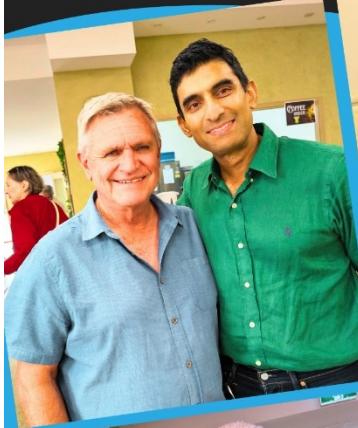




BURNSIDE  
FAMILY CHURCH

JANUARY  
26



 @burnsidefamilychurch

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Let go...

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## LET GO... AND MAKE ROOM

Elizabeth Reynolds

New Years is usually a time when we think about resolutions, new goals, new things coming just around the corner. What can we *add* to our lives to make it better. But sometimes, perhaps it's not only a question of what new things or habits we can acquire, but also... what things and habits we should get rid of.

The new year brings about some changes for me personally. I am moving into a season of full-time teaching at my school. Being a 'part-time' teacher for many years, meant that I filled up the rest of my time with all sorts of other responsibilities. The obvious one being my other part-time job of church admin. But also, I did additional school admin support, librarian duties, and school and marketing tasks. Increasing my teaching responsibilities naturally means that some other things will have to move over, or go completely to make room in my schedule. This is not going to be easy for me. I enjoy doing all these things and they have been a big part of my 'work' life over the last three or so years. But letting these things go is a necessity for me at this time. I have to *let go to make room*.

In our spiritual lives, we sometimes have to let go of things to make room for God to do His work. Get rid of things from our heart to allow God space to work a new thing.



One of these could be bitterness. I think most of us will say immediately, "Oh yes, bitterness – get it out! Absolutely! We don't need it. It's damaging..." But how many of us are actually able to do it as easily as it is said? Whether we agree with it or not, it's easy to hold onto bitterness. We carry it around and cling to it like a mobile phone. Perhaps we even sometimes use it as a weapon of manipulation and control – or at least think about doing that. But the ironic thing is, it controls us instead, never leading to anything life-giving for us or the person we hold resentment towards.

*Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.* Job 21:25.

I wish it was an easy thing, to just get rid of bitterness. But it comes from situations we usually feel completely justified about. Someone hurt us,

they were wrong, we were right and so why shouldn't I feel resentment? We hold it up like some trophy, proving we were right and hard-done-by. And from this, bitterness grows and flourishes. So it's perhaps not the bitterness we need to snip off, but the pride. Pride is the root and by pulling out the root, perhaps bitterness will come with it.



Another thing we might need to let go of is fear. Fear is something else that is easy to agree to toss. Especially since we can sometimes be deceived into thinking we don't have any fear. We're redeemed, we're forgiven and we live under God's love... But there might be things that you know are right or that God is calling you to – that you are holding back from. What do you think is holding you back? It's usually fear. Satan convinced Eve to fear missing out on something. That God wasn't the Friend she thought He was. What is *your* fear? Reflect deeply and search within to answer that one. Work out what the fear is exactly...

and then you'll be able deal with it with God's help.

Selfishness is another thing that creeps in and takes up a lot of space without us knowing. On surface level it's, once again, easy to say we are not selfish. And I don't believe I'm in a church full of 'selfish people'. But, like fear and bitterness, we have to learn to recognise it and name it in order to deal with it. The bible tells us we must die to our selfish desires. In our everyday lives it might just look like:

- getting grouchy when our young children wake us up too early or interrupt the 'important' things we're doing
- huffing when our spouse is twenty minutes late getting home
- mumbling choice words when the slowpoke in front of us stops really early at a yellow light
- being passive-aggressive when we feel unheard... etc.



All of it comes naturally to us. But none of it is helpful for anyone, least of all, ourselves. Next time something doesn't go your way, truly note how

you respond. Identify what most easily produces anger and frustration in your heart. Once you recognise where your selfishness runs most deeply, you can create healthier habits of reciting scripture, whispering simple prayers, and taking a few moments to pause and refocus.

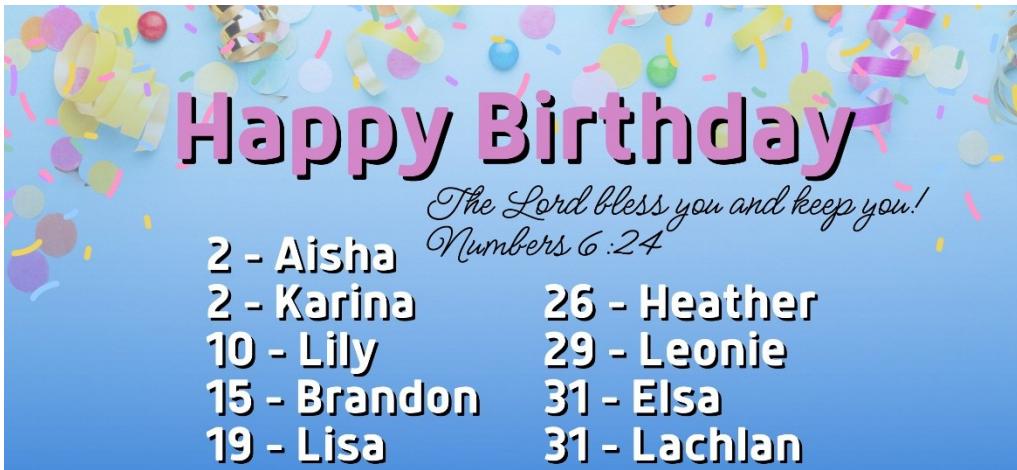
There are many more things we could look at getting rid of. But one more to mention here is unrealistic expectations. Will some of these things I've discussed above creep back in sometime in the new year? Of course they will! So surrender the notion that you'll be able to perfectly let go of them. You are both *saved and sinful*, and this contradiction won't end until Christ makes all things new in the next life. But we

can certainly be aware and watchful of them. It's not like we only have one day of the year (1<sup>st</sup> January) to do a huge clean-up and toss-out and the next big clean will have to wait until this time next year. We can be renewed daily. We can be renewed *moment by moment*. The very second we recognise a struggle within us, we can whisper one of those simple prayers, pause to shift our focus, or recite a helpful scripture. Make space for the Lord to do His work, unfurl your fists that are so tightly clutching onto things you shouldn't be. Ask the Lord for help.

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

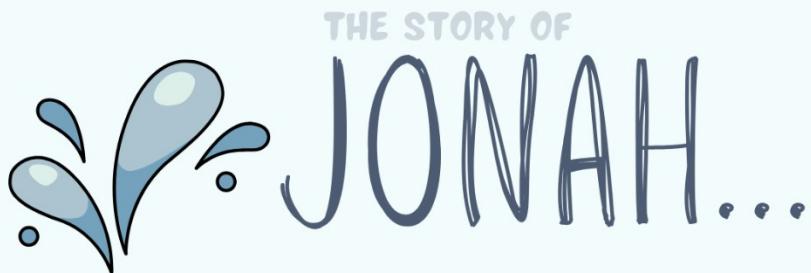
Lamentations 3:22-23

## BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY



Celebrating birthdays is one way we can honour the gift of life God has given each of us. Happy Birthday from us!

Your birthday not showing up? Tell us when your birthday is so we can celebrate with you.



**MORE THAN A WHALE.**

**JANUARY**  
teaching series

## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

2026 Bible Reading Plan booklets are available in January onwards on the notice table and at: [www.burnsidefamilychurch.com/2026reading](http://www.burnsidefamilychurch.com/2026reading)



	13	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8:1-25   Gen 31
	14	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8:26-40   Gen 32-33
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1:1-11   Gen 1-2	15 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9:1-19   Gen 34-35
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1:12-26   Gen 3-4	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9:20-43   Gen 36
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:1-21   Gen 5-8	17 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10:1-23   Gen 37-38
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:22-47   Gen 9-11	18 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10:24-48   Gen 39-40
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3   Gen 12-14	19 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11:1-18   Gen 41
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4:1-22   Gen 15-17	20 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11:19-30   Gen 42-43
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4:23-37   Gen 18-20	21 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 12   Gen 44-45
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5:1-16   Gen 21-23	22 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13:1-25   Gen 46-47
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5:17-42   Gen 24	23 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13:26-52   Gen 48
10	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 6   Gen 25-26	24 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 14   Gen 49
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7:1-38   Gen 27-28	25 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15:1-21   Gen 50
12	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7:39-60   Gen 29-30	



THIS SUMMER...  
GET READY...  
FOR YOUTH GROUP!

**FRIDAYS 7-9PM**  
**STARTING 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**



**2 TIMOTHY 1:6**

# January 2026

[bfc.elvanto.com.au/calendar](http://bfc.elvanto.com.au/calendar)

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday							Thursday							Friday							Saturday						
December '25			January '26				February '26			S	M	T	W	F	S	S	M	T	W	F	S	S	M	T	W	F	S	S	M	T	W	F	S															
28	29	School Holidays	30	School Holidays	31	New Years Eve	1	New Years Day	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
4	5	School Holidays	6	School Holidays	7	New Years Eve	8	New Years Day	9	9	10																																					
11	12	School Holidays	13	School Holidays	14		15		16	16	17																																					
18	19	School Holidays	20	School Holidays	21	9.00a Prayer	22		23	23	24																																					
25	26	W1	27	9.00a Prayer	28		29		30	30	31																																					
1	2	First Day of Term 1							Notes																																							
		9.20a Prayer		10a Family Service				7.00p Elders Meeting																																								

# JANUARY SUNDAY TEAM

Teaching Team		Kids Ministry		Music Team (see elvanto for musicians)		Service Team				Hospitality Team				
Date	Communion	Chair/Notices	Kid's Church	Helper / Creche	Sound Desk	Media Desk	Comm Serving	Welcome	Collection	Count	Lock Up	Kitchen	Coffee Team	Comm Prep
4/01	Ben Delaney	Renee Allen	Sharon	-	-	-	Jeremy	Andrew	Sharon	Sarah	Devinder	Jim	Jelita	Ben
12/01	Ben Delaney	Andrew Jenkins	Jim	-	-	-	James	Lachlan	Liz D	Tony	Amayah	Andrew	Leonie	Jenny S
18/01	Steve Chapman	Melinda Newton	Ben	-	-	-	Joshua	Brandon	Lester	Vicky	Amy	Leonie	Carol	Scott
25/01	Ben Delaney	Tony Alknim	Andrew	-	-	-	Nev	Annabelle	Elsa	Elisa	Mark	Michelle	Lily	Sharon
									Leonie	Jelita	Beth	Lyn	Andrew	Renee
									Tony A	Vicky A	Benjamin	Donovan	Andrew	Keming
									Jelita	Lisa			Ben	Lachlan
									Ally C	Aaron	Beth	Aaron	Nick	Ally C
									Neville	Monica	Clara	James		Joshua
									Mitchelle	Renee			Carol	Michelle
													Tans	

Thank you for serving the Lord, and blessing our Church family. If you need to swap with someone, please contact another person directly. A copy of the roster is up on the rear hall bulletin board. [info@burnsidefamilychurch.com](mailto:info@burnsidefamilychurch.com) // [www.bfc.elvanto.com.au](http://www.bfc.elvanto.com.au)

**SEE BFC.ELVANTO.COM.AU FOR ONLINE CALENDAR & ROSTERS**

# CHRISTMAS IN BURNSIDE





# MANNUM FAMILY MISSION



Join us!

JANUARY 12-16, 2026

[mannum@suteams.org.au](mailto:mannum@suteams.org.au)

MAKING GOOD SOIL

## Partner With Us In Prayer

The SUPA Summa Fun team recognise that all of our efforts are worthless apart from God's Spirit working in and through us. We would love to partner with our church communities in prayer for the Lord to be working powerfully in us and through us, that God and His love may be made so clearly known in Mannum this January. Here are some specific prayer points for each day of our program to guide you as you pray.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>:

- Pray for the team as we arrive and set up for the week ahead. Some are joining the team for the first time this year and we have fewer experienced team members than usual.
- For the Lord to be preparing the hearts of the children and families who will attend the program.

Monday:

- Pray for smooth commencement to the program, including the registration process for children.



- That children will hear, feel and know through the content of the program, relationships with the team, and movement of the Spirit, that our God is a wonderful creator and they are each made in His image!
- For God to provide meaningful connections between team members and participants.

Tuesday:

- That children will learn, feel and know that God is more powerful than brokenness, pain and sickness.
- For God to bring exactly the right number of participants and families along to our program.

Wednesday:

- Children will hear and be impacted by the truth that God is faithful through all of the unexpected twists and turns of life.

- For the team to remember to wait upon the Lord and be strengthened by His Spirit
- For our family fun night to run smoothly and that it may be a time of strengthening family relationships and for families to bond together.

#### Thursday:

- For children to explore how Jesus turns things around! He gives sight to the blind and freedom to the captive!
- For relationships to continue to grow and flourish and that the Spirit of God may continue to minister to and bless each child.

#### Friday:

- For children to feel prompted and guided by the Spirit to respond to the gospel message by giving their hearts to the Lord.
- For the dancing and talent night to be a time where each participant feels seen and treasured and have opportunity to connect with the local churches.

#### Saturday:

- That the team can pack up quickly before spending time debriefing and celebrating together.

#### Beyond the Program:

- That children and families will remain connected to the local churches, that they might form ongoing strong relationships with believers who can journey well alongside them as they continue to explore and deepen their faith.
- That local children will maintain connection with the Friday night SUPA club in Mannum.
- For God to bless the team with rest and rejuvenation as they return to their daily lives.
- That God will guide the leadership team in their reflections upon the mission and as they begin to plan for the following year.



## 2026 VOLUNTEER SERVING



*And He (Jesus) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... Eph 4:11-12*

Serving is a form of worship and there are many various ways you can serve during our regular Sunday gatherings. If this is something you feel the Lord is prompting you to do, talk to Pastor Ben about what opportunities there are!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

# BFC CREATIVE MINISTRIES TEAM

## MUSIC AND PRODUCTION TEAM VOLUNTEERS

MUSIC PRACTICES EVERY 3RD SUNDAY

If you want to put your musical or technical talent to good use on a Sunday morning, please talk to Elizabeth, who leads the Creative Ministries Team. The team meets once a month for a 'music practice' to learn new songs, practice playing together and try new things. **EVERYBODY** is welcome at music practices....

- If you sing or play an instrument and *want* to be on a regular roster to play during Sunday services
- If you sing or play an instrument and *don't* want to be on a regular roster yet but just want to come to play along, build your confidence and enjoy
- If you're not a musician and just want to come along to listen to music and worship the Lord!

We also need more helpers to handle the 'technical production' side of things – i.e. Media Desk and Sound Desk. Again, talk to Elizabeth if you're interested.

## PRAYER AND FASTING – FEB '26

*Prayer | Fasting 26*



February is going to be a month of prayer and fasting. If you would like to, join together as a church to fast one day a week and pray for 2026, that God would lead us and move in our church and our wider community.

## COFFEE DONATIONS



Enjoy free coffee in January! From February 2026, barista coffee will begin to be charged using an honour system of donations toward the cost. We suggest \$2 per coffee, but any amount is fine. It will not be monitored.

## CONNECT GROUPS (HOME FELLOWSHIP)

Connect groups will be starting up again for 2026 during the month of **February**. Keep an eye open for updates in next month's newsletter and calendar or talk to your connect group facilitator.

If you would like to host or lead a new connect group, please be in touch with Pastor Ben. All a connect group needs is a small group of people who want to dive deeper into the Word and their relationship with God, a comfortable venue... and some good supper!

### CHRISTMAS IN TANZANIA



# CONTACT

## ELDERSHIP TEAM

Alf Chehade	0412 899 779
Jim Derrington	0433 447 795
Neville Langman	0409 642 005
Devinder Raju	0400 795 989
Andrew Jenkins	0422 556 420

## STAFF & OFFICE

### Lead Pastor

Ps Ben Delaney > 0421 578 034  
[ben@burnsidefamilychurch.com](mailto:ben@burnsidefamilychurch.com)

### Kids Ministry

Lily Nippres  
[lily@burnsidefamilychurch.com](mailto:lily@burnsidefamilychurch.com)

### Music Ministry

Elizabeth Reynolds  
[elizabeth@burnsidefamilychurch.com](mailto:elizabeth@burnsidefamilychurch.com)

### Office

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88 Lockwood Road Burnside 5066  
(08) 8333 1700



## ONLINE GIVING

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Ref > Giving or Missions  
EFTPOS is available

## WE'RE HIS CHURCH

...a house of prayer for all nations  
accomplishing more than we  
could dream for the  
brokenhearted to call on the  
name of Jesus [as vision]

...sent to make a difference every  
day in the name of Jesus to all  
generations [as mission]

## 10.00A SUNDAY

Starting at 10.00a, we usually  
finish by 11.30a. You will be  
greeted at the door and  
receive our newsletter and  
invited to take a seat of your  
choice. Our gathering begins  
with music with words  
shown on a media screen.

During the service, we share  
in communion which reminds  
us of the death and life of  
Christ we share. An  
encouraging message from  
the Bible follows and  
afterwards, everyone is  
invited to the Back Hall for  
tea and coffee.

We have a video stream into  
the rear Hall we call our  
Family Room and a recording  
of the service is posted online  
each week.