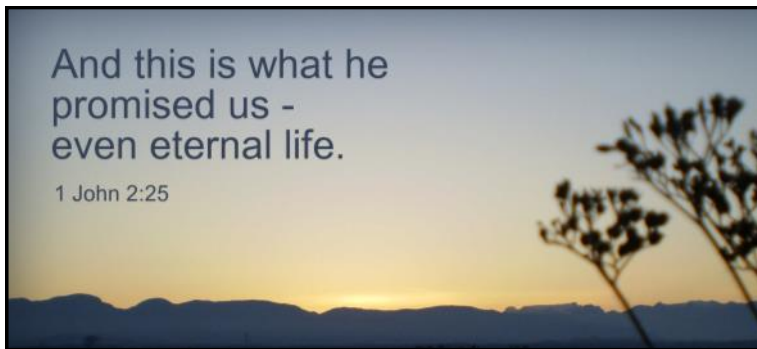




**30TH AUGUST 2020**



**TODAY:**

Series: The Great I Am

Study 6: I Am the Resurrection and the Life – John 11:1-4 & 17-45

Speaker: Pastor Tony

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

**Sunday 6th September**

Series: The Great I Am

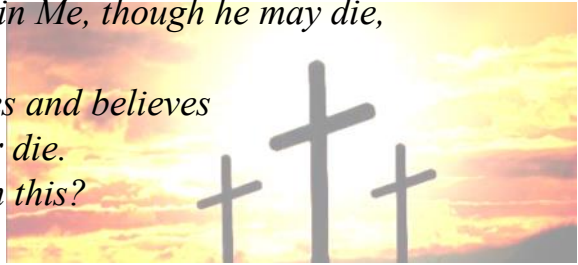
Study 7: I Am the Truth and the Life – John 13:31 – 14:14:7

Speaker: Pastor Tony

**Lord's Supper**

(Please prepare your elements of juice and bread prior to the service)

*'I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in Me, though he may die,  
he shall live.  
And whoever lives and believes  
in Me shall never die.  
Do you believe in this?  
John 11:25*



## Message From Tony

Brian Broderson writes: 'Jesus' claim to be the resurrection and the life is so radical that it does not allow the hearer to hold a neutral position concerning Him. As C.S. Lewis said, "There are only three possibilities with Jesus: He is a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord." Any serious consideration of His words will almost certainly force one to admit, like it or not, that He is Lord.

Jesus made this statement in response to the death of His friend, Lazarus. Death is that dreaded reality that every human being hopes to avoid, but can never escape. Death is man's perennial enemy and man's greatest fear. In fact, the Bible says that men live all their lives in bondage to the fear of death (Hebrews 2:15).

It is something that came in because of sin. God had said to Adam, in the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden you shall surely die (Genesis 2:17). Our ongoing inability to accept death as just another part of the human experience is, to me, a strong indicator that the biblical explanation of it is the right one-death is abnormal.

Are there any solutions? Is man destined to go on endlessly being defeated by death? Jesus answered those questions when He stood face to face with death and said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Just a few days later, Jesus would meet death head-on Himself in fulfillment of the prophecy: "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction!" (Hosea 13:14).'

As such, we are all confronted by the statement and question that Jesus put to Martha. *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe in this?* (John 11:25).

# Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God

One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God

Songwriters: Charitie Bancroft /  
Vikki Cook

This hymn, that is rich with theology and imagery about Christ as our intercessor and advocate before the Father, was written in Ireland by a woman named Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841–1923) It briefly rose in popularity during the 1870s then lay near dormant for almost 100 years until it began getting published again in hymnals around 1970. It's most recent revival came when Vikki Cook of Sovereign Grace Worship, wrote a new tune for this text in 1997.



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest.**” Matthew 11:28

“**I will build my church.**” Matthew 16:18

“**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**” John 14:18

“If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back** and take you to be with me.” John 14:3

“And **I will ask the Father**, and he will give you another advocate.” John 14:16

“Whoever comes to me **I will never drive away.**” John 6:37

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and **I will send you out to fish for people.**” Matthew 4:19

“**I (too) will love them** and show myself to them.” John 14:21

“You may ask me for anything in my name, and **I will do it.**” John 14:14

“**I will never leave you**, nor will I forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

# **AMAZING FACTS** Written by Doug Batchelor

## **Huge Bodies, Long Lives**

The bowhead whale is a large stocky, dark-coloured leviathan that haunts the fertile Arctic ocean. It can grow up to 60 feet long and weigh 75 tons., second only to the blue whale in weight. Yet despite it's colossal size, it is able to leap entirely out of the water.

Bowhead whales get their name from their massive bow-shaped skull, which is over 16 feet long and accounts for about 40 percent of their total body length. They are also capable of using their humongous 'noggins' to ram through sea ice measuring 18 inches thick, which is why it's a good thing they have the thickest blubber of any whale.

One of the most amazing things about bowhead whales concerns their longevity. Based on the recovery of stone harpoon tips in their blubber, and from analysis of their eye tissue, scientists believe that their lifespan may be over 200 years. Scientists at the University of Alaska have estimated the age of one bowhead whale to be 211 years. This would make it the oldest known mammal that exists.

We may envy animals with long lives, but God has promised His people life that lasts forever!

'These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13



Thanks Lorraine Gray for supplying these Amazing Facts stories.

## **Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – Samuel** **Hearing God’s Voice – 1 Samuel 3:1-21**

Amid the hustle and bustle of daily life, we often find it hard to hear God’s voice. Many ‘voices’ shout for our attention – deadlines to meet, bills to pay, meetings to attend, phone calls to make, children to care for. We try to read our Bible but some struggle to be still and to receive a word from God.

In the days of Samuel few people were listening to God’s voice. Politically and spiritually Israel was in terrible shape as they ‘had no king’ and ‘everyone did as he saw fit’ (Judges 21:25). In this study we observe Samuel as a young man, hearing the word of the Lord for the first time and beginning his prophetic ministry

In what ways does the Lord God speak to us today?

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21. How do verses 1-3 set the stage for the events in this chapter?

Why do you think Samuel has difficulty discerning God’s voice from Eli’s (vv. 4-8)?

Why is the attitude “Speak for your servant is listening” (v10) so important in order to hear from God?

What does God say to Samuel in verses 11-14? Why would this have been particularly hard for Samuel to hear?

What is Samuel tempted to do with the vision (vv. 15,17)? When are you most tempted to hide God's word from others? Explain.

How does Samuel's obedience affect his relationship to God and his future ministry (vv. 19-21)

In what ways does Samuel provide an example for us in our relationship with God?

What is the greatest obstacle that prevents you from hearing God's voice? What practical steps can you take to be more attentive? Read Psalm 37:7, 46:10, 62:5.

Questions taken from 'A Life Guide Bible Study Book' by Peter Scazzero

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



## End of Financial Year

Hopefully by now you have received the Annual Reports. Time will be given for any one from the Church family to ask questions with regard to expenditure during the 2019/20 financial year and respond to the proposed budget. The budget is being prepared trying to take into account, especially for the next 6 months, reduction in use of the Church property and ministry opportunities.

If you have any questions with regard to finance please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Ullrich, or myself. Tony

## Zoom Home Groups

Two new Zoom home groups have commenced. One of these is on a Wednesday evening starting at 8pm and the other is on Thursday afternoon at 2pm.

Both groups are using the Bible Study material which is currently being made available in the weekly news sheet.

Please contact Pastor Tony if you would like to be involved in either of these groups.



## Pastoral Availability:

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

**Please note:** Under current restrictions Tony can only meet personally with people under special circumstances. If you have a need to meet, please contact him.





*The*  
STORIES  
*of* HYMNS

### New Teaching Series

We are nearing the end of our current teaching series on Sundays - 'The Great I Am'.

I am currently planning a new series, this time looking at Hymns and Christian Songs. To help with this, I'm inviting you to let me know of a favourite or significant Hymn/Christian Song and why it is significant to you,

I'm looking forward to hearing from you over the next couple of weeks by phone or email. Tony

On my daily walk:

Heading up my driveway



Scott Pilgrim Executive Director of GIA reflects on the power of perseverance.



## From ‘One Step at a Time’

“My ten-year-old daughter Imogen enjoys coming for a run with me, but there’s a predictable pattern when she joins me. Imogen always starts running so fast from the get-go and I need to keep reminding her to slow down. We might be planning a 10km run but, as she starts at a 1km-sprint pace, she is soon exhausted.

In today’s busy world, with so many competing priorities and pressures, we often find ourselves *‘running hard and fast’*. We live in a world that bombards us with messages of instant gratification, immediacy and Information; a world where so many decisions are made with a short-term lens and a flawed view of ‘success’.

With this running image in mind, I have been thinking over the past week about the wonderful story of John Stephen Akhwari, who represented Tanzania in the marathon at the 1968 Mexico City Summer Olympics. Akhwari had never ran at high altitude before and cramped quickly once the marathon commenced. At one point, Akhwari fell badly, wounding and dislocating his knee as well as injuring his shoulder. He was in much pain but he kept running slowly, one step at a time. The record books record that Akhwari finished last, but he is remembered today more than the winner of that race. Akhwari crossed the finish line over an hour after the winner with only a few thousand people left in the stadium.

When interviewed after the race and asked why he continued running, Akhwari said, ‘My country did not send me 5000 miles to start the race; they sent me 5000 miles to finish the race.’

I love this story and how it speaks of the power and importance of perseverance. . . . . It reminds me of our Biblical call to be people who go the distance; people who appreciate the need to look at life and our shared ministry through a long-term lens.

This is a timely reminder for all of us as we journey through this challenging COVID season. I wonder what *‘going the distance’* means for you today? I wonder where God may be inviting you to *‘stay the course’*? Where might God want to remind you of the importance of perseverance?

All Victorian Baptist churches have been invited TODAY, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, to join a 'BUV COVID-19 Pray Day' when we will focus our prayers on the COVID-19 crisis. As we all endure the harshest lockdown in Victoria's history, we recognise the terrible impact this pandemic is having on lives and communities around our State, our nation and indeed, our world. These are desperate times and as God's people, it's fitting that we add to our many individual prayers by joining collectively together in prayer, right across our Baptist family here in Victoria.



Rev Daniel Bullock, Director of Missions and Ministries of the BUV, will lead us in a time of prayer focus then in a responsive prayer during our service. Below are some prayer points provided by the BUV that we will focus on during our pastoral prayer time but you can also use them in your own personal prayer times.

Leaders - State - Premier/s, Health ministers, CHO, CMO, & public servants, Federal - PM, Treasurer, Health ministers, & public servants, Our BUV Pastors and leaders

COVID Patients & Vaccine / Treatment options, Health care and essential workers

Aged Care services and facilities

Churches - as they seek to connect in new and different ways

Vulnerable groups of people - mental health, health, homeless, domestic violence, asylum seekers etc.

Those affected by job losses, income reduction

School age children doing online school and their parents

Global pandemic – especially affecting the 3rd world

Youth and Young Adults - as they face an uncertain future / associated mental health concerns

Lament / grief / vicarious grief /restrictions on funerals

**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



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Rainer Luppa - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

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(Playgroup)

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**Our Lord has written  
the promise of the  
resurrection, not in  
books alone, but in  
every leaf in  
spring-time.**

**-Martin Luther**