but I would like to share it.

A passenger in a cab wanted to ask the driver a question so he tapped the driver on the shoulder. The driver went berserk. The cab just missed a bus, nearly hit a water hydrant and stopped inches from a busy store. The passenger said he did not realise a tap on the shoulder would cause so much trouble. The driver said it was his first day driving a cab – as for the past twenty five years he'd been driving a Hearse.

There are times when I wonder what the future may hold. Since having my Cataracts removed, I do not need help with long distance any longer. No more Glaucoma drops after 25 years and another health issue is improving. Just before all the restrictions I was asked to volunteer with the Pastoral Care team at HammondCare. At age 84 there may be another chapter of my life yet as we are never too old to be used by God.

Home alone does not necessarily mean home and lonely. God loves his people and has provided many ways for those living alone not to be lonely. We must learn to listen to the many people God has placed around us to know his care, even when we feel alone and lonely.

Every Blessing,
John Mason.

Find-A-Word - Lonliness

Alone	Faith	Home	Passenger
Berserk	Friendship	Hydrant	Puzzle
Companion	Frustration	Internet	Screen
Computer	God	Joy	Singing
Delight	Grief	Loneliness	Solitaire
Doubts	Hearse	Neighbour	Surprise

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