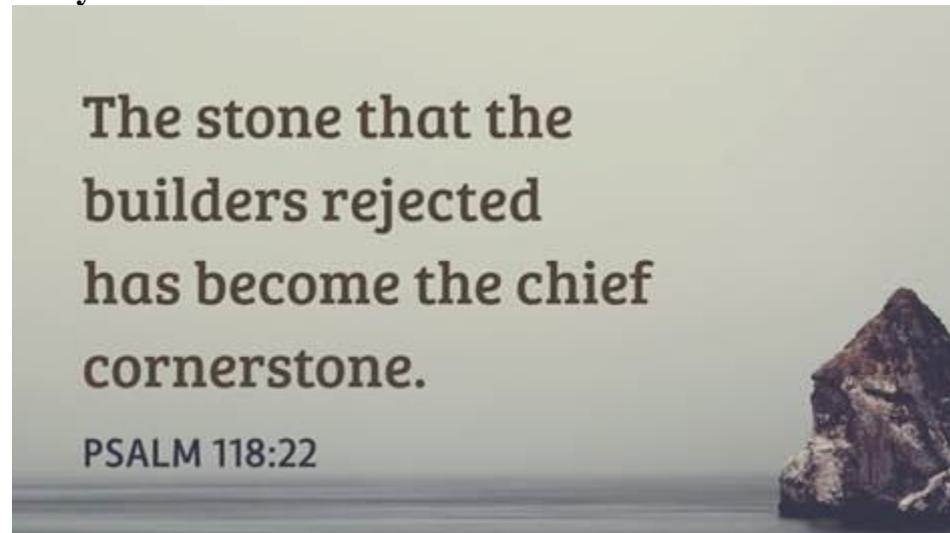


Dear Ipswich City Church family

Today I was reflecting on the importance on the one hand of frontline health workers and those working in the background in labs across the nation, and on the other hand of those who like us do our bit by washing our hands, keeping our distance and living out the hope of our faith. Please pray for everyone from the least to the greatest, including those who do the smallest part and give thanks for their faithfulness. If you have the chance to encourage a doctor or a nurse, or path worker that you know you might like to send them an encouraging message of some sort.

Daily Reflection



"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." (Psalm 118:22, NRSV)

As a patriotic Australian I give Howard Flory the greatest credit for the miracle that is Penicillin. Flory and his team developed penicillin from an observation in a scientific paper to a mass produced medicine which has saved the lives of countless people. As much as I would love for the Australian Flory and his international team to have all the glory, the truth is that without Alexander Fleming's chance discovery there would be no Penicillin, perhaps no modern antibiotics. Fleming went on holidays leaving a dirty Petrie dish out in a laboratory. When he came back, instead of just cleaning or throwing away the mould infested dish he noticed that the bacteria growing in the dish did not touch the mould. There was a clear ring. Something in the mould was killing the bacteria. Ten years later one of Flory's team read the paper and realised this could be a revolutionary medicine which could change lives. The fact that we might survive the Corona Virus over the next year or so is not due to penicillin, it is due to people. People doing seemingly insignificant things like

washing their hands and keeping social distance to people doing heroic things like being front line health workers treating the infected.

Jesus was the Son of God, a miracle worker, a great teacher, but he was also a carpenter turned religious teacher, who at most only had a few thousand followers. Like thousands of others who caused a political stir he was executed, publicly exposed, nailed to a cross. For the Romans and temple authorities, he was a bit of a nuisance, easily dealt with. He was like a dirty Petrie dish which could be thrown away.

But yet he became the cornerstone of what is now the world's largest faith. We can't be Jesus, but we can be like the rag tag fishermen and others who followed him. Like Alexander Fleming we can notice and testify to the hope his life and death has brought us and so many others.

Lord, we give thanks for all those people who notice the interesting and the beautiful in what many would count as nothing. We thank you for the work and life, death and new life of Jesus. Having discovered that life, help us to faithfully witness to it, for the sake of the world you love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Yours in Jesus

Andrew