

**Sundays—coming up**

**Prayer each Sunday 9.30am in the lounge. All welcome.**

**March 3rd** 10am Brian Cochran—Sacred echo – how long?

**March 10th** 10am Rob Stacey (BBC)—Sacred echo – Surrender

**CAN WE HELP?** If you need any help getting to appointments or doing simple jobs at home we have a team of people who may be able to help. Contact Julia Arden on 5715577 or the church office.

**FINANCIAL GIVING:**

This is a regular habit of our worship that is needed for us to continue & to grow in God's work.

**For a giving number** (for tax rebates) **email:** office@tcbc.org.nz

**Please include your giving number as a reference.**

For cash giving, place in the basket at the back of the auditorium.

For online giving:

**For general church offerings/appeals please use:** 03 0435 0475881 27.

**Weekly budget:** \$4,615 **Average giving:** \$4,285

Did you know that all of our weekly newsletters & messages are uploaded here:

**[www.tcbc.org.nz](http://www.tcbc.org.nz)**

+ we also communicate & engage as a community on various Facebook groups.

Just ask the office to find out more.



**CHURCH OFFICE**

**Hours:** MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-12noon

**Address:** P.O. Box 2275, TAURANGA, 3140

**Phone:** 07 578 0123 **Email:** office@tcbc.org.nz

**Website:** [www.tcbc.org.nz](http://www.tcbc.org.nz)

**Brian Cochran** brian@tcbc.org.nz 021 273 3745

**Nicola Fraser** office@tcbc.org.nz 07 578 0123

# Tauranga Central Baptist Church

**Haere mai, welcome! March 3rd 2024**

Lent

**Discovering what it means to know God,  
the world, each other, and to love.**

## Pastor's Scribble .... BBC partnership update

It was so exiting the other week when 140 people from Bethlehem Baptist (BBC) turned up at a meeting here at Central because they were interested in hearing about how they might be able to partner with us in serving God in our community in the future. The energy was contagious—I wish you could have all been there to experience it.

Others said it was also a bit overwhelming, with so many people who we don't know, all talking about their hopes for the future. It was almost intimidating, unsettling. So many emotions all at once.

These were people who were interested, not definitely coming, so we need to keep on praying that God will guide the right people to join with us.

The start date for the partnership has been moved to Sunday April 21st when we will have the first BBC worship team join us and Craig Vernal will be speaking that Sunday too. We are also anticipating that a new Children's ministry will start that Sunday as well.

The week before, Sunday 14th April, we will have a special celebration service where we celebrate the past and anticipate the future. Sure, there will be some grief as we let go some of the aspects of Central that we hold dear, but also hope as we begin to see young lives becoming part of our church family again. Make sure you come along.

Finally, those of you who keep an eye on the giving figure on the back page of the newsletter will have noticed that we have been under budget for most of the financial year. I realise that most people are finding their finances pretty stretched at the moment, but one of my hopes is that with everything that BBC is helping us with, we won't be a financial burden on them. If you can help with an increase in giving or a one off gift, that would really be appreciated.—Brian



**FOR THE KIDS** There are some toys and books in the back corner for restless babies and toddlers.

## Keeping Connected ...

If you are interested to find out about our regular connect groups & other social gatherings, please contact the office.

### COMING UP:

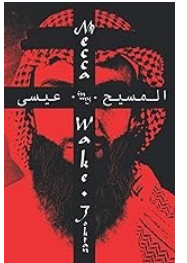
#### **MEMBER'S MEETING TODAY (after morning tea).**

The meeting is just to "dot a few i's and cross a few t's" as we move toward our partnership with Bethlehem Baptist Church—details on the sheet in the foyer. There will also be an opportunity for any questions you may have. Non-members are welcome.

#### **SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 6PM**

#### **C3 City Church 252, Otumoetai Road**

Come and hear how the Lord Jesus Christ transformed the life of Ahmed Joktan, a young medical doctor from Mecca, Saudi Arabia.



**WELCOME** into membership, Catherine Anderson.

It's great to have you in our church family.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Wayne and Nicola Fraser on the passing of Wayne's mum in Nelson this past week.

**FINISHED WITH YOUR LIBRARY BOOK?** Please return it to the box in the hallway and mark on the sheet by your name that it is returned, Thanks.

**EASTER PLANS** Here at Central there will be three reflective services during Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter), an art exhibition called "Stations in the Street" and then on Good Friday and Easter Sunday we will be joining BBC at their place. More details to come.

#### **TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—Dave Hodgkinson**

Praise God for a wonderful, refreshing, sabbatical period for Dave.

Students returned to campuses last week. Please pray for students - & TSCF's mission to them: reaching students for Christ & changing students for life! Especially:

1. Student leaders – that they would lead well & welcome new students they come into contact with
2. New/returning students – that they would take a step of faith to come along to our events, getting connected.
3. Great team work between students, & between student & staff, as we balance many urgent/important demands at this crucial time of year.