

# **Peel Valley Congregation**

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

10-12 March 2017

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# Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (NIV) Abraham Justified by Faith

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter?

<sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.

<sup>3</sup>What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.

<sup>5</sup> However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

<sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

<sup>17</sup> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.



# Baptism ~ Cooper John Stokoe :

WELCOME to the Minton and Stokoe families, and their friends, who are joining us to celebrate the Baptism of Cooper John Stokoe.

The beauty of the soul is shown in the face

#### **Meg's Musings**

Earlier this week we made a very quick trip to the North Coast.

The summer season there has been significantly wetter than it was in Tamworth. The Clarence River was quite high, and it was nice to see lush green grass, and the vibrant green leaves on the trees.

But we have chosen to live inland, and must therefore make the most of what rain comes our way.

Last Sunday I noticed Willy Wagtails, Magpies and moths seeming to relish the gently falling rain. The moths appeared to be dancing among the drops, and the birds were singing their thanks for each drop.

Life seems so much more enjoyable when we can appreciate what we have.

Blessings from Meg



### Psalm 121 (NIV)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot slip he who watches over you will not slumber;

<sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD watches over you the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

the LORD is your shade at your right har the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all harm he will watch over your life;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going

both now and forevermore.

# Faith And Courage

In life there are people that will hurt us and cause us pain,

but we must learn to forgive and forget and not hold grudges.

In life there are mistakes we will make,

but we must learn from our wrongs and grow from them.

In life there are regrets we will have to live with, but we must learn to leave the past behind and realize it is something we can't change.

In life there are people we will lose forever and can't have back.

but we must learn to let go and move on.

In life there are going to be obstacles that will cause interference,

but we must learn to overcome these challenges and grow stronger.

In life there are fears that will hold us back from what we want.

but we must learn to fight them with the courage from within.

God holds our lives in his hands. He holds the key to our future.

Only he knows our fate.

He sees everything and knows everything.

Everything in life really does happen for a reason:

"God's Reason" ~ Angie

"True love is born from understanding." ~Buddha





#### PRAYER LIST

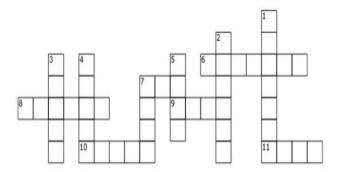
- Please pray for Ruth White. She is a friend of Pat Hoyt's, and her husband died earlier this week.
- Please also pray for Pat and Kevin, as Pat isn't well enough to travel down to Wollongong for the funeral.
- We pray for a quick recovery for Paul Harrison, (Marg and Dougs son-in-law). Paul had surgery this week.
- Elizabeth and Eddie are having a Blessing, and a celebration of their wedding this weekend. The formal ceremony was some time ago, but this will allow their Australian friends and relatives to celebrate the occasion with them.
- We thank God for the gift of new family members as we celebrate the Baptism of Cooper Stokoe today.

# Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Based on John 3:14-17 (NIV)





#### **ACROSS**

- To accept something as true, genuine, or real
- 7. A male child
- 8. To die or be destroyed
- To care very deeply for someone
- A serpent or reptile)
- The period of time from birth to death

#### DOWN

- 1. Lasting forever, without end
- Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
- The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
- Received the ten commandments from God
- 5. Alone in its kind, nothing like it
- 7. To rescue from danger or harm

God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this life, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to You,



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

~ Luncheon @ West

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

~Trading Table @ West Tamworth

through the depths of your love. Amen.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

~ Markets @ Hallsville 26 March

# John 3:1-17 (NIV)

### **Jesus Teaches Nicodemus**

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

<sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit<sup>I</sup> gives birth to spirit.

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

<sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9 March ~ Barry Constable

12 March ~ Joyce Dowsett

13 March ~ Doug Crowell

13 March ~ Reg Myer

# Lenten Studies at Hallsville:

Rev Simon Hansford will be running a series of Lenten Studies at Hallsville on a Friday evening. Start time is 6:00pm for a 6:30 start.

The studies will be held on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st of March.

# **CHURCH SERVICES**

17 March 6pm Hallsville ~ Rev Hansford
19 March 8.30am Gowrie ~ Marg Crowell
19 March 9am Hallsville ~ no service
19 March 11am West ~ City preacher