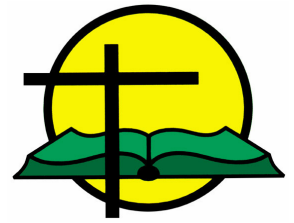


# Westview Baptist Church

*Sunday February 15th 2015*



## **Finding Hope In Pain**

Do bad things happen to those who do bad things? Yes! Do bad things happen only to those who do bad things? No! In the brokenness of our world and existence, bad things happen to good people too. Fortunately we worship a God who can bring good out of bad.



In the book of Ezekiel, we see God's righteous and just punishment come upon the Israelites as a nation through foreign nations invading, and the greatest tragedy for an Israelite is to be removed from the land of promise, given to their ancestors by God himself.

Ezekiel brings a difficult message to those who have been taken captive in the war: it is for their good that they have had the unthinkable happen to them. The question which faces this scattered nation is, "Will they soften their hard hearts and hold onto faith in the one true God?"

Hardship and difficulty in life seem to be unavoidable, however we need to ask the same question in our pain, "Will we soften our hard hearts and hold onto faith in the one true God?"

## **Family News**

### **Sandra & Ross**

Sandra and Ross will be visiting Sandra's brother Neil who has been diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas which has moved into his liver. They are hoping to visit for up to a week in Lithgow to be with him at this difficult period of further tests. They would appreciate your prayers.

### **Baptism – Next Sunday – No Sunday School**

There will be no Sunday school next Sunday (22nd) so that we can all take part in the special baptism service. As Alex has invited family and friends to attend, if a few people could bring a plate to share for morning tea that would be most appreciated.

## **Other News**

**WRAP Meeting (Today)** – The Westview Review And Planning Meeting will be immediately after our morning gathering. There are several important matters to discuss and inform the church about. Please make every effort to come along. We will be following the same method from last meeting, reflecting upon the past few months, the present, and the future. If you come ready to share any significant events over the last few months that were a part of life of the church, or hopes for the future, there will be opportunities to share such in the meeting.

**Soccer today at 2pm** – This afternoon at the local Charlie Bali Reserve (Doonside) we will be having a bit of a kick around/soccer game, everyone who wants to come along is most welcome. If you plan to come please let JJ know, but feel free to rock up anyway as you like.

## **Mission's Project Ideas for 2015**

A couple of ideas have been suggested for this years Missions Project through Global Interaction, both in Thailand.

1. Lanternlight ministry in Sangklaburi are helping people with disabilities in this Thai/Myanmar border area have a better opportunity at life through support, rehabilitation and hearing the Good News of Jesus. For more information visit:

<http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/support/projects/ethnic/lanternlight-ministries-%E2%80%93-community-based-rehabili>

2. Quality of life projects done through LIFT. This project helps small projects that improve the living conditions and quality of life of people affected by HIV/AIDS in Thai communities and this support helps fund the visits of the trained staff as well as providing resources for those with identified needs in the local communities. For more information visit:

<http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/support/projects/ethnic/quality-of-life-projects>

If you have any other suggestions or questions please speak to Tony or JJ.

## **What's happening at Westview?**

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

**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

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

## **Pray for our Persecuted brothers and sisters**

**Country:** Syria (#4)

**Leader:** President Bashar al-Assad

**Population:** 22.3 million (Christian: 1.1 million)

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Republican (under an authoritarian regime)

**Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

### **What is it like for Christians in Syria?**

Syria is now entering into its 5th year of civil war. Despite moving down in rank from the 2014 World Watch List, persecution has increased in Syria. This is largely due to the rise in influence of radical Islamic groups, especially with the increased persecution from the militant group Islamic State.

Islamic State introduced the caliphate in large parts of Syria and Iraq at the end of June 2014. A strict version of Sharia law was implemented. Syrian society is radicalising especially in areas controlled by radical Islamic groups. In the meantime, most Christians have fled IS controlled areas.

Though all Christians are affected by persecution, this is especially true for Christians from historical churches and converts from Islam (Muslim Background Believers, MBBs).

Many Christians have left the country, and despite this there are growing numbers of people are coming to Christ in the midst of all that is happening. Praise God!

### **Prayer Points:**

- For Christians who are displaced within the country or are refugees in camps outside of Syria
- For Open Doors workers, who partner with churches and other Christian organizations, providing food, shelter and trauma counseling to the refugees
- That there would be an end to the horrific civil war which has been waged for approximately four years

**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](mailto:tonycalman@gmail.com)

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