

NEWS LETTER

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ

TAKE NOTE:

Since 29th March

ZOOM SERVICES

All Church Services will be going on ZOOM till the restrictions are eased. Let's enjoy this new way of connecting to one another and worshipping our Lord God.

3rd May 2020

COMMUNION SERVICES

Communion Services will be observed in all three services on Zoom.

10th May 2020

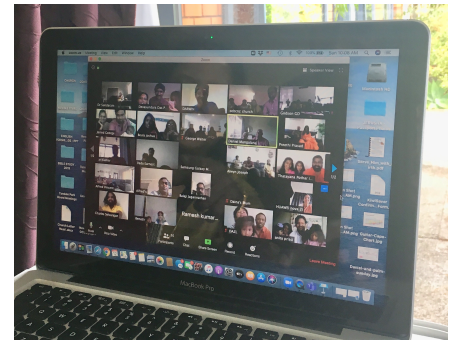
MISSION SUNDAY

Due to sudden changes the mission activities are affected. There is a need to pray for our missionaries more and also for the mission areas.

2020 TARGET:

**20 Baptisms, 50 Born Again
Experiences, 200
Witnessing's**

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM



One after the other we were treated with shock after shock for a couple of weeks with this CoVid-19 situation all around the globe (Now, we are kind of getting used to this new life). Three weeks back, we had to change the way we live and adapt to new rules and regulations. We are still changing though, and we may surely rise to see a new world when all of this over.

For now, let's enjoy this new way of living, without getting too anxious. Let's enjoy this slow ride of isolation in our bubbles. I guess that gives us more time for ourselves and for the ones we love. Hebrews 10: 36 says - "Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised". For these times are also in the will of God. Persevere now and you will see the promised blessing later.

The good thing is - We as a church did not give up. The Leadership has come together to run the church ministries just like before on ZOOM. So, we are thriving on Zoom. We are now able to reach out to many more, even our friends from overseas. Its a great platform to connect. Thanks be to God for His provision. He has proved once again that He will be faithful at all times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING :

Friday, 24th April, 6pm, on ZOOM. Please do talk to your respective leaders for your inputs if you have any.

FASTING PRAYER MEETING:

Friday, 1 May, 8pm - 10pm on ZOOM.

OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING:

Thursday, 21 May, 6pm on ZOOM

PLANNED EVENTS: Please note that due to CoVid-19 restrictions, we will put a hold on all planned meetings until further notice.

PRAYER NEEDS

We need prayers at this time more than ever

- Pray for those who are affected by the situation and healing for those who are infected by CoVid -19 virus.
- Pray for the jobless and the homeless
- Pray for people to trust in God at this time and also for their future.

VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Isaiah 49: 13

"Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones."

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Rachel Jacob

Missions Committee will be meeting on 24th April. CoVid-19 has changed the way we do missions. The planned meetings will go ahead on ZOOM. If you have any questions or queries about the missions of our church, please contact Rachel Jacob, our Missions Co-Ordinator.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School ministries are continuing on ZOOM. Parents are requested to give a helping hand to the Sunday School Teachers by asking their children to complete the Sunday School assignments. .

CELL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDIES

The Cell Groups and Bible Studies are continuing on ZOOM. Please do participate during this lockdown. These prayer times are essential for our spiritual and physical well being.

THANKING GOD: CHURCH CAMP

The Church Camp was a successful event by the grace of God. Everything worked according to our plan without any hindrances, even though the CoVid-19 situation was beginning to get worse. We had a good Camp Speaker this year and God spoke to us through him with laughter and Thanks be to God for a refreshing and rejuvenating Camp. Please check out some photos on the last page

THANKING GOD: HOLY WEEK SERVICES

We went to lockdown and the Holy Week services went on ZOOM. But, what a week it was. As scheduled, we had all the three services during Holy Week and each one had a good attendance on ZOOM. We had friends and family watching from abroad. Thanking God for His presence in all our services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just a Note:

We do not know for sure how our future planned ministries will be. We all are waiting for the lockdown to be lifted completely easing on all restrictions. Till then we will put a hold on all planned events, like Church celebrations, Retreats, Seminars and Kids Holiday Programs.

CHINESE CONGREGATION: PASTOR GRACE'S COLUMN**"RECONSIDER"**

Today, on the 22nd day after the New Zealand lockdown, I pen this letter for our newsletter. It feels as if the world has come to halt. I remember seeing a video early today, it was just under 10 minutes long with no narration, showing major cities around the world before and after the COVID-19 invasion. People from busy cities seem to have suddenly vanished; the images appear frozen in time and the environment finally clean. It is truly shocking to see how much the world has transformed in the last few months. This cleaner earth is what God created at the beginning of time. The world we live in, just like our families, is a gift from the Lord. It is time for each and every one of us to slow and reconsider the world we live in today and how great our God is.

I want to thank God, who gave His life for me on the cross to save me from my sins. We have a new life because of Christ's resurrection. I can't thank Him enough for the providence of His grace as our strength so that we can escape the corruption of the world and live in His light by the mercy of His divine nature. We are all healed by His love. Through His grace - we can overcome weaknesses. In the light of His grace, our spiritual life grows. I pray that His glory will be revealed throughout the whole earth.

Prayer Request:**Our dear sister Lily:**

She has informed the church about her stomach cancer and needs to undergo regular and ongoing treatment. We are in prayer with her and would like to ask all our family at OCBC Church as a whole to pray for her, lifting up the treatment process and costs involved into the almighty hands of our Lord. We pray that our Lord has mercy and in His authority remove all pain from her body and restore her health. Sister Lily, her two children, and her family need the love of our church now more than ever.

Announcement:

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, all of our services have moved online with Zoom as detailed below. Please contact Pastor Grace for the relevant meeting IDs.

- **Chinese Worship Service: Sunday | 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**
- **Bible Study: Daily [inc. weekends] | 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM**
- **Disciple Training: Tuesday & Thursday | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

ENGLISH CONGREGATION: PASTOR MIKE'S COLUMN

Last month I wrote about how being thankful is a great way to bring *Revival* to our hearts. Especially when we are feeling a little bit worse for wear. Well, looking at our present Covid 19 situation, perhaps now is the time to revisit our thankfulness to the Lord, and let *Revival* do it's work in our hearts this month, to strengthen us in our faith, hope and love in the Lord, if need be! There was a time in the history of Israel, more accurately it was Judah, after being held in the captivity of Babylon for 70 years according to the prophecies of Jeremiah, that upon release from that captivity, the Joy of the Lord became their strength, as the captives returned home and to rebuild their broken down city and walls. Thankfulness to the Lord returned to the hearts of the people, *Revival* broke out and *rejoicing replaced regrets*.

But what was really beautiful was that the spiritual leaders opened the Word of God, and read it aloud publicly before the people, and a *Revival and Rejoicing* took place as a result of a *Return* to God's Word by the people of God! I am of course referring to the wonderful Biblical accounts recorded in the Book of Ezra and Nehemiah. The name Ezra means 'Jehovah helps' and Nehemiah means 'Jehovah comforts'. Isn't it just amazing how even the names of God's appointed ministers have a message to the people! However, let us also return to the Word of God, to be *Revived*, and to be ready to *Rebuild* the true spirituality that this nation needs, and to see a great *Relationship Restoration* take place as people *Repent* and get *Right* with God through Jesus Christ. Let us never forget, when we are looking at great names, that God says:

"Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." - Acts 4:10-12

Looking again at Ezra and Nehemiah, I am so blessed and encouraged at what took place as the Word was opened to a people who had an open heart to *Receive*. So *Reflect* on the following...

"Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem.

And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered." - Ezra 1:5-6

"And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. - Nehemiah 1:5-7

"And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading." - Nehemiah 8:6-8

May this be quite clear to us today, a return and repentance to God's Word will always bring about *Revival* and a stronger *Relationship* in the life of God's people, and even the entire nation I pray.

SOME CAMP 2020 PICTURES

