

# *Westview Baptist Church*

[www.westview-baptists.info](http://www.westview-baptists.info)

*“people learning to live Jesus’ way”*

2nd March 2014

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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.

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## **Transformed by Enjoying Christ**

Mark’s gospel was first written for a group of believers in Rome who were suffering under persecution from the government of the day. The value of such a piece of writing was soon obvious as every generation of believers since have experienced some form of difficulty and hardship. Mark’s Gospel teaches us how disciples of Jesus are to be shaped to discover how to live in any circumstance. Today, we spend time on Mark 4:35 – 6:13 which highlights that faith is the key to being a disciple. Next week we will be looking at Mk 6:14-8:30.

On the table near door there are CD’s with Mark recorded on it. Feel free to take one to play at home or in the car as you are travelling and allow this wonderful gospel to fill your mind and thinking.

## ***The Lens***

[Morling College](#) offer a Bible course by correspondence over the internet for people 15 years and over who are interested in developing a deeper understanding of the Bible. If you are interested in doing the course, please talk to Tony.

## **Love and Service**

### ***WRAP Meeting***

The minutes from the meeting last Sunday will soon be available. Of particular note is the following which was read to the meeting:

*“An amount will be given to the church over the next twelve months by an anonymous donor. The donor’s desire is for that money to be set aside in an interest bearing deposit to be used at the direction of the Eldership. The donor’s intention is to give a sum that will enable JJ to receive a reasonable income from the church for perhaps up to two years upon completion of his course. If JJ and/or*

*the church decide that supported ministry should not happen, the money is to be used at the discretion of the Eldership”.*

With regard to this, it should be noted that there is no obligation put on the church nor JJ & Soona for any future decision. The donation comes without strings attached. Also, the Eldership will be accountable to the church in this matter should the original intention of the donor not eventuate.

We acknowledged this gift with thanks. Discussion also centred on how this gift might act as an example for others to follow. If others would like to contribute in a similar way, please mark any gifts either electronically or through the box as “Future Ministry”.

### ***Sabbatical***

Our understanding of the Bible is expressed in various ways in Westview’s [constitution](#). One such way is our appreciation of the necessity of rest from responsibility for those in leadership. It is our understanding that rest allows a person to stop and draw strength to enable them to continue on with vigor and clarity. During such times we can discover God’s leading in a new direction. For this reason, Westview encourages those with ministry responsibilities to observe the sabbatical principle.

At the last Elders’ meeting we became aware that Lee should have commenced a sabbatical year in 2013. There was a strong agreement that he should commence a sabbatical year at the beginning of Term 2. This will mean that he will be free from responsibility as an Elder, Administrator, and other church related responsibilities. Obviously this will be felt within our community but such times are good opportunities for others to consider serving. Over the next weeks we will have the opportunity to think more into this.

### ***Family News and Prayers***

Many of us will know that John S has had remarkable events happen throughout his life including WWII, communism in Hungary and living in England before coming to Australia. John would like to offer his insights to interested people. Please talk to John if you would be interested in hearing the way God has blessed him though some of the most difficult times of the 20th Century.

Continue to pray for Upendra’s brother Ashok who continues to have tests in Bangkok.

Freddie returned from a trip to hospital last Sunday and is slowly

recovering. Any virus that he catches has a devastating effect on his immunosuppressed system. JJ is also recovering from a week with tonsillitis.

### **Living Faithfully in Our World**

#### ***Praying for the Persecuted***

#### **#12 Persecuted Country in 2014: Eritrea**

The position of Christians in Eritrea has been increasingly under pressure mainly attributed to Eritrea's current regime headed by president Mr . Isaisas Aferworki. The main persecution engine affecting Christians in Eritrea is Totalitarian paranoia. The control-focused nature of the regime leads to persecution of Christians in all spheres of life. Moreover, Islamic extremism adds to the existing pressure on Christians in particularly Christian converts from a Muslim background (Muslim Background Believers, MBBs). The process of persecution is compounded by the Eritrean Orthodox Church and their attempt to stay close to the regime. In all spheres of life Christians of all present church types feel the dynamics of persecution, but members of the Eritrean Coptic Church enjoy a relative freedom. Then, Christians suffer relatively high level of violence as well, such as house raids, arrests, detentions and systematic torture. This leads to a grim future outlook and it is not expected that positive change will occur soon.

#### ***MAF***

There is a MAF Family Day to be held at Camden Airport on the 29th March between 10am - 4pm. It is a great day for the whole family. Also, the new MAF Fueled by Prayer for the next two months is available from Lin Low for those who have not received a copy by email. Please do not order the new staff prayer handbook individually as Lin will distribute them when available to save on postage.

#### ***Letter-Box Drop***

If you have the time and capacity to do a letter-box drop in your suburb, Doonside, or the new areas of Bungaribee, please talk to Tony who can supply you with flyers. Flyers do have various purposes: to inform the community that a church is present in Doonside, prompt people to consider reconnecting with a church, and to present the truth of the gospel message. It is the most basic form of gospel proclamation and can be a part of God's work in a person's life. People have come to our church previously through this simple act.

## ***Respect Walk***

It has been reported in the [newspaper](#) that an event has been organised by local community leaders in response to racial tensions. It will begin at 12.30pm, with groups of walkers leaving Alpha Park every 15 minutes on an 8.2km route to the finish point at Blacktown Showground which will host a community picnic, games, activities and live entertainment until 4.30pm. It would be a great event to attend if possible.

## ***Teaching - Mark's Gospel: disciples shaped by Christ***

Mark 4:35 – 6:13 Faith: the key to being a disciple.  
Jesus confronts our worse fears: disaster, demons, disease and death.

4:35 – 41	The wrong question The King speaks and chaos is calmed The right question
5:1 – 20	Which name will prevail? The case of the missing pigs The two responses to the King
5:25 – 34	A plan that works A pointless question A faith that heals
5:21 – 24, 35 – 43	The faith of a father The comfort of a King Not time for the final victory

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

iGive from Westview [website](#)

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