



*Our motivating vision is...  
'To be His Love, Light and Life'*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**No 10am Service until further notice**

**No Evening Fellowship Meeting until further notice**

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**Church Office** 06 867-9604 **9am – 12noon**  
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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

**Church Office Hours:** 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).  
Dione is still working, but from home. Please don't call the Church Office as the phone is unable to be answered during the lockdown, but you can still email the office as these will be getting checked every morning during normal office hours.

**For emergencies or pastoral issues, please contact Paula.**



- 1. The Church Buildings and Office** are shut for the duration of the lockdown. Please stay away from these and do not enter, even if you have a key. Thanks.
- We would like to encourage all members of Mangapapa Church to honour the government's directives and stay at home during this lock down period.
- All Small groups** are postponed at this stage. But please stay in contact with each other in other ways.
- 'Prayer Chain'** – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can still be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.
- 'CAP'** - I am doing minimal work, except what can be done over the phone and online. Please pray for our clients as they adjust to the restrictions imposed by lock down. Nicola.



Please email the office if you need any help during the lockdown period (unless urgently required – then contact Paula), or people to pick up some groceries for you etc. We have a list of people who have volunteered to help out in this way.

**"My kids spent all afternoon throwing Scrabble tiles at each other. All fun and games until somebody lost an 'i'."**



**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.

## Paula writes ...

This is our first “virtual” newsletter coming over the airwaves – guaranteed virus free! If you miss the printed version you will need to print it out at home as we cannot access the office to print. If you know someone who doesn't get email – maybe you could read it to them over the phone.



On the good news front, what a wonderful celebration last Sunday with our baptisms at the beach! We were able to go ahead, and in the Sunshine were able to sing together, worship our amazing God and see wonderful women baptised. The waves were a long way out but we did it. Please continue to pray for Nona, Dong Mei and Nicole who took this step, that it would be a real defining moment for them in their journey as Jesus' followers. Thanks to Neil for the music, Andrew for getting wet with me, Roger and Nicola for getting wet too, and everyone who came to support. So pleased we got this celebration in as a last time to meet for a while.



Today as I write this it is Day 1 of lockdown. So many mixed feelings. Of course the big picture things, of wanting to join as a nation to try and curb the virus spread and protect those most vulnerable. Then there are all the questions of uncertainty about how it will go and how long it will be. Then all the questions around how we will cope without contact with others and without being able to go places. Then there are the financial concerns and practical concerns - and lots of 'what-if's'.

During this time we will need to be creative, we will need to encourage each other, we will need to hold on to our big God. My old Pastor Steve says this: “The Chinese character for ‘Crisis’ is comprised of two characters – one for ‘Danger’ and one for ‘A time of change’.” The change of lockdown is not all bad. This is an opportunity to slow down, to have time for regular prayer and reflection and reading the Bible; for connecting regularly with God and others.”

Here are a few resources if you don't already have a regular Bible reading plan or means of daily encouragement from scripture. We will be also getting other resources and links out to you and feel free to let us know if you find good ones.

<https://www.rhema.co.nz/the-word-for-today>

<https://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>

<https://www.faithgateway.com/jesus-study-max-lucado-obs-registration/>

Prayers for you all at this time.

**Blessings, Paula**

## A Prayer for the Global Church

Dear God,

You say that if Your people humble themselves, turn away from wickedness, and call on Your name, that You will answer them and heal their land.

So we're asking for forgiveness. Forgive us for the times we've chosen not to love the people You put in front of us.

Allow this season to strengthen Your Church and to remind us of how much You love this hurting world.

Please heal our land and use us to meet the needs of hurting people. Grow our faith as You grow Your global Church.

Come Lord Jesus, and do what only You can do.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**YouVersion**

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**A Word From Nona Aston** – *“Thank you Church for your support, the amazing feeling of looking at all your faces knowing each one of you are there for us in our journey of renewed faith, and the forgiveness and absolute love for the rest of our lives. Without you all I know I would not have come to this point in my life. I know with your help my life will be strengthened in faith and be blessed in so many new ways. Thank you all. Nga Mihi Nui Arohanui, Nona”*



**Farewell to Grant Miller** - Grant was offered a new position at the Otago Daily Times Newspaper, and wasn't sure that he would be able to get there due to the lockdown. He was with us at the baptism on Sunday, but praise God, he is on the move! It has all happened very quickly and he didn't get time to say goodbye, but he sent us this message yesterday for the newsletter: *"I'm making a hurried move, travelled on the ferry overnight with what I could fit in the car. Driving probably the rest of the way today. It's been harder to tee things up, and on a quick time scale, but looks like I'll be able to start on time. After a rest, soon. I was losing hope on Tues night but then I heard the travelling-home window was extended and that I was probably sorted for furnished accommodation for a while. Relieved to make it across the strait. Remarkable how things have worked out so far and I appreciate people's prayers."* Please remember to pray for Grant as he settles in to a new city and job.

**Farewell to Pat Hall** – It is with sadness that we let you know that Pat Hall passed away at Ryman last night. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, grieving her loss in these especially difficult circumstances. Please remember to uphold them in your prayers.



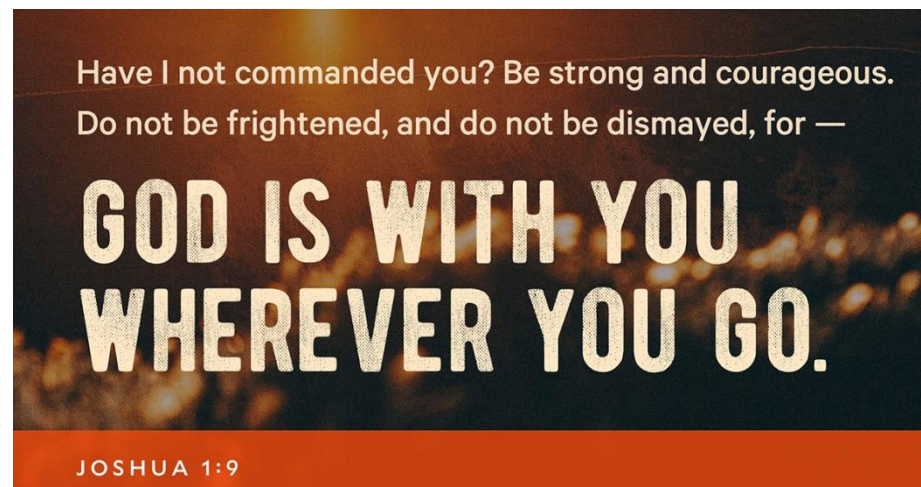
If you have anything happen over the week that you'd like to share, of something God has done, or a word of encouragement He has given you, or even just something that has happened in you and your family's life, that we could put in the newsletter – please email the office with the details. Photos are welcome too. We would like to be able to put some of our 'stories' in the newsletter to encourage everyone.

Lorraine Darcy posted on the Mangapapa Church Facebook page yesterday, that she was challenged to read Isaiah 26 verses 3 and 20, being that the date was 26/3/20. Interestingly, the verses said:

*"You will keep in perfect peace those who minds are steadfast, because they trust in You." - Isaiah 26:3*

*"Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed you by." - Isaiah 26:20*

There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.



Hope at Home is an ONLINE, HOPE-FILLED Film Festival with buckets of extra, exclusive content which you get to access through a caring, engaged online festival community... get ready to feel part of something special, people!

Reel Dialogue is partnering with HERITAGE FILMS with this project. Their team have passionately been bringing uplifting content to cinemas, TV screens, local communities and mobile devices for over 15 years now.

Ten HOPE-FILLED movies over ten weeks – delivered straight to your inbox!  
A new film each week.

A whole bunch of fun online events to engage and dig deeper together.

It feels like we could all do with good dose of hope, courage and inspiration!

For all the info about the Hope at Home Film Festival visit: [hopeathome.com.au](http://hopeathome.com.au)

**(Note: Cost is \$29.99 for a Film Festival pass)**