

StMarks
uneChurch*

Your church.
On campus

*unechurch.org.au



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God's Invincible Plan | Genesis 25:19-34 & Genesis 27:1-29

Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

Family Feeds *Signup TODAY!*

Friday -Sunday Sept 8, 9 & 10

Join with other uneChurch family members for a meal and build fellowship and friendship at one of our 'Family Feeds' (aka Dinners for 8) next weekend of the 8, 9 & 10 September. Mealtimes include Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening, and Sunday lunch. Signup at church TODAY or email Kay Knights ASAP mattandkay@bigpond.com to secure a place.



With just under three weeks left of the school term I imagine that many of us, perhaps especially the teachers, are eagerly anticipating the holidays. You may be looking ahead to a beachside vacation, a wilderness retreat, or perhaps you're hoping to tackle that long list of home projects. We research the best deals, put down deposits, schedule social catch-ups, book babysitters and write 'to do' lists. When the work week gets tough, we set our eyes on the prize - that holiday at the end of the tunnel. As the break draws near, our expectations mount, hanging in there becomes possible because rest, relaxation, freedom, energy and time are just around the corner. Right?

The trouble for me is that holidays rarely meet all my expectations. They have the potential to leave me feeling disappointed, dissatisfied and instantly thirsty for another break. But holidays aren't the problem. The real problem is that my expectations are unrealistic and my heart is prone to idolatry. I wrongly imagine that holidays can provide what they were never intended provide.

As I have wrestled with this issue, the following short article has been helpful in reshaping my thinking. I hope it is equally useful for you, perhaps even as your next holiday approaches.

Tam Ramsay (Women & Children's Worker)

We're just back from a far-from-perfect holiday.

There were many lovely moments: winter's wind blowing spray backwards from the waves; the golden lights of evening on the harbour; sampling the world's best coconut ice cream. My husband was sick the whole week. He made it down to the beach a couple of times. Mostly, he felt lousy, so I was running this one pretty much on my own. I did my best to look after him, and help the kids to have a good holiday.



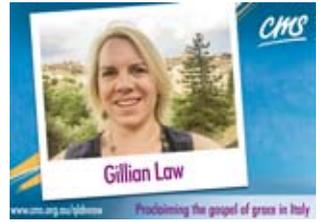
I used to think holidays had to be perfect. I'd try to capture that mood where body and mind are at peace, and there's nothing to disturb the feeling. It's not something you can get just by wanting, so I spent every holiday in a state of nagging disappointment. There were also holidays of teary exhaustion because none of my babies ever slept away from home. And the summer I kicked a wall and fractured a bone in my foot (I was trying to put a piece of tomato down my brother's back at the time, so at least it was in a good cause). And the plague year I discovered an allergy to midge bites. Yup, holidays aren't perfect.

I have learned to be thankful for imperfect holidays. Watching the kids splash in the freezing water in their wetsuits. Sitting with my daughter in a cafe, sipping on spiced chai. A family game of Cluedo. I don't care if I'm sitting on a lump of hard sand, or the kids are bickering; I love moments like these. We're taught to idolise holidays. We post photos of beaches on Facebook – #it'sahardlife – and wait for the "likes!" that hide our friends' envy. We work and save all year for a week at a resort. We're always in search of the perfect experience – the perfect location – the perfect rest. Like all idols, this one is empty and unsatisfying.

Holidays are good. They're a gift of God for our refreshment. They renew us so we can serve him. They give us meaningful time with family and friends. But they're not yet heaven. In this world, they will often be marred by illness and injury and dissatisfaction. They will always, in some way, disappoint. There's a better holiday coming – a perfect rest – one where there will be no midge bites or arguments or illness. A holiday only hinted at by those rare, perfect holiday moments. A holiday that will never come to an end. I, for one, can't wait.

Jean Williams | 18 July, 2014

Upcoming & Notes



• **Q&A with Gillian Law** (our link missio and CMS Student Worker in Rome on home assignment) **7.30pm next Tuesday Sept 5 @ SMMC** > A repeat event will happen 7.30pm Wednesday Sept 13 as an alternative if you can't make the 5th. All Cell Groups encouraged to attend as well as all uneChurch family members.



• **'Fast Bowling for Freedom' with Henry Olonga @ Drysdale Room, Wright Centre UNE Fri 7pm Sept 15** > Come and hear Henry tell his amazing story and the role his Christian faith played in his stand. **Invites on Connect Table.**

• **'Death: The taboo topic of our community' 2pm-4.30pm Saturday Sept 16 @ St Marks** > We'll hear from a doctor, a nurse, a social worker and a minister. All welcome. See Jan Berkley for more or info on The Connect Table.

• **New Life Women's Conference talks on DVD** > Contact Nigel via audiovis@avtarmidale.net.au
 • **AYF Monster Garage Sale 8.30am - 2.30pm Sept 16** > Armidale Central Baptist Church Rusden St. Donated items can be dropped at the Baptist Church until late on Friday night. Contact Rob Dewhurst on 0409 723 522 or dr.rob.dewhurst@gmail.com to arrange collection of items or if you are able to help in any other way.

• **Invite your mates! Shed Men 7.30am Saturday Sept 23** > *'Pocket Hole Carpentry (the Kreg Jig)'*. @ Robin Dobos' new shed - 122 Kellys Plains Rd. Gold coin donation. Flyers out now.

• **Confirmation with Bishop Rick Lewers Oct 22** > Contact Matt in the Office 6787 4015.

• **'Parenting in a Connected Age' workshop 9.30am-3.15pm Saturday Oct 28 @ Sandon PS** > With James and Simone Boswell (*'Cyber Parenting: Raising Your Kids in an Online World'*). For parents of toddlers up to teens. RSVP to Ruth France bandrfrance@gmail.com or 0490 669 157.

SHED MEN
 Penetration from men, women, children, dogs

When: **Saturday 23 September 2017**
 Time: **7:30am for 1 hour**
 Where: **Robin Dobos' 122 Kelly Plains Road Armidale**
 Feature: **The new shed & pocket hole carpentry (the Kreg Jig)**
 RSVP: **Facebook: Shed Men Armidale**

Family Finances

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

Family Prayer

- **Grieving** > Rob & Sue McClenaghan.
- **'Tent' Wear & Repair** (2 Cor. 5) > Bill Bruce; David Meares; Owen Chapman.
- **Baking** > Izzy & Aidan Willams (due March).
- **Betrothed** > Ben Lukins & Laura Millican (Dec 9).
- **SunAM Prayer Ministry** > See Robert Baker.

Giving 1/8-31/8	\$36,809
Average amount needed to meet Budget per month	\$36,763
Overall Giving 1/7-31/8	\$81,481
Average amount needed to meet Budget for this period	\$73,526

