



Staff > Gary Eastment | Chaplain 0409 725 193
Gus Robinson | Assoc. Minister 0409 926 524
Tam Ramsay | Women/Children 0431 092 152
Michael Hemans | Youth 0403 273 750

Office > Matthew Knights & Pam Dawson 6787 4015
unechurch@une.edu.au | pdawson3@une.edu.au

Web > www.unechurch.org (unechurch | unechurch213)

Facebook > www.facebook.com/unechurch/

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SunAM & Sun@4 **'The Meaning of Dating'** ... and how to choose well
Colossians 4:12-17 & Genesis 1:26-31

SunPM **'Revelation'** Psalm 89:20-29 & Revelation 1:1-20

Pastor's Blog | *Gabrielle*

This week we take a break from my 'most important words you'll ever know' series to reflect for a moment on the death of local Armidale woman, Gabrielle Maina.

With Gabrielle's death on the 19th October, we have been reminded again that this world we live in is incredibly broken. We live in a world full of sin and its effects, tears, mourning, crying and pain. All this is almost always amidst significant confusion. I know that Gabrielle's death has affected at least some of you and so I want to express my sympathy to you while praying that the God of all comfort might draw near to you and point you again to His Son.

Gabrielle grew up in Armidale, attended Armidale High School and then UNewhere she studied to be a teacher. She taught in NSW and has been described as having a successful career. Gabrielle's final post was as the Head Teacher of Hillcrest Preparatory School in Nairobi, Kenya. While in Nairobi, Gabrielle tragically died from a fatal gunshot wound during what the media has described as a botched robbery. *cont. over...*



*Gabrielle stands today
more alive than ever.
She stands perfect in the
righteousness of Christ
and at home with God.*



Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints ...

who has now gone home to heaven. If her Facebook account is anything to go on, she was a deeply committed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God says in Psalm 116:15, *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"*. Of course this by no means suggests that God counts murder precious! Nor does it mean that God ignores the grief of those left behind or does not count grief as deeply significant. What it does mean is that God counts it precious when his work of salvation in the life of an individual is complete. It is precious to him when someone comes home to him and is no longer bound by the effects of the fall, sin, death, mourning, crying and pain. Gabrielle stands today more alive than ever. She stands perfect in the righteousness of Christ and at home with God. That is indeed precious! Her tattoo on her arm suggested that she was content in life. It read, *"I am enough"*. She quoted Jesus saying, *"Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest"*. She changed her cover photo on the 21st September to reflect what she had been reading in her bible that morning.

She quoted Jesus saying,
"Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest"



Gus Robinson

Gabrielle was someone who, though died tragically, seemed to live well. Of course she was sinful and I'm sure she would have plenty of regrets, but trusting her Saviour, she pressed on and walking with him, she knew contentment and rest.

May we all be comforted as we think of her now - completely content, at rest and standing perfect in her Saviour. What a precious thought.

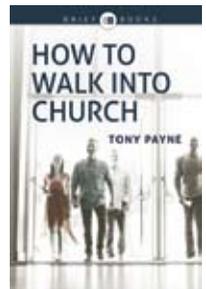
With love, Gus

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. C.S. Lewis

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Upcoming & Notes

- **Women's Support Ministry - Donations Needed** > To support a group of vulnerable women in our local community, we are looking for donations of household items, furniture & whitegoods. Items may be second hand if they are in good condition. Please leave donations in the SMMC kitchen area or give them to Hannah Dobos (0434 395 263) or Christy Robinson (0417 463 974) by Nov 5. Cash donations will also be possible in future.
- **Women's Christmas & Dessert Night 7.15pm Saturday Nov 25** > Invite your friends and RSVP to Susanne Dowling on 0407 941 624 by Nov 19. Invites at Connect Desk.
- **The Minnis' family** (our link missios in Papua) **with us Sunday Nov 26** > for our three church gatherings + BYO to share lunch 12.30pm.
- **Get our Students to Canberra NTE Conf this December** > A very significant time of growth and encouragement. Contact Matt in the office, or transfer via St Marks uneChurch (Regional Australia Bank) BSB 932000 Account 609753 (add S1 to transfer from another RAB Account) Reference 'NTE'. Per student cost is \$340, but any donation would be helpful.
- **Bundarra Carols Musos/Singers Team for Saturday Dec 2** > serving a small community with the Christmas message of joy. Contact Graham Knuckey dr_grumpy@me.com
- **Save the date for Carols @ Booloominbah Saturday Dec 16** > and invite your friends and family for this annual picnic on the lawn rejoicing in all that Christmas really means through classic Carols and Scripture readings. Wet weather venue The Wright Centre UNE. Let Matt know if you're keen to help out in any way unechurch@une.edu.au
- **Church Family Weekend Away @ Scotts Head 18 -20 May (Friday-Sunday) 2018** > Plan to join the merry throng in thongs!



- **CMS Summer School 5-10 January 2018** > mission-focused evangelical conference @ North Tamborine QLD. Begin the year by being refreshed and challenged. Rego <https://summer.cms.org.au/>
- **Female housemate wanted 2018** > from end of Jan 2018. \$120pw + bills. Wifi. Contact Sam Reynolds 0431030366 or sreynolds@live.com.au

Family Prayer

- **Betrothed** > Ben Lukins & Laura Millican (Dec 9); Ali Lockyer & Dan Sole (Jan 13); Mitch Buster & Emma Austrin-Miner (Apr 21); Natasha Wiggins & David James (Mar).
- **Baking** > Izzy & Aidan Willams (due Mar).
- **'Tent' Wear & Repair** (2 Cor. 5) > Bill Bruce; David Meares; Owen Chapman.
- **SunAM Prayer Ministry** > See Robert Baker.

Cross-Church

- **AYF AGM 7.30pm Wednesday Nov 8** > @ St Peter's parish Hall. All welcome.
- **Armidale Overcomers Outreach meetings 7.00-8.30pm Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 19** > for those struggling with addiction, self-destructive behaviour, or affected by someone who is. Anglican Dio Offices (Rusden St entry at rear off gravel carpark). Info Kathy Ewers 0449 719 315 or www.overcomersoutreach.net
- **'Farewell for The Greefs 12noon-2.00pm Sunday Nov 26** > @ Young Life (35 Kirkwood Street) BYO lunch. BBQ available.
- **Young Life Trivia Night & Silent Auction Fundraiser 7pm Saturday Nov 11** > @ St Marks uneChurch. \$20pp. 6-8 table rego or individual brendan@younglife.org.au by Nov 6.

Talk Notes