

Peace be with you.

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According to the Gospel of John (20: 19-21) Jesus' Resurrection greeting to his followers is "Peace be with you". He says it twice. Jesus is offering the reassurance to his followers that amongst the distress, suffering and chaos of his crucifixion, new hope has been found. The Kingdom of God arises from suffering and death.

Every year, Easter is the centre-piece of ensuring that our Christian faith is grounded in the reality that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. By participating in Jesus' death and resurrection we are joined with Jesus in such away that our identities are not erased but are made complete. We are restored to fullness of being with the promise of complete restoration and wholeness in the life beyond our present life.

My hope and prayer for each of us is that we will once again turn to Jesus and, through our faithful participation of loving our Saviour, receive personal peace and restoration in our lives. Easter also defines for us what a healthy community looks like. Healthy community looks like the type of community that Jesus was instigating through his ministry and life on Earth. As people restored to wholeness in our personal lives, we can participate in being good news to those around us. Where we are unsure

of what that type of life might look like, we can use the life of Jesus as a guide to inform our practice. If what we are doing looks and feels like the life of Jesus we know we are doing okay. This is the beauty of our Easter celebration, it is not merely an event in our calendar but the anchor of our being. My prayer is that each of us will once again be able to find our anchor in Jesus this Easter season.

Our lead into Easter has been a unique one. We will not be able to gather physically together to celebrate Easter. We are seeing the Corona Virus change the way we live our lives. The suffering and death in our world is, as always, being felt most acutely by those people who were already living lives of poverty and need. Each of us is going through the distress and chaos of massive change. It is in this darkness that the suffering one, Jesus Christ, is present whispering to us "Peace be with you, Peace be with you". So do not be afraid as you walk in these dark times, as we know that this is where our Lord and Saviour is to be found.

*Peter Barney,
State Minister*



Family.fit

There are lots of extra challenges on families at the moment, as many of us are finding our homes being our places of work as well as classrooms if we have school-age children.

With most (if not all) of our face-to-face church programs having stopped, there is a great opportunity for us to support and equip families in doing faith-formation at home.

We know there are lots of resources bouncing around the internet currently, and we'd love to hear what you're using, and how it's working. We also want to regularly share resources with you that we believe can support families.

One such resource is called [Family.fit](#). It's been developed by a collaboration of global movements with a desire to see families around the world flourish. Each session can be done in 40 minutes, either inside, at a park, or in a backyard, and has a specific theme. It involves 7 elements, including simple physical challenges and exercises, a short talk and discussion, digging into a bible passage and reflecting on it, and praying together. It's designed for people of all ages.

New content is being written and uploaded weekly, and it's all free. You can access the site [here](#) and download & print the PDF files as well. You can also view all videos from the site itself, or Youtube.

We'd love to hear any feedback you receive about it, as well as any other online resources you're finding valuable with at-home discipleship.

Adrian Blenkinsop,
Next Gen Leadership Coach



Save the Dates!

Convention 2020

19th—21st November

Plan to Participate!

Call to Pray.... You are invited to join with people across our churches in praying for one another. This month we pray together for:

Nailsworth, Naracoorte, Noarlunga

Being the Church in 2020

On Monday March the 23rd we entered a unique season as the church in Australia. We were no longer allowed to gather together for worship. This is not an easy restriction for us to follow. Despite the difficulty that not gathering creates for us as a community, we have embraced shutting our doors to our events with energy and commitment. Our focus is to support the work that we need to do to help with managing a global pandemic. We are now a church dispersed, searching for new ways to be a community of love and hope.

In the fortnight leading up to Easter the Churches of Christ in South Australia have:

- Begun providing worship experiences for our congregations on multiple platforms.
- Distributed resources to help people practice their Christian faith.
- Arranged for physically distant forms of keeping up our relationships in our churches. In particular, those who may suffer great hardship through isolation.
- Supported each other to keep our relationship with Jesus central to our lives.

Operationally we have focused as a movement on:

- Supporting the key leaders in our Churches.
- Recognising we need to have mature and wise conversations about our finances. Meeting our obligations where possible to continue to employ our workers and support those in our churches in need.
- Finding new ways to ensure that the ministries we conduct in South Australia will be able to change and adapt to our new way of living.

Such a dramatic change in less than a month. May the Lord guide us and keep us as we move forward.



Vietnam Visit

On March 10 a team of three – Betty Greaves (Victor Harbor), Jenny Baker (Balaklava) and Val Zerna (Partnership Coordinator SA/NT) – set off for Vietnam. We spent an excellent week meeting with Pastor T in Ho Chi Minh City and spending time with Fiona Briers and the women at Bright Solutions. We were privileged to see the quality and efficient workmanship of these women, share conversations and meals together and help in the creation of some promotional video clips (see [Bright Solutions Vietnam Facebook page](#)).



Val, Betty & Jenny with the Bright Solutions Team

Fiona reflected on our visit, “We thoroughly enjoyed having Val, Betty and Jenny from South Australia. Part of a team visit from our partnership organization Global Mission Partners. We couldn't help but warm immediately to their presence with us! The Bright Solutions team truly love meeting supporters - they remember faces from old times; they welcome first-time visitors; and as always cook up delicious lunches to share! I sincerely thank these three ladies who came to Vietnam in these constantly changing times, who are now returning home under country restrictions. An unknown challenge when they started! But graciously accepted.”

What a changed world we came home to! A two-week quarantine as COVID-19 took hold. Ho Chi Minh City is now in lockdown, as are all of our overseas partners.

John Gilmore reflects below on some of the impact on GMP.

“What a lot of change in a short space of time, with such a direct and personal impact on us all!

What GMP is doing in response to COVID-19:

- Facing this uncertainty with the strong foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ, and the solid rock that it is.
- Continuing to make our partners our priority. We are seeking to ensure that our partners know that they are supported with prayer and encouragement. The GMP Board has written to each one.
- Thanking you for the loyal and consistent support for our partners. It is so encouraging to be receiving gifts in response to the Walk for Hope Easter offering. (www.gmp.org.au)
- Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in each partner setting. We are acutely aware that our international partners and many Indigenous communities do not have good and easy access to health care for testing or support.
- Most GMP staff are now working from home. A reduced number of staff are keeping the finances and admin side of things operating in Adelaide, while sitting more than 2m apart! We are putting in place measures for them to work from home should that become necessary.
- Reviewing our budget and costs in light of the fall in investments and the decline in the value of the Australian Dollar. We have a Business Continuity Team in place to provide guidance as we navigate this difficult time.
- Adjusting our plans. Our strategic planning process is still under way – albeit with a different reality than anticipated.

Our Board and staff seek your continued prayers and encouragement for our partners and our work.”



A delicious lunch is shared

CareWorks Mother's Day Appeal

Each year on your behalf, for Mother's Day, CareWorks offers gifts of love to women who are escaping Domestic Violence situations and are living in shelters. We would love to offer this support again this year, but the Covid-19 situation makes this somewhat more difficult.

Because of the social distancing and hygiene rules that are in force across the community, donations of gifts are not able to be received at CareWorks.

However, all is not lost! We encourage you to make a cash donation (and mark it 'Mother's Day Hampers') instead of a parcel, and CareWorks will purchase gifts to send to the shelters.

We appreciate that this might not be the usual way for our Churches to offer support to the shelters but feel that at the present time, it is the best way to show care for mothers in a safer manner.



955 North East Road, Modbury
Bus stop 42, opposite Westpac and Modbury Triangle

Plants Free Entry BBQ

Churches of Christ Modbury

Craft Fair

Saturday, May 2

Over 50 Tables of Crafts

Great Mother's Day Gifts

CANCELLED

Devotional Tea Undercover Cakes Produce Children's Activities

An update from the Chief Executive Officer



I'd like to give you an update of what is happening regarding CareWorks during this pandemic.

Our first priority is the health and wellbeing of all our staff, volunteers and clients, so we have put measures in place to protect them.

Our operations are constrained by the availability of volunteers and, with government requirements for social distancing, we acknowledge that most of our programs will go into recess and most volunteers will be staying at home during this very concerning time. We look forward to restarting everything once we have the all clear.

Here's a quick rundown on where things are at: We consider all our services as "essential services" but we are using this terminology to match the government's description of services that should remain open.

Torrensville Emergency Relief:

We have taken the position that ER is an essential community service, and at Torrensville we will continue to deliver the program for as long as we can with strict distancing and hygiene measures in place.

Oasis:

Oasis is an essential community service and will continue at this time. It is operating only at Brighton, and will not be shared accommodation during this time (only one family at a time). Strict hygiene measures are in place.

Op Shops:

Either closed or with reduced hours with hygiene measures and limitations on the number of customers at any one time in place.

Strength in numbers: In recess.

Noarlunga:, Enfield and Hope Street:

All programs in recess.

Office:

The office is running on a minimum of staff with Geoff and Di working from home some of the time. The administration phone is being forwarded so we are able to take calls even though we are away from the office. Any person who presents a risk of infection (having symptoms or contact with people at risk) is required to not attend the office.

This is a difficult time for all of us, and I look forward to the end of this crisis, when we can celebrate getting on with the job at hand once again.

Stay safe and look after yourself and your loved ones.

Geoff Payne

Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory

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