

## "PARADISE REGAINED" (Numbers 26-36)

### Where Are We?

Israel have camped on the plains of Moab on the edge of the promised Land (22:1). Forty years have passed and Israel are still not in the land.

### A Land, A People and their God

#### The land will be Israel's—soon and certainly

A new census (26)

God's promises have not failed. Israel will inherit the land

Like Israel, you and I stand poised on the edge of our promised home

#### The land will be Israel's forever

The preservation of the land is a token of God's love

Problem of Zelophedad's daughters losing their land (27, 36)

#### In the land the Lord will dwell with his people

Laws about sacrifices (28, 29)

Laws about the land itself (34-36)

#### Lessons from the past

The failure of Israel in the Promised Land

God's warning to us (1 Cor 10:1-13)



St Stephen's – Tamworth

"Enabling faith—Knowing the truth—Pursuing godliness"

## CHURCH MATTERS

6 October 2019

### PASTORAL STAFF

#### Minister

Rev Mark Armstrong  
0431 664 307

#### Pastoral Assistant

Mr Dale Martin  
0414 818 201

### SESSION CLERK

Mr Dale Martin

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Crown & Mathews Street,  
Tamworth  
Sunday at 9:30am

### CHURCH OFFICE

Open Friday mornings  
Assistant: Julie Cole  
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Dear friends,

Welcome to church, especially if you are new or visiting as a guest. We are glad that you are here to share this morning with us.

For most of us in the congregation, Presbytery is largely an unknown quantity. It is a court of the church immediately above Session and has a range of powers which includes insuring that we are sound in doctrine, discipline and order. Presbytery meets about six times per year. For each meeting, along with other churches, I write a pastoral report to give Presbytery insight as to what's happening in our church.

I reproduce most of my October report below. You may not be aware of 1 or 2 things so consider yourself informed. Note especially that we are having another congregation planning day at the Hamilton's place on 17 November.

*Our church vision, "Enabling faith—Knowing the truth—Pursuing godliness" (Titus 1:1) continues to inform and drive our thinking. From the perspective of Session, we are wanting to connect with the community per the "Mission-Minded" category of "initial contact". Our aim is to establish a presence in the community, to move from being a largely unknown group to community recognition.*

*This takes time. We are thinking about events such as "coffee-in-the-carpark" which takes advantage of our wonderful view. We have established a maintenance group which is a happy to help people with handyman issues in the area. We have a Christian singer using the hall during the Music Festival in January 2020. We continue running the "Be Connected" course which trains over 50s in computer skills ... PTO*

... There is also the possibility of starting a friendship group for lonely people in our community.

In order to consult and take the congregation with us, Session has organised a congregational planning meeting for 17 November. This is the second of these events which allows everyone to have a say in our future direction. Session has also approved the implementation of the Congregational Connect program. Our intention is to stream our Sunday service to less resourced churches and make church available to people who physically cannot attend.

From a Committee of Management perspective, the desire is to develop a facility which will complement our spiritual mission. The Committee recognises that a healthy, balanced facility will enhance growth. For example, uncomfortable seating is a problem and needs to be addressed. The kitchen is old and well overdue for upgrading. The toilets need upgrading. The front exterior of the building is peeling and needs attention.

The Committee is currently installing a gate preventing vehicular access to the carpark at certain hours. We constantly have rubbish dumped in our carpark. There is evidence of illegal activity on our grounds and on the adjoining street intersection. Our neighbours are very happy we are taking some action.

The Preschool is currently being reviewed by the Preschool Management Committee in consultation with Jericho Road. This review is well under way and will likely result in changes to the Constitution, staff matters and a re-appraisal of the relationship between church and preschool.

There is lots to pray about and we invite Presbytery to join with us in prayer.

I also invite you to pray and participate in our forward movement. It really needs to be a whole church activity. Each of us have different gifts and skills that we can use and age is no barrier. However, the most important thing is having a heart given to the Lord and his mission for his church.

We plant and water and pray that the Lord will bring growth (1 Cor 3:7-9).

Mark Armstrong

## Financial Matters

To give to the church's general fund (the bulk of our churches expenses):

**Account Name:** St Stephens Presbyterian Church Tamworth **BSB:** 062602;

**Account:** 00801568; **Description:** "Offertory".

## Prayer Matters

- i. Pray for our missionaries **Nathan and Tomoko Stewart, Rick and Kayleen Manton**. Pray that they will be faithful ambassadors where God has placed them.
- ii. Pray the Lord will bless **St Stephen's** as we intentionally seek to obey his Great Commission. Pray also for the **Preschool** as it undergoes review and seeks to prepare itself for another generation of ministry
- iii. Remember **those who are sick**: Wayne and Janelle Chaffey, Nigel Seaton, Rick Noble, Laurie Henry, Margaret Dart.
- iv. Pray for our **farmers in drought** throughout NSW and QLD, remembering Wayne and Janelle Chaffey, Jamie and Michelle Drury, Angus and Tiffney Faulks.
- v. Pray that **God sends rain**. We entrust ourselves to the Lord, who in His timing, will cause it to rain.



## "What's On" Matters

- i. **Café Church**. 20 October at 10am. The speaker is Andrew Williamson (Minister at Manilla). The topic is, "Living Off Your Inheritance". Invitations available in the foyer for family and friends.
- ii. The next **congregation planning meeting** is set for the 17 November at the Hamilton's place. The last one was a great success. More information closer to the date but please make a note in your diary.
- iii. Personal details are being updated in preparation for the new **Church Directory**. The list of names is next to the coffee machine. Please correct your details or tick as correct.
- iv. **Mark and Janette** are on leave this week.
- v. **Circus Holiday Club**. 9-11 October from 9.30-12.30pm. Kids K-6 are welcome. Hosted by Oxley Vale Anglican Church. No cost. Enquiries to Tom Magill 0405 846 620.
- vi. On 20 January, during the **Country Music Festival**, there will be a songwriter's showcase for new talent in the hall. The event is organised by Melissa Robertson who is a Christian singer/songwriter.
- vii. Last Sunday the **congregational meeting** resolved to proceed with the sale of the Moonbi property. This needs to be approved by Presbytery and the Trustees. Thankyou to all who attended the meeting.
- viii. **Manilla Christian Men's Dinner**. 8 October, 6.30pm at the Royal Hotel. Cost is \$20. The speaker is Dennis Tranter who is the chaplain at Tamworth gaol. RSVP Jason 0427 240 052.