

# Newsletter

## 27<sup>th</sup> January

### 2019

epsom  
baptist church

Leading: **Margaret Whittaker**  
Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**  
Theme: **Ephesians 1: 15 - 23**

Praying with scripture...

**The Next Deacons' Meeting** will be held on  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Epsom Baptist Church.

### Members' Meeting...

Our next Members' Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup>. We will report on the roof replacement project.

A graphic with a dark green background and the words "Members Meeting" in a large, yellow, serif font.

Coming soon... Pastor Daniel and I will be running an Alpha Course on Sunday nights (starting February 17). Talk to me if you are interested in participating.  
Pastor Jeff



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Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:  
Pastor Daniel Choi

Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker

[epsombaptistchurch.org.nz](http://epsombaptistchurch.org.nz)      Check out **Epsom Baptist Church** on Facebook

## From Pastor Jeff

This last Wednesday, 23 January, a small group of Venezuelans met in Aotea Square to protest the political situation back in Venezuela. I've included with the newsletter a copy of the flyer that was being distributed. This flyer explains about the desperate conditions being experienced in Venezuela today. (Note: January 23 - 23 Enero - is significant in Venezuelan history. On this day in 1958, the dictator Marcos Jiménez was overthrown and democracy established for the first time.) This is of interest to us because Keyla Busby comes from Venezuela. The photograph shows Keyla's son Luke-Mattias, whom we dedicated here at Epsom Baptist Church, doing his bit to raise awareness of the tragic situation that has been unfolding for some time in this once-rich South American country. Keyla's brother Samuel has been visiting for the last couple of months, and is leaving to go back to the chaos of Venezuela this coming Thursday. I'm going to pray for him this morning. Let's all of us pray for Venezuela. Let's ask God to re-establish there the freedoms that we enjoy here in New Zealand, including freedom of speech, freedom of political association, freedom to protest, etc. Let's believe that God hears our prayers, especially those prayed on behalf of the poor and marginalised.



Shalom, Jeff



February 2019 Sunday morning rosters...

**Flowers:** 3 Luanne, 10, 17 Louissa, 24 Margaret W.

**Morning tea:** Murray and Neroli Hollis

**Communion preparation:** Murray and Neroli Hollis

**Door and Offering:** Helen Evans

**Scripture reading & Communion:** June McMillan

**Offering counting:** Anne Bartley & Alan Lau

**Lawns:** Murray Hollis

Imagine that you are not inhabiting a country but a statistic of evil.

An astonishing 90%<sup>1</sup> of households are living in poverty and the IMF forecasts that inflation will reach 10,000,000 percent this year<sup>2</sup>.

The annual homicide rate is 91.8 per 100,000 residents<sup>3</sup> and the impunity rate is 98%<sup>4</sup>. Your fellow citizens are facing severe food shortage and widespread water and electricity outages. In your country's hospitals, medicines, surgical instruments and equipment -but also water and power- are increasingly unavailable<sup>5</sup>.

Imagine that one single party has been uninterruptedly ruling the country for the last 20 years and its highest officials are engaged in drug trade, money laundry and other illegal activities<sup>6</sup>.

Imagine that all dissidence is silenced with jail, torture and murder.

Imagine that after a fake election, the same criminals are ready for another 6 years in office.

**Against the abuse of power, the losing of fundamental freedoms, the imposed misery and famine, the systematic HR violations, Venezuelan people will take the streets next Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to demand free and fair elections.**

**In more than 150 all around the world, Venezuelan expats will join this public demonstration to support their fellow citizens and raise awareness within a global audience.**

# 23E

WHERE IN NZ

**AUCKLAND**  
Aotea Square  
**CHRISTCHURCH**  
Cathedral Square  
**WELLINGTON**  
Te Ngākau Civic Square

WHEN

**Wednesday,**  
**January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019**  
12:00 pm

<sup>1</sup> Coppola, Frances. *Why Venezuela's Hyperinflation Problem Is So Difficult To Solve*. FORBES. December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/francescoppola/2018/12/31/why-venezuelas-hyperinflation-problem-is-so-difficult-to-solve/#65d11952373c>

<sup>2</sup> Cohen, Luc. IMF sees Venezuela inflation at 10 million percent in 2019. REUTERS. October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Retrieved from: <https://in.reuters.com/article/venezuela-economy/imf-sees-venezuela-inflation-at-10-million-percent-in-2019-idlNKCNI1MJ1YX>.

<sup>3</sup> Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (OVV). 2016. *OVV estima 28.479 muertes violentas en Venezuela* December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Retrieved from: <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/2016-ovv-estima-28-479-muertes-violentas-en-venezuela/>

The global average murder rate stands at 6.2 per 100,000 population, according to the latest study published by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Retrieved from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2014/April/some-437000-people-murdered-worldwide-in-2012-according-to-new-unodc-study.html>

<sup>4</sup> Insight Crime. Venezuela Investigative Unit. *Investigation and Analysis of Organized Crime '98% Impunity Rate in Venezuela'*. Written by. April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/venezuela-impunity-rate-at-98-percent>

<sup>5</sup> *Venezuela: at least two deaths after a power cut in a hospital*. January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. EFE Retrieved from: <http://www.tellerreport.com/news/--venezuela--at-least-two-deaths-after-a-power-cut-in-a-hospital-.SjJBO9OzE.html>

Chasey, Nicholas. *Dying Infants and No Medicine: Inside Venezuela's Failing Hospitals*. THE NEW YORK TIMES. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/16/world/americas/dying-infants-and-no-medicine-inside-venezuelas-failing-hospitals.html>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Senate. Council on Foreign Relations. *Opinions for U.S. Policy on Venezuela*. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Retrieved from: [https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/030217\\_ONeil\\_Testimony\\_REVISED.pdf](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/030217_ONeil_Testimony_REVISED.pdf)