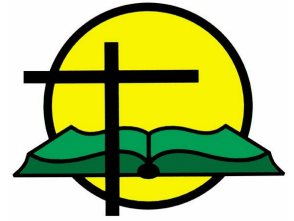


Westview Baptist Church



13th September 2015

Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

We will do this as we: *Are transformed by enjoying Christ; Love by serving others; And proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world*

Colossian Conclusion

We conclude today our series on Colossians, but the central theme of Paul's letter to this struggling church has not changed from the opening to the concluding verses: **the all-supremacy of Christ**. For the Colossians this was central to their battle with false teachers, but it spilled over into their relationships within their households and now, in the final passages of the letter, into their living as believers interacting with those outside the kingdom day to day.

As usual, Paul lays it out to them very plainly: devote themselves to prayer, be watchful and thankful, pray for the ongoing mission of evangelism in Rome and beyond, be wise and gracious in their conversations and be prepared to make the message of the gospel appetising and full of flavour. Finally, Paul introduces the team labouring on their behalf in the prosecution of the spiritual war in the capital of the Roman empire. People the Colossians might have been aware of but perhaps mysterious figures to us today. And yet each one was regarded by Paul as playing an essential role in achieving the goal of reaching many for Christ: some as encouragers, some wrestling in prayer, some sharing in the work of presenting the message alongside Paul.

The part each plays is valued by Paul and God and is worthy of our consideration all these years on as we take encouragement from this record of their actions. Paul concludes imploring the Colossians to remember his chains, but whose chains are they? The iron chains of the Roman emperor, temporarily detaining Paul from freely proclaiming the gospel, or the metaphorical chains of a prisoner for Christ and the truth of His word which will bind him to his Lord for eternity?

Family News

Tony & Wendy @ Blacktown Baptist Church (BBC)

It has now been one month since Tony commenced with BBC and it has been a remarkably positive time. There is such a positive feel there presently among the church members and Tony's focus remains on preparing the church for a new pastor and assisting in finding the right person. Please pray with them as it would be wonderful to see BBC move forward in love and unity as they seek to work for Christ and his kingdom.

Aunty Shirley – an Aboriginal elder from Doonside

Tony and JJ were able to attend a memorial service for Aunty Shirley, a very influential Aboriginal elder from the Doonside community who passed away last week. Tony had a good friendship with Shirley over the past few years, and was able to be with, and pray with Shirley before her passing. He was asked to speak, and did very well. He also had the opportunity to pray at the outdoor Aboriginal service held at Nurragingy Reserve on Friday. It was a wonderful opportunity. It is a good reminder at the importance of building relationships around our community.

Responding to the Crisis in Syria

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East with so many displaced and needy people has been in the spotlight particularly over the past few weeks. We always do well to prayerfully think into how we might respond from such a distant to our neighbours in such desperate need. Here are some suggested responses.

To pray for this situation, for those in this troubled place, for wisdom for our Government, and for our brothers and sisters as they seek to show the love of Christ and hold onto Him in such horrific situations. There is also **a letter on behalf of our church to the Prime Minister** for anyone who would like to sign, along with some ways of **giving financial through Baptist World Aid** on the back table.

What's Coming Up @ Westview

Quick WRAP Meeting – 13th September

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

Soccer in the Park – 13th September

This Sunday 13th September Soccer in the Park from 2pm at Charlie Bali Reserve, Doonside. All welcome!

Recognition/Ordination Service 27th September

We will be having a special lunch after JJ's ordination service on Sunday the 27th of September. This will be a significant event in the life of our church family. If everyone could bring a plate of food to share that would be great. Please speak to Kath or Michelle about what you want to bring. Thank you!

Westviews going on a 5:2 Diet!

Heard of the 5:2 diet? Maybe not this sort though... Well Westview is doing a 5:2 diet of its own. Starting from October we start a 'diet' of 5 small Old Testament books over 2 weeks each. Starting with Ruth and followed by Jonah, Lamentations, Ezra and Esther! It would be great if you could start to reading through these books (starting with Ruth). Our prayer is that this will be a fruitful 'diet' as we look at these very Old books that continue to speak as powerfully and are as applicable to our lives as Christians today as when God spoke through those who first penned their words thousands of years before.



Building or Maintenance questions or concerns?

Please speak to Tony Kenning.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Bhutan **Leader:** King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
Population: 776,000 **Main Religion:** Buddhism **Government:** Constitutional Monarchy **Main Source of Persecution:** Religious Nationalism

In Bhutan there is an increasingly strict emphasis on Buddhism as a core part of the country's heritage, therefore, the government sees its duty to protect Buddhism. Bhutan used to be a Buddhist kingdom for centuries, but has introduced a constitutional monarchy and democratic elections. While there is an attitude that the country is democratic, the Christian minority is denied the right to testify about their faith. The commonly held belief is that Christians should not seek to introduce others to their faith. In addition to this, is impossible for a church to be registered or to have a building, as the government restricts the building of any non-Buddhist worship buildings, and the celebration of some non-Buddhist festivals.

The Church in Bhutan is permitted to meet in private homes, and therefore is no longer a country-wide underground church, however, Christians in remote or rural areas still encounter many difficulties. Meetings in remote villages continue to be monitored and disturbed. The Buddhist monks oppose the presence of Christians, and the government is more likely to side with the monks. In March 2014, two pastors were detained and seven weeks later released on bail, without publishing formal charges. In September they were sentenced to four years and two years and four months, respectively, for allegedly committing a felony by raising funds for personal gain. Pastor Mon Thapa was then released in September and Pastor Tandin Wangyal was released in January, both after paying fines. The government will continue to fulfill its duty in protecting Buddhism as the spiritual heritage of Bhutan, and this will continue to impact the Christian minority in the country.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Bhutan.



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