

From our Interim Senior Pastor Glenda Holbrook

In Old Testament times most covenants involved a person or group specifying what they would do to carry out an agreement. If one side failed, the agreement was broken. But when we look at God's covenant with Noah in Genesis 9, it is pure promise! God made no conditions, instead God simply said, *"I now make a commitment to you and your descendants. ... never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth". (Genesis 9:9-11)*

The text goes on to tell us that the rainbow is to serve as a reminder of this specific covenant promise. But the rainbow also says something else to us - it is a reminder that God comes to us with promises, that God, in His grace, makes commitments to us that don't depend on our performance. We may fail God, but God will never fail us.

Only in Jesus's promise of eternal life to all who trust in Him do we grasp the full wonder of God's grace. Yet we sense something of it here in Genesis. And each time we see a rainbow we are reminded. The God who promised never again to destroy all life with a flood is the God of promise, the God of grace. The commitments He makes to us in Christ are promises that will never fail.

This is our hope, this is our good and faithful God.

Love & blessings,

Glenda



navigate



Growing in Faith Sermon Series

Prayer Hope Praise Generosity Worship

Praise	May 24	Julia Fulton
Generosity	May 31	Glenda Holbrook
Worship	June 7	Dave Underhill

To view our online service

on Sunday @ 9:30am

Visit: www.newpeninsula.com.au



ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS

Zoom | Tuesdays 7:30pm

For the link check your email (with emailed Navigate) or contact the church office:
office@newpeninsula.com.au

Let us praise God:

- ◆ Praise God for the love and care so many in our congregations are giving to each other.
- ◆ Praise God for Godly lives that have influenced so many of us.
- ◆ Praise for our teachers who have gone 'above and beyond' at this time to provide meaningful lessons for their students.
- ◆ Praise for the Tuesday night prayer time.
- ◆ Praise God for who he is.
- ◆ Praise for our Worship team.
- ◆ Praise for our Church Board.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for Martin's assistant, Liz. She was already proving to be a great help to Martin prior to all the changes surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. Praise Him, too, that she was able to help several mission families with shopping, etc. while they were in self-isolation at Tree Tops Lodge after arriving from PNG in March. *Martin & Kathy Snook Wycliffe Cairns Qld. Aust.*

Let us continue to pray for:

- ◆ Pray for those who are struggling with concern for family members, change of circumstances & the situation of the world in general.
- ◆ Pray for those who are grieving.
- ◆ Pray for those who are recovering from illness and/or operations.
- ◆ Pray for our nation.
- ◆ Pray for our Youth leaders as they run 'Youth' in a very different format.
- ◆ Pray for those who will be returning to school this week, especially those who are unsure or anxious.
- ◆ Pray for the Senior Pastor Search Committee, especially for wisdom and patience as they address the many 'admin' issues involved.
- ◆ Please pray for inspiration for Anna as she has been asked to write a daily 'well-being' focused blog for the staff and a weekly video for parents and students. *Anna & Paul White Arabian Peninsula.*

IN THE FAMILY

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Martin Leonard celebrating a special birthday on Sunday. And also to Glenys Groves celebrating her special birthday on Monday.

May your days each be memorable, experiencing anew God's blessings and joy.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy to Jeff De Clerck, Melissa, Cherie, Sean, Daniel & families and Heather Brookes on the passing of Chris on May 19. Chris's Thanksgiving service will be livestreamed at 11am on Thursday 28. A link will be emailed out as soon as it is available. *May the loving arms of our Father in Heaven be of special comfort to you all at this time.*

Mission Update:

Uganda Partnership Group - Derek Loukes

Uganda is in lockdown. Thankfully, so far only 260 cases have been recorded with no deaths. To date no cases have been recorded in Mbale where Bethel, our partner church, is situated.

The Bethel leaders are heavily involved in relief work amongst the community - providing transport for health workers, food and soap for many people throughout their communities. Even without COVID-19, the area has experienced both famines and floods in the past year and now many have seen their livelihoods collapse.

Things were desperate already, including documented cases of people trapping rats for meat. Bethel and Jenga are providing as much aid and relief as possible and are welcoming of any donations from overseas.

MISSION UP DATES: Indigenous Partnership - Dave Underhill

Since 2010, NPBC has been in a partnership with mission work in Newman WA, alongside the Martu people. Work has focused on the Martu Christian Fellowship and the ministry of John and Angela Wilmot. The mission agencies we have partnered with have been 'Baptist Global Interaction' and, since 2016, 'Red Dirt Blue Sky' (RDBS).

Throughout this period the partnership has been effectively led by members of our Indigenous Partnership Group (IPG) who have reported back the great work that is being done amongst the Martu People.

However, there has been a growing gap in the expectations between what NPBC wanted out of the partnership and the resources and priorities of the Wilmots and RDBS. NPBC Elders carry the ultimate responsibility for the mission partnership on behalf of the church, and, after considering the issues and interests involved, came to a unanimous decision that it was time to conclude this partnership.

This was a difficult decision to make.

The NPBC/RDBS partnership will conclude at the end of this month. We will continue personal support for John and Angela Wilmot for the next two years; this support being a continuation of an existing commitment and will assist the Wilmots in transition.

NPBC is grateful to God for the privilege of serving indigenous mission through the work of the IPG. We thank the IPG members for their commitment and personal engagement with this work and with the Wilmots.

The IPG is investigating the future of ongoing indigenous engagement. Please continue to pray for the work amongst the Martu people and the IPG.

FROM OUR ELDER - Allan McCasker

Prayer Meeting this coming Tuesday 26th May 7:30pm



For those who would like to join in this time of prayer, can I encourage you to read and meditate on Psalm 34, prior to Tuesday evening.

I would like us to use this Psalm as a focus for our time of prayer. You will also have time to pray about other matters that are on your heart.

As we know, King David the writer of this Psalm, frequently experienced significant difficulty in his life. He prayed regularly, either asking God's forgiveness for errors made or seeking God's advice & blessing on events that lay before him.

The theme of this Psalm is that God pays attention to those who call on Him. Whether God offers escape from trouble or help in times of trouble, we can be certain that he always hears and acts on behalf of those who love him.

Looking forward to us joining together on Tuesday.

For log in details to Zoom please refer to your email accompanying this Navigate or email office@newpeninsula.com.au.



YOUTH UPDATE - Phoebe Bell

Friday night at youth group still starts with plenty of smiling faces and a whole bunch of enthusiasm, but it's now online! It has been wonderful to meet with many of our regular young people and to provide a platform to engage and unwind after the week.

Zoom has provided an opportunity to play games, connect with our young people, open the Word and spend time in corporate prayer. As a leadership team, we have been blown away by the prayers of the young men and women in the program. It is a privilege to sit and listen to them bring thoughtful and vulnerable prayers of thanks and praise to God. Their prayers for the elderly, the abused and the isolated are moving and demonstrate a maturity and other person centeredness that is both profound and God-given.

Youth has also been full of laughs and smiles as we have fun playing games and spending time catching up. The young people have said they are enjoying the time connecting in a period of great isolation and disconnect. They are however, looking forward to the day we can meet in person again! The year 11's and 12's especially are forever planning epic bonfire and movie nights with each other for when restrictions ease!

If you know a person in year 6-12 that would like to join us for youth group on a Friday night, please email me at phoebe@newpeninsula.com.au to become involved.

21/5/20 COVID 19 Update - David Underhill

Currently the following restrictions are in place in Victoria.

There are now five reasons to leave your home:

- Shopping for food and supplies that you need.
- Care and caregiving.
- Exercise and outdoor recreation.
- Work and education – if you can't do it from home.
- Visiting friends and family – if you really need to.

I was hoping for a greater lifting of restrictions where I could happily announce that Life Groups were able to recommence, but they don't appear to fit into the slightly relaxed restrictions. However [there is a provision for prayer groups](#):

The following is from the FAQ's page found at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sport-cultural-and-recreational-activities-restrictions-coronavirus-covid19#religious-services-and-places-of-worship>.

Can I attend a prayer group?

A prayer group held in someone's home can meet as long as there are no more than five visitors at a time, and physical distancing measures must be adhered to.

The FAQ indicate the use of church facilities are allowed for limited reasons, however our church office and church facilities still remain closed with very limited use whilst we continue to investigate the requirements for cleaning after each use and the risk and costs associated.

Whilst I am really keen to see people getting back together, I am still supportive of the intent of these restrictions. We want to keep people safe! So if you are in one of the high risk groups I'd suggest limiting contact with people as the government recommendations have suggested

(If you do have folks come to your home, please record who was there and keep for 28 days, this is in line with state recommendations only for the purpose of tracing Covid 19 exposure, just in case it is needed).

GIVING TO NEW PENINSULA & BEYOND:

NPBC General offerings

(Please indicate if it is for either MM or RB)

BSB 063 539 Acc. # 1038 8044

NPBC Donation Fund

(Tax deductible, please include your name for an annual receipt)

BSB 063 539 Acc. # 1060 5168

NPBC School Building Fund

(Tax deductible, please include your name for an annual receipt)

BSB 063 539 Acc. # 1060 5272

NP Community Caring

(Tax deductible, please include your name for an annual receipt)

BSB 063 539 Acc. # 1031 4088

These accounts can be used for internet banking or local branch deposits.

How to stay connected:

- ◆ 'Like' our Facebook page @newpeninsula
- ◆ Follow our Instagram account newpen_bc
- ◆ Subscribe to our YouTube channel New Peninsula Baptist Church
- ◆ Listen to Podcasts? You can subscribe to New Peninsula Baptist Church to listen to the sermons also!

Pop onto our website - our 'church online' button on the home screen will take you straight to our YouTube account. If you miss the live stream, it will remain up for 24 hours then will be replaced by the sermon only.

Alternatively, click on the 'media' tab on the website to access the podcasts, YouTube channel for sermons and our weekly Navigate.

For more information:

Our offices are currently closed, but we may still be contacted by:

W: www.newpeninsula.com.au

E: office@newpeninsula.com.au

P: Mount Martha 5973 8888 *(please leave a message)*

P: Rosebud 5982 0889 *(please leave a message)*

To contact a pastor urgently (AH only): 0407 311 185

PRAYER CHAIN email:

prayerchain@newpeninsula.com.au

DVD or CD's of the messages

can be ordered through the church offices.

e-giving - David Underhill

We are very thankful to God for those who have moved over to e-giving. It has been a great encouragement. We are also thankful we've been able to access the government stimulus and the "JobKeeper" packages. I am particularly thankful, as I imagine the staff are to, because this means we don't have to make the difficult decision about reducing staffing.

However we still need to continue to pray for our finances given the restrictions have significantly affected our income from hires and events which pays for a substantial amount of our Mount Martha site costs.

If you would like to switch over to online giving but not sure how to do it, please email Linda Jackson with your name and a contact phone number. Linda will then call you and help you set it up. Linda's email is linda@newpeninsula.com.au.

Thought for the week:

'The Lord lives! Praise be to my rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Saviour.'
(2 Samuel 22:47)