

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer
7PM Social Soccer

Home Groups

BETTER TOGETHER

If you would like to know
more, Contact Pastor John
0408 402 476

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

29th Tom,
Val H,
Jack C

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- * Thank the Lord that He is an ever-present source of comfort, strength and hope in our life.
- * Give thanks for answered prayer.
- * For the ACL as they look for a new CEO. Pray too for Martin Iles as he considers where the Lord is leading him.
- * That the Holy Spirit will help us to love and speak the truth and help us to avoid gossip and slander.
- * That the Lord will raise up new church leaders in the north of Iraq who know the local languages of Syriac, Kurdish and Arabic.
- * For our Soccer Camp next week – for Harrison as he prepares the studies, for all the other preparations, for campers, coaches and volunteers.

ARE WE REALLY FACING PERSECUTION FOR JESUS' SAKE?

Last week we were reminded that Jesus taught us to expect persecution when we follow Him. But, in regard to our trials and persecutions, Jesus also taught us that not everything that may look like persecution is actually persecution. There are times when we face trials and opposition because of our own poor decisions and actions. In the opening sentences of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that his followers are blessed when, *“people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you **because of me.**”* (Matthew 5:11) And immediately before that he says, *“Blessed are those who are persecuted **for righteousness’ sake.**”* (v10) In these verses Jesus is teaching us that we need to evaluate our suffering to ensure that it's not just the consequence of our own sinfulness. I know many people who have suffered for their faith. Some have been disowned by their families and rejected by their friends or workmates. Some have lost jobs, relationships, recognition and opportunities because of their faith. And I know the Lord is proud of these people and that He will bless them beyond all measure. But we must be clear that not *all* suffering is 'righteous persecution'. Peter affirms this truth in 1 Peter 4:14-15. *“If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed.. If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.”* In essence Peter is also saying that we can't play the persecution card if we are sinning by treating people badly or deliberately making trouble.

So, what does it mean to suffer for the name of Christ? It means to suffer for living and behaving in distinctly Christian ways. If we go back to Matthew 5:3-10, Jesus tells us that people who suffer for His sake are living with a humble awareness of their spiritual bankruptcy. They are repenting quickly and forgiving freely. They are gentle and always striving to obey God's every word. They love justice, they are merciful and they are peacemakers. In essence they are fully committed to honoring God and His purposes. This is how God is calling his people to live as faithful citizens of his kingdom. And it is these very virtues that lead to persecution from the world. It is after Jesus calls his people to live this way that he tells them they will face terrible consequences. So, as we go through suffering and trials in our life we need to evaluate it. We need to ask, *“Am I suffering because I am truly being a faithful follower of Jesus?”*, or *“Am I suffering because I am behaving badly and out-of-step with God's commandments?”* If it is the latter, then I encourage you to repent and get back in step with Jesus today.

God bless, Pastor John.

ACOUSTIC PANELS

We are looking to install some acoustic panels on the roof of the hall on Tuesday. It is hoped that these panels will help to reduce the noise levels (echoing) when we use the hall. Thanks to Greg and his team of volunteers for making this happen.

TERM 3 PREACHING & BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Starting on Sunday 9th July we will commence our long awaited series on the second half of Hebrews (Jesus is Better). The study books will be available to collect on that Sunday morning.

ALPHA COURSE

We are looking to commence an Alpha course in the week starting July 17th. Please be prayerfully considering the people who you can invite along to this wonderful event.

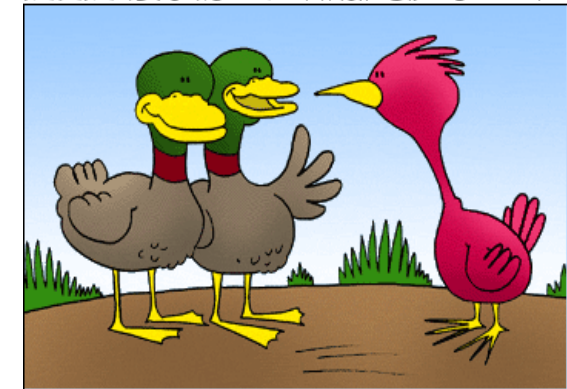
SOCCER CAMP PRAYER

Our Hotshotz Soccer camp is coming up next week (3rd to 7th July) and we are asking you all to be in prayer for the camp. If you would like to do that we have some soccer camp prayer packs ready to pick up in the church foyer.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

During the holidays all of our family, youth and children's ministries (Playgroup, Sunday School, Kid's Ignite, Youth) will be taking a break

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(See Genesis 2:18-25)

05-27-2003

SO ADAM NAMES ME "DUCK", NAMES MY
BUDDY HERE "DUCK", THEN NAMES THIS
OTHER DUDE "GOOSE" AND RUNS AWAY

NOTES

"Do Not Covet - The Freedom of Contentment"

(Luke 12:13-21, Philippians 4:10-20)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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25
June
2023

9AM

PASTOR JOHN

"Do Not Covet - The Freedom of Contentment" (Luke 12:13-21, Philippians 4:10-20)