

CHURCH CALENDAR 21 - 27 SEPTEMBER

Monday	
10:00 am	Seedpods (Downstairs)
12 noon	Knit & Natter (66 Tukapa St)
7:00 pm	Williams Home Group (758 3861)
Tuesday	
9:30 am	Women in the Word (Lounge)
7:30 pm	Siraa Home Group (Fortnightly - 7539878)
Wednesday	
10:00 am	Wednesday Bible Study
10:00 am	International Group (Downstairs)
12:30 pm	Intercessors' Gathering
7:15 pm	Barnes Home Group (Fortnightly - 7572525)
7:30 pm	Prestidge Home Group (Fortnightly - 7598996)
7:30 pm	Kelderman Home Group (Fortnightly - 7583515)
7:30 pm	Men's Study for Life Group (Fortnightly at 149 Heta Rd - 7583515)
Thursday	
7:30 pm	Thursday Service (Lounge)
Friday	
10:00 am	mainly music (Auditorium & Hall)
1:45 pm	Mothers in Prayer (Lounge)
7:15 pm	Youth Group (Whole Complex)
Saturday	
12noon-5 pm	Daurua Wedding (Whole Complex)
5:30 pm	Holy Word Alpha (Lounge)
Sunday	
9:30 am	Family Service
2:30 pm	Jesus is Lord Church Service (Auditorium)
2:30 pm	Chinese Fellowship Service (Lounge)
7:30 pm	Call to Prayer (Lounge)

Today:

Crèche: L Neighbour & J Hatch

Next Week:

Morning Tea: L & D Winters

Crèche: Holidays

Tadpoles: Holidays

Oasis: N Hansen

Main Door: M Oliver & K Whittaker

Inclusion: B Easton

Offering: M Oliver, E Stott, P Jaques,
K Whittaker, T Anjaiya-Winder
G Sherwood

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH



I lift my eyes...

I keep **my eyes** always on the Lord. With Him at **my** right hand, I will not be shaken. I lift up **my eyes** to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven. (Psalm 16:7-9 Psalm 123:1)

1. Persist in prayer for Nepal that God's peace will settle over current instability and the threatened moves against Christians through constitutional change may come to nothing. Pray the believers will receive courage from the Spirit of God and continue to witness with boldness
2. Pray for the impact of the Missions Expo that it may encourage a heart for mission in many Christians who attended
3. Pray for the current refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe. At this point the very public European experience of this is still only 10% of the 4 million displaced persons resulting from the Syrian / Iraqi crisis



Prayer Chain: For urgent prayer requests please phone Margaret Collins on 758 2777 or Mavis Easton on 753 6493.



CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcome to Worship

20 September 2015

Today at NPCBC

9.30 am Family Service

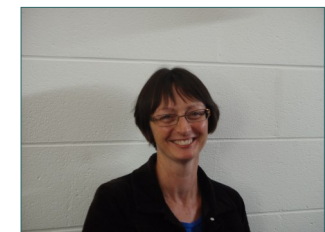
7.30 pm Call to Prayer (Lounge via Lemon St entrance)

Prayer Ministry: If you would like someone to talk or pray with you after the service please come to the front and someone will meet with you.

Thursday at NPCBC

7.30 p.m. in the Lounge

Duty Elder



Fiona Cayzer
Ph: 757 4409

Church Office
Tel: 758 6512

Martien's Musings

I ran across this provocative writing this week. Perhaps also appropriate given our missional focus this Sunday. But, you may say when you read it, that's a European issue. Is it?

'I was hungry, and you threw food at me like I was an animal in the zoo. I was a stranger and you erected a 175-kilometer razor-wire barrier to keep me out. I was thirsty, sick and needed fresh clothes and you threatened me with three years in prison if I crossed the border illegally, and five years if I damaged the fence.'

'But Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? You don't mean those Muslims, surely?'

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

Strong words, but they are based on Jesus' unambiguous statements in Matthew 25 and have total relevance for us today. The irony is that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, justifies a hard-line approach against asylum-seekers as necessary to preserve Europe as a 'Christian' continent. Others, led by Angela Merkel, German Chancellor argue that Europe's core Christian identity will only be preserved by acts of Christian compassion, not by exclusion, confrontation and rejection. In support of Merkel, Britain's centre-left daily, *The Guardian*, editorialised: *The moral imagination of the Hebrew scriptures was determined by a battered refugee people, fleeing political oppression in north Africa, and seeking a new life for themselves safe from violence and poverty. Time and again, the books of the Hebrew scriptures remind its readers not to forget that they too were once in this situation and their ethics must be structured around practical help driven by fellow-feeling.*

Collaboration

Pope Francis in his support for migrants, said *'the gospel calls us to be close to the smallest and to the abandoned'*. *'May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary of Europe, take in one family,'*. In The Netherlands, in the city of Apeldoorn, Christians mobilised last weekend to welcome hundreds of Syrians and Ethiopians into their homes for meals, and to provide

Martien's Musings cont...

ongoing friendship and support. It is hoped the sentiment will spread to other centres. The media called it a great success.

Crisis has become the new norm. How we as believers respond to these challenges will influence the credibility of both the church and the gospel—as in the early centuries of the church when believers reached out sacrificially to those who were not of their own group. Some however, see the opening of the borders, nations and homes as misguided idealism. Social media posts on Facebook this week from some recognised Christians argue that rather than accept the refugees, we should pour more money, soldiers and weapons into the fight against ISIS. We need to fix their homes in their homelands rather than give them homes in ours. Well, our western efforts to 'fix their homes' show little sign of success. Meanwhile what do we do with the refugees?

Whether we find ourselves among the sheep or the goats Jesus talks about in Matthew 25 may depend on our response to the current crisis.

H-mmm
Martien

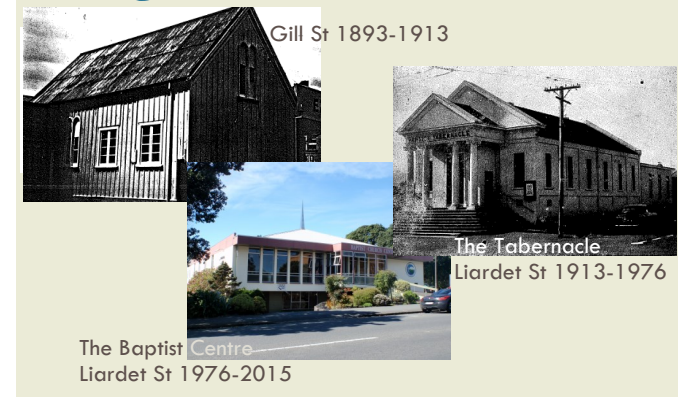
Church Life

Ladies, an exciting event! Influencing Women presents "I touch the sky when my knees hit the ground" with Esther Beckley & Team from Bethel Church, California. 2 October at citywestchurch at 7 pm. Tickets \$15.00 and includes dessert & coffee. No door sales! See Karen in the office for tickets. More information is on the noticeboard!

14 Hours Homeless: When? 6.00pm 9th October 2015 Where? The Salvation Army New Plymouth, cr Powderham and Dawson Streets, New Plymouth 14 Hours Homeless is an event designed to provide an educational, engaging, safe and authentic sleepout experience where participants can gather in teams to learn about the problem of homelessness, experience the reality of sleeping out and fundraise in support of The Salvation Army New Plymouth. Please contact Robert or Susan urgently if you are keen to be a part of this. See the flyer on noticeboard for all the details.

Church Life continued...

150th Jubilee Celebrations



16th to 18th of October. Please fill in your registration form and return it by 30 September. Would you also pass on a registration form to anyone you may know who has been part of the journey. Extra forms are in the foyer.

Working Bee: 9 am - 12 noon, Saturday 3 October. Please come along to help with repairs, maintenance and sprucing up. Morning tea provided with wonderful fellowship too.



Congregation Consultation Meeting: Saturday 10th October, 9.30 am until 12 noon.

Elijah House Taranaki: Are you interested in becoming a prayer minister? Elijah House is offering the first of a series of four schools in October. For information see the brochures in the foyer and poster on the noticeboard.

Bible Thought:

God made His light to shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

Can God be known? From nature we learn something of His mighty power, but only in the face of Jesus Christ do we see His love and His mercy. Through Him we can know God fully and have access to Him.