

# The Lamb of God Chronicle

June 2012

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### REFLECTIONS... 'Many are the Plans of a Person's Heart, but it is The Lord's Purpose that Prevails...' Proverbs 19 [21]

What an interesting month. In fact every month living in the Eastern Suburbs of Christchurch since the devastating earthquake of 22 February 2011 has been interesting. But for me the past few weeks have been a roller coaster of frustrating challenges seemingly sucking away at my zeal, my focus, my savings and my health. The concerns washed in like an incoming tide but I ended this challenging period where I started- with God and with my Bible open and believing the Lord's purposes will prevail.



How come I ended a tough month with a sense of God's hand being with me? Well I was guided by Scripture and made a practical response to Jeremiah 6 [16] 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it and you will find rest for your soul...' What I did is reflect and then make two lists, one with all of the challenges of this period, the other all of the blessings. And I soon discovered that I could think of no more challenges, but I was constantly adding to the list of blessings.....



No more Lamington making in the Lamb of God Hall

**Here they are, the challenges:** surgery to remove three cancers, then next day our significantly big 'new' parish church is closed following earthquake issues [homeless again], then I injured my back followed by two sets of x-rays leading to being unable to fly overseas to Sword of the Spirit meetings, then last week being advised the Lamb of God Centre main hall now needs to be demolished, and lots of money flowing out mainly on medical bills. Yep - all of these challenges are pretty serious and can start to get a person down.

**But, when I listed the blessings** the scale tipped significantly: our Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration Event went wonderfully well and our daughter Sue and team fed over a hundred and forty guests no problem, then in Auckland we spent time with one of our young ladies [Hannah] before she goes to Zambia for seven months to serve in an orphanage, and Veronica and I witnessed gracious hospitality when we visited our Auckland Branch, then on 9th May Lamb of God Christchurch Branch celebrated its 33rd anniversary, followed two days later by the 27th anniversary of the National Community, then at last our insurer moved into action to start attending to our earthquake damaged property, and what blessings to get together with our house group, and attend the Branch Lord's Day, then to learn that a member's home is having some shoddy earthquake repairs re-attended by EQC, and to learn that Philip and Alison Middlemiss will be the first rebuild on TC3 category land starting in June, and to have two young women from the Sword of the Spirit coming from Minnesota to serve us as we recover from the earthquakes, and the joy I have had this month in re-reading the Gospel according to Matthew, then to meet with other young people from the Lamb of God who are making a decision to give time in visiting and serving in other communities, and for our new temporary 'home' as our branch moves its Sunday Prayer Meeting to the Burwood Christian Centre in the heart of the Burwood Cluster. And much, much more.

Well my month wasn't so bad after all because indeed 'the Lord's purposes prevail...'

Roger Foley: Senior Coordinator

## OUR PEOPLE...



### **Congratulations!**

- We congratulate Alfred and Luan Lee [Antao], [Auckland branch] who recently 'tied the knot' last May 13.

**And sadness** as we farewell Fiona Woodcock from our membership following many years of faithful service

**[Note to all Branch leaders: Please send your local news/snippets to Roger Foley or Tom Caballes so that we can acknowledge important occasions in the lives of our brothers and sisters and make sure we do not miss any of them.]**

## NEWS AND ARTICLES

### **ASHBURTON MISSION GROUP GROWING**

We welcome Trevor Wall into underway membership of the Ashburton Mission Group. Eight people have now made this commitment under the guidance of Philip Middlemiss and his team. Ashburton is strategically placed halfway between our Christchurch and Timaru works and is connected as a part of the Christchurch Branch as a Mission Group. Welcome into membership Trevor.

## PATMOS COMMUNITY IN SUVA, FIJI GROWS...

It is with joy that the Patmos Community will receive into membership Asilika Koroitukana in July. Asilika, aged twenty-three, is a fine young lady who has many gifts in working with youth. We have enjoyed having Asilika attend Summer Oasis on a couple of occasions here in the Lamb of God.

## WELLINGTON BRANCH FAMILY CAMP



The Lamb of God Community–Wellington Branch had a “LOGlee” Theme Family Camp in Camp Wainui last 21-22 April. The Branch commenced the day with a Lord’s Day celebration headed by our Robert and Ethel Caballes. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner in which an array of food and tempting desserts were on display to feast on and we sat and this morphed into a time of spontaneous sharing of being together.

The Special Events teams then grouped everyone into three teams with balanced ages, genders and talents and were given the songs in Glee in which they were to perform. The group names were David and Goliath, One Dimension and the Sound of Angie. After this, a group game was initiated to break the ice and a surprise number was given by two young boys namely Bene & Stephen, two of Joel & Tiza’s boys. Everybody enjoyed the song and number and was a revelation that these two boys are promising singers of the community sometime in the future. The last part of the evening was the showing of the movie, Soul Surfer.



After breakfast, the three groups rehearsed for the presentation. As expected by the ladies, Zumba lessons were given by Jenny Mendoza. Next, the groups played the Caterpillar game. Then everybody rested and prepared for their Glee Theme presentation.



Each group did their own singing and dancing which showcased their hidden and outrageous talents. But as for me, the most amazing part was, when the two young members (Allie & Monica) of the Sound of Angie group, sang! Their voices were so cherubic, another promising singer of the branch, watch out for them. After much entertainment of the Glee Presentation, the best part arrived and that is lunch. The table has abundant choices of fish n chips and other food.

After lunch, the Special Events team announced that the Sound of Angie Group emerged as the winner. Special prizes were given to Bene & Stephen and Allie & Monica. Well done to everybody in participating with love.



In the end our disciplined schedule “made” the trip, we set-up, we explored, we sat and talked. Around the table we joked about the day and then shared about our lives. It occurred to me that we had experienced a personal time of sharing which resembles a portion of Jesus’ ministry years. Hence, everybody went home with a Glee in their hearts.

Angie Briguera

### **CATHOLIC PARISH DONATES TO OUR MISSION WORK IN FIJI**

We are grateful to the ‘Our Lady of Perpetual Help’ Catholic Parish of Richmond, Nelson, for their significant donation of \$500.00 to assist our Mission Work in Fiji. Fr David has always been very supportive to the presence of Lamb of God families in his parish and this sign of practical support to our work is really encouraging. Our thanks go to Fr David and members of the parish.

### **AUCKLAND BRANCH MEN'S RETREAT**

On the 19th and 20th of May, the Auckland branch annual men’s retreat was held at Chosen Valley Christian Camp at Drury. At a meeting on 13th May, the movie “COURAGEOUS” was shown as a lead up to the retreat weekend as the theme for the retreat was “Being Courageous”. This year around 50 men including nine visitors attended the retreat. There were four talks spread over the weekend. 1) “God’s Courageous Call to Fight for your Family” 2) “Courageous Priorities and Valuing what matters”; 3) “Courageous Legacy impacting future generations” and 4) “Courageous faith standing for Christ”. All the talks were preceded by praise and worship which brought us into the right setting for the talks. The talks were followed by group sharings which were deep and extremely uplifting experiences. The ministry session on Saturday night as always was the high point of the day. The men were led through an inner healing service which touched and healed most if not all of the men present in some way or the other and helped free them in areas that prevented them from effectively being Courageous Men of God. At the end of the talk on Sunday there was the sharing of testimonies and one man after the other came forward ‘courageously’ to tell of their experience during the weekend. There were claps of encouragement and even tears shed during this time of grace.

The highlight of our retreat this year was the presence of the Bishop of Auckland, Patrick Dunn, who celebrated Mass at the end of the retreat and shared some deep insights with the men through his homily. After Holy Communion, the men were invited, like at the end of the movie, to stand up and make “The Resolution.”

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS: HARRY LOWE

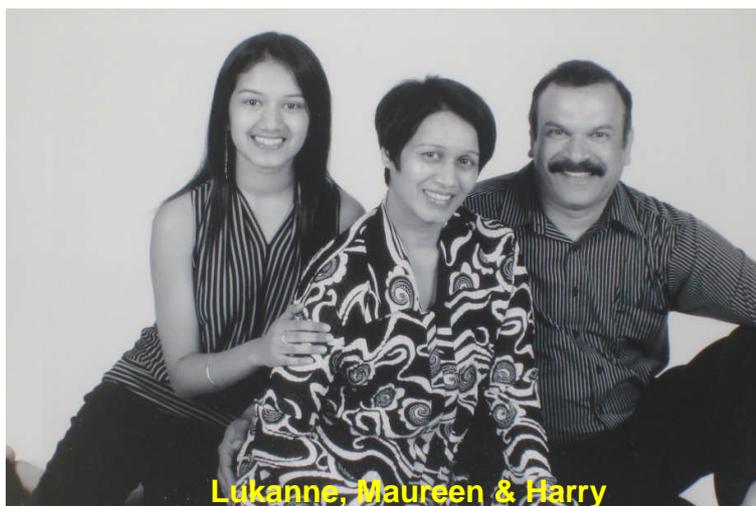
*[We will continue to feature one of the National Council Coordinators so that everyone can get to know each of them better. Here, we present Harry Lowe from Auckland.]*

**Little by little HE is Changing Me!!!** Greetings! I take this opportunity to share with you my journey and thank the Lord Jesus for HIS faithfulness in my life. The 30<sup>th</sup> April 1963, I am told was a wonderful day and year in the Lowe family...because it was on this day I came into the world and joined my two older sisters and two older brothers. As I look back I praise God for placing me in this family. We were not that well to do, but with the little that we had, we enjoyed to the full and shared with those in need. My parents (now both with the Lord) enkindled in me the faith of the Catholic Church and I honour them for leaving a legacy of faith in my life.

My teenage years were challenging and it was over those years I began to carry a lot of emotional baggage - anger, lack of forgiveness, resentment, jealousy, and hatred are only a few to mention. I was trying to do things on my own, and the more I tried the worse it got. But 32 years ago I did something that I have always treasured to this day. I chose to give it all over to the one who said *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). During those five days of my youth retreat, my love for the Lord increased; His WORD became alive in me. I had the best exchange for my emotional baggage, because at the cross I surrendered them all to the Lord and HE in his faithfulness and love took it and in exchange blessed me with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Over the years that followed I could see the Lord's hand melting, moulding, fashioning and using me in various roles of leadership within the youth and the parish prayer groups -Mumbai, India. Yes!!! Little by little HE is changing me.....and HIS faithfulness is new every morning.

I met my lovely wife Maureen, a true gift from the Lord, who is a beautiful and faithful wife, a loving mother, an intercessor, an encourager, and a support to me. The Lord has also blessed our union with a precious daughter Lukanne who has also grown up to be a beautiful woman of God.



**Lukanne, Maureen & Harry**

In 1995 we moved to New Zealand and joined The Lamb of God Community in Auckland. For the past 17 years being a part of this Community has been another phase in my life and for my family. We have grown to experience and cherish the joy of Community life. We have been blessed by the teachings, and also with the support and love we have received from all the members. Our friendships have now developed into a family.

As the Lord continues to change me little by little, I hope I will in obedience be a faithful servant like so many of you who have served the Lord faithfully in your ministry. Thank you for making me who I am, it takes people like you to make people like me.

God Bless you for your love & support.

Harry Lowe

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". (Isaiah 41:10)*

## CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes

**Blessed Are The Pure In Heart...**

June 2012

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [Matthew 5:8]*

One of the most fascinating of God's creations is the chameleon – apart from its special ability to catch insects with its quick, long tongue, it can change its skin colour to easily camouflage itself and hide in its environment. As Christians, are we called to be like spiritual chameleons – do we blend in based on where we are, or are we supposed to be consistent all throughout? Do we change our speech, our actions and our minds 'to suit our environment?' No - we are called to be faithful and strong and true: we are called to have a pure heart – no matter where we are or who we are with. This may mean that at times we stick out rather than blend in – but at the end of the day, those who are pure in heart shall see God!

### **So How Do Grow in Having a Pure Heart?**

1. Let us examine our lives and see if there are things that we say or do that are not pleasing to God's eyes. Do we have any guile or deceit in our hearts? God can see our hearts! He can see our external actions but also how pure are our hearts are!
2. Let us look at our relationships: do we act one way with one set of people and act differently with other people? Do we act holy to those who are holy and unholy to those who are not?
3. Let us look at our speech: are we pure with our speech patterns no matter who we talk to? Or we speak one way to our brothers and sisters but differently with others?
4. Do we really love the will and the ways of God? Do we want to go to heaven by doing the barest minimum? Or do we obey God because we are afraid to go to hell?
5. Are we pure with the way we relate with the opposite sex? Have we made a *covenant with our eyes* [Job 31:1] and decided to be a one-woman man [or one-man woman]? Or do we secretly daydream about having 'special' relationships?
6. Do we easily give in to sin in our lives? Do we ask help from others in overcoming sin? Do we live our lives with accountability?

### **Other Scripture References**

1. *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. [Psalms 24:3-4]*
2. *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart... [1 Peter 1:22]*
3. *The purpose of this order is to arouse the love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith. [1 Timothy 1:5]*
4. Others: **1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139: 23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 4:13.**

### **For Personal Reflection and Group Sharing:**

1. In what ways am I like a spiritual chameleon? How can I change and grow more in having a pure heart in God's eyes?
2. Is there any guile or deceit in my own heart – towards any of my close relationships, and towards God? Am I double minded about anything?
3. Do I equally value what is external and what internally is in my heart as I behave, talk and relate?

## KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

### Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events for 2012 and 2013

July 6 to 8, 2012	Winter Oasis in Auckland
January 6 to 11, 2013	Summer Oasis in Christchurch
January 4 to 17, 2013	Single Men's and Women's Households
April 26 to 28, 2013	Youth Event in Wellington
July 19 to 21, 2013	Winter Oasis in Auckland

### Winter Oasis 2012 - Auckland

The Auckland "Winter Oasis" youth camp is on! It will be held on July 6 to 8 at Carey Park Christian Camp. The theme for this year is: ***Are You Living a "Duel" Life?*** [Based on Matthew 16:15].

For more information, please contact: Tili [09] 275 1465, Rosanna [09] 275 9256, Elizabeth [09] 537 0986 and/or Patrick/Michelle [09] 820 4127.

See you there!

### WEB SITES WORTH NOTING

KAIROS South Pacific Web Site – go take a look ...

Check it out at: [www.kairossp.com](http://www.kairossp.com)

You can network and chat with other young people by going to this website:

<http://www.kairossp.com/kairosspnzchatroom.htm>

We designated every Friday night at 10pm as a time to meet other young people.

Go and visit the International Kairos Media website: <http://www.kairos-media.org/>

### Sign up [free] for Youth Culture Newsletter

The most recent edition of the Youth Culture Newsletter is now available online. It will no longer be sent to you via the Lamb of God e-mail list but you can get it at this link:

<http://www.kairos-na.org/youthculturenewsletter.htm>

This is a recommended Sword of the Spirit publication for youth and parents.

### Living Bulwark Sword of the Spirit - Highly Recommended!

This Sword of the Spirit on-line publication has received more than 43,000 visits (an average of 135 visits each day) in its first year. All back issues for the past 12 months can be found at: <http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/archives.htm>. The current issue of the online magazine can be seen at: [www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/index.html](http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/index.html) .

## SENDING NEWS FOR CHRONICLE PUBLICATION

Branches are encouraged to email news, photos, happenings and snippets to Tom Caballes at [josethomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josethomascaballes@gmail.com). Each issue is closed around the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR RECORDS

Membership Records and Data: Branch leaders are responsible to keep updated records and then email all new attendee additions, deletions, address and phone changes, births, deaths, transfers, etc to -

Tom Caballes      [josethomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josethomascaballes@gmail.com)  
and copy to      [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz)

### BIRTHDAY INFORMATION

[Day and month, but year is optional.] Branch leaders are asked to keep updated records and email all new attendee additions to -

Tom Caballes      [josethomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josethomascaballes@gmail.com)

### GETTING CHRONICLE & OTHER NEWS BY EMAIL

[1] If you are receiving The Chronicle as an electronic edition, we just need hear if and when you change your email address. Notify [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz).

[2] If you are receiving this by hard copy but you have an email address, please send your email address to [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz).

[3] The Chronicle has a national and international mailing schedule. If you know of others wishing to be added, notify [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz).

### *Wedding Anniversaries for June - Happy Anniversary!*

NAMES	DATE	BRANCH
Bernie and Bernadette Black	05/06	Christchurch
Manuel and Cheryl Lobo	05/06	Auckland
Vitus and Arca Fernandes	08/06	Auckland
Misael and Jenny Mendoza	08/06	Central
Aselemo and Ana Masara	10/06	Christchurch
Philip and Alison Middlemiss	10/06	Christchurch

### *Birthdays for June - Happy Birthday!*

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>
Christy D'Costa	01/06	Auckland
Chris Aston-Grieve	02/06	Christchurch
David Matthews	02/06	Christchurch
Robert Van Doorn	02/06	Christchurch
Kerry O'Neill	07/06	Blenheim
Andy Crocker	08/06	Nelson
Margaret Stoddard	08/06	Auckland
Bruce Harborne	08/06	Ch/Ashburton
Kyle Zalamea	08/06	Central
Mike Cullimore	09/06	Blenheim
John Caballes	10/06	Central
Reuben Garrett	11/06	Blenheim
Tony D'Costa	13/06	Auckland
Joseph Gomes	13/06	Auckland
Alisha Jones	13/06	Blenheim
Chanelle Anngow	14/06	Christchurch
Bessie D'Sa	14/06	Auckland
Darren Humphries	14/06	Christchurch
Petal Sequeira	14/06	Auckland
Liana Borkus	15/06	Christchurch
Seiniana Masara	15/06	Christchurch
Micah Briguera	16/06	Central
Damian Dekker	16/06	Blenheim
Sarah MacManus	16/06	Southern
Marisa Misquita	18/06	Auckland
Francesca Humphries	20/06	Christchurch
Maria dos Anjos D'Souza	23/06	Auckland
Ethel Peters	23/06	Auckland
Tina Araza	24/06	Central
Mark Powick	24/06	Nelson
Irene Hong	25/06	Auckland
Lolita Machado	26/06	Auckland
Benjo Fernandes	28/06	Central
Joel Sison	29/06	Central
Murray Mcguire	30/06	Nelson

## **PRAYERWATCH - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE**

### **Fight the good fight**

Last month I looked at the Israelites entering the Promised Land and how most of them had not grasped the vision of God leading them into the Promised Land. They rebelled against God and died while their children understood the vision and entered the Promised Land many years later.

*Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. **Proverbs 29: 18 NIV***

God is calling us to eternal life with him, but while on earth our call is to live in the Lamb of God Community so we have received a vision of what life might be. The more we understand and accept the vision God has given us the more we are motivated to press on so the vision becomes a reality for us and others. Our call or vision is to share our lives totally with each other, supporting each other as we raise our children to be men and women who will stand firm with us in God mighty army. This is something that parents cannot do alone but need support from those around them whether married or single, we all have a role to play in fulfilling God's vision. Why God has call people across the world to live this inspired vision and poured out the Holy Spirit to sustain this way of life. A part of this vision is to realize we are in a spiritual battle and he has giving us the weapons [Ephesians 6] to use as soldiers in his mighty army. The Prayerwatch is part of the 'Lamb of God' life that helps us focus on this spiritual battle that no matter what we do, we cannot avoid being in the middle of this battle. Also standing in the gap on the Prayerwatch helps us use the weapons we are given, helps us support one another as we live this special call on our lives.

Soldiers of Christ, Arise, Stand Up for Jesus!

If you have any comments or questions concerning the Prayerwatch then please send them to me or give them to one of your branch leaders to send to me.

God bless and watch over you all.

Alan McKenzie - National Coordinator Prayerwatch

## **LAMB OF GOD PRAYERWATCH - PRAYER INTENTIONS**

### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Against strongholds of Apathy, Witchcraft, Confusion and other named spirits.

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

COMMUNITIES Protect and bless the life and mission of SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, Patmos & Cornerstone Lamb of God [Fiji], Families for Christ [Melbourne], Vanuatu Group, Light of Christ [Nelson], The Covenanted Community For Christ, [Penang & Taiping], protect and bless their life and mission.

**FAMILY** Auckland: Keith & Rohini Lewis, Bernie MacNevin, Yvonne D'Souza, Peter & Margaret Stoddard, Lovlin & Honorine Franswah, Desmond & Charmaine Vessaokar, Central: Jun & Angie Briguera, Henri & Cutie Zalamea, Rose Buladaco, Joel & Tiza Sison, Blenheim: Jamie & Judith Rodgers, Mark & Mary Jackson, Mike & Cheryl Garrett, Christchurch: Roger & Veronica Foley, Robert & Karin Van Doorn, Darren & Julie Humphries, Tai & De Stirling, Bruce & Bronwyn Harborne, Niul & Coila Kay, Lyn Keane, Pauline Marsden, John & Monica Haughey, Annette Sargisson, Southern: John & Janet MacManus, Richard & Christine May, Mike & Judy Prendeville,

**PREGNANCY** Auckland: Anusha [Priyan] Jayamaha,

**HEALING CANCER** Blenheim: Carol Cullimore, David Aberhart, Christchurch: Mary Anngow, Robin Corbett,

**HEALING HEART** Auckland: Isabel Morais, Central: Paul Oliver, Dave Taylor, Blenheim: Chris Fredericks, Christchurch: Dorelle Ham, Undine Cavanagh, Philip Middlemiss,

**HEALING** Auckland: Annette Carvalho, Winona D'Costa, Olivia Fernandes, Lucy Misquita, Blanche & Denis Hollingsworth, Cheryl Donald, Mira D'Souza, Warren Holliday, Jemima Rebello, Peter D'Souza, Delia D'Mello, Fr John Rea, Elizabeth Locke, Gidget Mendonca, Maria dos Anjos D'Souza, Bruce Donald, Central: Stephanie O'Connell, Sharon Powick, Michael Powick, Jacob Muollo, Henri Zalamea, Aly Fernandes, Rae Taylor, Blenheim: Peter Greig, Josiah Grieg, Grace Weston, Mike Garrett, Micah Rodgers, Anita Fredericks, Jamie & Judith Rodgers, Barbara Ryan, Christchurch: Lisa Borkus, Karin Van Doorn, Chris Aston Grieve, Veronica Foley, Siobhan Forster, Andrew Black, Bernie Black, John Murray, Chris Lyons, Monica Haughey, Joan Corbett, Southern: Fr Merv McGettigan, Daniel MacManus, Steven & Judy Homes & Family, Pat Forster, Michael Quigley,

**BEREAVEMENT** Blenheim: Julia Dekker, Jenny & Bill McElhinney, Christchurch: Robert & Karin van Doorn, Family of Maree Coutts, Bronwyn & Bruce Harborne,

**OTHERS NEEDS** Auckland: Keith & Rohini Lewis & Family, Mark & Elizabeth Stolten, Bob Misst, Greg Hall, Alwin D'Souza, Allen & Judy Carneiro, Jacob & Petronella Kahonde, Gillian Puch,

**COVERING PRAYER** National Council, Kairos Ministries, Branch Life, Lamb of God Centre, Branch Visits, Clustering in Auckland, Ministry of Fr John Rea, Employment of Members, Light of Christ Special Ministry, Wellington branch [sickness among extended family], and Ashburton Group, Christchurch.

***"I have made you a Watchman" Ezekiel 33: 7***