

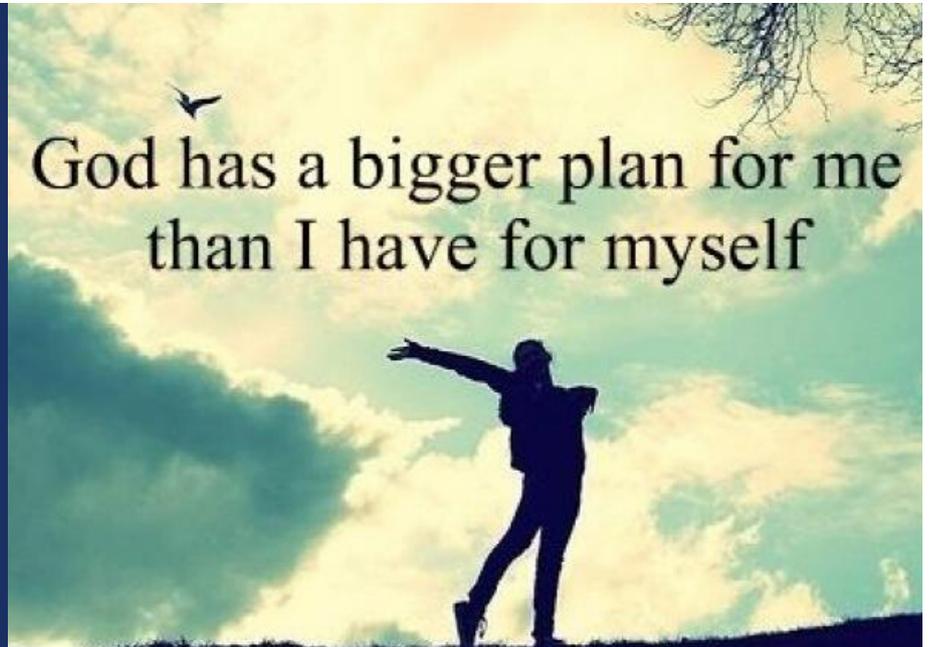
SCARBOROUGH BULLETIN

What is happening at Scarborough Baptist Church?

Technology in a time of need...

EVENTS THIS WEEK

PRAYER:
DV - if that's what God wants...



We have suddenly become so reliant on technology, haven't we, and it provides us with great opportunities, but if you're like me, then you'll be missing those close chats and cups of tea and also hugs and the sense of many people chatting in one place. It's easy to romanticise the "normal" and forget that in everything we are actually reliant on God, on his grace, his mercy - and he is with us always, 'closer than a brother'. We are so blessed!

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"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday morning Bible study at 9.30am.
The link will appear in the **calendar** on the web page.

Thursday evening Bible study at 7pm.
The link for this is on the **calendar** on the website.

Brighton Kids will still be on the go this week.

Offering: Please consider arranging an EFT as we have no other means of doing our offering at present. Our bank details: Scarborough Baptist Church - BSB 306-054 Account number 4186613

On Monday nights, Andre and Anne will have "open home" on the normal church link. Come for a chat or prayer between 7 and 8pm.



THE DISTURBING PRAYER

Mark 14:36 "Yet not my will, but yours."

Jesus' rider to his prayer for God to save him from the coming ordeal on the cross, saying that not his, but God's will should be done, challenges our idea of what prayer is and can accomplish. The famous theologian Oscar Cullmann in his study of "Prayer in the New Testament" concluded that "petition" or "asking things from God", lies at the heart of most prayers in the New Testament. This is also what Jesus does when he asks God to spare him from the coming ordeal. But Jesus then seems to open a back door to his request for God to save him, yielding to the fact that God may not respond to his request but do as he wants. This raises the question: Does Jesus start with a view of God who is open to hear and respond to his request, but then end up with a vision of God who does just what He wants, and before whose inscrutable will human beings can only bow?



For many people, adding the phrase, "not my will but your will be done" acts like a kind of safety net, in case the things that they prayed for do not come to pass.

It makes prayer safe. If nothing happens it's because God wanted it otherwise. Such prayers are like buying a lottery ticket - the buyer knows full well that the chance of winning is minuscule, but is willing to take a chance, just in case. People who pray also often have no firm expectation of a positive answer to their prayer - it is more a case of wait and see. If it happens, it happens. Whatever will be will be.

But Jesus did not treat prayer as a meaningless request, a desperate cry against an inevitable fate. His prayers were directed to a loving Father, a Father who, he said, cares deeply for humanity. Jesus knew the will of his Father. He was not bowing before some hidden decision, deciding his fate. Jesus' submission to God's will was not playing dice, but instead bowing to the destiny for which He came to earth. His submission to the will of the Father was not a safety net, in case God was not listening. He knew what God wanted, and bowed before his Father's loving will. For us to say: Let your will be done, also means to bow before God's will and to trust him even if everything in us wants things to be different.