



Covid-19 FBC ANNOUNCEMENT 12.0

20th May 2020

Greetings FBC church family, we're glad to be joining you today, and trust all is well with you. I'll share a brief devotional thought for your to prayerfully ponder...and be encouraged by...

Devotion

Isaiah 55:6-13 MSG

Seek God while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand. Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness. "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work." God 's Decree. "For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them. "So you'll go out in joy, you'll be led into a whole and complete life. The mountains and hills will lead the parade, bursting with song. All the trees of the forest will join the procession, exuberant with applause. No more thistles, but giant sequoias, no more thornbushes, but stately pines— Monuments to me, to God, living and lasting evidence of God."

Isaiah described in amazing detail 700 years ahead of time how Christ would come and suffer and bear the sins of God's people and die in our place and rise again.

There is the great substitution: Christ in our place, taking our sins on himself.

He died not for his own sin, but for the sin of his people — the people who trust him and follow him.

Death was not the end of Christ. He bore the sins of many. But God then honoured him with victory over death and sin. He is now alive and reigning in heaven till he comes again.

If redemption is accomplished, and God's will is that the blessings of this redemption spread to all the nations, then it is no surprise that God comes forward with a Great Invitation not just for a few, and not just for those who can pay their way, but for everyone. There is hope in Christ and we can rest secure in that. Listen to how the Jesus Storybook Bible puts Isaiah's prophecies.

"Now God let Isaiah know a secret. God was going to mend his broken world. He showed Isaiah his secret rescue plan. Operation No More Tears. This is the message God gave Isaiah and it was like a letter God wrote to his children.

Dear Little Flock, you're all wandering away from me like sheep in an open field. You have always been running away from me and now you're lost and you can't find your way back. But I can't stop loving you I will come to find you. So I am sending you a shepherd to look after you and love you. To carry you home to me. You've been stumbling around like people in a dark room. But into the darkness a bright light will shine. It will chase away all the shadows like sunshine. A little baby will be born. A royal son. His mummy will be a young girl who doesn't have a husband. His name will be Emmanuel which means God has come to live with us. He is one of King David's children's, children's children. The Prince of Peace. Yes, someone is going to come and rescue you. But he won't be who anyone expects. He will be a king. But he won't live in a Palace and he won't have lots of money. He will be poor and he will be a servant. But this King will heal the whole world. He will be a hero. He will fight for his people and rescue them from the enemies. But he won't have big armies and he won't fight with swords. He will make the blind see. He will make the lame leap like deer. He will make everything the way it was meant to be. But people will hate him and they won't listen to him. He will be like a lamb. He will suffer and die. It's the secret rescue plan we made from before the beginning of the world. It's the only way to get you back. But he won't stay dead. I will make him alive again. And one day when he comes back to rule forever, the mountains and trees will dance and sing for joy. The earth will shout out loud. His fame will fill the whole Earth as the waters cover the sea. Everything sad will come untrue. Even death is going to die. And he will wipe away every tear from every eye. Yes, the rescuer will come. Look for him. Watch for him. Wait for him. He will come. I promise. Signed God."

What a wonderful hope we have in Him. Be encouraged. Fix your eyes on Him.

Blessings on all
Ross and Karyn

Office 07 855 5469
Ross and Karyn Woodhouse 027 692 0726 Or 021 437 803
Louise McLachlan 027 323 5372 Or 07 855 1034
David McMillan 021 180 5200 Or 07 854 0844