

**Parish  
Newsletter:  
September  
13<sup>th</sup> 2020**



ST PAUL'S  
LITHGOW

ST THOMAS'  
WALLERAWANG

ST STEPHEN'S  
PORTLAND

Dear friends,

The current pandemic burdens us in a whole variety of ways. One burden I've noticed recently is the attack it launches on our contentment. Paul calls 'godliness with contentment great gain' (1 Tim 6v6). John Stott reflects on that passage: **'Contentment is the secret of inward peace. It remembers the stark truth that we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. Life, in fact, is a pilgrimage from one moment of nakedness to another. So we should travel light and live simply.'**

Confronted as we are at the moment with our inability to hold on to things, it reveals in many hearts (maybe even our own) a discontent with God. The Puritan, Jeremiah Burroughs, wrote in his book 'the rare jewel of Christian contentment':

*'The Lord knows how to order things better than I. The Lord sees further than I do; I only see things at present but the Lord sees a great while from now. And how do I know but that had it not been for this affliction, I should have been undone.'*

If his words seem uncomfortable, it may be you need to God's help in adding contentment to 'your godliness'. Cassie Watson draws 4 ways to fight discontent from the work of Burroughs:

**1. Hate Sin.** *'The way of contentment is to add another burden, that is, to labour to load and burden your heart with your sin; the heavier the burden of your sin is to your heart, the lighter will the burden of your affliction be to your heart, and so you shall come to be content.'*

Contentment is more than looking on the bright side. We shouldn't seek just to make ourselves happy in the situation we're in. If that's our foundation, what'll happen when God brings even severer suffering? Instead, Burroughs shows we must attack discontentment at its root. We expel it from our hearts by moving our focus away from our suffering. When we view our sin as the greatest evil in the world, virtually any suffering we face will pale in comparison.

**2. Look Ahead.** *'A godly man in the midst of the waves and storms that he meets with can see the glory of heaven before him and so contents himself. One drop of the sweetness of heaven is enough to take away all the sourness and bitterness of all the afflictions in the world.'* We're not long in this world. If all our energy is spent fretting about our life here, what energy will

remain to contemplate the life to come? There are few things I've found as helpful to my pursuit of contentment as meditating on eternity. Any hardship here is bearable when we know, with the apostle Paul, that "this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Cor. 4:17).

**3. Embrace Humility.** *'A man who is little in his own eyes will account every affliction as little, and every mercy as great.'* Discontentment springs from unmet expectations. We think we deserve an easy life, with comforts and luxuries, so we become discontent when instead we face sickness and hardship. Yet if we soberly examine ourselves in light of Scripture, we'll see we deserve nothing but condemnation from God. Such humility allows his grace to flood our hearts. We can rejoice in the gifts he's given us, rather than dwelling on what we think he's withheld.

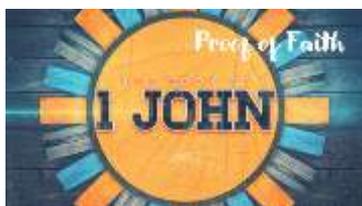
**4. Rely on the Word.** *'Oh, the Word holds forth a way full of comfort and peace to the people of God even in this world. You may live happy lives in the midst of all the storms and tempests in the world.'* How can we grumble when we have grand promises like these?

- "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)
- "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)
- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Cor. 5:17)
- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." (1 Pet. 1:3-4)

Regularly immersing ourselves in the Bible enables us to see and grasp these promises, and draw strength from seeing how faithfully God has kept his word in the past. They're our anchor in the fiercest tempest.

May God use these times to grant us all 'godliness with contentment'.

In Him, Mark Smith



### **Bible Readings:**

OT: Genesis 4v1-10

NT: 1 John 3v11-18

### **Keeping in Contact**

#### **Ministry contacts:**

##### **Senior Minister**

Mark Smith 0430 393 414

mark.smith@lpachurch.org.au

Not Available Thursdays

##### **Children's & Youth Minister**

John Young 0418 610 655

john.young@lpachurch.org.au

Not Available Saturdays

##### **Wardens**

Robert Hookham 0403 506 693

John Stevens 0438 473 862

Eric Young 0429 664 436

##### **Pastoral contacts (Growth Group leaders)**

Peter Avery 6352 3059

Julie Barnett 6352 2553

James Barnes 0424 825 369

Andrew Doran 0466 734 110

Ralph Fairbairn 0400 302 901

Jill Hookham 0403 502 181

Lauren Hookham 0400 295 427

Philippe Reyter 6352 1803

Garry Roberts 0400 075 761

Julie Roberts 0429 911 643

Anna Smith 0424 340 687

John Stevens 0438 473 862

##### **Office Administration**

Corinne Ogg 6351 3070

office@lpachurch.org.au

Fridays 9am – 12pm

**People I need to contact.** *After reading this & joining in 'church', who are the one or two people God put on my heart to contact & pray for?*

### **Responding to God's Word in Practice:**

1. HEAD: What did you learn?
2. HEART: What did God say to you?
3. HANDS: What will you do?

## Word of encouragement: Empowering Indigenous People to Serve (Neville Naden – BCA’s Indigenous Ministry Officer)

As a church we’ve supported Bush Church Aid (Richard & Tracy Goscombe worked with them in Wickham). Given the current reminder that ‘Black Lives Matter’, it’s important we see what God is doing among our indigenous.



Left: Jono & Naomi; Right: Lonny

Since colonisation and the gospel message coming to these shores, ministry to Aboriginals has primarily been done by non-Indigenous people.

With the support of the Executive, and past and present National Directors, Mark Short and Greg Harris, BCA is seeking to improve the way ministry is done by First Nations people in this country.

BCA’s Indigenous Ministry Committee has been working to identify and support Indigenous people who wish to be trained in ministry. As a result, we have provided some funding for three young Aboriginal people to train on the east coast of Australia. Two are studying at Moore College in Sydney and one at Ridley College in Melbourne.

Regular readers of The Real Australian have already met Lucie Wheeler, one of the Moore students. In this edition, I would like to introduce you to the other two students – Lonny Bendessi and Jonathan Tuivawa. Lonny was born in Adelaide but grew up at Kooniba Mission, near Ceduna. As a young man, he experimented with the things of the world but at the

age of 21 while living in Adelaide, Lonny’s aunty invited him to attend church. He refused at first then one day decided to take up her offer. After attending church about five times, Lonny felt God was doing a work of grace in his life and he responded to God’s call. Four years after his conversion, Lonny began to feel that God wanted him to do more. He enjoyed listening to God’s word being taught and had a real desire to serve and learn. He soon began to pray about what God was calling him to do in the long-term. He decided that at the very least, he could enrol to study the Bible in a more formal setting.

Lonny is really enjoying his time at Ridley College, especially how loved and supported he feels in his learning. What advice would Lonny give those thinking of embarking on study? “One should pray,” he says. “If that is what you feel God is calling you to do, pray about it and make some enquires.”

Jono Tuivawa grew up in the Gadigal Eora nation in Sydney. This is where he learnt most about his Aboriginal heritage including dance, painting and didgeridoo.

Jono started thinking about the choices he had been making and was led to start a devotional Bible reading plan. It was this twelve-month plan that changed Jono’s life and saw him become a Christian. Jono is now studying at Moore College and hopes by the end of his course “to be better equipped to deliver and teach the good news about the salvation we have through Jesus and to hopefully encourage others in the faith.”

Jono is really grateful for the support of BCA. “Prior to undertaking studies I had a limited understanding of what it meant to undertake a course so I rocked up to class with my notebook and pencil case ready to take notes and everyone else pulled out their laptops and started typing,” says Jono. “I didn’t own a laptop or have access to a computer at home so thanks to Uncle Neville through BCA, I was able to obtain a laptop and some books to help me with my course.”

As you may or may not know, theological training can be quite difficult for anyone. We ask that you all pray for Lonny, Jono and Lucie as they continue to equip themselves to serve within the life of God’s Church.

### Giving during COVID-19

The wardens would encourage all to give online where they are able. If you prefer to give in person, on the first Sunday of each month 2 trustworthy people will be on-site to receive offertory. The next date is: **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October:**  
**Lithgow - 11:15-11:30am;**  
**Wallerawang – 11:45am-12:00pm;**  
**Portland – 12:15-12:30pm**

### Direct Giving details

**Account Name: ANGLICAN PARISH of LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING**  
**BSB - 062591**  
**Account No. – 10085204**  
**At the bank -** Use the above details to make a deposit at the bank  
**Cheque -** Send to PO Box 192 Lithgow, NSW, 2790

### Groups we are able to pass your giving on to

Some choose to give through us to others (by marking their giving). We can do this for the following groups: AFES; Anglican Aid; Anglicare; Arise; BCA; CAP; CMS (Newbys); Fresh Food; LCEA; Open Doors; MAF (Hadfields); Pioneers (Blair); Winter Appeal; Nungalinga College

## Prayer Points

**Collect for Sunday** - Keep your church, Lord God, with your continual mercy, and because the frailty of man without you cannot but fall, keep us always under your protection, and lead us to everything that makes for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*The following is a Puritan prayer from 'the Valley of Vision'. Pray through it each day this week, re-shaping it in your own words as you continue through the week.*

O GOD OF GRACE,  
Thou hast imputed my sin to my substitute,  
and hast imputed his righteousness to my soul,  
clothing me with a bridegroom's robe,  
decking me with jewels of holiness.

But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;  
my best prayers are stained with sin;  
my penitential tears are so much impurity;  
my confessions of wrong are so many  
aggravations of sin;  
my receiving the Spirit is tinctured with  
selfishness.

I need to repent of my repentance;  
I need my tears to be washed;  
I have no robe to bring to cover my sins,  
no loom to weave my own righteousness;  
I am always standing in filthy garments,  
and by grace am always receiving change of  
raiment,  
for thou dost always justify the ungodly;  
I am always going into the far country,  
and always returning home as a prodigal,  
always saying, Father, forgive me,  
and thou art always bring forth the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it,  
every evening return in it,  
go out to the day's work in it,  
be married in it,  
be wound in death in it,  
stand before the great white throne in it,  
enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of  
the exceeding sinfulness of sin,  
the exceeding righteousness of salvation,  
the exceeding glory of Christ,  
the exceeding beauty of holiness,  
the exceeding wonder of grace.  
Amen.

## Notices

**September Fresh Food Day – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**. In partnership with Anglicare, we offer pre-packed pantry goods (\$5 per bag) & fresh food (we pack here, \$2 per bag).

Volunteers are always needed: **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September** to receive & pack (12:30-2pm); **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** to distribute at Lithgow (11:15-12:30) & Portland (4:15-5:30). Contact Mark.

### Retiring from Work: A lifetime of serving the Lord:



Topics that will be addressed in this seminar include: time and how to use it; relationships and how our work serves others; age and how we can be active even if we are no longer

able to leave home; aloneness and how we cope with loss; money and generosity; and hope and joy.

<https://moore.edu.au/events/retiring-for-work-a-lifetime-serving-the-lord/>

**Joining a Growth Group:** Growth Groups exist for every member to grow in godliness. Currently they meet not just at different times during the week, but also in different forms: online zoom groups; phone conference call; & 'face to face' socially distanced. With the challenges of not meeting in person, Growth Groups are an ideal way to be encouraged personally & encourage others around God's Word.

If you've never joined one, this is the time. If the format of your current group isn't working (eg. You'd prefer zoom to face to face), you're able to swap.

Please contact Mark to find the right group.

**Online Church:** We livestream services at **8 & 10am each Sunday**. You can catch missed services on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnuMfxexSgmazKVkzjDCbkw> We also have individual elements of the service (interviews, kids talks etc) set apart, ready to share with friends & family

### 'Face to face prayer' – Sundays at 3pm:

- September 13<sup>th</sup> – Fresh Food Day – no prayer meeting
- September 20<sup>th</sup> – Portland (with children's programme)
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – Lithgow (with children's programme)

If you intend to come, please let Mark know. RSVP helps in us running it safely & well.

**Southern Cross.** Our diocesan paper, Southern Cross, is now freely available online. September's edition covers: What the needy need; Beach Missions on hold; saved from a cult; Why I'm not at church yet; Ready for the 'sex talk'; PLUS: news, views, reviews and more. Follow the link <https://sydneyanglicans.net/southerncross> If you would like a printed copy of Southern Cross, please contact Mark.