



"Want me to get you a shopping cart?"



Due to inflation mv plans for a beach vacation have changed.



Bob Golen
@BobGolen

When I was young I was poor. But after decades of hard work, I'm no longer young.



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

The Maroochydore Herald

Uniting in Christ
acting with love
living with hope
witnessing in faith
working for justice

16th October 2022
Anti-Poverty Week

*We seek to be a prayerful and listening church
Please note the location of the Hearing Loop in the church*

Leadership Team

Chairperson: Winni Yun	Property: Theo Quick
Treasurer: Bev Lacey	Korean Members: Gil Park
Secretary: Jan Strudwick	Korean Interpreter: Chalice An
Margaret Holmes	and Rev Jan Rossow

Worship Services

English Language Sundays, 8.30am

Korean Language Sundays, 11am

Korean Leader: Ps. Gil Park

M: 0413 836 557

suncokuc

Thank you for the ongoing support for the Ministry, & Ministry of our Church. A reminder that direct deposit offering is available. Our Church Banking Details: UCA Maroochydore Uniting Church - St George Bank. BSB 334 040: Account No. 553864 511

Uniting Church Links - For Information from the Wider Church

Qld Synod Information - <https://ucaqld.com.au/>

For links an information to Synod Resources and Activities.

National Assembly News - <https://assembly.uca.org>.

Please send any notices for next week's 'Herald' to janstrudwickart@gmail.com by Wednesday afternoon

Lectionary Bible Readings

October 16 Jer 31:27-34 and Psalm 119:97-104 Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	October 23 Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65 Sirach 35:12-17 or Jer 14:7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-7 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
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SSun 16th Oct 8:30 am- Rev Jan Rossow
11 am Korean Service at Harvey Bay

Thurs 20th Oct Fellowship morning tea -Em Jay's 10 am

Sat 22nd Oct Indoor Bowls with Wilf and Mavis

Sun 23rd Oct 8:30 am -TBA

Please join us for morning tea, after the service.

This month's Uniting News theme:

Let us choose to pursue peace -Surrender, Victory and Peace

John 16:33, Romans 8:37, James 4:7

What must be surrendered and where does victory lie? In this world of challenge and conflict how can we recognise and walk in peace?

Please pray for

- the humanitarian crises in Somalia, Pakistan and Ukraine.
- healing for Doug McDougall, Laurie Kuchler, Judith Judd, Marie Charles

The Victory in Surrender

1 Peter 3 says: "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."

This passage names the suffering that is inherent to our faith. In the previous chapter, Peter has just reminded his readers: "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority." This ominous sense of pagan powers seems to hover over the letter. The first Christians who had been commissioned by Jesus to preach the Good News to the whole world are now having to figure out how to do that in a context not always welcoming of that Gospel, a context often oppressive of whatever it perceived as a threat. Today in Australia, we rarely suffer for our faith in that way. But this passage still has relevance for our experience. It helps us to name the less obvious ways our sharing of Jesus may bring about negative outcomes. Our efforts to share the Gospel may lead to conflict, loss of relationships or work opportunities. These things hurt.

Sadly, this very passage from 1 Peter 3— "Always be prepared to give an answer"—has been used to train Christians in a kind of belligerent defensiveness that is in direct contrast with the next verse: "But do this with gentleness and respect." Too often, we're so sensitive to the abuses of evangelistic efforts that we just say nothing. We love the quote often attributed to St Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary" and often misuse it as an excuse to never use words. But 1 Peter 3 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." It's assuming we're living in a way that leads people to ask questions! And it's asking us not to give an argument for our ideas but a reason for our hope. Not a wishful thinking kind of hope but a way of life that says, "I can't see it yet, but I'm choosing to surrender everything for God's promises." It surprises those who have had painful experiences with Christians in the past, and it invites more conversation.

1 Peter 3 names the reality that people will still speak maliciously against good behaviour, that sometimes we will suffer for doing good. Even in surrendering to this reality, we find a strange kind of victory. Perhaps not the victory we'd expect in the way we usually imagine it. But the kind of victory that has an eternal effect. Because when we surrender to the call to keep sharing the hope, we have, even when we're rejected, it has the opportunity to teach us even more about the source of that hope. Jesus' suffering was not for nothing but brought us back to God. Although his suffering was so extreme that it led to his physical death, he was made alive in the Spirit. In every way, our surrender leads to suffering, like Jesus; may it have the surprising outcome of making us more alive, like Jesus. And may that unlikely life we live be a testimony to the strange, other-worldly truth of victory in surrender.

From **Ps Mandy Smith** at St Lucia Uniting Church