



GOD—OUR ANCHOR OF HOPE

Imagine a library is open only on moonless nights and all are prohibited. You can have access to all the books but you must pursue this in total blackness. No lamps, candles, torches—total blackout. That is a pretty accurate picture of world trying to learn, trying to think and trying to meditate without the light of the life of Christ.

Paul wrote in Romans that the people let their thinking become futile, their hearts were darkened, they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God and they had no understanding. **Without Christ**, our thoughts are as dark as midnight. Every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart is only evil all the time. **How can that be?**

The human brain is the greatest marvel of God's creation—more complex than the largest star or the smallest atom. But it is corrupted by Satan's lies. Like a finely tuned engine, our brains are designed for only one fuel—Truth. The Truth that comes from God. The truth that pervades His creation. The truth found in His perfect character and infallible Word. **Jesus turns the light on.**

The only way to change your life is to change your mind, and that requires changing the lordship and leadership of your heart. When Christ becomes your Saviour and Lord, He turns the light on inside you. Jesus came as the light of the world. Yet, even after receiving Christ as our Saviour, we still struggle with our thoughts. Dark shadows dance on the walls of our minds. We are conflicted. The process of spiritual growth involves increasing the wattage of the light that shines in our hearts and mind—and that light comes only from our Lord.

Quick tip: Include biblical meditation in your everyday planning. Think ahead of a passage you want to ponder while going about your daily activities—walking on the beach; sitting on the porch; resting on a chair; cleaning the house; enjoying a sunrise or sunset.

May the mind of Christ, My Saviour live in me from day to day, by His love and power controlling, all I do and say.

Mondays and

Wednesdays: Pastoral

care by appointment with Pastor Judi.

Mondays: Café Revive informal and relaxed morning tea for all. 10-12noon. (see flyer)

Wednesdays:

Food pantry for those in crisis only. 8am to 10.30am;

Big Breakfast 7am to 10am

Orange Sky Laundry 7am to 8.30am.

Fridays:

Women's Bible Study

10:30-11:45am, (see

flyer)

Sundays:

Worship service

10-11.15am followed by a cuppa and chat.

Prayer Points: Let us pray to God with sincere thanks for all that He has done and does for us.

Often, we fill our prayers with what we want God to do or give to us.

We need to also include thanks to Him for His Son, giving His life for us.

PRAY IN



BOARD MEETING UPDATE: We enjoyed a very productive board meeting on Wednesday. Items discussed were:

100th year celebration—all the planning is coming together, please offer to assist where you can, including an overall tidy up of the site the week prior to the event.

Justice and Mission—we are going to prepare to gather various items to donate overseas. (such as the Christmas Bowl/Samaritans purse/Act for Peace.) We will be inviting you to participate which is another way for our congregation to get to know one another, share God's word to increase our faith.

Guest speakers: Agreement to have Global Mission Partners on 26th May, sharing her trip to the Philippines; Faith for Climate later in the year.

High Tea for Mother's Day: Monday 6th May 10:30am. This suggestion came from Francis who attends St. Josephs, as she comes to our Café Revive.

Café Revive: Continues every Monday 10-12noon—numbers are growing. Please join us—it is a fun, informal time.

Future beyond 2024: looking ahead, we believe God is preparing us for an exciting revival some changes will be implemented with seeking your input. We are aiming to encourage everyone to be involved as participants and not just spectators.

Sermon Series: Dinner with Jesus.

25th February—The Unexpected Guest. Luke 7:36-47 3rd March-The Guest List. Luke 14:1-24 10th March-What is better. Luke 10:38-41

17TH MARCH—100 YEAR CELEBRTION. Wow.

Describe a time when you felt fully seen, known and accepted for who you are.

Was it when you with your family, friends or maybe at church? Maybe it "came out of the blue" from a person you hardly knew. Doesn't it feel good when you are affirmed for who you are.

Let's all ensure we give this "gift" to each other.