

Westview Baptist Church

www.westview-baptists.info

“people learning to live Jesus’ way”

22nd December, 2013

Our purpose is to bring glory to God. We will do this as we:

1. are transformed by enjoying Christ;
 2. love by serving others; and
 3. proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world
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This will be the last bulletin for 2013 and into the New Year. Please keep the bulletin over those weeks. Our hope and prayer is that each one will have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate our Saviour’s birth. We who follow Christ have more reason than anyone to celebrate at this time.

Transformed by Enjoying Christ

Teaching Sessions

Over the next few weeks our focus will be Christmas. Then, a series of “one off” sessions preparing us for the year ahead. We will be looking at iconic passages which help us to understand who we are and what we are to do:

29.12 Hope Bearers Moving Towards Maturity Col 1:24-29

5.1 Name Bearers Experiencing Love Eph 3:14-12

12.1 Spirit Bearers Being a Witness Lk 24:45-53, Acts 1:1-10

19.1 Image Bearers Bringing Reconciliation 2 Cor 5:17-6:2

26.1 Gospel Bearers - Glory to God Phil 1:3-11

Love and Service

Summer Program

From next week we will be reverting back to the “summer program” that we have done over the last few years. Our service will be slightly shorter with the communion focus expanding to

be the main teaching time. We find this structure helpful as there will be no Sunday School for the kids, it can be very hot during January, people do feel pressure to go to family events and people are often away.

Family News and Prayers

Our Christmas service will be held at 9.30am Christmas day. Morning tea will be available for anyone that does not need to rush off to Christmas events.

It also has been our tradition to pass on any gifts not designated on Christmas morning to Baptist World Aid in their efforts to care for the poor. Those who have set automatic bank transfers might consider bringing an extra gift to place in the box this Wednesday.

Bethany will be travelling to Strasbourg France on 10th January as a part of her studies. She will be studying the French language for three weeks then having a holiday for three weeks more, returning on 24th February. It would be appreciated if you could keep her in your prayers over that period.

Good news on two fronts for the Bomford family. JJ received his results from SMBC and pass all his subjects well. One more year remaining at college for his degree. Soona was given a promotion at work to “Team Leader” in a recent restructure of her workplace. It appears to be the result of her integrity and faithful work. Congratulations to you both!

Jones’ farewell

The church have been aware of David and Robyn’s intention to move to Kyneton Victoria early in the new year since earlier this year. Their move will be a great loss for us at Westview although their desire is to stay connected with us, we will not share their presence week by week.

Please set aside 19th January where we plan to have a lunch together with them. If you know people connected to Westview who might like to come, please let them know. It

would be helpful to know if others will be coming for catering purposes. Please let Tony or Lee know if that is the case. Further information will be made known early in the new year.

Living Faithfully in Our World

Footy In the Park

Tony has been asked by a local Aboriginal elder to be involved in “Footy in the Park” on 14th and 16th January. It will be a good opportunity to extend links into the local indigenous community which has not happened in the past for us. Keep the event in your prayers that positive contacts will be made for the Kingdom of God.

Alison in Tarsus No More

In a recent newsletter Alison informed us that she will be moving to work with a team in Cappadocia, a town first mentioned in Acts 2:9 who were there witnessing Pentecost, then later Peter writes to churches including Cappadocia in 1 Peter 1:1. It looks like it is approximately 200kms north of Tarsus. Pray for her as she settles in, finds a place and integrates into a new team there.

MAF in Australia

Lin Low has been a long time supporter of MAF and has been asked to be the MAF representative for Westview. This fits nicely with our involvement with Matt and Becky but will help us be aware of the wider MAF work.

Each year MAF publish a booklet with their staff and family photos in it to encourage people to pray. If you would like one and/or would like to receive the MAF newsletter, talk to Lin.

Praying for the Persecuted

The [World Watch List](#) identifies the most persecuted countries. Please continue to pray for each country. So far 1. North Korea; 2. Saudi Arabia; 3. Afghanistan, 4. Iraq, 5.

Somalia, 6. Maldives, 7. Mali

#8 Persecuted Country: Iran

Islam is the official religion following Sharia law. Hardest for MBBs and Protestant Evangelicals, historical ethnic the Armenian and Assyrian Christian minority have some freedom as long as they do not evangelize Muslims. Ethnic Persians are by definition Muslim, according to the state. Evangelism, Bible training and publishing Scriptures in Farsi are all illegal, yet this has only fuelled the flames of church growth. In Iran, detentions of Christians are very common. Any Muslim who leaves Islam faces the death penalty and church services are monitored by the secret police. Iranian authorities' fear of increasing numbers of Christians, as many disillusioned Iranian Muslims becoming curious about Christianity.

Saidia-Australia

Many of us are aware of Alex's efforts to establish an aid project for South Sudan. The group have established an association named Saidia-Australia. They are undertaking their first project "Leikor Library Project". One of their members will be going to take videos and pictures of the area. They would welcome the donation of reliable digital camera with /and or video camera. For more details or updates about this project please talk to Alex Abe Kenyi or contact him alexgyosia@gmail.com or 0470625248.

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Electronic Giving: 'Westview Baptist Church' BSB: 704 922 Acc't:100003291

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