



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

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Worship with the YWAM Team and  
Prayer for Myanmar

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#### Elders Team

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635 Rodney Judd 06 863-2400 Al Clement: 027 855 5949



1. For **Emergencies** or **pastoral issues**, please contact **Paula**.
2. **Church Office Hours: 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri** (excluding public holidays). Dione is working from home. Please don't call the Church Office as the phone is unable to be answered during the lockdown, but you can call Dione on her cell phone 027 855 2122 during office hours or email the office as these get checked Mon-Fri.
3. **The Church Building** will continue to be **shut during Level 3**. Please do not enter the building during. If you do need to enter for some reason, please contact Paula.
4. **Prayer Chain** – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can still be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.
5. **Annual General Meeting** – Our AGM will be held at the Church at 7pm on Wednesday 22 September 2021, provided the Covid Levels allow us to meet. Please pop this date in your diaries.

### Our Pastoral Care Team

Neil Smoker	Al Clement
Nona Aston	Gretchen Norman
Lorraine McAra	Maureen Wilson
Debbie Dobbie	Barbara Bowis

**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...

One good thing of having the YWAM team with us is I have learned a few new songs. One of my favourites is the theme of this blog, written by someone I know. I hope it encourages you:

### “There was another in the fire”

Reflection by Lynne Baab ( August 28 2021)

Do any of you remember this song?

*Nobody likes me, everybody hates me  
Guess I'll go eat worms  
Big fat juicy ones, long thin slimy ones  
Itsy bitsy, fuzzy wuzzy worms*

It was fun to look up the lyrics. I'd forgotten everything except the first three lines. That song may be a childhood favourite, but it also captures an adult mood that I find myself experiencing from time to time. Everything and everyone is against me! I'm suffering! No one understands my challenges! Sometimes we love to wallow, feel sorry for ourselves, turn inward (or outward) in anger. Sometimes we are just too tired to look for God.

This blog post was inspired by another song, a praise song from Hillsong United that draws on the language of the book of Daniel. The prophet Daniel had three friends with some of the quirkiest names in the Bible: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Who could forget those names, because who could forget the story of Daniel's three friends being thrown into a very hot fire by order of King Nebuchadnezzar? And who can forget the vividness of the account in Daniel 3:25, the words of an eye witness, “I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” (Daniel 3:25)

Hillsong United evokes this story in a song, “Another in the Fire”. The song emphasizes Jesus' presence with us in the fire and the flood:

*There was another in the fire, standing next to me.  
There was another in the waters, holding back the seas.*

Because of the sending of the Holy Spirit to earth on Pentecost Sunday, we are not alone in situations that feel like fire or floods. Even when we want to wallow and feel sorry for ourselves, we are not alone. Even when we feel isolated and beleaguered, we are actually not alone.

Oddly enough, when I first heard the title of the song, I thought about the friendship between the three men. They were not alone in the fire because they had each other. Then I heard the song played in church, and I remembered the fourth person in the fire who looked like “a son of the gods”, words that evoke Jesus.

When we're in that mood where we want to eat worms because the whole world is against us, we don't have the resilience to reach out to friends or family members who love us. We find it hard to focus our minds to pray or read the Bible. When

I'm in my darkest places, I am usually completely stuck. I have to wait patiently for the Holy Spirit to bring a disruption, without judging myself for being stuck.

Sooner or later the Holy Spirit disrupts my self-absorption through variety of ways: A task to do to help someone. A person who shows love to me. An answer to prayer. A song. A poem. A view of nature. A garden. God always brings me back. I'll paraphrase Psalm 30:5 (which focuses on weeping in the original): “*Wanting to eat worms may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*”

I can look back on the numerous times God has disrupted my self-focus and dark mood, and I can thank God for bringing back joy, while I wait for God to send the Holy Spirit to do it one more time.

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. . . .  
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in His word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning. - Psalm 130:1, 5, 6*

## Blessings, Paula



The image shows a presentation slide with a dark blue background and a white compass rose logo on the left. The title is 'NAVIGATE CULTURE Cultural Apologetics'. Below the title, it lists 'Trending Issues including:' followed by a list of topics: Biculturalism & Multi-culturalism, Worldview & Comparative Religions, Transgenderism & Homosexuality, Critical Race Theory, Abortion & Euthanasia, Freedom of Speech, Media & Entertainment, and Identity & Human Rights. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'THINKING MATTERS' with the tagline 'DEFEND FAITH NAVIGATE CULTURE REACH PEOPLE'. The website 'www.thinkingmatters.org.nz' is listed at the bottom left. A small video inset in the top right corner shows a woman speaking.

Michelle Englehardt shares about the need there is for 'Thinking Matters' and other Christian apologetic ministries, and how we can partner with them in prayer. Thinking Matters' purpose is to equip Christians in being able to defend their faith but also to navigate our increasingly secular and pluralistic culture from a Biblical perspective. To hear more about this ministry 'ctrl click' on the following link:

[\(1\) Thinking Matters | Michelle Englehardt - YouTube](#)



You'll be aware that a couple of weeks ago, Haiti was devastated by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake and just 48 hours later, the area was hit by Tropical Storm Grace. An estimated 1.2 million people have been severely impacted. The death toll is already over 2,000.

6,000 sponsored children in Haiti have been displaced and at least 46 child development centres have been severely damaged or destroyed.

Unfortunately, 19 New Zealand-sponsored children have been affected. They are safe and well, but their houses are either damaged or destroyed. One of the underlying benefits of child sponsorship is that the families of children registered with Tear Fund's partner, Compassion International, will be supported when a disaster strikes.

Compassion is working with local churches to provide emergency assistance to those in need:

- Handing out food kits and hygiene packs to 18,000 children, youths and families.
- Providing shelter for families who have lost their homes.
- Offering trauma counselling where needed and providing medical care.

Importantly, Compassion is also setting up child-friendly spaces that allow children to seek refuge and safely wait as missing caregivers are located.

They have already provided medical and counselling services for 150 injured children and their families. And approximately, 3000 food and hygiene kits have also been distributed.

Will you please pray along with us for children affected in Haiti? And if you are able to donate to provide them emergency assistance, we would be so grateful. Donations can be made by internet payment to:

**Account number:** 12-3024-0505787-01    **Code:** 205-21  
**Ref:** 11572



God bless,  
 Andrew Robinson, **Programmes Manager**



Don't forget the Pray As One NZ meetings from **8pm-9pm every Monday night**. To join the meetings just go to their website <https://prayasone.nz/> and click on the link.

