

## Ways to Simplify your life in 2018

This year, make it your goal to scale back. Replace your hectic agenda and worries with simplicity. But how do you even begin?

- 1. Simplicity Is Stepping Back.** When things start to pile up and you're feeling stressed, what do you do? Getting things off your list can feel good in the end—but if you're working so hard to get it done, is that little check mark worth it?
- 2. Focus on the things that matter.** If your mind is on a dozen other things, how can you truly devote time to living His Word? We must focus on the things that matter, rather than allowing distraction to lead us astray. Are you missing out on time with family and friends, or letting work seep into your free time? Even worse, is your busy schedule distracting you from God?
- 3. Don't get caught up in the 'to-do's' on your list.** Stop. Take a moment. It's time to step back and look at what is really important. Compare your priorities with His to-do list for you. How do they match up?

*But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)*

- 4. Know when to say yes – by listening to God's voice.** We have much to learn from Mary, mother of Jesus, who fully submitted herself to God's will. Life in Mary's time wasn't easy, but she put His call before any of her own desires. When she was approached with the message that God's will was for her to become pregnant, Mary didn't question His plan. She trusted Him and simply said 'yes.' Her faith didn't mean she wouldn't suffer hardships or have to navigate complications in her life—but she knew her path was guided by God Himself. Mary's faith was returned with the privilege of birthing Jesus into this world.

He has a plan for you, too. Are you listening?

It's not all about saying 'no'—you also need to know when to say 'yes.' Approach God in prayer and ask Him to lead you. God will show you what He needs from you. Before you fill your calendar, ask where He may need you to leave a little space open for Him.

*To be continued next week*



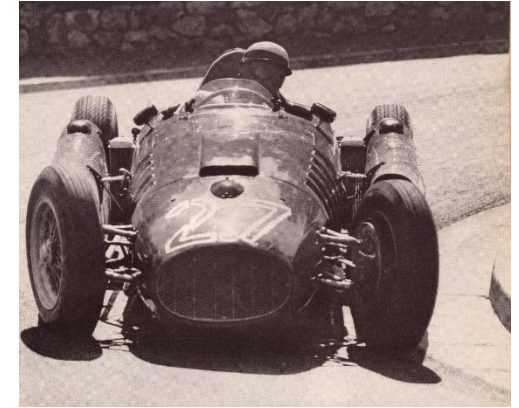
[www.dayspring.com](http://www.dayspring.com)

## AUCKLAND CHINESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

105 Vincent Street, Auckland City  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### praying for others

- **Rev Tang & Rev Vogel as they minister at ACPC** – for wisdom & God's guidance in leading our ministries. In particular we pray for travelling mercies as the family are in Malaysia.
- **ACPC congregations** – that we be intentional in 2018 about nurturing and maturing our personal relationship with Jesus.
- **For our neighbours in the city** – that we take the opportunities to show Your kindness, love, mercy, grace and hope to our neighbourhood, especially those without homes.
- **For those who are unwell** – We pray for their comfort and healing, may their health and energy be restored. In particular, we place Jenna and Uncle Harry in Your precious care for healing and increasing strength.
- **That in the coming year** – we pray that we can make You our number one priority in all we do.



### Put in Pole Position to win God's Race

**Jeremiah 29: 4-15 and  
Hebrews 14:20-21**  
*Rev Stuart Vogel*

*A very warm welcome to everyone,  
especially visitors,  
to the service today!  
Please join us for morning tea  
afterwards.*

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rev stuart vogel

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## Serving @ acpc

Service Leader  
 Music Leader  
 Bible Reader  
 Ushers  
 Techno  
 Cup of Tea & Dishes

## This week

Stephen Tsang  
 Ant Yan  
 George Lowe  
 Robert Wong, Suan Tan  
 Mandy Lowe, Rob Fong  
 Quin Gee, Jean Wong,  
 Benson Fong

## Next week

Jean Wong  
 Peter Ting  
 Samuel Ho  
 Eva Yeung, Soo Land Wong  
 Rob Wong, Rob Fong  
 Francis Yu, Ken Meng Chan,  
 Cindy Lowe

## Next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Special Guests

On Sunday 14 January, we will have 2 very special guests at worship, the Rev Lim Choonsik and his wife Yen Hee. Rev Lim holds the position of Regional Liaison for East Asia in World Mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

On Saturday, 13 January at 12.00 to 1.30pm, Stuart is hosting them at ACPC for lunch. Rev Lim will talk about North Korea, where he has visited many times and knows well. This will take us a few steps beyond the newspapers and TV. ACPC members are very welcome to join us. Please pray for this world hotspot.



## Sowing and Reaping

*‘Do not be deceived, God is not mocked [He will not allow Himself to be ridiculed, nor treated with contempt nor allow His precepts to be scornfully set aside]; for whatever a man sows, this and this only is what he will reap.’*

Galatians 6:7



Scripture plainly tells us that we will reap what we sow. Literally, this applies to farming and planting crops. Most people know it also applies to giving money and being generous. But did you know that this principle also applies to the way we treat others?

Our attitudes and words are “seeds” we sow each day that determine what kind of fruit or harvest we’ll have in our circumstances and relationships.

The devil loves to keep us busy thinking selfishly, treating loyal friends as if they are unimportant, sowing words of strife in our families, and thinking negative thoughts about bosses, pastors, etc. The devil wants us to sow bad seed in every single relationship and circumstance.

So many people behave this way and then wonder why people don’t like them or treat them the way they want to be treated. The answer is simple—they are reaping what they’ve sown!

Let me ask you, what are you sowing today? With God’s grace, make the choice to sow love, forgiveness, kindness, and patience in every relationship and situation. You’ll find that as you treat others the way God wants you to, you will reap a life filled with encouraging, godly relationships and satisfying results.

**Prayer Starter:** Holy Spirit, I want to sow good things and reap good things. Instead of acting selfishly towards others, help me sow kindness and love in my relationships with all the people in my life.



Joyce Meyer

## Save the Date – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Our ACPC barbeque starts the year at One Tree Hill (Cornwall Park) on the Sunday of Auckland Anniversary Weekend! More details closer to the time for a night of fun, food and fellowship.



## Sermon Notes

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