

Te Haahi iriiri o Kirikiriroa ki te Tonga

www.hamouthbaptist.org.nz

Rātapu, 10 Hakihea, 2017

To the flock at Ham South,

Season's greetings.

Have you ever wondered what life might be like without rights? And, what is a right anyway?

It starts with a social contract. By living in a society we agree to have rules. An example might be: don't kill others. Why, because I don't want to be killed. These rules come from values, like: living is important.

These rules vary from state to state, but the principle of social contract is much the same – we collectively agree to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. If enshrined in law, that value becomes my right to exercise. In the above case, it is my right to life.

For example: If I attend an Australian wilderness adventure, and I subsequently get set upon by vicious platypuses during a guided tour (where I lose an arm), I would have right to sue the guide for the reckless endangerment of my life. And it would be the guides right to counter sue for saying that I did not comply with her directions to not feed the animals, and that everyone knows that peanut butter causes extreme aggression in marsupials.

As a lawyer I have to deal with rights every day. The thing with a right is that it takes away a freedom from others. The right to free speech, while good, may mean that offensive things are said about you/others. Conversely if threatening things are said, you can make a complaint to the Police and exercise the right to not be threatened/harmed. And that alleged offending person has the right to be treated fairly which includes speaking to an amazing lawyer who later finds a loophole. You may not agree with it at the time, but most of us would like to have rights because that would be fair for everyone.

But what about when you stand before God, do you have rights? Is there a Magna Carta, a Charter, or a set of inalienable rights for fair process? Do you have the right to a fair trial? Can you call a lawyer to present your case?

In God's kingdom, you have no rights. God will be fair, He always has been, but yet you will still be done for. Perfection is the standard, you are below standard. If you call, my phone will be turned off, it'll be too late then anyway. But I do have a friend who is in the business of heavenly advocacy, I'll make a referral, it's the best I can do.

But there must be a loophole, there always is. To let you in on something, I found it when I was 18.

John 1¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right** to become children of God, to those who believe in His name - NKJV. It's the only heavenly right we have in the bible.

Him is God. Him is Jesus. Him is my friend. Him is my heavenly advocate. My only right came at the cost to His freedom not to hurt and die. Him started my only heavenly right at Christmas, and "finished" it at Easter.

May I encourage you to exercise your heavenly right so that you can have life and have it abundantly. For the faithful, abundance means to walk in His freedom according to His will as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit until He returns.

Merry Christmas.

Len

hamiltonsouthbaptist

Today: Celebration Service "JOY"

Shannan Mackie

Duty elders: Ray & Kerry

Youth: 5.30 – 8pm: Includes dinner \$4

Please ensure students are picked up by 8.30pm at the latest

17th December : Carol Service "HOPE"

10am: Phil Bruce

Duty elders: Brian & Julie

Youth 6 – 8.30pm: End of year Christmas party and prize giving. Includes dinner; see fb for details

Christmas services

Sunday 24th December "LOVE" :2.30pm – 5pm
(no 10am service)

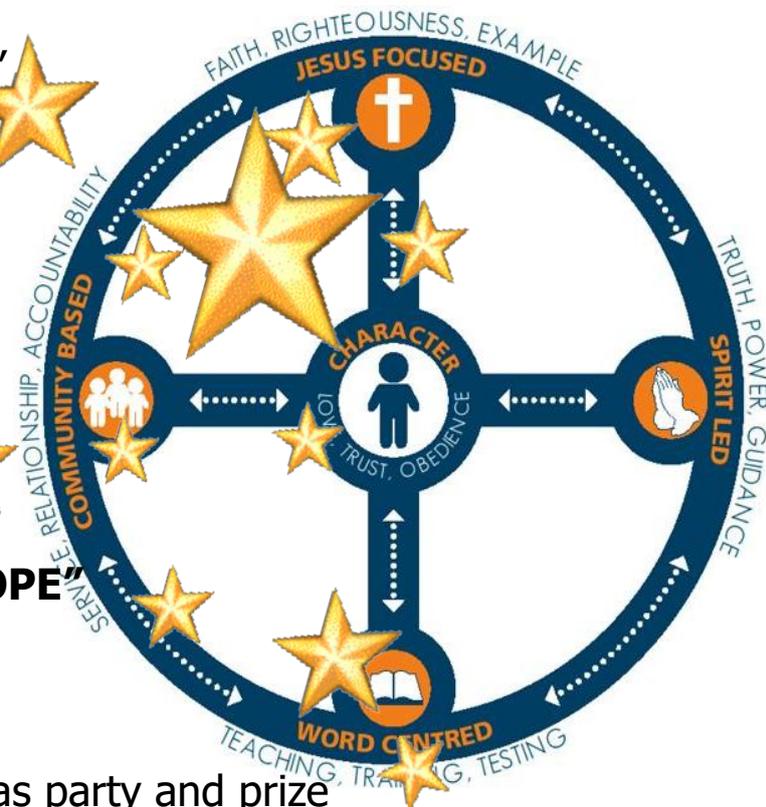
Christmas day: 9am – 9.45am

Activities this week:

Wednesday 10.00am craft

Thursday 10.00am Coffee 4 U

Thursday 9.30am mainly music



Melville Community Christmas Party

As part of the Church's community mission work we assist with the Melville Community Christmas Party. We are looking for some volunteers to help on the 21st of December from 11.30am to around 2.00pm in the following ways:

1. Santa – if you have ever thought you would like to dress as Santa, now is your chance.
2. BBQ – if you have a bbq you could lend us for the lunch, that would be much appreciated.
3. Helpers – A couple of people to help with the lunch, setting up and or cooking on the bbq.

If you have any questions or can help, please contact:

Dianne Sullivan ☎823 6856 or Vanessa Walker ☎825 2105

An open invite to come and see Naomi Zegwaard be baptised on Saturday the 30th of December from 11am at the Waikino river, Dickey Flat. After the baptism, you are welcome to stay for a picnic lunch and the rest of the afternoon.

If interested, see Lisa or Karsten for exact location and more details.

Lifeplus Community Trust held its AGM on 23rd November 2017.

The Trust continues to oversee the operation of Reflections Collections Op Shop and have donated a number of food parcels (Heather Goulstone Memorial Gift) to the families in need around the Melville / Glenview area.

The Trust has been happy to contribute to a number of community and school projects and is especially proud to be of support to Nicky Moran on her prison tour.

Dianna Shailer has resigned from both the Op Shop manager and as a trustee which will leave a large void in both organizations. Dianna's caring nature, diligence and commitment to our cause have helped us immensely over the years.

Dianna thank you for your time, effort and dedication, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours your calming nature will be missed.

Shannan Mackie has also stepped down from the Trust. *We thank him for all the input he has given to the Trust, he has been an inspiration and a blessing. We wish him well as his passion and God lead him further in his ministries.*

Going forward the Trust consists of the following:



Ian Foster - Chairperson
Paul Hallett - Treasurer
Carol Malcomson - Secretary
Kirsty Reardon - Committee
Ian Tarbotton - Committee

HAMSOUTH BAPTIST exists to know, love & glorify
God & be used by Him to lead people to become
fully committed followers of Jesus Christ

Trees
AT THE
Meteor
www.treesatmeteor.co.nz
14th - 19th December

The Meteor Theatre on Victoria Street is home to 60 plus NOT BORING trees that are a feast to the eyes. It's the wearable arts of the Christmas tree circuit.

It's a super festive forest of what Christmas means to HAMILTON.

And it's unique to our fair city! Epic for anyone - it's a whole family thing!

www.treesatmeteor.co.nz

We gather non-perishable foodstuffs and toilet paper each month for distribution by the Salvation Army to the poor and needy in our city.

Please put your contribution in the basket in the Foyer.



Average weekly offerings 2017

Ytd \$4,025
November \$5,040
Budget: \$3,903

Charities commission. CC23800

If you would like to make donations or offerings to HamSouth: contact the church office to get:

- your supply of envelopes or labels pre-printed with offering number
- for online banking please put your offering number as a reference.

HSBC account no is
02 0316 0444580 000

Rosters:	today	17 th December, 2017
Door	Arthur & Fay Finlay	Ian & Sue Foster
Coffee/tea	Fay & Arthur Finlay	Ian & Sue Foster
Crèche	Not staffed Celebration Service	Not staffed
Worship leader	Joel	Joel
Laundry	Dianne Sullivan	
Cleaning	Dec: Bev & Neil Higgs	

Senior Pastor: this role is currently being fulfilled by the elders:

chairperson: Ray Malcomson
Ph: 027 206 7735

Associate Pastor: Shannan Mackie
Ph 843 5950 Mob. 021 881 361

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Please note: the office is not attended **5 – 19 December inclusive.**
Emails and fb messages will be answered regularly.

