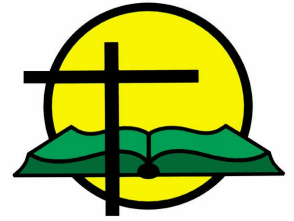


# Westview Baptist Church



15th 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*

## **God is faithful to fulfil His promises.**

We continue our '5:2 diet' this week by starting our first of two weeks in the book of Ezra. In some ways Ezra picks up where Lamentations left off. Judah, the southern kingdom, were taken into exile in Babylon. They had continued to reject God and worship other gods and after warning them, and their refusal to turn from their evil ways, He sent Babylon to overthrow them. The temple was destroyed and nearly all the survivors were taken away to Babylon. And that is how Lamentations leaves off, there is a feeling of hopelessness but yet still some hope.

The book of Ezra takes up here, after Babylon was conquered by Persia (the greatest kingdom in ancient history), God Himself had stirred the heart of the Persian king Cyrus to call for the Jews to return home and rebuild the temple. Chapters 1-6 are not all smooth sailing, as the rebuilding is ceased for about 15 years after only just beginning. But we see throughout this book a very clear picture of God working in the hearts of even those who are not his people – in the Persian kings. We also see Him at work in the hearts of His own people, bringing them back and causing them to build and to rejoice at His goodness. And it reminds us, as those who follow Jesus that God is faithful to fulfil His promises. He who sent His Only Son to save us from our sins – will send Him again to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. He has given us His Spirit as the firstfruits of the everlasting harvest of joy to come in His presence forever.

## **Family News**

### **June Davies in hospital**

June Davies was taken to Norwest private hospital on Monday night after some blood results showed that she had clotting in her lungs. The doctors have given her some medication to seek to resolve the clotting. She is well and feels very well looked after. She would value your prayers. If you would like any further details please speak to the Kenning's.



### **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.

### **New Church Building Signs**

We have been in the need of some new signs for our building for some time. Thanks to Greater West For Christ who designed these for free, and put us through to a sign maker who has printed and installed them. We are so thankful for those who do look after the maintenance of our property so well. If you do have any questions or ideas to do with the church property please speak to Tony Kenning.



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

### **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**

We could still use some more volunteers for the 'light-hearted play' on the book of Esther which will be held only in a couple of weeks from now on Saturday 5th of December from 7pm. If you would like to be involved, rehearsals are on Monday nights. Also if anyone has anything that they could offer by way of prompts or by way of helping in any other way on the night please speak to JJ. And please, start inviting people along!



# Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

**Country:** Mexico **Leader:** President Enrique Pena Nieto **Population:** 125.2million **Main Religion:** Roman Catholic **Government:** Federal Republic  
**Main Source of Persecution:** Organized Corruption

There has been a progression of organized crime and more violent incidents targeting Christians.

Criminal organizations and drug cartels have targeted Christians because they view churches as revenue centers (extortions) and because churches support programs for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and alcoholics.

Local communities in the Southern States of Mexico are led by indigenous traditional law to force all community members into a homogenous lifestyle. As soon as community members accept a different religion, they're threatened. All types of Christianity are affected. Pressure caused by Organized corruption is experienced by Christians throughout all spheres of life (private, family, community, national and church), but particularly in the community sphere. The intense violence and repeated extortions of Christian leaders reduce freedom in their communities, and Christians can become too afraid to gather at particular times.

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



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