



HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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From the Minister

I hate slow computers - my laptop is congested with so many files from five years of use that everything now takes forever (or about 30 seconds) to open or process. I get mad, feel frustrated and my blood pressure starts to rise. I have to remember that good things take time and Isaiah reminds us that sometimes we have to wait on the lord (Is 40:31).

The later half of Isaiah (chapters 40-66) are sometimes called Deutero-Isaiah as there is a change of setting and tone. In the earlier chapters Isaiah was reminding the people about God's holiness and greatness, and therefore warns them about being slow to respond to the word of God. He promises judgement to those who refuse to listen and obey but grace to those who are faithful. In the second half he reminds the people that God is not slow to keep his promise, he promises to restore them to the land and to bless them by sending a servant leader (the Suffering Servant and Messiah). Between the time of Judgement (the Fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC) and the first return from exile from 538 BC is some 50 years and the main groups of exiles didn't return till after 70 years (there is some good historical background material at www.crivoice.org/othpersia.html).

Why is this Old Testament writer important for Christians living in the 21st Century? First because it is a message of Hope. It reminds us that God is still working even when we can't see much action. God is working in the lives of individuals but also in the affairs of nations. Things like climate change, earthquakes, wars or terrorism are no surprise to God, and sometimes he even works in and through them. One of the interesting characters in Isaiah is Cyrus the Babylonian Emperor. Cyrus was the grandson of another king Cyrus (who was around when Isaiah was first writing). He was born in 590 BC and died in battle in 530 BC. He founded the Persian Empire. He also united most of the ancient Middle East into a single state stretching from India to the Mediterranean Sea, which meant that he possessed the largest empire in the world at that time. Cyrus was extremely tolerant of the customs and the religions of the nations he conquered. He personally worshipped Marduk, but rebuilt many nations' temples and restored their temples, but Isaiah sees this as the will and work of the God of Israel so that his promises would be fulfilled. Cyrus is therefore called God's servant in Is 44:24-28.

Isaiah 40-66 is also a message of Grace - The people do not deserve forgiveness or any of the blessings promised except God chooses to be faithful to his promises. God promises to raise up a leader - a suffering servant who is a wonderful picture of Jesus. Passages like Isaiah 52-53 have become key texts for understanding the cross and helped the early church proclaim the resurrection as a fulfilment of scripture when there are not many OT passages which explicitly mention it. Hope rising out of despair, light out of darkness, new life out of death are all constant themes in Isaiah and in the church.

Over the next few months we will be looking at these passages and remembering God is a God of Hope and Grace.

May God bless you for hope and grace as you read his word and as you start this new year.

Brett

Material for March Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 24th February 2010 please

2 *We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travellers on the road...*

An unexpected invitation to become a member of a pilgrimage from Lindisfarne in North East England to Oban in West Scotland and thence to the island of Iona aroused mixed feelings. There was a bubble of excitement for a new experience; and there was hesitation. I had the time. I was on holiday in England. But, was I fit enough? Surely age, energy, arthritis put such a venture beyond my ability. Surely pilgrimage was for the fit and able.

How disturbing therefore that John Bunyan's hymn circled in my head – *intent, strength and courage* were for Bunyan the attributes of a pilgrim. Then came Shirley Murray's lines, *Faith has set us on a journey past the landmarks that we know.*

Christian pilgrimage wasn't only an invitation to travel physically! Christian pilgrimage as one's faith journey puts into perspective the physical realities of age and fitness; and focuses one upon journeys with God in the everyday, and they are numerous.

Do we think of personal devotions, of time apart in meditation and in retreat, of worship services as pilgrimage? When I think of the itinerant ministry of Jesus, his disciples and other followers as pilgrimage, the concept grows richer and closer. There are so many resources – people, nature, stories, prayers, scripture translations – available to us in our regular pilgrimage.

And there is a wonderful 'twist' in such daily journeying for commonly we journey to reach some place or goal, so the goal lies ahead; but in Christian pilgrimage, whatever our circumstances, the goal also walks with us. Christian pilgrimage is an Emmaus Road experience and Jesus awaits patiently for our growth in appreciation that he is Emmanuel – God with us.

Travelling

It's a big wide world and I'm on a journey of a lifetime
No foreign lands – for I have been there before
No deserts – for I have water from an eternal source
No deep oceans – for I have seen the depths
No great forests – for I know the way
No mountain ranges – for I have climbed them all.

The journey is long and there are many choices of route along the way, but I have all I need. It is within me. All I must do is reach within, open up and accept. What a relief to discard the bags full of 'stuff' I will not need – the should dos, should haves, and should bes. I need only sandals of purpose, a cloak of expectation and a heart full of love.

Jacki Newell

Meet Armin - our new ICYE volunteer

3

Hi! My name is Armin Kubis, I am 19 years old and I am the new volunteer. I come from the southwest of Germany from a town called Frankenthal which is as big as Napier. Before I started to work here I had been working for five months in the Lake Taupo Christian Camp not far from Turangi. Most of the time I helped there with activities, cleaning and cooking.

Back in Germany I enjoyed singing and nature. I was singing in two choirs and I was leading a youth group which was learning much about nature, especially birds and conservation. If you want to know more about my family I can tell you that I have a sixteen year old sister and that my parents were born in Poland where most of my family lives.

During my time at St Columba's I would like to get to know many new people, find new friends, help as much as I can, learn new things and become a part of this community.

Memorable Moments of January 2010

During the church service on Sunday 24th January, several members of our congregation shared with us a "memorable moment" – some event which had strengthened their faith over the past few weeks.

For myself, my place of worship on a recent Sunday was in Craigieburn Forest Park which is adjacent to Arthur's Pass. Walking through the grove of Black Beech trees, we came upon trunks covered with honeydew – strands like silk coming from the blackened bark – strands alight with tiny glistening drops of honeydew at the tip of each strand. An even more memorable moment was to watch a bellbird come and feed on this energy-rich food.

Anne Lanigan

Thought for the day –

When we know creation we know the Creator,
For He wears this world like a garment

Joy Cowley

Brett recently at church asked us to share a meaningful experience. Mine was meeting with a friend, sharing about Christmas Day, our families and then telling each other about the importance of our faith in God. My friend then told me she was to have surgery on her face for skin cancer. I constantly prayed for her and visited her after the surgery and realised what a positive brave woman she is. We are richly blessed with our friendship, and our love of the Lord.

Sue Read

On the Road

Please slow down and walk with me.

Be my companion for a mile or two and tell me your story,
for I have much to learn and every pilgrim's story enhances my own.

Speak to me of yearnings beyond people and things
and show me the leaning of your heart like a compass towards true north.

It does not matter that we borrow from different books
or use different words to describe the journey.

We are on the same path whatever shoes we wear.

Joy Cowley

4 Profile of a Baby Boomer - Ian McLeod

A list –

- * The 'Janet and John' reading books
- * Havelock North School Ball held in the Hastings Assembly Hall
- * SPANZ had a different meaning in those days. It was a New Zealand Airline called 'South Pacific Airline of New Zealand'
- * The pink coloured cover of the Weekly News
- * School banking
- * The Schonell spelling lists

These were some of the things that we baby boomers came to see and experience.

I grew up in Havelock North completing my primary schooling there and my secondary schooling at Hastings Boys'.

At the end of one year I was presented with a book that had a presentation label inside. It was presented to Ian McLeod by the St Columba's Young Worshippers League. I never read the book but I showed quite a number of people the presentation label.

At the end of my Sunday School years I received a special award. Modesty says "I'm not sure that I deserved it'. But my Mum and Dad were very proud.

In my youth there were some wonderful people who guided me and others. People like Rodney Gallen, Cyril Whitaker and Michael Thawley who later became Moderator of the General Assembly. Michael, our Youth leader, held a dawn service on Te Mata Peak for Youth Sunday. We walked quite a distance and appreciated the sunrise.

Christmas services were atmospheric - rich with candles and holly. These services were important for one thing. We the youth of the church had a part to play. When I was 21 Ivan Muir asked me to consider becoming an elder. Now there's a contradiction – being an elder at 21. I had offered to take a Bible Class but ended up being an elder and Sunday School Superintendent.

In my sixth form year I became interested in teaching and was accepted for teacher training at Ardmore Training College. Teaching took Dot and I from Opononi in the North to Tolaga Bay in the East, Okato in the West and Invercargill in the South.

I was fortunate to teach different age groups and had two wonderful highlights. A year's teacher exchange to Balaklava, South Australia taught me much about teaching. The other highlight was giving the graduation speech in Invercargill. Little did I know it was to be my 'swan song'

Parkinson's has been with me now for 21 years. Life has been different and at all not what we expected. It's there all the time and demands solutions to everyday activities.

Catherine wrote a piece for a National Parkinson's publication.

I was about 14 years old when my parents sat me down and told me that Dad had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. My first thoughts were ...

But he looks ok, and didn't all dads snooze on the sofa in the evening? I remember not understanding what Parkinson's was, it isn't until someone you know has it that you begin to learn and hear about it. I recall not 'wanting to' and not knowing 'what to' tell friends at school. I also wondered about Mum and how she would cope as Dad deteriorated over the years – dare I say it? But I feared that he may die earlier in life with having this disease.

I remember feeling sad for Dad that he had such a bad card dealt to him, he didn't deserve this, and angry that my intelligent, well respected father, who had a good job, had got this horrible disease and why was it not someone else who had less to give? Dad was only in his early 40's, how would he spend his days now? It wasn't fair (still isn't). I also had concerns about how Mum and Dad would be financially in later years with Dad's illness forcing him to take early retirement. My Dad amazes me how he keeps as positive as he does. I still hope that a clever scientist will come up with a cure.

When I read it I feel proud in having a daughter such as she is.

So there we are - a baby boomer profile. It's different but similar to other profiles.

Board of Managers Report

5

Have you been and had a look around the Youth Complex lately?

Well, you're in for a surprise. As you know, extensive work was carried out in the Youth Lounge – off the old Church – last year and that is looking really good.

Now, further work has been going on in the room we formally knew as the Crèche.

Thanks to former ICYE volunteer, Markus, with Mike Latter and Peter the floor in the Crèche has been insulated from underneath and now Peter has removed the old carpet and revarnished the wooden floorboards.

A new, larger window has been installed and the walls painted. The room looks awesome!! Go and have a look!

Our offerings for the period July to November at \$48,850 is 10% below budget. However this is offset by lower than budgeted expenditure.

Our thanks go to the hard working Two Fold Op Shop volunteers for their continuing support and the \$8,000 donation received in December.

PLEASE support are our Food Fair (12th February) and our Garage Sale in March, we need these to be a success and Offerings to get back on track if we are going to achieve our annual budget.

Food Fair

The Board has decided to trial having a Food Fair on Friday 12th February and a Garage Sale on Sat 13th March. The Food Fair replaces the traditional Fair and will only sell food. However some of the traditional fair stalls may be held in conjunction with the Garage Sale in March but more on that next HALO.

The Food Fair begins at 5.30 p.m., Friday 12th February so mark that in your diary or on your calendar and encourage family, friends and neighbours to come along and eat out with us. There will be a varied menu including traditional Sausage Sizzle, Hamburgers and Pizzas, also Curry and Rice, Nachos, Sushi, Fruit Salad, Coffee and Slice, Cup Cakes and more. There will be plenty of choice! And tables and chairs if you wish to sit down!

Purchase tickets at \$1 each when you arrive and use these to buy your food. Prices will range from \$1 to \$5. Prices will be clearly displayed and you are welcome to buy further tickets if you need to. Surplus tickets can be refunded **ON THE NIGHT** if you wish, but not later. The stall holders will **NOT** be handling any money. A Bouncy Castle will keep the children happy, and we hope to have light musical entertainment.

Reading and Prayer

Reading:

"Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way."
Proverbs 3:6

Prayer: Thank you Father that we can come to you at any time. Help us and guide us to remember to bring our lives to you to direct us in what service we can do for you. Amen.



Growing Up – from a sixteen year old girl

Growing up scares the hell out of me – you might say I’m strange, but I don’t think so.

Sometimes I wish I were ten again. I’ve decided that ten is definitely the best age to be, for when you’re ten just at the edge of a long sunny day and you can’t quite see the darkness up ahead. You’re still at the age when you come home from school on those long summer evenings, do your homework, play till dark, come inside, have tea then go to bed. Life’s as simple as that but not at all boring. There’s always the small cave you’ve hollowed out for yourself under a bush in the garden, where you can go and sit bunched up, peering at the sun through the cracks between the leaves – and imagine things. And your dogs always with you – racing along the river bank, squeezing through the maze of battered bamboos, sliding with you down the greasy mud cliff as you tear your jeans on a passing twig as you both wiz by.

My brother’s ten and I’m his big grown up sister. I’m lucky because I’m allowed to go to the movies by myself. Soon I’ll be able to vote, and now I can go to parties – parties where you bring your own drink and refuse everyone else’s in case they’ve put drugs in it.

Some people want to grow up and settle down and have kids – even get married. They think to themselves – “Shall I paint the bathroom green or gold?” or “Will there be enough potatoes for tea tonight?” They’d never try to keep a cold baby bird alive by warming it in their electric frypan.

Old people are better: they remember things. It’s funny that they never reminisce about how lovely it was to have their first new home – they just remember when they were ten.

I love wind and hail, crunching warm red autumn leaves and squishing mud through my fingers. I don’t want to grow up – it scares the hell out of me, and orange ice-blocks were much bigger when I was ten.

Wet Windows

Heaven is crying, gently, softly, persistently. The flowers raise their heads and drink, and rivulets run down the wet windows of my home.

I am crying, gently, softly, sadly, and rivulets run down my cheeks from the wet windows of my heart.

Why do you cry, Heaven? Did loneliness suddenly engulf your soul?

The door bell rings. I dry my wet windows, fumbling eagerly with the latch.

Small arms entwine my neck and heart. Gentle kisses fall where tear drops lay. A soft voice whispers - “I love you, Nana”.

Then, suddenly, the sun comes out in Heaven and my heart, and all the wet windows are dry - and smiling.

Mary Corbett



Church and Family News

BEREAVEMENT We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Harry Molenaar.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Theodore and Anne Moore who were married at the church on 9th January.



MISSIONARY GUILD will meet at the church on Thursday 18th February at 1.45 p.m. for our "summer" outing.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be celebrated at St Mary's Catholic Church, Osier Road on Friday 5th March with a service prepared by the women of Cameroon. Morning tea will be served at 10 a.m. followed by the service at 10.30 a.m.

What's on in February

- Monday 8th February 7.00 p.m. Pam and Barry's House Group resumes
- Wednesday 10th February 9.30 a.m. Mainly Music begins
- Thursday 11th February 9.30 a.m. Mainly Music begins
- Friday 12th February 5.30 p.m. Food Fair
- Thursday 18th February 1.45 p.m. Missionary Guild summer outing
- Tuesday 23rd February Women's Fellowship bus trip to Central Hawke's Bay
- Wednesday 24th February 10.30 a.m. Mid Week Service
- Thursday 25th February 7.30 p.m. Session meeting in church lounge
- Thursday 4th March 7.30 p.m. Board of Managers meeting
- Sunday 7th March 9.30 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion

Regular events

- Mondays** 'Now We're Talking' discussion group 7 - 9 pm resumes end of February
House Group 7.00 pm (fortnightly) resumes on 8th February
Contact: Pam Thrupp 835 5785
- Tuesdays** Op Shop Open 10 am - 4 pm Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265
Prayer Group 11.00 am - 11.30 am Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331
House Group 7.30 pm resumes at the end of February
Contacts: Wim & Inger Slooten, 3 Essex Street 844 9070
Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
- Wednesdays** Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret de la Haye 843 2272
Op Shop Open 10 am - 4 pm Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265
- Thursdays** Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447
Op Shop Open 10 am - 4 pm Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265
Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month
Session meet at 7.30 pm in the church lounge on the fourth Thursday
Board of Managers meet at 7.30 pm in the church lounge on the first Thursday
- Fridays** 'Massive' Youth Group 7 - 9 pm resumes at the end of February
- Sundays** Youth Group 9.30 am Contact: Wim Slooten 844 9070

Church Office Ph 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm
 Fax 844-5409 If no reply, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

Church Postal Address: P O Box 7136, Taradale

Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Session Clerk	Pam THRUPP	835-5785
Parish Assistant—Youth	Wim SLOOTEN	844-9070
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

Services – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, September and December and the second Sunday of June, plus Easter and World Communion Day. On the Wednesday following, a Communion service will be held at 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch.



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TREMAINS

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