

THE HARD-BOILED MISSIONARY

... all things work together for good to them that love God.

Romans 8:28

A lady who had been suffering for a long time was visited by many friends seeking to comfort her with many verses of Scripture. One verse which was used frequently was Romans 8:28. Instead of being encouraged, she began to resent the verse repeated so monotonously by those who were well and healthy. They little realised that it is easy to quote these verses glibly and loosely, when not in the same situation. It is not easy to understand that our sufferings and trials and pain are for a purpose. It takes great faith to appropriate it. Let us be careful not to thoughtlessly quote Scriptures, for sometimes we cannot see God's purpose until later when the testing is past.

Yet it is true, whether we realise it or not, that everything God permits to come into our lives must have a reason. Whatever God sends upon us is necessary and for some good purpose which we shall understand afterward.

A missionary was captured by cannibals. "I suppose you intend to eat me?" said the missionary, and the chief granted his affirmation. "Try a sample first, and see if you like it," said the missionary as he took his knife and cut a slab from the calf of his leg and handed it to him. "Try this and see." The chief took one bite and choked. The missionary had a cork leg. The chief wanted no more of it and the missionary was spared. Years before, he had thought it a great misfortune to lose his leg and to wear an artificial one, but *afterward* it saved his life. It worked out "for good."

from Bread for each Day



BLACKBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 GARDENIA STREET

11.00am 18th July 2021

Minister: Rev Graham Bradbeer 9041 7911
Session Clerk: Keith Ferrer 9830 5466
Secretary/Treasurer: Vic Ansell 5447 7118

“Test all things; hold fast what is good.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:21)

THE DOXOLOGY: 709 “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

WELCOME:

The Session welcomes you to our service today. We trust that you will find it a means of spiritual enrichment and encouragement. If you are a visitor, we offer you a special welcome and trust that you feel at home in our Church. We invite you to make yourself known to those on duty and sign the visitor's book in the porch.

Today, during the absence of our minister on holidays, we welcome to the pulpit **Rev Dr Greg GOSWELL** who will conduct our service of worship.

HYMNS: 9 “O worship the King all glorious above,”
500 “Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult”
29 “Now thank we all our God,”

BIBLE READINGS:
Deuteronomy 13 : 1-11 Suzanne HART
1 Thessalonians 5 : 12-22 Will FINDLAY

SERMON: “Test Everything”

PRAYER POINTS:

1. For the persecuted Church where Christians are imprisoned for their faith and their only crime is that they know and love the Lord Jesus and want to worship Him. *Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.* — Hebrews 13 : 3. For this week - Pakistan.

1. **PAKISTAN.** Christians in Pakistan form around 3% of the population, and are generally despised by the Muslim majority. Many Christians live in great poverty and are restricted to dangerous, dirty, low-status jobs, such as cleaning sewers. Each year, an estimated 700 Christian women and girls are kidnapped, raped, forcibly converted, and married to Muslims. Maria Shahbaz was only 13 years old when she was abducted at gunpoint on 28 April 2020 and forced to convert to Islam and marry a Muslim. Her birth certificate was shown in court to prove she had been too young to marry, but her abductor submitted a fake marriage certificate giving her age as 19. Despite this, Lahore's High Court ruled that Maria willingly converted to Islam and was legally married. Pray for Pakistan Christians. . . . Barnabas Fund.

2. For those recovering from illness, particularly **Marj Hall**, that their health will continue to improve, and for those in care situations.

3. For congregation member **Chye YAP.**

4. **Hannah DAVIES** from the Trinity Church Camberwell and with Pioneers in France. She is involved in a church planting ministry in south-West France sharing the Gospel message with the secular French and refugees.

COMING EVENTS:

21 – 7 – 2021 Wednesday prayer meeting @ 1:30 pm
25 – 7 – 2021 Rev Graham Bradbeer @ 11 am

“Some folks carry their religion on their shoulder like a burden, instead of in their hearts like a song.” — Dr W. Evans