

Magill Free Church BULLETIN



18/11/2007

“A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.” **Song of Solomon 4:12**

In this metaphor, which has reference to the inner life of a believer, we have very plainly the idea of secrecy. It is a spring shut up: just as there were springs in the East, over which an edifice was built, so that none could reach them save those who knew the secret entrance; so is the heart of a believer when it is renewed by grace: there is a mysterious life within which no human skill can touch. It is a secret which no other man knoweth; nay, which the very man who is the possessor of it cannot tell to his neighbour. The text includes not only secrecy, but separation. It is not the common spring, of which every passer-by may drink, it is one kept and preserved from all others; it is a fountain bearing a particular mark—a king’s royal seal, so that all can perceive that it is not a common fountain, but a fountain owned by a proprietor, and placed specially by itself alone. So is it with the spiritual life. The chosen of God were separated in the eternal decree; they were separated by God in the day of redemption; and they are separated by the possession of a life which others have not; and it is impossible for them to feel at home with the world, or to delight in its pleasures. There is also the idea of sacredness. The spring shut up is preserved for the use of some special person: and such is the Christian’s heart. It is a spring kept for Jesus. Every Christian should feel that he has God’s seal upon him—and he should be able to say with Paul, “From henceforth let no man trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” Another idea is prominent—it is that of security. Oh! how sure and safe is the inner life of the believer! If all the powers of earth and hell could combine against it, that immortal principle must still exist, for he who gave it pledged his life for its preservation. And who “is he that shall harm you,” when God is your protector?

[From Spurgeon’s Morning and Evening Readings]

“THOU ART FROM EVERLASTING.”

PSALM 93:2

Christ is Everlasting. Of him we may sing with David, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever.” Rejoice, believer, in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and for ever. Jesus always was. The Babe born in Bethlehem was united to the Word, which was in the beginning, by whom all things were made. The title by which Christ revealed himself to John in Patmos was, “Him which is, and which was, and which is to come.” If he were not God from everlasting, we could not so devoutly love him; we could not feel that he had any share in the eternal love which is the fountain of all covenant blessings; but since he was from all eternity with the Father, we trace the stream of divine love to himself equally with his Father and the blessed Spirit. As our Lord always was, so also he is for evermore. Jesus is not dead; “He ever liveth to make intercession for us.” Resort to him in all your times of need, for he is waiting to bless you still. Moreover, Jesus our Lord ever shall be. If God should spare your life to fulfil your full day of threescore years and ten, you will find that his cleansing fountain is still opened, and his precious blood has not lost its power; you shall find that the Priest who filled the healing fount with his own blood, lives to purge you from all iniquity. When only your last battle remains to be fought, you shall find that the hand of your conquering Captain has not grown feeble—the living Saviour shall cheer the dying saint. When you enter heaven you shall find him there bearing the dew of his youth; and through eternity the Lord Jesus shall still remain the perennial spring of joy, and life, and glory to his people. Living waters may you draw from this sacred well! Jesus always was, he always is, he always shall be. He is eternal in all his attributes, in all his offices, in all his might, and willingness to bless, comfort, guard, and crown his chosen people. [From Spurgeon's Morning and Evening Readings]

•GIVING THANKS

The Word of God incites every true-hearted Christian to be thankful and of the wicked we are told "neither were they thankful".

As a congregation we have much to bless the Lord for.

We stand fast for "purity of worship" i.e. that God is Lord of his own worship and so our form of worship is firmly based on the principles and practices of the Word of God. For this wonderful heritage once maintained by all Christian churches we give thanks. Again, our little congregation is growing, and for this we are filled with thanksgiving. How the preacher's heart is gladdened to see the people of God gather, not to one, but to both ends of a Lord's Day, to praise his wonderful name. But more than this, how glad is the heart to see the midweek

prayer meeting bustling with those anxiously waiting upon the Lord. When God's dear ones give themselves to his worship it is a wonder to behold.

•REV GAVINO FIORETTI:

Mr. Fioretti is in Cohuna this Lord's Day. He is thereafter in Chadstone [Tues], in Melbourne City [Wed], Reformed Theological College [Thur], Ipswich [Sat twice], Ipswich [Sun am], Brisbane [Sun pm], Wondai [Tues], Rockhampton [Wed] and then back to Ipswich [Sun am and pm]. Gavino returns to Magill to conduct the Wednesday PM [Dec 5th] and Communion am Service on Lord's Day 9th. Please pray much for Mr. Fioretti as he bears the duties of these preaching engagements.

•PRAYER:

Please continue to pray for Robyn Temby, Gladys Tucker, Bert Klaver, and dear Malcolm Bird. Pray also for Jane McInarlin who is away in Canberra with a school trip. Please especially remember Grace as she bears her own burdens at this time. Grace is very much in our prayers.

•HOUSE FOR MINISTER:

Please pray for our Minister that the Lord would provide an affordable and appropriate house for the Lord's work here in Adelaide and in wider Australia.

•CONGREGATIONAL CHILDREN:

Acts 2:39 tells us, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Let us never be unmindful of the unconverted children of the congregation and others known to and associated with us.

•IRAQ:



A 2,000-year-old "Christian Church" in Iraq faces extinction at the hands of Islamic extremists. Militants seek to cleanse their country of Christians and Christianity. They tell the Christians, "Convert to Islam, leave or die."

In the south and central areas Christians flee the restrictions, threats and violence. Some estimate more than a million "Christians" have left the country since 1990 when anti-Christian feelings began to rise during the first Gulf War. This

figure represents about two-thirds of the "Christian" population. Many of the refugees are in Syria and Jordan where they struggle to find basic needs. Of the Christians who remain in Iraq, many have moved to the relatively safe Kurdish areas in the north, but have no means to support themselves there.

•**DESMOND BIGGERSTAFF:**

Thank you, everyone who has been praying for our dear friend Desmond Biggerstaff as he was scheduled to have his eye operation on Nov 1st. We now know that the operation has been a success and now anticipate seeing Desmond here in Adelaide some time in the future.

•**ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY [GREEK CLASS- I]:**

The "Academy" NT Greek class is about to begin. In the foreseeable future we hope that we will be able to have classes in Systematic Theology, Church History, Apologetics and Pastoral Theology. Meetings will be in the "middle hall" at the agreed/advertised time. Offerings to support this work are welcome. Please see the Minister for details.

•**FORTHCOMING COMMUNION:**

Remember our communion service is scheduled for Dec 8th-9th. The preacher will be [DV] Rev Gavino Fioretti AM and Christopher Tuck PM with the Minister [Rev Frew] conducting the Sat preparatory service.

•**YOUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS:**

Henceforth we intend to receive your gifts and offerings using a collection box at the door. You can now give to the work of the Lord at most services. Please notice, therefore, that the collection box is at the door.

Regular Worship Services:

Minister:- Rev James Frew, M.A. Dip.Theol.

Church:- 496 Magill Road, Magill, Adelaide, South Australia, 5072.

Sunday Services:- Prayer Meeting at 10:30 am, Main Service at 11:00 am, Prayer Meeting at 5:30 pm and the Main Service at 6:00 pm.

Midweek Meetings:- Prayer Meeting/Bible Study, Wednesday 7.30 pm.

As a Christian congregation, we welcome you to worship and fellowship with us.

Recordings of the Lord's day and Midweek services are available as AudioCDS, MP3CDs and DVDs. Services are also available online at the web site below.

Visit our web site at <http://www.magillfreechurch.org>