

Newsletter

12th August

2018



Leading: **Jeff Whittaker**
Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**
Theme: **Hebrews 10: 19 - 39**

The Next Deacons' Meeting will be held on Tuesday
21st August 2018 at Epsom Baptist Church.



Mission boxes: It's time again to collect in mission boxes. These containers are used to collect small change, which all adds up to support for Tranzsend's workers. If you do not yet participate in this traditional way of mission support, see me or Mavis Rhind.

The **Mid-week Bible Study** for
Wednesday August 15th will be
hosted by Ian and Dawn de Stigter



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Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:
Pastor Daniel Choi
Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker
epsombaptist.wordpress.com Check out **Epsom Baptist Church** on Facebook

From Pastor Jeff

Several years ago I stumbled across the 'Hunger Games' trilogy (which I have just re-read). In the process, I learned (from my niece Nina) a new word: Dystopian.

Dystopian is defined as: *relating to or denoting an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one.* I shouldn't have been surprised at the idea of imagined dystopias. *1984* and *Brave New World* are dystopian novels. I remember reading *1984* in the early 1980s, and being curious to see if Orwell's pessimistic vision would come true. Now, we are often called upon to imagine their opposites: utopias. Ironically, this call is frequently issued through advertising! In common language usage, utopian means an overly idealistic and unrealisable state of things. But, if we exchange the word 'utopia' for 'kingdom of God,' then I think we as Christians are asked to anticipate and see the ideal that is being realised through Christ's growing reign. In fact, every time the Bible encourages us as believers to consider something into being that is not yet - and I am thinking, for example, of Paul's exhortation in Romans 6:11 where he says **So you must also consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus** - then are we not engaging in utopian thinking? Are we not envisioning the good life, the life of abundance promised in Christ, the life where the work of the evil one is destroyed to the benefit of creation? I reckon the Bible is extraordinary in its ability to foster this ability to imagine the kingdom and so help facilitate its emergence. Dystopian visions are far easier to articulate and live into being. And they easily overwhelm us. That is, unless we exercise our spiritual capacity through faith and 'in Christ' to live into the coming kingdom.

May you know God's peace as mediated through Christ (shalom), Jeff



August 2018 Sunday morning rosters...

Flowers: 5, 12 Margaret Whittaker, 19, 26 Helen Evans

Morning tea: Murray and Neroli Hollis

Communion preparation: Murray and Neroli Hollis

Door and Offering: Helen Evans

Scripture reading & Communion: June McMillan

Offering counting: Dawn de Stigter and Anne Bartley

Lawns: Hak Jong Song



Hear the latest news from

- Missionary Council
- The field ..

Hi, I'm Peter. Come along
and hear what I've been doing
with Tranzsend...

BMF Auck. Combined Meeting

Remuera Baptist Church

13 August 2018, from 11am

Programme:

Worship
Sharing from guest speakers
News from Tranzsend staff
Prayer
Shared lunch (bring a plate)

Please note that we have been requested to park on the street, as the timing of our meeting clashes with the pick-up and drop-off times at Remuera Baptist Church's kindergarten.