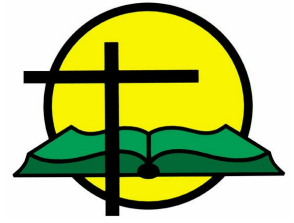


Westview Baptist Church



22nd 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*

A few thoughts on generosity

A Roy Morgan Poll last year found that the “average Australian gave \$288 to charity in the year to June 2014. Those who identify with a religion gave an average \$331 each in the past year—over a \$100 per person...1 in 4 religious Australians say they didn’t give anything to charity in the past year, compared with 1 in 3 non-religious Australians.” That is pleasing to see, but is this what Paul would describe as excelling “in this grace of giving” (2 Cor 8:7)? Here are some principles for you to consider when seeking to excel in the grace of giving:

1. Contribute to the work of your church family

Supporting the church family is not the starting point of generosity. In the same way that we provide for the needs of our individual families, providing for the needs of the church family should not be seen as generosity. We are given a good guide from the Old Testament of the tithe when we consider supporting this work, but this is not a New Testament command. If you do regularly give a tithe, consider raising it 1% each year until you need to stop. You can always reduce it if needed. Perhaps think about leaving a percentage of your estate in your will. There are many ways we can support the work of God’s kingdom.

John Wesley was not ruled by the idea of a tithe. The English preacher worked out that he needed 28 pounds a year to live, and with his financial support of 30 pounds a year, he... lived on 28 and gave 2 pounds away. The next year his support

was raised to 60 pounds, and he lived on 28 pounds and gave 32 pounds away. When it was raised to 90 pounds, he lived on 28 pounds and gave 62 pounds away. It is believed that the taxman audited his estate because they thought he would have more money than he did. His income did not determine how much he would spend to live, it determined how much he would give away, for it's all from God.

2. Choose one or two charity organisations to support and be committed

Your generosity in supporting charities should not take away from the support of your church family. You are not free to be generous with the finances which are set aside for supporting the church, and say no to others. As there are just so many good charitable organisations in the world, chose one or two organisations that you can trust, and give from your plenty. Occasionally give in a way that hurts. Baptist World Aid is one agency close to our hearts, but you may have others. Think also of the many missionaries who always need our financial support.

3. Be generous

There are times when you need to be spontaneously generous, with people in need, or just for the fun of it. Don't hinder how God might prompt you. 2 Cor 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than receive. This is true because those who can give have something that they can give, where those who have nothing can only receive. So look for ways to be generous with what God has given us, seeking always to put first the kingdom of God. – Tony Calman

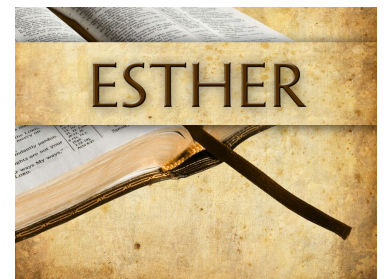
Family News & What's Coming Up

Baptist World Aid Big Gifts!

Baptist World Aid has produced a *Little Book of Big Gift Ideas* through which you can contribute to a part of various community development projects and receive a card to tell someone you've made the gift on their behalf. After the service on Sundays 22nd, 29th Nov, and 6th Dec, Jan & Allan Smith will run a stall for you to purchase such gifts and receive the cards there and then to give to your friends, and get a tax-deductible receipt as well. You can find out more about the range of gifts and purchase them online too at: www.biggifts.org.au

Esther starts next Sunday!

It would be great if you could take some time to read through the story of Esther. We are going to be spending the next 2 weeks going through the book, including the play!



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.



Soccer in the Park 29th November 2pm

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



A new church Library!

Thanks to Pudge, we have a small library of books that all are welcome to borrow. There is a record for any borrowing. If you have books to add to the library please speak to Pudge.



Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Oman **Leader:** Sultan and Prime Minister Qaboos bin Said Al-Said
Population: 4.2 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Monarchy
Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

Located at the confluence of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, Oman is one of the few countries with Islam as the state religion, but not criminalizing conversion from Islam to other religions.

As Islam is the state religion, legislation is based on Islamic laws. All public school curriculums include instruction in Islam. Apostasy is not a criminal offense, but it is not respected by the legal system either, which assumes that all citizens are Muslims.

While expatriate Christians are relatively free in exercising their freedom of religion, a Christian convert from a Muslim background faces problems under the Personal Status and Family Legal Code, which prohibits a father from having custody over his children if he leaves Islam. Muslim background believers risk persecution from family and society, risking losing their family, house, and job and could even their life.

Since the 2011 low-level protest, the regime has decided to concentrate on stabilizing and consolidating its power. There have been no violent persecution incidents in Oman recently. A positive development is that there is a tendency of tolerating Christians compared to the situations in some of the neighboring countries.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Oman



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