



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 22 June 2025

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



From Past to Purpose: Transformation in Christ

We all have a story. Some of us can point to a specific moment when everything changed—like the Apostle Paul, who was once known as Saul, a Jewish leader and fierce persecutor of Christians. After encountering the risen Christ, he experienced a radical conversion and became one of the greatest apostles, writing nearly half of the New Testament. But not all transformation comes with a dramatic turning point; sometimes, it's a gradual journey. Some of us grew up in the church, with faith woven into the fabric of our lives from the beginning. Whatever the case, the beautiful truth remains: no matter our past, in Christ, we are made new.

Our readings 2 Corinthians 5:16–17 and Luke 8:26-39 remind us of three transformational truths:

1. The heart of the Gospel: In Christ we are new creations

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:16–17 that when anyone is in Christ, they become a new creation—the old has gone, the new has come. Paul's own story is the ultimate example: a man who once opposed the gospel now became its greatest champion. This reminds us that God's grace is not limited by our past mistakes or failures. He doesn't define us by what we once were, but by who we are becoming through Him.

Maybe you don't have a dramatic "conversion" moment. Maybe your transformation is more subtle—quiet growth, steady faithfulness, a deepening love for God and others. That's still powerful. God is always at work, making all things new in His perfect timing.

2. Freedom from chains

In Luke 8:26-39, we meet a man trapped by fear, isolation, and torment. Jesus' encounter with him is a vivid picture of freedom. By casting out the demons, Jesus restored the man's mind, body, and spirit—setting him free to live a new life among his people. This story isn't just about deliverance from evil spirits; it's about the freedom Christ offers to each of us. We may face different "chains"—addictions, bitterness, guilt, or shame—but Jesus

meets us where we are. His power to heal and restore is as real today as it was then.

Like the man who was once bound but now declared, "I want to go home and tell others what God has done for me," we too are called to live and share our stories of freedom. God transforms pain into purpose.

3. Living as ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation

Paul calls us "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20), entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. Because God reconciled us to Himself through Christ, we now have the mission to bring His message of peace to the world.

Reconciliation is more than forgiveness; it's about restoration—between us and God, and between each other. Like the healed man who returned to his community as a witness, we are called to be agents of God's peace in our homes, neighbourhoods, and beyond. This mission is not just for Ministers, Pastors or missionaries; it's for every believer. Our lives, transformed by grace, become living testimonies of God's reconciling love.

So what now?

Whether your story looks like Paul's dramatic turnaround, or like a lifelong walk of faith, God invites you into transformation today. He calls you from old to new, from chains to freedom, and into the role of ambassador for His kingdom.

You may like to reflect on these questions this week:

Am I resisting change out of fear, or welcoming God's transformation with courage?

Who around me might feel like an outcast, and how can I reach out to them?

And embrace these truths:

You are not defined by your past.

You are freed by Christ's love.

And you are called to share that love with the world.

Grace and peace,

Rev Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 & Luke 8:26-39

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am
Saturday	Men's Breakfast 8am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music	1 July 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	2 July 9.30am
Elders' Meeting	8 July 4pm
Fellowship Lunch	9 July 12 noon
Chaira Companions	20 July 12 Noon
Craft Club	25 July 9am
Men's Breakfast	26 July 8am
Church Council Meeting	12 August 7pm
Pastoral Care Meeting	29 August 10.15am

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elder	Dorothy B	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Audrey
Greeters	Hazel & Lorraine	Robyn & Terryll
Bible Readers	Jill & Dorothy B	Dudley & Walter
Prayers for Others	Aaron	Georgina
Morning Tea	Terryll & Pat	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	TBA	Craft Club
Sound Room	Elizabeth	Nathan
Cleaning	Lorraine & Helene	Craft Club

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

Fred's Place & You Have a Friend

Winter has arrived, and as everyone can feel it is especially cold at present! It is that time again when we show our compassion to those in need. There is need for warm clothing, especially jackets, plus warm blankets. Also non-perishable foods and toiletries items. All donations can be left in the church foyer. Please contact Marshall or Jill, for more detailed information. Many thanks to all who have assisted in past years, and we hope and pray for your continuing support this year.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 28 June at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South). This sociable group are always on the lookout for new mates to join them!
All men are welcome.

TCCEA

Please come prepared.....

On Sunday 29 June we will hear from the SRE Teacher, Kirsten Strong, and the PAIS Team. Church Council has approved a retiring offering for TCCEA on this day. Please bring your donations to support this ongoing ministry of teaching the gospel message to hundreds of students in our local high schools.

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527 or Your Pastoral Carer

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762