

# NEWS LETTER

## Otahuhu Community Baptist Church

*Knowing Christ - Growing in Christ - Going with Christ*

### TAKE NOTE:

**8th March 2020**

### MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday will be observed in all three congregations. We do not have a guest speaker this month.

**13th to 15th March 2020**

### CHURCH CAMP

The Church Camp this year will be held at the much loved site of Christian Youth Camp, Ngaruawahia. Register through our church website - [www.ocbc.church](http://www.ocbc.church)

**28th March 2020**

### HAMILTON MINISTRY

This month, there will be just one meeting at Hamilton on the 28th March as there is a Church Camp in the second week.

**2020 TARGET: 20 Baptisms, 50 Born Again Experiences, 200 Witnessing's**

### 2020 - A NEW DECADE WITH BRAND NEW BEGINNINGS



It is by the grace of God we have stepped into Year 2020. Year 2019 is past now. It may have been good for some and it may have been bad for others. Let's cherish some excellent memories of the past year and thank God for them and let's try to forget the bad memories of the past year. Let it all be past. This year, a brand new year and a brand new decade, let's step into it with new pairs of eyes and ears. Why? Because that is the Vision God has given our Church this year - **Listening Well and Seeing Clearly**. A wonderful vision for the year. So, who are we listening to? - To Jesus, who is speaking to us everyday. And seeing what? - To what Jesus shows us about the church and His work in the church as He is the builder of His Church.

May God help us to train our ears and eyes to Jesus. To listen and to see Jesus is to surrender ourselves wholly to the will of God. Let's hear Him first and then we will surely see His plan and purpose for our lives. So, some have embarked on the study of Revelation within our congregations. How good that will be for this year?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMMUNION SERVICES :

Sunday, 1st March in all the three services of the church at 8:15am, 10:30am and 4pm.

### FASTING PRAYER MEETING:

Friday, 6 March, 8pm - 10pm @ Church.

**CHURCH CAMP: 13th - 15th March, Friday to Sunday @ CYC, Ngauawahia, Hamilton**

**OG PRAYER MEETING : 19th March, Thursday, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Church**

**HAMILTON MINISTRY: 28th March, Saturday, 5:30pm @ Discovery Christian Centre, Hamilton**

## PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray for this year we will see many baptisms and salvation of souls in our church
- Pray for those who are struggling with health. May the Lord heal them.
- Pray for those who are looking for better jobs and a better future.

## VERSE FOR THE MONTH

Isaiah 42: 9

"See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Rachel Jacob

Missions Committee Meetings will resume from this month for this year. The meetings will be held on the second week of the month on Friday evening. If you have any questions or queries about the missions of our church, please contact Rachel Jacob, our Missions Co-Ordinator.

## CELL GROUPS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Cell Groups, Bible Studies and Sunday School ministries have resumed since February 2020. Please do pray for these ministries and please do participate wherever appropriate.

## PRAISE AND PRAYER EVENING

The next Praise and Prayer evening for the English congregation will be on **Friday, 27th March** at church. For more details contact, Neven.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

The Sunday School ministry is a significant ministry in our church. Parents are requested to support the Sunday School Teachers by praying for them and more importantly by asking your children to complete the assignments for the week. Please see the report on pg5.

## LEADERS RETREAT



The first retreat of the year, the Leaders Retreat, went well last Saturday and Ps. Lindsay Jones taught the leaders the Baptist Distinctives and Bi-Cultural/ Multi-culturalism. It was a good time of interaction with the leaders. Thanking Ps.

Lindsay for his valuable time with us. It was a good day with lots of valuable information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Maunder Thursday Service - 9th April 2020, 7pm - 8pm**  
**Good Friday Service - 10th April 2020, 9:30am till 12pm**  
**Easter Sunday - 7am Tamil Service, 10:30am English**  
**Kids Holiday Program - 15th - 17th April 2020**

Day Light Savings Ends - Sunday, 5th April 2020

**PASTORS COLUMN: *Being Thankful leads to being Revived!* - by Ptr. Mike.**

More often than not, it's at the end of the year that we stop and consider all the things that God has blessed us with, and helped us with, and strengthened us with, during the year.

While the end of year Thanksgiving is definitely a good thing to do, it's during the busy months throughout the year that we often need *Revival!*

When we find ourselves feeling a bit down in spirit, a bit worried or overwhelmed, or even a bit less enthusiastic for the things of the Lord, one of the best remedies to overcome all this is being thankful!

President Benjamin Franklin once said, "In a time of great despondency among the first settlers of New England, it was proposed in one of their assemblies to proclaim a fast. An old farmer rose, reviewed their mercies, and proposed that, instead of provoking Heaven with their complaints, they appoint a thanksgiving."

We might learn something from that! For every complaint that we have, there are a multitude of things to be thankful for. Being mindful of them will no doubt bring revival to our hearts.

***Things for which we can be thankful:-*****Gifts from God, 1 Timothy 4:3-5**

*"Who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer." - 1 Timothy 4:3-5*

**God's Presence, Psalms 75:1**

*"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds." - Psalm 75:1*

**God's Salvation, Romans 6:17**

*"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed." - Romans 6:17*

**Victory over Death, 1 Corinthians 15:57**

*"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57*

**Generally in Everything! Philippians 4:6**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:6*

So what are 3 other specific things that you can be thankful for right now? They might be things that you have, and a blessing that happened during the day, or even a person in your life.

One thing for sure that we can all be thankful for, is that God sent His only begotten Son into this world, to save us and to be with Him forever and ever.

I am thankful that in a world of chaos and calamity that my future is secure with Jesus! So let's share that good news with as many people as possible, and may many of them be *Thankful* also!

**God bless.**

# SOME LATE 2019 MEMORIES



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GIFTS



OCBC CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY KIDS



AUCKLAND SKIES TURN RED DUE TO FIRES IN AUSTRALIA



HAMILTON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We give God all the praise for our dear Sunday School Children and Teens. It was a refreshing start to the year as we commenced with prayer and a small meeting with the teachers led by Elder, Darwin. The 2020 curriculum and the years planning were covered in brief.

We are very glad to welcome Mrs. Eden David, the new Sunday School teacher for the Champions. We want to thank Mrs. Mishma Solomon who worked with the team last year.

The syllabus for the year 2020 continues to be from the CMB curriculum for the Mustard Seeds & Champions; and Tim Hawkins' Growing young Disciple series for the Teens.

Mustard Seeds (4-8 years) are continuing their learning about "Knowing God". We started with God's love and how they can show His love to others. This month in particular the theme is focussed on "Share with Others" in order to encourage the little ones to think of the needs of others and be willing to share how to show God's love to others.

By God's grace our Champions Club (9-12 years) also had an exciting start to this year. The goals for this term was set with the help of the team and they're prayerfully working towards it. For the first quarter, they will be learning about Peter, how Peter obeyed Jesus and followed Jesus in his ministry. Our plan is to introduce more interesting Bible characters to the Champions Club in the coming months.

We are grateful to God for The Teens (13 years and above) who show great enthusiasm to hear the word of God. This year there's a comprehensive and educative focus on the Scripture. Where does all Scripture come from and what will the Bible do for the person who serves God? The study in detail for the next few months is the Seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelations and bringing into context today's world. Amazing worship songs and music lessons are part of the curriculum.

The teens have diligently worked out a yearly planner across all age groups that ties in with the church's 2020 calendar. This is displayed in the Sunday School area.

Sharing in our church ministries and Outreach ministries are part of the year's plan.

We humbly thank parents for bringing their children and teens each and every Sunday. Please pray that they are blessed with spiritual growth and build faith by the Holy Spirit to lead and to serve Christ with a full heart.

God bless  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**  
**Of the Mustard Seeds, Champions Club & Teens**

