

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 14 November 2021

Welcome and Notices
Keith Ferres

Hymn 15
Let all the world

Prayer of Invocation

Young @ Heart
Wine to Water
Christine Bradbeer

Offering

Bible Reading: Acts 20:1-16
Christine Bradbeer

Hymn 462
Jesus, meek and gentle

Sermon
Five Surprising Things
Acts 19:23

Prayer of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 512
Take my life

Benediction



NOTICES

14 November 2021

www.blackburnpc.org.au

- Tuesday 16 November 1 pm Board of Management
- Wednesday 17 November 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting.
- Sunday 21 November 11 am Divine Service. [Gathered Again](#)
Also streamed on [Facebook Live](#).
Later with on YouTube with captions.
- Sunday 28 November Service will be conducted by Rev Dr Greg Goswell.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Congregational members:
Suzanne and Ayrton HART.



and

Rosie T now happily relocated to Ireland and working with Arab World Media.

GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
53 Gardenia Street,
Blackburn 3130

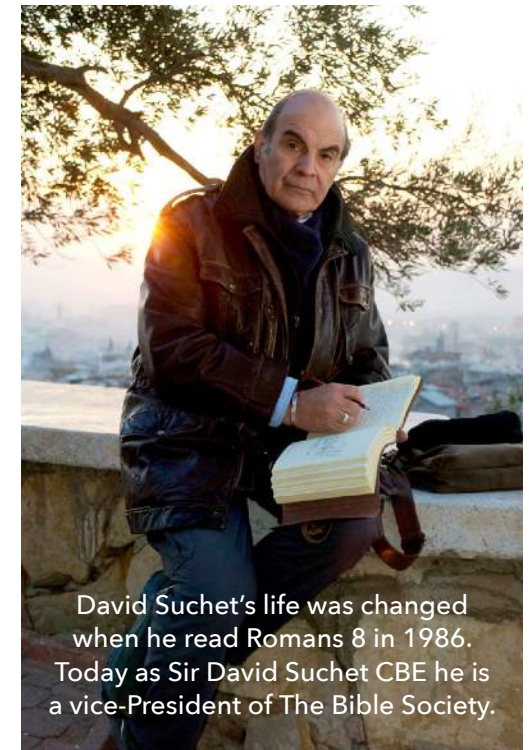


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BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

14 November 2021



David Suchet's life was changed when he read Romans 8 in 1986. Today as Sir David Suchet CBE he is a vice-President of The Bible Society.

WELCOME BACK!



Journalists were increasingly persecuted for reporting corruption and criticising the government's COVID-19 policies. The draconian Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018 was widely enforced to curtail freedom of expression. Police and other law enforcement agencies continued to carry out extrajudicial executions. Violence against women increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Agreement remained stalled and a crackdown on Indigenous activists intensified. People's right to health care was not adequately protected or fulfilled during the pandemic.

Amnesty International 2020

Christians in Bangladesh face intense pressure in their community and private life. Bangladeshi society is becoming more Islamic, and Muslim values heavily influence government decisions. Islamic extremists in the country pressure all groups of Christians.

Evangelistic churches who work among the Muslim majority face the most persecution, but even historical churches are increasingly faced with attacks and death threats. Converts from a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or ethnic backgrounds suffer the most severe restrictions, discrimination and attacks in Bangladesh. They often gather in small house churches or secret groups due to fear of attack.

In the last three years, Bangladesh has sheltered more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. The camp fosters a tiny minority of Rohingya Christians, who face intense pressure with no option to leave.

Open Doors Australia 2020

Sermon
Outline

The Way of the (World's true) Lord

After taking the opportunity for almost three years teaching in the great city of Ephesus where it seems most likely he wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul resumed his mission journey. Luke has let us in on Paul's plan to get to Rome (19:21). But first...

1. the epic JOURNEY

Paul travels to the north and crosses to Neapolis. On the Egnatian Way once again Paul revisits Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea (possibly travelling as far west as Illyricum on the Adriatic coast, Roman 15:19). Luke compacts to a few verses a journey which evokes memories of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem in Volume 1 (ie., Luke's Gospel, chapters 9-19). Meanwhile...

2. the enduring LETTERS

It seems likely that Paul wrote again to the Corinthians and to the Romans during this journey west in Macedonia. Read Romans 15:22-33. Reaching Achaia (Greece) again he spent three months in Corinth. As he was encouraging the churches by his visits he did so also by his correspondence.

Could he have imagined the impact of his letters?

3. the forgotten TEAM

Learning of a plot to kill him en route to Jerusalem he changes plans. Sir Wm Ramsay suggested that a sea voyage with Jewish pilgrims returning to Jerusalem for Passover was an ideal opportunity for radicalised Jews to dispose of Paul and his message. He retraces his steps. His escort is seven men (can anyone name the team?). They represent the churches who have contributed to :

4. the amazing COLLECTION

It was not unknown in the ancient world for patrons to contribute to public facilities. (Eg., fountain at Ephesus) However, the collection from these churches was famine relief for people whom they had never known, without public inscription. Luke doesn't even mention it, but Paul does. In the Roman and Corinthian letters. (Ro15, 2Cor:8,9)

5. the living CHURCH

On Sunday (see MSG) at Troy "we" gathered, writes Luke, as he tells the famous story of Paul and the young man Eutychus. The apostle still has the restoring touch of the Master. This becomes a moment for deep reflection for Paul and he takes time to travel alone to Assos. The detailed concern for the individual and the great redemptive purposes of God unfold in the epic story Luke tells between Troy and Rome.



This time, journeying through Acts I have taken onboard fresh insights from some gleaned knowledge of the classics. I am indebted to the writings of Tom Wright, Marianne Bonz and Michael Kochenash. To these readers of the classics it is clear there are elements within Luke's two volumes which evoke Virgil's epic.

Bonz, of Harvard University writes: "it is no exaggeration to say that Virgil's *Aeneid* became the definitive literary embodiment of the gospel of Rome... The promise of ancient Troy reaches its fulfilment in the creation of the Roman people, just as, in Luke's narrative, the promise of ancient Israel reaches its fulfilment in the establishment and growth of the Christian church."

Although there is no evidence that either writer knew the other, the Luke-Acts combo gives every appearance of being modelled on Virgil's popular founding narrative of Rome. In the face of Virgil's popular new 'gospel of Rome', Luke-Acts presents the Good News of how Israel's God became king. Bonz again: "At the centre of Luke's theological reflections is the conviction that the divine solution for human salvation involves not just the death of the beloved son but also the rebirth of the people of God."

"Travel writing is not some kind of branch of literature, it's the very taproot" says Luke Slattery writing in *The Australian*. I think he may be right! As we tap into the divine solution for human salvation we discover a whole new world of personal journeying. Even in lockdown, it is liberating!