

Notes

"Finding Hope In The Darkness" (Psalm 88)

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**Coolum Beach Baptist Church**

*'To know Christ and make Him known'*



"For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom [and forgave our sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

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September

9AM Pastor John

"Finding Hope In The Darkness"  
(Psalm 88)

## Thought for the Week

Psalm 88 is regarded as one of the most depressing passages in the Bible. It starts with "I cry out to you by day. I come to you at night. Now hear my prayer and listen to my cry. For my life is full of troubles and death draws near" and ends with, "Darkness is my closest friend." This is a man who is suffering greatly, desperately wanting God to change his circumstances and frustratingly getting no response from God. But as depressing as Psalm 88 seems, there is something hopeful about it. There is a powerful lesson here. When you can't change your circumstances or lift your spirits, there is one thing you can do. You can keep praying. Heman the Ezrahite prayed honestly, frequently and persistently. Even though God wasn't answering he kept praying through all of Psalm 88 and in the providence of God his prayer led directly to Psalm 89:1, "I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever. Young an old will hear of your faithfulness."

In 1942, sixteen bomber crews from the US Army Air Corps trained day and night for a secret bombing raid on Japan. The raid was intended to be a response to the bombing of Pearl Harbour and was regarded as being almost suicidal in nature. The bombers flew their mission and were returning home when they faced tremendous headwinds that slowed their progress and used up their fuel. On aircraft number 5, the crew realized that without a miracle they'd crash at sea and be lost. Sergeant Joe Manske unbuckled his harness and in the back of the B-25 bomber, got down on his knees and earnestly prayed. As he prayed, something almost miraculous happened. The winds began to shift direction and the headwinds slowly turned into tailwinds that helped to push the planes toward China where they waited until being rescued. Living in this sinful world, there will be times when we will encounter a lot of painful 'headwinds' which we can do nothing about. But in those difficult times we can unbuckle our harnesses, kneel down in the darkness, and pray. And when we persistently pray in Jesus' Name, somehow, in God's timing, the headwinds will often turn into tailwinds and push us from the bleak despair of Psalm 88 into the joy of Psalm 89. When you are feeling overwhelmed by your problems and darkness seems to be your only friend then honest, frequent and persistent prayer is your best option, and the Light of the Word is your greatest hope. When you feel darkness closing around you, keep talking with God, trust in his grace and keep on praying in the name of Him who said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

God bless, Pastor John.

## Prayer Points

- That the church in Ukraine, Russia and across the wider region will be a voice for peace; that they will have the resources they need to help people who are vulnerable.
- For our government leaders – that they would recognize their own need to depend on God for knowledge, wisdom and for the courage to do what is right.
- For our Home Groups – strengthen them, grow them in knowledge and faith
- For our Sunday School, Kid's Ignite and Youth teachers/leaders – that they are encouraged as God works in and through them in the lives of children and families in our church and community.

## What's on?

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters

School  
Holidays



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 18th Gil, 20th John W, Moira P

### CARE OUTREACH INFORMATION DAY

Care Outreach provides spiritual and physical support to people in outback NSW and QLD. During November teams of volunteers visit families with Christmas hampers and gifts. There is an opportunity for you to join the volunteers and bring joy to these struggling communities. An information and training day will be held next Saturday 23rd September at 1.30pm. Please take a brochure in the foyer or on the kitchen servery or phone 54717636 for more information.

### WELCOMER'S MEETING

After the service this morning we would love to see all our Sunday morning greeters in order to share some ideas, clarify the role and say thanks.

### SU PENINSULA SPLASHOUT CAMP

It's that time of year again where our church will be hosting this awesome holiday camp for kids aged 7-12 years of age. It will run from Monday 25th to Friday 29th September (second week of the school holidays). Please be in prayer for the leaders and the campers – for a fun time, a safe time and a powerful time of sharing the gospel.

### MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

We are looking to start up a CBBC Men's Ministry and would like to hear what men want. In order to do that we are having a breakfast at the church on Saturday 7th October, starting at 8am. More details soon.

### SOS CHANGE OF DATE

The next SOS activity will be a visit to the Majestic Theatre in Pomona on Thursday 19th October. Please make a note in your diaries.