



# The Beacon

A weekly newsletter of the



9th June

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### Last Week

Attendance: 45

Giving:

YTD Av:

Budget:

## NEGLECT

Among the many things that can threaten our efforts to serve God is our tendency to be very selective with obedience. We strive hard to please God in one area while ignoring those deliberately disobeying God in another. We might think that such a situation is unlikely to occur but the book of Nehemiah shows differently.

The Hebrews were trying hard to rebuild the defences of Jerusalem and there is no doubt that, through Nehemiah, they understood their efforts to be according to God's will. They worked hard in the face of adversity and opposition and had, in a short period of time, managed to complete the wall to about half its height (4:6).

Yet, to Nehemiah's horror, they were at the same time breaking God's laws, including the law regarding usury (Deut.23:19) while, the good work on the defences continued. This and other abuses had the following effect.

*1 Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. 2 For there were those who said, "We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live." 3 There were others who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine." 4 Also there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's*

*tax on our fields and our vineyards. 5 "Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage already, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others." Neh. 5:1-5*

This terrible state of affairs serves to remind us that –

**It is all too easy for obedience to mask disobedience.** Most of us have trouble concentrating on more than one thing at a time. As a consequence we miss a great deal of what else is happening around us. With all the attention on the walls and gates the Hebrews, including Nehemiah himself, had not noticed the tragedy which was unfolding among them. As God's people we need to try and take in a broader perspective if we are to avoid the same thing happening to us.

**It is all too easy to ruin progress with disobedience.** Following the success of completing the wall and their courage in the face of adversity the Hebrews had every reason to conclude that God was pleased with their efforts. Yet the whole thing was threatened from within by this disillusionment and resentment which could easily have resulted in the loss of much of the workforce and even outright rebellion. God's people need to ensure that they don't neglect some of God's laws while working on others.

**It is all too easy to fail to connect suffering with disobedience.** The plight of these people must have been noticed, especially when they resorted to selling their children into slavery. But no one seems to have connected their dire circumstances with others disobedience. Perhaps they felt that they had brought it on themselves, perhaps they felt that it was normal, however neither was the case. God's people must never assume that suffering is unconnected with sin.

As humans we will always struggle with our tendency to be very inconsistent in our obedience to God. The consequence of such inconsistency in Nehemiah's day reminds us both of the danger and of its potential to compromise the good we are trying to do. Let us then strive to avoid a similar situation arising among ourselves so that our efforts to rebuild our walls are not hindered.

## Benevolence

Please continue to contribute to the Benevolence Fund. Any enquires please see Margaret Lilley.

## Volunteers for Morning Tea and Kitchen Duty

Morning Tea roster has changed as we are going to do a month at a time, so if you want to serve in this way, it means that you do it for a whole month which is really only three weeks at a time as there will be a luncheon on the last Sunday in the month.

## Thursday Morning Class

The Thursday morning begins a new topic this week. We will be studying Satan and his henchmen.

## Warringah Youth and Young at Heart July 28th.

Contact Bob Marks for more information  
bobmarks@hotmail.com

## MSOBS Lectureship

July 10-14 MSOBS Lectureship. Treasure in clay Jars.

## Wednesday Night

During the winter months this class will be meeting in people's homes for Bible Studies or if anyone has any suggestions please see Stuart.

## Donnison Street Restaurant

Due to a variety of factors our teams are dwindling in size to the point where we something find it difficult to meet our commitments to this good work. If you would like to be part of a team please see Stuart. The team for our next Friday (June 21st) is the **GREEN TEAM** which includes Adrian & Margaret Rich, Sallie-Anne Moad, Max McArthur, John and Nick.

# This Week in Prayer

Please pray for the following in your private prayer time. Some are petitions and some are an offer of thanks.

- Pat McArthur commenced therapy last Thursday and will receive treatments most days over the next few weeks. Please pray for Pat and the family during this difficult time.
- Please pray for all of those who are travelling including Jan and Nick Pearce, John Gibbins, Lyn and Jennifer Penhall and the Stones. Be sure to thank God for David and Joy's safe return.
- Also pray for Laurel Hockey as recovers from surgery.
- Please continue to pray for Don Klingenberg who has his good and bad days but is doing well overall.
- Please keep Stephen Mandalidis in your prayers. Stephen has improved but is still gravely ill.
- Linus Kummer's tests revealed further problems which will have to be addressed. This was not the news Lunus had oped for so please continue to pray for him.
- Tom Lilley was admitted to Wyong Hospital las Sunday night and has need told that the cancer has spread and that there is little they can do for him other than to make him comfortable. Please Pray for Toma nd for his family at this most difficult time.
- Pray for those who are struggling spiritually and emotionally at present.

## Worship Roster – 16th June

Worship Leader	Prayer	Lord's Supper	Scriptures	Prayer	Adult Class	Morning Tea	Kitchen Duty
David Mowday	Wyatt Park	John Drennan	John Stone	Graham Lawrie	Stuart Penhall	W & J Drennan	W & J Drennan

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Meeting Time  
 Sunday worship 9:30-10:30am  
 Sunday classes 10:40-11:20am  
 Wednesday classes 6:30 - 8:00pm at  
 Ministry Centre

Correspondence  
 PO Box 552  
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 AUSTRALIA



Sundays at the  
 Niagara Park  
 Community Centre