

**The Parkdale Messenger**  
Weekly news and musings from  
the little church moved by a Great Spirit

Toronto, ON

Jul 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

No. 403

**Worship this week:**

PENTECOST

**“The Plumb Line Sermon”**

Rev. Doug McLeod

**Scripture:**

Psalm 85  
Amos 7: 7–15

Nonetheless, the jubilation around the world is real and heartfelt. This was a saga in its unfolding: 18 days is a long time in a world of social media and rolling news; and they encompassed dimming hopes, a sudden discovery, and the race against time to save the boys and their coach. In myth and folklore, caves are both enticing and forbidding, often invoked as the gateway into another world; children straying into jeopardy is another recurrent theme. Yet what made this story so powerful and absorbing was seeing humanity at its best: this is a tale of innocence protected; of perseverance against the odds and heroism in the face of danger; above all, of triumph over despair.

It speaks to us unusually strongly now, as the antithesis of the worst we see all around us. The boys themselves, with their coach’s encouragement, have shown extraordinary fortitude. At a moment of rising division, the rescue has been a model of international collaboration. US military personnel, British rescue experts and specialists from China, Australia and Japan have worked alongside the Thai

authorities and people. In an era of greed, many involved are unpaid volunteers. In an age of narcissism, they have shunned the spotlight.

Nor has there been finger-pointing; even as she waited for her son to emerge, the mother of one 14-year-

old player wrote to reassure the coach: “No parents are angry with you at all, so don’t you worry about that.”

The rescue’s physical complexity was matched by its moral simplicity: with no political debates or narrow interests at stake, everyone could root for the trapped boys – but many more children worldwide need help and could have it at a fraction of this cost and effort. The unscrupulous can use such cases to overshadow the needs of the vulnerable elsewhere. The rest of us can allow the rare good news to lull us

❖ **Calendar**

**Wednesdays** – (1:00 pm) Prayer’s Group.

**Sundays** – (12:00 pm) Theatre group meeting.

**Saturday, Jul 15<sup>th</sup>** – (12:00 pm) BBQ after service.

**Tuesday, Jul 17<sup>th</sup>** – (6:00 pm) Free supper for the community.

**Wednesdays** – (5:30 pm) Homework Club resumes in the fall.

**Saturday** – (12:00 pm) Knifty Knitters, resumes in September 8<sup>th</sup>.

❖ **Reflections**

**The Thai Cave Rescue: A Reason To Be Hopeful**

*Editorial*

*(Post and pic, Jul 10, 2018, [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com))*

At a time of division and rancour, the successful mission to save the boys’ football team offers inspiration.

A saga that has gripped so many began almost three weeks ago, when 12 boys and their football coach slipped into a cave in northern Thailand to explore one afternoon, and were trapped by fast-rising waters. It ended on Tuesday with the announcement that all were now free and safe. As 13 families celebrate, one more is mourning: Saman Gunan, a former Thai navy diver, lost his life in the rescue effort. And while the boys are well enough to request their favourite meal and not too much homework, the months ahead will offer challenges as daunting in their way as the recent ordeal.



Image from <http://www.apnlive.com>

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into complacency, reassuring us that someone else will save the day, and things will turn out OK after all.

The rescue is a true inspiration: a powerful reminder of what can be done when humans overcome their fears, pull together and put others first. In short, when they care. Twelve children were swallowed by the darkness last month. When they re-emerged into the light, they brought the rest of us with them.

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## **The Australian Diving Doctor Who Stayed With The Boys**

*(Post and pic, Jul 11, 2018, [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com))*

Dr Richard Harris spent three days underground with the young Thais and their coach.

It was his rare combination of talents that led Australian doctor Richard Harris deep into the Tham Luang cave in Thailand.

When the Wild Boars football team was located deep inside the cave, after being missing for a week, the Adelaide anaesthetist abandoned his holiday in Thailand and volunteered to help.

He went in to assess the boys' health and stayed with them for three days.

It was under his direction that the weakest boys were first led out with the others successfully following in the complex operation.

Dr Harris, known as Harry, is believed to have been one of the last rescuers out of the cave.

But relief and celebration were suddenly cut short by personal tragedy - on Wednesday it emerged that Dr Harris's father had died shortly after the rescue's finish.

His employer, South Australia's ambulance service, said his family's grief had been "magnified" by the physical and emotional demands of the rescue operation.

"Harry is a quiet and kind man who did not think twice about offering his support on this mission."

Dr Harris was specifically identified by British divers and requested by the "highest levels" of the Thai

government to join the rescue, according to the Australian government.

"He was an integral part of the rescue attempt," said Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop who added that the doctor was internationally renowned for his cave rescue expertise.

"[The Australians] have been a big help, especially the doctor," the leader of the rescue mission, acting Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osotanakorn told an Australian Nine News reporter on Wednesday.

"Very good. The very best," he said in reference to Dr Harris.

His friend Sue Crowe told the BBC the doctor was an unassuming and selfless family man, whose calm presence would have comforted the boys in the cave.

"He is brilliant with children, and he would have made sure that they were prepared in the best possible way from a cave-diving perspective," she said.

"He would have been the perfect person to support them."

The experienced diver, also an underwater photographer, has completed several cave-diving expeditions in Australia, New Zealand, Christmas Island and China.

### ❖ In the News

#### **MISS PENNYNICKEL NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Please help Miss Penny and the Knifty Knitters, to send our kids to Camp next summer. For info.: [misspenny2006@gmail.com](mailto:misspenny2006@gmail.com)



### ❖ Thank you to

- Ernie Wilmot for the flowers of the altar table.
- **All those who support our small food bank!**

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For information or if you want to post something in The Parkdale Messenger, please contact us:

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