

## ABC NEWSLETTER 30/12/2021

### Pastor's Pen

Kia Ora ABC Whānau!

I trust and hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family! It has been a real pleasure for me to join your community over this time and I'm looking forward to the rest of our time together over the summer.

While Odele and Terri are away I'll be filling in and sending out a weekly church update with the link for the Sunday service. Therefore, the newsletter will appear in a different format during this time.

There isn't much in the way of notices at the moment but the main thing to know is that there is the church picnic happening this Sunday at Long Bay beach (please see below for details). This will be a special time as it will be the first time we will be able to gather together with the majority of our church community in quite a while! We will also be sharing communion together, which will be a wonderful way to mark the start of the New Year together as a church family.

From the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan we will begin our new sermon series titled "Encounters with Jesus" as we make our way through a number of encounters that Jesus had during His earthly ministry as recorded in Luke's Gospel. I'm so excited for this and I hope that through it you too will encounter Jesus, hear his invitation that he extends to you to come and follow Him and encounter afresh again His deep compassion towards you.

Please know that I am praying for you, as I'm sure Odele and the elders are as well. Gito has written a wonderful reflection for us this week, I hope it encourages you as you read it as much as it encouraged me.

I also wanted to let you know that I will be working from Altura Café in Albany most Monday and 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.

Look forward to seeing you soon,  
God bless.

Ngā Mihi,  
Marcus Brooking || Student Pastor  
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### Sunday Service

Here is the link for this week's service:  
<https://youtu.be/2qGGxI8f0mo>

Connect groups will take a break from Dec 20<sup>th</sup> until January 16<sup>th</sup> (unless the hosts have arranged otherwise).

Online services during this time will also be much simpler. They will return to a more normal type of service from the 16<sup>th</sup> of Jan.

## 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 (02/01) for a church picnic at 12 noon. Long Bay site 4. This is a without My Vaccine Pass event so please register with [Terrig@abcbaptist.org.nz](mailto:Terrig@abcbaptist.org.nz)

Chris and Gaby will also be at this picnic before they head South, so another great reason to come to the picnic! Marcus will lead us in communion, pre-packaged communion elements will be available or BYO. BYO picnic afterwards.

Next prayer meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January.

## Reflection

Happy New Year 2022!

The new year is like a new chapter in our life, like a blank piece of paper. We can write down everything new on it, about our dreams, our goals, what we plan to achieve this year, what needs to be done to achieve our goals, where we are going to travel to, setting a new target, new resolution, renewing our commitment to the Lord etc. When we plan, we are planning for something bigger and better than what we have achieved in the previous years.

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails”. (Proverbs 19: 21).

According to the above verse, do we need to make a plan? To set a goal? It seems like it is useless if we make a plan, as his plan will be fulfilled not ours.

As we are the image of God, and God makes plans, so do we. We need to make plans for something good that will match with God’s plan, as he is a Good God.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. (Jeremiah 29:11).

Making plans for our future doesn’t mean that we don’t give thanks to God for our current situations, our current job, our family, our friends, our health. All of them are blessings from God, and we need to be grateful by having a better life, improving our commitments to God, and maintaining our health. To be able to achieve them, we need to make plans, set up goals and ask God to guide us in everything we do, especially as we enter a new year ahead.

Our plans are not ours - these are God’s plans that are inspired into our heart and mind. We won’t be able to achieve our dreams if God doesn’t care about our dreams or goals. That is why we need to bring our dreams and goals to God for His approval. What we need to do is make good preparations, do the best and pray, all the rest belongs to God to move.

Have a great new year! Amen.  
Gito Panoedjoe

## 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.