

The Vine

24 April 2022



Message: The Championship Distance

Scripture: 1st Timothy 6. 11-16.

Fall Down Seven Times, Get Up Eight

After finishing off the list of attributes to pursue, Paul writes a new instruction to Timothy: "Fight the good fight along with all other believers. Take hold of eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12, NIRV).

Fighting the good fight of faith involves running from sin and pursuing things such as righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

Fighting the good fight of faith is about making a choice - a choice to pursue God's will and a life of faith on a daily basis. It is about deciding to fight the temptations and factors that pull away from God and instead lean into Him.

Paul references the good fight again in 2 Timothy 4:7 where he says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Fighting the good fight of the faith is also about perseverance and continuing, - even when the road is hard.

Much Grace
Orrell



GOING THE DISTANCE

Question: What do diets, exercise programs, marriage, and the Christian life have in common?

According to Eugene Peterson in his book *'A Long Obedience in The Same Direction.'* the answer is that it's fairly easy and even fun to begin with, but it's not so easy to hang in for the long haul.

There is a frequently used expression: 'the distance,' or 'going the distance,' which is borrowed from the world of Boxing. The 'distance' refers to the full number of rounds in boxing matches.

It means fighting a full bout, going for twelve rounds without 'throwing in the towel' or being knocked out.

'Going the distance' means *enduring* - it entails getting back up after being knocked down.



In Title fights, this is called 'the Championship distance.'

Do you want to go the distance?

Are you prepared to go - the Championship distance?

Discipleship is, as Eugene Peterson describes it - *'A Long Obedience In The Same Direction.'*

Starting well is easy; finishing well is another matter.

We all will encounter numerous hindrances, but, like Bunyan's character, Christian, in the classic novel 'Pilgrims Progress' those whose burden has been lifted at Calvary will persevere.

Prayer from the Moderator ... Rev Andrew Gunton

Gracious God, as we move forward as a people of the resurrection you bless us with your wondrous gift of forgiveness. A gift given out of your great love for the world. A gift given out of the costly sacrifice of one man.

May we, your forgiven people, never take this gift for granted but reflect with wonder that you our God should love us so much that you would continue to forgive us over and over again.

May we your forgiven people, constantly live out of this gift and offer this gift of forgiveness to those people whom we come into contact with, in our families, our friends and our communities.

May we your forgiven people, remind our fractured world that your costly gift of forgiveness, is so that the whole world may find peace and work out ways to be reconciled to each other as we are first reconciled to you through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

This **Thursday 28th April - 9am** in our Gympie CE Room. Please bring an item of interest from around the world to 'show and share' - also a mug from home to use at morning tea. All ladies are most welcome.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - MAY DONATIONS

During the month of May, we'll collect **Something to Love**. Soft toys, dolls, hand puppets etc. ... small enough to fit in a shoebox with lots of other things.

If you find some great shoebox filler deals on items which we collect during other months of the year, please bring them in at any time.

Thank you for your wonderful support - it brings so much delight to the lives of children around the globe and they have the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

MAYORAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Thank you to those of our church family who volunteered to serve breakfast in Memorial Park on Friday ... it was a very early start for you and your service was very much appreciated. A whole new team (some local ministers and Gympie Regional Council representatives) stepped in to organize the breakfast and Mayor Glen Hartwig indicated that this year's MPB was the first of a new format going forward. A simple breakfast was available, Pastor Jamie Tasker of Gympie's Expansion Church gave his testimony and a number of church leaders prayed.

DRUM KIT APPEAL

So far you've donated \$2,430 towards new drums - a modern set which will work well with our current technology. If you would like to contribute, you can direct deposit into our church bank account - Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101 - with 'Drums' as the reference; or by cash in a marked envelope. Thank you for being a part of this.

GREAT COMPANY at D'CAFÉ

Come along to our café mornings for a great time together.

Tuesdays & Fridays → 9.30am D'Café (Southside)

JOIN US for MOTHER'S DAY ~ Sunday 8th May

John 21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast"

Gympie: McMother's Day breakfast before worship, serving from 8am

Imbil: McMother's Day morning tea after worship

We hope you can celebrate with us





UNITING 4570
So we can be one

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling ... the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!

GYMPIE REGIONAL UNITING CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

WORSHIP

Gympie: 15 Red Hill Road - Together at 9am + Kidz Church
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

LIVE-STREAMING

Sunday messages livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

CHURCH OFFICE

P: 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Tue 8:30am to 12pm - Thur & Fri 9am to 3pm

REV ORRELL BATTERSBY

0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

PASTOR JIM HALL

0418 727 408 jimh@gruc.org

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact the office or Jim Hall

SOME DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

28th April: Friendship Circle - 9am CE Room

8th May: Mother's Day (details inside)

26th August: Shine Women's Conference

LET'S CHOOSE TO BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER!

Please, join us at **8am** on **Thursday** mornings.
This has become a great time of fellowship,
corporate prayer and sharing in Communion.

Expecting things to
change without putting
in any effort is like
waiting for a ship at the
airport.



OFFERING & ATTENDANCE EASTER WEEKEND

Attendance: Adults 187 • Children 34 Livestream audience: facebook 225 • youtube 9

Total Week's Offering: \$4,104.10 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,792.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)