

Thursday	Te Hahi Combined Churches Prayer - 7am AOG Church
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**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 'Prayer For the Nation'** – 11am in the Church Prayer Room/Library. For more info contact Janet Burgess or Gretchen Norman.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** – Will recommence on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the Church House. For more info contact Maureen Wilson.

**Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast'** - Will be starting up again at 6.45am on 10<sup>th</sup> February. For more info contact Paul Cosson.

**Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'** – Recommencing 7am this Thursday (4<sup>th</sup> February) with breakfast at Zest Café. For more info contact Amanda Lewis.

**Women's 'Growth Group'** – Will be recommencing 1pm Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February in the Church House. If you are interested in joining please contact Nicola Hawkins.

**Friday 'Revival Prayer'** – Starts 6.30pm and will be held at Joy McHardy's place. For more info contact Elaine Oates.

**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.

**Fundraising for Ruel** – Orphanage and Cleft Lip Operations Philippines. Selections of cards kindly offered from originals by John Hawkesworth. Pack of 4 small \$10, pack of 3 large \$10. Framed originals from \$85. Contact Angela Paton 021 216 8446.

	Today	Next Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Greeters</b>	J & L Hawkesworth	M Raitaukala, H Hockey
<b>Explorers Crèche</b>	School Hols / Parents	R Theobald
<b>Matrix</b>	School Holidays	School Holidays
<b>Ministry Team</b>	J Newman	J McHardy
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	A Alder, D Benson, L Hindle	N & C Coffey, M McHardy
<b>Flowers</b>	D Dobbie	D Dobbie
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	J Russell / P Walker	R Nelson / R Levy
<b>Counters</b>	A Radcliffe	C Robinson



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

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

**10am: "Gospel Of Matthew"**

*Matt 11:28 – "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

**Leading: Paula Levy**

**Preaching: Frank Darcy**

**Duty Elder: Llew Paul**

**Church Leader:** Paula Levy **Office** 06 867-9604 **Cell** 021 140-4667  
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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



*'Kidzspace' Primary age children and 'Matrix 789's' will be watching a movie with snacks this morning. 'Explorers' 1-4 years and their guardians are welcome to join them.*

## Paula writes...

I have been thinking a lot about eyes and logs and splinters and vision this week. An innocent early morning bit of gardening on Monday turned my week upside down as a piece of sharp grass gave me a good poke in the eye. Half an hour later I was being assessed at the hospital and relieved to find out that although it had created a pretty good mess, my sight was ok.

The rest of the week it has felt a bit like something stuck in my eye that I could not get rid of. This encouraged me to re-read Jesus' words in the sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 7:3-5** *"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."*

It is very easy to see faults in others. It is very easy to think we can solve others' problems. It is easy to jump to conclusions about others' pain. Jesus calls this judging. In fact, He starts chapter 7 by telling us not to judge others because we will be judged by the same standards. Then He uses the metaphor of the splinter and a log to describe what is going on when we do judge others. To judge someone else is to point out something very insignificant when we have our own much bigger issues.

At times it can be beneficial to speak difficult truth to people, especially when we have a trusted relationship, but if it is not done in love and from a realisation that we too have splinters and even logs, then it is usually not helpful and in fact can do more damage.

**One antidote I can see is to** instead of being critical, work hard at being encouragers. All of us have our issues. And it is our responsibility, with God's help, to be working on them. Let's grow as a church in being a place where we can share the struggles: the splinters and logs, without judgement. Where we can walk alongside, and can encourage without judgement. May our church be a place where broken people come to get healed and restored, not judged. We need to be welcoming to those who God has brought to us. We also need to be real about the fact none of us have yet made it.

As well as building the foundations of this year on prayer and scripture, let's also build them on a heart of working on the things in our own eyes and encouraging others on their journeys.

**Blessings, Paula**




**Frank Darcy** is sharing the message with us this morning. He writes ...


*"Chapter 13 brings the first half of Matthew's Gospel to an end. The person of Jesus has been brought very clearly before us, together with a variety of responses to Him. And those responses have been sharpening in intensity. On the issue of accepting Him or rejecting Him, Matthew brings together seven parables which reinforce the need to decide about Jesus. The parables are all about different responses to Jesus." – Michael Green*

I will be speaking this morning, giving us an introduction to Matthew's gospel. There are some great themes here in these first 13 chapters, but there are some questions which need answers:

- What is the different meaning of "repent" referred to by both John the Baptist and Jesus?
- What is meant by the phrase "Kingdom of Heaven/God"?
- Who are in the group which opposes Jesus, and why?
- Who are the people who Jesus accepts as His own, and who truly belong to "The Kingdom"?



**Te Hahi Prayer Meetings**  
You are invited to be part of this very important ministry. 7am every Thursday morning at the Assembly of God Church, 82 Grey Street.



**Wanted For 2021:** People to be involved with our Matrix Youth during Sunday morning teaching time. If you are interested in knowing more about what this involves please speak with Nicola Hawkins.

## **Volunteers Needed:**

Just a reminder that if you are able to help out with our pre-school group Explorers, or would like to be part of our team of Greeters (welcoming people at the door as they arrive), or have computer skills and could help out with our Ezy Worship (overhead projector), your help would be much appreciated. Please let Dione know in the office.

