

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

To know ... to live ... to share ... CHRIST JESUS ... today.

DECEMBER 2011

Dear T MPC Family,

THE END TIMES: A GUIDE TO STAYING SANE

Often during the lead up to Christmas, Christian churches throughout the ages have spent some time considering the Second Coming of our Lord, and so I would like to consider some of that, in this article. Now, if you take a quick wander through a Christian book store, it will usually reveal to you a section, or a row of shelves, dedicated to the end times, and prophecy about that period. However, I have often felt, after a perusal of the contents of these books, that they tend to engender fear of the world and discouragement, rather than encouraging a believer to persevere in the faith.

So what should a Biblically minded Christian make of all this? Well, the first thing I would have to say on this topic is that our view of the end times has very little bearing on our salvation. Salvation is through faith in Christ and what He has done, not in what may or may not happen in the future; therefore there should not be as much heat involved in our discussions on this issue as there would be if the idea concerned more central doctrines. However, our beliefs concerning the end times can have a big effect on how we live today, and so it is still a matter of some importance.

Eschatology (the fancy word for the Biblical doctrine of the end times), has been understood in various ways throughout the centuries with some people taking a more positive view of how the things will progress in the world until the return of Christ, and others a more negative view. The negative view of things has increased in its popularity in the English speaking Christian churches over the last 150 years, however prior to that it was generally a minority opinion.

An unfortunate side effect of the increase in people following the more negative view has been an increase in the average Christian's fear of the way in which the world is going, and a consequent tendency for Christians to retreat away from the world. The thinking of those who hold this opinion basically goes along these lines; "if this world is going to pot and there is nothing we can do about it, then the best we can do is preach the gospel, batten down the hatches, and wait for the storm". However, we know that as Christians we are called to participate in and engage with our culture, and not to retreat from it, so leaving it to the mercy of the ungodly; or as I like to think of it "don't let the atheists have all the fun".

If I were to set forth my position on how the end times are going to pan out, then I would have to write a hundred pages or so detailing my position. However in the interests of brevity, not imposing undue suffering upon Steve & Peta as the editors of the Newsletter, and not inducing slumber on the congregation, I will give a quick guide as to how I think it is we should approach these matters.

The basic crux of it all, without going into much detail is that Jesus will return, and all things will be made new (Romans 8:18-21, Revelation 21:1-4, Acts 1:10-11, and many other places). There you go problem solved! Well not quite; the important thing that God tells us about these things in the Bible is to encourage us, that we are more than conquerors, because of Him who has conquered for us (Romans 8:37-39). This means that instead of looking into the future until the return of Christ with fear, we should engage with the present and the future with courage. No fearful Christians hiding until the final end comes; instead courageous Christians turning the world upside down, just as we were accused of doing in the 1st Century AD. **The Christians of that time were flogged from pillar to post (often literally), but it was their faith and not the might of Pagan Rome that prevailed in the end.**

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Echoes of the Roman Empire may remain with us, but the Gospel still speaks as loudly today as it ever did. The ideology of those others throughout the centuries who have risen to strike down the Christian faith will not fare any better. Perhaps we might see problems in the Western World at the present, but there will always be opposition to Jesus. That much we have been promised; yet that opposition is of no final consequence, and will pass away in the end. As Christians we have an anchor in eternity beyond the storms of time, therefore let us hold fast to Jesus our anchor, and live courageous and compassionate lives.

Yours because His,

Roger

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

1 Corinthians 12:26 says, *“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it...”* Let us thank the Lord for the privilege of entering into the sufferings of those Christians who are persecuted in many parts of the world as they are a part of God’s family.

ORISSA, INDIA

Sunemia, a Christian girl in Orissa State was kidnapped by 2 young men with the help of local Hindu extremists. She was returning home after attending classes in a nearby town. Her father, who is a pastor, immediately went to the police station and filed a missing person complaint. The following day, the pastor heard from local villagers that the young men had taken her to a temple of the Hindu goddess Kali and one of them had forcibly married her there. He then took her away and her present whereabouts is unknown.

Please **Pray**:-

- ▶ for Sunemia that God will strengthen her and give her His peace and that He might make a way for Sunemia to return to her family.
- ▶ that those who have committed this offence might be brought to justice.

Also in INDIA

The Christians in India are in danger from an extreme form of Hindu nationalism known as Hindutva. This movement wants to make India a religiously “pure” Hindu nation and is very hostile to non-Hindu religions, especially Christianity. Through its political party, it now holds or shares power in 10 states, and has great influence with the police and the legal system, where it promotes discrimination against Christians and others.

Violent attacks on individuals and churches are widespread and whole Christian communities have sometimes been targeted. **Give thanks** for the boldness of Indian Christians in sharing their faith despite these threats to their safety, and **pray** for protection for them.

PAKISTAN

Please **pray** for Sarfraz Ashraf, the son of a Pakistani pastor, who has received death threats from an Islamist organisation that is trying to stop his Christian activities. He was shot in the face and severely injured in a drive-by shooting.

IRAN

Thank the Lord that three Christians have been released from prison in Iran after 239 days behind bars. Please **pray** for Pastor Vahik who was arrested with them and still remains in detention.

Pirjo



Growth Groups will be in recess over the school holidays and will resume late January, early February. We will advertise all groups with their details mid February.

We would encourage you to join a Growth Group in 2012, to discover that the word of God, is not simply a collection of words from God, a vehicle for communicating ideas, it is living, life-changing and dynamic, as it works in us.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

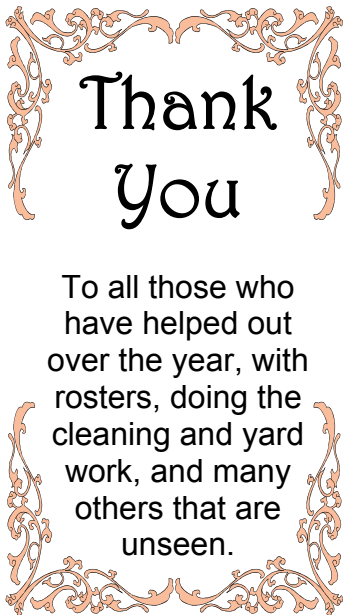
PRAYER CHAIN INVITATION If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain in 2012 please contact Christine Wilson or one of the team leaders, Alwyn Horne or Joan Carr Brown.

VOLUNTEERS
HANDBOOK
2012

We need more people to help in all areas for 2012 – can you help?

We have signup sheets available in the Church & Hall to add your name too. To help you understand your responsibilities please collect a 2012 volunteer's handbook from the display boards. If volunteers helping with the rosters need a booklet, this is what the front cover looks like.

ROSTERS



DECEMBER 2011

Greeting _____ Vivien Barton

Offering _____ Elyn Young & Buena Waters

Morning Tea _____ 4th Vivien Barton & Tony Wilson; 11th & 18th The Harden Family

Remember No morning tea 25th – Christmas Day

JANUARY 2012

Greeting _____ Chris Wilson

Offering _____ Ivor & Kathrine Watt

Morning Tea _____ Nola & Ian Woodward; 5th week – Alan & Dorothy Robert

FEBRUARY 2012

Greeting _____ Glenn & Megan Pyne

Offering _____ Ed Achterberg & Ashley Anderssen

Morning Tea _____ Ian & Bev Kerridge & Dorothy Bloxham



Have you done your refresher yet?

Re-reading the team members pocket guide counts as a refresher. Once you have read your old copy please let Christine Wilson know.

If you did your Childsafe training before 2009 you must do this refresher to stay qualified. If you don't have access to a booklet, please ask.

Chris 5545 3508 tonychriswilson@bigpond.com

team member



2012

ChildSafe

ChildSafe Training day is planned for **Saturday 31st March** for Team Members and Team Leaders who would like to work with youth and children. Please put this date in your diary and watch for more details.

Blue Card

If you need your Blue card updated please contact Chris Wilson.

DEACONS' PROJECTS - taking Your church into Your community

Annual Christmas High Tea. Tuesday 13th December



The traditional TMPC High Tea for our church seniors. Invitations will be given out later, but please mark this date in your diary. This is an event that the Deacons love to host and all who attend have a special time together during the Christmas season.



Christmas Hampers. Now Collecting- please place in collection bins in church foyer & hall

We have *ONLY 3 Sundays left* (4th, 11th, 18th) to collect goods for our Christmas hampers!!!



We will be very grateful for any donations of non-perishable groceries, Christmas goodies / cooking ingredients, toiletries, toys, Christmas decorations and anything that would be appreciated by a family at Christmas.

**Sunday 18 December-
final day for collection of goods for Christmas hampers.**

This will also be the day to bring any home baked Christmas goodies to add to the hampers (please, for baked items, only on the 18th).

Lynne Brown-Kenyon (on behalf of the Deacons.)

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

LETTER RECEIVED FROM PAVEL ZAPLAVA

Translated by Anna Symons

24th September, 2011.

To: The Presbyterian Church, Mount Tamborine, Australia
From: Pavel Zaplava (Letter sent via the German Mission)

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

Peace to you.

We thank God and you for the prayers and financial support which you are rendering to us.

By the Lord's grace, we have blessings in the church (at Dnepropetrovsk) where I have responsibility to serve.

This year, some new people have joined this Church. Of these are 5 sisters who made a covenant with God through Baptism. Notably, two of these sisters came to the Lord after Evangelization in Vidvezhenets Village two years ago. One of them is 88 years of age. The youngest is 18.

In the smaller Church of Novomoskovsk there are difficult experiences and heartache also continued struggle. I have concern about these souls, about their pursuit for holy living and spiritual growth. These take most of the time and strength. Some members are weak, stumbling and some losing their faith. I would ask to please pray about this ministry of service.

Alongside the above difficulties, there is also joy as others work earnestly in assisting with Gospel Outreach and fulfilling other needs, helping also in my labour of Service.

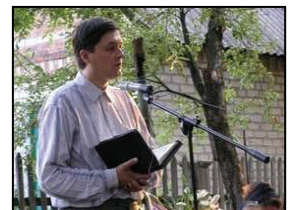
For all this I thank the Lord and pray for His support.

May God bless you and abundantly reward you.

Pavel Zaplava

Dnepropetrovsk – Novomoskovsk. Ukraine.

**Mission
SPOT**



Family Christmas Eve Service

6pm-7pm followed by a light supper.

The Christmas Eve service is a family friendly service. There will be a children's choir and an adult's choir performing, a small nativity, great carols and activities for the kids.

Anybody and Everybody is Welcome to come!

Service will be followed by a light supper in the church hall.



If TMPC members could bring a plate for the supper, it would be most appreciated.



Please listen and lookout for announcements about the Roslyn Lodge and Christmas Eve Carol singing, as the program is finalised, or talk to Russell Harden.

Christ Bell

This is an awesome e-mail. Someone took a lot of time setting up this message.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?

Keep this bell ringing...pass it on
'The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The LORD turn His face toward you
And give you peace...
Numbers 6:24-26

Reminder – AGM reports will be **due from secretaries by the 16th January** and could all **treasurers** have their **bank balances and statements to Daryl Furness before the 21st January.**

Reports can be emailed to Chris Wilson @ tonychriswilson@bigpond.com or catch up with her at Church.

Only Growth groups who are financially supporting missionaries need to include those details with your report.

The Bargain Centre will be closed from Saturday, 24th December and will re-open on Tuesday, 3rd January, 2012.

Kids Kapers and Holiday Club - Watch out for announcements late Jan, as there could be a change in the yearly program for 2012.

Start back the first week of February.....probably on Monday afternoons.....again watch for announcements.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – A new book will be available early March -it is important if your details have changed to see Chris Wilson or fill in the form marked ‘Church Directory changes’ located on the table in the Church foyer. If your details have already changed, then let us know now.....**Please don't wait until March.**

Mission Prayer Meeting

The last meeting for the year will be Friday 16 December 9am and meetings will resume on Friday 3 February 2012 at 9am.

Ladies Friendship Club will recommence on the 2nd Wednesday, the 8th Feb 2012.

Many thanks to the ladies who attended this year & for the support from other people as well.

PLAYTIME break up party (final Playtime for the year) is Dec 6th. Re-starts Tuesday Jan 24th 2012.

Youth have their break-up camp this weekend, Dec 2nd-4th, and start back Jan 29th.



FAMILY CONCERT WITH VENTRILOQUIST NATALIE MILLER

Last Saturday we were excited to host a free concert and BBQ for local families, featuring acclaimed ventriloquist Natalie Miller and her team of puppets, The Sally Squad and around 80 people came along! Natalie has the gift of really tapping into kids and adults with her witty and highly entertaining show.

She had everyone rolling about in their seats as her puppets took on lives of their own! It was easy to forget they were actually puppets and, seriously, you didn't see her lips move! But, the show was more than that, MUCH more.

Natalie presented a strong message about Jesus. We had many local families come along so not only were our church kids encouraged in their walk with Jesus, but the local kids and their parents got to hear about Jesus too! Pray that those families and kids who came will want to hear more about Jesus and come along to TMPC. Pray for Natalie as she ministers around the country and performs her role as wife and mum of 3 little boys back in Wollongong!

Thank you to Jackson Bartle for doing 'sound', Kim and Sandi Dale for organising and cooking the food and Phil Fry for sourcing the 'mike'.

If you missed out, check out Natalie's website or watch her devotions on Youtube. www.nataliemiller.com.au. You can purchase her dvds online. She is currently filming a new dvd about how to do puppetry, just in time for Christmas!

Brian Marsh

Hal Morris

Brian Davison

Meredith Plant

Megan Pyne

Christopher Mok

Joshua Van Werkhoven

Jesse McPhail

Ivor Watt

6th

12th

15th

16th

17th

19th

20th

21st

21st

Happy Birthday



May God bless you with His peace, joy & happiness on your special day.

Dustin Schilkowski

Steve Wilkinson

Joy Whitelock

Jonathan Marsh

Christine Hall

Luke Van Werkhoven

Barry Nicol

Elysia McComber

Nyla Wild

Ashley Anderssen

22nd

22nd

23rd

24th

25th

25th

29th

29th

29th

30th

DECEMBER 2011

DECEMBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

1
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

2
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre
9-10am Missions
Prayer Meeting

3
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

2-4th Dec Youth Breakup Camp

4
9am Worship
Lord's Supper

Youth Camp

5

6
Playtime
9:30am
Break-up
Party

7
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

8
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

9
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

10
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

School Holidays Start

11
9am Worship

12

13
Deacon's
Christmas
High Tea

COM 7pm

14
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

15
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

16
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

17
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

18
LAST day for
Hamper
Collection -
Bring those
Christmas
goodies in.

19

20

21
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

22
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

23
8am-12noon
Bargain Centre

24 8am-12noon
Bargain Centre
Carol Singing
Christmas
Eve Family
Service 6pm
& supper

25
Christmas
Day
Service 9am
NB:
There is No
morning tea

26
Boxing Day

27
Public Holiday

28

29

30

31
New Year's Eve

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2012

★ Annette Harden 2nd
 ★ Pat Hawley 5th
 ★ Frank McComber 6th
 ★ Debbie Cullen 7th
 ★ Kathryn Watt 14th
 ★ Keith Dippelsmann 14th
 ★ Micah Wilder 14th
 ★ Pirjo Fry 16th

Muriel Shepherd 20th
 Joan Carr Brown 22nd
 Alan Wogandt 23rd
 Phillip Howe 23rd
 Jirah McComber 24th
 Anna Marsh 24th
 Christine Wilson 28th
 Eleonore Scovell 28th

May God bless you with His peace, joy & happiness on your special day.

JANUARY 2012

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Worship Lord's Supper	2	3 8am-12noon Bargain Centre Re-Opens	4 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	5 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	6 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	7 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
8 9am Worship	9	10 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	11 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	12 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	13 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	14 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
15 9:00am Worship	16 DUE AGM Secretaries Reports	17 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	18 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	19 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	20 DUE AGM Before Tomorrow Treasurers BBs & Statements	21 OverDUE AGM Treasurers Statements
22 9:00am Worship	23 Back to School	24 Playtime 9:30am Starts for 2012	25 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	26 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	27 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	28 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
29 9:00am Worship 9:30am KFC 5:30pm Youth	30	31 8am-12noon Bargain Centre				

NB: Please listen & check announcements about dates & details. e.g. for Youth Group, Equip, Playtime, Kids Kapers, most Growth Groups, etc.

Building Fund Bank Account (for Direct Deposits) BSB 084 835 Account #75046 8884

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 2 Corinthians 9:7

ELECTRONIC GIVING
 For those who do not wish to carry cash, Or may be absent from Services, Deposits can be made on line (internet banking) Directly into our Church account.
BSB 084 835 A/C No: 045237423