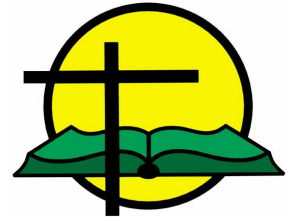


Westview Baptist Church

29th November 2015

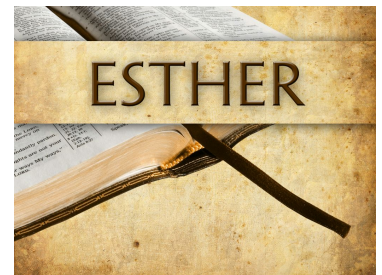


Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

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*

Esther Part 1

This Sunday we start two weeks in the book of Esther. We focus first on chapters 1 - 4, that set the scene for the great problem that is now faced by the Jews at this time – their total destruction by the hands of the greatest ancient super power – Persia. It is at this time that Jews, Mordecai and Esther, display great faithfulness and obedience in very difficult situations. Mordecai shows that he trusts that God will bring deliverance, and in God's providence to place Esther as the queen in foreign Persia to bring about His purposes. Esther throughout the book also displays faithfulness and obedience, and especially in her willingness to go to the king of Persia, and risk her own life for the sake of her people.



We are reminded in a story that does not actually mention God's name – that He is behind the scenes, constantly working and weaving to bring about His good purposes for His people. He is the One bringing things about to fulfill His promises, but this does not mean that His people are not called to be faithful and obedient in hard situations. It is the same call for us as His followers today... As we follow after Jesus, we too, are called to be faithful and obedient in where God has placed us and with those with whom we have influence. We are to continue to trust in His purposes as we await His great and final deliverance for all His people in Jesus, His Son, who is soon to return.

Family News

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 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

Bibles Handed Out

Thanks to a very generous lady in the community has donated over a hundred brand new children's bibles were donated to be distributed at Crawford Public School and Doonside Public School as part of Scripture. The Bible's were handed out to the students this week at Crawford and will be handed out to the Scripture students at Doonside on Monday.

What's Coming Up?

Community Prayer Sunday Morning 6th December 8:15am

This is held at the church building. All are welcome. This time usually goes until around 9am. 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



www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



www.facebook.com/westviewbaptistchurchdoonside



www.twitter.com/westviewbaps



www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist

Eldership Contact: Lee Arundel 02 9621 6907; leearundel@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