

Dear Church Family,

Season's Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It's hard to believe Christmas is here again so soon and 2022 will soon be a memory.

I have intentionally addressed this letter today to my church family. The bible tells us when we commit our lives to Christ and put our faith and trust in Him for forgiveness of sin, salvation and eternal life, we enter into His family. We become his sons and daughters and brothers and sisters in Christ.

To belong to a natural family is to participate in the unique challenges, tests and trials we all face. It also means that you will share in times and seasons of great joy, laughter and celebration. In every season we find that family is vitally important, each one providing the love, support and encouragement to the other. For us as a church family, this year has been no different.

On behalf of Mandy and myself, I want to thank God for the pastoral and ministry teams at Riverstone, who have stood with us in the difficult and challenging times we personally faced this year. Together we have rejoiced and we have wept, but through it all we have kept our eyes on Jesus and he gave us grace upon grace. Likewise, I want to thank the whole church family for your generous love. We have tangibly felt your prayers and we know that God strengthened us throughout this year with your encouragement. Thank you for the times we have laughed together in the face of adversity knowing that somehow, God will bring his goodness to pass. I value the memories we have created, conscious that through it all we are growing stronger as brothers and sisters, sharing this journey of life in Christ together and introducing others to know him along the way.

We hope and pray that you will enjoy a wonderful, safe and blessed Christmas with your families and friends. Take time to rest and enjoy the wonder and extravagant love of Jesus Christ during this special time of year. We look forward with great excitement to 2023 as Jesus continues to build His Kingdom and extend His family here in Riverstone.

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in His name He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12*

Love and Blessings  
Graeme and Mandy