



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

17 May 2020

Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

<sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

<sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

<sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

<sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

<sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.

<sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

<sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

## Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalm 66:8-20 1

1 Peter 3:13-22



*Loyalty are Hard to find .  
Trust is Easy to lose.  
Action Speak Louder Than words.  
Look out for The People  
Who look out for You.  
Loyalty is Everything.*

## Greetings from Gowrie...

Always look on the bright side of life!

Before the pandemic, the one thing everyone was short on was TIME. Now we all have plenty; time to bake and clean, call friends, learn new skills, make things, and time to just relax!

But, it's not just having the time to do these things, there is a joy in all of it. To me cooking was a necessary chore, but with the luxury of time to try new recipes and be more creative, it brought a real sense of fun and achievement.

The crisis has given us plenty of time as well to just think. Think about what's really important to us.

Our day starts at 5am with a call to my Mom and sister in Canada to see how their day is shaping up, being there for them, if not with them. We are so far away from all our family but somehow, we are closer than ever before.

Tony planted a vegie garden and I'm tending to the flower beds. Yesterday I found myself making a deal with the bees...if you leave me alone, I won't bother you! I've sighted birds that I have never seen in my garden before and I'm having conversations with them as well.

And there's a new freedom that came with the virus. Routines went out the door; I gave myself permission to sleep in, get dressed at midday, watch movies, eat cookies and even colour and cut my own hair..... actually I regret that one!

This new way of life may go on for some time yet, and there are those that say we will never be the same again. But one day it will be a distant memory and we will all be stronger for having lived through it. God is on our side.

You are all in our prayers. ~ Tony and Evelyn

20 May ~ Shirley Whitten

26 May ~ Bill Forrester



## PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Beth and Peter Scorgie. Both of them have health problems at the moment.
- We pray that people everywhere will be ready to be mindful of the health of others as nations slowly change the "lockdown" rules.
- We give thanks for the steps taken in Australia to minimise the risks of people getting Covid19.
- We continue to pray for rain, as our dams levels are still very low.
- We pray for the children who will receive an Operation Christmas Child box this year.

### Meg's Musings +

Today I've had a varied and interesting day.

I began to tackle the task of making some fabric bags to hold the Disney alphabet tiles that we have been given for the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

The fabrics brought back memories of clothes which I had made for my children, as I was using leftover fabrics.

It was quite a process. Sorting through fabrics, cutting out rectangles, ironing the folds into place for the tops of the bags, and then sewing the bags.

It is also good to be able to imagine the happiness of the children who receive the boxes. Some children will like the characters on each tiles, whilst others will hopefully be pleased to have something to help them to learn.

I saw it as an opportunity to reach out in love.

The reading from John 14 talks of love; the love which God has for us, and the love which we have for God.

As we can't see God, it can sometimes be difficult to express our love for God directly.

In providing boxes of things for children who have nothing, we can show love for these children, and love for God.

These children have no way to repay our gifts. They are purely and simply an expression of the love which God has placed within us.

The boxes are a way of us being able to help God to show Himself to the children who receive them. What a privilege to be able to play a part in God being revealed to others.

It was what Paul was attempting to do as he spoke to the people of Athens, and it is what Christians have been doing for the past 2,000 years.

Some, such as Paul, use words. Others choose to reach out with actions and in giving gifts, to show God's love to others.

It is a joy to be able to work alongside the members of our congregation to help make God's love real to children we will never meet.

Blessings from Meg



'We're not all in the same boat, but we are going through the same storm' ~ anon

### The Wind

Like the wind swaying through mountain trees.  
 Or surging through thickets of wattle,  
 So, Lord, is your presence with us;  
 Your power thrusts through our lives.  
 You sweep away our petty worries  
 And shake us free from fears.  
 At your pressure we move and sway together,  
 As if we were of one mind.

Sometimes you are as strong as winter storms,  
 At others as soft as the rustling of ferns.  
 We are taught to bend and not be broken,  
 To be flexible without shifting ground.  
 You test the strength of our feet  
 And whatever proves shallow is uprooted.

On calm days we rest content,  
 Glad to watch each other in stillness;  
 Enjoying quietness because we know  
 You are still with us. ~ Bruce Prewer

It takes but one positive thought when given a chance to survive and thrive to overpower an entire army of negative thoughts. ~ Robert H. Schuller

### John 14:15-21 (NIV)

#### Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Youth is the gift of nature,  
but age is a work of art.

~Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

