

Sunday 22nd February 2026

a beacon of
hope

THIS WEEK

Monday

23rd February

Tuesday

24th February

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am in the JAM Room.
Talk'n'Do 9.30am

Wednesday

25th February

Women's Study 9.30 -11am
KYB 12.30pm

Thursday

26th February

ONE50 Dance 3.45pm

Friday

27th February

Youth Group 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday

28th February

Nepalese Church
8.30am - 12 noon
Grace Community Church
Music Practise 12noon-
2.30pm

Sunday

1st March

9am Worship Service
10.45am Worship Service
2pm Grace Community
Church Service

5pm Saturate Training

On-Line Giving

Account Name

Elizabeth Church of Christ

BSB Number

105 121

Account Number

441343540

Cain's Not Able

Have you ever noticed how hard some faith steps can be? There are times, as I attempt to take a step of faith, that it's like trying to step through quicksand. I feel the next step might be the step where I sink.

Believing God is the best and most rewarding step one can make, but it doesn't happen easily. There are many people who seeking for the truth, however when it comes to taking that step into belief, they just can't quite move. They know God exists, yet they simply are paralysed by fear, pride, or some deception of the enemy. My heart breaks for them. Thinking about this has challenged me to be praying more for the lost and asking God to help me understand what is the complexity that hinders them from believing.

I can't say that I understand a person's reasoning for holding back from following Jesus. Yet, what is a bit baffling to me is how individuals who grow up in the same home, same environment and community have vastly different responses to Christ. I know people who grew up in the same family yet have very different walks with God. Yes, I know that our faith journey has a personal component to it and God walks with each person differently. But I am talking about people who grew up with the exact same lifestyle, culture, church experience, home life, and family as others. Yet, I am not sure they really have a faith in Christ. Please know I am not trying to judge their journey; I am simply using it as an example to how faith can be challenging for us all.

We see this played out very early in the bible. In Genesis 4 we are introduced to the children of Adam and Eve, well the first two kids anyway. Cain, the first born was a farmer and Abel (#2) was a shepherd. We pick up the moment they are taking an offering to Jehovah. This seems right, however there is a challenging component as we continue reading the story. Cain isn't really sold on the idea of offering God his produce. Cain, for some reason, was not able to honour God and worship him through an offering. He was not willing to surrender completely to the faith journey.

Abel, a much different story. He came ready to bless God with his offering. He brought the best of what he had to offer to the one who provided for him. He saw the opportunity to worship God as a moment to express his gratitude and thanksgiving.

What was the contrast between them? What caused Abel to be all in and Cain to be half-hearted? What caused Abel to bring his best and Cain to offer mediocrity. As I examine this story and the component

of faith, there can really be only one conclusion. It is trust. Abel trusted God enough to give of his best. Cain was not trusting of God and was holding back. Why did Cain not have belief in God? I am not certain. Could it be fear, pride, or confusion about why God would ask him to give of his produce? It certainly could be, and it could be many other things. This is one of the reasons faith is so difficult. To believe God takes an all in approach. We put everything into the trust basket. On the other hand, to doubt God is everything except complete trust. It only takes one fear, one doubt, one uncertainty and we could walk away from God.

This is why trust is the key. If I trust God then I will be obedient and faithful. If I don't trust God then I will have a struggle with surrendering to him. Trust is what will give us the courage to step into faith. Trust helps us to believe that God is faithful and will come through. Trust is the motivation of our faith.

I am still not sure how two individuals can have the same background yet come to completely different conclusions about God. When it boils down to it we just have to say, "Cain was not Able" He was not willing to trust God, and this brought a defining line between his faith and Abel, his brothers, faith.

Faith is incredibly challenging at times; I am praying for you as you continue to live by faith. As I mentioned last week, relationship is what will help us persevere, relationship is what builds trust. Therefore: Be Confident (in him) Be close (to him) Be Constant (with Him) Be Considerate (For Him) (Hebrews 10:19-25). I hope we can learn to be more like Abel and not Cain. Why? Because Cain was not able.

See ya Sunday,

Pastor Brent

4 week training program

Connected Communities

SATURATE TRAINING

continuing Sunday 22nd February

5pm @ the Church

OFFICE: 38 Ashfield Rd Elizabeth SA 5112

PHONE: (08) 8255 2467

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9am - 2:30pm

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES: 9am, 10:45am & 2pm

SMALL GROUPS: 5pm

WEBSITE: www.elizabethcoc.org

EMAIL: office@elizabethcoc.org

FACEBOOK: Elizabeth COC

A special welcome to all our visitors. May you be blessed by the time you have spent with us at the Elizabeth Church of Christ.

PRAISE & PRAYER NEWS

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- For Brent's message encouraging us in times of trouble to trust God and "keep swimming", He will always be there to love and support us.
- That He has always abundantly supplied for all the needs and resources of our church.
- For the group of people who braved the heat on Sunday evening, to learn more in the Connected Communities training session.

PRAY FOR:

- Colin Sieber as he and his wife Pam make difficult decisions regarding his ongoing health care.
- Families who are affected by domestic violence.
- Members who are struggling with health issues and for those who care for them.
- Our monthly prayer meetings, that more people will be drawn by the Spirit to either open their home to a prayer group or to attend a group that is already established.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we can spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. "

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday 22nd February – 5pm Saturate Training

Tuesday 24th February – Talk N Do

Sunday 1st March – 5pm Saturate Training

Wednesday 4th March - MumCo

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Are you interested in holding a monthly prayer meeting in your house?

Come and talk to Brent, Mark or Chantel and they would love to answer any questions you have.



MISSING KITCHEN ITEMS

Have you borrowed any items from the Café Kitchen? We seem to be missing a few pans (and a few utensils). If you have, please return them to the kitchen as soon as you can. We need them to cook up our yummy meals!



This week at a Boomerang Centre morning tea we farewelled Cheryl Wellington in her role at Boomerang Centre Coordinator. Cheryl has looked after the op shop and its staff for many years and we thank her for

her many hours of dedication to this ministry. We pray for Cheryl and Robyn as they "rest" in retirement.

Leona Isterling has agreed to step into the role of Boomerang Centre Coordinator.

A reminder that we are always on the look out for more volunteers for the Boomerang Centre. If you are interested in helping out for 3 hours per week please let the church office know.



Open Door Christian Bookshop:

Open Door Christian Books and Gifts

Position: Sales assistant (3 vacancies)

Working shifts: 3 hours (choice of 10am - 1pm or 1pm - 4pm)

Skills: Computer literate, not essential (training provided), friendly, able to interact with customers, & routine maintenances

Interested parties to please contact: Manager on 0400770813 or Ph 85221677

or opendoorbook@gmail.com

Trading Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-1pm

Shop 5, Gawler Arcade,
Gawler fb: www.OpenDoorGawler.com.au

Thank you for your ongoing support

Church History with Ferdinand



Did you know... that the Elizabeth Church of Christ started in a one-car garage at the back of the Elizabeth South Shops and these shops are now the Hope Church on Goodman Road. It started as a Sunday School held by Pat Russell. The children sat on seats made out of crates with planks of wood on them!



The February Bible Reading plan is available at the Information Desk and on the church website



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