

# CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a number of events coming up this month. Have a look inside to familiarise yourself with all that is taking place.

**Events on page 3**

## S.H.A.P.E. PROFILES

S.H.A.P.E. profiles are due to be returned to Pr Greg this month. Further details about S.H.A.P.E. can be found inside.

**Details on page 4**

## MISSIONARY UPDATE

Mikaela Geno has written another update of her missionary service in Papua New Guinea. See her update inside!

**Update on pages 5-7**

# WELCOME TO NLCC

In August I enjoyed a few days R&R in Kiama, NSW – a kind of personal retreat. I took in the beautiful and stunning views along the coast, enjoyed long walks, read a lot, prayed a lot, and tried not to eat a lot. Although, the fresh fish and chips at the Kiama Wharf could not be passed up.

The art of resting is something many find difficult, but it is critical to our wellbeing, personal effectiveness and relationships. It's hard to be a good spouse, parent, or friend, when you're over-tired all the time.

Refreshing short breaks are good, at least for me – others may find different ways to replenish. Getting outside my normal situation helps me zoom out and look back in from a different, more objective, perspective. This is super helpful.

Jesus went to find solitary places, to be away from the milieu of pressing human needs and business. Mark 1:35 says, 'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed'.

It was in those solitary places with God that He found the energy, insight and grace for another day and for what lay ahead for Him. Maybe a bit of R&R could help you right now? If so, find a good place (it may be for a few hours or for a few days), take some inspiring and godly reading, turn off the TV and your devices, pray lots, walk lots, and take in the views. Most of all, take in what God might whisper into your heart. It's worth it!

**Pr Greg Crome**

## Special Building Fund Offering

We are almost ready to move into the new building!. Every Sunday you can give a donation towards the building. Please mark your offering, 'NLCC Building Project'. See our online giving page.



# MINISTRIES MEN STUDY

**Launch Youth:** Launch Youth is held every Friday night during the school term.

**Youth and Children (CYC) Sundays:** CYC is held on Sunday mornings during the school term.

**Tuesday Night Young Adults Connect Group:** Combined with ACC in the West and South. Please visit [www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/).

**Wednesday Night Connect Group:** In recess. 7:00pm at 75 Riverview Drive, Port Noarlunga (0417 857 515).

**Thursday Night Connect Group:** Two Thursday nights a month at 7:00pm at the Odis' house (0452 634 630).

We are beginning a men's discipleship group. This group will be commencing in September and running until December.

Our group is reading through 'Disciplines of a Godly Man' by Kent Hughes. We are planning to meet once a month to discuss how the book is impacting us.

Joining this group and reading through the book together is a great opportunity for men to talk through what it really means to live a godly life.

If you would like to join our men's discipleship group, or if you have any questions, please speak to Pr Greg or one of our leaders in the church. All men are welcome to join in for this new initiative.



## **NEW ARRIVALS DINNER** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

We are in need of volunteers for our next New Arrivals Dinner. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or talk to one of our pastors. There are a range of jobs so there should be something to suit everyone!



## **INTERNATIONAL FIESTA LUNCH** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October

People are invited to wear national dress as we celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our church. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family. There will be musical items and a special focus on Jesus' worldwide mission.

# S.H.A.P.E. PROCESS

During our series 'Get in the Game', everyone received a S.H.A.P.E. workbook. The purpose of this workbook is to assist you in discovering your unique design for ministry so you can release your God-given potential to serve God and others through your church, the wider community and beyond.

We have prepared several tools to help you identify the ministry that best expresses who God created you to be. These tools include:

## 1. Unwrapping your SERVING GIFTS

Understanding the nature and function of each serving gift will assist you to identify which motivational gifts you have been given by God.

## 2. Monitoring your HEARTBEAT

Knowing what motivates you will produce in you a passion to pursue what is in your heart.

## 3. Recognising your ABILITIES

Identifying the natural talents and vocational skills you possess will assist you in linking your passions and skills in fulfilling your purpose.

## 4. Understanding your PERSONALITY

Knowing your temperament and personality style will assist you in how you relate and serve others.

## 5. Remembering your EXPERIENCES

Your experiences identify the pathway that God can use you in ministry service.

### HOW PAUL'S MINISTRY WAS SHAPED

- Paul's **S**erving Gifts (2 Timothy 1:11)
- Paul's **H**ear (Acts 20:24; Romans 15:20; Galatians 2:8)
- Paul's **A**bilities (Acts 18:2b-4)
- Paul's **P**ersonality (Galatians 1:13-14)
- Paul's **E**xperiences (2 Corinthians 11:23-33)

### SPIRITUAL Experiences:

- Watched Stephen being stoned (Acts 8:1)
- Conversion on Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)
- Three years maturing in Arabia (Galatians 1:18)
- Special vision from God (2 Corinthians 12:2-7)

**MATURING Experiences** (2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 12:7)

**EDUCATIONAL Experiences** (Acts 22:3)

**MINISTRY Experiences** (Read Acts)

If you haven't received a S.H.A.P.E. Workbook and Personal Ministry Profile Summary, please speak to Pr Greg or one of our church leaders. Please return your Personal Ministry Profile Summary to Pr Greg by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

We look forward to helping you find your place to serve!

Please note: This profile is not a test as there are no right or wrong answers. Its purpose is to reveal how you are uniquely SHAPED by God.



# MISSIONARY UPDATE

It has been quite a while since I wrote an update of my time here in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This year is going very quickly and our schedule has been full!

When Chrioni and I returned to PNG from Adelaide in June, I went straight into two weeks of English teaching with our preschool teachers in training. I really enjoyed my time with them all. This year we have a larger number of students compared to previous years. I had 18 students in my class and although I found it a bit difficult to keep track of them all at times, I had a great time lecturing.

In June and July, I also had opportunities to lecture in Bethel Bible School (BBS). In June I taught 'Why I Believe in Missions' to our first-year students. I shared from the teaching notes, but also included my own experiences and lessons I've learnt along the way. I had fun teaching, and it was nice to meet some new people.

The next subject I taught was 'Public Speaking' to the second-year students. I taught this subject last year so I was already familiar with it. I also taught the second-year students last year when they were in their first year of BBS.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, I had an opportunity to preach in our Pidgin and English Sunday morning services. I shared a two-part sermon on the Great Commission. The first part surrounded our obligation towards the Great Commission. The second part focused on how the same God is Lord over all.



This was my first time preaching at Bethel Tabernacle of Praise Church during the morning service. I thought I would be nervous, but I ended up feeling quite confident. I look forward to more opportunities to preach and teach.

At the start of July we celebrated 52 years of the Christian Revival Crusade in PNG. In last month's Connect News there was an article and pictures detailing this great event. It was nice to have mum, dad and Pr Barry here for the celebration.

During the 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, I had an opportunity to speak to different Sunday school leaders throughout PNG. We had a small group attend the presentation, but it was very encouraging. I showcased what we have introduced in Bethel Sunday School and spoke about the idea of holding Sunday school teacher training workshops in the future. The response was very supportive.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, I was asked to lead the missions prayer meeting at Bethel Centre. My country of focus was Australia. I did a presentation on Australia, with a specific focus on Tennant Creek. We prayed over various prayer points and we also placed a focus on our missionaries serving out in the field.

The beginning of August was a busy time for me. I spent most days at my computer trying to complete as much work as possible. July is my busiest month for my CRC Missions finance role, and I had a few tasks that carried on into August.

I've been struggling a bit with balancing all of my different responsibilities. In addition to CRC Missions finances and our projects under Global Development

Group, I'm doing some work for our churches back at home and I'm running Bethel Sunday School here in PNG. Other tasks pop up here and there, including lecturing in the training schools.

I enjoy all of the work that I'm doing, but I do feel like I'm a bit lost in the wind sometimes. I have been trying to work on my time management and some days feel a lot better than others, but it's still a bit of a challenge trying to balance everything and not fall too far behind.

My brother Josh and his wife Vien came to visit mid-August. Josh came as a reserve player for the PNG Open. Unfortunately, he didn't get to play because not enough people dropped out, however, we had a great time with them. It always hits different when people come to visit us here in PNG.

The day they arrived I was feeling a bit under the weather. I thought I was just tired, but I woke up the following day with a fever. I still went to the golf course because I had been looking forward to visiting it again for months! The fever went away and came back at night. The following day I went to the doctor again to see if anything was wrong.

I bet you'll never guess what my results showed. I had dengue fever again - what are the chances? I think my body must be used to dengue fever now or something because this was by far the easiest case to go through. I didn't feel too sick, and I didn't have any symptoms since that one day of fevers. Praise the Lord!

While Josh and Vien were here we celebrated the engagement of Stanis and Aileen. Stanis and Aileen completed

World Missions Faith Training School and Bethel Bible College some years ago. Aileen has also completed Bethel Preschool Teacher Training College and she works very closely with me in Bethel Sunday School. Following their graduations from their courses, Stanis and Aileen have committed to serving at Bethel Centre. They are very faithful staff members. Their engagement was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August.



On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August we had a big dinner at the church. It marked the closing of our 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary celebrations of Christian Revival Crusade in PNG. We spent the night serving food to all of the guests. Josh and Vien were still here, and they were also involved. It was great fun having them with us throughout the night.



At the end of August, mum arrived in PNG. She is here for the Global Trainers' Conference (GTC), but she came a week early to do some work in the finance office. She is still here at the time of writing this report and I have enjoyed my days working at the same desk as her once again! Dad and Pr Neil will arrive at the start of September for GTC.



Bethel Sunday School is going well. We concluded our series on 'Heroes of the Bible', and we began our 'Global Missions' series. We will be leading the Father's Day Service and we will also hold a Family Service at the end of the year so we have a bit to prepare for in between our regular lessons.



Thank you to everyone who is praying for me and supporting me.

**Mikaela Geno**

## ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: [www.newlifeonline.org.au](http://www.newlifeonline.org.au)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBgg411yAy\\_YQQ5c17STow](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBgg411yAy_YQQ5c17STow)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristies/](http://www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristies/)

Instagram: [@new.life.christian.centre](https://www.instagram.com/new.life.christian.centre)

## CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Postal: P.O. Box 431, Noarlunga Centre, SA 5168

Email: [info@newlifeonline.org.au](mailto:info@newlifeonline.org.au)

Phone: (08) 8384 4814

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

## GIVING DETAILS

### Option One: Online Giving

Visit the giving page on our website: [www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/](http://www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/). Press the 'Online Giving' button under the 'Giving' heading.

### Option Two: Bank Transfer

Deposit your funds into the general account and in the reference section please specify if your funds are for tithes, missions or whatever else.

**GENERAL Account Name:** New Life Christian Centre

BSB: 035-053

Account Number: 127 021

## OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS

### Adelaide Christian Centre

Address: 33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: [www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au](http://www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

### Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Web: [www.tccf.com.au](http://www.tccf.com.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 6:30pm

### Faith Center Church

Address: 115 Worley Lane, Walhalla SC 29691, United States

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla](http://www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla)

Service Time: 10:00am