

This Sunday at Riverside

Today Darren will continue our deep dive into the book of Ephesians as he looks at the first five verses of Chapter 1 and asks the question how can we make Father God happy? I hope you've been reading and meditating on chapter 1 in preparation.

Next Sunday at Riverside

Next week Darren, will continue into Ephesians, looking at verses 3-8 of chapter one focusing on the meaning of spiritual blessings! Please continue to immerse yourself in the book of Ephesians.

This Week at Riverside

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| Tuesday | 14th Jan | Café and Play Café | 9am - 1:45pm |
| Wednesday | 15th Jan | Café and Play Café | 9am - 1:45pm |
| Thursday | 16th Jan | Café and Play Café | 9am - 1:45pm |
| | | Home League | 10am - 12pm |
| | | Creationships | 12pm - 1pm |
| | | Prayer Meeting | 6:45pm - 8:30pm |
| Friday | 17th Jan | Café and Play Café | 9am - 1:45pm |
| Saturday | 18th Jan | Brekky Club | 8am - 10am |
| Sunday | 19th Jan | Worship Service | 9:45am - 11:15am |
| | | Foundations Course | 11:30am - 12:30pm |
| | | Splash | 11:45am - 12:30pm |
| | | Immerse | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |

The Café and Soft Play Area will be open from 9am - 2pm on Tuesday to Friday during the January School holidays. Cost is \$2 per child, pay at the Café. If you want to come for our Brunch or Lunch Session in the Soft Play Area, **please make sure you book in on the Eventbrite Link which is pinned to the top of our Facebook page.**

Congratulations

It was announced via the Bunyip this week that the Town of Gawler has awarded Darren the title of Citizen of the Year. The leadership team would like to congratulate him on this achievement and we hope that all of Riverside will join with us at Apex Park on Australia Day to witness him receive the award and then rush back for Church at 9:45pm. The event starts with breakfast at 7am will the award ceremonies following from approximately 7:30am.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook. 'The Salvation Army Riverside Gawler'

Website:
www.riversidesalvos.org.au



HUMILITY : AUTHENTICITY : SERVANTHOOD : EXCELLENCE : JOYFULNESS

January 19th
2025



RIVERSIDE
GAWLER

Looking Forward into 2025

On the weekend of the 8th and 9th of February I have invited the Rev. Colin Stoodley to come and teach and preach at Riverside. Colin is an scholar, theologian, prophet and author and has recently written a book called 'The Genius of the Kingdom' where he presents his research findings on how crucial discipleship is to the growth of Jesus' mission here on earth.

As a former Salvation Army Officer and church planter he has a unique perspective on how we can continue to grow the Kingdom here at Riverside and beyond. He has a particular expertise in church planting which is going to be useful as we continue to seek God's heart about planting a new church in the surrounding region.

Please keep this date free and also look out for the additional teaching sessions and workshops that will be happening on Saturday the 8th and potentially Sunday afternoon on the 9th of February.

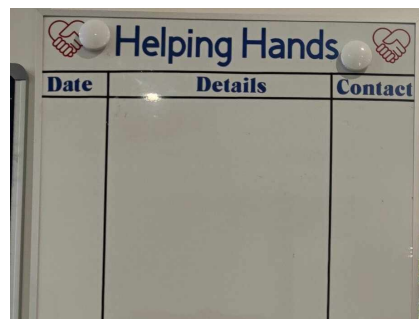
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025

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Helping Hands Board

Our Helping Hands board has had an update. This board is located near the community notice board and is used to announce any events, request items from our community, or request support for members of the community.

Please record the date when the request was made, the details of the request/event, and a contact person with phone number for follow up. Any further information can also be left at the Reception desk.



| Date | Details | Contact |
|------|---------|---------|
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SHOUT Youth Holiday Program

Our Shout Youth team are running some programs for the January School holidays. If you have a young person in years 7-12 for 2025, they are welcome to come along. Shout Youth is a safe place where all young people are treated and cared for equally while having fun and sharing our faith and our love for God and the difference He is making in our lives and community.

Friday 17th January - Pool Day @ Gawler Pool - 11am-3pm

Tuesday 21st January - Games Day - 11am-2pm

Friday 24th January - Band JAM - 10am-12pm - Movie and Popcorn - 1pm-3pm

To RSVP or for more information, contact Kim on 0452 201 271.

Safe Return

We are pleased to report that Peta, Urshuler and Rose arrived safely back in Adelaide on Tuesday night. As you can imagine returning home has not been easy so please keep them all in your prayers. It has been an extremely tough week for Peta as she has started to arrange Francis' funeral but she has been doing really well. Francis' Mum has come over to be with them all and is being a tower of strength but we must also remember her in our prayers as a grieving mother.

The Funeral has been set for 2pm on the 22nd of January at Riverside, Francis will also be 'lying at rest' in the Church on from 9am-4pm on Tuesday the 21st for anyone who wants to pay their respects. This is a Samoan tradition and I need to make everyone aware that the coffin will be open.

If you want a T-Shirt of Francis they are still available and can be ordered through Peta or Darren. Also if you still want to bless the family by helping towards the unexpected costs of the funeral and transport you can do so via BPay or with a cash donation. Please see Kate Adami in both instances.

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Touch Point

Sermon by
Darren Dwyer
Available on App and
Website



Read Ephesians 1:1-5

- Q1. What makes you happy? When have you been at your happiest?
- Q2. Paul ends his short greeting to the Ephesian Church (verse 2) with the prayer 'May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace'. Why do you think Paul starts his teaching with this prayer.

Verse 3 starts with the phrase 'blessed be' or 'all praise be' to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word 'blessed' is translated from an ancient Greek word which can mean simply 'happy'. When blessed is translated from ancient Hebrew again it comes from a word that means 'happy'. When the Bible was translated into English in the 15th century this wasn't an issue as at the time everyone knew that blessed and happy were interchangeable. You could say I'm blessed and people would know you meant I'm happy and vice versa. However, over time blessed has taken on a slightly different meaning.

- Q3. If someone said today 'I am blessed' what do you believe they are trying to convey?
- Q4. When Paul writes 'blessed be the Father' what do you think he is trying to say? Could he simply be saying 'may God be happy'?
- Q5. Can we make God happy? Are we as humans able to impact the way he feels?

Read Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 147:11 and recap Ephesians 1:5

It appears from Scripture that we can make God happy.

- Q6. Does the first five verses of Ephesians give us any indication of how exactly we can make Father God happy and bring him pleasure?

Activity:

I think we are all aware of the truth that we can grieve Father God when we sin and we feel pretty awful about that when it happens. However, how often do we recognise the truth that when we resist temptation or pull back from an unkind or evil thought or action we make God happy. Whenever we do something in line with Jesus' teaching we bring Father God pleasure. Keep a diary this week of all the times you have made God happy and 'humbly' share it with the group next week so you can celebrate with the Father.

HUMILITY : AUTHENTICITY : SERVANTHOOD : EXCELLENCE : JOYFULNESS