

Mainstream



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Minister:
Andrew Tonkin

4th January, 2015

When we pray it is helpful to have an attitude that holds in tension the naming and claiming of our deepest longings, and a willingness to let go of outcomes. This might be an attitude worth bearing in mind as we pray about the new year.

First the naming of our deepest longings. Here before God who is unconditionally inviting us to find life in all its fullness, we might with confidence give words to the longings we may never speak to another person.

When we start to sift and sort through those longings, we begin to excavate the desires that lie beneath them, desires that were placed within us by God's Spirit. At the deepest level of our being we are hard-wired to be in tune with that Spirit.

So, what do you long for as this new year begins? What is driving your actions and shaping your motivations? Can you sift and sort until you begin to hear the desires that lie underneath, and find yourself tuning in to what God desires for you?

Having clarified and articulated our desires, there comes the invitation to let go of the outcome of our prayers. In his prayers in Gethsemane, Jesus moved from "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me" to "yet, not my will but yours, be done". It may take us much longer to make this transition!

Letting go of outcomes gives God room to move, acknowledges that we do not have all the answers, frees us to let the outcomes be different to what we expected. If we become too fixed on the limited possibilities that lie within our imagination we may miss the unfolding of something more splendid!

There is so much about prayer and the spiritual life that remains a mystery. But fortunately many have travelled this road and left us good advice. Learning to both embrace and name our longings, and to let go of outcomes is an inviting, but rather radical, approach to life in a world that encourages longings but likes to control and measure outcomes.

Ann Siddall

*HAPPY NEW
YEAR!*

Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall following the morning service.

Today, Sunday 4th January, 2015

10.00 am Ruth Jackson

Praise

Worship Leader Michael Waters
Communion Leader Wayne Whitehead
Bible Reading Psalm 150

6.00 pm No Evening Service

Next Week, 11th January

10.00 am Andrew Tonkin

6.00 pm No Evening Service



Psalm 150

Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL



Family News *& Prayer*



- * Continue in prayer for Marianne Haigh in hospital. Pray for healing, strength and good spirits.
- *
ROOM FOR RENT
Ballarat - Fully furnished room for rent with Christian family.
Room includes bed, desk, couch, TV, ensuite and shared kitchen.
550m from country train, 5km from ACU and 15km from Federation University.
Would suit female student.
Contact Tanya on 0419 569624 for an inspection.
- * Thank you to all who generously supported Mildura District Chaplaincy by purchasing Christmas puddings and cakes. A profit of \$1,100 was made.

PEANUT PALS

Our Reveal Night on Monday was a great time of fellowship. We welcomed six new Peanut Pals for 2015 and found out who was looking after us in 2014. A big thank you to Clinton Waters who provided the sound as well as the short Christmas Story we watched. A special thank you to Noeline Cook who supplies us with a lovely cool drink and supervises the kitchen for supper each year, we appreciate you very much Noeline. It was a fantastic response for the Kmart wishing tree, with \$165 given and we were able to buy 19 presents to bless people through the Salvation Army at Christmas. Thank you all very much.
Would everyone please check the table in front of the pigeon holes and your pigeon holes, for mail and parcels, thank you.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 2nd

Voting for Elders and Deacons - February 8th & 15th
Report Booklet out - February 8th

All Secretaries, Study Group Leaders, Auxiliary Leaders, Deacons and Elders, please have your reports in to the office by 18th.

Grand Opening & Dedication of our New Building February 21st & 22nd

Saturday evening - David Ratten & Neale Meredith
Dessert & Coffee Night

Sunday Service & Dedication
Invited Guests, including Simon Risson, Paul Cameron,
Julie and Blair Davis
Catered Lunch
Tickets available soon.
Love Offering taken.

CRÈCHE ATTENDANTS NEEDED

According to the Child Safe Guidelines we are required to have at least two crèche attendants and at least one of them must be over 18.

Speak to either Samantha or Carolyn if you would like to go on the crèche roster, teenagers would especially be welcome.

New Ways to Serve

We as members can be of service in our church in so many different ways. Many are talented in leading in our worship services, others in teaching our young people.

With the opening of our new buildings comes a new way for you to serve. The Elders are asking each one of us to consider taking on the cleaning of individual parts of all our buildings. You don't need to be cleaning every room, just one area that you feel able to on a regular basis. You may even be able to have a friend work with you, or take it in turns to see that your allotted area is done.

Speak to Wayne or Auralie if you feel that you will be able to serve in this way.



This Week

Sunday	4th	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
Monday	5th	7.30 pm	Elders



JANUARY

EXTEND ACCOUNT

DIRECT DEPOSITS - Mildura Church of Christ

NAB - BSB number 083764 Account Number 15423 4854

Money pledged	\$437,494
Total given so far	\$323,465

Faith Promise for Missions

Banked \$3,209.70

DIRECT DEPOSITS- Church of Christ Mildura

NAB - BSB number 083-764 Account Number 51591-4637

Budget Weekly Average	\$3,554
Actual Weekly Average	\$3,690

"A weakness of all human beings," Henry Ford said, "is trying to do too many things at once. That scatters effort and destroys direction. It makes for haste, and haste makes waste. So we do things all the wrong ways possible, before we come to the right one. Then we think it is the best way because it works, and it was the only way left that we could see. Every now and then I wake up in the morning headed toward that finality, with a dozen things I want to do. I know I can't do them all at once."

When asked what he did about that, Ford replied, "I go out and trot around the house. While I'm running off the excess energy that wants to do too much, my mind clears and I see what can be done and should be done first."

NEXT WEEK, 11th January

<u>10.00 am</u>	A. Tonkin
Worship Leader	R. Jackson
Communion Leader	C. Beasy
Children's Church	None
Singers	M. Cameron, M. Gardner, S. Armstrong
Band	A. Thorne, B. Moritz, E. Tonkin, J. Tonkin
Projector/Sound	T. Eaton / J. Armstrong
Officer on Duty	W. Whitehead
Welcome/Reception	D. Homfray / J. Bradford
Helpers	G. Beruldsen, B. Eaton, K. Underwood, J. Barthelson, J. Booyesen, J. Wiffen, N. Underwood (reader), J. Renfree
Crèche	J. Kelly, H. Nicholson
Cuppa	M. Cox, L. Cox, I. Cross, E. Phillips
Communion Prep.	R. Hawtin
Cleaning / Grounds	P. Leng, R. Hawtin / W. Duke, M. Cameron

Two brothers who lived on adjoining farms once fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery and trading labour and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few day's work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the elder brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbour, in fact, it's my youngest brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river bank and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go one better. See that pile of timber over by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8 foot fence, so I won't need to see his place anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do the job that pleases you."

The elder brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge - a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all - and the neighbour, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the elder brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."