

Westview Baptist Church



Sunday 13th March 2016

Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

We will do this as we: *Are transformed by enjoying Christ; Love by serving others; and proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world*

The Latest on Westview 2020 Vision Discussion Group

We do appreciate the wonderful response from the church family in their willingness to be involved in the future vision discussions. Your commitment serves the church as a whole as we clarify what we hope to be. With a clear vision before us, we will better discern the steps we need to take in the future to move in that way.



After considering a helpful outline from the Baptist Union, we believe that Westview is presently found within a "Refocusing" or "Restructuring" period of church life (although we do recognise that we do not easily fit in one or the other).

After looking at some scriptures which praise the churches of the New Testament, we looked at the vision which the Elders have initially suggested. The group thought it more helpful to define the vision not in just one sentence, but a series of pictures. Once we can agree upon them, we may be able to express these thoughts graphically.

The Elders would therefore would like to present the following vision to the church for comment and feedback. Again, this is not the final picture, but we are drawing closer to what it might be...

A fourth "dot point" has been added to address specifically the local focus of our mission.

In our healthy church where truth gives birth to worship and fruitful living, we see:

- *leaders being raised for ministry*
- *each person using their God-given gifts*
- *people being sent in partnership for mission*
- *the gospel transforming the lives of those around us*

The next discussion group meeting will be held on the 20th March, so please direct your questions, thoughts, and feedback to the Elders or Deacons before that meeting if possible. If you can discuss this in your homegroups, that would be greatly appreciated. A Sunday in April will be also set aside where Tony will present these thoughts in the main teaching time. In the meanwhile, please prayerfully consider this vision and our desire to bring glory to God in all that we do.

What's Coming Up?

Gourmet Sausage Sizzle Night! Raising money for Mission Project. This Saturday Night! 19th March!

6pm! Calling all people! We are seeking to raise money for our 2016 mission project to support. We are seeking to raise \$5000 dollars this year to provide Cam, Kath and their family in Mozambique with Visa's. This Saturday night we are having a gourmet sausage sizzle. This will cost \$10 each which will go to this mission project. Tickets are available from Lee and Kath after the service. If you are able to come, could you please bring something to share for dessert. This will be a good opportunity to spend time together as a church family and support a great project! Thank you.



Greater West for Christ Leadership Academy

GWFC will be running an 8 week (May 2nd - June 20th) leadership academy. This is open to anyone would like to go along. It involves reading through 40 devotionals in your own time. 8 Monday evening teaching sessions held @ Minchinbury and during these 8 weeks, intercessory prayer over your leadership development. Tony Calman will be one of those involved in contributing to the devotionals. And it is absolutely free. For more info please speak to Tony. To register please contact GWFC (p.adcock@gwfc.com.au or 0417 554 047).

Men's Breakfast Saturday 2nd April. 8:30am.

Calling all men! It's time to gather together for a healthy breakfast of quinoa and flax seeds... JUST KIDDING! Come along for a great breakfast together. This is a great opportunity for us to spend time together, share and grow as men. Feel free to bring others! If you intend to come please speak to Alex or Clark.



2020 Westview Future/Vision Discussion Group Sunday March 20th 7-8pm

All are welcome. It's held at the church property.

Indoor Soccer Sunday 27th March 2:30-3:30pm.

All are welcome. Emerton Leisure Centre. Jersey Road, Emerton. Please let JJ know if you intend to come. It should be about \$5 per person.



Passage For Teaching Next Week: Luke 19:28-21:38

Why not make some time to read over the passage during the week?

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Turkey **Leader:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Population: 79.4 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republican Parliamentary Democracy **Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism
A move away from secularism

Turkey is currently going through a gradual change from a strictly secular country to one based on Islamic values and influence. There is a lot of pressure on Christian converts from their families and communities to return to Islam. New believers try to keep their new faith secret, as it is viewed as bringing dishonour to their family and being against their national identity. In August 2015, 15 Turkish pastors received death threats from Islamic State. In the months following some were targeted in an Islamic State video saying, convert or die.

An ancient church

Christianity has a long history in Turkey. Due to the efforts of the apostle Paul and his helpers Christian congregations were founded in what is now Turkey in the first century AD. When John wrote the book of Revelation he started off by writing letters to seven congregations in Western Turkey. In the early phase, the Church was persecuted by the Romans. Later, under Emperor Constantine, Christianity became the state religion. Turkey was Islamised in 1453 when the Ottoman Turks conquered the empire. Today 98% of the population is Muslim.

Increasing threats

The number of converts from a Muslim background has grown steadily from about 10 in 1960 to somewhere between 5,000 and 7,000 today. The country is expected to continue on its current path of gradually enforcing Islamic influence and continued discrimination against Christians and other religious minorities. The renewed fighting between the government and the Kurdish forces has increased violence and made the situation more dangerous for Christians. The presence of Islamic Extremists in Turkey has already proven to be a huge threat for pastors; converts may expect similar treatment.

Please Pray:

>That President Erdoğan will not continue on the path of enforcing Islamic >influence and continuing discrimination against Christians.

For courage and boldness among Christians in reaching out to others.

>That church attacks will diminish and that Christians may worship in peace.



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