



26TH JULY 2020



TODAY:

Series: The Great I Am

Study 1: I Am Who I Am – John 8:48-59

Speaker: Pastor Tony

Sunday 2nd August

Series: The Great I Am

Study 2: I Am the Bread of Life – John 6:22-40

Speaker: Pastor Tony

Lord's Supper – Please take the opportunity of preparing your own elements of bread and juice.

For viewing log on to the Church Website - ftgbc.org.au

Jesus said to them,

“Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was I AM”

John 8:58

A Word From Tony

Jesus, I AM

One of the fundamentals of our faith is that the Lord Jesus Christ is fully God in every way and fully equal with the Father. Many people consider that Jesus never claimed to be God or professed equality with the Father. And yet, when the Lord Jesus declared, ‘before Abraham was, I AM’, He was making the most blatant declaration of His Deity, claiming equal status with YHWH of the Old Testament, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel.

Christ claimed Deity on many occasions, infuriating the Jewish leaders. The accusation of blasphemy, made by the Jews, where they took up stones to execute Him, was because they refused to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Son of God, begotten not created and of one being with the Father. He had come to be the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Furthermore, when Jesus declared before Abraham was, I AM, His claim was not only pre-existence to the greatest prophet and patriarch of the Jews, and father of the Jewish nation, He was claiming to be nothing less than the great God of the universe, the I AM of the Scriptures, who led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt and spoke with Moses in the burning bush, declaring I AM that I AM.

Never let us forget who it was that gave up His sovereign, universal throne to come to earth, to die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for sin, so that ALL that believe on the name of the only begotten Son of God, might not perish but have everlasting life.

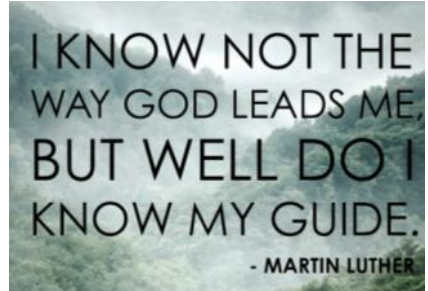


STEP BY STEP

O Lord You are my God and I will ever praise You;
O Lord You are my God and I will ever praise You.

I will seek You in the Morning,
I will learn to walk in your ways;
And step by step you lead me,
And I will follow you all of my days.

Songwriter: Zemroy Thomas



Tony received the following letter from **Johanna Schlag** during the week:

‘Please find below my official resignation as Worship Deacon.

Ecclesiasties 3:1 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Serving God as Worship Deacon brought me great joy and purpose, especially knowing that it enabled everyone to draw closer to God in meaningful ways. It was therefore a difficult decision for me to make, but I have resigned as Worship Deacon. I will miss the fellowship on a Sunday morning, as I am sure we all currently are.

This decision was reached in looking after my own faith. Craving the social connection of other Christian young adults, I have been attending Syndal Baptist Church since 2019 and am taking the next step of membership in September. My faith will continue to grow as I hold fast to His leading and look at ways of serving God through Syndal Baptist. I thank you for your encouragement and prayers over the years as I grew in confidence leading worship and as Deacon. They meant a lot to me and molded me into the person I am today, a confident woman of God. These years and memories I will take with me. Stay well in these times.

God bless. Johanna Schlag’

We all wish God’s abundant blessing on Johanna as she continues her walk with Him at Syndal Baptist Church.

Meeting for Prayer

This Wednesday night, 29th July, we will be having a Zoom prayer focus time at 7.30pm. If you would like to be involved, please text or call Pastor Tony so he can organise for you to log into the prayer time. You will need to be able to have access through the internet.

Church Ceilings

Work commenced on the ceilings in the auditorium, morning tea room and kitchen this week. The contractors plan to be finished early this coming week. Following completion of the ceiling, we will be having a tidy up and Frank Schlag will be installing lights into the new ceiling panels. Some further work is being considered, especially in the auditorium, and we will keep you informed, including any potential additional costs which will be in addition to the maintenance budget.



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

Do a bank transfer into the Church bank account. Details are:
ANZ -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

Birthdays:

31st July Andrew Ivanoff

Remember to notify editor of any other celebrations in your family.



Pastoral Availability:

Tony will be working from his home office but can be contacted on 0406686715.

He is available to meet with you at his home office, the Church office or your home.

Please call if you would like to meet.



Lockdown blues

My friends all speak of sparkling rooms,
of tidy gardens full of blooms.
They've painted walls and scrubbed the floors;
they've washed the windows and the doors.
There's not a spec of dust in view,
no cobwebs lurking in the loo.
I wonder where they find the time,
their perfect worlds are not like mine.
I've made some calls, I chat for an hour,
I've made some cakes with gluten free flour.
I've thought long and hard about what I should do,
I made several lists to tick when I'm through.
I work in the day and cook in the night;
my house really is quite a terrible sight.
Thank goodness my visitors must stay by the gate;
I'll do it tomorrow if that's not too late.

Tracey Rees



With many of our home groups unable to meet at this time, the Elders and I decided to provide a weekly Bible Study that people might like to use. Some of the material is taken from a 'Life Guide Bible Study' booklet titled Old Testament Character by Peter Scazzero. Tony

Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – Abraham
Faithful to God's Call – Genesis 12:1-20

Abraham lived in Ur for a total of seventy years. He then accompanied his father and the entire family to the city of Haran. His older brother Haran, the father of Lot, died in Ur sometime before this migration took place.

After living in the city five years Terah dies at the age of 205. Soon after this event God tells Abram (Genesis 12:1 - 2), who is now 75 years old, to leave Haran and take his family to the land of Canaan (the land of promise). He then makes a startling promise to Abram. God says that he will BLESS those who bless him and CURSE those who curse him. *“And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:3)

Read Genesis 12:1-20. What does God command and promise Abram?

Describe Abram's response to God's Call (vv. 4-6)

What are one or two factors that hinder you from consistently trusting in God's promises?

What effect does the famine appear to have on Abram (v 10)?

How does God intervene to put Abram back on track (vv. 17-20)?

How might your obedience or lack of it, have far reaching implications in the lives of those around you?

Abraham's faith is often mentioned in the Bible and there are many lessons we can learn. Firstly Abraham was justified by faith. God has ordained that all should be justified by faith. That means we are declared blameless in His sight by the blood of the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ and by faith in God.



DEATH OF J I PACKER

J. I. Packer died on July 17, aged 93. He was born into a nominal Anglican home. At age seven he was chased out of the schoolyard by a bully onto the busy London Road in Gloucester, where he was struck by a bread van and sustained a serious head injury. Much more important than Packer's accident was his conversion to Christ, which happened within two weeks of his matriculation as an undergraduate at Oxford University.

Although Packer was a serious student pursuing a classics degree, the heartbeat of his life at Oxford was spiritual. Lectures by C. S. Lewis had a powerful influence on Packer's life and work. He had a varied professional life in England and later Canada that included teaching posts at theological colleges and he was regarded as one of the three most influential evangelical leaders in England (along with John Stott and Martyn Lloyd-Jones).

His greatest influence was probably his book "Knowing God" which helped many discover the wonder, glory and joy of knowing God personally.

Source: Christianity Today

"Adoption is the highest privilege of the gospel. The traitor is forgiven, brought in for supper, and given the family name. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater." J I Packer



IN CHINA Chinese authorities are ordering Christian villagers to renounce their faith and worship the nation's Communist Party leaders instead.

In April, authorities told residents in Shanxi province who were on welfare benefits that they had to take down all crosses, and replace any displays of Jesus with portraits of Chairman Mao and President Xi Jinping. Any Christians who refused to comply with the demand had their welfare subsidies annulled.

In another incident in May, authorities entered the home of a Christian in the eastern province of Shandong. There they posted up portraits of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping and said, "These are the greatest gods. If you want to worship somebody, they are the ones."

In Henan's Shangqiu city, officials visited the home of an elderly Christian woman and cancelled her minimum living allowance because they discovered an image of a cross posted on her door.

In June, authorities in Henan province arrested one Christian man, and two other Christian women were injured when officials raided Sunzhuang Church. They demolished the church using cranes and other heavy duty machinery.

IN INDIA Life has been tough across India: Covid-19 has forced hundreds of millions of citizens into lockdown. For many of the nation's minority Christian population it has become a question of survival as they face discrimination and even violence. However, despite all this, millions of Indian Christians are remaining firm in their faith.

In one remote Indian village a church congregation managed to 'out-worship' a gang which was trying to intimidate them into silence. The men pulled the pastor down by his collar and beat him up, they roughed up others as well and started breaking all the musical instruments.

The congregation stood stunned as it took place. Then the pastor's wife, an older woman, decided to take a stand: she started shouting, 'Praise the Lord!' Soon other women gathered around her and joined in. When 300 people shouted together, 'Praise God!' the men were scared and they started running for the door.

Afterwards the church pastor said: "We're not feeling sorry about the persecution that happened - instead, we thank God, because now we are ready to face even greater persecution like this."

Source:
Christian Today



JESUS, MY STRENGTH, MY HOPE

*Jesus, my Strength, my Hope, On Thee I cast my care,
With humble confidence look up, And know Thou hear'st my prayer.
Give me on Thee to wait 'Til I can all things do;
On Thee, almighty to create, Almighty to renew.*

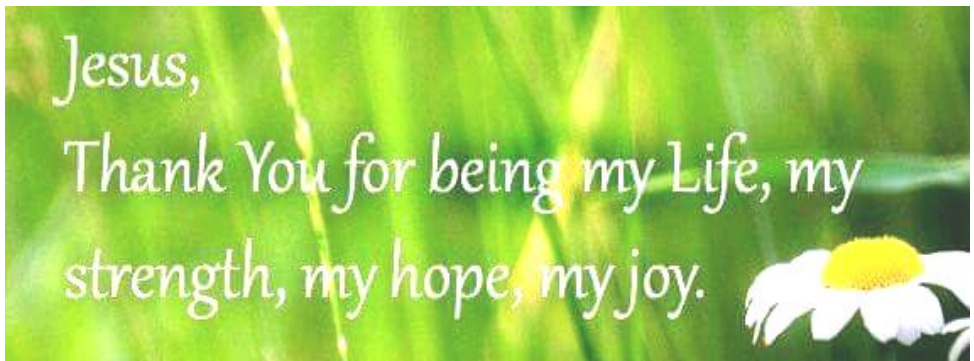
*I want a godly fear, A quick discerning eye
That looks to Thee when sin is near And sees the tempter fly;
A spirit still prepared And armed with jealous care,
Forever standing on its guard And watching unto prayer.*

*I want a heart to pray, To pray and never cease,
Never to murmur at Thy stay, Or wish my sufferings less.
This blessing, above all, Always to pray, I want,
Out of the deep on Thee to call, And never, never faint.*

*I want a true regard, A single, steady aim,
Unmoved by threat'ning or reward To Thee and Thy great Name.
A jealous, just concern For Thine immortal praise;
A pure desire that all may learn And glorify Thy grace.*

*I rest upon Thy Word; The promise is for me;
My comfort and salvation, Lord, Shall surely come from Thee.
But let me still abide, Nor from my hope remove,
'Til Thou my patient spirit guide Into Thy perfect love.*

Charles Wesley



Please pray regularly for Tony, Andrew and Rainer as they lead the church under current challenging circumstances.

Pray for Jeanette as she seeks to maintain contact with and encourage our playgroup families.



Please keep Pastor Tim Dyer in prayer and he recommences as Senior pastor of Belgrave Heights Baptist Church this coming Monday after a six month break.

Keep Evelyn Wakeling in prayer as she goes in for her the colonography this coming Wednesday.

Manfred and Renate are praising the Lord that they have been able cross the border into Queensland and are now in Port Douglas. However, keep them in prayer as Renate has reported that people with Victorian number plates have been under some negative attention.

Martha Katona is praising the Lord that the latest injection in her knee continues to provide relief from significant pain.

Keep Rebecca and Adrian Alexander and family in prayer as they continue to support people through Wings of Hope in Sri Lanka. Rebecca reported this week that they have been able to give out food packages to a large number of people, many extra from those families linked with their programs, in Colombo and Hatton.



Pray also for the students in the Wings of Hope projects who have not been able to go back to school . Many have no access to online learning. However, they are being supported by Wings of Hope teachers. The work they having been handing out has been enthusiastically completed by 100% of the students.

Join with many churches and individuals around Australia at 7pm each evening to pray specifically to our Heavenly Father for our world, our nation, our leaders, our health care workers, our community and our Families during this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

Pray for the MISSIONS & WORKERS

we take an interest in including...

Andrea Rothweiler (Wycliffe PNG)

Ange Bakhtiari FTG Nth Primary

School chaplaincy

Andy and Cathie Staunton

(GIA Cambodia)

Mukti Wings of Hope

Reach Beyond Helga



Pastor: Rev. Tony Burgum

Address: 27 Chirnside Dve
Chirnside Park 3116

Email: tburgum@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0406 686 715

Elders:

Rainer Luppa - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

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

Bulletin Editor: Margaret Penford

Phone: 9762 1691

pmpenford@netspace.net.au

On my daily walk:

Pterostylis nutans
Nodding Greenhood
Orchids at the
corner of my
street.

