

Church Leadership

Intentional Interim Pastor

Rob Newton

Elder

Graham Wells

Deacons

Carys De Marchi

Adam Lindsay

Joslyn Mauchline

Chris Neilson

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie Vanderwert

Transition Team

Graham Wells

Jenny Banks

Joy & Ted Gray

Margaret Hartley

Joslyn Mauchline

Lorna McCrae

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie & Linda Vanderwert

Sunday Services

For the foreseeable future we are streaming Sunday services live on Facebook at 10.00am.

1. There will be live worship via Facebook at 10.00am with Adam, Josh and Emma.
2. The message will follow immediately on Facebook (10.10am) as a separate post.
3. Communion will be in Zoom Groups at 11.00am



We gather together for worship each Sunday at 10am to celebrate Jesus as our Lord and Saviour!



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www.brightchurchofchrist.org

Follow us on  : @brightchurchofchrist

Natural Church Development

We are currently looking at the importance cultivating certain quality characteristics in the life of our congregation. We noted Jesus' comments about the nature of the kingdom in March 4:26-28, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head." The word translated 'all by itself' is the Greek 'automate' from which we get the word 'automatic'. So, Jesus is indicating God's reign has the capacity to keep growing 'automatically'. Based on this idea, someone set out to discover what characteristics were always present in growing churches regardless of continent, country, culture or denomination. His quest produced the idea of Natural Church Development. After collecting 4.2 million pieces of data, Christian Schwartz concluded there were eight 'quality characteristics' present in every growing church, and any church that ensured these qualities reached a good standard had a 99.4% chance of growing! The other important finding was that none of these qualities could be missing or neglected. They are all basic New Testament principles that are important to nurture if our church is to grow spiritually and numerically. The weakest of the eight areas is the 'minimum factor' that restricts or stifles growth.



To illustrate, Schwartz presented the eight areas as staves in a wooden barrel, with the weakest area represented by the shortest stave. The

amount of water the barrel can hold represents attendance. The only way to raise the water level is to lengthen the shortest stave.

This is a great way to reflect on the ministry of the church and pray about where we can increase the quality of what we do, to generate 'all by itself' or 'automatic' growth. It reminds us it is much better to focus on ministry quality, and let numbers take care of themselves, rather than stressing about attendance itself. Note the staves represent eight ministry areas that are present in most churches. *The issue is the quality, ie Empowering Leadership: All churches have leaders but not all church leaders empower others. Passionate Spirituality: All Christians have spiritual practices, but not all are passionate about them etc. The model helps us to recognise why things like quality small groups and fit for purpose structures are important. As we prepare to emerge from lockdown and enter a new season with new leadership, let's be praying that our church can release this 'all by itself' capacity for growth.*

Blessings,

Rob.

Pastoral Support. Being part of a small group is very important in terms of giving and receiving personal support. The pastoral care team is also doing an amazing job in offering additional support to individuals as required. Rob is available if you would like to catch up personally any time.

Counselling. Rhonda is a qualified Christian Counsellor and is offering a free session to anyone in the congregation.



Prayer & Praise

- Praise that Alan McCormack has now been advised he is free of cancer. He still needs prayer for healing in his throat.
- Those of our congregation who continue to need our prayers for their health concerns – Rita Baldwin, Geoff Cook, Ron Osborne.
- The Board as they consider the tasks completed by the Transition Team and also appoint a Pastoral Search Team to commence the search for a new pastor for our church.
- Rob Newton as he preaches to us weekly via electronic media and leads the church through this time of transition.
- Praise that the COVID-19 numbers are falling in Victoria and prayer that people will follow public health guidelines once restrictions are lifted.

In the August newsletter it was advised that one of the church's monthly donations to missions was going to the Gandep Bible College in Papua New Guinea. Ted and Joy write below about Steven & Anita Yamok who are the Principals of the College.

Introducing Steven Yamok Principal of Gandep Bible College and his wife Anita.

We first met Steven in 2011 and were so impressed by his love for God and for His son Jesus. Steven and his wife Anita responded to God's call and left their village and people and went to Gandep where Steven became Principal of the College.

The College is a far cry from what we know of a college, being placed in the jungle in a very remote part of PNG and their needs are enormous. They are on their own, with no missionaries and have sacrificed greatly to follow their calling to be leaders at the College.

We were so impressed with Steven and the way he led his flock of students. He is a wonderful encourager and leader and he has the amazing gift to be able to get alongside each student and be both a leader and friend. Totally dedicated, his role is very hands on and he not only leads spiritually but is alongside his students each morning leading the slashing and cleaning up of the place and enthusiastically takes his place in the physical activities they run at the College. Steven radiates out the love of God with his gentle smile and quiet voice.

His beautiful wife Anita is his perfect partner. Gentle and supportive she is a graceful presence in the midst of all that takes place at the College.

We left the College knowing that God had truly called Steven and Anita to Gandep, and this was fully endorsed the second time we visited. We missed them on our visit in 2017 as Steven was on studying at CLTC where he was upgrading his qualifications, but we had the privilege of visiting their home village, meeting their family, catching a glimpse of what they have sacrificed to go to Gandep but knowing how excited their family was to see them doing God's work.

We have experienced firsthand their needs and know just how much our gift each month to Steven and Anita will be used and appreciated.

Financial Matters

Tithes and offerings received for September were \$5375.

Tithes and offerings can be transferred electronically to the CBA Bright BSB 063645 Account 10022514.