

# The Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Edge Hill, Cairns

(20 December 2020)

## **A Minute from a Minister**

### **Revival through... Prayer!**

As many of you know, we are planning to start back face to face for all 3 services in January. And while we are working through the various details of rosters, social distancing, COVID cleaning training and rosters, new technology with cameras, sound and computer software for live streaming, not to mention working out all the restrictions that go with it. It's fair to say, there's a lot going on. Among all of this, the biggest and best thing we can do in preparation for returning is... pray. And I know, that this might sound like a clichéd thing to say. But just because it's clichéd doesn't mean it's not true.

I recently read a short book on church history. What surprised and excited me was reading about revival in many countries around the world and the "Great Awakenings" in America. There have been Christian revivals in countries I have never heard of. And in all these revivals, there was always one common thing, prayer.

A group of believers gathered together each day or week and prayed for months that God would renew his church and bring the lost of their city to Christ. It was so exciting reading about how men and women in the church would stand up and confess their sins, repent and renew their faith in Christ. This seemed to happen in many countries. Stories of elders or long standing members of the church openly confessing their sins and leading the way for others to confess and repent too. They would then go and tell others in their lives about this Jesus who forgives and saves. Thus starting a revival.

I have been praying for TGS and the city of Cairns these past 3 weeks, asking God to renew his church and bring the lost of Cairns to Christ, and especially through TGS. I want to invite you to pray with me. I pray a short prayer each day and a longer prayer twice a week.

As I have prayed, God has led me to think about how we might welcome in the lost? How we will help point non Christians to Christ? How we will grow them in faith and use them to serve others in his kingdom? I am excited by the thought of being involved in kingdom ministries that see people brought from death to life. But, hear this, being involved in revival means being prepared to accept people with messy lives. Revival means being willing to welcome people who are coming from dark places and not being afraid to speak into their lives and situations with God's message of light and hope through Christ. It means getting messy ourselves. This is really why we exist though, "to make disciples of Jesus, of *all people*, of all ages, to the glory of God". And this all starts with prayer!

Chris

Today's Message: ***How would you feel knowing these things in advance*** Reverend Cameron Wills

† Today's Bible Readings: Malachi 3:16-18, Luke 1:5-25

† Online 9am service: [www.tgs.org.au](http://www.tgs.org.au) OR  
[www.facebook.com/tgsedgehill](https://www.facebook.com/tgsedgehill) OR  
[www.tinyurl.com/tgscairns](http://www.tinyurl.com/tgscairns)

† Online help: Please contact our Church Office

Church Office: Robyn Gaunt and Avril Smuts, 9.30-3.30 Monday to Friday, 4053 2019,  
[contactus@tgs.org.au](mailto:contactus@tgs.org.au)

### **Financial Giving Arrangements**

Electronic: Anglican Financial Services, The Good Shepherd Anglican Church, BSB: 704 901, Account Number: 000 104 90

Envelopes: Please contact our Church Office as to what to do