



Nick's notes - August 2021

*To see a generation of young people
that knows Jesus
at James Cook Boys & Moorefield Girls High*



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a

The Cross-country race set before us, pre Covid

Dear brothers and sisters,

If there is one verse that can capture my experience over the last several weeks it is **Proverbs 16:9, *In their hearts humans plan their course but the Lord establishes their steps.*** At the end of the last school term, it was announced that we will be locked down for the duration of the school holidays. At that time, I was reflecting on having reached the middle of the year and how good our God is. It had been an encouraging first semester. Opening up God's Word in our classes, challenging students with the Gospel truths and observing God's Spirit bring growth in the lives of a number of the students. **My plan:** spend the lockdown school holidays, preparing and improving my lessons so that Semester 2 will be even better!

The Lord's plan: lockdown will be extended. everyone will be learning from home and there will to be no scripture classes. Okay, **My new plan:** a season of personal growth. This is an area that I have neglected over the last year. So, there will be devotions every morning, a lot of online training to up-skill my teaching practice and then reading some of those Christian books that have been sitting on the shelf for years. **The Lords new plan:** no time for that! The school principal has organised for me to use my pastoral care skills to support several students that had been identified as struggling with learning at home. Yes, the Lord establishes our steps. Friends pandemic or no pandemic, God continues to be good. In God's kindness He has opened up an opportunity for me to develop real connections with students and their parents who were finding life in a pandemic very challenging. Being able to show care over the phone, online or by delivering care packs, I was able to reflect God's love for our neighbors. We know it is God's love for us and for His world that compels us to enter our schools so that a generation of young people will know God's love for them in Jesus. Here was an opportunity to keep doing it without even entering the school. Praise God!

As this Covid outbreak extends and the number of weeks in lockdown grows so do the concerns around wellbeing. I am starting to see a number of students and parents hit the wall. This is not just the financial stress but a mixture of despair, apathy, frustration and hopelessness that is leading to both emotional, mental and physical problems. Covid-19 has really exposed the brokenness of this world and the hopelessness of living separated from God. In a recent phone call with a despairing parent where my words just felt inadequate I offered to pray and immediately I could sense a calmness entering our conversation. Friends we have at our disposal something better than any vaccine and that is Prayer.



We need to pray that many will turn to God during this difficult time and find true peace and healing by putting their trust in Jesus.

Friends as a church community can I encourage you to continue to show Christ's love for our school community by praying for them.

God Bless

Nick Hedges

Please pray for:

- The students and their families, asking God to care for their emotional, mental and spiritual needs during this difficult and uncertain time.
- The mental and emotional energy of the staff as they constantly keep developing all their online resources and work to engage and motivate their students to learn online
- Wisdom for the Principal and the Deputy as they tirelessly work to manage the school and all the procedural changes as well as care for the wellbeing of the staff, the students and their families.
- The year 12 students and their anxiety and stress over the end of year exams and future.
- The wellbeing team which includes myself, that we will keep supporting vulnerable families well and that God will reveal where some of the serious concerns are.
- God's kindness, that we will be able to contain the virus and the lockdowns will be lifted swiftly so that our communities can experience relief from their many stresses and griefs.
- For me personally, God will give me words of healing and hope to share with everyone that I come in contact with.
- That the door may open again soon into our schools so we can open up the bible and encourage young people in the faith through our scripture classes.
- Praise God that even during these uncertain times one thing is certain, God is faithful to His promise that whoever believes in Jesus shall have eternal life

Please support this important ministry



***Nick and Lindy Hedges and their children
Charlotte & grandson Josiah, April, Ruben, Odette, &
Jacob***

We are now part of Generate's funding system so things have changed a little.

Donating by **credit card** can be done online by going to <https://donate.generate.org.au/> and entering Nicholas Hedges or Cook Moorefield. You can now make one off payments or automatic periodic payments once a month. Whatever option suits your financial situation. Donations over \$2 are **tax deductible**. Generate will issue the tax receipts.

Donating by **direct debit** from your bank account can be done by calling **1300 369 596** and setting this up.

Or by **cheque** to pay Generate Ministries and send to: **Generate Services Ltd, PO 1167 Eagle Farm QLD. 4009.**(Please attach a note stating the **Cook Moorefield SRE Board** and your details if you would like a receipt.)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Generate on **1300 369 596** or info@generate.org.au

**Thankyou for partnering with us to see this generation know Jesus
And remember when you see the school zone pray for the SRE**



SLOW DOWN
and **PRAY**

