



## Freedom and Licence

My bible study group is looking at Titus and the question we considered this week was, “if we have been saved by grace through faith, does this mean we can do as we please?” In other words, do we have a licence to sin on account that God picks up the tab for us because of his unboundless love for us through Jesus? “We are free to indulge ourselves” our study guide teases, “because we can always go back to God for forgiveness if the need arises.” (*The Path to Godliness*, p22 Matthias Media)

God is the god of justice not of freedom. When he created Adam and Eve, he gave free will which is not the same as free-dom. Free will means that we can make a choice to follow God’s way or to follow the way of death. Furthermore, he endowed the God-following-man with duties and responsibilities which he did not give to any other creature. “Be fruitful, fill the earth, have dominion over every living thing,” God said. Elsewhere, God “took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” No other creature was given duties and responsibilities. They were given freedom from duties and responsibilities. Only man was given duties and responsibilities. If man wants free-dom, maybe he needs to think about identifying with the creatures who were not given duties and responsibilities.

Sadly in the secular world, where injustice rules, man tries to compensate by designing theories of freedom to make up for the injustices we do to each other. Civil liberties, freedom from injustice, freedom from oppression, freedom from hunger, free speech, freedom to choose, freedom to worship, are all noble sounding goals brought about by the need to counter the injustice in the world - political injustice, racial injustice, social and economic injustice. God himself would agree with every one of them, but without him these goals are not possible because the corollary tells us that “these things are impossible for man, but for God all things are possible”.

I want to look at the tangled web we weave for ourselves in the secular way of thinking when we try to design a universal truth about freedom. Let us take freedom of speech. I am speaking my ideas through writing here now. My ideas may upset someone particularly when I say “if you want free-dom, you should join the animals because only they, not people, have free-dom.” It doesn’t sound a particularly kind thing to say. And if it is unkind, God might even challenge my understanding of his word. So can I hold these ideas and still call myself a Christian? This is where the Christian and secular thinking about the world have culture clashes.

With ideas about freedoms come the notion of rights. Do I have the right to offend someone by saying something unkind? “Hmmpff – some Christian you call yourself saying I should join the animals just because I believe in free-dom.” Then what about other offensive writing and speech in public? Should people be allowed to swear in public and call police officers crude and vulgar terms? Do I need to hear swearing on trains? Does my neighbour need to be able to express vulgarity because he has a right to on account of the theory of free speech? The web is quite tangled now isn’t it?

So, to return to Titus. Do I have the licence to even write this – particularly when it might offend someone for its unkindness? Titus tells me 1:16 – “They profess to know God but they deny him by their actions.” I am like Paul who wrote elsewhere, Rom 7:19 - “I know the good I must do but each time I am challenged by the devil”. But then again, the story that Jesus told (Lk16:19-31) about the rich man suffering torments in hell for the injustices he had done to Lazarus serve as a reminder to me that I do not have a licence to sin but that I do have a duty to my neighbour – among other duties. So in summary, free-dom and therefore licence make no sense as concepts when free will is rejected in favour of the way of the Lord. And because through Adam we did accept free will, then God gave us Jesus who rejected free will. We can join him too and thus we do not have licence as we were teased. This does not stop the philosophers theorising about Freedom though.

*Geoff Anderson*

### Handymen wanted

Handymen to help on Monday mornings for a couple of hours. Duties are small cleaning or light “carpentry type fixing up”. Morning tea break. Keith is off for a month touring and his trusty offside Bob needs a couple of helpers. Without this important help our centre would not look inviting. Imagine the carpet stained, doors not opening, windows not clean, the odd table broken when only a bit of fixing-up would solve the problem. It is an unseen ministry and this small band serves us so generously and, like all these types of jobs in the daily life of the church, often not recognised. We thank those generous men who serve us regularly to have our premises looking so clean and welcoming - thank you. Please see Bob Thuaux for any information.

*Sandi Herbert*

## The Roster Shuffle

Compiling the Church Roster is a fun task, and fortunately I have some helpers who work on various parts of it - thank you to Dorothy Cox (Andy's Bus), Betty Dixon (Friday Shop), Nicky Palmer (Sunday@6.00) and Ruth Shaddick (Flowers).

As a trial this month I've distributed the roster sheet for two weeks before I post out the remaining ones, hoping to save time looking up addresses, writing envelopes etc and of course the postage costs. So, if you want to make a special request due to holidays etc. I'll need to have it mid-month a few weeks before the next roster from now on.

We do have a growing problem of "empty slots", for a variety of reasons, and I'd like these filled:

- \* An extra person or three to do morning teas for 8.30 and 9.45am.
- \* Some more volunteers to provide a Prayer for Others at services
- \* People to be Welcomers, on the door for any of our services
- \* Bible readers



Can **YOU** help?

Many of the roles that we need to be filled are not highly skilled or intensively demanding, and if we had more people on our Rosters then of course everyone would be rostered on duty less.

Please think about your role in the life of our church, and how you might be more involved. It will be mid-July before the next roster is compiled, so there is time to think it over, ask questions and volunteer.

Meanwhile, there are spaces on the June/July Roster that need "A Volunteer" - that could be a great opportunity to try it out. Please give it some thought and prayer.

*Bruce Fairhall*

## Lectionary Reading for June 2010 (Year C)

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
6 June (Pentecost 2)	1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24)	Psalms 146	Galatians 1:11-24	Luke 7:11-17
13 June (Pentecost 3)	1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a	Psalms 5:1-8	Galatians 2:15-21	Luke 7:36-8:3
20 June (Pentecost 4)	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a	Psalms 42 and 43	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
27 June (Pentecost 5)	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

\* Note: Kids' Sunday will focus on Old Testament texts in June.

## Worship Planner for June 2010

Date	8:30am	9:45am	6pm	Remarks
<b>6 June</b> (Pentecost 2)	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon's Study Leave: 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>13 June</b> (Pentecost 3)	Tony Blake	Tony Blake	Tony Blake	
<b>20 June</b> (Pentecost 4)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (OH)	Je-Kon Oh	
<b>27 June</b> (Pentecost 5)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (Baptism)	Je-Kon Oh	KIDS' SUNDAY ENDS

\* Note: This plan can be changed at any time.

### Conferences

- Ministry Workers Retreat:** Meroo Centre , Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June  
(Main Topic: Midlife issues and ministry)
- Fresh Expressions:** 7pm-9pm Fri. 25 & 9am-5pm Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> June (Venue: Centre for Ministry; \$45 for the second day including lunch, morning/afternoon tea)

### Blokes 'n Sheds

Saturday 12 June, 7.30am

Bruce Fairhall will be speaking about his trip to New Zealand with a presentation of photos.

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7.30 PLT Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9.30 Fellowship	<b>4</b> 7.00 Youth Group	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9.45 M.O.P.S.	<b>10</b> 10.00 Coffee 'n Chat	<b>11</b> 7.00 Youth Group	<b>12</b> 7.30 Blokes 'n Sheds
<b>13</b> 8.30/9.45 Worship  2.00 Pleasant Sunday <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	<b>14</b> 9.30 Playtime	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  7.00 Youth Group	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	<b>21</b> 9.30 Playtime	<b>22</b> <b>UCA Birthday</b>	<b>23</b> 9.45 M.O.P.S.	<b>24</b> 12 Seniors' Lunch	<b>25</b> 7.00 Youth Group	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8.30/9.45 Worship <b>Kids' Sunday</b> end T2 <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	<b>28</b> 9.30 StA Singers 9.30 Playtime	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> MOPS Executive  Presbytery			





Because of the danger to members and visitors with an allergy to nuts, the church premises are declared to be NUT FREE. Please do not bring nuts in any form.

## WHAT'S ON DURING THE WEEK

### SUNDAYS

**Paddlers** – Age 3 to Kinder: 9.45-11.00am (Heather Fairhall 4571 1019)  
**Kids Sunday** – Years 1-5: 9.45-11.00am (Robyn Duignan 4572 7517)  
**GWU** – Junior High Youth Years 7-9: 9.45-11.00am (Greg Inskip 4573 1002)

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### MONDAYS

**Playtime** – 9.30am-11.30am – Parents and preschoolers (Michelle Dacey 4574 1312)  
**Andy's Hands-on-Help** – 9.00am to 1.00pm – Maintenance and Fellowship (Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

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### TUESDAYS

**Church Council** – 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in odd-numbered month (Greg Inskip 4573 1002)  
**Pastoral Leaders Team** – 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday even numbered month (Je-Kon Oh)

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### WEDNESDAYS

**MOPS** – 9.45-11.45am Fortnightly in school terms for Mums and preschoolers (Michelle Dacey 4574 1312)

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### THURSDAYS

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Adult Fellowship** (Irene Milne 4578 1482)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday: Coffee 'n Chat** – 10am (  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday: Seniors All Together** – 10am – 12 noon (Crafts)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Seniors Lunch** 12 – 1.45pm  
**Senior's Bible Study** – 12 noon-1.30pm Bible Study (except 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)  
(for info on Thursday seniors activities contact Sandi Herbert (4573 1517))

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### FRIDAYS

**Op Shop** – 9.00am – 12.00 – clothes and wares (Carmel Hagedoorn Phone 4567 7448)  
**Open Church Prayer** – 9.30am - 10.30am and more (Margaret and Keith Bailey 4776 1487)  
**Youth Group (Years 6-10)** 7pm every fortnight during school term (Greg Inskip 4573 1002)

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### SATURDAYS

**Blokes 'N Sheds** –Breakfast bi-monthly (Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

*SMALL/HOME GROUPS are a valuable and integral part of St Andrew's ministry. We encourage all members to join a group. For further information please speak to our Minister Rev. Je-Kon Oh - phone 4578 3421 (Home)*