



Chapel in the Hills

About Us

Gippsland Christian Fellowship (formerly Leongatha Christian Fellowship) is a caring, friendly Church that has been holding meetings in Gippsland since the mid 1970's.

The Church adheres to sound Scriptural practise in all of its worship and teaching activities. The love of the Word of God is encouraged both publicly and in every household. Fellowship is a central value at GCF and is promoted in each aspect of its broad program, which cares for all ages.

May 2010 edition...

2 COME AND SEE!
Can't see the wood for the trees? Maybe it's time for a little pruning...

4 WHAT MATTERS
Helen Holland reflects on an issue that had her stuck in a rut, and the solution...

6 ABOUT LIFE
This month our regular devotional study focuses on having a fruitful life

8 KIDS PAGE
Hey kids! Learn lots of interesting things with Zoe Seedlife.



KNOW MORE...

Want to find out more or need a ride to church?

We have people living in locations right across Gippsland who would be happy to help:

Traralgon	Brad	0437 961 102
Mirboo North	Bob	0400 403 765
Korumburra	Joe	0403 006 096
Inverloch	David	0428 553 222



Chapel in the Hills

Come and
See *by Carmel Chessari*



Pruning and Victory

Recently our “Come and See” articles have been focussing on being restored to what God has always hoped for in His heart towards us.

Bob spoke of the “inbuilt helper”, the Holy Spirit who will oversee this process in our lives. David wrote of the repetitive mode of his life and of the day that he began his “new life”, where God met him in his cry. Brad spoke of walking in the newness of this life that we find as we are given to serving God.

In this edition, I would like to express my thoughts that occur in the seasons that we experience. We all face times that can be likened to tribulation. Circumstances that we face are never guaranteed and how we deal with situations differs from one person to the other.

In Scripture John 15 speaks of Jesus as the vine. It also talks of being “pruned” and for many of you who are avid gardeners, you would realise the importance of



pruning. This can be a season likened to tribulation, where we can experience pain or suffering. Jesus' words in John 15 vs 2 says "...every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit". Pruning, although it appears to be harsh, allows for the branch to bear further fruit in its season. As Christians, and as branches of the vine, this is a very real experience in our lives.

Times of pruning are challenging. I can easily ask God "why am I going through this period of change, or why am I facing these circumstances in my life?" Yet nothing that happens through God is ever in vain. He will always have a purpose for the circumstances that we face. The difficult times are often the times that God is pruning us to bring us closer to Himself. It is a time of preparation and it is an important part of our journey in God as we continue to learn and understand His ways.

We can embrace the changes and cycles in life when we begin to acknowledge that God works all things together for good. Romans 8:28 says "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*". We are no longer a victim, but a victor in Christ.

"The only thing that separates us from His love is ourselves and the idea that "I can do it on my own, I don't need God."

We have all been called to live out our lives in and for God. We will experience the highs and lows that come upon us in life's journey, but as we know that these times are in God's hands and His purpose is being worked out in us, we can know the peace of God that passes all understanding. Every person is included in God's plan. The only thing that separates us from His love is ourselves and the idea that "I can do it on my own, I don't need God". Our lives are precious in His sight and He desires

to know YOU. Don't delay but Come and See and hear the hope and the plan that God has for your life.

My shout for coffee!

Present this voucher at the GCF Mirboo North market stall for a FREE espresso coffee (or Hot Chocolate).

Books ● Face Painting for the kids ● ~~Good~~ ^{Great} Coffee



Chapel in the Hills

The heart of the Matter

Helen Holland

Stuck in a Rut? Get Moving!

Ever been in the situation where you feel like you've come out of something major or just learned something new? There's been a big shift or change in your thinking and culture. Now what? Where do I go from here?



A while ago I was quite convinced by the Holy Spirit over the training of my children and what I was allowing into our home. The word of the Lord came to me at the time and I responded, knowing there needed to be major changes.



Now what? As days and then weeks went by I began to have the sneaking suspicion that there was something more I needed to 'get'.

It struck me that I had been afraid to put my faith into action because of the mess I perceived in my home. 'Let me clean that up first THEN come to present my "holy offering" to you, Lord'. The apostle Paul talks of this kind of perception and he calls it 'The law of sin and death'. My law was telling me that I couldn't go forward because of the mess of ungodliness so I sat there and dug myself in a hole.

We had recently moved house while all this was happening, and part of our new home was a fantastic, established garden. I very quickly learnt that if you weed but leave the earth bare, more weeds will quickly spring up in their place. If you plant something there, however, it's much more difficult for weeds to root. The Lord was showing me through this time our households operate by the same principle: you can pull out spiritual 'weeds' but if you don't plant something, weeds will just grow back by default (Matthew 12:43-45).

As we consider the Lord's call to us to come forward, the call is to not only break up the ground but to plant seed in it. This is how we proceed – we sow.

Consider these verses, 'Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow for continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.' (Isaiah 28:23-26).

The verse above makes it clear that there is an instruction from the Lord to each one of us in what we sow and where we sow it. Some seed is scattered, other seed is sown in an ordered way. In my own life I have been amazed at how specific at times this has been and how practical. As we cultivate our individual devotion to the Lord and to His people He will instruct us. We're not alone in this as we are part of a greater garden of God's people (often called His vineyard.)

None of us have lives or homes that are 'good enough' for the Lord to dwell in, yet He desires to meet and know us and have us and know Him. Have you been 'stuck' and unable to proceed? Perhaps it's time to become activated and get some seed into the ground.....

About Life

*A sample of the daily devotional
available online*



The fruit of the vine

The vine speaks of how life is multiplied. The life of the vine demonstrates how a certain kind of fruit, the fruit of love, is brought forth to eternity.

This true and good fruit is a firstfruits person or house where love endures and is maintained in the one fellowship of the vine. The branches which remain connected to the vine are those that bring forth by offering. This is the fruit of love, friendship and discipleship. And every branch which brings forth fruit, the Father prunes and cleanses. This is the way in which firstfruits people develop a network of friendship and fellowship around them. They are true branches of the vine.

Nevertheless, the Gospel of John shows that some will begin well but then seek to take the communion to themselves. They will be cut off and burned with unquenchable fire. Jesus said, 'I am the true vine and My Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away.' The vine is the body of Christ. The branches are the individual members who, in the context of worthy houses and firstfruits houses, participate in the body of Christ and bring forth fruit. This is the fruit of zoe life, friendship, discipleship, and fellowship. These are, first of all, houses of friendship. They establish connections with people in their homes. And from there disciples are made and are connected into the vine. These sons of peace will connect people to the communion table.

References:

1 Cor 13:4-7
Luke 10:6
Job 29:4
John 15:1-2, 5, 8, 13-15

Further Study:

John 15

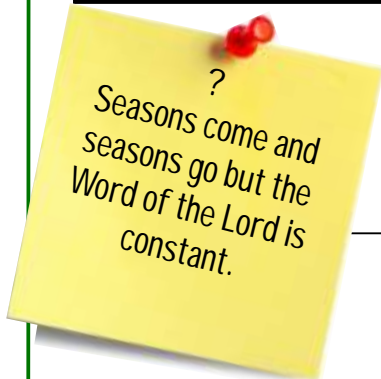
Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 31

Snapshot s

Little things that mean more:

LOOK toward the Harvest



Planting...waiting....Growing
...waiting....fruiting...waiting...
...ripening...waiting...Harvest...
WORKING...pruning...waiting?

Whatever the season, wait on the Lord.

Be of good courage and He *will*:

- Strengthen your heart
- Renew your strength
- You will not be ashamed

You are important to God and you need to fill out your predestination i.e. who and what you are according to God's plan. Jesus spoke of "seed" representing God's word. Those who receive God's word for them, receive the Life He planned and bring forth the fruit or God's Life- Friendship, discipleship and fellowship.

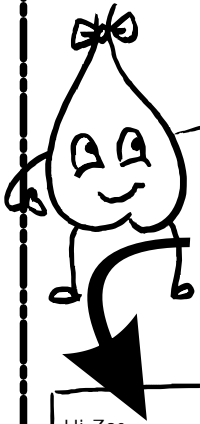
Don't be afraid of the Lord's help. You might need a bit of pruning, but the end result will be perfect.

What season is your life in?

//

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me:

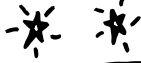
Ps138:8 //



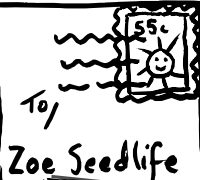
ZOE'S PAGE

My name is Zoe Seedlife
and this is my page just for kids!!

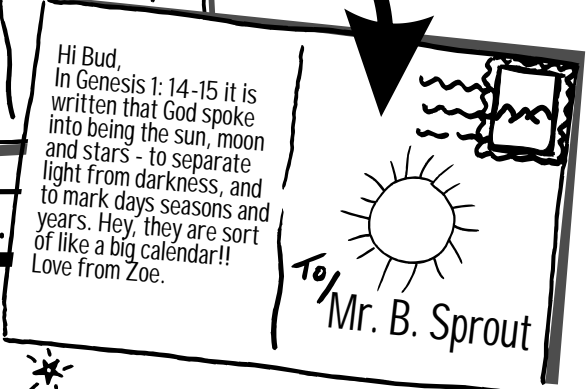
Hi kids! My friend Bud is **Still** on holidays. He sent me another post card from the Northern Territory.



Hi Zoe,
I am still camping in the Northern Territory. The sky looks bigger here - there is so much space around! In the day the sun blazes above and at night the moon and stars look so close you could touch them. Hey Zoe how did they get there?
Love from Bud.



So I sent him back another one!



Did you know...

Plants need light to grow. If there was no light there would be no plants.

And - if there were no plants, there would be no seeds...like me!!



Planets are lights in the sky too!
Can you unscramble these planets - they got all mixed up!



rceurym
usenv
rsma
rjuetip



naurts
snuuar
pnetneu
tulop