

WEEK OF PRAYER 2026

January 4 - 11

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)



CICC Youth gatherings in (Top L-R), Rarotonga, Mitiaro, Brisbane and again Rarotonga

Prepared by the CICC Ministers on Rarotonga

July 2025

+++++ 2 +++++

Cover Page Photos

As the popular saying goes; **the Youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.** This is certainly true – to some extent as a matter of fact. By this it means it is not automatic that they will be leaders, and for sure not all of them will become leaders. We can expect that those who have been raised well and have taken onboard all the parents' and others' advices, they are the ones who will have higher chances of becoming leaders in whatever their chosen fields in life might be, whether it's in the church, government, private sector, communities, sports organisations, and so on.

In addition to the parents and the state (Government), the church also has a responsibility in nurturing them from childhood until they reach adulthood and be able to make life choices themselves based on Bible principles. This is the purpose behind creation of the Youth Department in the church, to facilitate the above process. Various youth events have been implemented over the past many years to address issues facing our youth today. Some of those events involve getting them together where programmes are set which, amongst other things, involve discussions on prevailing issues and what might the options be on the way forward. This was very much the intention behind the Youth Conventions held (Top L-R) on Rarotonga in 2012, Mitiaro in 2016, and Brisbane in 2024. Rallies (Rarotonga, 2021) are not only for Christian entertainment, the dramas or shows being put up also portray messages for the youth to take note of as they go about their journeys in life.

So as our young generation goes through various activities in their time in the church – Sunday School, Uniform Organisations, Youth – we can be almost certain that when the opportunities arise later on in their lives, they will be more than ready to take on the roles of leadership wherever in society those roles might land them in. Let us therefore assist them the best we can, for they are certainly potential leaders of tomorrow.

>>>>>>>

+++++ 3 +++++

Preface

Kia orana and greetings everyone in Jesus' name, for his spiritual guidance over the past year and for bringing us to this new year. Let us be thankful to Him for his many blessings despite the challenges that we have encountered.

Since Christianity arrived to our shores, God's message has been preached widely to his people; to us here in the Cook Islands and have also been spread to other countries in the Pacific by our early local Missionaries. Today our mother church has established branches in New Zealand, Australia and we also have 5 church ministers looking after parishes in Tahiti.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer is found in Psalm 44.8 which says; *In God We Make our Boast and Praise His Name Forever.* This means our long journey since day 1 must continue, we must strive to serve and promote our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at all times despite the challenges we face everyday, some of which are not going down well with our people. Our country is founded on the principles of Christianity, we don't worship gods other than Jehova, and it is our hope that this status continues to the end of time.

May each and everyone be blessed throughout this year as we seek to improve both our physical and spiritual lives.

Rev. Tuaine Ngametua President



WEEK OF PRAYER

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Kia orana and a Happy New Year to you all in the Mighty Name of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ. Praise be to God for His love and grace which guided us throughout the year 2025 and ushering us into this New Year 2026. We've been through so many things and embarking into this new journey is a great blessing to each and everyone. God is forever gracious.

We now have come to another time at the beginning of the year, Our Pure Epetoma for 2026. It marks a celebration through prayer and meditation seeking God's guidance and protection for us throughout the whole year. We do understand also that we are now in our Cyclone season, hence the reason of this Prayer Week. Our theme for this Week of Prayer was chosen from the Theme of our 2025 General Assembly: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

It is a reflection upon the one God that we believe, Creator of the heaven and the earth, the whole cosmos and also us all. It is Him alone who deserves our praises which also is the pride of all our CICC churches, in the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia. Hear what Paul has to say for us: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14) NIV

May the Name of our Lord bear witness to us. So true are the words of God which said: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12) NIV. The Lord Jesus Christ, whom the father sent into this world made Himself known to the whole world and more importantly to all of us. May God be the reason on our praise that we will continue to exalt Him above all else and may each home and families be blessed through His abundant grace.

Today, we see the decline of peoples praises as well as church attendance whilst the shops still open on Sundays. Likewise, the markets and the frequent visits of Cruise ships to our shores as a promotion of tourism. To all our

>>>>>>>>>

families, hear the words of the Psalmist: "We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: The LORD fulfill all thy petitions" (Psalm 20:5) KJV. The words of this famous hymn goes: "Mou i te mea tika, piri kia Iesu, e vaka autu rai to Daniela" (Hold on to what is true, be enjoined to the Lord Jesus, for Daniel's canoe is victorious) For the name of Jehovah is praised forever.

families, hear the words of the Psalmist: "We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: The LORD fulfill all thy petitions" (Psalm 20:5) KJV. The words of this famous hymn goes: "Mou i te mea tika, piri kia Iesu, e vaka autu rai to Daniela" (Hold on to what is true, be enjoined to the Lord Jesus, for Daniel's canoe is victorious) For the name of Jehovah is praised forever.

Prayer:

O LORD our God, may your Name be boasted, for you alone is God and worthy of our praises forever. For you have glory and honor even to the ends of the earth, Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING 4 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub-Theme: JESUS IS THE WORD (LOGOS) (John 1:1 – 12)

Readings:

- ➤ Isaiah 49:6: Light to the Gentiles.
- ➤ Psalm 33:6: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made.
- ➤ Hosea 1:2: The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea.
- ▶ John 20:30 31: Listen to the LORD Jesus Christ.
- > John 3:6: That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

>>>>>>>

+++++ 6 +++++

Exposition:

This is what John said: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1) KJV. John's gospel has confirmed that Jesus alone is the Son of God and through faith in Him, we have eternal life. "Jesus, who being in the form of God...made Himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6, 7) KJV. He was the Word or the Logos in Greek, who was in the beginning with God, and who also is God. It would be easier for us to understand that it was not a piece of wood but God. Here's how John explains it: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, of the Word of life" (1 John 1:1).

The Apostle John upholds the LORD God, who sent forth His Son Jesus to be the Light unto the nations through His Word that the world will have eternal life in Him. He had spoken unto the fathers by the Prophets of old but they would not hear Him. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He, power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11, 12)

In Matthews gospel this is what he said: "and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17)

Questions for discussion:

- 1. Jesus is the Word, How, would you explain it?
- 2. In what manner would you boast about God in your life?

SUNDAY MAIN SERVICE 4 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: JESUS IS OUR LIVING HOPE

+++++ 7 +++++

Readings:

- ➤ Psalm 69:36: They that love his name shall dwell therein.
- ➤ John 11:9 10: Jesus is the Living Light.
- > John 11:6: Our comfort is in the Lord.
- Acts 1:21: Be in the company of Christ.
- Romans 15:4: May the comfort of the scriptures give us hope.

Exposition:

This is David's plea based upon his sufferings as he bathed in the ocean of his doubts. In verse 1, this is what he says: "Save me, O God, For the waters are come in unto my soul" Salvation comes by no other means except the LORD. "For no other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

There are times, when we are surrounded by troubles, we remember that there is a God and when everything works well, we will not be bothered with God. David is sharing his experience with us and he understands what it means to suffer. Regardless of all the troubles, David always, call upon his God because he knows that God will come to his aid. God hears all our prayers and in His own time He would respond to them. David is a person who depend upon God for He is his stronghold and refuge.

Let us boast more about our God in our hearts believing in Him as our Living Hope. For God will continue to shower us with His blessings in abundance. Jesus suffered more for our sake and we will never understand the depth of His sufferings. So true are the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he said: "...there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from him, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed...." (Isaiah 53:2b 3 – 5) KJV. It is His name alone that we have hope.

+++++ 8 +++++

Questions for discussion:

- 1. How do you see God as your Living Hope? Explain.
- 2. Have you encountered God's help for you?

SUNDAY EVENING 4 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub-theme: THE LOGOS BECAME FLESH.

Readings:

➤ John 1:14: The Word became flesh.

 \triangleright Luke 1:31 – 35: The Spirit will come on you.

➤ 1 Timothy 3:16: The mystery of faith.

➤ Galatians 4:4: God sent forth his Son.

➤ Hebrews 2:16 – 17: He is our truthful High Priest.

> 2 Peter 1:17: This is my beloved son.

Ezekiel 36:25, 26: A new heart in God.

Exposition:

The Apostle John beheld through the eyes of an eagle the historical setting of the Son of God. In like manner he addressed him as the Word who was in the beginning, who also was with God and he too was God. It went further when he declared that the Word became flesh. It is not only in human thought but it also went further back into history through the prophetic words of the Prophets of old. God sent forth his Son into this world to be our Redeemer. He also became our High Priest who was Truth according to the Spirit.

To those who were accepted into the household of faith declared that they were born of the Spirit. In John 3:8, this is what it says: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (NIV). It comes

......×

through faith so that the love of God will be seen. This is what the Lord had done, and it is amazing in our sight.

In chapter 1:13, John declared that: "Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (NIV). This is what the Lord fulfilled for us, so that we will be able to behold the glory of God. He too had adorned us with faith through His Only Son. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (verse 14)

It is my prayer that this New Year will reveal to us new things both inside and outside of us for the purpose of growing in grace as we embark on a new journey this year and be under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Paul says that: "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" (Romans 8:14)

Question for discussion:

- 1. When the Word became flesh, what was the evidence of it seen in Christ?
- 2. What is your testimony of Christ today?

MONDAY 5 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

Readings:

- ➤ John 1:29 34: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- Exodus 12:3: Take a lamb for each family and household.
- ➤ Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed and afflicted.
- Acts 8:32: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.

>>>>>>>>>>

- ➤ 1 Peter 1:19: Christ was as a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- \triangleright John 1:35 42: What are you seeking?
- ➤ 1 Corinthians 5:7: Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch.

Exposition:

God birthed in John the Baptist the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3) NIV. In John 1:7, it says: "He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe" (NIV). The preparation of the way of the Lord also became the point of discussion when the chief priests and the Levites sent to inquire John of his identity: Who he is, is he Elijah or any the Prophets and why was he baptizing? Is he the Messiah? But John told them that: "He is the voice of one crying in the wilderness" Seeing Christ coming he cried out saying: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" John is also reflecting on how he views Christ through the Old Testament with the image of the sacrificial lamb. In Exodus 12:5, this is what it says: "A lamb without blemish, a male of the first year"

In the same way is how God likened His Son unto a lamb to be sin bearer for the whole world. It is also marvelous that the Father gave us His Son and bore upon Him our sins. For he was innocent and sinless in every sense of the word which John testified that he is the son of God. In our reading of today, it is the second time that John the Baptist acknowledged Christ as the Lamb of God, as well as the many he had baptized including his two disciples.

"John also testified concerning him. He cried out saying, this is the one I spoke about when I said, He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me" (John 1:15) NIV. When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus and when He saw them following Him and asked them, "What do you want?" They said, Rabbi, "Where are you staying?" Jesus replied, come and you will see. (vs. 38, 39). To immerse more into the subject matter, Jesus said something that changed their hearts for good. He said, "Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Luke 9:58)

It is also the urge of the Lamb of God for us to come and see for ourselves who He really is in this New Year. He came that we may have life, and life to its fulness. He alone is worthy of our praises forever.

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What example was seen in the Lamb of God, that was not seen?
- 2. What is the significance of the Lamb of God applicable for us today?

TUESDAY 7 TIANUARE

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: JESUS SAID, FOLLOW ME

Readings:

- ightharpoonup Psalm 44:1 8: God, we have heard you.
- \triangleright John 1:43 51: He said, Follow Me.
- \triangleright 2 Samuels 15:21 22: Let your yes be a yes.
- \blacktriangleright Matthew 4:1 19: Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.
- \triangleright Mark 1:17 37: Simon and the others followed Him.
- \triangleright Psalm 104:2 5: God's mighty work also reveals His power.

Exposition:

Our theme for today reflects upon the words of the Lord to his disciples and also to us today. Jesus said, follow me and I will make you fishers of men. There are three main thoughts that uplifts our theme for today:

- 1. It is a choice of faith.
- 2. It is a choice of being obedient.
- 3. It is a choice of endurance.

We are to be mindful of the choices we make because there are many things in this life that will be misleading which also will affect our faith. It was evident in the past and how much more today and it is also for that reason why Jesus came into this world. For he had come to seek and to save that which is lost. He will also direct us to understand eternity.

It was also for that same reason why Jesus came into this world. This is what Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24) NIV. It is also a lesson for all of us to reconsider our walks with Christ to ensure that we are following Him in the way that he requires of us which also will bring honour to God in our service for Him. John sets the example for us to enable us to walk in the ways of the Lord thus upholding our theme for today. Hear what Paul has to say: "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What does Jesus mean when He said "Follow Me?"
- 2. What choices do you have to consider the meaning of following Christ?

WEDNESDAY 7 ANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: JESUS IS SYMBOLIC OF LIFE

Readings:

- \triangleright Matthew 1:20 23: He will save his people from their sins.
- \triangleright Ioane 2:1 12: Water turned into wine.
- ➤ Mataio 14:23 32: Jesus walks on water.
- Luka 9:12 17: Feeding of the 5,000.
- \triangleright Ioane 5:5 15: The sick man who was healed.
- ► Ioane 9:1-7: The blind man who was healed.
- \triangleright Mataio 8:5 13: The centurions servant.
- ➤ Ioane 11:1 44: The resuscitation of Lazarua.

Exposition:

In our reading of today we come face to face with an incident that took place at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there and he as well as his disciples were invited to the wedding. In the process of time, they ran out of wine and Mary confronted Jesus about it. In verse 4, Jesus responded: "Woman, why do you involve me, my hour has not yet come" Mary then said to the servants; "Do whatever he tells you"

The changing of water into wine was the first sign or miracle that Jesus did at the beginning of His earthly ministry and it had a homely setting. This sign was not planned by the wedding party to be a stage for His activity but He was simply engaged in the wedding and when the need arose, he was there to fulfil it. He met the peoples need and uplifted the celebration to another level to the joy of the head of the celebration.

Therefore, if any need arises, we will go to Him and He knows what our needs are before we even ask Him. We must also believe that Jesus will always be willing to help us in our times of need. Similarly, Jesus works miracles or signs today to meet our needs. Jesus is interested in the details of our lives, for there is no limit to what the Son of God can do. There are also challenges that we will face as a way of strengthening our faith in Christ and more in the works of Jesus.

Questions for discussion:

- 1. Why is it significant in your life that Jesus turned water into wine?
- 2. Are you willing to live your life, for Jesus, who also can work miracles and sign in you?

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: JESUS IS THE TRUE TEMPLE

Readings:

- \triangleright John 2:13 25: Zeal for your house will consume me
- ➤ Matthew 27:40: Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days.
- Mark 15:29: Those who passed by hurled insults at him.
- ➤ Ephesians 2:19 22: You are not foreigners but fellow citizens built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets.
- ➤ 1 Peter 2:5: You are like living stones built into a spiritual house.
- ➤ 1 Corinthians 6:19 20: Your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, bought at a price.

Exposition:

In John's gospel chapter 2, it is divided into two sections:

- 1. Jesus turned water into wine.
- 2. Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple.

These two sections are not the same, while the first one is miraculous the next one angers the

Lord and cause him to drive them out of the house of the Lord. John's gospel majors in teachings apart from the synoptic gospels. In Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17 and Luke 19:45-46, they say that the incident regarding the money changers being driven out the house of the Lord happened towards the end of Jesus' ministry, whereas in John's gospel it happened at the beginning of his ministry. This was a repeated act of Christ which signified his anger towards the Jewish leaders.

The reason which triggered Jesus' anger towards the people was mismanagement of the affairs within the precincts of the temple. What Jesus saw in the temple displeased him and he overturned their table and with a whip, he drove them out. He then made it known to them that he will destroy this temple and in three day He will rebuild it. No-one understood what he said, until after the resurrection of the Lord. In verse 19 this is what He said:

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days"

......×

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What are the lessons that we need to know regarding our Christianity and even our worship?
- 2. What must we do to enable us to rebuild the temple of the LORD in us?

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: BORN AGAIN IN CHRIST

Readings:

▶ John 3:1-13: You must be born again.

➤ 1 Peter 1:23: Born again with incorruptible seed

- ➤ 1 John 4:7: Everyone who loves has been born of God
- ➤ 1 John 5:4, 18: Anyone born of God does not continue to sin.

Exposition:

Being born again simply means, "being born from above" It is the work of the Spirit in our lives and it has nothing to do with human contact. In verse 5, this is what it says: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit"

Another expression of the term born again is the word **Regeneration.** In John 3:1-8, Jesus discusses the Foundation of the Christian Faith and Spiritual birth or Regeneration. Without the New Birth one cannot see the Kingdom of God and receive Eternal life and Salvation through Jesus Christ. Regeneration is a re-creating of Spiritual life in the human heart (Romans 12:21, Ephesians 4:23-24). Regeneration comes to those who Repent of Sin, turn to God, and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for Salvation (John 1:12). Regeneration is a transition from an old life of sin to a new life of love and

>>>>>>>>

obedience to Jesus Christ. Those who are truly born again are set free from sin's bondage (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 8:36).

As mentioned earlier, it is the work of the Spirit in us through repentance and accepting Christ as your personal Lord and Redeemer. It is no use, if we say that we are born again and yet, still living in our sin. According to Galatians this is what Paul said: "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh...Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:17, 25) The ultimate reason is for us to grow into a living hope. Time for change as some people may say. This is what Paul says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What is your understanding of the term "Born again in Christ?"
- 2. What is the lesson for us this Year 2026?

SUNDAY MORNING 11 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP.

Readings:

- \triangleright John 3:14 21: For God so loved the world
- ➤ 1 John 4:9: The love of God is manifested toward us
- Romans 5:8: God commendeth his love toward us.
- Numbers 21:8-9: Look upon the brazen serpent and you will live.
- ➤ Lamentations 3:22 24: It is of the LORD'S mercy that we are not consumed.
- ➤ Malachi 3:6: For I am the LORD, I change not.
- ➤ John 12:32: And if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

>>>>>>>>

Exposition:

God commended His love to the whole world that He sent forth His Only Son and whoever believe in Him shall not die but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world but that we may be saved through Him. Moses lifted the brazen serpent in the wilderness and those who look upon it are saved of the bites they had received. In the same way, Christ was lifted upon the cross so that we will have eternal life through Him. The serpent is an image of Israel's sins and in the same manner Christ who has no sin was made sinner for the sake of the whole world so that the world will be redeemed through Him.

It is also fitting for all of us to uplift the Son of Man in our lives, for He is our Redeemer. Jesus is God's gift to the whole world and out of his great love and mercies, we received the redemption that comes through Him. For it was the Father's choice for our sake that we receive Him as our Lord and Savior. The Word of God says: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9)

Questions for discussion:

- 1. In what manner would you uplift Jesus Christ in your life?
- 2. What is your understanding of our theme for today which said: The Son of Man must be lifted up.

SUNDAY MAIN SERVICE 11 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: LET GOD BE MAGNIFIED

Readings:

> Psalm 70: May the Lord be magnified

 \triangleright Psalm 95:6 – 7: He is our God.

 \triangleright Psalm 100:1 – 3: He alone is LORD.

Exposition:

It is David's prayer for God to attend to his aid and to release him from the evil of sin. He also sees the thoughts of his enemies to destroy and his kingdom, but David is a man who understands God and every, facets of life. His petition was for God to remove his enemies in shame so that they will not come any closer to him. He knows that God is always with him in his times of troubles and he has no doubt that God do things in his favor.

In verse 5, this is what he said: "But I am poor and needy, Make haste unto me O God...." The question is How can he say that and yet God granted him everything as well as the riches of the world. It is here that we encounter wisdom but in David's heart, it is all about humility, for God is always above all. He knows that richness cannot be compared to the greatness of God. That is why he said in the last part of verse 5, "...thou art my help and my deliverer, O LORD, make no tarry" It is here that we read the mind of David. All God want was for David to open his mouth and speak because at the end of the line, His God is still waiting for his call. David also believed that those who seek for comfort will certainly rejoice in the Lord. Above all, God is to be uplifted.

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What does it mean for God to be magnified or exalted?
- 2. How would you magnify God in your life?

SUNDAY EVENING 11 JANUARY

Main Theme: IN GOD WE MAKE OUR BOAST AND PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER (Psalm 44:8)

Sub Theme: HE WHO BELIEVES IN THE SON HAS EVERLASTING LIFE

>>>>>>>>

Readings:

- ➤ John 3:22 36: He will increase, I will decrease.
- \triangleright Habakkuk 2:3 4: The just shall live by faith.
- ➤ Romans 1:16 17: I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God.
- \triangleright Galatians 3:11 12: We have been purchased by the Lord.
- \triangleright 2 Corinthians 5:17 21: If a man be in Christ, he is a new creation.

Exposition:

In our text for today, it highlights the ministry of John the Baptist which also draws the attention to the Lamb of God. He was more than willing to step aside and allow the ministry of the Lamb to progress for he knows that his time is soon to expire. He also emphasizes the concept of humility to evade self-centeredness putting God first and himself second. There is no envy except the shift of attention to Jesus.

John now knows that there is a shift in his ministry as Christ picks up from him out of respect for the preparation of way for Him. With that in mind, he is pointing the Jews to follow the Lamb of God, for he doesn't qualify to unlace his sandals. He will decrease and the Christ indeed increase. John ended up in prison and was martyred while Jesus completed the task on the cross.

Jesus is a uniquely reliable revelation, because He has the Holy Spirit without measure, in contrast to the prophets of old. John spoke both of Jesus (who had the Holy Spirit without measure) and prophetically of the New Covenant (which featured a true outpouring of the Holy Spirit). For those joined to the Messiah through the New Covenant, there is as much of the Spirit as needed, given without measure.

Paul also picked up from Habakkuk regarding the subject of justification by faith which upheld the ministry of Christ and even to the point that it is Christ alone with the essence of salvation and eternal life that comes from him.

.....×

	~~	
+++++	20	++++
	20	

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What does John mean when he said, He will decrease and Christ will increase?
- 2. What is the connection of it, to eternal life?

>>>>>>>>>

Responsibilities for this Pure Epetoma

- Contributors in Maori:
 - Sunday 4 Rev. Tuaine Ngametua
 - Monday 5 Rev. Haraveikore William
 - Tuesday 6 Rev. Ngatokorima Tehatitiri Joe
 - Wednesday 7 Rev. Teava Nanai
 - Thursday 8 Rev. Dr. Mata Tumu Makara
 - Friday 9 Rev. Panu Rouru
 - Sunday 11 Rev. Metu Une
- > Translated into English: Rev. Vakaroto Ngaro
- Layout/presentation/cover design & comments on p.2: Nga Mataio
- Compile orders, arrange printing, postage: Mark Ahiao