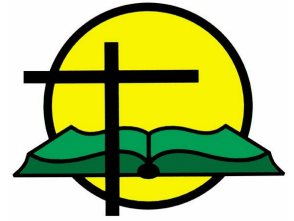


Westview Baptist Church



20th 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

How should a Christian think about and respond to the same-sex marriage debate?

On Sunday during for our Question Box we will be dealing with this difficult, yet very important question for us to think about. With any question our desire as Christians is to open the Scriptures and learn from the principles that our loving Father has given us for faith and living in our country and in our world.

One thing that is so easily forgotten in dealing with such a polarizing question is the need for us as followers of Jesus to focus on the gospel. That is the fundamental need for all people – including us – to hear and respond to the life-giving message of the gospel. That we are all sinners in need of the forgiveness and hope of the gospel. The good news that Jesus' death on the cross was for all sinners – all who trust in and follow after Him.

As we look at this question, we do well to remember that we are strangers in a foreign land – holding out a message about a King that most do not submit to. Therefore the need is again to hold out the gospel and not to give way to fear. Fear is not our leader, Jesus is and He is completely in control! Whatever comes our way for holding out the gospel and holding onto the truths of God's word we can face without fear because we are fellow-sufferers with Christ, awaiting a glorious eternal home.

Family News

Dot Cody passed away on Wednesday night

Dot who some will know, who was a member of our Kings Langley congregation. She passed away quite suddenly on Wednesday night after going into hospital last Friday. It would be good to keep her widower John in our thoughts and prayers. For more information please speak to Kath.

John Quigley's Dad Passed Away

A sad week for John and Trish this week with the passing of John's father Jack. Thankfully John was able to be with his father as he passed away. A funeral service will be held on the 26th. It would be good to keep Jack's widow Ruby, John and Trish, and the rest of the family in our prayers during this difficult time.

Dave & Wayling leaving for a time

Some hard news this week for Dave and Wayling who after some issues with immigration have been told that Wayling has to leave the country by the 28th of September. Both her and Dave will be flying to China on the 26th of September with no clear idea of when they will return. This will be their last Sunday with us for some time. It would be good to pray for them at this time of sudden and unexpected change. That God would bring good out of it. This Sunday we will have an opportunity to pray for them and farewell them hopefully only for a short time.

Hazel recovering in Our Lady of Consolation

Hazel is in St Helens unit at OLOC in respite accommodation. It appears that this will be until she can manage by herself at home. There was a card sent from her to thank everyone for their prayers and support. She is missing everyone.

Responding to the Crisis in Syria

There are some leaflets on the back table in order to be able to give financially through Baptist World Aid to the Syrian crisis.

What's Coming Up @ Westview

Recognition Service 27th September

We will be having a special lunch after JJ's recognition service next Sunday 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!

Community Prayer Night 4th October

The community prayer night will be moved to Sunday 4th October at 7pm at the church building. All are welcome.

Community Prayer Morning 11th October

We will be trialing a new prayer morning once a month from 8:15am – 9am before the church service for those who would like to be involved. If you would like to make any suggestions on this or on other times of prayer please speak to Lee or JJ.

Westviews going on a 5:2 Diet!

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. 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.



Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Comoros **Leader:** President Ikililou Dhoinine
Population: 770,000 **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic
Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

In 2009 Comoros had a referendum which led to adopting Islam as the state religion. This change in the constitution severely inhibits the existence of other religions. Among the population at large, there is a rise of sympathies with radical Islam, and this is having an impact on the Christians. According to an Open Doors expert, "Islam and only Islam is effectively endorsed at the national level and converts are persecuted severely in their private lives. Foreigners are allowed to practice their Christian religion but must not proselytize at the threat of being deported."

Contrary to the relative stability and a reportedly 'electoral democracy', the life of Christians in the Comoros is getting harder. There seems to be less space for Christian church life to develop and flourish. The rise in radical Islam in Comoros goes hand in hand with the rise of radical Islam in East Africa and other parts of the world. The Comorian government is highly inclined towards radical Islamic states in the Gulf and Middle East. Even if some of them are not too severe on Christians on their soil, they do not hesitate to support countries that want to have an Islamic government. Consequently, in the coming year(s), it is likely that radical Islam continues rising in the country, and in a way Christians might be pushed completely away from public life as well as put under heavy pressure in private life.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Comoros.



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