

Theme: Transitions

The Vine 29 May 2022

Message: Chosen

"You did not choose me. Instead, I chose you (John 15.16)."

Scripture: Acts 1. 12 - 26

God sometimes surprises us with opportunities we never sought or expected, and never even imagined. Often these moments come in the middle of our routine, even mundane, lives.

chosen.

Ever since John the Baptist had prepared the way for the Messiah, Matthias had followed. He had walked in Jesus' footsteps from the Jordan River to the rugged hills of Galilee. He had followed the Saviour with *passion* and *persuasion* - and without *recognition*.

Matthias Was A Willing Unknown..... Then One Day It All Changed.

Early on, Jesus had chosen His twelve apostles from among the many disciples who shadowed Him. Matthias didn't make the short-list, but that didn't matter - Matthias followed anyway.

- *He listened with amazement to the Sermon on the Mount*
- *He ate his share of loaves and fish*
- *He witnessed the miraculous healings*
- *He was there when Jesus rode the donkey into the city*
- *He was there for the final Passover with Jesus*
- *One week later, Matthias witnessed his world turn upside down - as the One he had faithfully followed died on a Roman cross*

For more than three years, Matthias had witnessed it all - in absolute obscurity. The Gospels never mention his name; yet he was there on every page. God revealed that He had chosen Matthias to serve in Judas's place as an apostle and as a witness of Jesus' resurrection.

I suspect, no one was more surprised than Matthias (Acts 1.12-26)!

- *Matthias never followed Jesus in order to serve as an apostle*
- *He didn't stick around hoping for a spot on the 'A Team'*
- *He didn't climb the steps to the Upper Room that day to canvas for votes*



Matthias simply followed Jesus from the very beginning - with no motive other than faithfulness.

Here's the thing, faithfulness to Jesus today, puts you in a place of greater influence for tomorrow.

Yours and His, Orrell

The word ‘elephant’ stands for an obvious truth or issue that is ignored or unnamed - a blind spot.

If you say, there is an elephant in the room...

...it means there is an **obvious problem** or **difficult situation** people **know exists**, but do not want to talk about it or do anything to solve the issue.

We see this anaemic, avoidance type of behaviour everywhere.

It has become an art form in the church.

The reasons we don’t address ‘the elephant’ are obvious:

- 1. If we don’t ignore it, we have to deal with it.**
- 2. If we don’t ignore it, we have to figure out how on earth in got in the room.**
- 3. If we don’t ignore it, we have to figure out how on earth we are going to get it out of the room.**
- 4. If we ignore it, it will grow bigger!**



The elephants thrive on ignorance and feed on fear, - they never ever leave quietly!

As we all know, elephants cannot tiptoe through the tulips.

Instead, they step on more and more people leaving scarred, maimed casualties in their wake.

We need to be aware - an elephant, once addressed, usually digs in its heels, makes a lot of noise, defends its actions/corner, and leaves in a huff – usually with others who would rather stick with the elephant than be hurt by it.

The elephant has little or no sense of the hurt that it has caused in the congregation and probably the community.

They see themselves as the victim and those who address them, or the issue, as abusers.

Our finances are a classic example of an elephant in the room.

Year after year we have set a budget that was totally beyond our reach!

Every year we lived way beyond our means, dipping deeper and deeper into bequests to pay our debts, to cover tracks (elephant tracks).

Rather than dealing with reality **as it is**, and confronting undesirable truths head on, we choose willful blindness. Hoping that it will somehow solve itself.

We prefer to embrace a convenient lie over an inconvenient truth.

There are some elephants in the room that I trust we can all agree need to be addressed.

At our next congregational meeting, amongst other things, we will be addressing the elephant in the room.

Any amount of short-term pain is worth the long-term gain.

We are calling the **WHOLE CHURCH** (Imbil and Gympie) together to celebrate the birth of the church. We are also calling the **WHOLE CHURCH** to a 'Congregational Meeting' which will flow out of a united worship experience.

The 'Date' will be Pentecost Sunday, 5th June 2022

United Church Worship (Gympie and Imbil) at 9:00am

Place - Gympie Regional Uniting Church, Red Hill Rd, Gympie, 4570

Morning Tea will be served from 10am – 10.30am

Followed by our Congregational Meeting at 10:30am

Amongst other things our Church Council will be presenting:

1. 'Concept Plans'

Part of the process of moving towards a Master Plan for our facilities at Red Hill Rd, Gympie.

2. 'Corporate Identity'

You will be presented with: - Our church's current corporate identity.

The new corporate identity for QLD Synod's Childcare.

The corporate identity we are suggesting is adopted by GRUC.

3. 'Operational Guidelines'

Paragraph 3 of the Basis of Union declares, we rely on *'the gift of the Spirit in order that we may not lose the way.'*

Good governance is needed in order to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Following on from the Congregational Meeting we have set aside additional dates and times that will, essentially, be Q & A sessions.

These times will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and/or share ideas appertaining to any or all of the three issues identified above.

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in this important exercise.

You can attend as many of the sessions as you so wish.

The place will be Gympie Regional Uniting Church, Red Hill Rd, Gympie.

Dates and Times are as follows.

Tuesday 14th June 2022, 10:30am – 12:00pm.

Tuesday 14th June 2022, 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

Thursday 16th June 2022, 1.30pm - 3.00pm.

Thursday 16th June 2022, 5.00pm – 6.30pm.





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 BATERSBY

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PASTOR JIM HALL

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PASTORAL CARE

Please contact the office or Jim Hall

Some
dates
to
note

- ★ D'Café - Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.30am
- ★ Corporate Prayer & Communion - Thursdays, 8am, Gympie
- ★ Congregational Meeting - 5 June, 10.30am, Gympie
- ★ SHINE Women's Conference (Gympie) - 26 August
- ★ GROW Women's Conference (Brisbane) - 3 September

OFFERING & ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Attendance: Adults 71 • Children 8 Livestream audience: facebook 128 • youtube 8

Total Week's Offering: \$3090.00 ... 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)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - JUNE DONATIONS

Next month we're collecting **Something to Play With**. Toy cars, yoyos, skipping ropes, slinkies, tennis balls, finger 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.