



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

26 September 2021

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (NIV)

Haman Impaled

⁷ So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, ² and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request."

⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

⁶ Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king."

The king said, "Impale him on it!" ¹⁰ So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

Purim Established

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, ²¹ to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar ²² as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

James 5:13-20 (NIV)

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.



Psalms 124 (NIV)

¹ If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—

² if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,

³ they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;

⁴ the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,

⁵ the raging waters would have swept us away.

⁶ Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Syd Murray, John Murray's brother in Brisbane. Syd is scheduled for heart treatment on the 24th September.
- We pray for John and Judy Nowland, and Janet and Kevin Hicks, who are still in lockdown at the moment.
- We give thanks that visitors are now allowed into the aged care facilities in Tamworth.
- We give thanks for the beauty of spring. 
- We pray for leaders and advisors throughout the world, as they try to manage Covid19.99

Meg's Musings

Last Tuesday was a very windy, cloudy day, with a few scuds of tiny hail.... quite miserable. But God can find ways to brighten up the dullest of days. During the morning, I looked out our window to the back yard. Perched on our clothesline was a Kingfisher. I had never seen one before, but recognised it by its' similarity in shape to a Kookaburra. It had pretty teal coloured wings, and was much smaller than a Kookaburra. It sat there for several minutes, and then flew into a neighbouring yard, and out of sight. I guess that it must have been blown into our area by the strong wind.... not very nice for the Kingfisher, but a beautiful highlight for Laurie and myself - we felt blessed!

Blessing from Meg 

CHURCH SERVICES

10 October 8.30am **Gowrie**
 10 October 11 am **West**



We will recommence church on Sunday 10th of October. There will be services at Gowrie and West Tamworth on that day. There won't be singing, and please wear a mask.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



If you have anything for us to include in the Operation Christmas Child boxes, please bring it with you to church on Sunday 10 October. Alternatively, Meg will collect things from your home.

26 September ~ **Carol Thompson**
 29 September ~ **Athol Whitten**
 30 September ~ **John Murray**



JAMES 5:13-20:

The book of James has lots of practical advice for Christians. It was written within 50 years of Jesus resurrection, so was probably a handy "how to" letter for many congregations. Mostly the early Christians had to just figure things out as they went. This was a useful guide, and took the pressure off leaders of the congregations as they, and their members, continually encountered new situations and issues.

Today's reading speaks of many diverse situations. It provides instructions about what to do to give voice to your feelings. If you are feeling happy, you should sing praises. If you are feeling overwhelmed, you should pray. If you are feeling unwell, you should send for the Elders to pray for you, and anoint you.

It also has very positive things to say about the power, and effectiveness, of prayer.

It would be easy to dismiss this book as irrelevant to our modern world. These days, if you are unwell, you consult a doctor. However, whilst we would certainly turn to modern medicine to help us with our ailments, I am convinced that the prayers of friends certainly help us.... each and every day, but especially when we are unwell.

The final message from this letter is that, if someone drops out of the congregation, then we should follow up, and try to help them to return to their Christian friends and fellowship. In doing so, we are acting in the interests of our friend.... but we are also "bringing about the forgiveness of many sins." We don't know exactly what that means, but it seems to be an important conclusion to this book. Keeping the flock together mattered to James.... just as it matters to each member of our congregation.

Blessings from Meg

Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.

~ Stephen King

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

