



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

2ND AUGUST 2020



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Traffic Lights

2 Kings 6:16, KJV

The other day one of my neighbours allowed her toddler some space to roam around outside, under the watchful eye of mum. The toddler, who is clearly just learning to walk, was enjoying her new-found freedom. Wisely, in the interests of safety, the child's parents had installed a safety gate by some nearby steps. Just then, another adult came out and needed to pass through the gate to continue their journey, so the child's mother opened the gate.

In a flash the little girl saw her opportunity and, with faltering steps, and much glee, headed for the open gate. However, the loving mother, whose eyes had never left her child, immediately shouted, "No", and, with a gentle guiding arm, she steered the child towards her, away from danger. She could then open the gate to allow the adult the freedom to go their way.

This picture reminded me of our Heavenly Father, whose loving gaze is always on His children. At no time in life's journey are we ever beyond His gaze or attention. He knows the way that we take and, if we are listening and obedient to His voice, His Holy Spirit will guide us by His Word into all truth, and away from dangers seen and unseen. He keeps us safe under the shadow of His wings.

Through the lens of international news reports, watching the nations of the world negotiate present dangers, seems like watching international traffic lights. For some, the green light of freedom couldn't come quickly enough, and is a welcome relief, especially, in our 'on the go' age. Others are still on amber, not sure whether it's safe enough to move forward, but for some the red stop light looms large and menacing. However, it is through the lens of Divine Providence that we, His children, need to view our circumstances, for it is only the Lord who knows and can see where the unseen enemy is lurking and only He can deliver us from evil and can keep us on the pathway of safety.

In the passage from which today's scripture is taken, God revealed to Elisha all of the enemy's plans and strategies, and so the king of Israel and the nation were rescued on more than one occasion, to the anger and frustration of the enemy. On this occasion they didn't have to fight. But on other occasions in the nation's history, they had to be ready to fight. They had to carefully listen to the Lord's command as He, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, has the correct strategy for each battle.

The Lord will not compete with other voices for our attention. He wants to draw us aside, in the safety of His arms, to impart His revelations, for 'the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him and He will show them His covenant' (Psalm 25:14). While He is imparting His word to us, He is also at work behind the scenes, maneuvering everything in our favour, from His perspective.

So never doubt your Heavenly Father's love for you, for His ways are perfect. 'He (God) who begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6).

- Patricia Lake | [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)

[Upcoming Church in Action](#)

Bible Study

A three series group study will once again take place during the week of the 16th August to the 1st week of September.

Study notes will be sent out next week for your reflection. Studying God's word helps us to navigate through the ups and downs of our journey but also reminds us of God's ongoing engagement in the world. Study will be done via zoom and face to face for those who prefer.

Please indicate your interest by sending an email to Aarii.
All are welcome to fellowship and participate.



Alpine Presbytery

Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) Report

Council of Assembly established the Theological Education and Leadership Training Task Group in March 2019. This is a significant wide-ranging report looking at leadership formation across the PCANZ and has some significant recommendations for us to consider. The report is open to everyone to read and consider. Presbytery Council will be in touch regarding engaging people in this review process. Feedback should be sent to Presbytery by 21st August.

You are requested to constructively frame your response in three ways:

- Comments about the five streams identified in the executive summary and the direction outlined.
- Note any areas where the report is missing key information or omitted important material
- Detailed comments about the report

The report can be downloaded here: [Theological Education and Leadership Training](#), and there are additional resources to assist with your considerations here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CmslYlflOv-2WKcr-GNQOXqj9ocoKhZi?usp=sharing>

This is a major report with significant and far reaching implications for the formation of ministry practitioners and leaders in our church in the years ahead and as such deserves our close attention and critique.

To this end, we are proposing 3 ZOOM meetings focusing our attention on key themes of the report. Feedback from these meetings will be collated into a report to be presented at the forth-coming Presbytery gathering in September.

ZOOM meetings will be Wed 29th July, 5th Aug, 12th Aug 1pm. If there is sufficient demand we can also do evening meetings. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85350703633?pwd=alB1bUQyU1VzNXpJbHE4Uk9tOEM3UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5070 3633

Password: 3TAPPd

Please ensure you have read the report, which can be found on the [PCANZ website here](#), prior to the meeting.

Hospice Mid Canterbury is hosting two free community meetings looking at both sides of the euthanasia issue on the 6th of August at 3 pm and 6:30 pm at the Hotel Ashburton. Guest speaker will be Caralise Trayes, author of "The Final Choice: end of life suffering; is assisted dying the answer?"

With 10 years of journalism experience, Caralise has approached the topic of assisted dying by interviewing more than 20 experts on both sides of the argument and written a book about her search for truth. She tells the stories of those with terminal illness and interviews lawyers, doctors, ethicists and clerics around New Zealand and the world.

Caralise will share some of what she has discovered, helping voters make an informed choice in the upcoming referendum. There will be time for questions following the presentation.

Light refreshments will be available

For catering purposes, RSVP to Christine on 307 8387, or 027 227 8387 or email manager@hospicemc.nz

From PCANZ End of Life Choice Act referendum: The Interchurch Bioethics Council, of which the PCANZ is a member, has prepared two articles on the upcoming referendum for the End of Life Choice Act 2019 - one is a FAQs list and the other is an opinion piece by Rev Dr Graham O'Brien, Co-Chair InterChurch Bioethics Council. Links on the Church website here <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/new-icbc-papers-on-end-of-life-referendum> and here <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out/what-we-believe/euthanasia>

Position Vacant

Office administrator – reception, Ashburton Christian School

Initial hours will be Monday through Wednesday, 8:30am till 10:30am. Hours will likely increase in time to cover five days and longer hours.

Friendliness, discretion, loyalty, and integrity are essential. Competency with Microsoft Office products are a pre-requisite. See the job description on our website for more details. On the job training is provided. Applications close Wednesday 5 August, send to office@acs.school.nz

A Bucketful of Seawater. from the book "Tried and Tested talks for Children" by Ken Taylor.

When I was a child we used to go for a seaside holiday at Scarborough and after I'd spent a day on the beach my mother would give me a bucket and send me to get a bucketful of seawater. I filled the bucket to its brim and carried it back very, very carefully, trying not to spill a drop. When I got back my mother would sit me on the wall and pour water over my feet to wash off the sand before she put my sandals back on to walk to where we were staying.

You could have learned quite a lot about the sea from that bucketful. It tasted like sea. If you had the proper instruments and know-how you could show that it had the same density and specific gravity as the sea. But there is so much about the sea you could not have learned from that bucketful. A bucketful gives you no idea of its great depths, its different currents, the many varieties of life it sustains, or its awesome power. During his earthly life Jesus was like a bucketful of God. In Jesus of Nazareth you can see as much of the nature and essence of God as your mind can hold - and we can learn so much from him. But you cannot see in Jesus the great depths of God, all the different currents within him, the many varieties of life he sustains, or his awesome power.

You have to learn from Jesus as much of the truth about God as you can grasp. But always remember that there is so much more to his nature and his love than you can grasp.



St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 4th August

10:30 AM | Rakaia Fit Kids with Miranda A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 PM | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

Saturday 3rd October

Plants 4 U @ Rakaia | Lots of interesting plants. Jam, produce, baking, white elephant.

All morning fair, no need to be there at 9 specials throughout the morning... Donations of all goods welcomed.

Tuesday 28th July @ Fit Kids. KNOCK KNOCK... How do you get Helium filled balloons down from St. Andrews Church Hall's ceiling? Answer: David, table, and a carpet cleaner!!!!



*We have received a goodwill donation, which will be used for local food parcel emergencies.
Thank you for your kindness.

Sunday 9th August Commemorating "Children's Prayer Week"
Shieh and the children will share a prayer and song during the service.

Sunday Services for August

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| 2 nd | 10:00 am 10:30 am | St. Mark's Rakaia St. John's Methven (Shared Lunch) | Rev. Michael Holdaway Rev. Arii – Parish Service |
| 9 th | 9:30 am 10:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia St. John's Methven | Rev. John Titlow Rev. Arii |
| 16 th | 9:30 am 10:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia St. John's Methven | Rev. Arii Rev. Neville Burns |

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your loving gaze is always upon us while You bring about Your eternal plans and purposes. Help me to keep my gaze continually fixed on You for Your ways are higher than our ways, and they are just and perfect. In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Patricia Lake | [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)