



The Cornerstone

October 2014

Becoming An Open-system Church

SERVICES

TUESDAYS:

- 9.30 am Holy Communion Service
- October 21st 9:30 am Holy Communion with Gideon's Speaker

FRIDAYS:

- 1st & 3rd Friday nights:
- ◆ 7pm Alive & In the House

SUNDAYS:

- 7.15 am Traditional Communion Service
- 9.30 am Contemporary Communion Service with Kid's Time (followed by morning tea).
- 19th October - Gideon's Speaker at 7.15am & 9.30am services
- 26th October - 9.00 am St Jude's Day Service, followed by Morning Tea and St Jude's Day Lunch

October Calendar

MONDAYS:

- 7 pm Men's Study Group Not Monday 6th October

TUESDAYS

- October 14th - 7 pm Creative Arts Rehearsal
- October 21st - 6.00 pm Parish Council

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9.30am Gentle Exercises
- 12.30pm—Beacon Counseling Ministry
- 10.00am October 8th - MU Service and Annual Meeting
- 4.45pm October 22nd - BCM Supervision Seminar

SATURDAYS

- 7.30-11.30am October 18th—Working Bee



Birthday Morning Tea after the 9.30am service on 21st October

CONTACT DETAILS

SENIOR PASTORS:

Andrew and Lynette Peters

RECTOR:

The Rev'd Dr. Andrew Peters PhD FAIM

CREATIVE ARTS DIRECTOR:

Lynette Peters MA (Mus)

WARDENS:

Jim Smith (Treasurer)
Vicki Herman
Neil Griffiths

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In my sermon, at our Panel Service with the Hon Tim Mander, I noted the significant shift in the nature of St Jude's Church around 2007 when we moved from a closed-system church to an open-system church—an open-system church that is not only reflected in the way we operate but also in the very nature of our new Church building itself. This change came about as a result of a number of factors interacting at that time, which included:

- a revelation of the way in which passivity can so bog an organisation down that it becomes more and more ineffective in its primary purpose – that is, when the going gets tough, instead of the tough getting going, they stop;
- certain contextual actions that Fr Colin and Ps Andrew took at that time that breached the closed-system forces that were attempting to enclose us. In other terms, it breached the “catch-22 situation within which we were caught.

[a catch-22 situation is defined as “a dilemma or difficult circumstance from which there is no escape because of mutually conflicting or dependent conditions” or “a situation in which any move that a person can make will lead to trouble”].²

- the purposeful building of trust throughout our Parish during quite trying times;
- the open acceptance and inclusion of all four types of worship congregations that make up our Parish – thus breaching the fear of exclusion that assailed us; and
- the one-step-at-a-time process that eventually saw the building of our new church complex through the miracle-working power of God coming into play at each step we took.

The following article is aimed at helping us understand a little more the dynamics of closed and open systems. For additional information please see the book *The Emerging Paradigm of Diversity* by Ps Andrew Peters.

The Nature of Open and Closed Systems

Open and closed systems relate primarily to the relational development and interaction within an organisation or church and its relationship with its environment. Internally, it has to do with to how we get on with one another and how we are able to challenge one another in a positive way. Proverbs 27:17 notes:

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another (NIV)

Externally, it has to do with how we engage the world around us without losing our own identity and purpose in the process. We need to engage that world and meet the challenges it poses to us, without losing our identity and core meaning as Christians and as a Christian Church.

The proponents of Systems theory call us to see an organisation or church as whole, rather than simply a conglomeration of its parts. We are culturally trained to see things as parts and not as a whole. We are taught to break down problems or processes into smaller parts to make them more manageable. Whilst that method enables a certain degree of productivity, it also results a failure to see the big picture – the whole, within which all the parts fit. The value of systems theory is it enables us not only to see the big picture, but also to understand the way different parts of an organisation or church operate together and affect each other.

Whether an organisation or church is operating as an open or closed system will affect the ability it has to interact with its environment: to be stimulated by the challenges that environment poses, and to respond innovatively and successfully to those

challenges. The level of effective interaction that goes on between an organisation and its environment, and within the organisation itself, indicates the level of openness operating within it. The level of openness determines the organisation's ability to sustain high performance, to be effective in fulfilling God's purpose and to bear fruit. It affects the church's ability to:

- make sound decisions;
- be open to options and opportunities as they arise; and
- evaluate reasonable and responsible risks.

A closed system contains within it:

- a fear of reasonable and responsible risk;
- the closing out of options and the failure to respond to opportunities as they arise; and
- a high level of mistrust.

Closed-system organisations become self-defeating because they exclude the type of people, ideas, and methods that the organisation needs to break free

of the rut into which it has fallen. A rut that grows deeper as it attempts to maintain and use tried and true processes and activities that has served it well in the past, but no longer serve it effectively in the present.

However, the movement to an open-system is not a matter of adopting every novel scheme or approach the world, or the wider-church itself, is currently serving up. The church needs to move beyond simply the appearance of change, encapsulated in such terms as being relevant, to do the tough-minded work to bring about the type of sustained change that will make it effective in fulfilling God's purpose.²

Ps Andrew Peters

¹ Collins English Dictionary—Complete and Unabridged @HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 2000, 2003.

Origin of term - 1970s: title of a novel by Joseph Heller (1961), in which the main character feigns madness in order to avoid dangerous combat missions, but his desire to avoid them is taken to prove his sanity

Panel Service



Neil Griffiths with Tim Mander

Our Contemporary Service on Sunday the 21st of September featured a panel service hosted by Ps Andrew Peters. The guest panellists included our local State Member the Hon Tim Mander MP and two of our leadership team Neil Griffiths, who manages a Fishing Tackle business with his wife Lyn, and Dr. Tim Peters who is a law lecturer at Griffith University. The theme of the panel discussion was:

"Christians on the Frontline"

The discussions proved to be a valuable insight into the Christian lives of three quite diverse panel members, which we all found to be a strengthening and uplifting experience! It was noted that integrity plays a critical role in a breadth of business and life experiences—from sports such as the Rugby League; to politics; to the business world of sales demands; and to the academic field of the Law School.



Tim Mander with Ps Andrew Peters



Ps Andrew Peters with Tim Mander



Tim Peters with Neil Griffiths

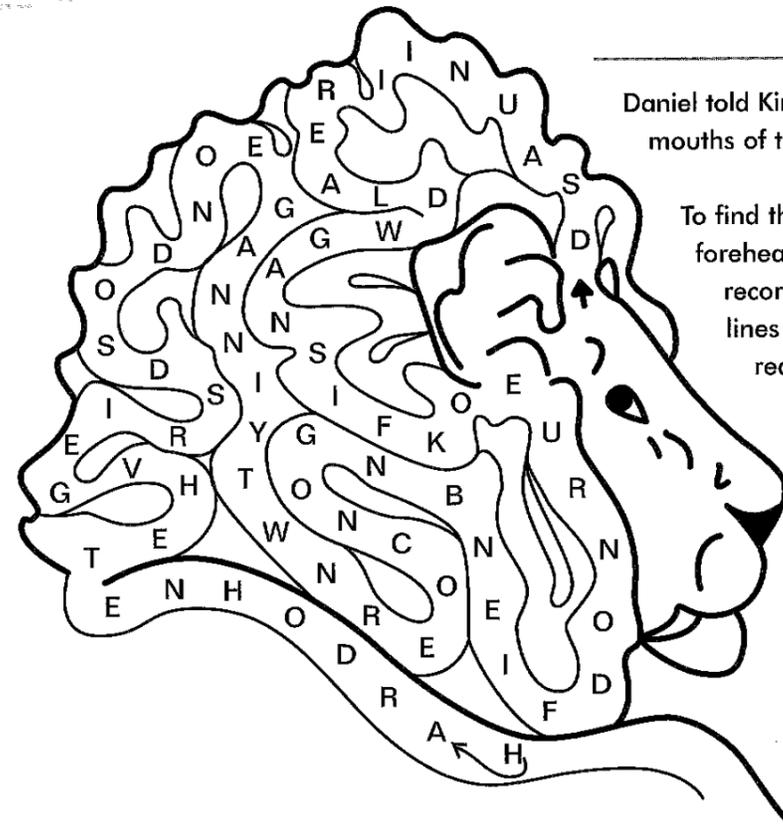


CHILDREN – AGES 8-10 YEARS

Daniel in the Lions' Den

—Daniel 6

Daniel and the Lions



Daniel told King Darius that God had shut the mouths of the lions. Why did he say that?

To find the answer, start on the lion's forehead and travel through the maze, recording every other letter on the lines provided. When you have reached the last letter, follow the arrow to the next letter to be recorded. Record every other letter as you work your way back through the maze.



Do Your Best

Joseph Does His Best
—Genesis 37, 39

Number the statements below in the order in which they occurred. Write the number in the space at the beginning of each sentence. Then write the circled letters in the blanks at the bottom of the page to find out which of Joseph's brothers wanted to rescue him from his other brothers.



- ___ Joseph's father^r gave him a beautiful coat.
- ___ God gave Joseph success in ^everything he did.
- ___ Joseph's brothers were jealou^s.
- ___ Joseph was takenⁿ to Egypt.
- ___ Joseph took care^e of everything Potiphar had.
- ___ Joseph went to find his ^brothers who were taking care of sheep.

1
 5
 2
 3
 6
 4

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

2015 World Day of Prayer

Bahamas Competition

In March next year, our Church will host the 2015 World Day of Prayer for our local area. Each year has a different region of the world as its theme. The theme next year will be the *Bahamas*. To assist our Creative Arts and MU teams to prepare for this event we ask for the support of our members in gathering information and pictures on the Bahamas. The best of these will then form the material for our audio/visual and poster/picture presentation at the World Day of Prayer. To do this we are going to conduct a number of competitions, with prizes for different age groups. There are a number of levels:

- ⇒ **Level 1: Multi-media Presentation: [prizes for best in adult (18plus); Teenagers; and Children categories]**
 - PowerPoint presentation – from 20 to 30 slides
 - Video/DVD presentation
- ⇒ **Level 2: Picture Poster Presentation: [prizes for best in adult (18plus); Teenagers; and Children categories]**
- ⇒ **Level 3: Coloring-In Presentation: [prizes for best children categories]**

Presentations need to be submitted to the Pariah Bahamas Committee on or before Sunday 23rd November. Winners will be announced at the Confirmation Service on Friday 28th November.



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union



MU ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday 8th October:
10.00 am Holy Communion,
11.00 am Morning tea and meeting

MU CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

DATE: Wednesday 26th November
 TIME: 11.30am for 12 noon
 Place: Arana Leagues Club – Dawson Rd Arana Hills
 COST: \$28.00
 RSVP: 18th November



Sign Sheets available in Church Foyer and CMC Reception

St Jude's Day Celebration

Sunday 26th October 2014

9.00 am Combined Service

Featuring drama, special items, great worship, children's item, music and message.

GUEST CELEBRANT: Fr Colin Roberts

11.00 am Morning Tea

12 noon BBQ Lunch

Steak, sausages, chicken, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, salads, Cheesecakes, Cakes, Fruit Salad and Ice Cream cones, Punch, Coffee, tea, cordial and Cold water.



After Lunch Vision Launch

Cost: Adults \$15; Children \$5 (under 5 free);

Families \$40



Pictures of 2013 Lunch



The Gideons
International

- Gideons International Representative, Neil Moss, will be speaking about the work of Gideon's and sharing ways in which we can support their work .He will speak on:
- Sunday 19th October at the 7:15am and 9:30am services and on
- Tuesday 21st October at the 9:30am service

*[there will be a retiring offering taken on the day as well as online at
Pay anyone - Gideons - BSB: 704901 A/c No 00000550]*

Working BEE

DATE: Saturday 18th October

Time: 7.30am-11.30am

LUNCH: followed by a BBQ lunch at 11:30am



Work includes moving mulch, building temporary safety fence between alfresco patio and church to keep children from going down into the watercourse and creek. Refreshments provided, including BBQ lunch at 11.30am.

Please wear appropriate clothing including hat and gloves.