



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 17 August 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: "The Promise to Abraham"

Focus Scripture: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32,

Other Readings: Psalm 133; Matthew 15: 21-28



The reading in Matthew 15:21-28 contains the well-known story about Jesus turning away the distressed mother of an ill child. Only in a few places in the gospels does Jesus change his mind. This passage is one of those instances, as the mother argues with Jesus that her child is worthy of Christ's mercy and healing, and influences Jesus to break down barriers within relationships.

Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV): The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."⁽¹⁾

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him.⁽²⁾ "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 24 August

Theme: "Take Action"

Focus Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Other Readings: Psalm 124; Romans 12: 1-8; Matthew 16: 13-20

Prayer points: Please pray for: Ron Ashton with his cancer diagnosis, those with winter illnesses, Shelia Simmons for back pain and Alan Busfield whose health is deteriorating, Dick McDonald with his back pain whilst travelling overseas.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

NOTICE OF AGM: This is the first formal notice that the AGM will be held on Sunday 14 September 2014 immediately after the Sunday service.

Congregational Meeting Notice: A congregational meeting has been cancelled. I apologise that I have not followed up on names suggested to me for bringing to the congregation. We will not have any elected members of the current Leadership Team retiring at this Annual General Meeting. LT Exec agree that we will bring names to the AGM for the Nominating Team.

We do have one significant position to fill for the Leadership of the parish – Peter Hancock has stepped down as our Financial Team Co-ordinator. He has held this position since 2010. He has done a wonderful job for us; his meticulous care and ability and attention to detail have been fantastic gifts for us in the financial field. Peter, we are in your debt and pray for easier days ahead – without the responsibilities you have shouldered on our behalf☺.

As our Financial Team Coordinator, Peter was a co-opted member on the Leadership Team. We need your prayers for this position to be filled. It is a responsible and necessary role in the daily life of our parish. Blessings Lorraine

ALPHA: Please pray for those attending and the leaders.

FRIENDLY VISITORS:- We have had a number of ants decide they like our kitchen in the main foyer area of the church. Can we please be extra careful with leaving food or crumbs around on the floor or benches. Thank you Jeannine (AKA Exterminator)

End of year AGM. With this fast approaching can all Team Leaders please forward their reports to the office as soon as possible for preparation of the AGM document. Thank you.

AGM Hi everyone we are currently in the process of putting together the AGM document and would like anyone who has photos of any events within the church to please forward them to the office via email (office@stjohnsbb.org.nz) or drop in the original and I will scan and return to you. Thank you Jeannine

Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (17th August) John Cowan's guest will be political journalist and commentator Barry Soaper.

Inspirational/Anglican TV “ “Take courage in who you are and what you believe. Freely imagine the future and what you have to offer it. Persistence pays. This week on **www.inspirationaltv.net**: Gary McCormick on believing in yourself, imagining who you can be and; Matthew 15:21-28 a woman's faith. All the best for a great week."