



# THE new vine

## UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Blackall Range Uniting Churches  
(Kenilworth, Maleny, Montville and Palmwoods)

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**AUTUMN EDITION: 'HOPE', Issue No 32, MARCH 2024**



### EDITORIAL COMMENT



Imagine my surprise, and then embarrassment, when I asked for articles on HOPE, only to be told – “But that’s been done before”. “No, it hasn’t,” I said confidently - but nevertheless went home and checked. Lo and behold, I was wrong. In the summer of 2020, we concentrated on HOPE because that was the word that illuminated Maleny church to spread the Advent message and advertise the Christmas display and story.



Upon re-reading that edition of our journal, it became obvious to me, it was a ‘memorable’ edition [even though I forgot about it] because some 18 people across all 3 worship centres contributed. I’m not sure we have reached that height since, [we have 13 this time]. The difference may be because, way back then, people were asked directly to contribute, but now, a generic ‘Our Common Life’ request is the vehicle.

But such congregational ownership of our journal is the realisation of a long-held HOPE that we, as God’s people here, have started to recognise that spark of God’s creativity that rests within us all. We just needed to grow in confidence in expressing it, and I HOPE the journal provides us a safe place in which to do this.

My current HOPE is that this increasing congregant involvement will continue and expand to include more people and different emphasises. We are all capable of some form of creative self-expression – the written word, the poetic word, an exegetic word, the photo, the sketch, a memory, being touched by something we’ve read or seen that we long to share, an opportunity to question, a desire to try to explain what we think or wonder about. We can do all this here and touch other lives.

As Nelson Mandela says in one article this time – “the impossible is only impossible until we make it possible.” Perhaps that could become our motto. After all, isn’t that what Easter is all about?

As our Lenten faith journey leads us into Easter may we find, like Jesus – yes, there are great challenges along the way, but with God walking with us, we, too, are capable of revealing God’s presence in our lives and can be equipped to meet all challenges.

Have a meaningful, transformational, and blessed Easter everyone.

Graham

**Postscript:** My evening devotions on the day I wrote this included this prayer in “With Love to the World”. *Speak Lord, with creative power into our limits, our laughter, and disbelief.*  
Amen to that.

INDEX

Editorial Comment .....	Page 1
Who’s Who in the Blackall Range Churches.....	2
Monro’s Musings.....	3
A Confession .....	4-5
What is a “Heartsong” .....	5
Word from Thomas Merton .....	6
There is HOPE.....	7
Kids’ Page.....	8
Family Ties .....	9-11
Karl’s Korner .....	12
Some of what the Bible Says .....	13
HOPE is Personal and Special .....	14
HOPE .....	15
HOPE in a Sermon .....	16-17
From My Garden.....	17
HOPE is not a Strategy.....	18
Another Side of HOPE .....	19
Local HOPE .....	20
HOPE for a Nation .....	21-23
H.O.P.E.....	23
What’s so Tricky about HOPE .....	24
Is There HOPE? .....	24
Is There a Difference? .....	25
Moments of HOPE.....	25-26
HOPE .....	27
HOPE in a Song .....	28



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## MUNRO'S MUSINGS

HOPE is a flexible word. It can be used so glibly and yet, it can hold so much: "I HOPE I'll have a good time" vs "I HOPE that there will be true peace." I remember an argument in a theology class I was teaching once: some members of the class thought they heard other members using the word "HOPE" in a way that was too emotional or sentimental. Why did that matter? Because HOPE is fundamentally at the heart of Christianity; and Christian HOPE has never been about wishful thinking or basic optimism. Christian HOPE has always been about flourishing endurance in the face of temptations to despair. That HOPE has always been founded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It has always understood the frailty and fragility of being human. And it has always upheld the loving graciousness of God in the midst of it.

When my Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he thought a lot about his mortality and immortality. He began asking questions like, "What would heaven be like?" and, for a little while at least, even imagined it as a place where he might get something back on friends who'd let him down. Later, his thinking moved, and he eventually ended up at the story of Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus in the garden after his resurrection (John 20:11-18). He particularly liked the version from *The Aussie Bible* (Kel Richards, Bible Society of NSW 2003)

*Jesus said to her, "Mary!"*

*She turned to face him and cried out, "Teacher!"*

*He said "Now, now, don't cling to me like that. I've got to go. I've got to go to the Father. But you whiz back to the team and tell them that I'm going to My Father and to your Father, to My God and your God."*

Dad put that text together with John Williamson's "Cootamundra Wattle" (EMUSIC Pty Ltd 1986):

*Don't buy the daily papers any more woman,  
Read all about what's going on in hell.  
They don't care to tell the world of kindness,  
Good news never made a paper sell.  
There's all the colours of the rainbow in the garden woman,  
And symphonies of music in the sky.  
Heaven's all around us if you're looking,  
But how can you see it if you cry.*

And eventually, he came up with what is essentially the guts of the Christian doctrine of HOPE—God's future is already here and now. Jürgen Moltmann puts it this way:

*Where men and women perceive Christ's resurrection and begin to live within its horizon, they themselves will be born again to a living HOPE which reaches beyond death, and in living love will begin to experience eternal life in the fulfilled moment. They experience themselves in God, and God in themselves, and that is eternal life. (In the End—The Beginning: The Life of HOPE, Fortress Press, 2004, p. 164)*

We live in a world where there are many temptations to deep despair: intractable conflicts; unfulfilled dreams; unexpected consequences. It would be very easy to despair, to lose HOPE. Nevertheless, in the power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, as the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim a HOPE that knows the reality of pain and death and, both despite and because of that, affirms life in relationship with God and with each other. HOPE, in a Christian sense, is a very robust word.

Blessings

Anita [Minister on Supply]

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## A CONFESSION

OK – I confess!

There are times when I am absolutely HOPEless.

One such occasion is when I watch the Australians of the Year Award ceremony.

In each of the past few years, at the end of the ceremony, I have found myself sitting there with tears running down my cheeks. Not the sort of reaction you might expect from an Aussie male.



However, in the world of doom and gloom that we live in – where the media seems to concentrate on all the worst things that happen – wars, bushfires, cyclones, murders, road accident deaths, domestic violence etc – I find I am inspired by the stories of the people we meet at that ceremony. There is so much that is wonderful and good in the world, in our nation, that we usually

hear so little about, that I guess my tears come from a mixture of awe, relief, gratitude, pride, and other emotions, that tell me, the battle between good and evil is not over by a long shot. All this re-kindles my HOPE in the future of our nation and urges me to be a better person too. So, in a way, my HOPElessness is born out of a real sense of HOPE. I can explain it in no other way.

Let's just reflect for a moment on the recipients of these awards for 2024.

### Australians of the Year – Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO

- The co-medical directors of the Melanoma Institute Australia developed an immunotherapy approach to the treatment for melanoma which activates a patient's own immune system and it has become a curable disease. They have also developed a similar approach to treat brain cancer, from which Prof Scolyer suffers.

### Senior Australian of the Year – Yalmay Yunupingu

- A first nation's woman who is a teacher, a linguist and a community leader who has guided teaching at Yirrkala Bilingual School in Arnhem Land for four decades, retiring in March 2023. She started by translating Dr Seuss books at the community library into her local Yolŋu Matha language. She qualified as a teacher and, with her husband (of Yothu Yindi fame), forged a bilingual teaching approach to make young people strong in their Yolŋu language and culture. Since retirement she has been teaching traditional healing in her community.

### Young Australian of the Year – Emma McKeon AM

- Emma McKeon AM is the most successful Australian Olympian of all time – a title she claimed before her 28th birthday. At the 2020 Summer Olympics, Emma became the first female swimmer and the second woman in history to win seven medals in a single Olympics. She has also broken Commonwealth Games, Olympic and World records.

### Local Hero - David Elliott OAM

- Is Co-founder, with his wife Judy, of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History at Winton. It arose from a chance discovery of a dinosaur fossil during routine sheep mustering in 1999 and led to the revival of Australia's palaeontology field – and the creation of a palaeo-tourism industry that put outback Queensland on the map. Today, it houses Australia's most significant collection of fossils from the country's largest dinosaurs. A major tourist attraction, it serves as a centre for paleontological research and discovery in Australia.

These were the ones selected from representatives from each state and territory in all four categories – a total 32 nominees in all – and each had a wonderful story to tell. That brought HOPE to many, I'm sure.

But that is not all – a look at the names of the Young Australian of the Year nominees shows the diversity of cultures that form Australia – [Nikhil Autar, Tiahni Adamson, Naarah, Caitlin Figueiredo, Emma McKeon, Kate Kirwin, Peter Susanto, and Bhakta Bahadur Bhattarai.] I find that worth celebrating too.

Our lives are pounded relentlessly by media reporting of the dark things in our world, and also by some of the chaotic and sad things that happen in our own lives. However, my Australian of the Year Awards TV experience has convinced me there is also much goodness that exists, although not always known about, that I should be more conscious of and acknowledge it some way.

That way, I think, will lead to a more HOPE filled life and is therefore worth pursuing.



### WHAT IS A “HEARTSONG”

At age 3, Mattie began telling his mother Jeni, “God places messages in my heart to shape and share with purpose”. At age 5, Mattie began talking and writing about his purpose using the word “Heartsong.” He said, “A Heartsong is our inner beauty – our sense of why we are here and how we can keep going. We each have a Heartsong, rooted in purpose, or our reason for being.” He said whatever essence we desire most can guide us in understanding what we have to offer others. Because Heartsongs grow from within, even when two or more have a similar purpose or expression, each is unique because each person is unique.

“Whatever it is that a person needs or wants, they understand why that matters, and that is the unfolding of their Heartsong. When a person offers that – what they need and want most – to others, that is the next part of their Heartsong. As we learn in almost every religion or philosophy of goodness, it is in giving that we receive. In sharing our Heartsong with others, it goes out into the world, and somehow, circles back to us.”

*Mattie J.T. Stepanek*

Karl Tietze





## WORDS FROM THOMAS MERTON

As mentioned earlier, HOPE was the subject of a previous edition of this journal. Going back over the old file, there was a poem by Thomas Merton that was edited out because of space, but it is really worth reading.

Merton [1915 – 1968] was a Trappist monk in the USA. He was a contemplative theologian who wrote books of poetry as well as over fifty books on spiritual matters. He was committed to inter-denominational understanding, inter-faith dialogue, social justice and pacificism. He was always a great advocate for HOPE.

*My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I HOPE I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I HOPE that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore, will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

And here are a couple of his other thoughts on HOPE.

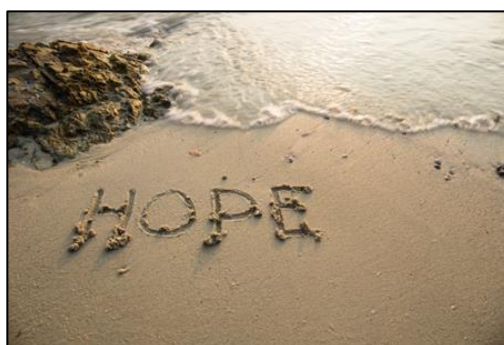
That's the meaning of HOPE ... to trust in the ultimate goodness of creation. HOPE doesn't mean an anticipation or expectation of a deliverance from an intolerable or oppressive situation or condition ... That's what most of us are doing most of the time: wanting something other than what is. As I said—true HOPE is trusting that what we have, where we are, and who we are is more than enough for us as creatures of God.

If you exist, you exist in HOPE. To cease hoping is to cease existing. To HOPE, and to exist, is to have roots in God.

We are saved by HOPE for that which we do not see and we wait for it with patience.

On the surface I have my confusion. On a deeper level, desire and conflict. In the greatest depths, like a spring of pure water rising up in the flames of hell, is the smallness, the frailty of a HOPE that is, yet, never overwhelmed but continues strangely and inexplicably to nourish in the midst of apparent despair.

HOPE then is a gift. Like life, it is a gift from God, total, unexpected, incomprehensible, undeserved ... but to meet it, we have to descend into nothingness.



## THERE IS HOPE

HOPE springs eternal. Come on you say, sometimes there is no HOPE. Wherever we look, it all seems HOPEless. We could think of many circumstances in the world today, in our community, in the church and in our own personal lives where it is difficult to find any HOPE. Let me tell you a personal story that might help us, even encourage us.

A few years ago, Bernadette and I were in Darwin and I was asked by the chair person of a Christian board if I could come to a meeting and help sort out a few problems they were having. I knew the chair lady very well; the organization I had known since its inception; and it had served the church and the community in a really good way. So I said to my friend - "yes" I thought I could do that. She was very grateful and said she would send me through some e-mails and minutes of meetings that would help me understand the problems they were having.

You can imagine my shock, even horror, when I received at least 10 pages of e-mails dating back at least 18 months. Now, you need to know that the six or seven members of the board were all good Christians, actively involved in their local church and of course this board. There were e-mails accusing others on the board of lying; there was all sorts of name calling; and nasty accusations of what various members of the board had or had not done. I got these e-mails one night and was due to attend the next board meeting in two days. How was I to sort out arguments that had been going on for over a year? That was the question on my mind. I saw no way. There was no HOPE. I struggled with what strategy I could use. Was it possible to do something in the hour I had been allocated. Should I interview each member of the board before I talked to the whole group. I could only see that this would help the bickering continue. There was no HOPE – or so I thought.

I had a very sleepless night. I don't now specifically remember praying about the issue, but I think I may well have cried out to God. No answer came that sleepless night. Still no HOPE. The next morning Bernadette and I were having our morning devotion together. The Bible reading we had for that morning was in 2 Timothy 2 and from The Message and a couple of the verses said,

*"Report these basic essentials over and over to God's people. Warn them before God against pious nitpicking, which chips away at the faith. It just wears everyone out. Concentrate on doing your best for God."*

All of a sudden, there was HOPE.

I went to the board meeting and after some introductory comments I said, "I want to suggest to you that we not have any more blood-letting; that we stop our pious nitpicking; and do our best for God." Now it took the whole hour to reach a point where each member of the board was willing to say sorry and ask forgiveness of the others. We reached a good place that could allow the board to move on and keep serving God.

There is HOPE when we are willing to struggle and willing to listen to what God is saying and to act on that. With the God we know in Jesus there is always HOPE. Live in the certainty of that HOPE.

George Woodward





## KIDS' PAGE



Using the Wordsearch below, find the following words:

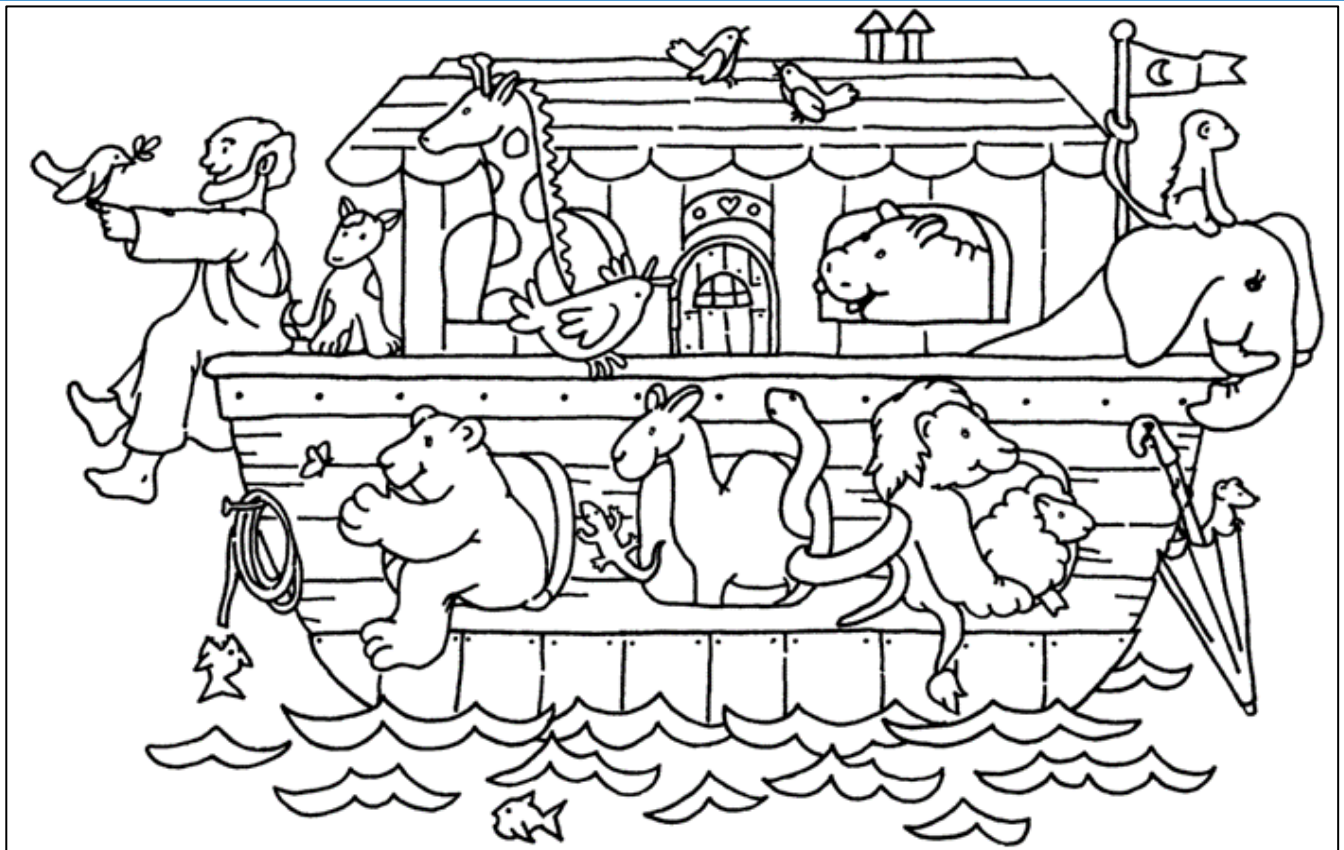
\*BEACH, \*FLOWERS, \*HOPE, \*LAUGHTER, \*PUPPY,  
\*SEEDLING, \*SPRING, \*BIRDS, \*FRIENDSHIP, \*JOY,  
\*LOVE, \*RAIN, \*SINGING, \*SUNRISE, \*FAMILY, \*GROWTH,  
\*KINDNESS, \*NATURE, \*RAINBOW, \*SMILE, \*SUNSHINE



D	L	T	E	B	E	S	U	S	R	L	B	N	A	Y
S	N	A	E	Q	R	Z	E	W	N	A	D	Z	T	W
C	M	J	U	E	D	E	Y	T	U	V	I	J	H	S
H	L	I	W	G	D	G	N	I	R	P	S	N	Y	I
M	T	O	L	L	H	L	O	V	E	I	M	O	N	N
G	L	W	I	E	K	T	S	R	E	H	J	S	T	G
F	P	N	O	X	Z	U	E	R	Q	S	S	S	J	I
G	G	D	S	R	N	X	U	R	F	D	U	E	L	N
T	X	J	X	R	G	T	N	U	K	N	N	N	L	G
W	Y	L	I	M	A	F	O	B	H	E	S	D	P	J
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P	V	R	D	F	R	F	C	Z	E	F	N	K	P	K
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R	A	I	N	B	O	W	B	N	U	I	T	J	Y	J



Noah was a man of HOPE who obeyed God. Here is NOAH'S ARK for you to colour in



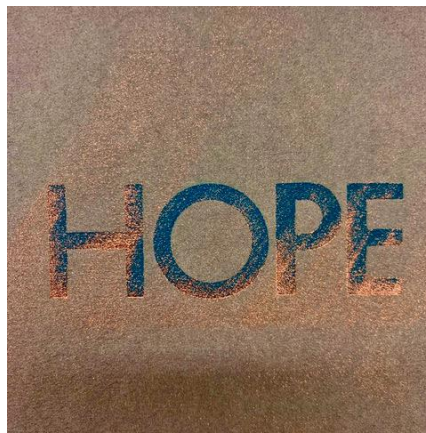
Noah did everything just as God commanded him – Genesis 6:22



## FAMILY TIES

Many in the Maleny congregation know my daughter, Fiona, and her husband, Barry, have an artists' studio at the top end of Maple Street where a lot of their creative work is done and displayed. Deckled Edge Press, as it is named, holds all sorts of interesting things, both on paper and recycled metal.

Some time ago [years], when I visited the studio, my attention was drawn to a display of cards about HOPE, as well as a number of coloured cards that were spread out to dry. A discussion followed that canvassed what the cards were all about. The 'Hold fast to HOPE' cards had been made in response to a general feeling of quiet concern they held about things happening in the world and could be sent, and were sent, to people around the world. The newer ones were experimental in technique and generally allowed the recipient to consider her/his individual response to what was happening in their life, and beyond, and to encourage them to a positivity through HOPE.



The conversation did not end there. It has continued on and off over the years when we travel, meet for coffee, or share a meal. The pervading question has been – 'What is HOPE?' And then they suggested it would be a good topic to explore through *The New Vine*. So, here we are! I rose to the challenge on your behalf as I felt the question was worthy of our attention. However, I tried to negotiate a little and suggested that the cost to them would be that they each drop me a few words about HOPE. And here they are:

### Thoughts on HOPE

I think about the idea of HOPE a lot. What does it mean? When I say "I HOPE it doesn't rain this afternoon" does it mean the same as when I HOPE that we can slow down the warming of the planet?

I think not. For me, the first HOPE is simply a wish for something I have no real control over; and cannot modify or change. The second is something that enables me to take some action and to contribute to the future.

I refer to Rebecca Solnit's writing and thinking about HOPE a lot. All of these quotes are from her book "HOPE in the Dark" first published in 2005, but updated in 2016. It's the revised elements of the 2016 version that I resonate with most.

*"It's important to say what HOPE is not: it's not the belief that everything was, is, or will be fine. The evidence is all around us of tremendous suffering and tremendous destruction".*

*“HOPE locates itself in the premise that we don’t know what will happen, and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is the room to act”.*

*“HOPE is an embrace of the unknown and the unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists take the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting”.*

*“It’s the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand”.*

*“Though HOPE is about the future, grounds for HOPE lie in the record and recollections of the past”.*

*“Authentic HOPE requires clarity – seeing the troubles in this world – and imagination, seeing what might lie beyond these situations that are perhaps not inevitable or immutable”.*

These sorts of statements lead me to my own position:

- HOPE acknowledges the toughness of our reality and circumstances;
- HOPE reflects on the past, knowing many things have changed and improved in our lifetime that we did not anticipate or expect;
- HOPE operates when things are unclear and uncertain; and
- HOPE is about taking action towards an unknown, destination, but a desired outcome.

Fiona

AND

### Reflecting on HOPE

How can we face the darkness, tragedies, change, crisis, and conflicts of this time without falling into despair?

My reaction to this time has led me to think about: how little control individuals have; what action can one take; and how do we support ourselves and others?

In the past, inspired by writers such as John O’Donoghue and Rebecca Solnit, I have made statements such as: hold fast to HOPE; find HOPE in small fragments of daily beauty; be kind to our minds; and find quiet places and times to nurture ourselves. However, the recent increase in atrocities, climate events, social and political discord and inequality have made me question such statements.

I have found myself asking: what do I mean by the word HOPE; and can one actually hold fast to HOPE and also face the reality of challenging times?

My recent reading, including Joanna Macy (*Active Hope*), and reflection has led me to tentatively conclude that there are at least two types of HOPE: HOPE as desire; and HOPE as intention.

HOPE as desire tends to be expressed in the following words: I HOPE you get well; and I HOPE we arrive safely at our destination. HOPE here tends to be a projection of a desired outcome but no action is taken. John O’Donoghue adds another dimension to this when he writes about blessings. He says we can turn a desire into positive energy by adding the word may to our HOPE statements; May you get well; and May you arrive safely.

HOPE as intention seems to take John O’Donoghue a step further in that it turns HOPE into action. Joanna Macy refers to this as active HOPE. It changes: *I HOPE the poor get enough to eat* into *I want*

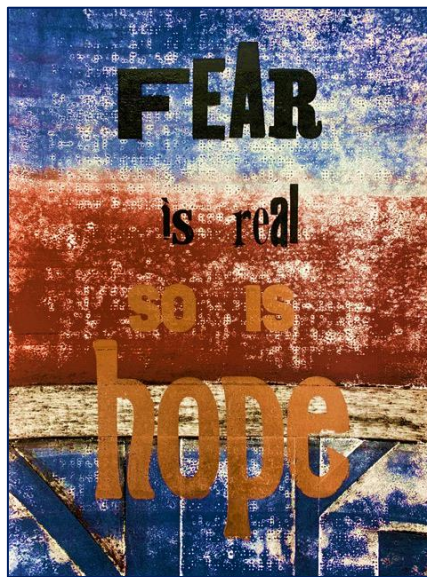
*the poor to get enough to eat so I will contribute food items to a food bank; and I HOPE homeless people get houses into I will contribute funds to buy a tent for a homeless person.*

Active HOPE turns desired outcomes into practical action. Even in the face of huge issues such as climate breakdown or famine, active HOPE allows one to acknowledge the scale and lack of control over events and situations; but allows one to express a desire and intention to set a goal and take action, however small, to make the situation or the world a better place.

Whilst my reflection and reading regarding the meaning of HOPE is ongoing, even in the face of darkness, atrocities, and inequality we can still hold fast to HOPE, we can desire and wish and pray for a better world; and we can convert our desires into action and contribute to a better world.

Barry

Finally, if you received this card in the mail, what would your reaction be? What would you think?



**FEAR is real – so is HOPE**



**In case you can't read  
the text to the left, it says:**

**LITTLE WINGS OF HOPE**

IN DARK TIMES

YOU REAPPEAR

little wings of HOPE

REMINDING ME

TO STOP AND BE

little wings of HOPE



**KARL'S KORNER****HOPE ... In What? ... In Whom?**

Over the last few weeks, I've encountered some interesting people while walking down our main street. One group was warning us about God's wrath. Another asked us to consider 'Eternity'. I sat and talked to a chap who was all into telling me that the so called "End times" were about to come – You know – Wars, rumours of wars, etc. I wondered – What do these people HOPE for? Or put their HOPE in?

Did the first group HOPE that I'd be scared into the faith? And did the second group think, if people hadn't thought of Eternity and HOPE, this would cause them to rethink their lives? Perhaps they were targeting a younger demographic, but still, is this the way to approach what we might call 'modern' people? Or does it hark back to an age when we were more exposed to the vagaries of the environment – war, plague, poverty, etc. - and hence more likely to be thinking of an afterlife?

Still, all this 'prophecy-ing' speaks of a concern about the afterlife and a HOPE that people will listen and, perhaps, re-examine their lives in the light of current world events and societal changes. One might "HOPE for the best and yet prepare for the worst" as people facing a cyclone recently were advised. But are we placing our HOPE in the effectiveness of our preparations, the correctness of our Bible interpretations, or the accuracy of our predictions?

There is a second aspect to be considered here. Many of these prophecies come from the Old Testament and seem to refer to the future of a tribe we call either 'the Jews' or 'Israel'. Indeed, some are used to justify what's happening in Gaza now. This brings up the question "Is this God we worship only really interested in his so-called 'chosen people'?" and the rest of us are extras in a sort of religious movie?"

Jesus is the one who changed all this. His message broadened the stage, as it were, to cover a wider population. But this also brings his message into discussion with images others have of God. Other people have placed their HOPES in gods with other names and other characteristics. How do we see the futures of these people, particularly as we become what is called 'multicultural'? We ascribe a certain exclusivity to our faith, our God, and Jesus. And yet Jesus said that if he were lifted up, he would draw all mankind unto himself.

Let's face it; we all HOPE that there's more to life than what we experience; that it will continue in some form after our bodies give up; and, if you have any faith, that the higher being you call 'God' will look after you. Some people see this in transactional terms – if I'm good, God will be just and reward me appropriately. Others realise we can't meet standards of perfection and simply place our HOPE in God's mercy.

I would put this in different terms. I place my HOPE in the character of God and in the efficacy of Jesus' sacrifice and intercession.

What do you think?

Karl Tietze





## SOME OF WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

A scroll through the internet gives lots of advice on appropriate bible verses for almost any situation. They vary, but a distillation of verses on HOPE gives the following, including a little advice:

*When you need encouragement and refreshment for your soul, turn to these Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments that offer HOPE and encouragement. Everyone needs to be reminded from time to time of the HOPE that God, Jesus, and the Bible offer to us in our daily lives.*

**Jeremiah 29:11** ~ *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a HOPE.*

**Romans 15:13** ~ *May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in HOPE.*

**Romans 12:12** ~ *Rejoice in HOPE, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

**Hebrews 11:1** ~ *Now faith is the assurance of things HOPED for, the conviction of things not seen.*

**Isaiah 40:31** ~ *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

**Romans 8:24-25** ~ *For in this HOPE we were saved. Now HOPE that is seen is not HOPE. For who HOPES for what he sees? But if we HOPE for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

**1 Peter 1:3** ~ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Perhaps you might like to add your own favourites in the space below

## HOPE IS PERSONAL AND SPECIAL

The word HOPE has special significance for me.

My 9<sup>th</sup> granddaughter lives with a serious heart defect known as Long QT Syndrome . She is fitted internally with both a pacemaker and a defibrillator to keep her heart in rhythm and to kick start it again when it stops. She is 19 and her name is Sally HOPE.

My first, and only, great-grandchild was born 3 months ago with only half a heart. We are praying that she will become strong enough to undergo the first of a series of major operations at 5 months, to begin the process of giving her the chance to grow to adulthood. Her name is Sophia HOPE.

My season as Chairman of Scripture Union in Queensland in the late 1980's was demanding but rewarding as we trained leaders and witnessed many young people come to faith in Jesus. The SU tag line in those days was (and still is) "Bringing HOPE to a young generation". As far as I am aware, SU was the only organisation at that time using the word HOPE in their tag line but today there is hardly an organisation (at least in the stable I support) that is not using the word extensively in all their promotional material. As a result, it has become like the word "love" which has been so overdone as to lose much of its impact and meaning in the Christian sense – so much so that the devotional material distributed by our local Christian radio station is now titled REAL HOPE.

The Rev John Stott spoke to me through my breakfast devotion this morning when he quoted Hebrews 10:19 and 22-24 *"So we have confidence - let us draw near to God – let us hold unswervingly to the HOPE we profess – let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"*.

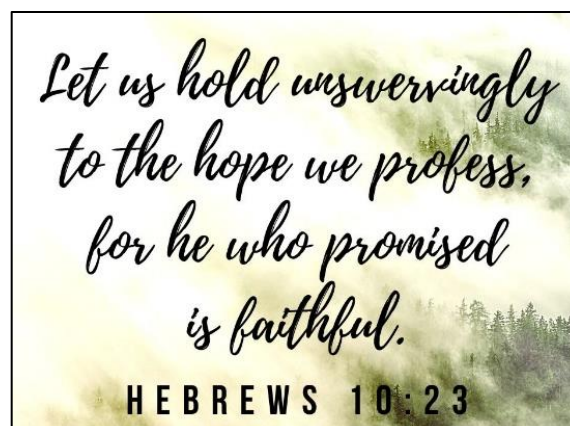
Stott went on to say, "The Christian HOPE (which is sure expectation) focuses on the coming of Christ and the glory that will follow. But how can we hold fast to this HOPE when so many – even in the Church – have given up? There is only one answer, namely that 'He who promised is faithful'. The Lord Jesus promised that He would come in power and great glory – and He keeps His promises."

If we truly believe that, then Christian HOPE is much more than wishful thinking or heartfelt desire. Rather, our HOPE is one of "sure expectation" that will shape the way we live our earthly lives today and prepare us for eternity tomorrow.

May that HOPE be yours and mine, that our family, friends and neighbours might come to know Jesus.

Love and Blessings

Bob Grice



[Can I please suggest that we all keep Bob and his family in our regular prayers. Ed.]

## HOPE

The thoughts on HOPE in this writing come from an article on HOPE in James Hastings "Dictionary of the Bible". p. 36l.

HOPE figures strongly in O.T. scripture and is not much in evidence in Biblical writings again until the Epistles of the N.T. where it is strongly connected to an understanding of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. In both areas of Scripture there are certain key features which are indicated, and I will highlight them here.

In the O.T., HOPE is strongly connected to the word "believe" and has the sense of "to wait upon, expectation or anticipation.". Earthly HOPE belongs to God's kingdom sharing in social regeneration and national wellbeing. Isaiah 9:6ff. And when national HOPE floundered, faith anchored itself in two objectives. The first being the Messianic Kingdom, and in later times especially, the second objective was belief in the Resurrection of the dead.

The emphasis on the Resurrection of the dead was necessary because without it those who had suffered most for the Kingdom would miss it if they were not resurrected.

Turning to HOPE in the Epistles, St. Paul in Romans 15:13, emphasises God's action in the O.T.

*"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles,  
in him the Gentiles shall HOPE."  
NRSV Isaiah 11:10*

In this way, St. Paul binds together HOPE in both testaments. And he goes on in other epistolic writings to point out the HOPEless state to which the Gentile world had come. See Ephesians 2:12. But Peter points to HOPE that we all have –

*"By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead humanity was begotten again to a living HOPE."  
1 Peter 1:3.*

In Romans 8:19 St. Paul stresses again that humanity was looking for this HOPE with an "out-stretched hand". NRSV uses the words "eager longing" to talk about this search for HOPE that was meaningful.

If one searched in this way in N.T. times the guarantee of success was twofold.

(a) Given objectively first in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(b) Given subjectively in the earnest of the Spirit within Christian hearts. I Corinthians 1:20f. and Eph. 1:13.

*"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward our redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory."*

The subjects of those having the earnest of the Spirit within their Christian hearts were the people of faith. It is the HOPE of our calling.

Finally, it is a collective HOPE, the heritage of the body of Christ, dear to Christian people because of their affection for each other and is cherished by ministers of Christ for those in their charge. I Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:1.

And as a word for our time: "HOPE was the anchor of the soul grappled to the throne of the living glorified Jesus within the veil." Heb. 6:19. ( E.W.G. Masterman )

Bob Philpot

## HOPE IN A SERMON

Many years ago, as a Lay Preacher, I was rostered to lead an evening service at our church in Canberra. We met in a school assembly hall/gymnasium in which the heaters were only turned on a half hour earlier. It was as cold as a polar bear's bottom in a blizzard. There were five of us present – two congregants, a pianist, a steward and a preacher. So, we had a discussion around the question – “Would we be better off going home?”. Having decided in the affirmative, we were starting to pack up when an unknown young couple appeared, so we changed our minds and proceeded with the service.

At the end of the service, the couple's thanks was profusive. They said the message was written just for them as it spoke to their situation directly. Their story went something like this. They were driving from Adelaide to Sydney and at Yass, something convinced them to break the journey by turning off the highway to go to church in Canberra. And so here they were. Our church was in a school in the southern suburbs with no signage to indicate this. They had passed many established church buildings to get to us, and yet they found us and claimed to be blessed by what they experienced. My sense is that God alone knows how that all happened.

Reflection on that evening led me to the conclusion that whatever preachers are given to present to congregations is meant for at least one person gathered in the service. I still hold to that view. And, as if to confirm it, I experienced it myself on Transfiguration Sunday at Maleny where Anita's service – *Glimpsing Glory on the Mountain* – spoke directly to me in a few ways.

- [1] It spoke to my life situation when she quoted Martin Luther King Jnr's speech.  
*Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.*

I believe that I, and many of the readers of this journal, have been graced to go to the mountaintop and our eyes have seen the glory of the Lord and we just want to do God's will.

- [2] Amid the then horrors of life for blacks in the USA, King proclaims HOPE:  
*“I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind”.*

In our world with wars in the Middle East and Europe; with Climate Change affecting life on the planet so seriously; with politics at home and abroad in chaos; with progress in Aboriginal reconciliation seemingly retreating – I wonder, how do I get to the point of being able to say – *“I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind”*. Am I able to be strong enough to share King's HOPE?

- [3] Anita said – King sees HOPE and he quotes an extraordinary hymn of HOPE: “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord” which comes from the hymn known to us now as the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, written in the midst of the American Civil War.

I have always seen this hymn as martial and triumphal and have been loathe to use it for this reason. But I was challenged to re-align my thinking when it is seen as a hymn of HOPE and I was very pleased to sing it as such.

Finally, as it had made such an impression on me, I asked Anita for a copy of her sermon from which I'd like to share – in an abbreviated form.



After referring to the lives of King, Elisha, and Jesus, she said  
If it is the triumph and the show on which we focus

- ❖ neglecting to understand the vision within them and the work required by that vision, then we will miss the glimpses of glory which surround us in the grace-filled moments of everyday encounters with the promises of God made present in our midst in struggle and HOPE.
- ❖ neglecting to notice grace and love, mercy and HOPE, then we will miss the glimpses of glory that embody the presence of God in our midst.
- ❖ neglecting to hear the call to costly discipleship, then we will miss the glimpses of glory that can only be found after long, pain-staking, arduous climbs to the tops of mountains.

Thank you Anita for igniting HOPE.



### FROM MY GARDEN

*The butterfly was hovering  
The butterfly was quivering  
The butterfly was caught  
In a spider's web.*

*Tentatively I fingered it  
Gently I released it  
The butterfly soared gloriously  
Into its life again.*

*Is HOPE the very thing  
That gives wings to struggling beings?  
Does a timely helping hand  
Give strength to make a change?*

Barbara Richards



## HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY

Have you ever heard this phrase? It has been part of conversations I have had over the years, so I am assuming many of us are aware of it. The meaning, I think, is pretty clear, but where did it come from? The short answer is – nobody seems to know. So, if you do, please let us all know.

Apparently, it is a well-used phrase in business, politics, and military circles. A computer search will tell you those who have used it at some stage – but not, who was the first – not that I could find anyway. Here are some of the occasions it has been used publicly [as found in Wikipedia]:

- In 2006, Hillary Clinton said it to General John Abizaid during a Senate inquiry.
- The next year, Madeleine Albright used it when speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- Rudy Giuliani, Mayor of New York in 2008, in response to President Obama's message of HOPE and change. "Because 'change' is not a destination, just as 'HOPE' is not a strategy."
- A little later, in 2012, Mitt Romney used the phrase in a speech at the Virginia Military Institute.

But, perhaps the best known mention came in 2004, when Canadian film director James Cameron [writer and director of such films as *Terminator*, *Aliens*, *Titanic* and *Avatar*] addressed the NASA Administrators' and US Navy Symposium, on how to manage complex and dangerous projects. He related all his address to his search for the Titanic. His words were:

**"Luck is not a factor. HOPE is not a strategy. Fear is not an option."**

He drilled these three slogans into the minds of all people engaged in an activity. His aim being to ensure they all realised that to be successful, nothing could be left to chance, and everyone had to take responsibility for their task seriously.

One commentator on these phrases put it this way.

*HOPE will only get you so far. You cannot just wish away your (or the country's) problems. There needs to be a concentrated effort to reduce problems and to increase positive opportunities. Just sitting around thinking about how the current situation could be better is not going to change anything, you also have to act. Certainly, HOPE and prayer can work in the face of a difficult situation, but you need to be prepared to do your part to assist in the completion of the goal as well.*

Although the activity currently facing our church - having a presbytery consultation and the calling of a new minister - could not be described as business, politics, and military, in some ways the saying "HOPE is not a strategy" could well speak to our situation. We are each, and all, called to involve ourselves meaningfully and purposefully, in the whole process. And surely, that is what the Christian life is about.



## ANOTHER SHADE OF HOPE

This poem is among my very favourites, written by my favourite poet.  
I have often used it at funerals and/or with grieving families.  
It speaks of love and HOPE.

**John O'Donohue**  
***On the death of the beloved***

*Though we need to weep your loss,  
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,  
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.*

*Your love was like the dawn  
Brightening over our lives,  
Awakening beneath the dark  
A further adventure of colour.*

*The sound of your voice  
Found for us  
A new music  
That brightened everything.*

*Whatever you enfolded in your gaze  
Quickened in the joy of its being;  
You placed smiles like flowers,  
On the altar of the heart.  
Your mind always sparkled  
With wonder at things.*

*Though your days here were brief,  
Your spirit was alive, awake, complete.*

*We look towards each other no longer  
From the old distance of our names;  
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,  
As close to us as we are to ourselves.*

*Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,  
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,  
Smiling back at us from within everything  
To which we bring our best refinement.*

*Let us not look for you only in memory,  
Where we would grow lonely without you.  
You would want us to find you in presence,  
Beside us when beauty brightens,  
When kindness glows  
And music echoes eternal tones.*

*When orchids brighten the earth,  
Darkest winter has turned to spring;  
May this dark grief flower with HOPE  
In every heart that loves you.*

*May you continue to inspire us.*

*To enter each day with a generous heart.  
To serve the call of courage and love  
Until we see your beautiful face again  
In that land where there is no more separation,  
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,  
And where we will never lose you again.*

## LOCAL HOPE

[In response to a request for HOPE images from her photo collection]

HOPE: The desire or wanting for something good or better or exciting or exhilarating to occur in the future.

I found this quite difficult to correlate with my collection of photos as I went through them, but HOPEfully, I have come up with at least two!



The HOPE of a new day! Refreshed, rested, a new dawn, another opportunity to enjoy God's creation, and to enjoy life with God's people, share our faith and contribute to our community.



The HOPE of Christmas coming! The colour of Christmas, gifts in the tree, the gift of Jesus coming into this world and the HOPE that others will come to know Him.

Sue Callaghan



## HOPE FOR A NATION

Let's do something a bit different. Why not stop reading, create a blank page on our computer or find some paper and a pencil ready to do a little thinking and writing of our own. After all, that is exactly what everyone who has contributed to this journal has done. So why not us, the readers?

Then, jot down whatever comes to mind when asked – **“What is your HOPE for Australia?”**

I'm sure this is something that crosses all our minds at one time or another.

And, having jotted our thoughts down, sit with them for a while; expanding them; going deeper; asking ourselves what we might do to bring those thoughts to fruition.

To help us in this task I would like to share a couple of examples of things I have come across that reflect this sort of thinking about HOPE for a nation.

The first, an editorial in *The Saturday Paper* published on Anzac Day 2020, was about Australia following the pandemic, and was called - "A charter of HOPE". Here it is:

### EDITORIAL A charter of HOPE

*It is tempting to believe Australia will emerge from this crisis a kinder and fairer country, that something will come from the common experience of isolation, that our obvious frailty will make us gentler and more compassionate.*

*It is tempting but by no means given. From these odd, unnumbered days will emerge a country changed but not necessarily better. It will be the work of the next few weeks that decides if Australia is remade or shoddily put back together. The difference is immense.*

*If we are to be a HOPEful country, we must find a way to express that HOPE. This is a job for writers, to say who we are and what we believe – to listen to the country's better nature and set it in prose.*

*This should be done on paper. We are a country without a bill of rights or a history of orators to define us. Our values are too often vague or imagined. Our politics is built on the likely and half-remembered.*

*The document need not be long, but it needs to be written and shared. It needs to say what is important to this country and implore our leaders to treat those values as a blueprint for the reality that follows the one we are now in.*

*Twenty-one years ago, John Howard attempted to draft a national preamble. Les Murray was called to assist but no poetry survived the process. An early version diminished Indigenous Australians and chided "fashion or ideology". The final copy began: "With HOPE in God, the Commonwealth of Australia is constituted as a democracy with a federal system of government to serve the common good."*

*Howard's preamble failed because it was written for a country that didn't exist. It failed to imagine Australia as it was or as it would be. In the end the words were so cautious and reluctant that they read as if they were showing through from another page.*

*The document we need now must conceive of Australia as one whole with many parts. It must be founded on a broad understanding of dignity. It must remove the caveats used to describe inequality as fairness. It must recognise injustices and seek to heal them.*

*Scott Morrison has begun the vague work of patriotism. Confronting the coronavirus, he said: "This is a Team Australia moment." In his address to the nation, he said: "We'll get through this together, Australia ... I know we'll all do our bit."*

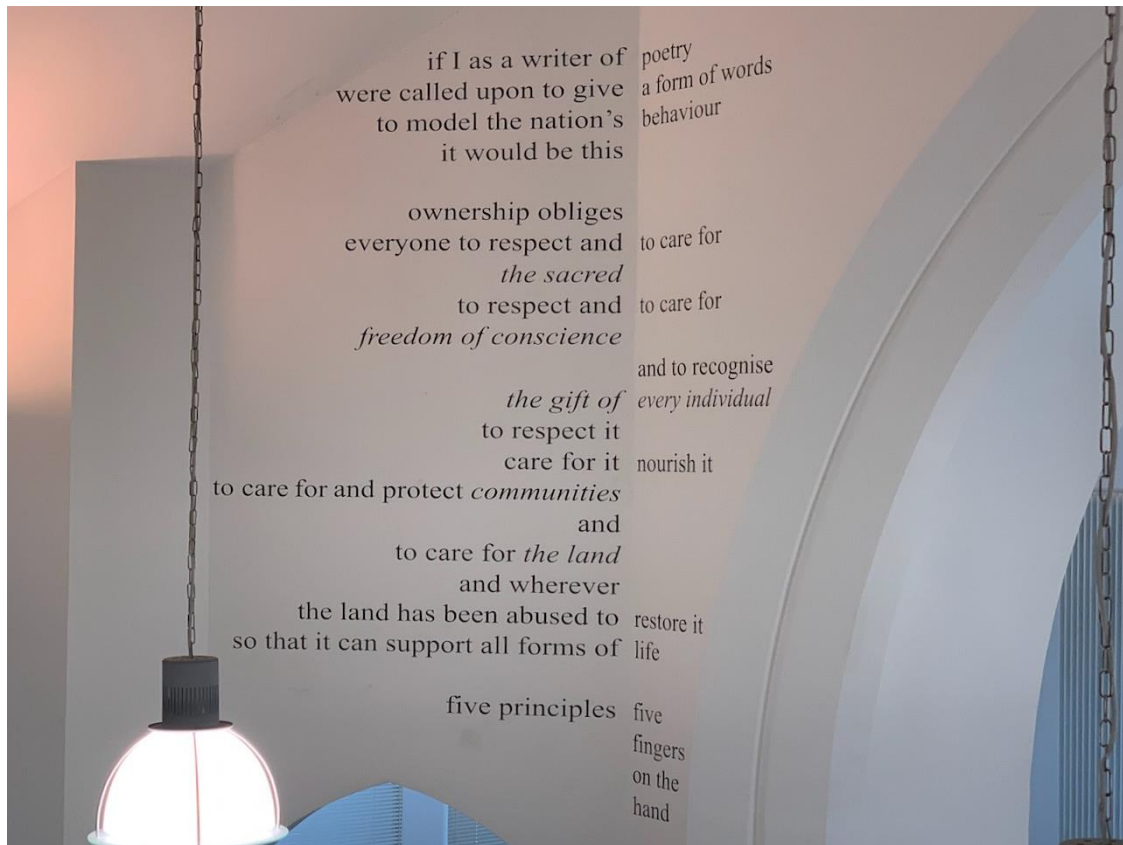
*These words are a start but they mean too little to be an answer. This may be deliberate. It cannot be left uncorrected.*

*In this time of common separation we need to find words of agreement. We need a language of shared purpose. It is unlikely our leaders will ask for it and so we must write it ourselves.*

*It won't be the work of one writer but many, bound together by urgency and optimism, inventing a future for the country, a charter of HOPE.*

This spoke to me so I wrote to the editor and suggested each of his journalists might be asked to pen their thoughts and request contributions from readers – but that did not eventuate. But I remain convinced of the sentiment expressed and hence my current challenge. What sort of country do we want Australia to be?

The second example, which I have shared previously, comes from Scotland where a poet - Angus Reid - undertook a project to inspire the development of a Constitution for Scotland back in 2012. He used words, a poem, painted on walls in 12 different parts of the country and in each place the poem went round the corner of the wall to the other wall [see below]. There was also a wall adjacent where readers could put [draw, paint, or by whatever other method], their hand mark of support and that was recorded in the halls of the new Scottish parliament building for a short period. One man's dream.



The image comes from the Orkney Library in Kirkwall where it is still preserved. Accompanying this was a pamphlet explaining the methodology.



The poem suggests the national values should be:

- Respect and care for the sacred
- Respect and care for freedom of conscience
- Respect and care, and nourishment for every individual
- Care and protection for communities
- Care and restoration for the land

Let's all think for a while about how Australia would measure up to such standards.

Can we imagine a nation where these values were imbedded in all a community is and does?

But, for me, it raises the question – What sort of country do we want to live in? Can we verbalise this?

Of course, as a church, another question we are facing is – What kind of church do we want to be part of?

What is your dream or HOPE for all that? Can we do it together?



## H.O.P.E.

Here is a short Bible search. The word “H.O.P.E.” can be used as an “acrostic” with each letter standing for a book in the Bible. You may find the actual word “HOPE” in the verses, or a thought or idea that contains a message of HOPE. Write down your favourites.

### H

Hosea 12:6

Hebrews 10:23

Habakkuk 3:18-19

### O

Obadiah (only 1 chapter) v 21

### P

Psalms 62: 5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6

Philippians 1:20

1 Peter 1:3

### E

Exodus 15:26

Ezra 3:11

Ecclesiastes 8:12-13

Ezekiel 36:26-28

Ephesians 1:18

## WHAT'S SO TRICKY ABOUT HOPE?

I have been thinking about it again this year – because I’ve had so much chronic pain that it has brought me back to a similar place where I’ve [previously] been with cancer. Where I had such a hard time setting goals, setting horizons – because I was struggling to get through the day. I have realised that HOPE is such a precious thing. When someone comes alongside you, what you are really asking for is: “Can you figure out what level of HOPE I can bear?” If it's too much, I'll think you are delusional and you are not paying attention. If it's too little, I'll think wow maybe you are a little faithless. Don't you think God can do anything? Am I just supposed to do this by myself? So, I picture a friend as the person who just tries to sidle up beside you and evaluate how much HOPE you can tolerate and pour a little bit more in.

Kate Bowler

Theologian and stage 4 Colon cancer survivor

Peter Uhlmann



## IS THIS HOPE?

On New Year's Day I received the first reading for one of my annual daily devotions. It indicated that the theme for 2024 was *RADICAL RESILIENCE*. After explaining what was meant by this title, it went on to challenge readers. With the idea of HOPE running around in my head, I thought some of what Brian McLaren had to say might be relative to us here on the Blackall Range.

He said:

*Prophets are insiders who love a community enough to critique it in love. They don't simply defend the community they love. They love it way too much for that. But neither do they attack it from the outside mercilessly and seize upon every imperfection to shame it and hurt it - they critique with love from the edge of the inside.*

*If we're going to help people take wise action and imagine a better future amid coming troubles, then we will have to help people find that better future within themselves, so they can live that better future out into the world. And that's what we HOPE to do together in 2024. We know that we are in hard and dangerous times. We, as a global civilization, are living destructively with our planet. We are living dangerously and divisively with one another. And we're living, often delusionally, within ourselves. This year, we are going to seek to explore together radical resilience so we can become thermostats rather than thermometers in our world, setting the temperature, setting an example of contemplative depth and wisdom and love and peace—rather than just sinking into the fury and fear and denial and despair of so many of our times. Welcome, brothers and sisters, to a year of Radical Resilience.*

Could this possibly be our congregational HOPE for 2024?



## TRIVIA

Just in case you're wondering –  
HOPE has been mentioned 261 times in this edition.  
HOPE your word count agrees!



## IS THERE A DIFFERENCE

HOPE is all pervasive.

HOPE is universal.

HOPE is important in our daily lives.

HOPE sustains us in all sorts of situations.

HOPE represents the possibility of a positive outcome.

HOPE is a beacon of light in the darkness.

So, how best to define it?

A dictionary definition might say something like – HOPE is “to cherish a desire with anticipation to want something to happen or to be true”

In everyday usage, HOPE is usually expecting something to happen, but not being entirely sure it will – like a wish, e.g. hoping it doesn’t rain or hoping your favourite team wins the premiership.

But biblical HOPE is knowing for a fact that the desired outcome will happen. It’s not wishful thinking, but a confident expectation.

As Karl would say – What do you think?

Do you see a difference between ordinary HOPE and Christian HOPE?

How would **you** define both HOPE and biblical HOPE



## MOMENTS OF HOPE

I have said on a number of occasions that I am both surprised at, and thankful for, the ways things jump out at me once I have decided on a topic for *The New Vine*. This is another such occasion.

Browsing *The Guardian* on New Year’s Eve, as you do, I came across an article by Gordon Brown, UK Prime Minister from 2007 – 2010. The headline was **Nelson Mandela taught me this: HOPE survives wherever people come together.** The sub-heading was **Even amid the despair that haunts our world, good can come out of evil. We need to believe that, for the sake of our future.** I just had to keep it and read it later. Here is a summary.

He postulated that, as we consider our HOPES for a new year, we must rise above our personal dreams and be prepared to focus on “solving the monumental crises paralysing our planet – the interminable Russia-Ukraine war, the carnage in the Middle East, and rising poverty and inequality at home and abroad.”

He then went on to say – “Of course, seeking HOPE amid the despair that haunts Kyiv, Gaza and the Israeli survivors of the Hamas terrorist attack may seem a futile exercise. But I am reminded of a painting whose facsimile briefly adorned the wall of Nelson Mandela’s prison cell on Robben Island. Titled “HOPE”, and painted by Frederick Watts, the first sight of it suggests its title should be “Despair”, for it depicts a blindfolded young girl trying to play a harp on which almost every string is broken. But,



as Mandela explained to me, there was no contradiction: even when facing what seem like HOPEless situations, you have to retain HOPE. Which is what he exemplified: despite 27 years in prison, during which he suffered from TB, faced the threat of execution, and watched friends being hanged, he never lost HOPE that he and his country would one day be free.”

Mr Brown went on to examine a situation currently giving him some HOPE for the future:-

In the UK, as in Australia, “charities and corporates are coming together to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and aid the poor in recognition of a simple truth – that companies have surplus goods people need (food, clothing, bedding, toiletries and furnishings) and charities know the people who need them. So, with companies aware that groups of consumers cannot currently afford their goods, and with charities ready

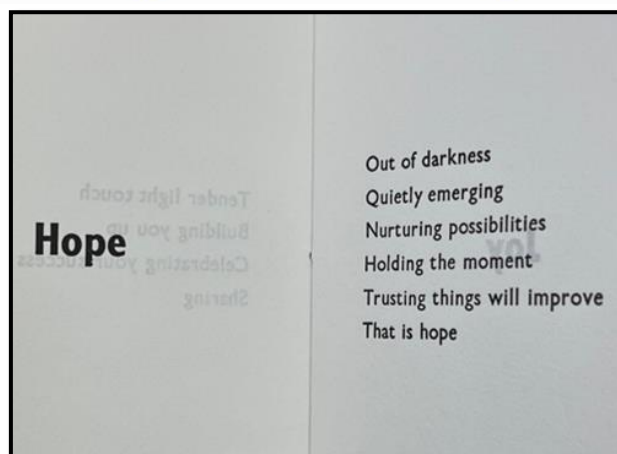
to work in partnership to prevent urgently needed goods being wasted or destroyed, this new multi-coalition of compassion is helping create a chain of HOPE connecting the richest corporates who can afford to be generous to the most hard-pressed of families who have nothing.”

He stressed the importance of good leadership, as shown here:

“What I glean from this new development – and from wider history – is that even in the least propitious of circumstances, HOPE can come alive when and where there is inspired leadership. Vision without action is, of course, mere daydreaming, and action without vision is the stuff of which nightmares are made. But vision combined with action can change history. Think of John Kennedy’s peace speech in June 1963, which moved America and Russia on from the Cuban missile crisis and within three months had inspired the first nuclear test ban treaty. Think, too, of the unlikely chemistry between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, who bonded when Reagan asked the Soviet leader if he would come to the aid of the US if it were threatened by an asteroid from space. Their talks brought the biggest reduction of nuclear weapons in history.”

The ex-Prime Minister went on to talk of advances in other issues – the establishment of the G20 where rich countries help poorer countries; the Paris environment Accord in 2015; nations working together to address the hole in the Ozone layer – and he says that such unexpected and unlikely outcomes, against the prevailing mood and alliances, give him HOPE for the future.

A contemplative section followed which reflected on how the Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Gaza crises might be addressed and ended with “And we also know what needs to be done to end poverty and illiteracy and fight disease, and that the richest countries need to step up to share the burden. As Mandela told us, **the impossible is only impossible until we make it possible.**”



## HOPE

*Sometimes despair surrounds us  
We live in the shadow of the world  
Why not step from the shade  
And grasp the glory of sunlight.*

*What a time this would be  
The sun shining on us  
And our thoughts understanding others  
Developing love to each other.*

*This is my hope  
The feeling that something could be better.  
Love that we have developed  
Expanded to those around us.*

*And will this love last?  
This love becomes our legacy  
The legacy of our children  
And those children to all others.*

*Hope is not something we dream of  
Make HOPE your touchstone  
Chase that great glorious sun  
Make your HOPE alive today.*

Colin Harding



Hope?



Hope?

## HOPE IN A SONG

It was in a little song I used to sing at Sunday School. The words always felt important to me and always encouraged me to put my trust in the message the Bible gave me.

This is the song:

*Have faith, hope and charity.  
That's the way to live successfully.  
How do I know?  
The Bible tells me so.*

*Do good to your enemies,  
And the blessed Lord you'll surely please.  
How do I know?  
The Bible tells me so.*

*Don't worry 'bout tomorrow.  
Just be real good today.  
The Lord is right beside you.  
He'll guide you all the way.*

*Have faith, hope and charity.  
That's the way to live successfully.  
How do I know?  
The Bible tells me so.*

[Written by Don Cornell in 1955]

HOPE ..... is a word I use often.

**Romans 12: 12** - *Rejoice in HOPE; be patient in tribulation; be constant in prayer.*

This verse reminds me to pray always – do not get affected when tribulation comes and always have HOPE.

**Psalms 147: 11** – *The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their HOPE in His unfailing love.*

**Philippians 4: 13** – *I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.*

This is a popular Bible verse that is easy to remember. It reminds me that no matter what we are going through, God is there for us to lean on.

The little song brings back memories for me – a little girl searching and HOPING to find the Christian faith.

Lyn Baker.