



# Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

<https://oatley.uca.org.au/>

Mission Statement: Loving, Caring, Transforming  
our community through Jesus Christ.

28 July and 4 August, 2024

Pentecost 10 and Pentecost 11

## The Power of Words

*Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*  
— Proverbs 12:18

The late Paul Little of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, was one who taught me through his Books on Witnessing, used to tell that when we speak unwisely or boastfully or pass along some gossip, it is hard to retrieve those words. It's like trying to get toothpaste back in the tube.

In the story of Joseph, we find a young man who spoke unwisely and suffered the consequences for many years afterwards.

One day Joseph and his brothers were in the field, and Joseph told them his dream: "We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." And his brothers, who were jealous of his favoured position with their father, hated him even more. They said, "Will you actually rule us?"

Now, folks, I think Joseph was a great man, and very wise. In fact, I don't remember any other major mistake this man made. But I think what he did here was a mistake. We all know there are some things that we should simply keep to ourselves. Had he thought about it for a moment or two, he could have seen how relating his dream would promote anger and hatred and jealousy among his brothers.

As Joseph's story unfolds, the power of God turns tragedy into triumph. But the truth still comes through loud and clear that you and I need to watch what we say.

The New Testament makes it clear that the daily walk of the disciple should be characterized by lowliness and meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, and endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (see Ephesians 4:2-3).

**Prayer:** Lord, today may what I say honour You and encourage others. Amen.

**To Ponder:** Today, look for opportunities to speak healing words.  
*Rev Alex Thomas*

SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 28 July

### Pentecost 10

2 Samuel 11:1-15 : Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3:14-21 : John 6:1-21

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 4 August

### Pentecost 11

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a : Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16 : John 6:24-35



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Each month until October we, as a church, will be collecting items to fill Christmas boxes for children across our world who do not know the joy of receiving a gift. This is also part of a worldwide outreach to bring them the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as their saviour. For the month of **AUGUST** your gift of **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** i.e. Soap, toothbrushes, washers, hair brushes, combs, scrunchies...is gratefully appreciated. **NO LIQUIDS PLEASE** i.e. toothpaste, shampoos...

There is also a tube to collect money for postage. Each box is \$10 to send. Your monetary donation is gratefully accepted to assist and an alternative if you are unable to shop for gift items.

**AN INVITATION**—to join with St Joseph's RC Church for morning tea Friday 2 August at 10.30am

## News Worth Celebrating

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

For more than two centuries, the hymn placed first in the Methodist hymnbook was "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Written by Charles Wesley and originally titled "For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion," the song was composed to commemorate the radical renewal sparked by his faith in Jesus. It has eighteen stanzas proclaiming the glory of God's goodness to those who repent and follow Christ.

Such faith is worth celebrating—and worth sharing. In 2 Timothy 2, Paul encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith and to persevere in sharing it. He noted, "This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal" (vv. 8-9). Rather than second-guess his choices, Paul reminds Timothy to remember the good-news message: "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David" (v. 8), came not to rule but to serve and ultimately to die for the sins of the world so that we may have peace with God. Death didn't win. Jesus rose from the grave.

And just as it set free those who believe, the message itself isn't bound. "God's word is not chained," said Paul (v. 9), not even from places where death seems to have won: prison cells, hospital beds, gravesides. In Christ, there's hope for all people. That's news worth celebrating!

By: Matt Lucas



**The Bill Crews Foundation—Exodus** Thank you everyone for your generous donations to Exodus. Please continue to give things that are necessary pantry items—long-life milk and non-perishable food items i.e. canned items, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, cereals, biscuits and even personal items—soap, toothpaste, shampoo. These things all go to make home packages.



Whilst on holidays Ian and I attended Church wherever we were at the time. Everyone does Church differently – particularly when they don't have a regular Minister to lead the service. Yet they still come together each Sunday and sing praises, hear God's Word and share in morning tea. They are a blessing to each other.

Paul Tripp in one of his weekly devotionals wrote that our 'walk with God is a community project'. We need the personal ministry of others to keep us walking with God. As Christians who still have pockets of spiritual blindness, we need two character qualities:

**First, we need the loving courage of honesty.** We need to love others more than we love ourselves, and so, with humble, patient love, help them to see what they need to see.

**Second, we need the thankful humility of approachability.** We need to forsake defensiveness, be thankful that God has surrounded us with help, and be ready to receive it—every day!

Let's encourage and strengthen each other.

Pip Watts

### Paul Prays for the Ephesians



<sup>14</sup>I bow in prayer to the Father because of my work among you. <sup>15</sup>From the Father every family in heaven and on earth gets its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that he will use his glorious riches to make you strong. May his Holy Spirit give you his power deep down inside you. <sup>17</sup>Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in him. And I pray that your love will have deep roots. I pray that it will have a strong foundation. <sup>18</sup>May you have power together with all the Lord's holy people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. <sup>19</sup>And may you know his love, even though it can't be known completely. Then you will be filled with everything God has for you. <sup>20</sup>God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. <sup>21</sup>Give him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Give him glory through all time and for ever and ever. Amen.

**For all pastoral matters** contact Rev Alex Thomas

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**Hall Bookings:** Please contact Rosemary Cooper  
– on 0402 428 560 – for all Hall Bookings.

Please also let her know if you would like to borrow any equipment.  
Your prompt return of any borrowed items is appreciated.



♦ ... to a faithful and holy God who loves you and whose grace is enough in your life—beautiful, powerful, transforming.

♦ ... for Fiona Dewhurst who is the SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst. Pray that she will reach the students with the love of Jesus.

### Bless...

♦ ... our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth as they lead and support our church at Oatley.

♦ ... Linda and Geoff in their Pastoral Care work.

♦ ... all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes—Grace & Ian McKay, Noelene Baker and Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart, Jean Watts, Shirley Courtney and Norma Manwaring. Surround them all with God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts and Judy Walsh.

♦ ... the Church Council.

♦ ... each other. Let us be a loving and encouraging community in Christ.

♦ ... for our congregation—that we grow in ministry and seek the will of God in this place.

♦ ... the various prayer groups and Bible Study groups.

### Uphold...

♦ ... Countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars—Pray for the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in these places. Lift up your people so that they see Jesus is ever present in their lives and that you Lord would draw many to yourself and rebuild lives.

♦ ... our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient.

♦ ... those doing it tough because they have no home, no regular meals, no job.

♦ ... aid agencies who support people in distress like The Wayside Chapel, The Bill Crews Foundation, the Storehouse, Mission Australia....

♦ ... our Government—for good leadership, wisdom, discernment, co-operation and collaboration. To stand for the truth and care for the disadvantaged.

♦ ... Governments across our world.

♦ ... the Uniting Church in Australia—that God's word is not compromised.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to show each of us how best to pray—and to pray for all these things In the mighty name of Jesus—Amen

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Pip Watts—0403 758 487—Please leave a message.

OR Email: pippa0183@gmail.com

Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**