



The Cornerstone

February 2015

Urgency of God's Call

SERVICES

TUESDAYS:

- 9:30 am Holy Communion Service
- 17th February—no Holy Communion Service

FRIDAYS: 1st & 3rd Friday nights

- 7pm Alive & In the House

SUNDAYS:

- 7.15 am Traditional Communion Service
- 9.30am Contemporary Communion Service with Kid's Time (followed by morning tea).
- 8th Feb Dimitri & Michelle - Kazakhstan Mission
- 22nd February—8.30 am Combined Parish Service

February Calendar

MONDAYS:

- 7 pm Men's Study Group

TUESDAYS

- 3rd & 17th February - 7pm Creative Arts Rehearsal
- 10th February - 6pm Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9.30am Gentle Exercises (starts 1st week of February)
- 12.30pm—Beacon Counseling Ministry (starts 21st January)
- 11th February - 10.45 am MU Meeting & Lunch
- 18th February - 9.30am & 6.00pm Ash Wednesday Communion Services

SUNDAY:

- 8th Feb Dimitri & Michelle - Kazakhstan Mission
- 15th February - 8.30am Pancake Breakfast
- 22nd February - 10.30am Annual Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

SENIOR PASTORS:

Andrew and Lynette Peters

RECTOR:

The Rev'd Dr. Andrew Peters PhD FAIM

CREATIVE ARTS DIRECTOR:

Lynette Peters MA (Mus)

WARDENS:

Jim Smith (Treasurer)

Vicki Herman

Neil Griffiths

ADDRESS:

- 203 Flockton Street Everton Park
- Mail: PO Box 231, Everton Park 4053

TELEPHONE:

- Phone: 3353 2020
- Fax: 3353 8877
- Emergency Pastoral Care: 0418 775 166
- Practical Care: 0408 770 748
- Emergency Prayer: 3353 2045

INTERNET:

- E-mail: stjudes@tpg.com.au
- Website: stjudesep.com.au



Our readings on 25th January focused on the urgency of God's call to us to believe and follow Jesus Christ. This urgency is seen initially in the call of Jonah to proclaim God's judgment on the city of Nineveh in Assyria. The people of Nineveh initially responded to this call with a sincere heart of repentance from their sins and a turning away from their evil ways. However, what began sincerely did not last too long, for within 40 days they returned to their previous ways and became more vicious and destructive than ever before. This resulted in their own destruction via the Babylonians and Medes.

In our Gospel reading we have what seems to be a summary of Jesus' first proclaimed message, But as we look more carefully at the words He used and their meaning, we find what seems to be a summary is a succinct statement of what God's calls us to do.

In Mark 1:15 Jesus makes four statements that indicate the nearness of God's presence in our lives and the urgency that comes with His call in our lives.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The time has come - time here means a decisive point referring to the arrival in time of something that had been promised for a long time – it was the arrival of something that had been prophesied throughout the Old Testament and had finally arrived at that specific moment in the person of Jesus Christ.

The use of the term "has come" in the perfect passive tense of the Greek verb means that not only had the time arrived, but it has arrived **permanently**. So not only had the time come for those who originally heard Jesus proclaim this statement, but it remains as a statement by Jesus for all time subsequent to this event – the time has come as much for us as it had for them. The urgency of the matter was not only for them, but for all of us from that time forward.

So when the preacher cries out this passage, it is a clarion call for all who hear – that means when Jesus made this statement it came with such an emphasis that it is a call that cannot be ignored without impunity – it calls you to stop what you are

doing and listen carefully for what God is saying to you.

To make sure that Jesus caught their attention, and just in case they were going to shrug it off as just another rabbi sprouting meaningless words, Jesus follows it up by another statement that you could guarantee was going to get their attention.

He said, the kingdom of God has come near.

Mark uses the phrase *kingdom of God* rather than *kingdom of heaven*.

If you read Matthew's Gospel you will find that Matthew refers to the *kingdom of heaven* some 29 times and the *kingdom of God* only four times.

Both Mark and Luke never use the phrase *kingdom of heaven*. Mark uses the phrase *kingdom of God* some 15 times and Luke some 31 times.

Why the difference?

Matthew writes to a predominately Jewish audience – who would never misunderstand the term *kingdom of heaven*. However, both Mark and Luke write to a predominately non-Jewish or Gentile audience, who would automatically misunderstand the phrase *kingdom of heaven*, so both used the term *kingdom of God* throughout their Gospels.

Have you ever thought why that is?

So let us see how we might misunderstand the term *kingdom of heaven*. Where is heaven for us, at least traditionally? Usually we think that heaven is a place above us or in another dimension. It is the place we go to when we die. But Jesus is definitely not talking about the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God in such a way. He has moved heaven to earth in a very dramatic way – the kingdom of God is right here, right now – he says that *the kingdom of God has come near*.

Once again Jesus uses the perfect tense of the Greek verb to mean that not only has the kingdom of God come near – right here in this place – but it is not going away.

Imagine if you lived in a religious culture that said it believed in the creator God, but had not heard from God, as a community, for over four hundred years. So the last thing you are expecting when you go down the

CHILDREN – AGES 8-10 Years

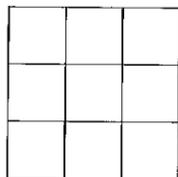
Moses' Birth
—Exodus 2-4



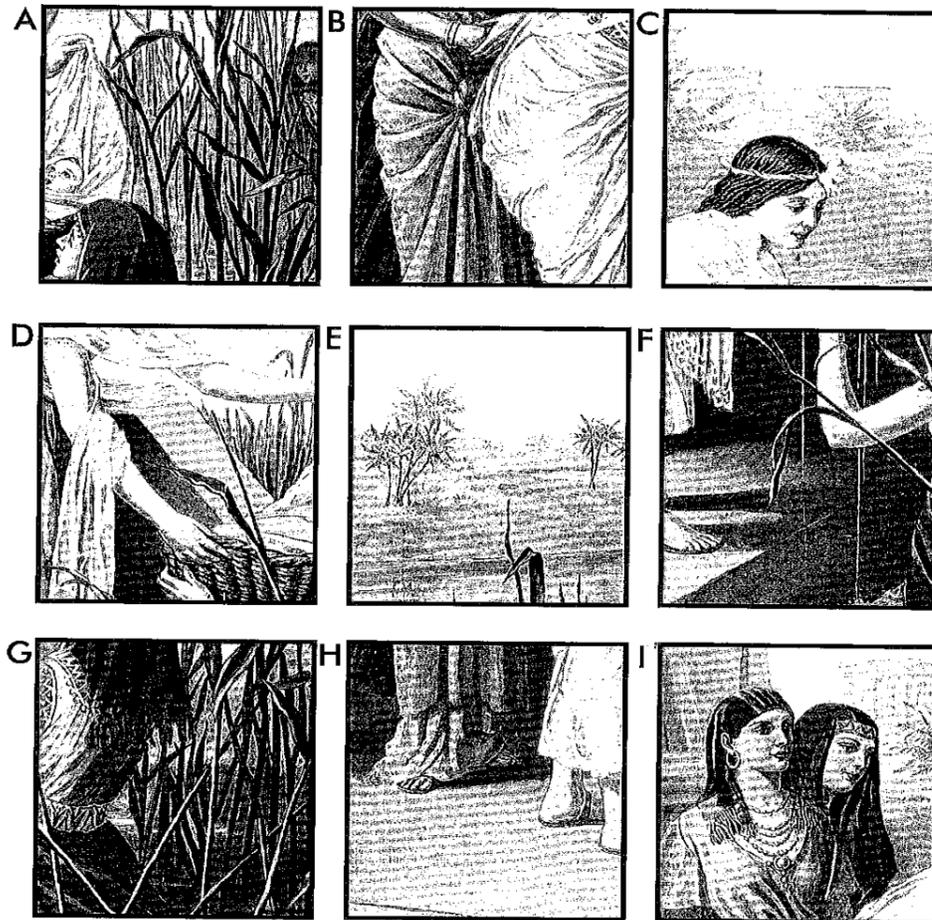
Rescued from the Nile

The squares below are part of a puzzle illustrating God's plan in action, as Pharaoh's daughter discovers Moses and resolves to raise him as her own child. God was making sure Moses would be protected as he grew up.

Study the nine puzzle parts, mentally arranging them in order to complete the picture. Write the letter of each part in this grid, indicating the position of the piece.



If you wish, the pictures squares can be cut out, arranged so that the sides are touching, and glued to another sheet of paper.



Kazakhstan Mission Team visit to St Jude's Sunday 8th February 7.15am & 9.30am services

Our Parish has supported the missionary ministry of Demetri and Michelle and their family to Kazakhstan. Demetri and Michelle cover a broad range of ministry work that also includes Teen Challenge. They will be visiting St Jude's on Sunday 8th February and speaking at the end of both services.

Shrove Sunday Pancakes In-between Services Pancake Feast

**Shrove Sunday Pancake
Breakfast on 15th February
at 8.30am**



The beginning of Lent brings together two strange and contradictory events—Shrove Tuesday (for us **Shrove Sunday**) and Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday - also known as Pancake Day - is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is celebrated by cooking and more importantly *eating* pancakes—a last feast before the fasting and self-denial of Lent. In some places pancake races are held, where participants run along tossing a pancake as they go.

**Ash Wednesday 18th February
9.30am and 6.00pm**

Ash Wednesday brings with it ashes, repentance and a change of heart. It calls us into a formal time of waiting upon God and seeking His face, to know His purpose for us and to be in tune with His desires.

From Bible Puzzles for Kids aged 8-10 © 2006 by Standard Printing, Cincinnati, Ohio



World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March 2015

10.30 am

In March 2015, our Church will host the 2015 World Day of Prayer which this year will focus on the *Bahamas*.

Place: St Jude the Apostle Anglican Church, Everton Park

Time: 10.30am

Guest Missionary Speakers from the Bahamas:

Hazel and Kevin Murray

Refreshments: after the service in the Cornerstone Ministry Centre



Annual Meeting

22nd February - 10.30 am

Annual Meeting will be held after the 8.30 am Combined Parish Service and will include Morning Tea. Nominations for Wardens, Parish Counselors and Nominators, along with any notice of additional general business need to be in by 5pm on 13th February, either in Green Mail box in reception of the Cornerstone Ministry Centre or to Pastor Andrew or one of the Wardens.

Please bring a plate of food for Morning Tea

Working BEE

DATE: Saturday 28th February 2015

Time: 7.30am-11.30am

LUNCH: followed by a BBQ lunch at 11:30am



Work includes mowing lawns/watercourse, general garden tidy-up around the alfresco patio, church and front gardens in preparation for the World Day of Prayer. Refreshments provided, including BBQ lunch at 11.30am.

“whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”

(2 Corinthians 9:6).

Thanksgiving Commitment Cards for 2015

If you have not yet completed your Thanksgiving Commitment Card for 2015 you can complete it and put it in the offertory plate at any of our services.

Merchant Card Facility



St Jude's has its own merchant card facility that means members and guests can use their credit or debit cards to make payments for:

- Tithes and offering;
- Mission donations;
- Building Fund donations [*not for Tax Deductible Education Trust donations*]
- Event fees
- Book Purchases; and
- Other.

Please see Jimmy or Ps Andrew if you wish to use this facility.