

Westview Baptist Church

www.westview-baptists.info

“people learning to live Jesus’ way”

9th February 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

Have you received a missionary card with your picture and our aim for 2014? Would you like one? Please send Tony a picture or ask him to take your picture.

We are trying to conform our thinking to see ourselves as God sees us: his children sent into the world on mission! Each and every Westviewer is encouraged to take on the church aim above.

Teaching Sessions

What does a call to radical discipleship look like? As we commence Mark’s Gospel we do well to remember that the call to discipleship for the original recipient of this gospel may have meant extreme persecution to the point of death. That is radical! People heard the call, weighed the cost, and either accepted it or rejected it. Today we look at Mark’s claims regarding Jesus identity and we can appreciate his ministry which if understood clearly, should produce in us thankfulness, humility and enthusiasm to be disciples of Jesus.

Visit from Pip Minor

In two weeks time (23rd Feb) we will have Pip with us who

has returned from Cambodia. She will be able to update us on the work and the future for her in Australia. It might be nice to bring a small plate for morning tea to share.

Love and Service

Homegroups in 2014

Are you in a homegroup yet? If none suit, please talk to Tony.

- Monday 10:30am - Tony & Lynne Kenning
- Tuesday 7.30 pm (1st & 3rd of month) - Allan & Jan Smith
- Wednesday 7pm - Lee and Michelle Arundel
- Thursday fortnightly 7pm - JJ & Soona Bomford (this group primarily for young people)
- Friday 7.30pm - Steve and Sue
- Other possibilities, please talk to Tony

The Wednesday Friendship Group has recommenced and does fulfil many functions of a homegroup. Each Wednesday at 9.45am - Kath Johnson

Prayer groups happen each week on Thursday morning at 6am for half an hour and “Community Prayer” generally on the fourth Sunday night of the month. This month it is being changed to 16th February.

Lawn mowing

Many thanks to Tim and Sujin and their willing workers from YWAM who came and gave the church property a “makeover” during the week. Their enthusiastic work has been a wonderful blessing to us all. For more information regarding YWAM, please talk to them personally or go to their [website](#).

WRAP Meeting

The **W**estview **R**eview **A**nd **P**lanning Meeting (WRAP) was scheduled for 16th February but because of some critical absences we are suggesting that it be held off until 23rd February. Please see Lee for more information or if you would like something included on the agenda.

Family News and Prayers

Good news for Gabriel. After a 6 year wait, on February 14 he will officially be an Australian citizen.

Keep Eric in your prayers as he undergoes a medical procedure in the following week. Pray all goes well.

John would like people to know that the FGBM dinner is on 17th Feb with Dinner 6.30 pm, Talk 8.00 pm at Blacktown RSL Club, Second Avenue. Please see John for more information.

Freddie and Juliet will be away on a holiday to NZ cruising from 8th to 21st Feb. It has been a difficult time with health and family so our hope is that this will be a wonderful time of refreshment for them both. We will miss them but are glad they have such an opportunity.

David and Robyn are completely moved down to Kyneton now (although they must have many boxes still to unpack). Pray that good connections will be made straight away for them.

Living Faithfully in Our World

Praying for the Persecuted

From the Open Doors' [World Watch List](#) we seek to pray for the persecuted church from rated most severe.

#9 Persecuted Country in 2014: Iran

The main persecution dynamic in Iran is 'Islamic extremism'. Islam is the official religion and all laws must be consistent with the official interpretation of Sharia law. Almost all Christian activity is illegal, especially when it occurs in Persian languages. Christians continue to be seen as a threat by the regime as their numbers are growing and, allegedly, even children of political and spiritual leaders are leaving Islam for Christianity. Of all types of Christianity, mainly Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) are affected, as well as Protestant Evangelicals. There is relatively less pressure on historical

ethnic Christian minorities like the Armenians and Assyrians, as long as they do not evangelise Muslims. Any Muslim who leaves Islam faces the death penalty and church services are monitored by the secret police. The regime's focus is on those reaching out to converts and even well-established Christian denominations are not safe from harassment. Although ethnic (Armenian and Assyrian) Christians are a recognised religious minority in Iran who officially are guaranteed religious freedom, they have reported imprisonment, physical abuse, harassment and discrimination because of their faith. Pressures and attacks against Christian communities have continued. Curiosity and interest in Christianity (and in other non-Islamic religions) is growing continuously among Iranian Muslims who are disillusioned with Iran's state-sponsored Shi'ism.

Teaching

Introducing.....Mark 1:1-13

Mark's Big Message: Who Jesus is 1.1

Affirmed by Old Testament Fulfilment 1:2-9

Affirmed by God himself 1:9-13

Something to ponder....

Address: Cnr Crawford Road & Coveny St, Doonside NSW 2767

Post: PO Box 965 Kings Langley NSW 2147

Eldership Contact: Tony Calman 8212 4534 or 0430 027 636; tonycalman@gmail.com

OHS Matters: Lee Arundel ph. 9621 6907; leearundel@yahoo.com

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

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