

Weekly Connections

20th Sept 2020

Pastor's Desk

A kind welcome to you!

We all know the challenge of fatigue, physically, mentally, and emotionally. Of course, there is much we can do to renew our strength: good sleep, diet, exercise, friendship support. But today I want to focus on the supernatural strength that comes through prayer. Someone said, Prayer is to the spirit what oxygen is to the lungs. Let's breathe! **The prayer of a righteous person makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (James 5:16 Amp / and paraphrased).**

This month our focus is on prayer. See our September prayer focus below.
Blessings. *Greg*

The emotional impact of this COVID season is significant and if you are reading this and struggling within yourself please don't hesitate to contact us. We can't do this alone. Here to help! info@newlifeonline.org.au
This months theme sermon notes at the end of this news sheet. *Finding strength through prayer.* Please see at the end of this news sheet for our response to the (COVID -19) International crisis.

Check out our website: www.newlifeonline.org.au

SUNDAY SERVICES

Home Church online 10am Sundays on NLCC TV You Tube channel and fb. Also, via our Web site.

CYC – Children and Youth Church: A special brief message in our service online each week



Physical Sunday services also resume. 10am and 5:30pm. Covid restrictions apply. **No children's church at this stage.** Parents/Carers care for them during the services.
Book in (for non-regulars) by texting Pr Greg or email info@newlifeonline.org.au
Stay 1.5m from others, follow rules on social gatherings, wash hands, stay home if sick.

Connect groups

A great time of fellowship, Bible, and prayer.

Wednesdays TBA

ZOOM Thursdays 7pm – Pr Greg and others lead

Congregation members: text pastor Greg if you would like to join



Talent night in Sept!

This will be huge! **SAT 19th Sept 6pm**



Talent night

*Break out the ukulele, brush up that comedy routine,
search out that teary poem, practice the good 'ol
songs!*

*Whatever your talent - WE NEED YOU - be brave
now! Common! You can do it.*

This will be a great night of fun in the 'ol fashioned home spun talent night style.

SAT 19th sept 6pm
6pm light bbq meal
7pm talents on display.
@ the church.

Register your attendance- info@newlifeonline.org.au
Register your talent - info@newlifeonline.org.au
(performances - 3 to 4 mins max. Each act will be vetted before acceptance)

COVID restrictions apply: 1.5mtrs; wash hands; stay home if not well; contact tracing form on hand; COVID Marshal attending.

Pic of the week: Lyn and Phil (Pre-covid pic)

Pr Lyn and Phil Arthur, now in Burra, SA, served in our church for several years and still remain connected and blessing the people - please uphold them in your prayers.



September prayer focus

PRAYER AND FASTING

WEDNESDAYS

(On Wednesdays a prayer text will be sent out to members)

Prayer 12:30pm Thursdays @ the church.

Prayer ZOOM 7pm Thursday nights

CRC Churches National Conference

Tuesday 29th, Wed 30th Sept. 9am to 5:30pm. @ Christian Family Centre Seaton (For SA delegates).

Would you like to build your faith and enjoy a life changing conference? I'd love to take a team.

Pr Greg. (subject to change)

Supporting local people through the Salvation Army

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/noarlunga/>



<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/red-shield-appeal/>

Click on the links above and connect with them to send your gift.

Giving

Go to our online giving page: <https://www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/>

Please mark your offering clearly. E.G 'tithes' or 'missions as needed' or 'Vanuatu cuyclone relief', etc

World Missions Giving

Our goal this year for our giving is \$300 per week to reach our World Missions goal. Please see our **Above and Beyond** brochure in the foyer. **The total giving for 18/19 financial year \$12, 781. Let's give to reach our goal of \$15,500 for 19/20.**

Our giving supports missionaries, funds training, assists the poor, recues women from slavery, and brings Christ to lost people in other lands.

Please also see our monthly world missions envelops and Monthly Missions report

*** **Bank Details: New Life Christian Centre, World Missions Ac.**

*** **BSB: 035-053, Account No : 381-804 Note: NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER.**

Tithes & Offerings

The Bible teaches us to give tithes & offerings as an act of worship to our Saviour Jesus Christ

❖ Cheques made out to New Life Christian Centre Inc

❖ **Bank Details: NLCC Inc**

BSB: 035-053

Account No.: 127-021

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back" *The words of Jesus!*

-Luke 6:38

Sunday sermon notes – copyright@gcromesept2020

But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31 NLT). *'wait upon the LORD (NASB); hope in the Lord (NIV); wait on the Lord (KJV)*

'Wait' (Heb: *qavah* – to wait for; eagerly wait; hopefully wait; expect; wait patiently). NASB Concordance. The NLT 'trust' is similar to 'hope' in this verse.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:2 NIV)

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying (NLT).

If you're like me you find it a challenge at times to find the physical and emotional strength to do all that you want to do and to face the many challenges that come our way. Physical. Emotional, and mental fatigue is a common challenge.

Of course, there is much we can do to find and maintain strength: enough sleep; good diet; exercise; a friend to talk to and provide support. But today I would like to talk about supernatural strength, the strength that comes from God through prayer.

The verse above from Isaiah is not a direct reference to prayer but it does show that we can **'find new strength'** through our relationship with God. And it is fair to say that a person who is accustomed to 'waiting' upon the Lord is also a person given to prayer. Jesus is the perfect example. He often spent time away from the crowds in prayer.

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" Lk 5:16.

Paul, who was no stranger to stress and fatigue, urged Christians to pray and pray a lot (**Ephesians 6:18-20 – five times in 3 verses**).

As Christians we have the wonderful blessing of being able to find supernatural strength through prayer. This strength is from God's Spirit who dwells in us. It is very important to note too that this God given strength and divine power is not just to enable us for our own personal benefit, but also to equip us to do the work of the ministry. The Holy Spirit is given for us to be our Helper and to enable us to fulfill the call and purpose of God upon our lives to be His witnesses to a lost people (**Acts 1 and 2**). So, **God's strength is provided for us to live and to serve!** It is this communion with God through prayer that releases supernatural power.

Here are some keys to finding strength through prayer.

Exclusive time with...

Friends will set aside exclusive time for each other. Jesus – (**John 17**).

All the time with...

Learn to settle your heart in any given moment, knowing that He is with you and that *He's got you*. **Never will I leave you, nor forsake you** (**Hebrews 13:5**).

I.e. **1. Practice the Presence of God**, Brother Lawrence 17th century monk – developing an awareness of the presence of God. **2.** Staying present in the moment rather than racing into the future. **3.** Resting in him in your thinking and prayer. Anxiety (worry) robs us of our energy, joy, peace and capacity to think clearly. **Learn to breathe** – physically; mentally (arrest your thought processes and focus them on God and His Word); and spiritually in prayer (trust/rest).

Praying in the Spirit (unknown tongues)

Prayer is to the spirit, what oxygen is to the lungs.

For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying (**1 Corinthians 14:14 NLT**). A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, (v4).

Praying the scriptures

The practice of praying out the promises of God is a way to confess The Word (**Heb 4 & 10**), build faith (**Romans 10:17**), and release the power of any particular promise in your life (**Mat 8:8**).

Praying expectantly / waiting – See **Isaiah 40:31**, and **Romans 12:2** above

Patience is not a strong point for many. But if we sow in prayer and wait upon the Lord, strength will come. I struggle with all His energy which so powerfully works in me (**Colossians 1:29**); when you pray believe you have received (**Mark 11:24**); prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its wo

The prayer of a righteous person makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (**James 5:16 Amp / and paraphrased**)

Salvation prayer. Dear Lord, I receive forgiveness for my sins through the sacrifice of Jesus. I confess you as my Lord and Saviour. I commit my life to you to follow you Lord and worship you with all my heart. In Jesus name Amen.

If you have prayed that prayer you are a new person in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). You have received eternal life (**John 3:16**). You are saved from your sins. (**Colossians 1: 13**).

I encourage you to be in contact with us and you are welcome to attend our church if you can. May I encourage you to start reading the Bible, pray regularly, and join in with a local church and begin a wonderful journey of faith.

Please let me know of your decision: info@newlifeonline.org.au.

Pr Greg

Our Vision

To be a thriving local Church fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ.

5 Actions: *Reach out Connect Skill up! Volunteer give.*

Our desire is that every person will come to know the love and saving grace of Jesus!

*Our catch cry: **Live it - share it!***

Pray that this will be a year of new believers and baptisms!

Social Media Policy: Due to the privacy to the church & its members, also copyright policies, it is asked that ANY media content used at the church (including photos) not be posted on any social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube etc. This includes music, video clips, copyrighted publications & all logos or other images that are property of New Life Christian Centre. For more info, please refer to the New Life Christian Centre Social Media Policy.

Ambulance Cover: As a matter of Duty of Care, our church policy is that during church events and services, an ambulance will be called for people who present with a serious, or suspected serious health incident. But the liability for the cost rests on the person receiving Ambulance assistance, & not the church. This is because the church cannot take out such cover. Thank You. Pastor Greg

MINISTRIES IN RECESS

To return soon!

LADIES MINISTRY:

Evening gathering: In recess

Ladies' Coffee Fellowship coming soon. Please see Gail Pounsett or Margie Fitton for more info about our ladies' ministry.

MEN'S MINISTRY:

Men's brekkie: In recess

Youth ministry



A great Friday programme Y6 to Y10.

CYC - Children's and Youth Church! **IN RECESS.**

Lets pray it won't be long and we'll be back full swing. All our workers are properly trained and screened.

Please pray for our families, children and youth. Pray that God will bless our CYC ministry and that more families will come into the joy of knowing Christ and following Him.

NLCC response to the (COVID -19) Crisis. (As of July 2020)

Please read the following carefully and please know we are standing in faith for you that God will protect and provide miraculously. Our response is not fear based but upon sensible precaution and a hope-filled expectation in our loving and Great God. These are difficult times but we aim to be creative, innovative, and positive. Please be patient with us and others as the days progress. **We will adapt and modify as the need arises.**

Heed the advice of Government and Health authorities. Dismiss hearsay.

Please study the Gov. sites to know the risks and facts.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

Weekly updates will be sent to your mobile phone from Pr Greg.

All church groups, (except Sunday services), and official physical gatherings are in recess until further notice.

We will continue to connect online for those who cannot come to our services. Sunday 10am HOME CHURCH online - streaming. fb and YouTube New Life Christian Centre TV. This service will be shorter but include all the elements of worship: Praise, Communion, offering, news, teaching, and prayer. Our special and newly formed production team will organise this. *If you have difficulty working out how to connect online please call me and our team will try to help.*

Plus other online resources in the coming days. *Thanks again to our tech team who are working tirelessly, Brad, Roger, Junior.*

We are also having mid-week connect Groups via a simple video conferencing app. Zoom.

Our Web site is new so please be patient while it is developed. It will take a while to get things up online, and at this stage there are a number of things to adjust and correct. Thanks to Junior for all his hard work at a very busy time for him. www.newlifeonline.org.au

Some have asked how they can continue to worship the Lord with their tithes and offerings. Can I encourage you to use online banking and set up a regular debit. Soon we will have a facility on our Web page which will enable people to give through that facility. But if people do not have access to an 'IT' and or e-banking platform to give, then please contact elder Roger Fitton to make other arrangements. I am sorry to bring up finance at this time, but people have been asking and it is an important part of our worship. ****If you find yourself in financial hardship please contact me and we will do all we can to get the best help possible for you.**

Friends, as difficult as it is, we must look to the Lord, and look to new ways of doing things, seek out opportunities to bless others as well as connect people into our new online environment. This can present new opportunities to reach out to lost people.

Some people who are not able to be online will not be left out. We are addressing how we can serve them and include them as much as possible through other means.

Physical church doors are closed in many places, but the ministry is open. Australian Christians are committed to supporting and prospering the mission and ministry of Christ through their local church. Let's stand together and pray for an end to the current International Crisis and above all let us pray that hearts will be turned to the Lord. Our circumstances have changed but the mission hasn't.

Blessings and prayers

Pr Greg. **Coronavirus Aus Gov msg: To stop the spread, stay 1.5m from others, follow rules on social gatherings, wash hands, stay home if sick. aus.gov.au**