



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

8 August 2021

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## Psalm 130 (NIV)

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;
- 2 Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.
- 3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
- 5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.
- 6 I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
- 7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.
- 8 He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.



There once was a woman who longed to have a flower garden. Each year she would visit her neighbour, who had the most beautiful garden she has ever seen. He would give her cuttings and seeds for her own garden.

But, when she would return home, she would change her mind saying, "But my neighbour's garden is so much lovelier than anything I could hope to grow. And he knows so much more about gardening..I could never hope to grow a garden half as lovely as that. Why should I even try?"

One day her neighbor stopped by her home and saw that she had not one flower growing anywhere around her house.

"I've provide you with so much,  
" he said, " and yet you have done  
nothing at all with what I have given you!"



And so it is with each of us. The Lord gives us talents to develop. We cannot judge our worth by comparing ourselves to others, but must bloom and grow the best we can with what we have been given.

## 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 (NIV)

- 5 The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." And all the troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders.
- 6 David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim.
- 7 There Israel's troops were routed by David's men, and the casualties that day were great—twenty thousand men.
- 8 The battle spread out over the whole countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the sword.
- 9 Now Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going.
- 15 And ten of Joab's armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him and killed him.
- 31 Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you."
- 32 The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?"  
The Cushite replied, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man."
- 33 The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The trick is to grow up without growing old. ~ anon

### 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 0476 375 989**


Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Sophie Littlejohns, who is now in hospital in Tamworth. She is still suffering from severe complications following surgery.
- We pray for the family members of each person in our congregation.
- Chaffey Dam is full. Thanks be to God! 
- We pray for Ross Davidson, who has a broken collar-bone.
- We pray for the people of South-west Sydney.

I'm normally a social girl  
 I love to meet my mates  
 But lately with the virus here  
 We can't go out the gates.  
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
 We need to stay inside  
 If they haven't seen us for a while  
 They'll think we've upped and died.

So here you find me stuck inside  
 For 4 weeks, maybe more  
 I finally found myself again  
 Then I had to close the door!  
 I've bought a stash of chocolate,  
 And other special treats,  
 I only hope I've bought enough  
 To last me through the weeks

Let's pray our way through lockdown  
 To recovery and health  
 And hope this awful virus  
 Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
 And be back to join our mates  
 Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
 To fit through the flaming gates!



amended from  
 a poem by  
 ~Jan Beaumont

Kindness is a language  
 which the deaf can hear  
 and the blind can see. ~ anon

- 9 August ~ Ross Davidson
- 13 August ~ Judy Lennon
- 28 August ~ Anna Davidson
- 30 August ~ Denby Budden
- 31 August ~ Fiona Hansford
- 31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns



### Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

### Meg's Musings

Australia's swimmers have won more medals in Tokyo than at any other Olympic Games. I think that perhaps there have been more events this time as well, but let's not spoil a good story.

I read that part of the reason for the good showing from our swimmers was their preparation.

They were put into quite difficult and destabilising situations. It was felt that this would help them to cope with the unknowns and foreignness of what they would encounter in Tokyo.

It appears that the trainers may have been on to something. In a situation where family members could not be present, where there were no crowds, and where the situation could change at a moment's notice, the Australian swimmers were resilient, and able to cope well.

Life is always going to throw us some awkward, difficult situations which we are unprepared for.

Fortunately we don't have to undergo the training our Australian swimmers underwent, in order to remain resolute and unafraid.

Jesus promised us, "I will be with you always". What are facing, we are not alone. Jesus is beside us, even if we can't see him.

Blessing from Meg

