

CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2023

LAUNCH YOUTH

Launch Youth have a number of events coming up in September. Look inside for all the details.

Events on page 3

TESTIMONIES

Michael Butler, a member of Adelaide Christian Centre, has shared two amazing testimonies in this month's edition.

Testimonies on pages 4-5

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Mikaela Groom has written another update from her time as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. Enjoy the read!

Update on pages 6-7

WELCOME TO NLCC

Spring greetings!

We have had a wonderful time with Dr Stan And Joan DeKoven over this past week. And it is a joy to have them with us for our morning service on Sunday 3rd September.

It was also great to have Pr Mike and Kelly Groom, as well as Pr Hans Voortman ministering with us throughout the month of August.

It takes a team! We all know the power of team. One person can do only so much, but by joining a team effectiveness is ramped up multiple times over.

I sometimes think about ducks or geese which fly thousands of kilometres across land and oceans every year, as do many other birds. One solo bird is not going to make it. But as part of a flock it's amazing the distance they travel to their desired ends.

The principal in flight is the same as in cycling. Cyclists group together so that there is much less wind resistance for most of the riders in the group and the lead is swapped regularly to share the heavy work up front.

Yes, I know, Lycra also helps. I am a MAMIL – 'Middle Aged Man In Lycra'. But, I know what it is like to slog away on my own compared to riding in the peloton. The difference is remarkable. You reach your final destination with energy left to burn.

The church is a team! The more we work together for the glory of God the more we will see great things done for His glory, by His power.

Let us continue to place ourselves in God's team and serve together for greater fruitfulness and effectiveness.

For we are God's fellow workers [His servants working together]; you are God's cultivated field [His garden, His vineyard], God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9).

We are servants working together as God's team.

Also an update on our church building, our foundations are down! Praise the Lord. Please see the photo below.

God bless,
Pr Greg Crome

MINISTRIES PRAYER

Launch Youth: Details for our term three program can be found below. We will be combining with ACC for some events.

Youth and Children (CYC) Sundays: Held during the Sunday morning service during the school term.

Tuesday Night Young Adults Connect Group: Combined with ACC in the West and South. Please visit www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/.

Wednesday Night Connect Group: In recess. 7:00pm at 75 Riverview Drive, Port Noarlunga (0417 857 515).

Thursday Night Connect Group: Twice a month. 7:00pm at the Odis' house (0452 634 630).

Missions Prayer Requests

- **Vanuatu Trip** - Pr Greg Crome will be travelling to Vanuatu and will stay there from Friday 22nd September until Friday 29th September. He will be spending time with Pr Remy and the church in Port Vila before travelling to the island of Espiritu Santo to see Benjamin and Asinate Wari. Pr Greg will help Benjamin and Asinate (pictures below in Santo) settle into their new home and help them become further established. Please keep him in your prayers.

Church Prayer Requests

- Please contact the church office if you have any prayer requests.



LAUNCH YOUTH PROGRAM

Combined Youth
Friday 1st September
Details to be confirmed.

Nerf Gun Wars
Friday 8th September
5:00 - 6:30pm at NLCC - \$3 each.

Swim Night
Friday 15th September
5:00 - 6:30pm at Noarlunga Swim Centre.
Please contact Pr Greg for the cost.

Term Breakup
Friday 25th August
5:00 - 6:30pm at NLCC - \$3 each. BBQ, games and a guest speaker!



MICHAEL BUTLER TESTIMONIES

God Has Dealt with Serious Cancer Identified in My Body

Two years ago I had my malfunctioning left kidney and ureter removed. I made a full speedy recovery from the surgery. My right kidney is fine and I've been in good health. However, since the kidney surgery, every six to twelve months I've had to have a cystoscopy.

Three weeks ago, I was due for my latest cystoscopy and as usual I had to have a C-T scan a few days beforehand to gain a further insight of my internal condition. My previous surgeon had retired and four days before the cystoscopy my new surgeon called me in to see him. He said that he wanted to meet me before the surgery and, especially after seeing my C-T scan, he wanted to tell me before the cystoscopy of the serious findings revealed by the C-T scan.

He explained that the scan showed that I had a large cancer that had grown on my bladder and had attached my bladder to

my left hip bone. In addition, the surgeon said that there were so many other tumours that the only treatment option would be for me to see an oncologist urgently and commence chemotherapy. The surgeon said that he would still do the cystoscopy to gain a further understanding of my problems.

At church one Sunday, the day before my cystoscopy, I went out for prayer with my wife Pauline. I'd had a vision that when I went out for prayer it would be Lin Andrews who would pray with me. I didn't mind who came to pray but, sure enough, it was Lin who came straight up to me! I briefly explained the nature of my dire C-T scan report and said that my simple prayer request (simple for God!) was for us to pray and believe that when my surgeon performed the cystoscopy, he would find no evidence of any of the nasty things identified by my C-T scan.

After we prayed, Lin asked me if I'd felt the powerful presence of God during our time of prayer. I said that it would have been impossible for me not to feel it!

I approached my cystoscopy surgery the next day with a real sense of confidence. I came out of my anaesthetic to be greeted by a very puzzled surgeon who told me that there was no sign of the issues that had been revealed by my C-T scan only four days prior. Praise the Lord!

I requested a copy of my C-T scan and I obtained a copy of a new blood test that I had taken. I then sent copies of both the C-T scan and the blood test report to Professor Cliff Hawkins in Brisbane. Cliff is an eminent Professor of Human Chemistry and Biology, with whom I have had a long association through my own

clinic practice work. It was through working with Cliff some ten years ago that I was able to overcome bronchiectasis - a condition that is considered to be incurable.

After Professor Hawkins studied the reports that I sent him, he was pleased to confirm that I'm not dying of cancer because with the near-perfect blood test results, it would be impossible for me to have any active cancer cells in my body!

God Has Healed an Agonising Tooth Condition

One Wednesday evening I was unable to eat my dinner properly. Every bite was agony because my upper right back tooth was so sensitively painful. The next day I saw my dentist about my problem. Even the lightest tapping on the offending tooth had me writhing with agony. The dentist took x-rays and identified that the root areas of the tooth below the gum line were in such a bad state that the tooth would need to be extracted in hospital by an oral surgeon.

The following day I was required to have an OPG scan and have copies sent to both my dentist and the oral surgeon. Having been blessed by God's healing power in overcoming the cancer that had been identified in my body, I quickly realised that God would be more than capable of dealing with my tooth agony. Therefore, before having the OPG test I prayed that God would heal my tooth. Within 24 hours of praying, all pain was gone and pressure on the tooth produced no discomfort.

I was inclined to cancel my appointment with the oral surgeon. After all, if I'd been healed what was the point of paying a

large fee just to be told that everything is okay? However, I felt that the Lord was telling me to keep the appointment.

I went for my appointment and when I arrived, I was told the surgeon didn't have a copy of the referral. It's a requirement under our medical system that a specialist must be given a written referral by the referring doctor (or dentist) before treating or billing patients.

My dental practice was having a training day, so it wasn't possible to contact anyone to obtain the referral. Since I'd been waiting for nearly an hour while these formalities were being sorted out, the oral surgeon agreed to examine my OPG test results at no charge.

The assessment of my OPG test was that, despite what was shown on the x-rays taken by my dentist one week previously, there is now no problem with my teeth!

These two testimonials confirm that God is still in the healing business. Be encouraged to know that God is working in our congregation. Give God the opportunity to meet your needs. He is never too busy.

At ACC we have prayer for the sick every week. If you have a need, go out for prayer. But remember you can pray at any time. When two or three are gathered in His Name He is there.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Acts 3:18 - Through faith in the Name of Jesus, this man was healed.

James 4:2 - You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.



MISSIONARY UPDATE

At the beginning of August I experienced a few random answers to prayer and confirmations on a few different things. I was strongly encouraged during this time and I was reminded of the fact that God is good and He desires to do us good.

I will expand on one of these things that happened to me. I had been missing preaching for some time and I felt for a while that I should just go and tell one of the pastors that I'm willing to preach if ever they would like me to. During chapel one morning this thought came to me stronger than usual so I decided to approach Pr Paul afterwards to let him know I'm willing to preach. When I approached him, before I even said anything regarding my desire to preach, He said, "Mikaela can you preach Sunday night?" I said yes and then he also asked me to preach the following week at chapel. I felt like he'd read my mind.

This may seem like a small thing; of course, pastors ask people to preach all the time. But for me this just confirmed one of the small things I'd felt in my own

spirit. It also confirmed that it must have been God leading me in this and not just my own thinking. God really does grant the desires of our heart and His faithfulness continues to surround us.

Over the two sessions of preaching, I spoke on breaking free from the lies of the enemy (Sunday evening service), and how intimately God knows us and desires to do us good (Wednesday morning chapel). I was happy to preach again and I'm looking forward to further opportunities to share in the future.

Other than preaching, August has been full of hard work. I have been very busy trying to complete various tasks for my job with CRC Missions. July and August are my busiest months of work each year for my finance role.

I have also been busy completing jobs for our churches back at home and other missions projects. There are a few things I have been meaning to complete for a long time now and throughout August I've made it my goal to make progress within these areas. I still have a way to go but I am slowly ticking things off my list.

In addition to all of this, I spent a lot of time working on our curriculum for Bethel Sunday School. I have completed all of

our lesson plans across our three age groups for the remainder of this year. This was a MASSIVE job and I feel very happy that I have completed it.

I still have some other tasks to complete for Sunday school, especially in relation to leader training and other leadership related matters, but I'm feeling a lot more prepared to tackle those now that all of our lesson plans are complete.

Sunday school is running well and the children seem to have settled in very nicely. Our junior youth aged group have been going through the Youth Alpha course, whilst our preschool and primary aged groups are covering a different curriculum. These groups are covering various themes. So far we have covered LOVE and TRUST, and we are now in the middle of our lessons on FORGIVENESS.

The next steps I'm hoping to complete for Bethel Sunday School (with the assistance of my fellow leaders) are: planning Sunday school fun days and family services (opportunities for the children and junior youth to run a church service - or at least part of it), developing a leadership manual, recruiting more children's workers from the church congregation, generating a framework and proposal for leadership training, creating our own curriculum for the three age groups to be used next year and beyond, and brainstorming ways we can assist other churches within PNG (and other nations) with their Sunday school programs and teacher training.

There is still a lot of work left to do, but I'm happy with the progress we have made so far and I believe our teachers and the children are enjoying what is

taking place. I'm trying to take it one step at a time and not get too overwhelmed by all of the things I feel I'm yet to complete during my time here as a missionary in PNG.

September will be another busy month; one I'm really looking forward to! The month will begin with a visit from mum and dad, and Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven. I can't wait for them to arrive! Their visit is another reason why I've been working so hard lately - I'm trying to clear up my schedule as much as possible so I'm free to spend as much time with them as I can. I'm very excited to be with them.

In the last two weeks of September I'll be lecturing again with our preschool teachers in training. I will be teaching 'General Administration and Finance', and 'Applying Basic MS Word and MS Excel in an ECE Setting'. I haven't taught these subjects before but I'm really looking forward to teaching again. I love teaching!

I've been struggling a bit lately to keep up with and fit in with all the things going on around me, especially now that I'm planning a wedding and preparing myself for marriage on top of everything else! But I'm confident that I'm where God wants me to be and I'm looking forward to all that's ahead of me here in this great nation of PNG.

Thank you very much for all of your prayers and support. I hope my newsletters and updates on social media serve as an encouragement to everyone that sees them.

Many blessings,
Mikaela Groom

ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: www.newlifeonline.org.au

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBqg4l1yAy_YQQ5c17STow

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristies/

Instagram: [@new.life.christian.centre](https://www.instagram.com/new.life.christian.centre)

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Postal: P.O. Box 431, Noarlunga Centre, SA 5168

Email: info@newlifeonline.org.au

Phone: (08) 8384 4814

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

GIVING DETAILS

Option One: Online Giving

Visit the giving page on our website: www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/. Press the 'Online Giving' button under the 'Giving' heading.

Option Two: Bank Transfer

Deposit your funds into the general account and in the reference section please specify if your funds are for tithes, missions or whatever else.

GENERAL Account Name: New Life Christian Centre

BSB: 035-053

Account Number: 127 021

OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS

Adelaide Christian Centre

Address: 33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Web: www.tccf.com.au

Service Times: 10:00am and 6:30pm

Faith Center Church

Address: 115 Worley Lane, Walhalla SC 29691, United States

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla

Service Time: 10:00am