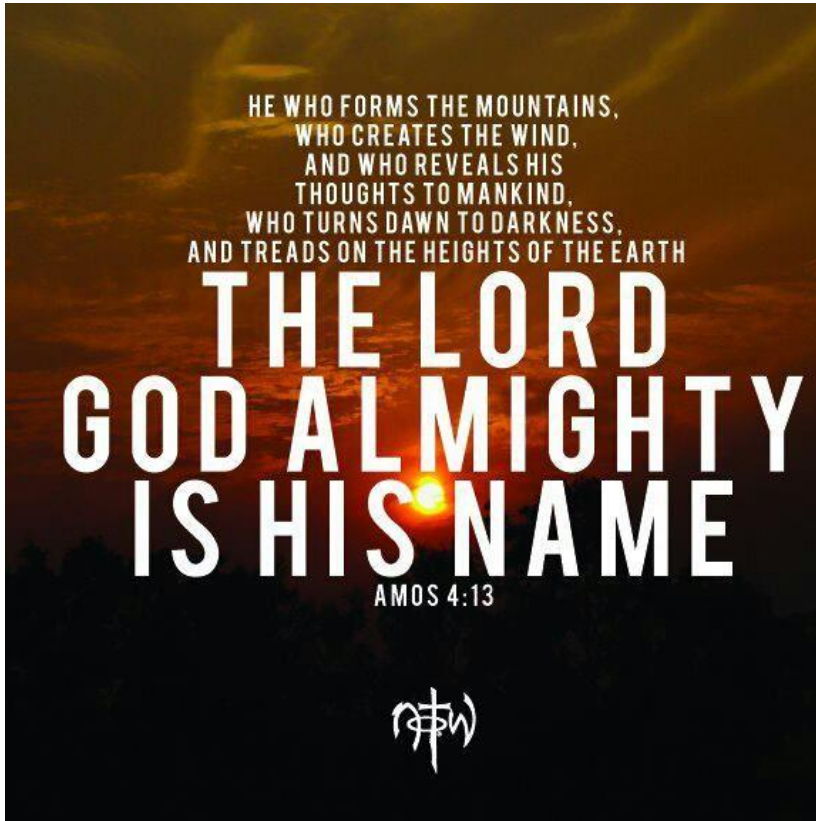


2018: beyond the walls

PARRAMATTERS

SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018

Parramatta Salvation Army



What are you learning about the prophet Amos?

This month the challenge is to read the whole book of Amos and then write down what you have learnt or list some questions you might have about what you've read then do some research. So far we have learnt that Amos was a shepherd, a dresser of Sycamore Trees [like a fig tree] and lived in the 'south' - Tekoa, south of Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. God called him to be a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.



PRAYERPOINTS



Our Family Store manager's father is very unwell. Please pray for Lillette and her family as they care for him.



Keep praying for your church buddy in this time of massive transition within the Corps.



Please pray for those in our corps who are unwell, having surgery, needing extra care.



Please pray for those in our corps who can no longer attend worship with us on a Sunday: Dorothy Blackburn, Gwen Bourke, Genevieve Churchill, Marie & Kevin Corkett, Jeanette Donovan, Ericka Dreher, Alayne Godkin, Lorna Hayden, Olwyn Kuiper, Marcia McDonald, Alice Nuttall, Bertus Offereins and Audrey Spooner.



We need prayer for the planning of the International Mission Event to Ecuador as we begin to establish the program for the Youth Camp.



If you would like us to pray for you or your loved ones, contact either **Marty Bust** or **Dot Griffin** for it to be included in the newsletter.

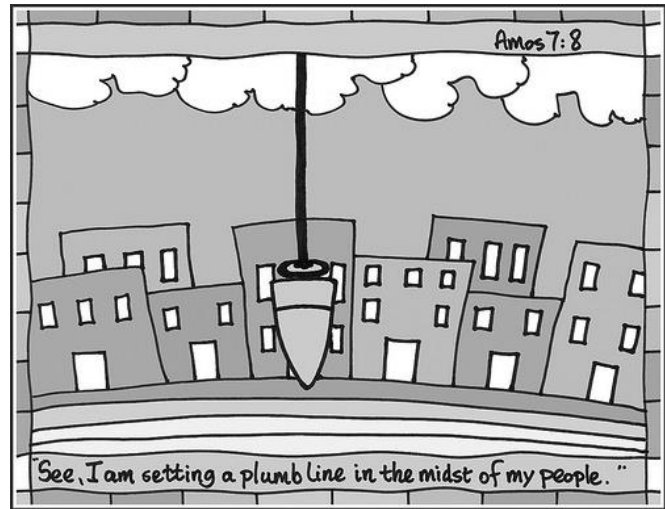
STUDYING THE BOOK OF AMOS

Biblical 'plumb line' remains a relevant allegory

By LAURENE KEANE JUL 18, 2016 | 4:52 PM

A friend recently made reference to a "plumb line" in a conversation we were having about Costa Mesa, which inspired me to do some research.

She mentioned she attended a local church service that discussed the book of Amos. So I scurried home and found information online that Amos prophesied in Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II, 785-745 B.C. This was during a time of much peace and prosperity, but Amos argued that Israel was going in the wrong direction "because they sell the righteous for silver and oppress the poor and take bribes and push aside the needy at the gate."



Amos proclaimed God's judgment upon his people for failing to live by God's standards of justice and righteousness. Amos pleaded with God to relent his judgment and, in their place, God places a plumb line. A plumb line is a weight suspended from a string used as a vertical reference line to ensure a structure is centered. As they always find the vertical axis pointing to the center of gravity, they ensure everything is right, justified and centered.

I wanted to look into this further so I located a sermon online, "What's your plumb line?" written by the Rev. Joseph J. Clifford, in which he writes, "By what do we measure our lives and our community? What tells us that things are aligned, that life is where it needs to be?"

He also asks, "How do our plumb lines compare to God's?"

God's plumb line "has a lot to do with the poor. It has a lot to do with righteousness that is living in right relationship with God and neighbor. It has a lot to do with justice."

His 2013 sermon cites that "In November 2012, the U.S. Census Bureau indicated 16% of Americans live in poverty. One in five American children live in poverty ... While the economist's plumb lines have been righting themselves, we've witnessed an unprecedented rise in children living in poverty."

"Income inequality is worse today in America than it was in 1774, when slavery was still legal." The picture is only partially complete as he continues, "Entwined with poverty is the disparity of race in American life. Over 60% of our prison populations are minorities."

He continues, "Putting the plumb line up to our justice system, statistics show the system is slanted against people of color. The issue is not only one of race, but also poverty." He asks some relevant questions. "Will the imbalance in our justice system come to light?" "How are we to respond?"

His sermon includes a quote from Dr. Bernice King: "In the words of my father, we must conduct ourselves on the higher plane of dignity and discipline."

My friend and I talked about the homeless in Costa Mesa and their growing numbers. We talked about the new developments and the luxury high-rise apartments proposed in the General Plan.

We also discussed the lack of affordable housing for so many people. We also conversed about the proposed voting district and wondered if Latinos would truly be equally represented when this all comes to pass. We talked about injustice.

As we said our goodbyes, my friend shared her thoughts about the story of Amos and the plumb line and that it could have been written about our city today. I am left wondering if she was right.

LAURENE KEANE lives in Costa Mesa.

CORPSNEWS

SUPPORT FOR KOFI

Every 3 years my school selects a group of students and sends them on the World Youth Day Pilgrimage. This year I have been selected among these students to be sent to Panama at the end of the year. The program enables the students to be a part of a global program where they can freely express their faith as Christians and learn to grow stronger in the light of the Lord. In saying this I would like the church's assistance through prayers and any way possible.

CHURCH LIFE AT GRANVILLE:

MORNING TEA

Thank you to the roster of people who are contributing to morning tea and to Loretta Carger for organising it. Please help ensure there is enough for everyone by considering what you take; if parents could help in this matter with their children's selection and amount.

WASTE BINS

Please check what label is on the internal and external waste bins. At Granville there is a recycling bin - yah!

JOIN THE MISSION #LIVELOVEFIGHT

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2018

Would you like to know more about The Salvation Army and how you can join the mission of God through the ranks of his Army? Please see Major Colin Young if you are interested in coming along to an information meeting and lunch.

CHURCH

BUDDY *update*

How are you going keeping connected with your church buddy? Recently Margaret Sanz went on holidays and decided to take the addresses of her buddies with her so she could send them a postcard. Nice! It is not hard to stay connected but it's up to everyone to get involved so no-one is missed. Take a moment this week to pray for your buddy and send them a message.



PROPERTY UPDATE

Demolition has begun at 34 Smith Street... but what is happening at 426 Church Street? On Sunday 8 July at midday in the main hall at Granville there will be a forum for anyone interested who would like to know more about where we up to with our property project.



COMINGEVENTS

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018

'Let's Get CREATIVE'

Lead by Kerrie Parker

Morning tea at 10.00am and meeting at 10.30am at Granville. All welcome!

END OF TERM SHOWCASE

FRIDAY 6 JULY 2018

Come along and see what Parra Kids and Youth have been practicing throughout the term.

Witness the talent of our youth and encourage them as they participate.



9-13 JULY 2018
Youth Week

ALL AGE WOMEN'S

EVENT: 'Anya'

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2018 @ AUBURN

For more information contact leanne.plon@ae.salvationarmy.org

COMMUNITY WILLS DAY

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

\$75 per person or \$100 for a couple

Appointments available between 9.30am to 5pm

Book online at salvos.org.au/willsday

or call 1800 337 082 to secure your place.



CORPS BLOCK PARTY

NOON - 2PM

SUNDAY 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

@GRANVILLE

IME: CAMP ECUADOR

1- 4 NOVEMBER 2018



If you would like to give to the kingdom building activities in and through our Corps by transfer please use the following details: **BSB 032078; Account No. 000810288; Account Name - The Salvation Army, Parramatta.** Please include an applicable reference on the transfer so we can accurately record the gift.



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Check out our
Parramatta Corps
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Children's & Youth
Ministries