



## *A thought from Pastor Marina...*

Yesterday I made a mistake. I let someone down. It was my fault entirely. I realised the mistake at 8am. It pestered me the entire day until 5pm until I had the time to make a phone call and eat a large slice of humble pie. Remarkably the person I had let down barely flinched when I rang and was far more understanding that they needed to be.

Throughout the day my colleagues, who knew of my stupidity, kept saying: "everyone makes mistakes, don't let it bother you." Yeah right! I wondered why it bothered me so much. As I was driving home, I was listening to a podcast. They were reflecting on the 'hustle culture' we live in and how it influences and infiltrates the church. How we are all obsessed with moving up, onto the next thing. They spoke of our inbuilt fear of not making it to the 'next thing' and how so many feel they are 'behind' getting to the next thing. The guest on the podcast brought up a verse I have been pondering recently, so it really got my attention. Ephesians 2:4-6: "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."

Spiritually speaking, we are as high as we are ever going to get. You can't get any higher than being seated at the right hand of the Father with Christ. If we truly believe we are seated in heavenly places with Christ, there is no 'upwards to the next thing.' There is only one option, the same as Jesus, to go down, to serve a lost and a broken humanity, to humble ourselves. Unsurprisingly, when I humbled myself and owned my mistake there was a great freedom, a great weight lifted.

These verses are rich with so much that we could reflect on. Christ is the one who raises us up, wow! Not our striving, not our perfection, not our worldly success; it is His grace that raises us up. Our job is to go low, to reach down, to be like Jesus. The timeline for our 'success' and what's next is in His hands.

Wherever your feet touch down this month church, serve there, like Jesus, whole-heartedly!

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## *Services 10am Sunday Morning*

5 May - The Rich Young Man - Matt McGrath

12 May - Mother's Day

19 May - The Paralysed man - Scott McMurray

**Towards the end of May we will start our exciting new series: Living out the Gospel. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how we can be a witnessing and transforming community!**

26 May - OCC vision statement - Dave Bradley



## ***Café Connect, 10am Wednesday 8th May***

This is a morning for the over 60's. Join us for a very musical morning!

## ***Get to Know Us lunch Sunday 5th May***



***This is your chance to come and find out more about OCC!***

If you are new to our church (or have never been to a GTKU before) then this is for you. You will get a chance to find out what we believe and what ministries we have, meet some of the leadership, ask any questions you may have and enjoy a yummy lunch. Please let us know if you are planning to come [office@occ.net.nz](mailto:office@occ.net.nz) or talk to the pastors.

**MEN'S NIGHT**

BYO meat and \$5 cash on the night for salads and drinks

**Saturday 18 May 6pm**

Register here: 

Join us at church for a BBQ dinner, pool, table tennis, air hockey, Nintendo, darts, carpet bowls and more!





**Ladies Night**

**Saturday 25 May 6:30pm**

**Venue TBC**

Register here: 

Join us for a night out full of laughter, friendship and good chats. Let's gather around the table and share stories, while enjoying a delicious dinner. Don't let finances deter you from coming out.

Questions? Contact us at [office@occ.net.nz](mailto:office@occ.net.nz)

## ***Pastors' Lunches***

Due to church growth, having one shared lunch is no longer ideal. Over the next few months we are looking forward to having 4 different shared lunches, divided up geographically, to ensure we are able to connect with the pastors and each other. It will be a bring and share lunch in the hall after church on a Sunday. Please see church notices for the date of your shared lunch according to where you live. We can't wait to spend some quality time with you over some good food!

## ***James 5 Prayer Night, 7.30-9pm Monday 13th May***

There will be a Prayer Team at Church praying for your prayer needs. Please come along between 8-9pm if you would like to receive personal prayer. You can email any prayer requests to the office or via our website

You can give via online banking or using the envelopes in the foyer drawer. Please ask Roz for a giving number if you wish to claim tax rebates. Church Bank Account: 02 – 0390 – 0004639 – 000



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