

# ONE LINK

## Corio DOG Norlane

Magazine of  
Corio-Norlane Uniting Church

### GOD'S GIFT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

Congregational Secretary  
Mrs Dorothy Parkes

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# Christmas Version of 1 Corinthians 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols at the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the spruce tree with glimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of Christmas parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point of Christmas.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss your husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love does not envy another's home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who cannot give.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. Games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure forever.

# Rise and Shine!

*'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

– Isaiah 9:2

Christmas day can be a happy, busy, frustrating, sad or lonely day for different people. Whichever it is for you, take a quiet moment to be assured of God's great love, shown by the birth of His Son

What a glorious picture Isaiah paints, after the depressing warnings that have come before it! The destruction that begins with the northern tribes' deportation to Assyria will be reversed from the same direction. Matthew quotes verses 1 and 2 to make this point in Matthew 4:15,16: Jesus began His ministry in Galilee in the north of the country.

Isaiah's first hearers would not have known who the child would be. Some have speculated that Isaiah was referring in glowing terms to crown prince Hezekiah, who would be a more godly king than his father Ahaz. But no faithful Jew would call a mere human 'Mighty God'.

Isaiah is speaking of the Messiah who will save not just the nation but the world. Oppression will end and war will become a distant memory when the Prince of Peace takes charge. This is something we want to share, but thankfully the plan does not rely on our enthusiasm alone: 'the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this' (v 7).

Happy Christmas! No matter how twisted our society's celebrations may seem, when you see festive lights in streets of people's homes today, rejoice. The Light of the World has come and will one day be recognised and understood by all.

Belinda Pollard

*Daily Bread*, October to December 2017, Isaiah 9:1-7

# Christmas Sacrifice

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son.

– Galatians 4:4

O’Henry’s classic tale “The Gift of the Magi” tells of Jim and Della, a young married couple who are struggling financially. As Christmas approaches they want to give special gifts to each other, but their lack of money drives them both to drastic measures. Jim’s prize possession is a gold watch, while Della’s is her long, beautiful hair. So Jim sells his watch in order to buy combs for Della’s hair, while Della sells her hair to buy a chain for Jim’s watch.

The story has deservedly become beloved, for it reminds us that sacrifice is at the heart of true love, and sacrifice is love’s truest measure. This idea is particularly appropriate for Christmas, because sacrifice is the heartbeat of the story of the birth of Christ. Jesus Christ was born to die, and He was born to die for us. That is why the angel told Joseph, “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”.

Long before Christ’s birth, it had been determined that He would come to rescue us from our fallenness — which means that we can never fully appreciate the manger unless we see it in the shadow of the cross. Christmas is completely about Christ’s love, seen most clearly in His sacrifice for us.

Bill Crowder

**The essential fact of Christianity is that God thought all humanity worth the sacrifice of His Son. — William Barclay**

*Our Daily Bread, December to January 2015*

Who put the ‘x’ in Xmas?

*Long story short – the Greeks. The popular greeting card abbreviation derives from the Greek word for Christ: Xristos.*

## **Christmas Mystery**

*The mystery from which true godliness springs is great.*

– 1 Timothy 3:16

As Charles Dicken's story *A Christmas Carol* begins, there is mystery surrounding Ebenezer Scrooge. Why is he so mean-spirited? How did he become so selfish? Then, slowly, as the Christmas spirits marched Scrooge through his own story, things become clearer. We see the influences that changed him from a happy youth into a selfish miser. We observe his isolation and his brokenness. As the mystery is solved, we also glimpse the path to restoration. Concern for others pulls Scrooge from his self-absorbed darkness into a new joy.

A far more important mystery, and one much harder to explain, is that which Paul spoke of in 1 Timothy 3:16: "Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." Extraordinary! God "appeared in the flesh."

The mystery of Christmas is how God could become man while remaining fully God. It defies human explanation, but in the perfect wisdom of God, it was the plan of the ages.

"What child is this?" He is Jesus Christ—God revealed in the flesh.

Bill Crowder

*'This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherd guard and angels sing:*

*Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary'.*

Traditional Carol.

***God made His home with us so that we might make our home with Him.***

*Our Daily Bread, November to February 2015-6*

# HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

*Among the poor, among the proud  
Among the persecuted, among the privileged  
Christ is coming  
HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW*

*That the kingdom might come, that the world  
might believe  
That the powerful might stumble, that the  
humble might be raised  
Christ is coming  
HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW*

*Within us, without us, among us, before us  
In this place, in every place, for this time, for all  
time*

*Christ is coming  
HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW*

*Among the Poor from 'Cloth for the Cradle' © 1997 WGRG, Iona  
Community, Glasgow G513UU, Scotland.*



We enter what is known as the Season of Advent. The word **Advent** means 'coming' or 'arrival', and arouses a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. In this season we look to the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ; his coming to our world, yet we also anticipate his return, his coming a second time, when all will be reconciled to God.

Those of us who are parents remember the feeling of expectation as we waited for the birth of our children. What would they grow up to become? (The mothers may also have been thinking things like, 'how much longer'?)

For that famous couple Mary and Joseph, those expectations would have been an order of magnitude higher, for they knew the expectations on this baby (and on them). He was to be the Saviour, promised for a millennia; one who would restore the future of Israel.

Could their baby really be the promised Messiah as the angel led them to believe?

Now Mary and Joseph were ordinary people. They were from the line of King David, but Joseph was a carpenter, not a King. Why would the Saviour of the world be born to them? Why not! For God's plan didn't involve a king who rules over people; it involved a king who would rule on behalf of the people. He would turn His society upside down, because He shunned the rich and powerful, instead involving Himself with the poor and the marginalised; those who felt at a distance from God.

As in Jesus' time, there is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world today.

It is the cry of those who have experienced injustice in a world of plenty; a world that, as in Jesus' time, has been corrupted by the powerful at the expense of the powerless.

The hope of the Christmas season is the knowledge that God, however seemingly distant, does care for all people; that the birth of a baby to a young couple in a feed shed signifies that God is among ordinary people with ordinary needs; that God can work through anyone; help anyone to make a difference in the world.

Each of us play a part in making that difference in the way we live our lives; how we declare God's love for others because of his love for us.

With all of God's blessings this Christmas season.

Rev Peter

What kind of bug hates Christmas?

*A humbug.*

# Are You Ready?

"Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28 (NIV)

Based on Luke 21:25-36



R X V N A D F I R E S X T D U  
E I M A C D U E C W A T O T F  
D C S Z L P W N E A X R A R F  
E A A R N O R N S T U O T N E  
M A O R P Z U N C C N U U H D  
P W D G E S L Q A H Q S H R W  
T H E K V F C Y P T Z Q D K T  
I V F M B C U P E G I M O O N  
O C G L O R Y L B D H O W I C  
N J L H E A V E N F C U N O Y  
S H C O N J L I F T W Q A S W  
Q I E U U P S T A R S K J Y A  
X S G A B D V L M P T A A E V  
Q N M N D Q Y S Q B F R S N W  
M S W H S S F V Z W P V A J B

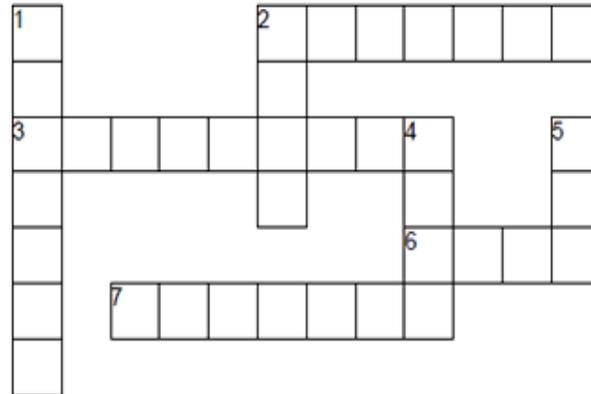
GLORY	STARS	POWER	ESCAPE	HEADS
STAND	HEAVEN	LIFT	NATIONS	MOON
SEA	EARTH	REDEMPTION	CLOUD	SUN
SIGNS	WATCH	WORLD	CAREFUL	PRAY

# The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"  
Luke 1:45 (NIV)



Complete the activity below.



## ACROSS

2. To accept as true
3. The mother of John the Baptist
6. The mother of Jesus
7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

## DOWN

1. Highly favored by God
2. An infant; a young child
4. The place where a person lives
5. The feeling of great happiness

ELIZABETH  
JOY

PROMISE  
MARY

BLESSED  
HOME

BELIEVE  
BABY

## Words

Pythagoras's Theorem – 24 words

The Lord's Prayer – 66 words

Archimedes's Principle – 67 words

Ten Commandments – 179 words

US Dec. of Independence – 1300 words

Brexit Explained – 3191 words

Australian Constitution – 11,012 words

EU Regulation of the sale of cabbages – 26,911 words.

## Seven Useful Keys

**Select** your goals, carefully – Joshua 1:9

**Unlock** your potential, progressively. – Proverbs 3:5-6

**Commit** your way to God's plan slowly. – Romans 12:1

**Chart** your life's course, prayerfully. – 2 Timothy 2:15

**Expect** problems, and progress appropriately. – 1 Cor. 10"13

**Stand** on your commitment resolutely. – Acts 1:8

**Surrender** everything to Christ humbly – Romans 8:13

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What did the show say to the foot?  
*'You're having me on.'*

What has four legs and does not walk?  
*A table*

# Biblical Songs

<b>Noah</b>	“Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head”
<b>Adam and Eve</b>	“Strangers in Paradise”
<b>Lazarus</b>	“The second time Around”
<b>Esther</b>	“I Feel Pretty”
<b>Job</b>	“I’ve Got a right to sing the Blues”
<b>Moses</b>	“The Wanderer”
<b>Jezebel</b>	“The Lady is a Tramp”
<b>Samson</b>	“Hair”
<b>Salome</b>	“I Could Have Danced All Night”
<b>Daniel</b>	“the Lion Sleeps Tonight”
<b>Joshua</b>	“Good Vibrations”
<b>Peter</b>	“I’m Sorry”
<b>Esau</b>	“Born To Be Wild”
<b>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego</b>	“Great Balls of Fire”
<b>Jonah</b>	“Got a Whale of a Tale”
<b>Elijah</b>	“Up, Up, and Away”
<b>Methuselah</b>	“Staying alive”
<b>Nebuchadnezzar</b>	“Crazy”

What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?

*‘Stop going in circles and get to the point!’*

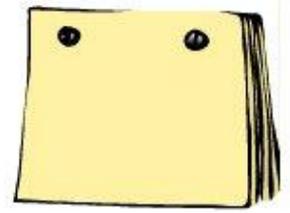
What did Alexander the Great and Kermit the Frog have in common?

*The same middle name!*

What did the tie say to the hat?

‘You go on ahead, I’ll just hang around.’

## Corio – Norlane Calendar for December 2016



*When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to be children of God. – Galatians 4:4,5*

<b>Sunday, 4 December</b>	10 am Service
<b>Sunday, 11 December</b>	10 am Service
<b>Sunday, 18 December</b>	10 am Service
<b>Sunday, 25 December</b>	9:30 am Christmas Day Service
<b>Open Doors</b>	In recess unless advised
<b>Know Your Bible</b>	In recess
<b>Good Companions</b>	Tuesday, 6 December at 12 pm <b>At AYCES</b>
<b>Mainly Music</b>	Tuesdays at 10 to 11:30 am For information see Peter Jewell or Dorothy Parkes

Subject to change

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Corio/Norlane Uniting Church, at Wendover Avenue,  
Norlane.

[www.corio-norlaneunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.corio-norlaneunitingchurch.org.au)

