

From the Minister's Desk nr 2

Good day (Goeie dag – in Afrikaans)

A bit of an expanded *From the Minister's Desk*: For instance, under chaplaincy I intended introducing Susan, and then I was struck by what Theo said, so I thought I would include that. Likewise, the part on Presbytery grew to include the induction service of Willem, but guess you know by now that my stories are seldom brief! 😊

So enjoy the read!

KYB (Know Your Bible)

KYB has been running in Maleny for more than 20years! It is an initiative of CWCI Ministries which describes itself as an evangelical interdenominational ministry by women to women (<https://cwciaus.org.au/>). The ministry involves in depth study of the books of the Bible and I am advised that they are now studying Leviticus - an amazing book, although it may at first appear strange and distant to our modern lives. Personally, one of my guiding faith pillars, that we are only stewards and strangers on earth, is based (inter alia) on Leviticus 25:23-24.

Dorothy Tietze and Cherry O'Neill have been equipped and have been running the ecumenical group who meet at Uniting Church, Maleny for many years.

The group meet every Friday between 1:30-3:00pm. All women are heartily invited to join as you journey to know the Word and the word of God deeper. Dorothy (54942486) can tell you more!.

Erowal Chaplain: Susan Cameron

Meet Susan the new chaplain at Blue Care aged care homes at Caloundra and Erowal (the position also entails some community work). Susan lives in Gympie and is married to Maike and they have two children (young adults). Both Susan and Maike worked many years for the ADF, Susan as a chaplain.



Susan has also completed her Period of Discernment and is presently in the process of applying for candidature to become a minister in the UCA. Exciting!

I have come to know Susan the past few months as our paths have crossed and I am deeply thankful for her strong commitment to service and enthused by her love for Jesus. After an encounter with Susan, one invariably always steps away with a smile and a warm glow in the heart.

Speaking of chaplaincy, Theo a chaplain at Buderim Hospital shares these words recently at a PRC meeting which I found profound and worth sharing forward:

With regard to the recovery from the challenges and burdens COVID brought the past few years Theo writes:

“The above and many more other aspects has led to the concern and conversations about dealing with the potential phenomena of “The Great Resignation “(staff saying I’m done and out of here and wanting to leave the health sector because of burnout and fatigue). I can only say anecdotally by observation that fortunately we have not got to that point with a lot of people so far which is a relief. But we need to be very aware for many of “The Great Hesitation” (staff thinking I’m not sure how I can keep doing this or want to do this) and “The Great Reservation” (how do I not get pushed to the point of no return as I try and recover). All this leads to the conversation we should be having which is “The Great Restoration” (how do we assist ourselves and others to recover and renew and stay in the game well).”

Timely for us to think of how we can support our chaplains who not only care for patients but the staff at the hospitals. Let me know if you have any ideas!

Presbytery: 11-13th November 2022

As you know I am the Chair of Mary Burnett Presbytery and I cannot believe that it is almost a year since I was elected to the position in November 2021. The annual live-in Presbytery at Pialba Youth Camp, Hervey Bay is coming up 11-13th November. John Daniels and myself will be attending as representatives from Blackall Range UC (regrettably Kay cannot attend due to other commitments).

The past few months have seen Bethany Masters (the Synod Complaints and Compliance officer) and me spend hours on delegations! The Regulations of the UCA provides for 266 powers, rights, functions, or responsibilities that are given to a Presbytery!!!Yes 266!!! Bethany and I have been steadily working through them and delegating them to various committees, primarily the Standing Committee, the Pastoral Relations Committee and Property Committee. And you can imagine with two lawyers this is not a quick task! 😊 Anyhow the intention is to have at least a draft available to table at the Presbytery meeting.



Your prayers (266?) for this meeting will be appreciated! Photo of Kylie Albers (Presbytery Admin Officer) and myself at public morning worship along the beachfront during past Presbytery at Hervey Bay.

PS We will be inducting Willem Smit, the new Minister at Hervey Bay, on Friday evening the 11th. We welcome Willem and his wife Christí-Marí, who has taken up a position as occupational therapist at St Stephens hospital.

RCLN: Range Prayer Meeting

Speaking of prayer: The ecumenical prayer meeting on Tuesday the 18th October 2022 was an experience! About 70 disciples came along and prayed for an awakening along the Range. Awesome and amazing! The general feeling was that we should come together to pray together more often!

2022 Thanksgiving Harvest Festival 30th October



The festival is around the corner. As always we will be celebrating our blessings. The combined service will be a family service with focus on a children's message – *The Wonder of Weeds* led by Kay. So raid the streets and neighbourhood and find children to bring along!

So bring your goodies whatever they may be: craft, preserves,, plants, veges. Although this is an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate, should you need a bottle of strawberry jam give a donation for it! Any funds raised will go towards community benefits!

Also, importantly there will be an opportunity for the *Future Directions Group* to report back. We have received more than 40 suggestions regarding missional activities. Marvellous! Thank you to all. Super excited and if you have not submitted a thought there is always time to do so!

Looking forward to seeing ya Sunday the 30th!

I conclude with a prayer by Guigo the Carthusian (12th century) I have been meditating on this past week:

Lord how much juice you can squeeze from a single grape!
How much water you can draw from a single well!
How great a fire you can kindle from a tiny spark!
How great a tree you can grow from a tiny seed!

My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;
Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.
My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;
Yet you can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbour.
My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;
Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.
My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;
Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.

Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;
Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

And as you know I cannot resist including a link to a choir from Africa! Today a new song by Stellenbosch University Choir: Lady Gaga's: *Always remember us this way* from the movie *A Star is Born*, which I watched and enjoyed recently:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zerJVmOc-v0&ab_channel=StellenboschUniversityChoir

Shalom Liena