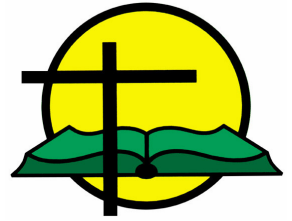


Westview Baptist Church

Sunday February 1st 2015



Faith is...

The relationship between knowledge, faith and belief can be vague in our thinking and it can be the source of endless discussion and dispute. In the Christian faith, we have a strong focus on teaching however it is not just our endeavour to acquire truth, our aim is to live in the truth. Everyone has a "faith": a life shaped by the knowledge that they accept to be true. It remains a "faith" because no human being can claim to possess and understand ultimate truth. The atheist will make an absurd claim of ultimate truth: 'there is no God', but how can they truly know that is truth? Do they know everything? Still, that "knowledge" shapes their life, so that is their faith.

Christian faith is not based on our knowledge of "ultimate" truth, but it is based upon the one that we believe does possess that ultimate truth: the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows and understands all things, so we allow him to shape our lives. This shaping of our lives is a life of faith. That is how we remain in him.

The scriptures do not explain everything that we might want to know, but it explains everything that we will need to know. So when hardship and difficulties come, we go back to what Jesus tells us, that God is good, he is sovereign over all things, and that he is bringing about his purposes so we can trust him even in the difficult times. Doesn't Paul commend the Thessalonians for a life shaped by the gospel message (2 Thes 1:1-11)? Lives shaped by the knowledge that Jesus is our Lord is the faith that is our aim as a community. Let's make that our personal aim and to encourage each other that way too!

Family News

Alison – Today we welcome Alison who has been working in Turkey now for many years. Since we last had her visit us, she has moved from her base in Tarsus to the region of Cappadocia. It is exciting to welcome her back, to renew acquaintance and for others to meet with her for the very first time so that we can keep her in our prayers over the next part of her journey. After our gathering this morning we will be staying on for lunch together where we can talk further with her and each other. All are invited to stay.

Derrington's Home – Tim, Sujin and Tabitha return to us today from leading the YWAM mission trip in India and Thailand, a team which included Megan. Kaitlyn was a part of a team that went to South Africa. All reports from Megan and Kaitlyn's graduation was that it was a very successful mission trip where the gospel was proclaimed freely to the nations. Megan and Kaitlyn flew home yesterday. Tim, Sujin and Tabitha will be away in South Australia for the following two weeks with family and friends. We will look for a time to hear of the work further when they return.

Other News

New Mission Project for 2015 – We are in need of a new missions project for 2015. If you have any suggestions please speak to Tony.

WRAP Meeting – Our next Westview Review and Planning meeting is coming up on the 15th Feb. This will commence after the service around 11am. This will be a very significant meeting in the life of the church as the Elders share their vision for the church in the future. Please make every effort to attend.

What's happening at Westview?

Homegroups – The below are the Homegroups for this year:

Monday morning: @ Kenning's 10.30am

Tuesday night: @ Juliet Co's (1st and 3rd of the month)

Wednesday night: @ the Arundel's

Thursday night: @ the Bomford's

Friday night: @ the Kwan's (every fortnight)

This is a wonderful way to meet together to encourage one another. If you are not currently in a homegroup and are interested, or if none of these suit please speak to Tony or JJ

Next Series – We will be going through Ezekiel starting next Sunday. Please take some time to read through it. There are some helpful 5min videos that give a broad overview which would be worth watching if you can: <http://vimeo.com/42794657> and <http://vimeo.com/43401258>

Thursday Prayer – If you are able please join us thursday mornings in the church hall from 6am to pray together.

New Church Directory – Please check today to make sure your details are correct. If you have slipped through the cracks please speak to JJ or Soona today.

New Look Website – Bill and JJ have been working on a new look Westview website: www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au to have a look.

PrayerCare 2015 – If you'd like to participate in PrayerCare talk to Wendy or Tony.

Elders & Deacons Meetings – These have now changed to Monday nights. Elders will continue to meet weekly and deacons join them fortnightly. Thanks for those who serve us in this way.

Pray for our Persecuted brothers and sisters

Leader: President Hassan Sheik Mohamud

Population: 11.1 million (Christian: Hundreds)

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Federal Republic

Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism/Tribal Antagonism

What is it like for Christians in Somalia?

Persecution of Christians is severe in Somalia. With no functioning government, Christians are targeted by Islamic terrorists and clan authorities. However, as the government gains more control, state actors are joining to persecute Christians. Islamic religious leaders maintain publicly that there is no room for Christianity, Christians and churches in Somalia. Islam is the 'state religion', and Christianity is pushed away from public life. Islamic terrorists, such as al-Shabaab and other radical Islamic groups, have intensified their attack on Christians.

The only Christians in Somalia are those who have converted from a Muslim background, and new believers must hide their conversion to Christianity from everyone, even the own family or clan. Believers risk targeted violence from their family, clan, authorities or militias when their faith is discovered.

If International support decreases for Somalia once again, the future of the country in general, and for Christians in particular, will get worse.

We are working through Open Doors 'World Watch List' of the countries with the highest Christian persecution. For more information see:

<http://www.worldwatchlist.org.au/>

Prayer Points

- For the small number of Christians who have come to Jesus from the Islamic faith
- For restoration of a functioning government which will give freedom to all faiths
- An end to the civil war, famine and drought which has plagued the nation since 1991

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

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