

NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

TAKE NOTE:

14th March 2021

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday will be observed across the church in all three services. The pandemic has affected many mission organisations and their missionaries and so it is worthwhile to remember them and pray for them

21 March 2021

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

The Baptist Union of Churches are celebrating women in our movement and their contribution towards the ministries of the church. Our church will observe the 21st March as our Women's Sunday

27th March 2021

LEADERS RETREAT

The scheduled Leaders Retreat could not go ahead because of lockdown. So, it has been postponed to the Saturday, 27th March from 9:30am



GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

How did this Camp happen for us? One can confidently say that it was like a miracle. The timing was just right where the lockdown ended at the right time so we could go to the Camp. Just after finishing our Camp, the very next week we went into another lockdown at Level 3. Let's see all this with respect to God and His beloved church. God loves His church and He will reveal Himself in various ways so that the faith of His believers may remain strong. Our Lord God Almighty has His wonderful eyes set on us and watching over us as a Church. He knows what we need. He is providing, working and teaching us in times like this. **His time and His timing is always perfect.** Just trust in God for who He is. In the worst event of us not being able to go to the Camp, we can be still be sure that our Lord would have prepared for us another time and it could have been even a better time than this. But I believe God determined that this Camp is the best to bless His children and so He made it happen and indeed we saw the rewards of it. In uncertain times, it is easy to get disappointed very quickly and it is easy to get frustrated. The fatigue of lockdowns wears us down. But, let's be patient and trust in God and in His unfailing love for us always. Take a moment to thank God for all that He is doing at OCBC - God Bless - Ps. Das

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FASTING PRAYER MEETING -
Friday, 5th March from 8pm-
10pm - on ZOOM

HAMILTON MINISTRY - Saturday,
13th March, 4:00pm @ Discovery
Christian Centre, God willing

MISSION SUNDAY - Sunday, 14th
March observed in all three
Services.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY - Sunday,
21st March - observed in all three
services

LEADERS RETREAT - Saturday,
27th March from 9:30am

BABY DEDICATION SERVICE -
Sunday, 28th March, 8:15 Tamil
Service - Alwyn & Nisha will be
dedicating their first born son to
the Lord.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray for patience as people have to negotiate frequent changes to their life through lockdowns
- Pray for new jobs to open up for those who are desperately looking for jobs
- Pray for peace in the marriages and families
- Pray for the Lord's blessings on all the ministries of the church.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Isaiah 56: 8 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways"

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: from Rachel Jacob

Stu & Maree have returned to NZ from South East Asia and we have recently discontinued our support. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. The Missions Committee are looking forward to supporting new overseas missionaries with Pioneers NZ which is in discussion at present. Our next team meeting should take place on the second week of March. Thanks for your continued support.

CHURCH CAMP - GOD MADE IT SUCCESSFUL

For the first time in many years, we as a Church came together at this Camp and there were more than 110 of us. Despite the lockdown scares, we were able to have the Camp by the grace of God. We all had great fun and had wonderful blessed sessions. Thanks to everyone who participated.

FIRE DRILL - note date change

The scheduled first FIRE DRILL exercise did not go as planned due to the lockdown. The next FIRE DRILL will be scheduled for the Sunday, 21st March. Members of the respective congregations are requested to take note and participate.

RESUMPTION OF ALL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Please do note that all the church ministries, namely the Cell Group Ministries, Bible Studies, Sunday School and Youth Meetings and Outreach ministries have resumed. Participate and be blessed. Bring a friend to these meetings.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR TAMIL AND ENGLISH SERVICES

Due to lockdown last Sunday, our Guest Speaker Barry Raeburn from World Vision was not able to make it. He wants to meet with us in person rather than on Zoom. So, we will look at another favourable day for him to minister to us.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES: HOLY WEEK SERVICES

28th March - PALM SUNDAY

1st April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd April - GOOD FRIDAY (Combined Service)

4th April - EASTER SERVICE

CHURCH CAMP 2021 - SOME PHOTOS





Church Camp 2021 - A Reflection by Pastor Mike

Truly we have been blessed this year to have had our camp just in the ‘nick of time’!

As I am writing this, it has just been announced by the Prime Minister that Auckland is moving out of Level 3 lockdown on Sunday, and into level 2. Prior to this of course, Auckland was in lockdown for 3 days, which was the week and days leading up to our camp! But thankfully it didn’t stop camp, praise the Lord.

So just to have camp this year, we can truly be thankful.

A camp experience has a lot to do with a team effort. I always like to think of team as T.E.A.M. - Together, Each Achieves More. Certainly by the many photos that we have of Camp 2021, we see a lot of us working together as a Church, and making our camp time one to remember. God’s people through out all generations, have found themselves in a camp situation, where they have had to work together in order to get through their particular challenges. See for example...

At the command of the LORD the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the LORD they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. - Numbers 9:18

The most important thing about the camps of Israel was of course, that when God was in the centre of the Camp then Israel was always provided for and protected. Likewise for our camp, it was so wonderful to have Christ at the



heart of our camp, because Christ is in the heart of us. I have always enjoyed Christian camps, and our Church camp was so wonderful, as we were together, we were safe, and we all had a good time. Of course combining all together for our Sunday Worship Service was a real blessing, and we were reminded of this years theme, Health, Hope and Holiness. May we continue to live out this theme this year.

God bless.





GOD'S LOVE NEVER ENDS

Dear Church, Praise the Lord! We had a wonderful time in February, especially at church camp. Church camp this year was run slightly differently, with all three congregations gathering together regardless of language: English, Tamil, and Chinese. Together, we had great worship, prayers, entertainment, and family fellowship. However, while we are still facing COVID-19 level 2 and 3 difficulties, we are genuinely enveloped in God's love and can unite to love each other in His boundless love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

(John3: 16-17)

Love is the greatest gift from God to us. There are three types of love:

Firstly, you love me, and I love you too. On the other hand, you might hate me, and I also hate you. This is a kind of love based on emotion. It's the most common attitude in the world. However, it does not last for long with the passing of time and changing of people.

The second type, you love me, and I love you too. But if you hate me, I will not hate you. Most people think it is enough not to hate others, even if others mistreat you. But this kind of love will not last for long, either, because this attitude will change as others change.

Finally, if you love me, I'll love you too. And if you hate me, I will still love you. This is the Love of Christ, the love for the enemy. This is love because others need love; it is not just for your own feelings or needs. The first and second forms of love are self-centred. Only the third love is completely beyond ordinary love; it is unique. This love will change you and make you become a person who is willing to give. This love will set you free from sins such as selfishness, pride, and greed.

God's love is incredible. God's love never ends nor leaves us; no matter how we treat him, he will always love us, and his love will never change. Paul clearly explained the meaning of God's love; verbal love does not mean anything, but true love will bring correspondingly loving behaviour. This love is the unification of heart, thought, and determination. Brothers and sisters, please do not think this kind of love is too hard to reach and unattainable. When we let our lives follow the life of Christ and immerse ourselves in God, then we can enjoy the blessings and power of true love. I hope that you and I can strive together to pursue this ultimate goal and the never-ending gift of love and that we will put this precious gift into practice in our daily lives.

GREAT PHOTO - THAT SUMS OUR SUMMER CAMP 2021

