

Dates to Remember	
TODAY	MATRIX event after church
Tuesdays	6.30pm Interchurch Volleyball
Thursdays	Te Hahi Combined Churches Prayer - 7am AOG Church
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Bible Society 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event



**Church Office Hours:** 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

**'Prayer Chain'** – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** – Meets at 1.30pm in the Church House. For more info contact Maureen Wilson.

**Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast'** - Meets for breakfast at 6.45am in the Church House. For more info contact Paul Cosson.

**Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'** – Meets for breakfast at 7am in the Church House. For more info contact Amanda Lewis.

**Women's 'Growth Group'** – Meets at fortnightly 1pm on Thursdays, in the Church House. If you are interested in joining please contact Nicola Hawkins.

**Giving/Tithing** - If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.



**Calling All Our Year 789's!**

**12pm-3pm TODAY - after church**

Come use your creativity and design skills. Let's revamp our room to make it fun and make it ours.

**Bring \$5 to cover lunch.**

See Deb or Phil Viljoen for more details.

**Matrix Event!**

	Today	Next Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Greeters</b>	B & A Hall	M Wilson, J Schierning
<b>Explorers Crèche</b>	Parents	R Theobald
<b>Matrix</b>	P & D Viljoen	M van Wijk
<b>Ministry Team</b>	J Newman	J McHardy
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	P & A Walker, R Keelan	E & B Bowis, L Hindle
<b>Flowers</b>	D Dobbie	D Dobbie
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	R Nelson / P Cosson	D Russell / P Walker
<b>Counters</b>	B Wheeler	N Coffey



**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

**10am: 'How Is Christ Relevant Today?'**

*Luke 9:23*

**Leading: Paula Levy**

**Preaching: Leigh McGurk**

**Duty Elder: Andrew Russell**

**Church Leader:** Paula Levy **Office** 06 867-9604 **Cell** 021 140-4667  
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**Church Office** 06 867-9604 **9am – 12noon**  
**E-mail** [office@mup.org.nz](mailto:office@mup.org.nz) **Website:** [www.mup.org.nz](http://www.mup.org.nz)  
Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

**Elders Team**

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635 Rodney Judd 06 863-2400 Llew Paul: 022 052 8297

*'Explorers' creche is available for 1-4 years, but unmanned today. Parents/Guardians will need to stay and supervise their children if using it. 'Kidzspace' Primary age children and Matrix 789's go out at message time.*

## Paula writes...

I wonder if you have been watching "The Chosen"? Season Two is now well underway, and these are a wonderful look at the life of Jesus. As I watch, I am blown away yet again at His love, compassion, wisdom, honesty and ability to connect with people. It makes me excited to be one of His followers.



However, I am also reminded of the challenges – when I see people unable to make the jump or sacrifice needed to become followers. Today we look at one of Jesus' hardest but clearest teachings – that following Him means taking up a cross as He did.

***Luke 9:18** - Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"<sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."<sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.<sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.<sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.*

Max Lucado says this:

"Jesus gives us one of His hardest teachings of all when He says: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." The word that Jesus uses for "deny yourself" literally means in the Greek to "say no to yourself." This is one of Jesus' hardest teachings, not because it is difficult to understand, but because it is so difficult to implement. For most of us we do not like to say "No" to ourselves. That is one of the reasons why it is so difficult to overcome addictive behaviour – alcohol, internet images, lying, gossip, etc. But Jesus says that if we want to be a follower of His, we, with His help are called to say "No" to ourselves and say "Yes" to Him. It is a willing, cheerful understanding that we live not for self but for Him who loves us and gave Himself for us. It is a life that is lived in harmony with God, in works of service to our neighbour out of love for Christ. This is what pleases God."

May God give us the grace to follow Him each day, even when it really costs. And when we don't, to receive His grace and forgiveness and try again.

**Blessings, Paula**

**Leadership Team** – Janice Langford had been on a leave of absence from the Leadership Team during 2020, and has now officially resigned. We are looking for another person to replace her on the Leadership Team, so if you would like to nominate someone to be considered for this position, please email the office or let Paula know.

**RUEL ORPHANAGE PHILIPPINES** – Tragically, with a surge in Covid-19 infections occurring where the orphanage is, they are expecting another lockdown. The caregivers tell Pauline (Director and CEO in Tauranga) they are scared because most have husbands who have lost their jobs and they're only getting by on one very low income. Pauline has assured them they will be paid if they contract Covid or if they have to isolate after a test. Most have young families. Angela Paton is putting a box together of much needed items to send by ship. The main list is on the Missions noticeboard, but some things are: kids bath towels, tea towels, hand towels, face clothes, any size sleeveless tank tops and shorts (new or gently used), activity books, pens, sports equipment, biscuits, (not chocolate 😊). Thanks for your help. Angela.

**Volunteers needed** (especially men) on an occasional basis to help families that need to move at short notice. We are putting together a list of people - so if an urgent request arises we can quickly find one or two to work with those from other churches. See Paul Madsen for more details or let us know in the office.

## **Bible Society 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event at Lawson**

**Field Theatre** – The Bible Society would like to invite you to their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at **7pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. Doors open 6.30pm. At the event, they will share about the early story of Bible mission in New Zealand, more about the people behind Bible Society mission, and share about their vision for the future. There will be interactive displays and exhibits too which young people will enjoy. They would appreciate registering for the event, but if that is not possible you are welcome to just turn up. More details on the noticeboard at back.



**Foodbank** – Thank you to all who faithfully give to the foodbank. Our stocks are down again and we are currently running low on the following items: Weetbix, porridge oats, canned soup, crackers/biscuits, muesli bars, mashed potato, flour, sugar, toothpaste, soap, rice, peanut butter/marmite, canned peas, dishwash liquid, washing powder.

**Support For Families In India** - Alan and Joan Radcliffe, who have visited India many times, are in contact with Christian families who are severely affected by COVID and also ministering to those in great need in their community. They are planning to send through some funds to assist. If you would like to contribute please talk to Alan, or you can make a donation to the church tagged "India" and the funds will be forwarded.