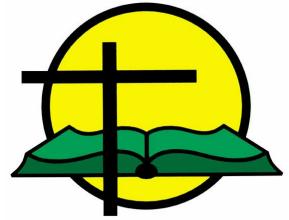


# Westview Baptist Church



13th December 2015

## Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

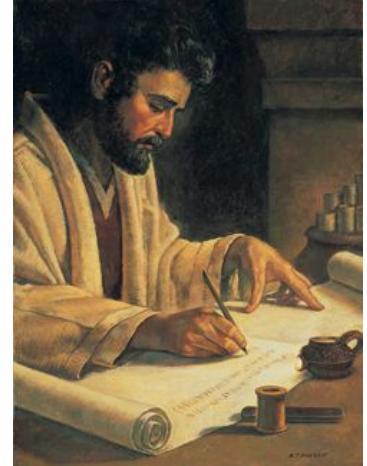
We will do this as we: *Are transformed by enjoying Christ; Love by serving others; and proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world*

## What Luke's purpose in writing his account?

This week we move into the gospel of Luke.

Understanding why any author has written, the purpose for their writing helps us so much. Luke tells us right at the start of his gospel the reason that he is writing. He is writing to a certain man, Theophilus, he tells him: 'so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.' I think that we all want certainty.

Being sure, being certain of the truth of things I think is a fundamental need that we all desire... What could be more important to be sure of than the events of the One who is said to be the very Son of God?



Luke has written to give sureness of the things taught about Jesus after having carefully investigated them himself. Things handed down from eye-witnesses and servants of the word. People like Paul that Luke had travelled with on his missionary journeys. Luke's account continues to give you and me certainty concerning the things of Jesus. Certainty of His life, His death and His resurrection. Certainty of our sure and certain hope in Him. Certainty of Who Jesus is and All that He has done and will do. Do you want to be sure about Jesus Christ? Read Luke's gospel and grow in certainty.

## **Family News**

### **The appointment of Josh Duncan at Blacktown Baptist & Our Celebration with them.**

Through the help and support of Tony and Wendy in their first intentional interim ministry, Blacktown Baptist has now unanimously appointed to Josh Duncan to be called as their new Pastor. This is wonderful news for the local body, for us the wider body, and for Western Sydney. We have decided that we will join Blacktown Baptist on the 17th January as they welcome Josh and his family. \*Please note that on January 17th there we will be joining with Blacktown Baptist at their church property (Cnr Sackville & Harold Streets, Blacktown), and there will be no service at our church hall. Further details about the day will be given over the coming weeks.

### **Bible in a year – Starting January 1st!**

In Luke's gospel he tells us that he is writing to give 'certainty of thing things' that had been taught. All of God's word teaches us about Him, and who we are through His work in Christ. There can be no better investment of our time, and greater benefit for us then to meditate on God's word. The psalmist reminds us in Psalm 1 that true blessedness or happiness comes to the one who delights in the truth of God's instruction – His Word.

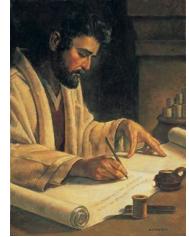
Lee, JJ and Tony would ask you to join us as we read through the Bible in 2016. There are many good ways to read through the Scriptures, meditating on passages, verses, reading through slowly. But it is great also to be able to go through the entire Scriptures in more of an overview as well. We believe that this is a really worthwhile thing for everyone at Westview to do. There are options available for those who might struggle for whatever reason with this, and this is not about a legalistic practice of course, but this is a worthwhile pursuit that we ask everyone to

join us for. There will be information on the back table, and is more info here: [www.oneyearbibleonline.com/](http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com/)

## What's Coming Up?

### Next Week's Luke Passage: Luke 1:39-80

If you have time to have a read and think over it during the week that would be great. If you ever have questions of the passage covered that aren't addressed on the morning service or any questions on the Bible in general please speak to JJ or Lee.



### Baptist World Aid Christ Appeal

On 20th December we will distribute material from BWAA about their Christmas Appeal. There are many ways of responding to the appeal, including through the collection box. As usual all gifts in the collection box on Christmas Day not marked for any other purpose, will be sent to Baptist World Aid.

### 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:** Kazakhstan **Leader:** President Nursultan Abishuly Nazarbayev

**Population:** 16.8 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic **Main Source of Persecution:** Dictatorial Paranoia/Islamic Extremism

The succession of president Nazarbayev is an important topic in Kazakh politics. The relations with Russia, Europe and the rest of the world are complicated by the huge Russian minority in the country. A growing problem is the activities of Islamic jihadists abroad who one day may return to Kazakhstan. All four types of Christianity are affected by persecution in Kazakhstan, but Christian converts from Islam and non-traditional Protestant groups are targeted most. While societal players like family, friends and community exert much pressure in the private, family and community spheres of life, pressure from the authorities at every level influences the national and church spheres of life. Though the violence is not very high, some violent incidents were reported. Pastor Kashkumbayev was arrested in May 2013 (before the 2015 World Watch List reporting period), and sentenced to two months pre-trial prison, but it was not until February 2014 that the state handed him a suspended four-year prison sentence and a fine.

In November 2013, pastor Karim Kashkumbayev from Astana (the son of pastor Bakhytzhhan Kashkumbayev) was forced to leave his family and he left the country for the United States. Protestant Christians are frequently fined precisely on account of their faith and for relatively arbitrary legal reasons. At least 71 people in 2014 alone have been fined for worshipping in unregistered, underground churches. The regime in Kazakhstan is constantly working to increase its control all over society. Radical Islam has already left its traces in Kazakhstan, and the government is anxiously awaiting what is going to happen when the jihadists come to their country. The situation for the Christian minority is getting worse. More and more legal restrictions are imposed.

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



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