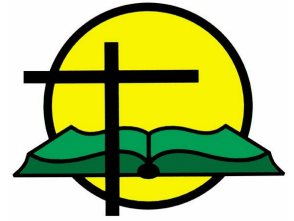


Westview Baptist Church



8th November 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*

From suffering to hope?

Or hope in the midst of suffering?

Lamentations is a book of that – lamenting, mourning and grieving about the suffering that had come upon Jerusalem as a result of her continual refusal to turn from worshipping and serving other gods back to her covenant God. Although this book contains some of the greatest words of truth: *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."* Yet these very words are surrounded by in a picture of deep and great suffering. What do we do with this?

Lamentations is a wonderful help to us as believers. We do suffer here on this earth, with disease, grief, brokenness and pain (emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually). But this book shows us that it is a right a proper response to pour out our hearts to God in and through our suffering. We are not called to deny our suffering exists but to pour it out before our God who cares for us. With the words of hope above we are reminded that like this book hope does not mean that suffering ceases to exist here and now, but that we can see a light at the end of the tunnel, we can hold on when it seems hopeless, we can trust in the steadfast love of God when we don't see a way forward – that the suffering that seems to be all we can see – is not even worth comparing the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Family News

Request for Membership

David Rollason, and Andrew and Gina Rollason have requested formal membership of Westview. Lee and JJ met with them on Monday night and there is a membership recommendation that will be left up the front over the next two Sundays. Please take some time to read these and to sign them to signal your affirmation. If anyone is interested in speaking more about the formal membership of the church please speak to Lee or JJ.

What's Coming Up @ Westview

Blacktown Respect Walk! Sunday 8th November 1-5pm (Blacktown Showground)

This is a community event promoting respect for the differences of culture in the diverse city of Blacktown. Bay Ayling among others are organising this event. We would encourage people to go along. If you register for the event beforehand you receive a free Blacktown Respect Tshirt. You can register [online](#) or speak to JJ



Westview Working Bee! Saturday 14th November

Most years we try and reserve a day to do some general cleaning up and some of the jobs that need to happen for the property to be looked after well. If you can lend a hand for a few hours on this day that would be great. People will be cleaning at the church by 9am. Thanks.



Soccer in the Park

15th November 2pm

All welcome. Charlie Bali Reserve Doonside.
From 2pm. Any questions? Speak to JJ.



Community Prayer Sunday Night 22nd November 7pm

This is held at the church building. All are welcome. This time usually goes until around 8pm. Speak to Lee for any further details.



Esther Play – Saturday Night December 5th! Put it in your diary.

Thanks to Andrew we will be having a light-hearted, comical stage play on the book of Esther. At the moment the idea is that we will invite family, friends and anyone along to enjoy the play, which will be followed by a dessert. Please start inviting!
If you are interested in being involved speak to Andrew or JJ.



Weekly Homegroups

Just a reminder that there are weekly home groups where we open God's word, pray for and support each other in this journey of faith in Jesus. There are currently a number of groups that meet on weeks days and nights. Please speak to Lee or JJ if you are interested in more information.

Are you in need of specific prayer?

If you are needing prayer for anything specific, or are struggling in anyway and just need someone to talk to, then please don't hesitate to speak to our Elders or Deacons (Lee, JJ, Kath and Steve) who would would love to speak with or prayer for you.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Malaysia **Leader:** King Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah
Population: 30.7 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Constitutional Monarchy **Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism/Dictatorial Paranoia

On countless occasions, the ruling Prime Minister Najib Razak has publicly announced that Islam will always supersede politics, that the people should protect Islam, that pluralism, liberalism and other '-isms' are against Islam and that human rights must have limits as they should fall "within the boundaries of Islam". The government increasingly plays the religious card as being of Malay ethnicity is seen as being Muslim. The highest pressure is put on Christian converts from Islam. They not only face the risk of being divorced, losing their children's custody rights and inheritance rights, but families will take every means to bring the convert back to the Muslim faith.

It is almost impossible for a Malay Muslim to convert to Christianity. All conversions have to be affirmed by a Sharia court and the process demands at least three months of time for reconsideration in a re-education center. Churches have been monitored and new churches have found it difficult to register. As many churches are meeting in business or office facilities, which are not dedicated for religious purposes, they are technically worshipping illegally. Pastors and church leaders closely watch their words and in several incidents Bibles and Sunday school materials were confiscated. The media increasingly slander the Christian minority and put them in a false light. Examples of faith-related violence were the fire-bombing of a Roman Catholic Church in January 2014 and the vandalization of eight Christian graves in February 2014. More than ten Christian churches were notified by authorities to close their premises as they were meeting in structures not dedicated for religious purposes.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Malaysia



www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



www.facebook.com/westviewbaptistchurchdoonside



www.twitter.com/westviewbaps



www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist

Eldership Contact: Lee Arundel 02 9621 6907; leeaarundel@yahoo.com

Electronic Giving: 'Westview Baptist Church' BSB: 704 922 Account:100003291

Address: Cnr Crawford Road & Coveny St, Doonside NSW 2767

Post: PO Box 965 Kings Langley NSW 2147