



Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand Inc.

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LONG TIME NO SEE

It's been many months since we last issued a newsletter - it's about time we caught up again...

Patience and Prayer



A one-time neighbour of mine (we met six years ago) always promised that he would come to church. A few weeks ago he came to our service at [Takanini Church of Christ](#) for the first time. He is keen to get to know more of God. He said he has not been to church (apart from weddings and funerals) for decades and was grateful that we had not pushed him to come earlier but had given him time.

Sometimes we need to be bold and ask people to make an immediate decision. Sometimes wisdom calls us to wait until the harvest is ready to be reaped. Sometimes only the Holy Spirit's leading will enable us to discern the difference.

My friend is not well at the moment. Please pray for him.

What Does it Mean to be an Advent Christian?



Being an Advent Christian (or being a Christian, for that matter), is about much more than doctrine. Having said that, I wrote a tract once called ["What is an Advent Christian?"](#) (Available under 'Publications'). In it I said, "99.9% of Advent Christian beliefs are those we hold in common with Christians of all denominations, across all ages. We believe that salvation comes only by accepting Christ as our Sin bearer, Saviour, and Sovereign. Yet some of the things that Advent Christians believe do set us apart. We don't say these things make us "more Christian" than any other Believers. But we do see these issues as important enough for us to take a stand on them." I still believe that this is so.

Consequently I am preaching a series of sermons at Takanini on "Advent Christian Distinctives".

The first was entitled, "Eternal Life Now: Yes and No". Its theme is the exclusive un-derived immortality of God and the conditional immortality of human beings. The second sermon, "Mortal but Made in His Image", focuses on biblical anthropology ("What does it mean to be human?"). The third sermon is entitled "Is Death Death?".

All three audios have been put up on the [Afterlife website](#) (More sermons will follow as I preach them...):

"Eternal Life: Yes and No"

[<http://www.afterlife.co.nz/the-exclusive-immortality-of-god-and-our-conditional-immortality>]

"Mortal but Made in His Image" [<http://www.afterlife.co.nz/mortal-but-made-in-his-image-audio>]

"Is Death Death?" [<http://www.afterlife.co.nz/is-death-death-audio>]

The audios have been edited to remove a lot of the interaction between myself and the congregation. Not everyone in our church wants to "star" on the internet. You get the "meat" so to speak.

Burge Family News



In the beginning of October **Taryna, Rachel and Ruth** (all the "girl's" in the Burge household) are going to England for a little over three weeks.

David will be at home looking after (or being looked after) by the six boys. Taryna hasn't seen her Mum since Rachel was born (14 years ago) and she hasn't seen her sister for more years than that.

Pray that those travelling will be safe and enjoy the time away. Pray that those left at home will manage without a wife and mother.

Those of you that know that the Burges home school may wonder if Dave is up to the task. Dave's master plan is to stop maths and grammar while Tarnya is away and do a whole lot of history. It will be history through film. That is, learn a bit of history and watch some of Dad's favourite historical movies. Did you know that Spartacus was a real slave who led an armed revolt against Rome around 73 B.C.?

Christian Screen



Of course, as part of my effort to stock up on suitable films I will be talking to **Cliff and Leonie Ireland** who do a marvelous job of heading up [Christian Screen](#) which makes available Christian video and audio resources to the Pacific including Fiji, Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Samoa, the Philippines and New Zealand.

Cliff and Leonie send out a full catalogue about once a year to those who request it. There are also quarterly updates available now that can be sent out by email or hard copy, if requested. These will keep you up to date with the new titles that are constantly being added to the library.

If you want to receive the Christian Screen catalogue let us know and we will put you on the mailing list.

Kids at Heart Kids Club - Melville



Bill and Jan Horton of Christian LIFE Melville are restarting a Kid's Club in their home. They are in the advertising stage at present. So far the response has been positive. Jan had a phone call from a lady living not far from the Horton's home. This lady had seen one of the notices Jan and Bill had put up in a Supermarket mall to advertise their Kid's Club. This Mum was so excited to find a club that would teach Bible stories to her young daughter.

Christian LIFE Parawai



God has been good to **Gavin and Alison McIntosh** and he is providing them with the work they need to be able to put bread on the table. This does make it harder to find time for maintaining and build relationships with their neighbours. Pray that Gavin and Alison will find opportunities to witness in the work that they do and this will result in new avenues for ministry.

Parawai Church of Christ



Meanwhile the **Parawai Church of Christ** is in good heart. Garry Schäche and I are still meeting with them once a month and find the fellowship warm. They too are meeting people in the community around them. **Terry Burchell** is planning the Christmas service already before he and Bridget depart for a holiday in the UK.

ACCONZ Prayer Points

Please pray with us for each of the following:

1. Pray for David's friend who has recently come to the church. Pray for a physical and spiritual renewal.
2. Pray to God that the truth of his Word (including those "Advent Christian Distinctives") will change people's lives.
3. Pray for the Burge family while Tarnya, Rachel and Ruth are away in England.
4. Pray for Cliff and Leonie Ireland as they lead the Christian Screen outreach.
5. Pray for Bill and Jan as they reach out to children in their Hamilton community through kids clubs and Bible in Schools.
6. Pray for Gavin and Alison, Doug, Terry and the others as they seek to build upon contacts they have made in the Thames Community.

Yours in Him
On behalf of ACCONZ
David Burge.