

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ❖ *Thursday Island starts off our new initiative for 2025 in this edition, to share highlights, insight or reflections from their area*
- ❖ *Christy visiting Cloncurry this w/end*
- ❖ *Craig visiting Cassowary Coast this w/end*
- ❖ *To subscribe to Uniting News: Click the link [here](#) and add your details.*

Moderator's Disaster Appeal

In response to the flooding in North Queensland, the Moderator's Disaster Appeal has been activated to provide people the opportunity to donate to the front-line efforts of our congregations in the affected areas.

Please note: donations are not tax-deductible.

[Donate here](#)

Presbytery Office NEW

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Mackay MC Qld 4741
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NEW Office Hours

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9.00am-3.30pm

Executive Assistant

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office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply) (based in Northern Zone)

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Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley (Treasurer)
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REMINDER RE CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY MEETING IN CAIRNS

28-30 March 2025

Venue: Cairns Emmanuel UCA

(Registration closes on 21 March 2025)

Carpentaria News

Reflection from Thursday Island...

Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Saviour. We started the year 2025 with a vision to grow the church spiritually and in numbers.

- We're working toward our new Mission Statement that the: Thursday Island Uniting Church exists to its members to know Christ, to treasure Christ, to Depend on Christ and to make Jesus Known.
- Our Mission Statement going together with a series in the book of Philippians.
- We're going to have another series on the book of Nehemiah. "Building without walls"
 - By doing this we are having a friendship service once a month. Which we encouraged the members to invite a family member or friend/s to come to our service. Follow by kaikai (feast) after the church service.
 - Family picnic every two months.
 - We started Sunday School for the first time, and we are going to run a youth ministry on the 14th March
- The tenants for the Affordable Housing units should be moving in by this Wednesday, 19th February and Official Opening by the Moderator will be held on 26 March 2025

Prayer points for our community

- Please pray for our ministry
- Pray for the people of this community who are desperately need an accommodation. (we have lost two families from our church because they didn't get a unit)

Reflection

Genesis 45:5: "But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives."

When I read this passage, the question came to my mind was, why do certain things happen in our lives? God is working in ways we never could imagine. I have been crying many times in my journey, I didn't understand where God was taking me. It had never occurred in my mind that I will be able to preach in English, let alone to be a minister to an English-speaking congregation.

I didn't see where God was leading me, but I totally trusted in God. Even through times that seemed pointless and painful, God is always working, and His plans can be trusted.

That's certainly the case here in Genesis 45:5. Joseph never would have planned for his brothers to sell him into slavery. He never would have planned to be in prison. He never would have planned so many things in his life, but thankfully, God was planning it all.

Even in the difficult things, God was planning it all, to bring about good. "God sent me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:5 is just a glaring reminder on the pages of scripture that the plans of God can be trusted. Even when they're different from our plans. Even when we experience something, or need to make a decision that we would not have planned, that we would not have walked into, we can trust that ultimately, God is planning in ways that we can't see, but we can trust.

Let me conclude this reflection with the famous hymn that John H Sammis wrote: "Trust And Obey":
*"When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
When we do his good will, he abodes with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

Rev Mosese Fangupo and Thursday Island UCA



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CAIRNS)

Safe Church Training allows us to be reminded of and equipped with key understanding and skills as volunteers or workers across Congregations and Faith Communities. If you are in Cairns on March 31st or April 1st and would like to complete Safe Church Training in person during the day, please complete this form (<https://forms.office.com/r/vvZcawJdVY>) by March 2nd as an expression of interest. If you are not able to make these dates, please know training is being refreshed and will be more easily accessible on the Hub from the beginning of April – keep an eye out for further details.

Natalie Lund, Synod Presbytery Support Officer

DATE CLAIMERS

2025 Dates

- **28-30 March** – #1 Presbytery Meeting in Cairns at Cairns Emmanuel
- **16-19 May** – 38th Synod in Session at Alex Park
- **10-11 August** – PLT (face to face) at Ingham or Innisfail
- **11-14 August** – Presbytery Retreat at Cardwell starting with dinner
- **31 Oct to 2 November** - #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church
- **3-5 November** – Strategic Meeting (face to face) in Townsville (tbc)

SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY NORTH QUEENSLAND FLOODING

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by the severe flooding across our Presbytery.

We stand in solidarity with the communities facing the challenges of displacement, property damage, and recovery in the wake of these events.

If your church buildings have been affected by the floods, please reach out to Group Insurance for support and guidance. You can contact them via email at ucinsuranceclaims@ucaqld.com.au or by phone at **(07) 3377 9754**.

Let us continue to hold each other in prayer and offer support wherever possible as we navigate this difficult time together.

ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT YWAM TOWNSVILLE CBD

YWAM has been busy with more renovations and have opened up accommodation for 9 new borders in the city. Applications are open to Christian young women between 18-25 and must be studying or working, who are self-sufficient, motivated and capable of managing their own well-being. YWAM has a heart to provide a safe positive environment for young ladies. If you know of

anyone looking for a place to live or moving in from out West please pass on YWAM's email address. See flyer below, rent all inclusive. Enquiries and applications can be made to email: housing@ywamships.org

YWAM SHARED HOUSING TOWNSVILLE CBD
www.ywamships.org

Spacious Rooms For Rent

ONLY FOR
\$ 430
PER FORTNIGHT

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

YWAM stands for "Youth With A Mission" and is a global, faith-based movement that has been championing young people to be on mission since 1960. We are passionate about building healthy lives, communities and nations in Australia, Papua New Guinea and beyond.

YWAM's shared housing for single, young adult Christian women ages 18 - 25 years old offers a vibrant, faith-based, community-focused living environment, rooted in the values of Care, Connect, Serve, and Build. Ideally it's just a short walk to shops, Central Queensland University City Campus, JCU City Campus, the beach and public transport to outer suburbs and JCU Main Campus. This is the perfect location for those seeking both convenience and a sense of community while studying or working.

FACILITIES

- PRIVATE BEDROOM
- SHARED LOUNGE, KITCHEN, & BATHROOM
- LAUNDRY FACILITIES
- AIR-CONDITIONING
- WIFI
- PRIVATE CARPARK

GET IN TOUCH
Connect with us to apply!

RECEPTION | +61 7 4771 2123
EMAIL | housing@ywamships.org

OFFICE ADDRESS | 215 Walker Street
Townsville City, QLD 4810

Anne Harley

VOLUNTEER CARE ESSENTIALS – TOWNSVILLE

Blue Care Mt Louisa Chaplain – Ps. Kemerli Lievano will be running the Volunteer Care Essentials Course at Kirwan Uniting Church on Saturday Feb 15 and 22.

This course will equip our volunteers for pastoral care expression in the congregation or other settings such as hospital or aged care volunteer chaplaincy. The CARE Essentials Course is an eight-session course is designed for use in Congregations or Faith Communities and can also become the beginning step on the pathway to more specialised Pastoral Care volunteering in various UCA Chaplaincy settings. The CARE Essentials Course includes an exploration of what Pastoral Care entails and how we can define it, examining why we are involved in Pastoral Care, and some foundational skills needed to get started as a Pastoral Carer.

Register via Facebook at the Kirwan UC Facebook Events page below or email Kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com / [Pastoral Care Essentials Course I | Facebook](#)

TOWNSVILLE 3RD CO. BOYS BRIGADE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Boys Brigade is a Christian association for Boys aged 6 to 18 that equips them with the skills and knowledge to develop positive friendships, engage in leadership and develop an understanding of their Biblical role as sons of God and men of valour. Kirwan Uniting Church has been invited to host Townsville only Boys Brigade Company, Townsville 3rd Company - to be captained by Zack Lyons and BBs Chaplain, Rev. Esteban Lievano. For anybody who might be interested in joining the Company as a leader or learning more about Brigades in general, there will be a Leadership Training Day at Kirwan Uniting Church on Saturday 8 of Feb. To register your interest, please click the link below for Kirwan UC Facebook Event Page, or email kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com [Townsville 3rd Co. Leaders Training | Facebook](#)

EASTER MADNESS 2025

Easter Madness 2025 will again be held at Alex Park on the Sunshine Coast on 11-14 April (one week before the Easter Holidays). The main focus of EM is to see every young person become more aware of God's redemptive love, offering them opportunities to recognize and have real experiences with this Love.

This year's theme is Beloved based on Romans 8: 35-39, each day will have a special focus:

1. Fri: **Unshakeable Love** (v.35)
2. Sat: **More than Conquerors** (v.37)
3. Sun: **Depth of God's Love** (v.39)
4. Mon: **Living in Response to God's Love**

Ana will send out the EM25 letter, poster and card to congregations so you can participate and partner with the planning team in this relevant and vital youth ministry.

For more info contact Fernando Torres by mob: **0423 723 822** or email: **youthworker@mrpres.org.au** or go onto the website: **<https://eastermadness.com.au>**

NOT IN MY CHURCH? FINANCIAL ABUSE – ZOOM SEMINAR ON 20TH FEBRUARY 6.30PM-7.30PM (JCDVPP ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES DV)

Financial Abuse is the most common of all types of abuse and can take many forms, from withholding and controlling money to forcing someone to take debts in their name. The consequences can be massive and long lasting.

In this seminar participants will learn more about the different forms of financial abuse and hear the story of someone who has survived financial abuse and is now thriving.

Please could you pass on details of the seminar to your church community and contacts. Flyers can be downloaded through the links below.

[Download Flyer for printing](#)
[Download flyer for social media.](#)

Queensland Churches Together

CTM RESOURCING (UCA RESOURCES)

We would like to inform you that the original CTM Resourcing site was decommissioned late last year. However, we are pleased to announce that we have launched a new page, now accessible through the UCA VicTas Synod website.

To continue purchasing the items previously available on the old site, please visit the following link: <https://victas.uca.org.au/ctm-resourcing/>

Should you have any questions, please contact CTM Resources on ph: (03) 9340 8800 or email: **ctmresourcing@victas.uca.org.au**

CTM Resourcing

NEXT COMBINED CHRISTIAN LEADERS BREAKFAST IN KIRWAN

We are excited about what God is going to do in 2025! We believe it's a year we need to focus on reaching our city with the Gospel! Remember to invite and bring along other **leaders from the city or from your churches**. A very special invite to those in ministry who are new in town or who have never been before.

Theme: We are excited to together launch into Alpha in Term 2 and would love to share with you the focus and heart of the year ahead. We will hear testimonies and stories of what God has been doing around our city and as always we hope to share, pray and encourage each other as we together serve, reach and multiply our city!

Date: Thursday, 6th March 2025

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Northreach Baptist Church // 38 Canterbury Rd, Kirwan

RSVP: End of business on Tuesday 4th March

Cost: \$15 p.p pay on the day via cash or card

Registration link: [Together For Townsville - Christian Leaders Breakfast March 2025](#)

From The Word for Today

EVERYBODY HAS A THORN

'Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.' Ephesians 6:10 NLT

Paul tells us two things about his thorn:

First, that it was a messenger of Satan sent to buffet him. The word 'buffet' means 'to render blow after blow'. It was not one battle, but a series of back-to-back attacks that didn't let up. Satan knows your weakest areas, and he will repeatedly attack you in those areas. How can you defeat him? The Bible tells: *'... Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places'* (Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT).

Second, that the thorn was in his 'flesh'. You are a regenerate spirit, living in an unregenerate body. That's why the Bible commands us to crucify the flesh, starve the flesh, and refuse to give in to the impulses of the flesh. And in God's strength you can do it: *'By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a Godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvellous glory and excellence. And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires'* (2 Peter 1:3-4 NLT).

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 19 February 2025) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2025

