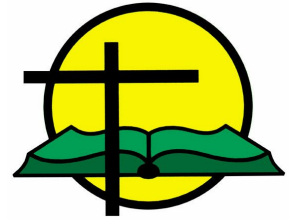


Westview Baptist Church



23rd 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*

Holding onto shadows or holding onto Christ?

As we continue through Colossians this week (2:16-23), Paul encourages the Christians at Colossae to again not be led astray by these false teachers. These teachers are not holding fast to Christ the Head of the body. They pointed to the shadows of the Jewish law, that were pointing to Christ, who is the reality, the fulfilment, that the shadows pictured. They pointed to other things that had become a religion of observance and of false humility. They were not holding up Christ, and believers being united to Him, as the focus and the reality. The true gospel that had come to the church and the gospel that they have believed.

Even if our problem today isn't holding onto laws about days and foods that we should keep or should not eat, we are faced with challenges every day in our lives to choose between making other things our focus, our aim and our reliance to be right before God. We can make doing or not doing certain things the basis for our acceptance before God. The truth is, it can only ever be by being united to Christ in his death and resurrection for us, that we can find forgiveness, peace, and eternal life. Will you follow after shadows? Or will you follow after Christ, the Reality? Because Jesus Christ is the the Only Way to true rest and peace. He is the reality. It's all about Him.

Family News

Ashok – Upendra's brother

There was some better news regarding Upendra's brother Ashok this week. He has shown some sign of improvement, his platelet count has risen and he is now out of ICU. But Leukaemia is what his body is battling and the doctor really wants to proceed with a bone-marrow transplant but Ashok is still quite weak. It is quite risky but there seems no alternative. Please continue to pray for Ashok and the family at this difficult time. That they might continue to stand firm in Christ.

Janelle's mum in Hospital

Janelle's mum had a heart attack and went to Blacktown hospital this week. The hope is she will be released soon but her health is not good. Please keep her, Janelle and the family in your prayers.

Scripture in Schools – Teachers/Helpers needed

Would you consider taking a day of leave from work every 2nd month or so and coming along to a High School Scripture Seminar? These are wonderful opportunities to teach students about the life giving message of Jesus. However at times the number of helpers at these Seminars is so low that they almost can't take place. They are all day events at Mitchell and Evans High Schools, they are long days but extremely fruitful opportunities. Whether you feel you can talk to the kids or would be interested to come along to help, support and pray. Please speak to JJ if you are interested or would like to find out more. You would be welcome to come along and see before you have to 'do' anything. This is a wonderful opportunity that is still open for Christians in public schools. Please pray that God would continue to provide workers for this.

* There will be a seminar at Evan's High this Monday (24th), please keep this in your prayers.

MAF – Gifts of life for Father's day

MAF are providing a way that this Father's day you can give gifts to help those in need. For example, \$50 to fill a jerrycan. *'Each jerrycan holds about 20 litres of fuel. That's enough for 20 minutes of flying. In many of the remote places where we serve, short life-saving flights are a regular occurrence.'* There are envelopes designated for MAF on the table at the back that you can put into the general giving box to be directed to MAF or you can do this through their website: www.mafgifts.org.au

What's Coming Up @ Westview

Community Prayer Night – 23rd August

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

Quick WRAP Meeting – 13th September

There will be a quick WRAP meeting on Sunday 13th September after the service to ratify the motion regarding JJ's eldership. If you have any questions please speak to Lee.

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 to just use the entrance on Coveny St to the church and no longer come in or leave through Crawford Rd

Building or Maintenance questions or concerns?

Please speak to Tony Kenning.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Laos

Leader: President Lt Gen. Choummali Saignason

Population: 7 million

Main Religion: Buddhism

Government: Communist State

Main Source of Persecution: Tribal Antagonism

The practice of Animism is still strong in Laos, especially in rural areas. Tribal leaders and villagers who practice Animism see Christianity as a foreign element which may anger the spirits who protect the village. Refusal to follow rituals can lead to corporal punishment or being banned from the village. To keep everything under control, the local authorities and the country's communist party put enormous pressure on the small Christian minority. It considers Christians to be 'foreign agents' of a Western ideology that challenges communism.

Only a limited number of registered Christian congregations are allowed to have services - 'illegal' church meetings can be raided and all Christian materials confiscated. Only the Lao Evangelical Church and the Roman Catholic Church are permitted to hold biblical training, so Christians in remote areas especially suffer from a lack of leadership and Bible study. Christian materials, including Bibles, can neither be published in the country nor imported. Every movement of Christians is monitored and if the state considers it necessary, hindered. If converts from a Buddhist or Animist background are identified, especially in rural areas, they are initially put under pressure - for example, they face threats of their children being poisoned or excluded from school and local facilities. If the converts insist on staying loyal to their Christian faith, many are then forced to leave their homes and community.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Laos



www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



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