



## VIRTUAL SERVICE, SUNDAY 31 October 2021

**Welcome!**

**(Larry Robbins)**

“On behalf of the members of the MBC Church Family I extend greetings and love to you all. May the time you spend in ‘virtual communion’ with us today be a time of blessing and may something that is shared – be it a prayer, a thought, a reading, music, or the sermon - be richly meaningful to each one of us.”

**Song: 10,000 Reasons**

**(Kiran & Dhivya)**

“This is really special in our lives as there are many reasons for us to praise our God such as He led us from India to New Zealand. And in between, before coming to NZ, Dhivya & I were in Australia where we used to attend a Bible study where we use to sing this song while going through many life challenges. We never did not believe in God. Despite going through challenging times, God gave us step by step blessings as we grew more in him.

The greatest strength we have received through God is when we landed in NZ, we happened to find MBC which is a great part of our life. We love everyone at MBC, would love to come and meet you all when we are out of COVID.

With lots of love, Kiran & Dhivya”

### [10,000 Reasons](#)

**Prayer**

**(Eileen Warth)**

*“Loving Father of us all, there is so much for which to give you thanks...We praise you and thank you for the beauty of Your creation...for vistas which catch us spellbound...for the intricacies of miniscule insect life...for the diversity that seasonal changes bring...and Lord, we thank you for the abundance of Your provision, day by day. Most of all Lord, we thank you that Your nature is that of a loving father, always ready to listen, and always desiring the best for His children. Especially in these pandemic days Lord, we thank you that there is nothing happening in the world that You are not aware of. Lord, You are our Shepherd, and we thank you for supplying all our needs. Help us not to be selfish and wanting beyond Your supplying of our needs. We are deeply grateful for Your sufficiency.*

*“Loving Father, we ask for forgiveness of the error of our ways...when we have been headstrong...inadvisably outspoken...lacking in encouragement...slow to show appreciation...and*

*going our own way. Open our hearts and minds to serve You in purer lives...to praise You with deep reverence...and to put others before ourselves. Lord we come to you and ask Your help to let us acknowledge our weaknesses and that by Your power, our souls will be restored.*

*“Father, some in our church family have ongoing concerns. And Lord, we ask that You meet their most urgent needs, each one known to You intimately, even the hairs on their heads are numbered. What an amazing God You are! Be gracious to Your family in this place, we pray...restore and strengthen each one...be each person’s closest companion and friend...take strain and stress from each soul...and let Your peace descend and encompass each one.*

*“Lord, we uphold in Your presence the government of New Zealand, and ask that You direct their decision making. Father, we pray they will always be aware their life is a life of service. Defend our nation, we pray, Lord. We implore You to keep New Zealand free from dissension, envy, hate and corruption. Thank you for our National Anthem. Help us lay aside our differences and be united in the bonds of love.*

*“Loving Father, our hearts are heavy with concern for our Christian brothers and sisters in lands where there is division and persecution. Oh Father, the darker the darkness, the stronger the contrast of light. Shine, Jesus, shine ever bolder and stronger in these lands! May the Fruit of the Spirit be evident in those dark places...love...joy...peace...kindness...goodness...patience...gentleness...faithfulness...and self-control.*

*“During this time of physical separation caused by the pandemic, we pray we will be drawn ever closer to You and strengthened by You. May we be saved from spiritual famine by a renewed appetite for Your Word. May we read our Bibles with deeper understanding, may our souls feed on it, be nurtured by it and grow ever deeper in simple trust. Thank you, Lord, for all Your goodness to us, for feeding us through messages given to Your shepherd in this place, Pastor Brian, and for the tangible love and fellowship of believers.*

*“Thank you, Father, for the privilege of bringing our praise and requests to You, which we do through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Offering Prayer**

*“Dear Lord, by your generosity to us, we give to you for your purposes and glory. We can never outgive You, for all we have comes from You. We pray these gifts will be multiplied and used according to Your will. We ask for Your wisdom to guide and direct those who are given the oversight of our church’s finances, and thank You for their tenacious care in all they do. Amen.”*

### **Song: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**

**(Eileen Barclay)**

*“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go’...was written by George Matheson. George was born in Glasgow the eldest of 8 children. He was a very good student and studied philosophy and classics at Glasgow University though he sensed he was being called to Ministry. Unfortunately, he lost his sight in his twentieth year but he continued his studies using*

powerful glasses and sitting in good light. He was the Minister at Innellan for 18 years and then was at St. Basils in Edinburgh for 13 years after which spent time writing, using braille and a typewriter. His sister had always been there for him, reading passages, taking notes and reading them back so he could memorise them. She got married in Glasgow when George was 40 but he did not go to the wedding. He suffered severe mental stress, perhaps remembering too that he had once been engaged and his fiancé had called it off as she couldn't envisage being married to a blind man. The hymn was the fruit of pain and was composed with extreme rapidity. It seemed to him that the construction occupied only a few minutes and he felt himself rather in the position of one who was being dictated to rather than an original artist. At one time he was invited by Queen Victoria to preach at Balmoral and she was so impressed with his sermon on the patience of Job that she had it printed and circulated."

### [O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go](#)

#### **Testimony**

**(Sylvia Corin)**

"The subject of Pastor Brian's last sermon on 'Our Temporary Home,' is the story of our life! In his message he mentioned that 'we are so driven to have our own home, that we are willing to shape our own lives around the pursuit of owning a home.'

This struck a chord with me as when I was 14 and in a church singing group, we used to sing the song, 'This world is not our home, we're just a passing through!' As a teenager, I realised that this life was just a journey towards our permanent home in Heaven and this concept has stayed with me all my life.

The pastor at MBC, Doug Salthouse, when I was in the youth group, encouraged us to discover what our ministry was and to find a home nearby to fulfil it. When Doug married Frank and I in 1966, in his message to us, he gave us Psalm 127, which starts off "Unless the Lord build the house, it's builders labour in vain." We determined then to let Him give us our home, in His time. In fact, this Psalm has shaped our life together over these 55 years, as we have seen God give us many temporary homes to live in and by blessing us with five children over a 25 year span, so in an amazing way this Psalm has been fulfilled in our life.

We were married for 10 years and had three children by the time God amazingly led us to buy our first home in Rotorua but we only lived in it for 2 years before we felt God leading us to go to Papua New Guinea. This began a pattern of our life, moving from one temporary home to another.

I must admit that I am a home maker and would have loved to build a new house and settle down in one place to rear a family. In fact we had plans to do that. However God had other ideas and as years before, I had surrendered my life to follow Him and His plan and purpose for my life, I had no other choice. As it has turned out it has been a nomadic life, unlike the one I would have chosen!

In the 1970's when I was struggling with what I was giving up, a couple in the church who were like our spiritual parents, gave us a plaque which reads "Seek Ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

We have this in our home now, as it has proved so true. I had to believe that as I sought to honour God by being willing to move as He directed, He would bless us.

After our marriage our journey started in Taupo where Frank was teaching, for two years, followed by five years in the Solomon Islands, and then to Rotorua for three years, where we thought we were settled. Chris was only a month old when we went there and we had a vibrant ministry amongst overseas students, as well as being involved in the church. However the Lord opened up the way for us to continue our overseas adventures and we then spent five years in Papua New Guinea.

We returned to Auckland and felt that surely it was time to make a permanent home for our four children, one having been born in PNG and two of them by this time being teenagers. However, our plans are not God's plans and He clearly wanted us to keep moving forward, as He opened up a job in Tonga which meant that our two teenagers had to live with their grandparents for two years, so off we went again, to see what the Lord had in store for us there. We have many amazing stories of how God opened up job opportunities as well as homes, in order to keep us on the move!

After our time in Tonga, serving God in the local church, and having different experiences, we returned to Auckland and settled in as a family again but we only had one year together before we were asked to go to India to work. By this time we were getting the message that we were not meant to live a normal, settled life! We accepted the challenge to go to a completely different place than the Pacific, where we had been before. This proved a real culture shock but it was the best time spiritually for us. We were both involved in the local church and our teenage son Chris was baptised there, so it proved to be a wonderful experience for us all.

Again before heading off to India, we had to find a home for our two teenagers and God miraculously provided the solution, a two bedroom unit, close to the church in Milford. It had only just come on the market and hadn't yet been advertised. We knew exactly where it was when the agent showed us the address, as it had previously been the site of MBC's manse. The church had moved the manse further away and had built five units on the site, in order to fund the present building. Previously there had been an old wooden building on the site, in which we were married. Immediately we knew it was God's provision and were able to buy it. It has been the home for many of our family members over the last 34 years.

After our time in India, we returned to Auckland and our home church at MBC, thinking that surely this time we would be able to settle down in a permanent home of our own, having served God in four overseas countries. However again the opportunity came to keep moving when Frank's old job as the Principal of the Timber and Forestry Training College in Lae, Papua New Guinea, was advertised in the Herald and as soon as we saw it, we knew it was where God wanted us. On our arrival there, we met one of the wives of a staff member and she said that she had been praying for us to come back for 10 years, so what chance did we

have? We had left the College in 1982 and returned in 1992 and spent another 11 years there, making a total of 16 years there at two different times. During all this time, we had lived in rental accommodation for 29 years and our own home in between, for only short times. It taught us therefore, to hold everything loosely and appreciate the temporary homes that God had provided for us.

It has been very fulfilling seeing how God has opened up different ministries wherever we have lived in our 17 different homes. It hasn't been without it's sacrifices though, both for me as a wife and mother and for our five children. They too would have preferred the settled life in a permanent home but at our 50th wedding anniversary, we shared with them the journey the Lord had led us on, in the hope that they would understand the commitment we had made to Him and to each other in our youth, that we would put Him first and follow Him wherever He led. They all do understand appreciate our commitment and all have committed their lives to Him and are all on their own journeys for which we are thankful. We pray that they will each grasp the concept that this is not their final home and live in a close relationship with God.

Where are we now then? During this lockdown, we have been busy moving into our unit in Milford ourselves, so now feel that we have come full circle to where our life together began. We have a strong sense that we have come home, living on the actual site where Frank was asked to be the youth leader at MBC by the pastor when Frank visited the Manse in 1964. How incredible are God's plans and purposes if we're willing to trust and obey Him. Whether He leads us to stay in one place or serve Him in wider pastures, the most important thing is to surrender our own desires and to trust that He knows best! We are looking forward to our permanent home in Heaven where we can finally be settled but in the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing what new adventures God has for us here in Milford, as we again live close to where our began and continues!

God bless you all."

**Song: Meekness and Majesty**

**(Susan McIntosh)**

"At the moment I am reading Good News Everyday, and on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> these verses were really meaningful to me:

Psalm 16 v 5&6. 'You Lord are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are!'

These verses express how I feel about the Lord, and the song Meekness and Majesty explains why I feel that way."

[Meekness and Majesty](#)

[Listen to the Reading](#)

***Jesus Teaches at the Festival***

*7<sup>14</sup> Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”*

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”*

*<sup>20</sup> “You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”*

*<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. <sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”*

**Sermon “Dangerous Righteousness”**

**(Brian Lima)**

[Read the Sermon](#)  
[Watch the Sermon](#)

**Song: We Are Standing on Holy Ground**

**(Bronwyn McKay)**

“When asked to choose a hymn for today’s virtual service, this song, ‘We are standing on Holy Ground,’ came immediately to mind. Although I have always loved it I felt that at the moment, as we are isolated in our homes we should realise that our lounges, studies or kitchens can be ‘Holy Ground.’ Jesus does not need a special building or environment but will be with us to strengthen, comfort and uphold wherever we are. As you listen/sing the words and see the beautiful New Zealand graphics I trust you will know the joy of your ‘Holy Ground’ this morning.”

[We Are Standing on Holy Ground](#)

## **Benediction**

**(Brian Lima)**

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.”*

*1 Corinthians 15:58*