**REPORTS – Quarterly Church Meeting 3rd November 2019**

**Senior Pastor’s Report**

1. Update on Strategic Priorities for 2019-2021, including hospitality and prayer.
2. Vision Night coming up soon, 9th Nov.
3. Preaching finished *Revelation* & started *Jonah*, interspersed with prayer workshops & Celebrations.
4. Other miscellaneous updates including leadership, consultancy ministry and family.

*Jonah 4:2 (NIV) He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity…”*

We’ve been thinking about God’s gracious and compassionate love lately. We know it’s a good thing and we tend to talk about it easily, but Jonah’s story has shown us something of how huge it is. The Ninevites were violent, bloodthirsty enemies of Israel – we’re talking a severe threat to family, home and life itself. God never says their evil actions were ok, yet in response to their genuine repentance, he is merciful. If we can just imagine someone who has done something that has wronged or hurt us or others, does it seem fair that God might forgive them, even if they are genuinely repentant? In many ways it’s outrageous and completely unfair. Sin has consequences and they can be severe, and rightly so at times, but beyond that, the possibility of forgiveness can seem even scandalous. But then we might take a moment for some honest self-examination, and we might realise we too are completely dependent on that same outrageous mercy in our own relationship with God. Thank God for his gracious, compassionate, forgiving love. Let’s seek to be a community that shows that same kind of love at every opportunity.

In terms of our **Strategic Priorities** for 2019-2021, thank-you to all those who submitted Expression of Interest forms, for serving and helping us reach for the Vision we believe God has given our church. Some of you will have already been approached with an invitation to get involved – others are still likely to hear from us as we work through the process of establishing teams and ideas that can help us see these priorities expressed in concrete ways in and through our church. A Next Gen team has been formed & some great ideas are brewing. Margy Ridley and I have commenced a process of talking to key leaders and others about Connect Groups with a view to develop one or two simple ideas we can put in place to bring more vitality into the connect group ministry. In consultation with our Mission and Justice MTLs and others we are exploring possibilities to effectively grow our Community Engagement, particularly in the area of mentoring or coaching opportunities. Our leaders are aiming to clarify the Mission Focus for all significant ministries and communities in our church in the lead up to 2020. The decision has been made that the 8.30am community won’t be joining the new cross-cultural and cross-generational service, and discussions and planning are proceeding for the launch of what we are thinking of calling our new Cross Gathering at the start of 2020.

It was great to enjoy the hospitality and conversations with new friends over the *‘Guess who’s coming…’* weekend – an initiative that we can hopefully repeat. Huge thanks to Robyn Worsley, Swee Fan and Margaret Gourlay for all their work coordinating it. Also thanks to many others who have hosted various meals and other social opportunities in the life of our church. It would be hard to overstate the importance of hospitality and social opportunities in our church, especially in our cross-cultural context.

Growing in prayer continues to be an important focus and by the time you read this report we will have participated in our 2nd prayer workshop with Carolyn Altman. These workshops need to feed into an ongoing, growing dependence on God in prayer. A new initiative planned to start this month from the Prayer Team is to have a monthly theme for prayer that will be a focus in our weekly prayer letters and monthly prayer meeting. Look out for people with orange name tags on Sunday mornings who are ready and keen to pray with you in relation to the particular theme, or really anything where you would like prayer. The theme for November will be prayer for ‘family members who aren’t walking with Christ’.

Our **Vision Night** is coming up soon on 9th November and we’re looking forward to thanking God for how he is working in and through us, asking him to continue to guide and bless us into the future, and committing ourselves to the task including in our giving. We have interesting and entertaining presentations planned for the night, the fellowship is bound to be amazing – don’t miss this special time.

**Preaching** since August has involved wrapping up the book of *Revelation* and launching into *Jonah,* interspersed with our two Prayer Workshops and Celebration services hosted by the 10.15am and Mandarin communities, and today taking a BaptistCare focus. We’re planning to focus on the gospel of *Matthew* in the lead up and then on from Christmas. **Christmas** of course is nearly upon us with all the opportunities it brings to share the gospel!

The **Leaders** gathered in the last weekend of October for our annual Leaders Retreat to plan and grow together. We’re excited to welcome Karen Read on board as our Missions Ministry Team Leader. We’re sorry to see Gary Dorey finishing up in the Business Manager role, but fully support him in his decision to do so. We’re sure to provide an update of where the Business Manager search is up to at our Church Meeting. Please keep this matter, and all our Leaders and Staff in your prayers.

The **consultancy** ministry continues and in recent months I participated in my annual pastor’s renewal retreat and attended with Erica the *Form* church planting conference. Our family is doing well with all the normal challenges along the way and I thank God for the opportunity to be part of a church community that is seeking to make the love of Christ known in our local community and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Steve

**Mission Report**

Do not forget to do good and to share with others,

For with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

* At the last Church AGM I replaced Sylvia as Missions Leader. I am grateful for the wonderful service that Sylvia and her Committee made to the building of the Lord’s Kingdom. In the near future I will be meeting with the Committee to discuss how to continue serving in the most positive and effective way possible.
* I will continue to send in snippets from the emails and newsletters from various mission organisations for the newsletter and for prayer. Whilst I was away Karon Linder continued to cover that role with my thanks for her amazing efficiency.
* The MAF Father’s Day Jerry Can was well supported the amount raised was in the newsletter.
* The Sydney Refugee Team Held their annual fundraising Bike Ride in which Karl and Caroline Hochstetter took part. I know sometimes other members of CBC ride as well but I don’t know if that happened this year.
* Geof and Marion Gunton attended CBC about 15 years ago and currently work for Kairos, will visit the Sunday 10.15 before the Quarterly meeting.

Karen Read

**Children’s Ministry & Safe Church Report**

Summary

* CBC Strategic Priority – Investing in the Next Generation Update
* Kids Church Program Update – Following Jesus, the Rescuer
* Kid Church Families Morning Tea – Reading the bible with kids
* Quizworx is coming to CBC – 24th November – Invite a friend
* Safe Church Top Tip: First Aid

Dan & I have been encouraged by the number of people who have put their hand up to support CBC’s strategic priority – **Investing in the Next Generation**. We know there will be lots of different ways people will contribute to this priority area over the next 3 years. Currently we are working towards building a small team to share ideas and ‘dream big’ for our children and youth.

At **Kids Church** this year, we’ve had a ‘rescue’ theme for exploring the Big Story of the Bible. In term 1 & 2 we looked at God’s plan to rescue to world, and share the Good News (of the rescue) with everyone. In term 3 we focused on the rescuer himself – Jesus. We looked at how Jesus pointed to God through his words, actions and miracles, as well as the different responses people had to meeting Jesus.

In term 4 we will be looking at some of the things we do as a church community in response to Jesus the Rescuer (such as reading the bible, praying, giving, celebrating communion). Some of the children have been asking questions about how these things work, particularly those that they may not see as often such as communion and baptism. We pray that we will be able to have some fruitful conversations around these topics this term.

Our 2nd **Kids Church Families Morning Tea** was well attended on the 15th September. This term we discussed reading the bible with our children. In particular we looked at how we can listen to children, develop a rhythm, interact with the story & invest in our own bible reading. Based on interest from our families, some new resources have been ordered for the church library. The **Kids@Carlo! Newsletter** Spring Edition is also available in the foyer (and on the church website – families page) with ideas and resources around reading, storytelling and exploring the bible. In term 4 we will be looking at the opportunity presented by the season of Advent & Christmas.

**Quizworx** is coming to CBC! Mark the date in your dairies - 10am 24th November. Quizworx is a puppet show designed to share Jesus in a fun and engaging style. We had Quizworx visit our church camp in 2016, and it was very popular with both kids and leaders. We would like to use this opportunity to encourage families from Playgroups and Brigades to try out church, and it would be a wonderful opportunity to invite a family or friend.

**Safe Church Top Tip**: First Aid

In the event of an incident requiring first aid, CBC has three first aid kits and a list of qualified first aid people.

* Kits are located: Church Kitchen, The Centre, Church Office
* A qualified first aider should administer any first required. If not available, call 000 for advice.
* Parent/Guardian notified for persons under 18 years
* An incident report should be completed (available with first aid kits). Follow instructions on the form for completion and returning to a Safe Church Team Member (Steve, Dan, Emma).

Yours in Christ,

Emma Ridley

**Youth & Young Adults**

 “On a mission to seek and disciple the lost in our generation and to play our part in promoting His justice”

In summary:

* The Table focussed this term on evangelism and saw 5 new visitors on our social week and several youth reading the Bible with friends at school. Pray this continues!
* A small group attended the Baptist run, State Youth Camp for the first time.
* New plans have been made to greater invest in youth adult social outreach events. Pray for boldness and commitment.

Term 3 of the Table has come and gone, with exciting hints of God’s hand at work. The term was focussed on different ways that God uses us to reach others. As a result of these conversations many prayers, invitations, stories and offers were made to our non-Christian friends, several of the youth even choosing to read the Bible with their friends. The social week this term also saw 5 visitors join us for the first time. Next term we are looking at the concept of service and we invite you to pray for the youth as they think about things like tithing, joining a ministry, being a part of church meetings and intentionally encouraging others. Term 4 will also include greater energy put towards making the youth service and social outing big events for any young people to join – pray for God’s hand and growth.

Several leaders also took two boys along to (Baptist) State Youth Camp this year. This is a great opportunity for the youth in our church, with hundreds of youth in attendance. It is hope that future years will see our involvement increased with more and more youth coming along.

Things also continue positively among the young adults as more discussions and thoughts have been put into our evangelism and unity strategies. Please pray both for the success of the open social events, as well as for those of us meeting with non-Christian friends to read the Bible. We continue to look forward in anticipation as changes begin to be made to see the start of our cross-cultural and cross-generational Sunday gathering.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh

Youth and Young Adults Pastor

**Korean Community**

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Rome 8:28

1. **Prayer conference meeting on August**
2. **Start ‘ the basic of faith’ sermon series .**
3. **Small group for fellowship in church.**
4. **Prayer conference meeting on August**

10 korean churches united for this conference and gathered over 100 people. We are very inspired of the subject “who we are and What should we do for His Glory “

Riverside praise team led all praise and background music for prayer and guest speaker invite us to question oneselves for real Christian life. Many people said about recovering and reminded their life purpose to His kingdom, particularly in terms of inherit of faith to next generation it’s very challengable.

1. **Start the basic of faith sermon series** .

I started New sermon series ‘Basic of faith’ and while this service, I hope our congregation try to rethink about Christian Life. Many times we delude of our Christian life we are completely understand and knew it. However I want to ask the reflection our own life through the Word.

1. **Small group for fellowship in church.**

I tried many times making a small group for extender relationship in week days but it’s very difficult by critical mass and busy time schedules each. However some people to do volunteer and promise helping for this ministry recently . We will make 3 groups and try to meet regularly once a week. If it works well we will invite other congregation for extendable fellowship as a church.

Yours in Christ

Korean Pastor - David Choi

**Mandarin Ministry**

**Romans 12:4-5 (NIV):** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1. 10 new families attended the Welcome lunch held in church on 1st September. They were given a warm welcome, and were introduced to church activities and leaders, as well as enjoyed plenty of delicious food!
2. We celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival with an evangelistic dinner on the evening of 14th September. More than 120 people attended the event, including members of the English community, ESL students and playgroup families. We praise God for the fun, fellowship and the opportunity to present the gospel!
3. Many members of the Mandarin community participated in the “Guess who’s coming?” event. Everyone had a great time and built friendships with many members of the English congregation. Many thanks to the English congregation.
4. The Alpha course started on 17th September. We are thankful to God for many helpers (preparing dinner, setting-up, cleaning, leading and participating in discussion groups) and those who prayed regularly for the Alpha course. May God plants and grows His gospel seeds in the 15 participants who are attending the course!
5. Bible study groups (4 groups), daily bible reading, prayer groups and the Adult Sunday school class continue throughout the term.

Mandarin Pastor : Nick Song

**Catalyst Report**

* Email me your thoughts about what Justice areas you would like to explore more deeply, as we renew our vision as a church.
* Consumed and McCrindle research are challenging small groups to have a study/conversation, about new research into our culture’s consumption patterns, which also shows up in the lives of Christians.
* I’ve mentioned in bullet points below key areas of injustice organisations are looking at. We could explore more deeply those we sense God is calling us to.

I would love to here from all of you about what areas you are keen to explore more deeply as we embrace this new vision as a church.

Please email me… adrian.p.miller@gmail.com

…or come chat to Steve or myself.

I will outline one theme Baptist world aid are encouraging at the moment, for your consideration. I will briefly mention a few others.

Consumerism is this idea of just mass consumption, that often comes at the expense of the earth, other people, and ourselves. What about in the church? McCrindle along with the organisation ‘*Consumed*’ have conducted research into how we are living. Just 17% of Christians think the good life should involve impacting the world…whereas 51% of Christians said the good life should involve financial independence, and 42% said owning a home. These can still be good things, but have far outranked basic concepts of our identity.

So…to explore some ways to course correct, why not **commit a bible study** you have over the next few weeks **to talking some of this out**. *Consumed* are encouraging groups to come up with ideas of how to be a Christian amidst a culture of mass consumption. What should we do differently?

They’re hoping to collect different churches ideas and publicise those that could really challenge, and encourage us.

Current challenges to think on solutions for…

1. Remind us that happiness/contentment is not found in purchasing things and help us find contentment elsewhere.
2. Help us better care for creation by dealing with issues of waste, packaging or rubbish.

Get informed on the research. Have a conversation, share what you think.

[www.consumed.org.au/create/](https://www.consumed.org.au/create/)

You can email me your group’s idea for a solution if you have one. Other churches’ solutions are posted here…

[ideas.salvationarmy.org.au/category/57001](https://ideas.salvationarmy.org.au/category/57001)

Other key areas of injustice organisations are looking at, that we could too.

* Domestic and family violence
* Our treatment and care for the environment
* Australia’s foreign policy and treatment of Asylum seekers
* Australia’s treatment/engagement with indigenous Australians

Yours in Christ,
Adrian Miller

**Property Report**

 Areas covered:

 a.) Main Church buildings, b) The Centre, c) Admin. Office, d) Manse,

 e) Associated grounds, Bus.

 f.) Items of worship – eg, Piano, Organ, Sound system and AV equipment.

1. Maintenance of Buildings, Furnishings, Fittings, Gardens, Car park, and Drainage systems.

2. Provision of new/updating equipment used to promote the church’s vision statement.

3. Capital Works – Proposed property developments:

 Provision of new & modified property, internal & external.

4. Legal matters, new/updates:

 Work, Health & Safety, Fire Protection, Health Inspections etc.

**…………………………………………**

**1** a.) **The Church Kitchen:**

 Overall the kitchen continues to work well with plenty of use by the various communities.

 **Cleanliness is a major consideration and requires constant attention by all users.**

 **Please Note:** The washing machine **must** use the washing powder under sink and the measure (Spoon) amounts and frequency to follow instructions on the machine.

 b) **Sewage Drainage System**

 The major works required for the upgrade of the underground piping system has been deferred till later in the year to a time when the system will be closed down.

 Timing to be advised in the Sunday CBC NEWS.

 c.) **Grounds & Yards Maintenance**

 Maintenance in general continues with the behind the scenes work done by able volunteers. Our continued thanks to all Property Team members for your continuing time and effort to keep the properties in great order.

 Our Yard team is always looking for more members. Ladies always welcome. Please contact the office or the writer of your interest.

 A new roster through to March 2020 has been forwarded to those members of the Yard team.

 d) **Foyer**

 **T**he roof over this area has been subject to upgrading of flashing and deck covering to eradicate water ingress

e.) **Electrical Usage.**

 **All users of the properties**

 Please ensure that all lighting is switched off when leaving the premises.

**2** **Technology Upgrades**

 The operation continues with recent advice of NBN, WiFi and Internet works to be carried out. The end result to have communications contact throughout all church buildings.

3 **Capital Works**

 REFRESH project has moved a step closer by submission of the Development Application (DA) to Parramatta Council.

 Following our previous advice from the council our response has been delivered. We await further notification/s from council, including funds required to accompany the DA submission.

**4.** b.) **Statutory Compliances**

 Regular inspections for Fire and Health (Pest) inspections continue throughout the year.

 Certification Certificates are displayed in the church foyer.

Milton Purkiss

MTL – Property - 0412 445 137