

# ABC SUMMER NEWSLETTER 14/01/2022

## Pastor's Pen

Kia Ora ABC Whānau!

I hope you have had a good week. I'm struck today as I write this by the gentle, yet profound ways that God moves and works amongst us. As I've sat and prayed with some of you, chatted with you over the phone or shared a coffee with a couple of you at my new office at Altura Café I'm blown away by how precious each individual is in God's sight. You friends, are the beloved of God and it is a privilege to do life with you over this summer.

Please do take the time to read Janelle's reflection below, it is both thoughtful and encouraging and I hope that it encourages you this week to be filled with Joy and to know that God is working in your life and in whatever this new and uncertain year might hold.

This week we also continue our "Encounters with Jesus" mini-series as we make our way through a number of encounters that Jesus had during His earthly ministry as recorded in Luke's Gospel. Do you have a story or a reflection about an encounter with Jesus that you would like to share? If you do please get in contact with me I'd love to create an opportunity for you to share this with the wider church family. I pray that as we continue this mini-series you too would have a fresh and deep encounter with the risen Christ Jesus.

As I mentioned previously I will be working from Altura Café in Albany on Monday's and some Thursdays from 10am to 12pm, this is my open 'office,' and if you're in the area and would like to swing by, have a coffee and a chat please do so, I would love to talk and pray with you.

Praying for you and looking forward to seeing some of your lovely faces soon,  
God bless.

Ngā Mihi,  
Marcus Brooking || Student Pastor  
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## Reflection – Janelle Coombridge

As I pen this message it's hard to believe that January 2022 is already halfway through! It's been a busy Christmas time for us with loads of fun times with family and friends – BBQ's, soaking up the sunshine, fun at the beach! Great memories spending time with those special people in our life, and the joy of celebrating Christmas together and welcoming in the New Year.

I must admit I was happy to see the end of 2021. I found it a challenging year in so many ways, not least because of COVID and trying to keep my head together through it all; to trust God, to find things to be thankful for and to have a sense of joy amidst all the uncertainty. But as I welcomed in the new year, I wondered... "what will 2022 bring?"

I'm not one to make New year's resolutions...possibly because if I don't make any, I can't fail by not keeping them! ☺ They say nearly 50% of all New Year's Resolutions fail!!! But as January started rolling by, I started to reflect on the year just gone and sensed God reminding me to commit my ways to Him – a reminder to take time to 'reset'. As it says in Psalm 37 v 5 "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him...(NIV) or in The Passion Translation, which I really like: "**Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way you'll find he pulled it off perfectly!**" What an

awesome promise! Each new day God blesses me with in my life, is a day I want to commit to Him, and as I invite Him to direct it, He promises to “pull it off perfectly”. Praise God!

So, in this new year of 2022, I am trying to intentionally seek God’s face each new day, and receive His peace, His hope, His joy, & His love! I don’t want 2022 to be a repeat of 2021. I want each new day of this new year to be a day that I fight for joy! And I know this can only be achieved as I seek God through daily prayer!

Last week God led me to a book by John Piper where he shares an acronym that he follows in his prayer life. He calls it his Fight for Joy –

### I O U S

- I** - **Incline**...my heart towards God and His Word  
Psalm 119 v 36 “Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain”
- O** - **Open**...the eyes of my heart  
Psalm 119 v 18 “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”
- U** - **Unite**...my heart so I wholeheartedly and joyfully seek you, God  
Psalm 86 v 11 “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name”
- S** - **Satisfy**...the longings of my heart  
Psalm 90 v 14 “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days”

(I find it easy to remember this way - **JOY(I)OUS** = full of happiness and joy! ☺)

May you be blessed this week as you commit your ways to God and see him “pull it off perfectly”!

- Janelle

## Sunday Service

Here is the link for this week’s service:

<https://youtu.be/FB-3FOO1fY4>

We will remain online and gathering in connect groups until at least mid-February.

## Events & Notices

Odele will be on leave from Dec 27 until Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. January 20<sup>th</sup> – January 24<sup>th</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Please call Marcus or Kristine for all pastoral needs over this time period. Ph: 0226816768 Or Kristine 021552756.

Terri will be on leave from Dec 27<sup>th</sup> until Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. Marcus will provide a weekly email that will include the online service link, so the newsletter will be in a different format over this summertime.

We are gathering this Sunday (16/01) for a church picnic at 12 noon. Long Bay site 4. This is weather dependent so look out for any messages via Facebook if choose to postpone the event. Please note as well that this is a **WITH** My Vaccine Pass gathering. Please do register in advance with [marcusbrooking@gmail.com](mailto:marcusbrooking@gmail.com) BYO picnic.

Next prayer meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. We are just awaiting final confirmation but this will most likely be at Tandem Ministries – 2B William Pickering Drive, Rosedale, Auckland 0632. This event will also be a **WITH** my vaccine pass gathering. There will however be the option of joining us virtually via Zoom.

## Offering

Online: Albany Baptist Church

**03-0180-0110978-00**

Lord, thank you for all that you give us, we now give back to you and ask that you use it for your greater Kingdom, Amen.