

"The Forbidden Chapter" (Isaiah 53:1-12)

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Thought for the Week

THIS MAN RECEIVES SINNERS

Peter Orasuk was a hopeless drug addict. Being found in an alley with an overdose was his likely future.

A lady called to take Peter's daughter to some Bible children's meetings. I asked her what she was. She said, "*I am a Christian.*"

Later two men visited. I said, "You know, you and I are like people stranded on a desert island. We have told ourselves that a big ship is going to come and take us off the island. That is what keeps us going from day to day – we have our big ship. This syringe is my big ship. It gets me from day to day. Your Jesus and your Salvation are your big ship, but really we are just in the same boat."

"I want to read something to you," one of the gentlemen replied, and he read Isaiah 53. In the middle of my dark empty existence, there was just the inkling of a hope that softened and touched me the first time I heard it. I said: "I know the Jesus story. Anybody could write something like that."

He said: "But not 700 years before it happened, and besides, who told you it was talking about Jesus?"

It just came to me that everything God said would happen, did happen, and I was afraid. One of the men continued to visit me. He said: "It is a wonderful thing that God loves you and sent His Son to die for you... **this Man receives sinners.**" In tears, he said, "Oh Peter, salvation is not only the joy of receiving Christ; it is being delivered from a real hell. Unless you get serious about this matter you are going to die in your sins and go to hell."

One Tuesday evening, I accepted that **"the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleansed me from all sin."** 1John 1:7. When Jesus said on the cross "It is finished!" (John 19:30) He paid my sin's debt in full. That night I was saved.

Prayer Points

- Pray that the Lord would move people to come to church over this Christmas period. Pray also that the gospel would be preached over this time and that the lost would be found
- Pray for Alan as he has had an eye surgery. Pray for his recovery and pray also for Ruth who is now home from hospital but has to go and see the heart specialist
- Continue to pray for our pastoral search committee.
- Praise God for sending Jesus Christ to be born in this world, and save us from our sins
- "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Psalm 51:1-2)

What's on?

TONIGHT
4PM Carols Event

MONDAY
5PM Walking Soccer

WEDNESDAY
9AM Prayer Meeting



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Beth Pfeffer 0449 584 284

BIRTHDAYS: 16th Elaine Rose, 17th Dianne Eden
& Charlotte Wibrow, 19th Judith Howland

REGISTRAR FOR SOCCER

This year we are in need of a Registrar for soccer. Shauna is able to do it this year from a distance (praise God), while we find someone and train them up this year (will be mentored by Shauna). We are passionate about seeing this job filled by someone in our church, as the Registrar is a very people oriented job, giving opportunities to build relationships with parents and families. The first 2-3 months can require quite a significant amount of time per week. After that it drops significantly for the remainder of the year. If this interests you, please see Harrison.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS HELP (FOR TONIGHT)

Out in the foyer there are sheets for people to help, on either the jumping castle, fairy floss machine, or popcorn maker. They will be running from 4-6pm. On the sheet it is divided up into 30min time slots, but if you are able to do for longer, then please feel free to put your name down for longer.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year we are holding our annual Christmas Eve Service a bit earlier on Sunday December 15th. Family fun will be happening from 4-6pm, with the carols beginning at 6pm. We will then also be holding Christmas Eve service, but this will be a normal church service beginning at 6pm.

BETHLEHEM BARGAINS

It's that time of year again. The Christmas break has begun which means the kids have an opportunity to earn points (stickers) by coming along on a Sunday and doing the activity sheets, which go towards them being able to get some cool prizes at the beginning of term 1 next year.

