

The Sound Of A Gate, The Voice Of The Shepherd

*"Let me set this before you as plainly as I can.
If a person climbs over, or through, the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know that person is up to no good - a sheep rustler!
The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice.
They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it."*

John.10.1-5. MSG

Sheep have poor eyesight; they rely more on their sense of hearing. So, they would be listening for the gate to open. Once the sound of the gate got their attention, they would stop what they are doing and listen for the shepherd to call them to come out of the pen.

They don't come out at the sound of the gate, they come out at the sound of the shepherd's voice. The gatekeeper opens the gate, but the sheep don't move until they hear the shepherd call them. The sound of the gate means stop, pay attention and listen for the master's voice to call you out.

God often gives us a nudge (a gate sound) to get our attention. We are all busy people, who need a nudge to stop and give Him our undivided attention so we can hear clearly what He is about to say.

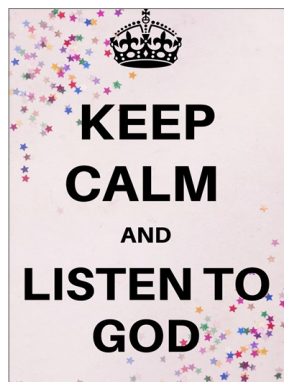
**Let me ask, can you hear the sound of a gate?
Do you sense or feel a nudge, a prod from God?**

Notice the Scripture says he calls the sheep by name. This shows familiarity, connection, and deep affection. They're not just a bunch of nameless sheep; and we are not just a bunch of nameless folks, who all look, sound and act the same.

God knows His sheep; God knows us by name. There are so many times in Scripture when God says someone's name to get their attention. He called out to Abraham by name when He wanted to stop him from sacrificing Isaac. When Mary didn't recognize Jesus after His resurrection, Jesus spoke her name and then she immediately knew it was Jesus. Here's the amazing thing, God is calling ewe, er, I mean YOU! God is calling you by name.

On the fifth Sunday of the month - the 31st of July 2022 - we are going to ask you a very important question: *"In light of what you have heard over the past five weeks, do you sense God's Call on your life?"*

I look forward to hearing your answer.
Grace and Peace,
Orrell



THE VIBE
24 July 2022

Your Call

There is absolutely no doubting that God is indeed calling you, but there is often a great deal of doubt and ignorance surrounding that call.

It's helpful to note that God's call always has a context!

God's call contains a specific *time, place, and purpose*.

- **It's never ambiguous or all encompassing.**
- **It's do-able.**
- **It's personal.**
- **It's relational.**
- **It's older than you.**
- **It's older than your Grandfather.**
- **Your call was formed before the foundations of world.**



Your call really is important to us.

We can help you discern your call, discover your gifts, and assist you in moving into a mission shaped life, regardless of where that mission may be.

Our intent is not to shoehorn you into a program or to use you to fill gaps in our rosters.

We will, if called upon, create a new missional project or ministry platform to facilitate you in answering God's call.

These are the areas we have covered and intend to cover.

June 12th Vision ... *What we've set our sights on*

July 3rd Values ... *What we've set our hearts on*

July 10th Vehicles ... *How we plan to get there from here*

July 17th Virtues ... *The three most important things we have*

July 24th Voice ... *What God is saying to us*

July 31st Vocation ... *What God is saying to you*

Frederick Buechner says regarding the Discernment Of Your Calling ...

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

SHINE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ~ "FREE TO RISE"

Saturday 6th August - 9.30am to 3.30pm - at Cooloola Christian College. \$40 includes morning tea & lunch plus amazing speakers from various ministries. There'll also be a market-place supporting the work of women from local and overseas missions.

Registration close 29th July. Details are available from our CE Room or church office.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

9am ... **This Thursday, 28th July**, in our CE Room.

Our activity will be 'Humorous Poems and Stories'. Please bring a mug from home to use at morning tea. All ladies are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ✦ 7TH August 2022 ✦ 10.45am ✦ GYMPIE

There will be another Congregational Meeting on Sunday 7th August 2022.

This is a follow-up meeting from the 5th June 22.

On the 5th June our Church Council presented three proposals

- 1. Operational Guidelines for Church Council**
- 2. New Corporate Identity**
- 3. Concept Plans for the church property on Redhill Rd. Gympie.**

Church Council also held six Q&A sessions, addressing any issues or questions members of both Gympie and Imbil congregations wanted to raise.

Church Council is now seeking consensus from you, the congregation, regarding the three proposals put forward.

Consensus decision making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement.

Instead of simply voting for a proposal and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone either actively supports - or at least can live with.



Suggestions for arriving at consensus

Can you live with this decision?

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - JULY DONATIONS

This month we're collecting **Something Special** such as Sunglasses, Small Carry Bags, Bangles, Necklaces, small Craft Kits & Stickers ... small enough to fit in a shoebox with lots of other things. Thank you.

BIBLE SOCIETY AGM

The Gympie Branch invites you to their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, 10th August ~ 9.30am** in the CE Room. The Society welcomes you to come along and see how they actively work towards The Bible Society of Australia's vision.

Guest Speaker Dave Chapman from Living Hope, Zambia.

GREAT COMPANY at D'CAFÉ

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

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

Vision

Specifics

To meet the rapid challenges of COVID 19 along with the regular predictable challenges for shifting a deeply embedded culture (Church, Childcare, Family Day Care), to a missional culture.

Create connection and sustainable enterprises aimed at the common good of our community. Working cooperatively with UE, UCQ and WMQ.

Equipping future leaders, entrepreneurs and church planters. Helping them gain experience and develop key skills in social enterprises, theological and biblical training, and coaching in connecting with strategic partners within the community (Synod's Priority Directions 2016 - 2020).



UNITING 4570
So we can be one

Some dates to note

- ★ **D'Café** - Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.30am
- ★ **Corporate Prayer & Communion** - Thursdays, 8am, Gympie
- ★ **Friendship Circle** - 28 July
- ★ **SHINE Women's Conference** - 6 August
- ★ **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - 7 August
- ★ **BIBLE SOCIETY AGM** - 10 August

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

OFFERING & ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Attendance: Adults 67 • Children 1. Livestream audience: facebook 109 • youtube 24

Total Week's Offering: \$2287.00 ... 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)