

CHOOSING “REAL LIFE” - Saying “Yes” to God

The Bible says that God loves us, and invites us into a life-changing relationship with Him that lasts for eternity. Jesus describes this as “abundant life” and at BBCC we call this “Real Life”. Whatever we call it, this new life with God empowers us to find hope, peace, joy and strength in the midst of a broken and hurting world. If you’re ready to experience “Real Life” and say “Yes” to God’s invitation, follow these lifechanging steps.

Admit you’re not perfect. That shouldn’t be too hard, right? If we’re really honest with ourselves, we know we’ve done things that weren’t up to God’s perfect standards. The Bible calls this sin, and sin damages us, our relationships with God, and with other people. The first step towards God is to admit we’re sinners and ask for His forgiveness.

Believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus is so much more than a good teacher, wise prophet, or religious guru - He’s 100% God - and believing in Him is the only way we can have our sins forgiven and come into relationship with God. To believe in Jesus is to believe he entered our world and lived a perfect life (that we couldn’t), died on a cross for our sin (to pay our penalty), rose again from the dead (to prove his identity and authority), rules from Heaven and will one day return to judge the world.

Commit to following Jesus as Lord. Jesus is described in the Bible as the most powerful authority in existence. Saying “Yes” to God means choosing to take a new direction with our lives (we call this repentance) and living under the authority and leadership of Jesus. This takes courage and faith but we can’t experience “real life” unless Jesus is Lord of our lives.

If you’re truly ready to say “Yes” to God, say this simple prayer and God will respond to the truth of your heart and give you a new life in Christ. If you need help, or have questions, come to the front after the service and there’ll be people ready to talk with you.

Father God, I admit today that I’m a sinner and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Saviour and King and I welcome into my life today. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me live for Your glory. Amen.

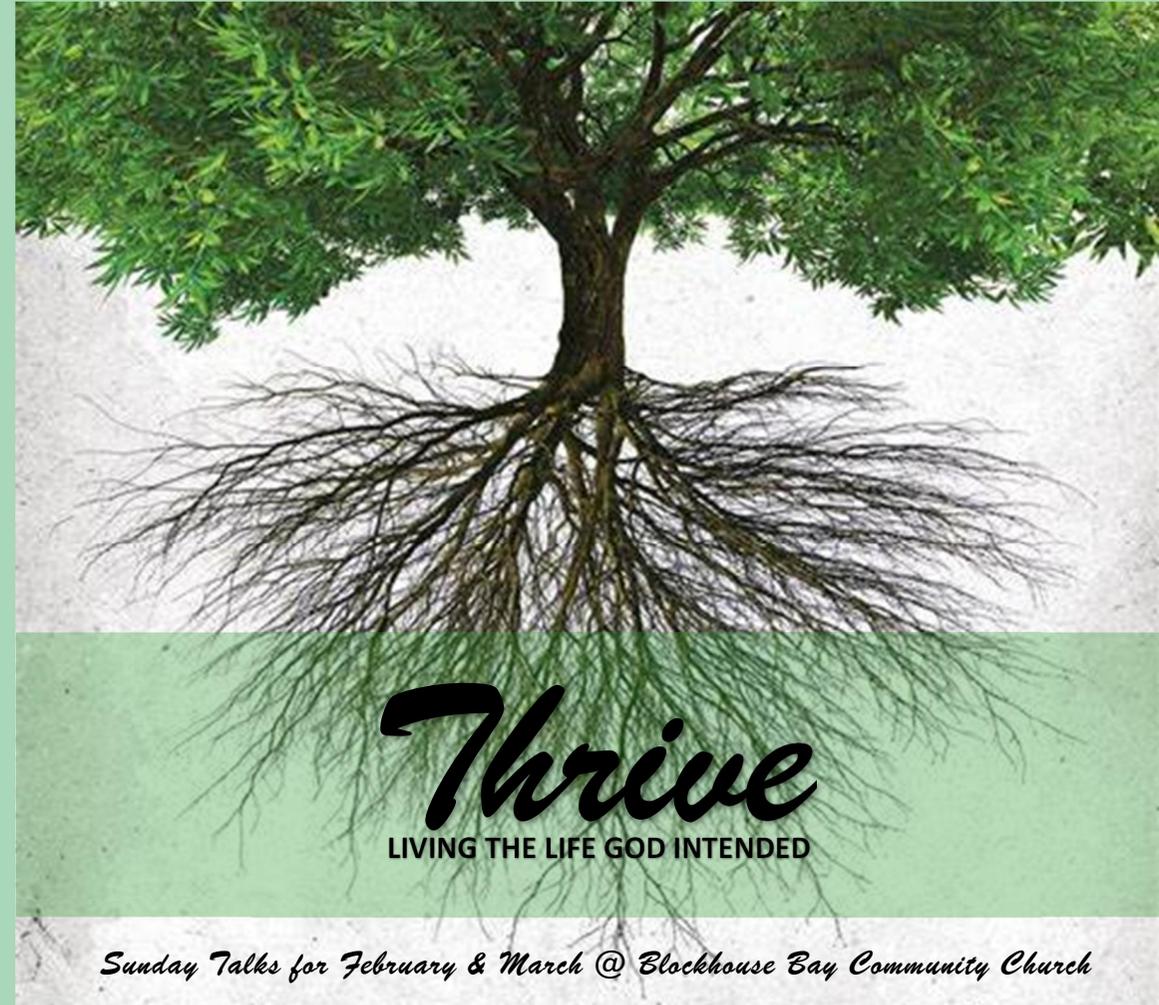
If you’ve prayed this prayer with sincerity you are a new person in Christ! It’s important now to stay connected with other Christians who will help you grow in this new relationship with God. Being part of a good church is essential to the Christian life and we’d love you to be part of our family here at BBCC.

If you choose to say “no” to God today, you need to seriously consider the consequences. Rejecting God’s offer of relationship means you’re rejecting the Creator and Sustainer of life, and the Bible says that has terrible consequences for this life, and the life to come. The choice will always be yours but we hope you’ll reconsider God’s offer of real life to you today. We’d love to talk more about this - regardless of what you believe - so feel free to contact Pastor Andrew if you want to discuss this further.

BLOCKHOUSE BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

76 Dundale Avenue, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland

Phone: 626-6284 info@bbcc.org.nz www.bbcc.org.nz



Thrive
LIVING THE LIFE GOD INTENDED

Sunday Talks for February & March @ Blockhouse Bay Community Church

The BBCC family is called to be a tangible expression of Jesus to the world, empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the Gospel, reconcile lost people back to God, and transform them into fully devoted followers of Christ.

WELCOME

Great to have you with us today and if this is your first time at BBCC - an extra special welcome! We really hope you experience God's presence and the love of His people. Primary School aged children are welcome to join our *Kidz Quest* programme at 11.00 and there's also a supervised Creche for babies and toddlers. Hot drinks & water are available after the service and we hope you stay to chat. If you want to know more about Christianity or becoming part of the BBCC whanau, please fill out a contact card at the Info Kiosk and we'll be in touch during the week.

PRAYER MINISTRY

A Prayer Team is available every Sunday. Please come to the front after the service if you need support and prayer for any need.

Our corporate Prayer Meeting called 'Stay & Pray' is held once a month after church, 12.30pm - 1pm
NEXT STAY & PRAY: 19 April @ 12.30 pm

We Prayer Walk our community once a month to discern what God is doing, frequently delivering an invitation to a church event as we walk, and pray blessing over our community.

**NEXT PRAYER WALK: Sat 18 April
 Meet @ BBCC, 10.30 - 11.30 am**

Birthdays: for next 2 weeks

- Rebekah Marshall - 23 March
- Emily Silby - 23 March
- Abhinay Nag - 25 March
- Gabriel Nag - 25 March
- Scarlett Stoneham - 28 March
- Gill Devine - 1 April
- Rao Vanaguntla - 2 April
- Lora Gattu - 3 April

Anniversaries

- Kamlakar & Grace Rao - 23 March
- Tim & Kim Lockwood - 27 March

Small Groups 2020

For details on Small Groups, check out our noticeboard - there is something for everyone: Men, Women, Seniors, Young Adults ...

UPCOMING EVENTS

NO BBCC SERVICE - SUNDAY 29 MARCH

FAMILY CAMP: POSTPONED

GUEST SPEAKER: SUNDAY 5 APRIL

Mark James from Creation Ministries

10.30 am - Science & the Bible: Conflict or Confirmation?

7 pm - Biblical Authority in the Scientific Age (for the 7 pm service, please sign up at the Kiosk)

Report on the BBCC AGM

Our AGM was well attended last Sunday evening. The membership adopted the 2020 Budget; the 2019 audited accounts will be presented to members at a special meeting in June.

Congratulations to the Elders elected for the next 12 months: **Alistair Clark, Norysca D'Souza, Vicky Edmonds, Peter Kreutz, Mario Varre**. Thank you to Elders not re-standing this year - Esther Vanaguntla and Dave Nuualiitia. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Youth & Young Adults

Youth Sunday School (Yrs 7-11): Today

Caring for our Community

In our desire to keep each other safe and care for our community, we have updated our good health and hygiene practices:

- If you are unwell – do not come to church
- When you enter our building – please **WASH YOUR HANDS**
- Our Greeters will give you a smile, but no hugs, handshakes or hongis
- Practice good hygiene:
 - * Cover coughs/sneezes into your elbow
 - * Use disposable tissues & dispose of them appropriately in a bin
 - * If in doubt - **WASH YOUR HANDS!!**

As we give today....

If you're visiting us today, please don't feel obliged to give. For regular BBCC whanau we thank you for honouring God with your finances. If you would like to start giving directly into our bank account the number is: ASB 12-3049-0265986-00

GENERAL INFORMATION

Here are a few more things you might like to know to get connected with our whanau. There's more information on our website, our Facebook page, and our hosts at the Info Kiosk.

Sunday Mornings is our main family gathering from 10.30 - 12.00ish. About 11.00, children (years 1 - 6) go to Kidz Quest and a supervised Crèche area is available for babies and toddlers with a video link to the service. Communion is offered most weeks with children joining us for the first Sunday each month. After the service Prayer Teams are available for anyone who needs support; and refreshments are provided to fuel some great conversations. *Today's Prayer Team is Alistair, Nalini, Peter, Hudson, Kamlakar & Grace R (Team 1)*

A range of **Small Groups** operate throughout the week for men, women, seniors, youth, and mixed adults with more info in the bulletin and from the Kiosk. We also run a regular **Sunday Night series** which has a small group vibe. All our groups are open to join.

Blockhouse Bay Christian Kindergarten is a ministry of our church offering high quality early childhood education from *Monday to Friday*.

An **English Conversation Class** runs on *Tuesdays from 9.15 - 11.15 am* during the school term.

Our **website** www.bbcc.org.nz has lots more info about

the church and our **Facebook** page posts regular updates about news and events.

On *Fridays, 10 - 11 am*, during school terms, we run **mainly music**, a music and movement programme for pre-school children & their parents from our community.

Our **Youth & Young Adults** have a range of activities that are advertised in the bulletin and on their own Facebook page.

Prayer is an important part of BBCC life and our prayer ministries are listed in the bulletin.

We're part of a worldwide movement called The Christian & Missionary Alliance which has 9 churches in NZ (3 which meet at BBCC) and serves in 90 countries. In NZ we're known as the **Alliance Churches of New Zealand** and encourage unity amongst our movement and the wider Christian Church.

Our Elders (*Alistair Clark, Norysca D'Souza, Vicky Edmonds, Peter Kreutz & Mario Varre*) work with our Pastors to provide spiritual oversight at BBCC and are available to help with pastoral care and counselling.

Our Pastor and Church Staff can be contacted at the Church Office as follows:

- *Pastor Andrew Marshall*: Tuesday - Friday: 9.00 - 1.00 pm - andrew@bbcc.org.nz - Mob: 027-296-8834
- *Carolyn Officer (Admin Manager)*: carolyn@bbcc.org.nz - Ph: 626 6284 ext 5

THIS SUNDAY	Sunday Celebration @ 10.30 am <i>Aihua Alliance Church (Chinese) - 2 pm @ BBCC</i> <i>Arise Vietnamese Church - 6 pm @ BBCC</i> Sunday nights @ 7 pm (meeting in BBCC Kindy Hall)
MONDAY	Kindergarten: Monday - Friday (9 am - 3.30 pm) Small Group - Adults @ Peter & Vera's - 7.30 pm
TUESDAY	English Class - 9.15 am
WEDNESDAY	Small Group - Young Adults @ Emily & Rebekah's - 7.30 pm Small Group - Gill's (women) @ Lynda's - 7.30 pm
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	<i>mainly music</i> - 10.00 am
SATURDAY	
NEXT SUNDAY	<i>Aihua Alliance Church (Chinese) - 2 pm @ BBCC</i> <i>Arise Vietnamese Church - 6 pm @ BBCC</i>