

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Hi everyone

The new year of 2011 is now here and I am not inadvertently writing 2010 so often now.

I hope and pray that you have had a good time over the Christmas and New Year holiday period and that those of you who have been able to have a break have benefited from the change of pace.

## Looking back and looking forward

Last year 2010 had many highlights and gains, including celebrating our church's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The major highlight in my mind was our **Fast Action October**, our 5 week challenge to live out the Isaiah 58 fast of self sacrifice, kindly concern and acts especially for people in need, generosity, standing up against injustice, bias, bigotry and discrimination, offering hospitality opening our hearts and homes and seeking our God to connect us with people. We saw change in ourselves and a marked rise in interaction with many people, to the honour of Christ. It cracked open a new dimension spiritually. I urge you to keep on in this same heart this year. Set it as the pattern of your life. It causes major challenge for us yet has caused already much maturing in many of you and a deeper appreciation of God.

This month of January, we have looked at "how will you live this year?" On Jan 2, we looked at lessons from Samuel (what do you need to do to be a fresh source of God's voice to people?), Jonah (show God's gracious heart for people), Elijah (will you trust God to provide well?) and Timothy (living strong in the prophetic call of God on your life personally).

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, we considered the story of Mary anointing Jesus in her gratitude (John 12) and talked about finding the treasure among the trivia and mundane.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, we went into fun mode playing kids games about trust then looked at learning to handle what we have never experienced and would not choose for our life – essential maturing for building resilience and resourcefulness. You will need to grow in this this year!

Yesterday's service of worship and honouring of God was a deep time of God's presence with us through his Holy Spirit. This is for his honour and for our strength. It was so good, wasn't it? I know it was not set at a 'kid level' but I want our children to also experience for themselves these deep times when the corporate anointing is flowing. I praise God for the kids' excellent involvement and reverence in the service. Value and seek these times. And let's continue to value the public reading of the Word of God and benefit from its full hidden value.

I encourage you to continue to take initiative this year, be more intimate with your God, live life less cluttered, especially emotionally and relationally toward others and to be expectant. Rise to live more than you have ever done. Your God is with you.

## Floods in Queensland and Victoria etc

It is hard to comprehend the impact of these floods on people's lives, homes and businesses when we have not experienced something like this. Yet we are to see ourselves as connected with them as fellow humans. We are to consider not just our emotional responses but take up the opportunity to act as well. Why? As someone said recently, "because we can!" Christ always challenges us to be involved in life beyond ourselves to share his goodness to people.

**Shaun** is heading up the project of collecting good quality or new useful home items to take to flood affected areas. We are investigating how these can be distributed appropriately by responsible local agencies. More details shortly. Start planning for your contributions.

## Men's prayer and breakfast      Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

7am in the Christworx Ctr

Adrian has stirred us men to link together spiritually. We can stand together in God's presence and be bonded closer together, praying for each other and drawing a fresh empowering from the Holy Spirit for this year. We expect to do this again every 3-4 weeks. We believe there is much value and strength to come from this.

## Kids Church and Teen Church starts again

These are preparing to start again on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Helen and Adrian are planning well for the kids and Matt and Amanda will start up the teen section of our Sunday service fortnightly.

We always value additional support of people to assist. This includes appropriate training being offered. If you are interested or willing, talk to Helen and to Rick and Dianne for more info, with approval and completion of the Working with Children check system before assisting.

## Practical ministry roles available in our Sunday services

There are lots of ways for you to have a contribution in our Sunday services. Develop the sense that this is your church by growing a healthy sense of belonging and ownership. When each person contributes, we are richer for it. If you see a lack of effectiveness in an area, look at how you can team up with others to improve it.

There are opportunities in particular to assist in **church set-up, pack-up and in the kitchen/ hospitality**. If we can spread the load more widely, it will release some of the current hardworking contributors to expand some of their special valuable skills in other ways.

Margaret Crowe has taken over the leadership of the kitchen/ hospitality section and we appreciate her work. Talk with her about contributing there.

The one area we need to multiply is with basic (and expert) skills in **sound desk management and multimedia**. These enhance our services very much. A basic skill level is easily learned. It is not necessarily complex. Higher skills can be learned over time. We have simplified the core setup to make it easier to learn. We urgently need at least six more people to become basically competent in both roles. Challenge yourself and take some initiative. Talk to Rick and Jacob in the next few weeks. After many years of committed and valued contribution, we are giving Graeme a rest from this responsibility and Jacob hopes to move away to uni in 2012.

## New minister at St John's Anglican Church, Culburra Beach and St Mark's Callala Bay

**Paul McPhail** and his wife and young family have commenced as the new minister at St Johns after the retirement of Graham and Robyn Fairbairn. His induction service is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2.30pm at St John's. You are welcome to attend as we welcome Paul and his family into our communities.

## Love Culburra Festival      7-8<sup>th</sup> May

This festival has many interesting plans for this weekend, a first for our town in recent memory. As a church, I think we need to consider how we can contribute well and bring the love of Christ into the festival. Opportunity for discussion of what we can do will be established soon.

Note that **Mothers Day** is also on the Sunday of 8<sup>th</sup> May.

## Our Apostolic Network Events for 2011

Our church relates to about 15 other Apostolic churches mostly in NSW under the excellent leadership of Mark and Liz Youens (Ulladulla church).

These are events planned for our network this year:

## **A. Changemakers Missions Conference**

**4-6th March** Fri-Sun at Eternity Christian Church, Camperdown Sydney  
Key speaker is Jossy Chacko. I highly recommend hearing this passionate man.  
More info soon on [www.etenity.org.au](http://www.etenity.org.au) and go to the Changemakers Conference 2011 section

## **B. SEEK Young Adults Conference**

**7-9th April** Thurs-Sat in Ulladulla at Highway Christian Centre  
Expect this to be a turning point time for your life.  
A great opportunity to meet other passionate young adult Christians too.  
The info pack will be available in the next week or so, and connect with [www.highwaychristianchurch.org.au](http://www.highwaychristianchurch.org.au) as well (but no details as I write).  
Mainly targeting young adults (but families and under 18s/youth can attend as long as their youth leader/parents register).

## **C. National Apostolic Conference (pastors and leaders)**

**2-5th May** Mon-Thurs in Melbourne  
More info on [www.apostolic.org.au](http://www.apostolic.org.au) and go to the Focus Conference section  
Rick and Dianne will be attending. Talk with Rick if you would be interested.

## **D. Network Women's Conference**

**Sat 13th August** (date to be confirmed) in Jerrabomberra (Canberra/Queanbeyan) at Twin City Church

## **E. Network Ministries and Leaders Retreat**

**28-30th September** Wed-Fri in Ulladulla (Highway Christian Church)  
Key speaker is **Bruce Monk** from NZ

## **F. Men's Conference Bateman's Bay**

**October 2011** - date is to be confirmed

Over the next week or so, we will get all this information entered into our website at [www.truehavenchurch.org.au](http://www.truehavenchurch.org.au) and update it as more details become available.

We will expand on our **missions** project news soon. Look for that. Thank you to all for your consistent giving to our extensive input overseas in Pakistan, Nepal and China etc.

The year ahead is still in a state of planning and development and review of each of the various teams and sections. You are welcome to seek more information but be patient too in the planning and development process. We remain determined to take on the future the same way we have sustained our development over the years: through careful planning and good teamwork, seeking to firmly follow the leading of our God - to flow in his plans and not just human plans. What a confidence this gives to our faith in him.

With love

**Rick Aitken**

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