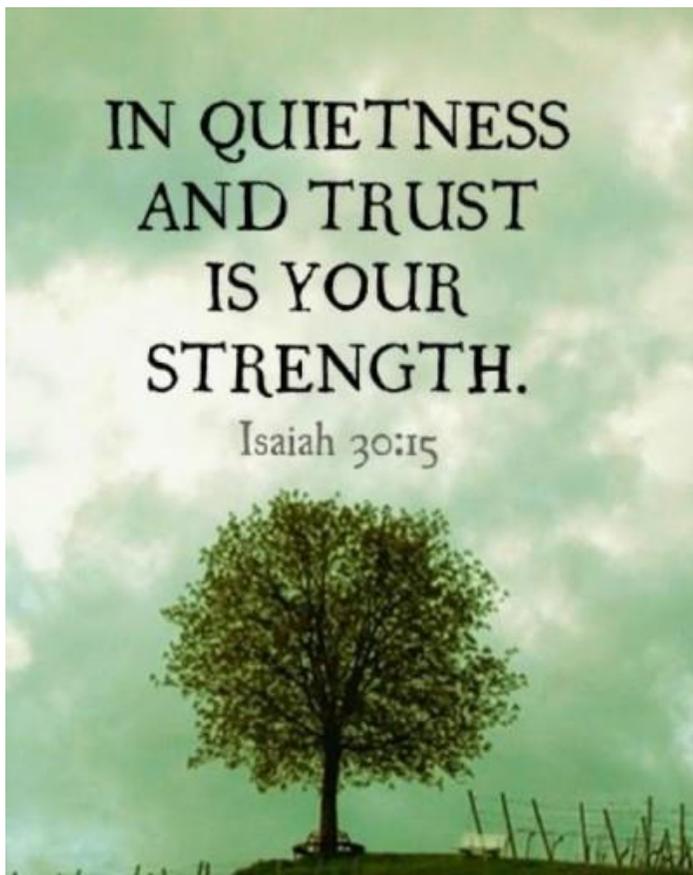




*31ST MAY 2020*



**Ferntree Gully Baptist services:** Speaker Pastor Tony

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May** – Series: 40 Days with Jesus  
Study 6: Jesus Empowers – Acts 1:1-11 & Acts 2:1-4

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** - Series: The Mission Commences  
Study 1: A Vital Message Given – Acts 2:5-39

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** - Series 2: The Mission Commences  
Study 2: A Vital Church Commences –  
Acts 2:40-47:

For viewing these services, log on to the Church Website - [ftgbc.org.au](http://ftgbc.org.au)

**Television Sundays**

7two . 7.30am Leading The Way  
. 8.00am David Jeremiah  
ABC 2 . 11.30am Songs of Praise

**VERSE**

*My Jesus, my savior  
Lord there is none like you  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of your mighty love*

*My comfort, my shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, All that I am  
Never cease to worship you*

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1&4*

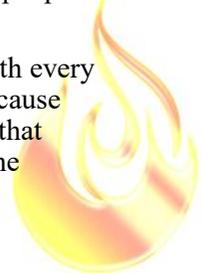
## A Word From Tony

### **Pentecost**

The historical and Biblical origins of what we know as Pentecost can be found in Exodus 23:14-19, Leviticus 23:15-16 and Deuteronomy 16:10. One of three significant Jewish festivals, Pentecost comes from the Greek word Pentekostos which the fiftieth day of, is the also known as the Festival of Weeks. This was a prominent feast in the Jewish calendar that celebrated God giving them the 10 Commandments 50 days after the Exodus from Egypt. God instructed His people to celebrate the Festival of Weeks, which was to be held 7 full weeks (49 days) plus one day after Passover, equalling 50 days. Also called the Feast of Harvest, this was when the Jews would present offerings of the first fruits of their spring crops. Jewish law required all adult Jewish men to come to Jerusalem from wherever they were living to personally be in attendance for the celebration.

In Acts chapters 1-2, we learn that about 120 followers of Jesus were gathered in prayer in an upper room of Jerusalem, having recently seen Jesus ascend and return to His Father in heaven. While the believers were gathered, the Holy Spirit came upon them with flames of fire and violent wind. Why such dramatic signs of power? Precisely because the Spirit was **empowering** the disciples for the mission Jesus had given them in Acts 1:8: To be his witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Jesus had known that his followers could only fulfil this mission with the help and power of the Holy Spirit, so he had instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they were given the Spirit. (Luke 24:49). Just as the Spirit had empowered Jesus for ministry (Luke 4:1), so the Spirit would now empower Jesus’ people for ministry.

Because of Pentecost, Jesus can now be personally present with every believer around the world, through his Holy Spirit. In fact, because the Holy Spirit dwells inside us (1 Cor. 3:16), it is something that can never be taken away. Jesus promised in John 14-16 that the Spirit will give us peace, courage, comfort, and guidance, everything we need.



## Series: 40 Days With Jesus

### Study 6: Jesus Empowers – Acts 1:1-11 and 2:1-4

#### Introduction

Jesus' Plan A. There is no plan B, but Plan A has an attachment, the Holy Spirit  
Acts 1:4 *“And assembled together with them, Jesus commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father.”*

John 14:16 *“And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of Truth.”*

#### . The Meaning Behind Pentecost

Pentecost comes from the Greek word Pentekostos – means fiftieth, here fiftieth day.

Leviticus 23:15-16. After children of Israel redeemed from Egypt, the Lord told Israelites to count fifty days then offer a new grain offering. This became a festival called, Feast of Weeks.

If we count back from Pentecost, we arrive at Easter Sunday, Jesus' Resurrection. This was also a festival 'First Fruits'. 3 days previous was another festival, Passover.

Exodus 12:1, Exodus 19:1, 16. These verses point to the Israelites going to Mt Sinai to receive the law, the Old Covenant. When looking at the Jewish calendar, this also coincides with Pentecost, Feast of Weeks

Joel 2:28&29 and Jeremiah 31:32 both refer to the Lord speaking of a time to come when He will pour out His Spirit. This would be a new covenant written on their hearts.

#### . Empowering By The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:2-3 Holy Spirit coming with loud noise, mighty wind, tongues of fire – similar to Mt Sanai event Exodus 19:16.

As with the feasts, Passover and First fruits, we find Pentecost or Feast of Weeks, covenant renewal. God is again acting, starting a fresh a New Covenant, law on their hearts. Joel and Jeremiah had prophesied it but God had a specific time planned for it to come into fruition.

#### . Empowered for Witness

They and we are empowered for witness but as 1 Corinth 1:21-25, some will think is foolish. But we always need to be ready to give an answer for our faith 1 Peter 3:15.

On the day of Pentecost, these people to whom the Spirit was given would never be the same! As Christ said it would, that Spirit of God transformed the disciples from the inside out. Once-timid men were now filled with the very faith and courage of Christ their Savior. It guided them to preach the message of the Gospel boldly. It led them to personal change and growth. The apostle Peter—the same man who had denied Christ three times—now stood up and condemned the multitude for putting to death the Christ, the Son of God, and fearlessly challenged the assembly to repent of their sins (Acts 2:14–39). And the Church grew.



Birthdays

Elizabeth B 30th May

Corey E 1st June

### **Pastoral Availability:**

Tony will be on leave from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June until Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

If you have any pastoral enquiries please contact one of the Elders:  
Andrew Ullrich  
or Rainer Luppá.



## **Men's Convention 2020**

The 'Men's Convention Special Event' was held last weekend. On the Friday night, Robert Martin, a radio presenter with 89.9 Light FM, hosted a Q&A time with Al Stewart, Pete Sorrenson and Martyn Iles, Managing Director with the Australian Christian Lobby. The Q & A went for about 1.25 hours and at this stage there have been 20,000 hits on the program.

Then on the Friday night and all day Saturday, talks from speakers presenting at Men's Convention between 2010 and 2019 were premiered on face book and You Tube. In total, they have been watched 3,500 times.

This was another great opportunity to have God's Word presented over social media to people who might not have ever attended a Belgrave Heights Convention. Being chairman of the Men's Convention, please join with me in praising the Lord for what was able to be done. But also, pray with us that the Lord can continue to use the talks which will be left up on the Belgrave Heights Website.

Please also keep the Belgrave Heights Convention Executive and Council in prayer as we look into the future of how we can continue to use Social Media to have the God's Word and the Gospel message conveyed throughout Victoria, Australia and the World.

Tony



To continue worshipping the Lord with tithes and offerings you can:

Do a bank transfer into the Church bank account.

Details are: ANZ bank

Ferntree Gully Baptist Church

BSB: 013287

Account: 296710027

Cheques written to Ferntree Gully Baptist Church may be sent to:  
Andrew Ullrich 15 Chedworth Crt Kilsyth Sth 3137

## Be Still

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now  
With reverence and fear  
In him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The holy One, is here.*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
With splendour he is crowned:  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant king of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place:  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
To minister his grace -  
No work too hard for him.  
In faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.*



Songwriter: David Evans

## Reflection on Isolation by Anton Zhang, a Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot in Arnhem Land Australia

‘I have been living in remote Arnhem Land for the last year. For the first six months I lived alone, but now I’m sharing a house with my cat Ginger, so I’m no stranger to living in isolation and I’d like to share my thoughts on this from my perspective as a single missionary.

Firstly I’d like to make a distinction between two terms: *isolation* and *solitude*. Isolation is a state of being alone that is a product of our circumstances and perhaps didn’t come by choice; it is not what we’d prefer, but rather is something to ‘deal with’, ‘cope with’ and ‘overcome’.

Solitude on the other hand, is when we choose to be alone for certain purposes. As I’ve journeyed with God, I’ve gradually come to see solitude as a spiritual discipline.

Of course, Scripture calls us to connect with God in community, but it also calls us to do so in the quietness of solitude. At times, we need to stop what we are doing, to take ourselves away from the busyness of our lives, so we can, ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ (Psalm 46:10) Jesus calls us to shut the door of our room and pray to him in secret (Matthew 6:6) and he himself often retreated into solitude to commune with His Father.

So one of the ways I’ve been coping with isolation is by turning my isolation into moments of solitude through which I commune with God, one on one. I take my mind to the peace of the wilderness, free from distraction, and free to think upon the things of God.

As part of this discipline, my solitary activities include prayer and reflecting, journaling, reading, playing the piano and doing art, to the glory of God.





We Christians must simplify our lives or lose untold treasures on earth and in eternity. Modern civilization is so complex as to make the devotional life all but impossible. The need for solitude and quietness was never greater than it is today.

— Aiden Wilson Tozer —

AZ QUOTES

On my daily walk :  
God's canvas of  
Autumn colours.



A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mum, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE?

1. How long did it take to write the Old Testament?    500 years  
800 years            over 1,000 years

2. Do any original writings of the Bible exist?    Yes    No

3. Who produced first translation of the entire Bible from Latin Vulgate into English?

John Wycliffe    William Tyndale    John Calvin

4. China is not only the largest producer of textiles and manufactured goods in the world; the country is also the largest producer of Bibles.

True            False

5. How many continents were parts of the Bible written in?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the longest book in the Bible?            \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is known as the 'love chapter'?            \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the last word in the Bible?            \_\_\_\_\_

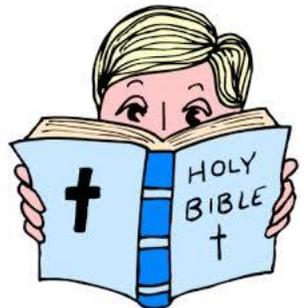
9. Adam's name is from the Hebrew word *a da ma*. What does it mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How many wise men visited Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. In every place where the disciples are listed, who is listed first?            \_\_\_\_\_



I hope you have found it a blessing reading and praying through the Bible league material, 'Bibles for the Persecuted'.



**BibleLeague**<sup>®</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL

If you have taken the opportunity to use the money boxes provided to put a gold coin in, you can drop them of TODAY Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at the Church between 2 and 3pm. Otherwise, please contact Andrew Ullrich, Church treasurer, to arrange a drop off. All monies raised will be sent to the Bible League and used to provide Bibles, Train local members in evangelism, Church planting and Bible literacy.

I trust that taking part in this prayer support has helped you to unite together as a Church family in a project together over the past 21 days.

Tony

## Churches growing in Kosovo; Bibles needed

Kosovo is home to 1.9 million people, of whom 96 percent are Muslim. There are only 500 evangelical Christians and 30 churches.



"As a church, we're focusing on evangelism and discipleship," shares Kosovar-Albanian pastor, Filip. "We need good Christian resources for both. We are thankful to Bible League for providing the 'Reconciliation with God' evangelism

portion and 'Reaching Toward the Goal' discipleship booklet."

"We need more literature in the Albanian language as that feeds the minds of the people and spiritually impacts their lives. **Unfortunately, the Muslim community is way ahead of us. For two years they've invested in a lot in books to strengthen Islam.** The younger generation fall easily for that. We're praying God's Word shall enter every Albanian home in Kosovo."

Nearly all Christian believers in the Kosovo region were formerly Muslim. One of the local converts shares that when he first

converted to Christianity, he and his brother faced harassment and punishment at the hands of his own father.

“We were beaten by him,” he shares. “Many times, he said to us, ‘Go away from my home!’ But my brother and I kept on telling him the truth.”

In Kosovo, there is only one Christian bookshop where Bibles are sold. **It would take at least one entire month for the average person to save up for a Bible.** This is why the gift of a Bible is such an incredible blessing to Christian believers.

Please pray for Tony and Lynne as Tony takes two weeks leave after a very busy beginning to 2020 with the Cambodia Mission Exposure Trip, Church Family camp then coping with restrictions linked with COVID-19.



Pray for Jeanette to have wisdom as she speaks with the Playgroup Association about possibly of recommencing Playgroup at the Church in 3rd term and for understanding all the new requirements needed.

Prayer for Gisela as she is due to have surgery on Thursday. Pray for Martin while Gisela is in hospital.

After spending time reading and praying through the Bible League material recently, keep our brothers and sisters in countries where persecution is severe in prayer; for the Lord's strength to stand firm in their faith.

Prayer for Hubert as he gets used to and settles in to his new accommodation at Tabulum and Templer Home for Aged.

Praise the Lord for the opportunity had last weekend through the Men's Convention Special Event to engage a wider audience with God's Word.

**Pray for the MISSIONS & WORKERS**

***we take an interest in including...***

Andrea Rothweiler (Wycliffe PNG)  
FTG Nth Primary School chaplaincy  
Andy and Cathie Staunton  
(GIA Cambodia)  
Mukti Wings of Hope  
Reach Beyond Helga



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Chirnside Park 3116

Email: tburgum@optusnet.com.au  
Phone: 0406 686 715

**Elders:**

Rainer Luppa - 9758 4195 (Secretary)  
Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

Bulletin Editor: Margaret Penford  
Phone: 9762 1691  
mpmpenford@netspace.net.au

**Church Details:**

Address: 17 Hunter Street FTG

Web: www.ftgbc.org.au  
Mob: 0406 686 715

**(please note that landline is no longer connected)**

**Deacons:**

Frank Schlag - 8790 2550 (Property)  
Jeanette Ullrich - 9762 7115  
(Playgroup)  
Joanna Schlag - 0490 128 328

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE?**

**ANSWERS**

1. Over 1,000 years
2. No
3. William Tyndale
4. True
5. Three - Africa, Asia, Europe
6. Jeremiah
7. 1 Corinthians 13
8. Amen
9. The ground
10. Not known
11. Simon Peter

