



CHURCHILL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

16th August 2020

This is the second week of our second lockdown where church services are not possible. Difficult times but God is still God, our sovereign, awesome, all-knowing heavenly Father.

What's on this week?

Tuesday 18th, 7.30 pm – Zoom Fellowship Meeting

Last Tuesday we had a praise night. Although we couldn't quite persuade anyone to sing anything, it was a very positive, uplifting time. Thanks guys!

This week, can we all come prepared with a Bible question? Maybe you've wrestled with one of those difficult sayings of Jesus. Or, like Peter, you find some things hard to understand in Paul's epistles (2 Peter 3:15,16). Any question is fine. Just bring it!

Sunday 23rd, 2 pm – Church Online

To access this week's service, simply go to <https://churchillchristianfellowship.online.church> at the appointed time. You will also find previous meetings and, in the future, some midweek messages. We hope this will be a very easy way to access the online meetings during the shutdown. You can make comments, request prayer, etc.

PRAYER MEETINGS will not be held for the next six weeks during Covid-19 restrictions. But of course, no government regulations can ever stop us praying.



Offerings can be made by direct deposit to Churchill Christian Fellowship. **BSB: 063522 Account #: 10097946**

Or mail to **PO Box 214 Churchill.**

If you want to contribute to Sam (Christmas hampers) simply write 'Sam' as your description. The good news is that there was almost \$500 in the account at the end of July. Christmas is not far away now. We want to bless as many needy Churchill families as possible!

The **BILLY GRAHAM ASSOCIATION** has a program through which they train people to respond to online questions about the Gospel and salvation. This is a great way to get involved with sharing the Gospel without the intimidation of face-to-face encounters. They provide the training (free), you will need a Working With Children card (free for volunteers) and once accepted you will need to commit to the program for a year (a few hours each week.) To learn more, go to <https://searchforjesus.net/> or, if enough people are interested, we can organize a Zoom meeting with Mike Kwok, the Australian manager of Search for Jesus for him to explain the program in more detail. If you would be interested in this, please let us know.

MINISTRY ROSTERS

Sunday services pre-recorded at Moe on Saturday afternoons or other venues as necessary.

	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
23rd August	Steve	Linda
30th August	Neil	Lynn
6th September	Lynn	Steve
13th September	Graeme	Lynn
20th September	Clasina	Steve

This roster is very much a work in progress. We are updating it as best we can from week to week. After 13th Sept, we hope to return to Sunday meetings at the Public Hall. YES LORD!!

FACE MASKS, NO RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS, TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS – SOME THOUGHTS

What strange times we are living in! If you'd told me 12 months ago – even 9 months ago – that our Government would ban Christian gatherings, bring in an 8pm curfew in Melbourne, and force everyone in Victoria to wear masks whenever they go out, I would have laughed at such ridiculous ideas. Short of an invasion by a foreign country, how could such things be? And yet, that is now our reality.

Some of my friends think the restrictions are unnecessary, that it's all about getting the population to submit to some kind of end-times satan-inspired agenda.

Some people think it's a world domination plot from Communist China. Conspiracy theorists are adamant that we cannot trust the media sources that continually update us on the latest Covid-19 news.

Some people are angry, others are scared, some getting more and more ornery (like that word?) with every week that passes.

From my position at the bookshop in the middle of Moe, I observe that nearly everyone is following the regulations this time around. I haven't heard of any churches that are defying the restrictions; rather, they are seeking ways to do church within the regulations.

Question: how should we balance the principle in Acts 5:29 – We ought to obey God rather than men” with Romans 13:1-7, where Paul tells us to obey government authorities?

Firstly, in the Acts reference, the disciples were talking about the religious authorities, not the civil ones. Jesus, likewise, rebuked the Pharisees for imposing their man-made rules on the people of God.

But secondly, the situation is different because, conspiracy theories aside, there really is a kind of invasion happening that demands a sacrificial response from us all. The real question we face as Christians in this time is not “Should we obey the regulations?” but “How can we be the best possible witness for Christ in these times?”

And one last thing. I freely confess that I have detested some of the policies that our Premier has championed over the years. But now, I’m praying for the man. He is paying a very heavy price. Everyone needs Jesus. That is the one truth that should be our constant prayer focus.

Love and blessings to everyone! Please feel free to comment.

Steve

Thank you for reading. This e-mail replaces the printed Churchill newsletters for the time being. Please keep in touch! If you’ve written a poem or a reflection piece about a Scripture that has blessed you. Please share your ideas, thoughts, etc by sending an SMS, by messaging on Facebook or by e-mail to pastor@churchillchristianfellowship.com .

CONTACT US AT:

www.churchillchristianfellowship.com

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