

MINISTRIES ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY
7PM Social Soccer

THURSDAY
3:30PM Youth

TUESDAY
9:30AM Playgroup

FRIDAY
9:30AM Playgroup
4:30pm Kids Ignite

WEDNESDAY
9AM Prayer Meeting

Home Groups

BETTER TOGETHER
If you would like to know
more, Contact Greg
(0419 167 815)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7th Uli
8th Angela

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- * Pray for our Children's (Playgroup, Sunday School, Kid's Ignite) and Youth ministries as they commence this week.
- * Pray for Steve Carroll's operation this week.
- * Pray for Phil Roberts and his family as their father has been placed in palliative care.
- * Pray for the 2020 Soccer season - for new coaches and the preparations for the new season.
- * Praise God that He is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).
- * Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever. (Ps. 118:29)

DIVINE DETOURS

"When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, 'If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:17)

While it is true that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, it is not always true that a straight line leads to the best route. When the Israelites were finally able to leave Egypt and begin their journey towards the promised land the shortest route was right up the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The problem with that route was that it took them through the territory of the Philistines and there was no way they were going to let the Israelites travel through their country unchallenged. Of course all things are possible with God, but not all things were possible for the Israelites. In God's opinion they were not ready for a fight. So rather than send them on the shortest route filled with inevitable military conflict, He ordered them on a divine detour. He knew His people well enough to know that, as excited as they were about escaping from Egypt, they would probably have turned around and headed back to slavery rather than fight for their lives. I am sure that the Israelites didn't appreciate going the way God took them at the time. They didn't enjoy the experience of travelling in the rugged and barren terrain of the wilderness and we know that they often shared their discontent and concerns with Moses. In their days filled with difficulties and delays they forgot about how bad their lives were as captives in Egypt and how wonderful a place God was taking them to.

Life's detours, disappointments and delays are rarely pleasant. But if they are truly from God, they are given with divine reasoning (which we don't always understand at the time) and for a good purpose (which we don't always see at the time). In life we may see immediate objectives and opportunities and go for it with energy and enthusiasm, only to be delayed and frustrated. What we may not see is the danger that is lurking along the way and the disasters that are waiting for us on the path. Thankfully for us our sovereign God sees them all and, out of love for us and with full understanding of our capabilities, He sometimes chooses to save us from these dangers by allowing delays and detours. As we begin another year we don't know what plans God has for us. We don't know the road He will take us on in 2020. But God knows! In those moments that we face when we don't have a clue what to do next, God does! When our head is aching and our heart is broken God knows how much we hurt and He knows exactly what we need to heal, grow and live for Him. He knows that His plan is so much better than ours and He encourages us to trust in His goodness and love.

God bless, Pastor John.

PROMISED LAND PLAZA

It's on today after our worship service and Sunday School. Well done to all the kids who have worked hard to gain their reward points. Have fun as you go shopping.

COOLUM CRUSADERS

As we look to start the 2020 season we will once again look to financially subsidise the families in our community who struggle to pay the cost of registration. Last year we were able to do this with your generous donations, and this year we are asking if anyone can help donate again. If you are able to support us in any way please see Chris Hampton after the service or contact him on 0419866986.

MISSION MATTERS

As the new school year begins, Mark Horsfall and Kit Thomas, our Chaplains at Coolum Beach High would appreciate our prayers for them as they face the many challenges that high school kids bring to their attention. Also pray for our RI teachers as they begin in the next weeks. There's always RI places that can be filled. Please talk to Pastor John if you would like to fill one of those spots.

MINISTRIES RECOMMENCE

Given that the school term has started, our children's and youth ministries will all commence this week. Sunday School will start this morning, Playgroup will start on Tuesday, Youth on Thursday and Kid's Club on Friday.

NEW SERMON/STUDY SERIES

Next Sunday 9th February we will be starting a 9 week, whole of church journey, into "Gospel Shaped Outreach". The study books for Home Groups will be available next Sunday at a cost of \$10.

ABBY PENGLASE'S VISIT

Abby Penglase, who is one of the missionaries we support, is returning from Ecuador for a short break. Abby will be coming to Coolum on 8-15 March and is happy to come and speak to Home Groups if they are interested in hearing about her work. If this is something that is of interest to you, please contact Pam Scales, our Mission's Co-Ordinator, and she can arrange it if she is available.

