



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 2 July 2017



**Theme:** God's work in the World  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Chris and Catherine Corin  
**Readings:** Psalm 46:1-10, Matthew 9:35-38

**Sentence:**

Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.

- *Matthew 9:38*

**Prayer for the day:**

O God of all nations of the earth: remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but don't yet know the redeeming work of our Saviour, Friend and Brother Jesus Christ. Thank you that your Holy Spirit is at work in your world, through the prayers and efforts of

your people and your Church as a whole. May we all know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

# Reflections...



## The Shack

I've been wondering what loves really looks like. What does it feel like to know within the core of my being that I am genuinely loved and that nothing; nothing, will ever take that love away? I get glimpses and am profoundly grateful for them.

Some have said that the movie, *The Shack*, brought a much greater depth of love than they have realised up until now. I haven't seen the movie. I've read the book. I'm half way through reading Wm. Paul Young's first non-fiction book *Lies we believe about God* and I've watched an interview with him. Check out the latter on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l\\_XpDT7z8U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l_XpDT7z8U)

The interviewer asked Paul about the hugs he gives out when he signs his books at book stores. Paul talked about the lack of love in so many lives and the ministry of hugging which he sees children demonstrate so well. Paul said "It took me 50 years to become a child and I am not going back to being an adult again." His childhood was robbed from him as he lived with repeated sexual abuse in those early years. So much healing needed to happen.

Someone wrote to Paul "my sense is that Missy (the main character's daughter who is abducted), represents something murdered in you as a child, probably your innocence and Mackenzie (Missy's father), represents you as an adult trying to deal with that." He says that person hit the nail on the head in an article where he tells of his life.

[www.wmpaulyoung.com/the-shattered-soul/](http://www.wmpaulyoung.com/the-shattered-soul/)

Paul did lots of work with a counsellor. And God did lots of work within Paul. When he was 50, he finally felt whole enough to write what he thought and felt about God especially. And so the book of *The Shack* was born in an attempt to explain to his kids the depth of God's love.

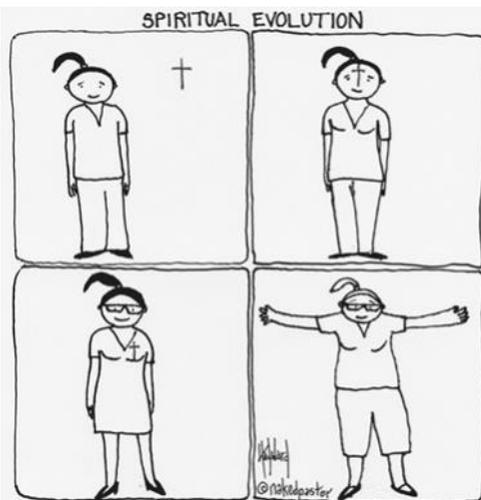
Some critics are very concerned about what Paul is trying to achieve theologically about God. They worry he is a heretic. Here's the thing though; Paul isn't trying to do a systematic theology textbook. Paul's aim is to portray a God of love who offers complete forgiveness; the God who healed his heart. This God's love is relentless. He says in the interview "The only time you'll find God

in a box is because he wants to be where we are."

The interviewer says that Christian theology is a tricky business because we are trying to do justice to the eternal God. He's right. We can't do it. And we do need to wrestle with theology. God has given us minds for a very good reason. Yet we need to keep a very humble, very open mind, because we can't actually get it right. Our words are inadequate. Our thoughts are limited. Our hearts are too small.

Through several recent discussions I am coming to see that while we talk about God's love; so many of us actually need to experience it. We need God's love to permeate us so that we know without a doubt we are loved and accepted – just as we are.

We talk about it but do we really get it? The Gospel is meant to be Good News. Surely the best news ever is that we are loved without reservation; no strings attached. We can only love others when we truly understand how loved we are and how the living God dwells with us; in us. God's dwelling place is not in a church though God comes to us in church. God's dwelling place is not in the Bible though he speaks to us through the Word. God's dwelling place is not in the people who hold 'authority' in church or state though God works in and through those people. The beauty of God's love is that it comes from the inside out.



Paul Young may go a little further than I want to theologically but his key point is one that we all need to hear, to inwardly digest, to live and

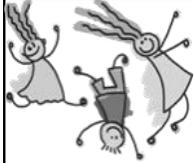
breathe - God persists in loving us, in reaching us with love. We truly are not alone. God; Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit invite us into relationship.

In the Shack a recurring phrase is "God is especially fond of ....." That is the kind of language my heart understands, at least in part. I want to close with a quote from that great theologian Mel Gibson...

"He (Jesus) died for mankind. It's time to get back to that basic message. The world has gone nuts. We could all use a little more love, faith, hope and forgiveness."

Learning together in love,

*Susan*



## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Today Sunday 2 July** The Early Church

**Next Sunday 9 July** Activities at back of Church

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church.

Prayers and offers of help are appreciated. Catherine 022 647 9810

## Prayers for the Week

**God's World:** We particularly remember those suffering for their faith. We remember mother of three, Asia Bibi, who has been in jail for seven years on appeal over her sentence for execution for blasphemy in Pakistan, for others in jail in Iran, Turkey and Sudan and for Christians in danger in many countries in the Middle East. It is hard for us to appreciate their suffering when we live in such a free society but they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, so we pray Your protection, help, comfort and strength for them.

**Mission Partners:** Today we pray for Murray and Féy Cotter in Albania, bless and encourage their ministry. We thank You for the recent three day prayer retreat for missionaries in the wider region, may their prayer life be deepened and may their relationships continue to grow as they understand and appreciate each other more.

**Diocese:** We pray for Waimea parish, thanking you for Martin and Pippa Harrison's recent 3 months sabbatical. Help them to find ways to put into words what they experienced and learnt along the way and see afresh what You are calling them to in Brightwater. May the parish find new ways to explore the thinness between heaven and earth created by God.

**Local community:** We pray today for Richmond Church of Christ with Steve and Lynn Rollo and their team. Bless and encourage all their activities, especially their passion for evangelism; deepen their unity and help them to disciple new converts and to reach out to the wider area.

**Our Parish:** We pray today for prayer ministry within our own parish. We thank You for prayer and those who pray for us. Encourage us all to listen to Your voice as You speak to us and help us to be obedient to Your call. Bless all those who have a particular gift of intercession or healing, and help them to develop those gifts under Your Spirit's enabling.

Thank You for the visit of Chris and Catherine among us, bless and encourage them as they help us to appreciate more fully the challenges and breadth of their ministry in Asia.

**Those in need within our own church family:** We remember Albertha, Gwen, Pam, Chris, Lisa, Anne, John, Ellie and Rachel. May Your peace, healing and comfort surround them, and grant them the abiding sense of Your presence with them. We also pray for Your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

**Amen.**

## **This Week...**

### **Monday 3 July**

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### **Tuesday 4 July**

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

### **Wednesday 5 July**

10.00am Wednesday Service

### **Thursday 6 July**

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W. Wilkinson, J. Lines)

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### **Sunday 9 July**

9.00am Holy Communion\*

10.45am Praise on the Hill\*

*\*Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## **Coming up...**

### **Saturday 15 July**

Book Fair

*For more information about services or groups contact the office Ph. 544 8844.*

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 9 July**

Holy Communion

**Sunday 23 July**

Morning Prayer

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is:  
03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

### **Roster for 9 July - Thank you for serving us all!**

<b>Leader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	J McConachie	<b>10.45am</b>	S Gill
<b>Reader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	A Hodges, D Day	<b>10.45am</b>	M Tilley
<b>Sidespeople:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	W Wilkinson	<b>10.45am</b>	M Tilley
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	B Page	<b>10.45am</b>	S Lyon
<b>Tea:</b>		M Mercer, S Paine		
<b>Chalice:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	G Thomas, W Wilkinson	<b>10.45am</b>	N/A
<b>Flowers:</b>		B Page	<b>Crèche:</b>	M Martin

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Music in worship

**Readings for next Sunday:** Exodus 15: 1-11, Colossians 3:12-17

### **Parish Contacts**

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Children's Ministry	Catherine Barak	022 6479810
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey	544 8844
Youth Leader	Antonio Sardella	027 3525598			

### **Holy Trinity Church**

27 Dorset Street

PO Box 3013

Richmond

**Phone / Fax** 03 544 8844

**Email** church.onhill@xtra.co.nz

**Website**

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

### **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm