



# CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2023

## CHURCH PROGRAMS

We have a number of church programs happening each week. Look inside to familiarise yourself with what is taking place.

**Programs on pages 2-3**

## TESTIMONIES

Michael Butler, a member of Adelaide Christian Centre, has shared two amazing testimonies in this month's edition.

**Testimonies on pages 4-5**

## MISSIONARY UPDATE

Mikaela Groom has written another update from her time as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. Enjoy the read!

**Update on pages 6-7**

# WELCOME

I would like to extend a very Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there.

## What Kind of Father Is God?

### God is CARING

God is compassionate, loving, and gracious and He cares about us (Psalm 104:13). We have a heavenly Father that cares about all the details of our life. God does not want us to worry about our needs either (Matthew 6:31-32).

### God is DEPENDABLE

God is consistent and worthy of our trust (James 1:17). He isn't moody and He does not have a bad day. God's consistency does not depend on my consistency. Even if we are faithless, He remains

faithful, for He cannot disown Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). God always keeps His promises. He is always consistent (Romans 11:29, Psalm 59:10)

### God is CLOSE to us

God is available all the time. He is there when we need Him (Acts 17:27). God is not detached from us: He is never too BUSY for us (Psalm 145:18); He is sensitive to our HURTS (Psalm 34:18).

### God is CAPABLE

God can handle any problem we give Him. Nothing is beyond His ability and resources (Luke 1:37). He is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask for or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes (Ephesians 3:20).

Blessings, **Pr Mike Groom**

# MISSIONS

## Benjamin and Asinate Wari

TCCFC commits \$100 per month

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are now in Vanuatu and are settling in to their new home on the island of Espiritu Santo. They are based near Luganville at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) property.

Benjamin will be taking on the role of principal of WMFTS Vanuatu when the school relaunches. There is a possibility that a preschool will open on the WMFTS Vanuatu property. When it does, Asinate will be the head teacher and help run the preschool.

Please keep both of them in your prayers throughout their missionary journey.

## Bethel Children's Home

TCCFC commits \$200 per month

Bethel Children's Home has been in operation since 1998. All of the children come from the Tamil minority ethnic group that has been discriminated against for many years. The children in our homes have been displaced for a number of reasons. Our homes provide children with a safe environment where they are given access to many opportunities that assist them in their development.

TCCFC sponsors two children, one boy (David) and one girl (Manju).

## Door of Hope Preschool

TCCFC commits \$100 per month

Door of Hope Preschool is located in Vavuniya in the north of Sri Lanka. It is predominantly made up of Tamil speaking children.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Cleaning and Children's Ministry

We are in need of volunteers to help clean the church and assist in our children's ministry. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer, please speak to Pr Jeremiah or Delia.

## PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights

Everyone is welcome to join us at church for prayer and Bible study on Tuesday nights. The nights begin at 6:30pm. If you need a ride to and from church please contact Pr Jeremiah or Miriam and they will organise a ride for you.

## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Nights

All ladies are invited to join us for Bible studies at church on Thursday nights. Our Bible studies begin at 6:30pm. If you would like any further information, or if you need a ride, please contact Pr Jeremiah or Miriam.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Friday Nights and Sunday Mornings

Our youth are welcome to join us at church on Friday nights at 6:30pm. Our children are welcome to join us on Sunday during the church service. If you would like to help out please speak to Ebony (youth) or Delia (children).



# MICHAEL BUTLER TESTIMONIES

## God Has Dealt with Serious Cancer Identified in My Body

Two years ago I had my malfunctioning left kidney and ureter removed. I made a full speedy recovery from the surgery. My right kidney is fine and I've been in good health. However, since the kidney surgery, every six to twelve months I've had to have a cystoscopy.

Three weeks ago, I was due for my latest cystoscopy and as usual I had to have a C-T scan a few days beforehand to gain a further insight of my internal condition. My previous surgeon had retired and four days before the cystoscopy my new surgeon called me in to see him. He said that he wanted to meet me before the surgery and, especially after seeing my C-T scan, he wanted to tell me before the cystoscopy of the serious findings revealed by the C-T scan.

He explained that the scan showed that I had a large cancer that had grown on my bladder and had attached my bladder to

my left hip bone. In addition, the surgeon said that there were so many other tumours that the only treatment option would be for me to see an oncologist urgently and commence chemotherapy. The surgeon said that he would still do the cystoscopy to gain a further understanding of my problems.

At church one Sunday, the day before my cystoscopy, I went out for prayer with my wife Pauline. I'd had a vision that when I went out for prayer it would be Lin Andrews who would pray with me. I didn't mind who came to pray but, sure enough, it was Lin who came straight up to me! I briefly explained the nature of my dire C-T scan report and said that my simple prayer request (simple for God!) was for us to pray and believe that when my surgeon performed the cystoscopy, he would find no evidence of any of the nasty things identified by my C-T scan.

After we prayed, Lin asked me if I'd felt the powerful presence of God during our time of prayer. I said that it would have been impossible for me not to feel it!

I approached my cystoscopy surgery the next day with a real sense of confidence. I came out of my anaesthetic to be greeted by a very puzzled surgeon who told me that there was no sign of the issues that had been revealed by my C-T scan only four days prior. Praise the Lord!

I requested a copy of my C-T scan and I obtained a copy of a new blood test that I had taken. I then sent copies of both the C-T scan and the blood test report to Professor Cliff Hawkins in Brisbane. Cliff is an eminent Professor of Human Chemistry and Biology, with whom I have had a long association through my own

clinic practice work. It was through working with Cliff some ten years ago that I was able to overcome bronchiectasis - a condition that is considered to be incurable.

After Professor Hawkins studied the reports that I sent him, he was pleased to confirm that I'm not dying of cancer because with the near-perfect blood test results, it would be impossible for me to have any active cancer cells in my body!

## God Has Healed an Agonising Tooth Condition

One Wednesday evening I was unable to eat my dinner properly. Every bite was agony because my upper right back tooth was so sensitively painful. The next day I saw my dentist about my problem. Even the lightest tapping on the offending tooth had me writhing with agony. The dentist took x-rays and identified that the root areas of the tooth below the gum line were in such a bad state that the tooth would need to be extracted in hospital by an oral surgeon.

The following day I was required to have an OPG scan and have copies sent to both my dentist and the oral surgeon. Having been blessed by God's healing power in overcoming the cancer that had been identified in my body, I quickly realised that God would be more than capable of dealing with my tooth agony. Therefore, before having the OPG test I prayed that God would heal my tooth. Within 24 hours of praying, all pain was gone and pressure on the tooth produced no discomfort.

I was inclined to cancel my appointment with the oral surgeon. After all, if I'd been healed what was the point of paying a

large fee just to be told that everything is okay? However, I felt that the Lord was telling me to keep the appointment.

I went for my appointment and when I arrived, I was told the surgeon didn't have a copy of the referral. It's a requirement under our medical system that a specialist must be given a written referral by the referring doctor (or dentist) before treating or billing patients.

My dental practice was having a training day, so it wasn't possible to contact anyone to obtain the referral. Since I'd been waiting for nearly an hour while these formalities were being sorted out, the oral surgeon agreed to examine my OPG test results at no charge.

The assessment of my OPG test was that, despite what was shown on the x-rays taken by my dentist one week previously, there is now no problem with my teeth!

These two testimonials confirm that God is still in the healing business. Be encouraged to know that God is working in our congregation. Give God the opportunity to meet your needs. He is never too busy.

At ACC we have prayer for the sick every week. If you have a need, go out for prayer. But remember you can pray at any time. When two or three are gathered in His Name He is there.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Acts 3:18 - Through faith in the Name of Jesus, this man was healed.

James 4:2 - You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.



# MISSIONARY UPDATE

At the beginning of August I experienced a few random answers to prayer and confirmations on a few different things. I was strongly encouraged during this time and I was reminded of the fact that God is good and He desires to do us good.

I will expand on one of these things that happened to me. I had been missing preaching for some time and I felt for a while that I should just go and tell one of the pastors that I'm willing to preach if ever they would like me to. During chapel one morning this thought came to me stronger than usual so I decided to approach Pr Paul afterwards to let him know I'm willing to preach. When I approached him, before I even said anything regarding my desire to preach, He said, "Mikaela can you preach Sunday night?" I said yes and then he also asked me to preach the following week at chapel. I felt like he'd read my mind.

This may seem like a small thing; of course, pastors ask people to preach all the time. But for me this just confirmed one of the small things I'd felt in my own

spirit. It also confirmed that it must have been God leading me in this and not just my own thinking. God really does grant the desires of our heart and His faithfulness continues to surround us.

Over the two sessions of preaching, I spoke on breaking free from the lies of the enemy (Sunday evening service), and how intimately God knows us and desires to do us good (Wednesday morning chapel). I was happy to preach again and I'm looking forward to further opportunities to share in the future.

Other than preaching, August has been full of hard work. I have been very busy trying to complete various tasks for my job with CRC Missions. July and August are my busiest months of work each year for my finance role.

I have also been busy completing jobs for our churches back at home and other missions projects. There are a few things I have been meaning to complete for a long time now and throughout August I've made it my goal to make progress within these areas. I still have a way to go but I am slowly ticking things off my list.

In addition to all of this, I spent a lot of time working on our curriculum for Bethel Sunday School. I have completed all of

our lesson plans across our three age groups for the remainder of this year. This was a MASSIVE job and I feel very happy that I have completed it.

I still have some other tasks to complete for Sunday school, especially in relation to leader training and other leadership related matters, but I'm feeling a lot more prepared to tackle those now that all of our lesson plans are complete.

Sunday school is running well and the children seem to have settled in very nicely. Our junior youth aged group have been going through the Youth Alpha course, whilst our preschool and primary aged groups are covering a different curriculum. These groups are covering various themes. So far we have covered LOVE and TRUST, and we are now in the middle of our lessons on FORGIVENESS.

The next steps I'm hoping to complete for Bethel Sunday School (with the assistance of my fellow leaders) are: planning Sunday school fun days and family services (opportunities for the children and junior youth to run a church service - or at least part of it), developing a leadership manual, recruiting more children's workers from the church congregation, generating a framework and proposal for leadership training, creating our own curriculum for the three age groups to be used next year and beyond, and brainstorming ways we can assist other churches within PNG (and other nations) with their Sunday school programs and teacher training.

There is still a lot of work left to do, but I'm happy with the progress we have made so far and I believe our teachers and the children are enjoying what is

taking place. I'm trying to take it one step at a time and not get too overwhelmed by all of the things I feel I'm yet to complete during my time here as a missionary in PNG.

September will be another busy month; one I'm really looking forward to! The month will begin with a visit from mum and dad, and Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven. I can't wait for them to arrive! Their visit is another reason why I've been working so hard lately - I'm trying to clear up my schedule as much as possible so I'm free to spend as much time with them as I can. I'm very excited to be with them.

In the last two weeks of September I'll be lecturing again with our preschool teachers in training. I will be teaching 'General Administration and Finance', and 'Applying Basic MS Word and MS Excel in an ECE Setting'. I haven't taught these subjects before but I'm really looking forward to teaching again. I love teaching!

I've been struggling a bit lately to keep up with and fit in with all the things going on around me, especially now that I'm planning a wedding and preparing myself for marriage on top of everything else! But I'm confident that I'm where God wants me to be and I'm looking forward to all that's ahead of me here in this great nation of PNG.

Thank you very much for all of your prayers and support. I hope my newsletters and updates on social media serve as an encouragement to everyone that sees them.

Many blessings,  
**Mikaela Groom**

## **ONLINE PRESENCE**

Web: [www.tccf.com.au](http://www.tccf.com.au)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/tennantcreekchristianfamilychurch](https://www.facebook.com/tennantcreekchristianfamilychurch)

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Email: [info@tccf.com.au](mailto:info@tccf.com.au)

Phone: 0452 070 536

Service Times: 10:00am and 6:30pm

## **GIVING DETAILS**

### **Option One: Bank Transfer**

Account Name: Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

BSB: 065 005

Account Number: 1076 8547

Reference: Missions or Tithes

Clearly add in the description if your offering is for tithes or missions.

### **Option Two: Sunday Offering**

**Missions:** Please place your missions giving into an envelope. Write missions on the front and place into the offering.

**Tithes:** Please place your tithes in the general offering.

## **OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS**

### **Adelaide Christian Centre**

Address: 27-33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: [www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au](http://www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

### **New Life Christian Centre**

Address: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Web: [www.newlifeonline.org.au](http://www.newlifeonline.org.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

### **Faith Center Church**

Address: 115 Worley Lane, Walhalla SC 29691, United States

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla](https://www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla)

Service Time: 10:00am