



Enjoying a cuppa at The Plains

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A message from the CEO

First of all, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been so helpful and welcoming to me as I have settled in to the CEO role. It has been a highlight of my time here to meet so many of you - staff, residents and families, volunteers, and suppliers - and I look forward to meeting more of you.

I would like to honour Bruce and Joy Curtis - respectively our former CEO and Executive Secretary - who have both left Bethany Christian Care this year after giving more than 20 years of excellent service. Bethany Christian Care has been greatly blessed by their love for our extended "family"; their diligence and hard work; their enthusiasm, wisdom and humour; and their deep and living Christian faith. I have personally been blessed by their generous welcome to me, and Bruce's insightful help orientating me in my new role. I pray Bruce and Joy will know God's rich blessing in the next phase of their lives.

I would also like to thank Michael Harding who was acting CEO prior to my arrival. Michael has done a marvelous job leading Bethany Christian Care through during a time of substantial change and challenge in the aged care sector. I have also

been personally blessed by Michael's generous welcome and his astute help to me in my new role.

Our Vision Statement is "Serving and honouring the Lord Jesus Christ by serving our senior citizens". As I have visited our three sites, I have been excited to see our staff doing that! And, I have been deeply pleased to see our staff doing it in accordance with our Values. I love our Values! They show us how we should do what we do, by modelling the example of Jesus Christ. I believe they are special, and set us apart as an organisation.

V	VIRTUE including <i>decency</i> and <i>honesty</i>	
A	ACCEPTANCE including <i>forgiveness</i> and <i>impartiality</i>	
L	LOVE including <i>compassion</i> and <i>gentleness</i>	
U	UNDERSTANDING including <i>empathy</i> and <i>sensitivity</i>	
E	EXCELLENCE including <i>quality</i> and <i>diligence</i>	
S	SERVING including <i>humility</i> and <i>kindness</i>	



When our staff are acting in accordance with our values, they are building an environment which is good for our residents and for our staff.

It is my pleasure to be able to write this in the lead up to Christmas, as we remember how Love came down to earth...Emmanuel...God with us. My prayer is that you and your family will personally know the great gift that is Jesus, and you will have a happy Christmas.

Warm regards



Rohan Reid
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Please note that our Administration/ Care Offices will be closed on Wednesday 25 December, reopening on Monday 30 December.



Praise Points

- New Care Manager at The Plains, and a full complement of experienced and mature Care Managers.
- Many volunteers.

Prayer Points

- High quality care for all our residents.
- Recruitment of Christian staff and admission of Christian residents.
- A great work environment for our staff.
- Staff and residents have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.
- Devotions speakers at Beth Eden and Janoah Gardens.
- A church to "adopt" Beth Eden for weekend services.
- Preservation from harm, reputational damage, and the attacks of Satan.



Beth Shalom - Family Room

Having family close by is important, particularly in times of crisis. We have recently introduced a family room at The Plains, for those times when families wish to remain close to a loved one.

Beth Shalom (House of Peace) has a sofa bed and private ensuite bathroom, giving family members a space to rest and freshen up. They can also be provided meals or meet with the Pastoral Support Officer if they wish.

Several families, often from outside of Brisbane, have already made use of Beth Shalom over the last few months, and we are glad to have been able to support them in this way. Some new residents have even mentioned that having this room available was a deciding factor in making The Plains their home.

Please let reception know if your family would like to use the room.



REDBANK PLAINS SOUTH

We praise God that the development application for the proposed Redbank Plains South Village site has been approved by Ipswich City Council. This marks the completion of a significant step in our progress towards building this Village. Thank you to all those who have been praying for a successful response from Council.



Introducing

Care Manager, TP: Vanessa Spina

I am very excited to join the wonderful team at the The Plains as your new Care Manager

I was born and raised in Currumbin on the Gold Coast and first commenced my nursing career at the tender age of 19 as a medic in the Royal Australian Navy. Since that time, I have benefited from many and varied roles within the Nursing profession, including the delivery and coordination of Home Care Packages with Bapcare in Victoria; Royal District Nursing Service, Residential Aged Care in Victoria, and ICU at Allamanda private hospital on the Gold Coast.



My varying work history has helped refine and expand my clinical assessment skills and introduced me to the necessity of involving the whole family in an individual's care.

I am constantly reminded of how honoured I am to be able to work with our elders. These people have given so much to our communities over the years and tell the most amazing stories to share, they just need someone to listen to them.

I have been blessed with two beautiful daughters (now grown) and a ten-year-old granddaughter, who I'm told I spoil (oops).

Although I'm not a cat person, I have an adorable ragdoll cat named Nahla who is great company for me when I get home from work.

My hobbies include gardening, crocheting, basket weaving (learnt by the indigenous elders of Mornington Island), and making miniature fairy gardens. I love going to the beach as this is where I find peaceful reflection.

I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you and being part of the Bethany family for many years to come.

LONG SERVING STAFF RECOGNITION

Big 'congratulations' to the following staff who have attained years-of-service milestones:

5 - 10 YEARS

Alfonso Dela Cruz
(Lifestyle Assistant - BE)

Zechariah Pewee
(Registered Nurse - BE)

Phil Mudie
(Administration Officer - JG)

10 - 15 YEARS

Michael Harding
(Operations Manager - HO)



THE GIVING OF GIFTS IS NOT
SOMETHING MAN INVENTED.

GOD STARTED THE GIVING
SPREE WHEN HE GAVE A
GIFT BEYOND WORDS,
**THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT
OF HIS SON.**





Christmas Day Food Platters for Visitors

On Christmas Day, as with previous years, Christmas lunch will not be purchasable from the Facility. However, to encourage family visitation of, and interaction with residents, we will again (as we did last year) be providing, free of charge, platters of Christmas "goodies" (eg fruit mince pies, shortbread, nuts etc) throughout the day in each wing/ house. The idea is that relatives will be able to enjoy a bite to eat with their loved ones when they visit in the morning or afternoon of Christmas Day.



JOKE



What's with all the snow?

Written by Operations Manager, Michael Harding

When we think about Christmas we often associate it with symbols, such as the Christmas tree, mistletoe, candy canes, tinsel, lights, reindeer figures and the ubiquitous inflatable (though in my experience, usually deflated) Santa in the front yard. Growing up as a kid in Australia I always found it amusing to see all the references to snow, sleigh bells and "winter-wonderland" scenes. With the mercury nudging over 100 degrees (yes, we still had Fahrenheit when I was a kid!), I used to think that if there was any snow around, it wouldn't last too long. Also, being from a family with English heritage we always tucked into a very traditional roast dinner (lunch) with all the trimmings. I can remember my Mum slaving away in the kitchen to produce a bountiful fare fit for a chilly northern winter, despite the energy sapping heat.

But for me, the most poignant symbol of Christmas is the nativity scene. "Nativity" is a Latin word and it literally means the occasion or place of someone's birth. When we think about the occasion and the place of birth of the Lord Jesus, we can reflect on what the angels said, as recorded in Luke's gospel, "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord*" (Luke 2:10b-11).

The occasion marked the incredible moment when God broke bodily into human affairs, in the form of a baby, Jesus – He saves, Emmanuel – God made flesh,

God who is with us. No wonder the angels described this as good news! The promised Saviour, the Messiah, who would restore our relationship with God through His ultimate death on the cross had been born. And the place, a modest animal shelter, where the King of Glory, humbled himself to become like us and experience what it is to be flesh and blood, in order to take our place and pay our penalty.



I trust that this Christmas, as you contemplate the many symbols and messages on display, that you consider that beautiful family scene played out 2000 years ago, Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus, of whom only a week later, a righteous and devout man called Simeon, praised God and said, "*my eyes have seen your salvation.*" – Luke 4:30.

Is Jesus your Saviour? If not, why not make this Christmas the most special of all and acknowledge him as your Lord and Saviour.

Virtual Visiting: The next best thing to being there

These days, many of us have family and friends spread across the state, the country or even the world. Fortunately, technology can help us to keep up to date with people through face-to-face conversations, even when they can't visit in person.

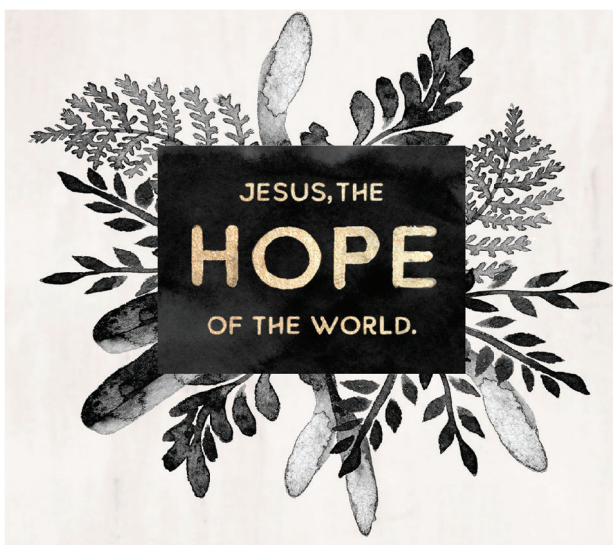
Several "tech savvy" residents are already making the most of this opportunity using personal computers, smartphones or tablets to make video calls to loved ones over the Internet. Wired Internet is available to all aged care residents across Bethany Christian Care facilities, with the additional option of Wi-Fi connection at The Plains and Beth Eden.



However not everyone wants the hassle of having their own device, which is why we are introducing a Virtual Visiting program. Residents can book a time slot to have access to everything needed to "virtually visit" friends and family - a tablet with Wi-Fi and Skype set up, and access to a Skype account. All you need to do is organise a time slot with the Lifestyle Supervisor.

At this stage, the Virtual Visiting program is available to aged care residents at The Plains and Beth Eden. There are plans to install Wi-Fi at Janoah Gardens in the coming year, which will enable the program to be available to residents there as well.

We hope the Virtual Visiting program enables residents to be socially active and connect with friends and family near and far.



On behalf of the Board and Management of Bethany Christian Care

Have a Blessed Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Do you have a contribution for our Bethany Newsletter?
Let us know by sending in the details to: bethany@bethanycc.org.au