

StMarks
uneChurch*

Your church.
On campus

*unechurch.org.au

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Anglican Counselling Service > 6772 9753

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The problem of happiness Psalm 1

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so...



God is a safe harbour for our hearts. We are joy seeking missiles and we are only satisfied in God and God alone.



*Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Thee". This week at Clergy Conference, our pastor/teacher Simon Manchester put it a different way: *God is a safe harbour for our hearts. We are joy seeking missiles and we are only satisfied in God and God alone.**

Of course there is a challenge to that isn't there? We are in a spiritual battle. Paul writes in Ephesians that before we were included in Christ, we "*followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air*". While Paul is clearly stating that this is the habit of the person outside of Christ, we know that the temptation lingers on! What is the job of the '*ruler of the kingdom of the air*'? Clearly from these verses it is to keep us '*following the ways of this world*'. An example might be to keep us believing that lasting joy and satisfaction will be found in temporal things or even sinful things. We need to be aware of the pull don't we?! We need to be aware of what is happening when we are being pulled to try and find joy in work, money, reputation, lifestyle, materialism, comforts etc., etc., etc., Sin promises but it never ever delivers.

I think that's why God calls us to be generous. Generosity stops us from pretending that satisfaction can be found in what money can provide. Generosity says, "*I trust God to provide for me and I trust that only God can satisfy me*".

Here is a helpful prayer - I think it was a hymn originally:

Lord God, whatever my idol be...

Help me tear it from your throne and worship only thee. Amen

Let's be a satisfied and joyful people. People who dock our hearts in the safe harbour that is God and nowhere else.

With love, Gus.

Having completed our series on **Philippians**, joy is in the front of my mind. I'm encouraged to be thinking about not only the possibility of joy, but that God in his kindness wants us to experience joy daily. This of course does not mean that our lives will be free of difficulty and pain. We will suffer because we live in a broken fallen world. We will also suffer because of the message of the gospel. Having said that though, the experience of the Christian is marked by joy. Christianity is therefore not to be endured but enjoyed!

Quite a few brothers and sisters in history have picked up on this when they consider what the purpose of our lives are. The Westminster Shorter Catechism puts the purpose of our lives as, "*To glorify God and to enjoy him forever*". John Piper has followed Jonathan Edwards by stating that "*God is more glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him*". These statements clearly pick up on the idea of God being glorified and us enjoying and being satisfied in him. The early church father, Augustine famously explained it as "*Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Thee*".

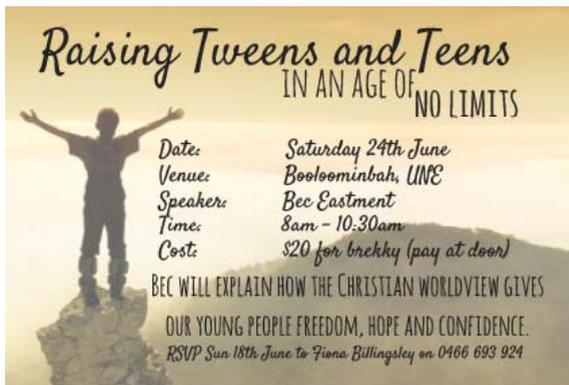
We need to be aware of what is happening when we are being pulled to try and find joy in work, money, reputation, lifestyle, materialism, comforts etc... Sin promises but it never ever delivers.



Gus Robinson

Upcoming

• **CMS Beautiful Feet Sunday NEXT week June 18** > a special focus on God's mission around the world through CMS. BFS offering envelopes available to target financial support to world mission over and above regular giving.



Raising Tweens and Teens
IN AN AGE OF NO LIMITS

Date: Saturday 24th June
Venue: Booloominbah, UNE
Speaker: Bec Eastment
Time: 8am - 10:30am
Cost: \$20 for brekky (pay at door)

BECC WILL EXPLAIN HOW THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW GIVES
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FREEDOM, HOPE AND CONFIDENCE.
RSVP Sun 18th June to Fiona Billingsley on 0466 693 924

- **Women's Breakfast Saturday 8.30am-10.30am June 24 @ Bool** > 'Raising Tweens & Teens' with Bec Eastment. \$20pp RSVP by June 18 to Fiona Billingsley 0466 693 924.
- **MYC (Mid-Year Conference) Thurs-Sun June 22-25 @ Scotts Head** > Signup stmarksune.elvanto.com.au
- **Confirmation with Bishop Rick Lewers October 22** > Contact Matt in the Office.

The Suffering Church | Indonesia

• **Jakarta governor Ahok withdraws appeal against blasphemy jail sentence** > Ahok has shocked the capital by withdrawing an appeal against his two-year jail sentence for blasphemy against Islam within minutes of it being filed. The two-year jail sentence was far harsher than that requested by the prosecutors, who asked for a suspended jail sentence for the lesser charge of inciting hatred. The outcome of the trial was seen as a triumph for creeping conservative Islamism in Indonesia and candle-lit vigils were held across the archipelago lamenting Ahok's downfall. Ahok's lawyer said, his client's principle in life was to place the interest of the nation ahead of his own. *"That's his way of life, he wants to serve the people, believe in the Bible, believe in God's plan,"* Mr Sudirta said. www.smh.com.au



Family Prayer

- **Baking** > Henry and Candy Yeomans (due end July); Heidi & Hunter Gerberich.
- **'Tent' Wear & Repair** (2 Cor. 5) > Pauline Sindel's brother Andrew; Samantha Guilbert; Luke McCleneghan; David Meares; Owen Chapman.
- **Betrothed** > Ben Lukins and Laura Millican. • **SunAM Prayer Ministry** > See Robert Baker.

Family Finances

Giving 1/6 – 7/6	\$9386
Giving Year to Date	\$382,721
Amount needed to meet *Budget YTD	\$344,894
Amount needed to cover expenses YTD	\$393,223

- ***Deficit Budget** *A deficit budget with a 7% increase is in place.

Support St Marks
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Regional Australia Bank
BSB 932 000 | Acc. 609 753
(add \$1 for internal transfers)

