

# CONNECTIONS

Stories of the SWAC-scattered community



## Martin Luther & the Happy Exchange

SCOTT GOODE

I am currently researching the Reformation and am taking the opportunity to share some reflections with you. Last week I outlined Martin Luther's claim that the Bible belonged not to the Pope only, but to all Christians who could read and understand it. This principle is best known as *Scripture alone*, but it came about because Luther was convinced that the Bible's message was one of grace - undeserved kindness from God. Whereas medieval theology emphasised the place of good works to merit God's favour, Luther saw in the Bible that approval from God could not be achieved, but only received. It is known as Luther's 'happy exchange' where Jesus 'shares in the sins, death, and pains of hell' which are ours, making them 'his own and acts as if they were his own'. In exchange, 'the believing soul by means of the pledge of its faith is free in Christ...from all sins, secure against death and hell, and is endowed with the eternal righteousness, life, and salvation of Christ.' Luther's discovery of grace so gripped his own heart and that of his pastoral ministry that he stood up against Tradition and Pope to secure it.



## OFFICE HOURS:

Our office is closed  
Food donations and  
pastoral care by  
appointment

The answering machine will  
be checked daily  
Ph: 6925 1707

Staff will be working from  
home where possible.

[scottg@swac.church](mailto:scottg@swac.church)  
[office@swac.church](mailto:office@swac.church)  
[kyliep@swac.church](mailto:kyliep@swac.church)  
[mattb@swac.church](mailto:mattb@swac.church)  
[amandab@swac.church](mailto:amandab@swac.church)  
[craigr@swac.church](mailto:craigr@swac.church)  
[nataliem@swac.church](mailto:nataliem@swac.church)

Warden Contact

St Paul's: Peter Hilton  
St Alban's: Robyn Clarke

Our churches remain  
closed  
[www.swac.church](http://www.swac.church)



## An Act of Kindness (a true story)

MARGARET CARN

An act of Kindness

As I walked home along the street  
 I saw a 'homeless' man  
 On the footpath near the nature strip  
 Empty coffee cup in hand  
 Cigarette butts he was scrounging  
 Putting in the cardboard cup  
 I walked on by to the crossing  
 And there he caught me up  
 He said 'traffic here is busy  
 I'll help you across the road'  
 Then bent old lady and the gentleman  
 Together we crossed the street



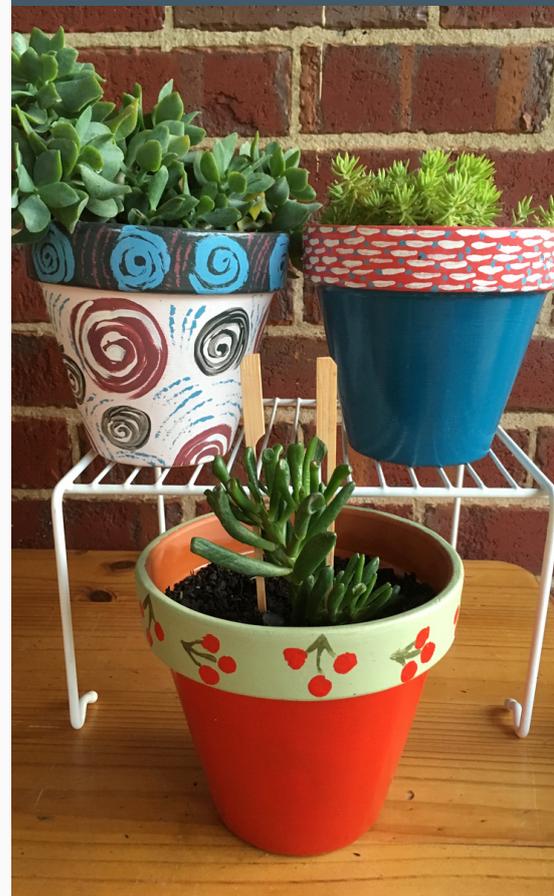
## Five ways isolation can deepen faith

SOURCE: OPEN DOORS MARCH 27, 2020

Could God use this time of isolation to spark a new personal revival in our faith? If we take to heart some of the popular stories from persecuted Christians who've experienced separation—some in prisons, some on house arrest, and others as secret believers cut off from any contact with Christian community because of their faith—the answer is an emphatic yes. Here are five ways God can radically deepen our faith in times of isolation and solitude—if we're brave enough to let him.

- Isolation and solitude strip down our lives.
- Isolation and solitude reveal the current that carries us.
- Isolation and solitude form the geography for an authentic encounter with God.
- Isolation and solitude can expand our prayer lives.
- Isolation and solitude can increase our passion for his presence.

Looking for a  
 Mother's Day gift?  
 Potted succulents in  
 pretty pots - hand  
 painted 17cm  
 terracotta pots.  
 \$10 each  
 All proceeds to  
 SWAC.  
 Contact Laurel  
 0429190848





## Worry in Perspective

ANONYMOUS

I was scrolling through Pinterest and found this quote:

“Something is going to happen tomorrow that will make all your worries go away”.

I straight away wondered if the quote had actually come from God because I do have a big worry at the moment within my family. I wondered if I should buy a lottery ticket, but then realised God wouldn't see money as a solution to anything. I then wondered if I was going to die tomorrow because that would certainly mean I would have no worries. Anyway, the day was drawing to a close and I hadn't died so I thought that maybe it was just a quote and had no significance for me. Then I opened my mail .....



Inside a letter from Care Australia, I found a pamphlet about an African grandmother called Esther who was caring for four small children. They have only one main meal a day and do not know where the next meal will come from. They boost what little food they have with termites to add some substance. They are only one step away from starvation. So now every time I think I have worries, I think of Esther and my worries pale into insignificance.

Besides, I have given my worries to God so they will surely be taken care of.

**If you would like to get started on a Round Bible Study, please contact Narelle to get a helping hand. Ph: 6926 2892**





For inclusion in the parish prayers for those in need please email

scottg@swac.church

Regular updates of people will ensure latest information.



## Prayer for those in need

NATALIE MCDERMOTT give thanks for scans that show she is melanoma free!

BARBARA SLADE as she recovers from a second surgery for breast cancer. Thanksgiving for early diagnosis.

STUART GAMBLE in his recovery and rehabilitation after his knee replacement.

GWEN WOODHAM (mainly music team member) as she undergoes chemotherapy for leukemia.

SUSAN LEATHAM recovering from surgery.



PAM DENTON (Dorothy Munro's friend) who suffers from Motor Neurone Disease.

RIZKA our Compassion child.

BERYL PERKINS as she recovers in hospital from her second hip replacement (different hip than previous one).

BOB and BETTE MENZIES with frail health.

LAUREL WILLIS wants to thank the church folk from SWAC that have been praying for her over the last few months: "It has been a huge support to Roy and me." She is now required to have further surgery in May to have the whole thyroid removed due to the type of cancer that was diagnosed.

WHEN I AM AFRAID, I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. IN GOD, WHOSE WORD I PRAISE - IN GOD I TRUST AND AM NOT AFRAID. WHAT CAN MERE MORTALS DO TO ME?  
PSALM 56:3-4



**Colin Buchanan  
has a  
livestreamed  
Kids Concert  
weekly on  
Wednesday at  
5pm via his  
Facebook page.**

## SWAC Kids' Corner

Zoom Kids Church starts this Sunday 11am-11.45am. An email will be sent to our SWAC-kids online mailing group at 10.55am. Permission note will need to be filled out prior to joining the video conference. If you have any questions please email [mattb@swac.church](mailto:mattb@swac.church)



## Journey through Mark's Gospel

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

SATURDAY	Mark 2: 1-12	Psalm 60:6-12
MONDAY	Mark 2:13-17	Psalm 62:1-4
TUESDAY	Mark 2:18-22	Psalm 62:5-8
WEDNESDAY	Mark 2:23-28	Psalm 62:9-12
THURSDAY	Mark 3:1-6	Psalm 63:1-4
FRIDAY	Mark 3:7-12	Psalm 63:5-8

If you would like to listen to a daily devotion from J.C. Ryle's devotional commentary on Mark please go to:

<https://sites.google.com/swac.church/swac-ryle/home>





Send your pics and messages via email, text (or snail-mail) to [scottg@swac.church](mailto:scottg@swac.church) and be a blessing to our scattered church community.

## SCATTERED MESSAGES

KYLIE POLKINGHORNE

We had fun over the last week getting various members of our church organised to display a SWAC-scattered bible verse that was meaningful in this season. It was so good to see everyone's face - you too can see them via SWAC-online or the DVD this Sunday.

*Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.*

Ephesians 6:23-34



## Prayer Chain

SCOTT GOODE

Anne Flood, Bill Anscombe and I are reorganising the prayer chain. If you would like to be someone on the chain to pray for the needs of the Kingdom and specific parishioner needs please let one of us know. If you would like to provide a prayer request please contact one of us and we will send it down the chain.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened for you.

Matthew 7:7

