



Hopeful, or Hopeless?

Dear friend, I wonder how you are feeling at the beginning of a new year? I trust that you are full of hope and positive excitement for what lies ahead, and all the good things that can occur!

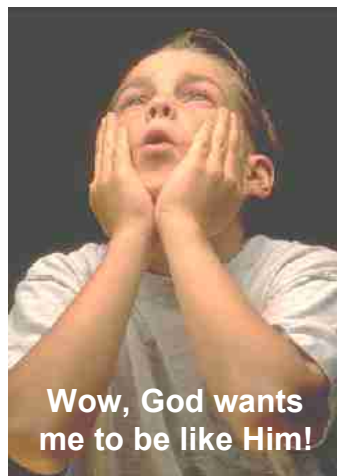
I want to tell you right up front, that no matter what you experienced over the summer holidays, there is hope for you and good things in store.

I know many people were devastated and stunned by what they saw on T.V. occurring in South East Asia, but let me encourage you with these words from the Bible: **"All things work together for good to those who love God".**¹ Did you notice: all things. Yes, the Bible even tells us: **"My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature."**²

Do you think God was unaware of what happened to you over the holidays? Or what happened in the world? No, God knew every detail in advance, and nothing escaped His notice. He is working all things together for good for those who love Him. And for you, this year, God has exciting plans. Yes, for you!

But lets get something straight: God's first plan for you is not your happiness, because happiness depends on circumstances; God's number one desire is for you to grow in character, to become more like Him! Not to become a god, but to become Godly. God wants you to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He wants you to become perfect!

What? Perfect? Yes, perfect in character and love – the kind of love that even reaches out to your enemies. The Bible says: **"Aim for perfection"**³ ... **"Our prayer is for your perfection."**⁴ Jesus even said, **"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."**⁵



Did you know that the situation you currently find yourself in has been carefully engineered by God to help you become more and more like He wants you to be?

And God's plan for you is one of peace, a future, and a hope.⁶ He wants the absolute best for you, because He loves you. And this "absolute best" starts with you knowing God and Jesus Christ. That is eternal life. That's right. That is the beginning of experiencing abundant, joyful, life – knowing God and Jesus!⁷

You don't have to feel hopeless about anything! The Bible says, **"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."**⁸

God is with you right now, to help you, to bless you, to strengthen you, to comfort you, to give you peace. The only question is, will you accept it? Will you reach out to God and accept it?



**I have a future
because Jesus
loves me!**

This year, God has many exciting things planned for you, to help you not

There is always hope with God.

only get to know Him better, but also to grow in character.

In March this year, the weekend before Easter, there is a free weekend at the Telstra Dome, where you are invited to come and hear Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham, speak about life and knowing Jesus Christ. There will also be a great Kid's Rally on the Saturday morning. That should be an awesome weekend!

You will also be getting more information from me on what is happening in our local community, and how you can be involved in working together to bless our community.

And I'm sure that God has so much more in store for you.

Are you feeling hopeful, or hopeless?

God is a God who has come to give you hope, a positive excitement for today and for your future.

Jesus Christ wants to bless you right now. He loves you, and wants you to experience His love. Will you accept it?

Join with me in prayer:

*Dear God,
I thank you so much that you have a great future planned for me.
Your love for me is so amazing, and I thank you that no matter what occurs, you have every situation in Your hands, and I can trust You to work it all out for good.
Help me to see the positive in everything, and especially through every event or trial that comes my*

way, to grow in my relationship with You, and so also be able to help others.

I love You, God, and I trust You!

I love You heaps!

Amen!

Peter Kutschker

Community Chaplain, East Preston /

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A ministry supported by Regent Baptist Church and LinC Northern Region.

MEDIA RELEASE – February 2, 2005

Simpsons stoops to new lows

“The newest episode of the Simpsons was dangerously subversive, exposing our children to the full evils of current American culture”, says Community Chaplain Peter Kutschker.

Reporting on the new Simpsons episode just screened on the Ten Network at 7.30pm on Tuesday, the Chaplain could not help but be horrified at the content which he and many others saw.

“I was concerned that any children watching the program were exposed to Bart and his friend looking at pornographic magazines and Bart beginning to act out that immoral adult lifestyle. But I became deeply disturbed at the revenge killing which took place at the end of the program. A whole group of men with sub-machine guns not only shot at a car with the inhabitants still inside of it, but also shot the male occupant multiple times clearly in the chest, with blood then coming out – and this was all in clear view, up close to the viewer, as seemingly justified and the right thing to do.”

The Chaplain strongly urges all parents to closely monitor any forthcoming Simpsons episodes their children may be watching, and write letters of complaint to the Ten Network.

“There are some things on the program that we can’t even begin trying to explain to our children, because they are too young to handle such information. Beware. **The best thing to do is not let your children even see and hear such American propaganda.**”

News & Events

You're invited to our next

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

*a Community Church
Service for everyone!!*

Theme:

Journeys



- **Sunday February 20th**
(the 3rd Sunday of the month)
- **5pm - 6.15pm**
(followed by supper!) 
- **Preston Nth East
Primary School Hall**

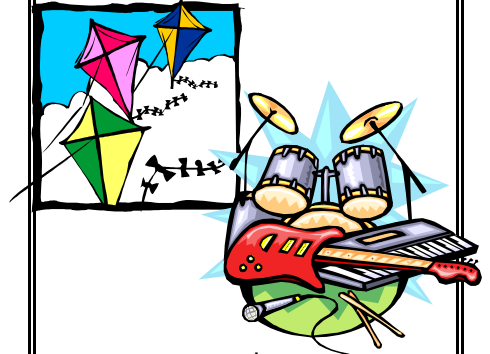
Bring your whole family!



All Aboard!

Supa Fun Day!

A Free Summer Event in the park for
residents of East Preston & East
Reservoir



Sunday 27th February

**Sullivan Reserve,
Blake Street, Reservoir**

3.00pm - 7.00pm

Free family entertainment

Kite making

Animal farm

Face painting

**Sausage sizzle, tea, coffee, &
refreshments**

Aussie Bush Band!

Presented by Darebin Council, the
Growing Together Group, and the ON
TRACK Youth Leadership Team

TELSTRA DOME

March 18, 19, 20

FREE ENTRY

**Hear Franklin Graham speak
about life, faith, and Jesus Christ.**

A once in a lifetime opportunity!

More information coming soon ...