

BULLETIN

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

From David: Life is like a

Just recently, I've noticed a few journals describing this time in COVID-19 as a roller-coaster ride, especially since government restrictions have been imposed again. **It's a metaphor often used to describe what life is like: full of ups and downs, sharp bends, surprising dips and steep climbs. It's a ride that can be both exhilarating as well as sickening.**

I can remember my first experience of such a ride as a child. We were on holiday at a place called Gt Yarmouth; a popular tourist destination that offered a heady mix of smells, sights and sounds. It catered for everyone. The place was full of pubs, bingo stalls, and ice cream stands. It was a hot day in July and I'd just eaten a bag of chips, a small dish of cockles and was making my way through a Wall's ice cream, when my older sister grabbed my hand and dragged me toward a roller-coaster ride. It was quite small scale, but looked really big to me. I was 6. We climbed in and a big red-faced man lowered the safety bar into our laps. Looking back, I think I was much too small for the ride. Anyway, we started the slow climb to the top of the ride. Higher and higher we went. I shuffled across to look over the side and could see mum waving enthusiastically. So far, all's well. Then the roller car took a sharp left and immediately plunged down a steep valley track. Older kids were shouting and laughing. It raced to the top again without slowing and once again veering left, hurtled into an even deeper descent. As you can imagine, the chips didn't stay down for very long and it was lucky for everybody else that we were in the back row.

But, as a metaphor, I'm not sure the roller-coaster ride really works as a way of describing what life is like for most people. It's a bit too dramatic as well as being inaccurate. Forest Gump's mum reckoned life was "like a box of chocolates" – full of random surprises. I suspect we've all got our own preferred metaphor. Personally, I reckon life is a bit more like a Go-Kart race.

- Its low to the ground
- You're on your own
- You strap yourself in
- Some karts are better than others (it's the luck of the draw)
- You can race to win or you can just enjoy the experience
- Each time you have the experience, skills improve and it gets better.
- Just when you think you are going fine someone comes up behind you and knocks you out of the race, or the kart breaks down.

- And, just when you think you are in front, someone sneaks up on the inside and wins the race.
- Sometimes it's frustrating but most times it's just a heap of fun.

Of course, there is always a risk in pushing a metaphor too far – but you get the point, right?

Once you are strapped into a roller-coaster trolley that's it. Any control over what happens next has gone out the window so-to-speak. You climb in. You hang on. You get out. I don't think life is like that.

But with a Go-Kart (as in life), you are largely in control of what happens on the track; you get to make a few decisions. There's bad luck and there's good luck. There's usually someone else trying to get in front or cut you off. Sometimes you're the one trying to get in front or cut someone off. Go fast. Go slow. Go steady. Get annoyed or just have fun. But there are lots of choices involved. Personal choices.

The metaphor works for me. Mind you, I do quite like the idea of life being 'like a box of choclits' – especially if I pick one of those crunchy ones. I'm not that keen on the strawberry syrupy ones.

Meanwhile, strap yourself in and get as much out of the COVID ride as you can. I think we'll be on this ride a little bit longer. Actually, quite a bit longer – together and alone.

Shalom

David

CYBER-CHURCH - SUNDAY 28th June 2020: 10.30 am

BIBLE READING: Acts 25: 23 to 26: 13

This Sunday we continue with the questions around how the light gets in and how the light gets out.

Enlightenment tends to bring about personal change, so we will think a bit about what was happening in Saul of Turkey for him to change from being a persecutor to becoming a champion. Of course, such transitions also apply to us – what causes us to change.

An invitation to join the gathering will be sent around 9.45 and 'service' will commence 10.30 am.

See you soon – maybe. Shalom. David

BIBLE STUDY /DISCUSSION: WEDNESDAY EVENING 1 July from 6.00 – 7.00 pm

This Wednesday will be part 2 of an exploration of how the early Christian community transformed the Jesus of history into the Saviour of humanity. We will explore how an age-old practice of myth-making turned a Charismatic Rabbi into the sacrificial Lamb of God.

Invitation to join the study will be sent out around 5.45 pm.

See you then hopefully.

Peace.

David

Church Council met last Thursday and decided that because of the Covid-19 virus we are not yet in a position to open the church for services or for other groups to use the church. This will be reviewed at the next meeting

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA

Due to Covid-19, the next meeting of the ***PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA*** will again be held remotely **via Zoom on Sunday 28 June, 4.00pm to 5.15pm**

Our theme for June will be: ***REFLECTIVE WINTER JOURNEYING*** : A time of stillness, imagery, poetry and commentary, as we reflect on the rhythm of the seasons. with Rev Greg Crowe, Rev Dr Julie Hall and Rev Dr Coralie Ling:

Please click on the link below, just before 4:00pm to join the zoom meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84788796207?pwd=TUE2TmdYVnFua29POTd6Mzl1WFBNZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 8879 6207

Password: 399472

Uniting Winter Appeal – Spread the Warmth this Winter. Keep families warm this winter and enable ***Uniting*** to provide blankets, pyjamas, winter woollies and swags for everyone finding it tough right now in our community. \$29 provides 1 x warm blanket, \$100 provides warm pyjamas for a family of four, \$115 provides 1 x swag. Please donate online (<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/spread-the-warmththis-winter/>) or drop off new items at any of Uniting's offices or Emergency Relief services.

UnitingWorld  info@unitingworld.org.au

The world is entering its most critical phase yet in dealing with COVID-19

The news right now is not good: the COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating worldwide. I wanted to address the issue in person and let you know that our international partners are working hard to keep vulnerable people safe.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our COVID-19 crisis appeal. Combined with funding from the Australian Government, we can make your donation go up to six times as far in the field.

www.unitingworld.org.au



UnitingWorld is an agency of
the Uniting Church in Australia



Happy birthday to Preeti's daughter, Ariana, who celebrated her first birthday recently

v

Please visit our website: www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au It is updated on a regular basis by Petra. If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of the church, the best way is through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. The only identification needed is 'offering'.

By mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to desleighk@ozemail.com.au

(photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung – the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.