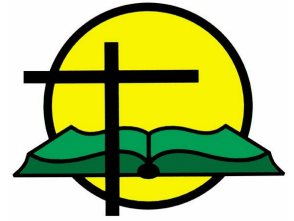


# Westview Baptist Church



16th August 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 has taken you captive?**

### **Christ or another?**

We continue this week in our series through Paul's letter to the Colossian Christians. In this section (2:6-15), he reminds them (and us) to continue to live in Christ. Christians have been united to Christ through his life, death and resurrection. They have been brought spiritually from death to life. But there are threats to undermine the freedom that Christ has bought for us with his precious blood. The threat for the Colossians was philosophy and empty lies that were not according to the teaching they had received about Christ, but based on human traditions and demonic powers. Paul cautioned them to beware, lest they be taken captive by these falsehoods that were not according to the truth of the gospel they had received.

We live in a world where we face similar threats. Teachings that do not accord with the truth of the Scriptures, and the allurements of other things to take us captive. But Paul's encouragement to them is as true and needed for us: "as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." To be taken captive by Christ, and our union with him, is to truly live and never look back.

## **Family News**

### **Ashok - Upendra's brother**

Upendra's brother's health has taken a turn for the worse in Singapore where he is being treated. The doctors have requested that family come to be with him. Upendra and Devika have left from their honeymoon on Thursday to fly to Singapore to be with Ashok and the family. Please pray for Ashok and for the family at this difficult time.

### **Hazel in hospital**

Hazel is still in Blacktown hospital recovering from a broken left ankle. She will hopefully be moved to Mt Druitt for rehabilitation. It would be good to keep her in our prayers as her body seeks to heal and recover from this.

### **A Big THANK YOU!**

Thanks so much to every one over the past two Sundays for all the food and help towards the anniversary, wedding and Jit and Jan last Sunday! It has been a full 2 weeks! Thanks so much to everyone who gave of their time, money and energy to make these two weeks a very special, lovely and memorable time!

### **Church Membership – Please Sign**

Lee and JJ have recently met with the Co family and Trish regarding their desire for membership. It was wonderful to meet with them and to hear something of their story, and God's leading to bring them along to Westview. After the service there will be the opportunity to read and sign to affirm this process so that in the next few weeks we can welcome them into the membership of our church. If you have any questions please speak to Lee or JJ.

## **Target Group Recommendation for Eldership**

The special target group called to consider recognising JJ as an elder has put forward a recommendation to the church, this will be available up the front after the service on Sunday. Please take some time to read and sign this in order to affirm it. A meeting to ratify the recommendation will take place sometime in the next few weeks. At this stage a special recognition service will be held on Sunday 27th September. Please put this date in your calendar.

## **What's Coming Up @ Westview**

### **Soccer This Sunday 16th @ 2pm.**

It's Soccer Time! All welcome!  
Charlie Bali Reserve Doonside. 2pm.

### **Community Prayer Night - 23rd August**

Next Sunday 23rd August from 7pm there will be a time of prayer at the church property for our church and surrounding community and world. This usually goes for around an hour. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Question Box Sunday – 20th September**

Have a question that you have been thinking through?  
Something you would like to hear a biblical response on? Please write it down and drop it into the church giving box and on the 20th September we will seek to address it. Thank you.

### **No longer using Crawford Road, but only Coveny Street**

Just a reminder that if from now on we could just use the entrance on Coveny Street to the church and no longer come in or leave through Crawford Road entrance. Thank you.

### **Building or Maintenance questions or concerns?**

Please speak to Tony Kenning.

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

**Country:** Brunei

**Leader:** Sultan and Prime Minister Sir Hassanal Bolkiah

**Population:** 429,000 thousand

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Constitutional Sultanate

**Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

In Brunei, contact with Christians in other countries, the import of Bibles and the public celebration of Christmas are banned. Sharia law has been fully implemented since 2011 for all Muslims in the country. The government has followed a plan of Islamisation among the tribal people: in May 2014, Sharia law was extended to penal law and will be introduced in three steps. The first step includes fines for indecent behaviour or failure to attend Friday prayers. A second phase will include corporal punishment for theft and other crimes. The final phase, to be introduced in 2015, will see capital punishment for crimes like adultery.

Included in the first phase is that Christians proclaiming their faith can be fined, imprisoned or face sentences. Only the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches are recognized, but even they have to be very careful. They are able to hold services, but apart from that, their functioning is restricted. Unregistered churches, which in most cases belong to the non-traditional Protestant Christians, are considered to be 'illegal sects' and consequently closed or at least restricted and monitored.

Christian converts from Islam have to operate largely underground, while converts with a Malay background face intense pressure - as it is not only illegal, but also a huge disgrace for the family and community.

**Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Brunei**



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