

Westview Baptist Church

www.westview-baptists.info

“people learning to live Jesus’ way”

9th March 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.

Define: thankful /'θʌŋkful , ADJECTIVE 1. Pleased and relieved: SYNONYMS 1.1 Expressing gratitude and relief: an earnest and thankful prayer [Oxford Online Dictionary](#)

Transformed by Enjoying Christ

Mark 4:12 says “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.” Today we are going to explore the possibility that we are the ones who see but do not perceive.

Even the first disciples of Jesus has a very difficult time in understanding what it meant for Jesus to be the Son of God. We sometime foolishly think that it would have been so much better if we were only there to see Jesus heal the sick and raise the dead, but although many people saw it, Jesus died on a cross with only a few people looking on from afar.

The wonderful joy in seeing and perceiving is that we enter into a new reality where God our powerful and mighty heavenly Father shows glory through his Son, Jesus Christ.

When we understand that Jesus can dwell in us through the Spirit of God, we have to ask, “What need I fear?”

The Lens

Some from Westview will be commencing the [Morling College](#) Bible course “The Lens”. Please talk to Tony if you would like to join. It can be completed individually or as a group. There is no cost to the course unless you would like a Morling award which requires Morling faculty to assess assignments.

Love and Service

Future Ministry

Last week we made known the generous gift to allow JJ to be supported by the church from the end of this year when he concludes his study. If anyone would like to contribute in a similar way, please mark any gifts either electronically or through the box as “Future Ministry”.

Sabbatical

As mentioned last week, Lee will be commencing a sabbatical break for 12 months from the end of this school term. For Lee, that will mean that he will be free from responsibilities as an Elder and administrator. It means that he will be free to come join us on a Sunday without the pressure and responsibilities he now carries. Perhaps it might mean that Lee and Michelle might be able to be more free to go for a weekend away. The sabbatical principle is a time of rest from responsibility that is placed upon you in the role that you perform for the sake of others. We see it as biblical wisdom to encourage all who hold responsibility in the church to lay it down for a period. So next term when, apart from other things, the box set aside for giving is not

counted, nor is the church locked up and garbages are not taken out, that might be a good chance for others to step up and serve.

Family News and Prayers

Some sad news during the week for Tim and Sujin with the passing away of Tim's grandmother. They have travelled to Adelaide for the funeral and will be returning next week. Sujin did have a hospital trip last Monday when she could not stop being sick. They kept her for a few hours then released her. Keep them in your prayers.

Upendra also set off to travel to Bangkok to see his brother who appears to have a bone marrow problem. Upendra will also go to Laos to see his brother's family and then travel to USA as planned to visit his sister. He will be away about a month and would appreciate prayer for his brother Ashok and his travel plans.

Living Faithfully in Our World

Doonside Mission

There has been many positive steps recently in the Doonside community particularly among indigenous groups we previously had little contact with. Through contact with a local elder, Tony has been able to be in contact with local indigenous and their service providers in the area. Although the Footy in the Park concluded, it made good connections with Chief Inspector Robert Fitzgerald of Blacktown Police. A recent meeting with Robert Fitzgerald, another local and Tony, has resulted in Tony being the contact person for a men's group. The group will meet on the first monday of the month primarily but not exclusively for indigenous men. Tony and Wendy were invited to the open day for the new [Ngallu Wal Aboriginal Child and Family Centre](#) in Doonside

last Friday. With 5% of the local population being indigenous, wouldn't it be wonderful to have that reflected among us!

Praying for the Persecuted

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

#13 Persecuted Country in 2014: Libya

The position of Christians was already extremely difficult, and has only deteriorated, making Libya the worst ranking country in North Africa. Within anarchy and absent rule of law, Christians – both nationals and foreigners – are squeezed between fanatical religious groups and criminal gangs. As in most Muslim countries, converting from Islam brings social pressure. Muslim Background Believers are always at risk from their families; there were some reported cases of beatings by family members. Most Libyan Christians are afraid to meet with other believers, as any kind of religious gathering (other than Islamic) for Libyans is forbidden. Expats are allowed to have their own churches, but Libyans are not allowed to attend. After the demise of Gadhafi's regime, the source of persecution has changed, but Christians continue to experience high levels of pressure in all spheres of life. Now, Islamist fanatical movements such as the Salafists are responsible for most of the persecution and violent incidents against Christians, in a country where there is no central government and where rule of law is absent.

Christians Subjugated In Raqqa Syria

Since January 2014 the terror group ISIS has ruled the northern city of Al Raqqa. Sharia is enforced and the whole community lives in terror of ISIS's extreme violence. Recently 20 Christian leaders were taken captive and given

three options: convert to Islam, submit to Islam as dhimmis (humiliated and subjugated under Islam) or 'face the sword'. The Christian leaders signed an agreement committing the Christian community to submission. Just as in the Middle Ages, Christians must now pay protection money (jizya) as mandated by the Qur'an (Sura 9:29). They must demonstrate respect for Islam and Muslims and abstain from all public expressions of Christianity and from renovating churches and monasteries. If they breach the agreement, ISIS will resume war against them. Please pray for Syria and its Christians. Source: [Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin](#)

Letter-Box Drop

Thanks to Keith and Lin for delivering Westview flyers to the new area of Bungarribee. It is always good to make known the church as we are in an area with a large movement of population in and out. With over 5500 homes in the 2767 postcode, it would be wonderful to have this as an ongoing concern.

Blacktown Anglican Seniors' Week

NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione, is the guest speaker during our Seniors' Week celebration service on Thursday 20 March, commencing at 2.00pm. All are welcome to go and listen to this Christian man who is a member of Menai Baptist Church. The service will include traditional hymns and conclude with an afternoon tea at 3.00pm.

Teaching

How is your heart towards Christ?

The Story of the Loaves 6:41-44

Look again

The Shocking Event 6:50-52

Look again 6:41-44

Their hearts were hardened 6:52

Jesus is the Son - More than a Statement

A huge change 7:18-22

Deja Vu 8:14-18

A Living Parable 8:22-26

Clear sight or not 8:27-30

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

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