



Geebung Wavell Heights Uniting Church

16th June 2024

Our Mission Statement

*“Sharing the love of Jesus together
in welcoming all people into the
fellowship of the church as well as
ministering to the community”*

Soul Fuel: Courage

The Storm was a monster. It was nighttime, and we were four hundred miles off the coast of Greenland, facing subzero, gale-force 8 winds, and waves as big as houses. Five of us were attempting to cross the frozen North Atlantic in a small, open rigid inflatable boat, and we were struggling.

It felt as if it was only a matter of time before one of the walls of roaring white water that were repeatedly smashing over us would soon capsize our little boat, and that would surely spell death so far from rescue in those arctic waters.

All five of us were truly terrified. I will never forget that sickening feeling when you know you have truly screwed it up — and you are going to die. Anticipating a horrible death was a genuine reaction to our situation.

We had been sticking to our order of rotation, taking turns at the wheel, desperately trying to outlast the storm and endure the night. But we were exhausted, tight on fuel, and hundreds of miles from any civilization.

I knew that the times when we changed over the helm were always our most vulnerable moments. It was those dangerous few minutes as the new helmsman started a fresh battle to feel the rhythm of these huge waves in the pitch dark. One slow reaction and we would be over.

Twice we came so close to capsizing at this critical handover point, and instinct told me we might not get so lucky a third time. I made the decision to carry on and helm the boat myself, in a desperate attempt to see the storm through. It was hard to explain, but I just knew that this voice was telling me to keep steering.

Fear can totally break people, but it doesn't have to be the final answer. Courage steels people, but we have to find it from somewhere.

Courage isn't the absence of fear. On the contrary, without fear we cannot truly be courageous. To be brave, we must first be afraid.

I remember so vividly asking Jesus to be beside me in that storm, to steel me, to sustain, strengthen, and deliver me. And He was there, so much so that one of our crew, Nigel Thompson, who had never known faith in his life before, swore that he saw an angel calmly sitting on the front of our small boat throughout that storm. Still the winds and waves roared — if anything, they got worse. It was one of the longest, most high-risk nights of my life, but never once did I feel alone.

Continues centre page

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For your Diary

Weekly Activities -

Tuesday Indoor Bowls 1:30pm @ Wavell
Saturday Youth Alive
Sunday Worship Service 9am
See below for locations

Special Events & Services — June

Sunday June 16th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Sunday June 23rd Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell

Sunday June 30th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Special Events & Services — July

Sunday July 7th Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell

Saturday July 13th Musical Concert 2pm
@ Geebung

Sunday July 14th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Sunday July 21st Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell

Sunday July 28th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Tevita on leave end of June/July

Rev Tevita is taking some leave time during the school holidays. He will be on holidays from Sunday June 30 to Sunday July 7.

Enjoy your holidays Tevita.

For your attention

Event at Geebung

Saturday July 13th

Musical Melodies

Concert. @ 2pm

With a roaring 1920's and a Spanish Theme. Tickets will be on Sale from next week for \$15.00

Please bring a small plate of Afternoon tea to share.



Would you like to Help Victims of Domestic Violence??

You can, if you have an old mobile phone and charger you no longer need.

During the Month of June the Church office would be happy to receive your old phones.



If you would like to drop these in the box in the foyer, Debbie will get them to the centre where all data is wiped off and phones are reset for the police to place in the hands of victims who use them for emergency calls.

Your Help would be greatly appreciated.

The People Who Need Our Prayers

Ann Bain

Maree Massey

Beris Urquhart

Dell Merchant

Graham Power

Bert Wilton

Merv Halliday

Edna Street

Norma Jenkins

Lian Tan

Marj & Bruce McKenzie

Margaret Ferris

Tracy McKenzie

Malcolm & Judy McMillian

Sylvia Bray

Sylvia Marson



From Front Page

Christ promises never to abandon us

And as dawn broke and the storm subsided, we finally saw the coast of Iceland in the distance. We had been steeled and delivered.

In the moments when we need it most, if we ask, God will supply us with the courage we need. Fear and anxiety might shout louder. But isn't it just like God to answer in the still, small voice of calm? When we ask, Christ will always be beside us, with His angels if necessary. I don't know all the ins and outs of theology, but I know the presence and the courage that God has provided in the tightest of moments.

And that is enough for me.

Eyes Front

Henry Ford was right:

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it!"¹

Struggles are a part of life, and we all need renewed courage from time to time. So it's comforting to read words like these from someone as great as King David:

"I am in trouble," he wrote. "My eye is clouded and weakened by grief, my soul and my body also. — Psalm 31:9 AMP

Nobody can go through life without moments like these. But if we read on we see another essential truth: in the tough times we find out the most about where our trust lies.

*I trust [confidently] in You **and** Your greatness, O Lord;... "You are my God." — Psalm 31:14 AMP*

When hard times come, it's tempting to look back and long for things to be the way they were. But we are called always to look forward, not back. That's where God is leading us. Look up, not down — ahead, not back. That's where our help comes from, and that's where our courage gets restored and renewed.

1. United States Army Recruiting Command, *Recruiter Journal* 49 (November 1996): 6. Excerpted with permission from *Soul Fuel* by Bear Grylls, copyright BGV Global Limited.

The Uniting Church News Letter June 11th

Praying for Renewal

If you would like to take some time to pray for renewal, please take some time each week to invite God's renewal in your life and in the life of the Church. You might like to consider this prayer throughout the week, inviting God's reshaping.

Almighty God,

We stand before you like unformed clay, molded by our experiences and flaws. We confess, O Lord, that we often harden our hearts and resist your shaping hand.

Yet, we know you are the potter, and we are the clay. We yearn for your renewal, for your gentle touch to soften our resistance and mold us into vessels of your love.

Breathe new life into our spirits. Refine our rough edges with your grace. Grant us the humility to be shaped by your will.

Extend this renewal, we pray, to your Church as a whole. Mold us into a community of love, compassion, and unity. May we be instruments of your peace, reflecting your light in the world.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.



A Big Thank you to everyone who attended the GeoVerdi Musica last Saturday.

The entertainment was excellent and very enjoyable and the afternoon tea delicious and plentiful and the fellowship sweet. Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many ways.

June 16

Pentecost 4

1 Sam 15: 34– 16:13

Ps 20

2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17

Mk 4: 26-34

June 23

Pentecost 5

1Sm17:57-18:5,10-16

Ps 9: 9-20 or Ps 133

2 Cor 6: 1-13

Mk 4: 35-41

June 30

Pentecost 6

2 Sam 1: 1, 17-27

Ps 130

2 Cor 8: 7-15

Mk 5: 21-43

July 7

Pentecost 7

2 Sam 5: 1-5

Ps 48

2 Cor 12: 2-10

Mk 6: 1-13

GEEBUNG

Alternating

59 Simla Ave

Sunday Worship 9.00am

Holy Communion 1st Sun.



Visit us at:

Geebung Uniting Church

WAVELL HEIGHTS

Alternating

147 Rode Road

Sunday Worship 9.00am

Holy Communion 1st Sun.



Visit us at:

Wavell Heights Uniting Church

G/W CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson—*Len Ferris*
M.0438 852 676

Secretary—

CHURCH OFFICE

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Office Hours

Thurs 9am—3pm

Friday 9am—1pm