

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



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Seaching for Justice

Given the unlawful riots in the US, what should Christians think? Is it justice for years of institutional racial oppression as the media want us to believe? Certainly the death of George Floyd in police custody may suggest a plausible reason for lawless rioting. Except the family of George Floyd are calling for peace on the streets. This shows those rioting do not care a wit for George Floyd or real justice. Is this the death of America, as some are predicting? Maybe, but my suspicion would be most likely not. So how should Christians respond to these events?

Living so far from the events surrounding George Floyd's death, I must honestly recognise that I don't

know the complete circumstances or details surrounding his death. By all reports it appears at best a case of gross negligence, or at worst, callous brutality. But I'm not going to trust a media notorious for pushing open lies and fake narratives to give me a balanced or complete report of the events. Having not watched the video, I don't know what happened! And even if I did watch the video I still would not have a complete picture of what happened. I will allow time for those charged with the responsibility of executing justice for the Floyd family to fulfil their task. True justice takes time and cooler heads to reflect upon events, not the brash and unruly emotionalism of mob rule expressed in riots. And so my first response is to pray for the Floyd family, as well as the police

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Interview Trudy Richards

amazing, so I prayed and became a Christian. I had lots of questions and the lady who ran the course with me was kind and answered them and read the Bible with me.

What have you learnt about God during COVID?

I have learnt that meeting with God's people face to face it a privilege and we shouldn't take it for granted. It has made me value that more.

What does a normal week look like for you?

PreCOVID I was just getting used to my new normal, I work at Broughton as a Teachers' Aid in the Senior School. On Tuesdays I'm part of a Bible study group, I also teach Scripture at Ingleburn Public School. On Thursdays I help out with Playgroup at church and I do Kid's Church on Sundays.

I have also been reminded that God

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Who are you and who makes up your family?

I'm Trudy and I'm married to the lovely Adam and we have four children, Ben (14), Nat (12), Anastasia (10, almost 11) and Simeon (8 about to turn 9). We also have a few new additions to our family, Nova the dog, Zumba the cat, Sweet Pea the budgerigar.

How did you become a Christian?

I grew up going to church with my family, up on the mid-north coast and I always thought being a Christian was trying your best and doing good. I thought I was a pretty nice person. I remember as a kid thinking that Easter and Jesus dying was a bit

depressing and I didn't understand why we talked about it.

I moved to Sydney to study at uni and moved into a Christian residential college. They knew I wasn't a Christian and I got invited to do a Christianity Explained course. I missed one of the weeks and the lady running the course contacted me and she and I caught up on that week. I said to her that I called myself a Christian but if someone asked me what a Christian was I wouldn't know what to say. The lady went through the gospel with me, (I now know it was 'Two Ways To Live') and I realised what sin was and that I was not treating God as King, but more like Santa. I discovered the cross wasn't depressing, it was

How has COVID changed your 'normal' week?

I now have no scripture, Girls 4 God has gone online, no Play Group and my Bible study hasn't been meeting because a few of us are mums and have been doing remote learning. Kid's church has been online (like church) and in a different form. COVID has meant all my favourite parts of the week haven't been happening. I also had to take leave without pay for a few weeks whilst the kids were home, but I am back at school now that the kids are also back at school.

is in control even when things don't seem good.

In hindsight packing and moving to our new place in Macquarie Fields would have been very difficult if I was still doing everything I normally would be doing, so everything slowing down allowed that to happen.

Searching for Justice in a World of unrighteousness

officer who is at the centre of the events, and all those needing to sort out all the details of what happened that true justice will be found for the society, the Floyd family and all the families affected by this for the Glory of God.

Secondly regardless of what happens, George Floyd's death reminds us of what Solomon is teaching in Ecclesiastes, that oppression exists in an unjust world. Living in Australia so far from these events, we should not think ourselves immune from this lawless chaos. Whilst praying for America, we should be thankful to God that we are living somewhat at peace in this nation and remember that we like the U.S, are but a stones throw away from similar chaos. The media displays mainly high end brand named stores being ransacked, because it gets clicks. We need to realise that after the riots die down, the people who will be most affected by these events will not be the rich. Instead poorer minority communities will lose many small businesses who will simply never risk re-opening stores and livelihoods for fear of having them destroyed by mobs enraptured in 'righteous indignation'. Those fighting

'the man' always forget 'the man' never deals with the consequences of this destruction. For most of them it is simply a liability on a balance sheet, they don't care. Instead as Solomon reminds us, it will be the poor who suffer the brunt of the losses inflicted through these riots.

And finally in a world soaked in unrighteousness, we need to remember that God will not allow the situation to continue indefinitely. We need to realise that man has never, nor will he ever bring complete and thorough justice to this world. If we think that we can bring justice, look again at the calls of the rioters and explain to me about man's ability to bring about complete justice. At this point many reading this will be thinking, 'yes we need to look to God's justice!', which is true. But we should also remember that when Christ returns, that he will come like a thief in the night. As these riots can descend upon the nation, so too can God's justice. Christians need to be constantly remember the parables that tell us to be prepared for Christ's return, which will come with true righteous indignation. These riots should also force us to ask – are we ready for justice?

God's Love

by Kath Hansen

God's love
is like stars in the sky.
A glimmer in the darkness,
pure and clear.
Lift your eyes to the heavens.
See one star.
A glint.
A sparkle.
A glimmer.
Then, as the first draws your eye,
a second replies with its own
sure light
and firelight catches across the
sky.
Tiny candles scattered across
the black.
Each tiny blaze of light
an act of God's love,
guiding us,
drawing our gaze,
kindling a flame of love within
our hearts.
Our own tiny spark,
ignited by God.
A glimmer in the darkness,
for that is where beauty is.
Look at the stars in the sky,
and see God's love.



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