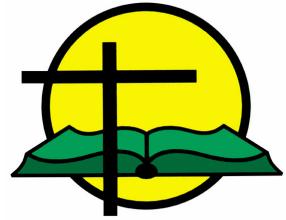


Westview Baptist Church



Sunday May 31st 2015

Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

We will do this as we:

1. Are transformed by enjoying Christ;
2. Love by serving others;
3. And proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world

What is the Church?

We are going to start a short series to explore 5 questions: What is the Church? What is an Elder? What is a Deacon? What is a Church Family Member? What is worship?



What might seem basic questions can often be clouded by our own thoughts, histories, and understandings that are more influenced by society than the mind of God. That is why we come to the Scriptures to have our minds renewed. The Church is clearly the people of God who follow Jesus Christ as Lord, expressed locally in the gathering of believers in an area or region. The bible describes the Church as the "bride of Christ" to show the closest imaginable human relationship to explain our relationship with Christ.

It is important that we understand who we are. We have great freedom in the fact that we do nothing to qualify ourselves to be a part of the Church, it has all been through God's grace, which allows us to respond to grace with loving obedience. We therefore can act consistent to what we are: the beloved bride of Christ, while waiting for that most special day. Until then, we are called to remain faithful and reflect God to our fallen world.

Family News

Bob Stock in Hospital

Bob is still in hospital. He had some radiation on his hip earlier on in the week and has been put on methadone to manage pain that he has been having and they are trying to adjust that to a level that helps manage the pain well so that a tablet with the right dosage can be made and taken from home. It appears at the moment that he will be at Westmead until at least Wednesday. As always he continues to be an encouragement through this suffering. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he continues to battle on through this.

Tony & Wendy's Sabbatical from tomorrow

Tony and Wendy's one year Sabbatical will be starting on the 1st of June, tomorrow. For Tony and Wendy and us as a church this year is aimed to allow time for refreshment and reflection for them, and discernment for all of us as a church about God's leading for the future. This will be a time where they will be involved in intentional interim ministry and discern further if this might be something that Westview will send them out to do in the future. Please keep them and all these things in your prayers and thinking. Lee will be acting presiding elder during Tony's year sabbatical, for any leadership matters speak to Lee.

Lionel Freen in Hospital

Lionel had a slight heart attack this week and is in Hawkesbury Hospital, they are expecting a full recovery. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him, Kaye and the rest of the family.

Evan's High & Mitchell High Scripture Seminars

A big thanks to everyone who prayed for JJ and Steve, and to Steve who gave up 2 days work this week to come into the schools to help. Both days went very well. Lots of great questions from the students about God and the Bible, there

were lots of good opportunities to share about Jesus and what he did in his death on the cross for our sins. Please continue to pray for the students at Evans and Mitchell High, that the seed that has been planted in these seminars would be watered and grow. Also there is a real need for more helpers (people to teach but also people to help out in a supporting way). It might mean scheduling a day off work a couple of times a year, but it would be well worth it to help in this wonderful opportunity in our schools (both primary scripture and high school) to share the hope of the gospel of Jesus with the kids. If are interested or would like more information, please speak to JJ.

MAF Nepal Giving

A note from Lin Low: "Thank you everyone who donated to the appeal from MAF to help with the relief work in Nepal. They have sent several helicopters to help carry provisions, medicine and other necessities to the remote areas of Nepal that are difficult to reach. The sum of \$137 was sent this week and if you have not donated and wish to do so, there is a red box on the rear table, or a card that you can donate by phone or by credit card. Thanks again, Lin"

A change for church giving boxes.

To avoid confusion, starting next Sunday there will only be one giving box on the back table. If you wish to designate money for the missions project or MAF or anything else there will be envelopes next to the giving box to clearly identify that intention. All un-enveloped, unmarked amounts will be treated as intended for the regular church giving. If you have any questions please speak to Allan our treasurer.

Men's Community Group this Tuesday night! 2nd June.

Any men who are available to come and get to know other men from the community are most welcome to come along. It starts with a dinner at 6pm and finishes by around 8pm. Speak to JJ.

The stairs for the deck have been built!

Thanks so much to all who were involved on Friday to build the stairs for the deck. Many long hours have gone into planning and building the deck and the stairs. A big thanks to all who have been involved in the process. Enjoy!

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Qatar

Leader: Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Population: 2.4 million

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Emirate

Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

The situation in the Qatar

In Qatar, the state religion is strictly conservative Wahhabi Islam, restricting Christians to worship in private houses or designated places.

Proselytizing is outlawed and criticism of Islam is punished. Conversion from Islam to another religion constitutes apostasy, an offense which carries a capital punishment. Family law is controlled by Sharia law.

Qatar's population is almost entirely made up of migrant labourers who are treated very poorly by the Qatari-born minority (300,000). Christian migrants are not free to openly practice their faith, and many hardly have the opportunity to attend church. Christian converts from Islam have the strongest persecution due to pressure within their own families as well as all other areas of life.

Qatar is one of the largest financial supporters of Islamic terrorism: it reportedly supports Islamic rebels in war zones.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Qatar

For more information visit: <http://www.worldwatchlist.org.au/>

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