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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.

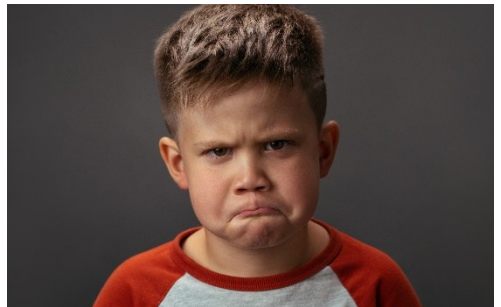


Another thing we might need to let go of is fear. Fear is something else that is easy to agree to toss. Especially since we can sometimes be deceived into thinking we don't have any fear. We're redeemed, we're forgiven and we live under God's love... But there might be things that you know are right 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 (1st 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



Happy Birthday

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
Numbers 6:24*

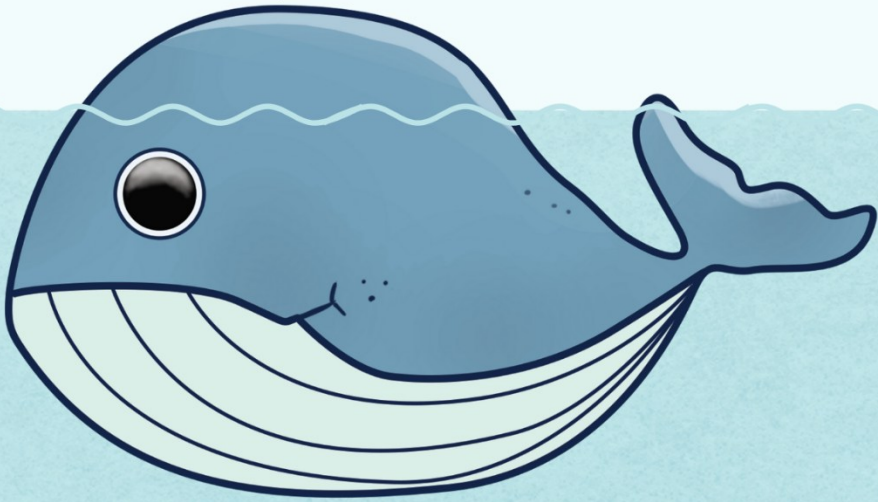
2 - Aisha	26 - Heather
2 - Karina	29 - Leonie
10 - Lily	31 - Elsa
15 - Brandon	31 - Lachlan
19 - Lisa	

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.

THE STORY OF

JONAH...



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



January

1 ☐ Acts 1:1-11 | Gen 1-2

2 ☐ Acts 1:12-26 | Gen 3-4

3 ☐ Acts 2:1-21 | Gen 5-8

4 ☐ Acts 2:22-47 | Gen 9-11

5 ☐ Acts 3 | Gen 12-14

6 ☐ Acts 4:1-22 | Gen 15-17

7 ☐ Acts 4:23-37 | Gen 18-20

8 ☐ Acts 5:1-16 | Gen 21-23

9 ☐ Acts 5:17-42 | Gen 24

10 ☐ Acts 6 | Gen 25-26

11 ☐ Acts 7:1-38 | Gen 27-28

12 ☐ Acts 7:39-60 | Gen 29-30

13 ☐ Acts 8:1-25 | Gen 31

14 ☐ Acts 8:26-40 | Gen 32-33

15 ☐ Acts 9:1-19 | Gen 34-35

16 ☐ Acts 9:20-43 | Gen 36

17 ☐ Acts 10:1-23 | Gen 37-38

18 ☐ Acts 10:24-48 | Gen 39-40

19 ☐ Acts 11:1-18 | Gen 41

20 ☐ Acts 11:19-30 | Gen 42-43

21 ☐ Acts 12 | Gen 44-45

22 ☐ Acts 13:1-25 | Gen 46-47

23 ☐ Acts 13: 26-52 | Gen 48

24 ☐ Acts 14 | Gen 49

25 ☐ Acts 15:1-21 | Gen 50



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

FRIDAYS 7-9PM
STARTING 30TH JANUARY 2026



2 TIMOTHY 1:6

January 2026

bfc.elvanto.com.au/calendar

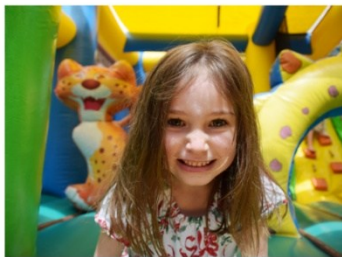
December '25							February '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31										

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9.20a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering	29 School Holidays	30	31	1	2	3
4 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering	5 School Holidays	6	7 New Years Eve	8 New Years Day	9	10
11 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering	12 School Holidays	13	14	15	16	17
18 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering	19 School Holidays	20 9.00a Prayer	21	22	23	24
25 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering	26 W1	27 9.00a Prayer	28	29	30 7p Ablaze Youth - 'get-to-know-you' session	31
1 9.20a Prayer 10a Family Service	2 First Day of Term 1	Notes			7-9pm Ablaze Youth	

JANUARY SUNDAY TEAM

Teaching Team				Kids Ministry		Music Team (see elvanto for musicians)		Service Team					Hospitality Team		
Sermon		Com- munion	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	Michelle Devinder Smita Mark	Sharon Liz & Don	Sarah	Devinder Jenny S	Jim	Jelita Leonie	Ben Scott	Jenny S
12/01	Ben Delaney	Andrew Jenkins	Jim	-	-	James	Lachlan	Jenny S Liz D Lester Elsa	Tony Vicky	Amayah Amy	Andrew Leonie	Mark	Carol Michelle	Scott Lily	Sharon
18/01	Steve Chapman	Melinda Newton	Ben	-	-	Joshua	Brandon	Leonie Tony A Vicky A Jelita	Jelita Lisa	Beth Benjamin	Lyn Donovan	Andrew	Renee Keming	Ben Lachlan	Ally C
25/01	Ben Delaney	Tony Alkmim	Andrew	-	-	Nev	Annabelle	Ally C Neville Michelle Renee	Aaron Monica	Beth Clara	Aaron James	Nick	Ally C Carol	Joshua Tans	Michelle
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 // www.bfc.elvanto.com.au															

CHRISTMAS IN BURNSIDE





TO MANNUM FOR A MISSION



MANNUM FAMILY MISSION



Join us!

JANUARY 12-16, 2026

mannum@suteams.org.au

M A K I N G G O O D S O I L



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 11th:

- 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

Kids Ministry

Lily Nippres
lily@burnsidefamilychurch.com

Music Ministry

Elizabeth Reynolds
elizabeth@burnsidefamilychurch.com

Office

info@burnsidefamilychurch.com
www.burnsidefamilychurch.com
88 Lockwood Road Burnside 5066
(08) 8333 1700



ONLINE GIVING

Westpac Bank Branch

BSB > 035039
Account > 524397
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.