

Westview Baptist Church

www.westview-baptists.info

“people learning to live Jesus’ way”

1st June 2014

We aim to be thankful, humble & enthusiastic disciples of Jesus in harmony with one another appreciating his ministry to enable us to be Christlike in serving others selflessly for his name’s sake.

Transformed by Enjoying Christ

Abraham is known as a man of faith for very good reasons. His life is a great example of “walking with God”, but still, this man of faith also experienced doubt. In this way, we can relate with Abraham as we too struggle to live out trust in all that God has said and done for us. Today we will continue our study of Genesis and see how our history as people of faith links us in with Abraham and his blessing to the world.

Love and Service

Doonside Public School Expo

We have been invited to attend a community expo on Tuesday afternoon. We will be taking photographs of our morning activities to present a slideshow from our stall. If you do not wish your photo to be shown publicly, please talk to Tony, Wendy or JJ.

Family News and Prayers

Freddie and Juliet have returned after a great trip visiting family in the Philippines. Concerns for Maria (their mother) who suffered difficulty in walking which started 2 weeks ago. She was taken to Mt Druitt Hospital and transferred to Blacktown.

Clarice remains in hospital but continues to show love and appreciation for those care for her there. Progress does seem to be going slow but keep her in your prayers. During this time Lionel

her son has had a knee replacement. He also is recovering and spoke about how much he misses coming to church. He recently said, "It's the people that I miss, the kind smile and friendship". He hopes to be back in a few weeks time.

Upendra is attending a Nepalese fundraiser this morning. He reports that last Sunday his brother was moved to Singapore from Thailand and is presently undergoing tests. The medical treatment which was given appears to have been unwise and everything needs to commence again now in Singapore. His wife is with him there.

Bible Course

A new bible course will be commencing which is a program delivered through Morling College. The first unit is an overview of the New Testament. It will be held at Kath's home on a Tuesday at 2.30pm. Please talk to Kath or Tony if you are interested to attend. There is no cost involved as it is a free course offered through the Baptist College.

New Furniture

Over the next few weeks you may notice a new table replacing the cabinet near the entrance. The table is presently been lovingly built by Tony Kenning. The present cabinet has been very useful however it is very difficult to move. As the property is being used by a dance group during the week that roll the carpet up, and it is very difficult to clean behind the existing one, Tony offered to build a suitable table. The cabinet will find a home in the other building. Thanks again to Tony for the hard work.

WRAP Meeting

A few times a year we have a WRAP (Westview Review and Planning) meeting. It is an opportunity for us to gather together and seek the mind of God for our present and our future. It will be held after the morning service on Sunday 15th June (***not July as previously stated***). Please talk to Tony if anything needs to be included in the agenda.



Snapshot of Westview

A visitor who had not been at any church for a while recently made the comment “You did not take up a collection!” We have never taken up a collection for various reasons: 1. the church is often accused of being focused only on money; 2. it is the responsibility of the committed regulars to finance the church; 3. it can be a time of awkwardness for the visitor. It is often worth reminding people that the only funds that come to us are those which are provided by the church community. The Baptist Union or the government do not provide direct financial support to us.

Over the years many people have taken to electronic transfer (see details at the end of the bulletin) which proves to be an easy carefree method for many. Thanks to those who faithfully count the money, passing it onto those who bank it, and for Juliet who acts as the treasurer of the church.

If you look around the facilities, everything has come from the generosity of the church community. Thank you for your generosity and let’s continue to be generous for our future presence in our wider community.

Living Faithfully in Our World

#22 Persecuted Country: Myanmar (Burma)

The majority of Myanmar’s people are of Burmese ethnicity (Bama). Being Bama is equated with being Buddhist. Everyone deviating from this heritage is labelled as being potentially dangerous. Pressure comes from the relatively new phenomenon of a movement of extremist Buddhist monks called “969” and also the government which tacitly supports such movements. The government still is nominally communist and does everything to keep in control. Bama make up roughly two-thirds of the people. Some larger minorities are predominantly Christian. Myanmar’s Christians face the most pressure in the church and national sphere, but also in the community sphere. It is impossible to invite foreign Christian workers or publish, print or import Christian material. Churches are monitored, sometimes even closed,

registration can be impossible, depending on local administrators. All children of Christians are facing constant disadvantages in education. Myanmar remains among the 10 most violent states for Christians on the WWL 2014.

Teaching

Genesis: Creation, Sin, & Re-creation

God's act of salvation: covenant. Gen 12-20

An Amazing Act of Faith Gen 12:1-5

1. you will be a great nation,
2. you will have a land,
3. your blessings will flow into the whole world.

How did Abram trust God?

Reassured By God Gen 15:1-21

The Power of Gen 15:6

Faithful People Still Have Doubts Gen 16:1-3

- She said to her husband;
- He listened to his wife;
- She took; and
- She gave to her husband.

Questioning God's Faithfulness

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