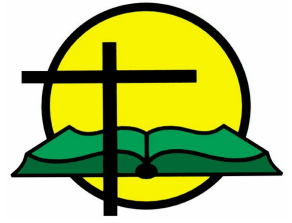


Westview Baptist Church

Sunday 31st January



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

Jesus said...“Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

Jesus really did say some absolutely shocking and outrageous things. Statements like that which He made above are extremely offensive and plain out wrong to one who has not grasped the magnitude of Who Jesus is and the Kingdom of God that He is ushering in.

It is God’s eternal kingdom, in which Jesus reigns as King forever, that is ushered in by Jesus’ life, and especially his death and resurrection. It is “God’s people, in God’s place under God’s rule.” It’s a kingdom for all those who recognise Jesus as Lord over all. And so making this kingdom known – is making Jesus known – making the gospel known... His teachings, his life, his death and resurrection.

The message of God’s provision of forgiveness and righteousness for all who put their trust in Jesus as King. It is this Jesus and His Kingdom – the Kingdom of God that is the number one priority of the disciple/follower of Jesus. In fact Jesus and His Kingdom are so much so their greatest priority that the true and deep love that a follower of Jesus has for even those closest to him seems like hatred compared to their love for their King Jesus (Luke 14:26-27). What challenging words for us who are His followers.

Family News

Westview 2020

The last 8 months for our church have been significant with Tony's sabbatical, the leaving of Bob down to the Valley and with JJ's being recognised as an Elder along with Lee and Tony (just to mention a few things). We are prayerfully considering as a church how God is leading us for the future. Sometime ago now the Elders put before the church the vision we are encouraging the church to prayerfully consider. Can we encourage you to continue to read over, think through and pray through this - asking God to direct us into what is best for His Kingdom and His people for His glory. If you would like to speak any further about any details of this please speak to our Elders.

Homegroups/Bible study groups in 2016

Are you currently in a Homegroup for this year?

God has given us one another, and one of the best tools for being in one another's lives, sharing and reading the Word and praying together is through weekly small groups. At the moment we currently have groups at the below times:

Monday daytime (weekly), Tuesday night time (fortnightly), Wednesday night time (weekly), Thursday night time (weekly) and Friday night time (fortnightly).

If you are not currently in a Homegroup can we encourage you to speak to JJ or Lee about joining one for this year. It is a worthwhile use of your time. If none of these above times suit we will seek to work something out with you.

Update on June Davies

Our dear sister June after many weeks in hospital and then rehab has now thankfully come home from the rehab hospital, just yesterday. Please keep her in your prayers that she might fully recover and be back with us soon. For more info speak to Tony or Lynne Kenning.

Westview Church Fliers and Tracts

We have a large number of church fliers and gospel tracts that are available on the front table for anyone to take and use. JJ is also organising to letterbox drop the Doonside area (and will be organising a map) in the coming weeks, and would love any help you can offer in helping to distribute these into mail boxes! Please speak directly to him if you can help. *Please note not to distribute to letter boxes marked 'no junk mail'. Thank you.

What's Coming Up?

Men's Group - This Tuesday 2nd February

This is a very small community group (held at the Doontage Cottage) which JJ runs, where all men are welcome for a free dinner and a chat. See JJ if you are interested in coming along.

Thursday Morning Prayer - Back this week

This time of prayer goes from 6am - 6:30am and is held weekly at our church property. All are welcome.

Sunday Morning Prayer - February 7th - 8:15am

Our Sunday morning prayer time is back on, held every first Sunday of the month from 8:15am. All are welcome.

WRAP Meeting Sunday February 14th

This meeting will be held directly after our morning service. All are welcome to attend. If you have any things you would like to be discussed on the day please come and see Lee or JJ.

Community Prayer Night - February 28th

Our regular once a month community prayer night will be held 4th Sunday of the month from 7pm-8pm at the church property.

Passage For Teaching Next Week (7th Feb): Luke
11:14-13:21

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Comoros (Africa) **Leader:** President Ikililou Dhoinine

Population: 781,000 **Main Religion:** Islam

Government: Republic **Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

An increasingly fundamental government

In Comoros, Sunni Islam is the state religion. Though legal provisions are made for religious freedom, Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise and the constitution reinforces this, dictating that all public policies must be based on Islamic beliefs. As fundamentalism increases, Christians are under more and more pressure.

Sharing the gospel is limited

Christianity was introduced to Comoros in 1517. Following its independence from France, missionaries arrived in 1975 to share the Gospel, but they were expelled in 1978 as the government began to align itself with Muslim countries. The International Evangelical Church, made up mostly of expats, meets in the city. However traditionally they keep to themselves for fear of being closed down if they were caught to be sharing Christ with the Comorons, which is illegal. Converts from Islam meet in local homes.

Pressure on churches and individuals

Christians find it difficult to build places of worship and cannot distribute Bibles and other Christian materials. House churches are always spied on by local groups. It is very dangerous for the expat church to allow local visitors to attend church services and foreigners found doing so will be deported. Converts from Islam face intense persecution from their families and communities. They might also have limited access to things like the available medical services. Furthermore, converts are put under heavy pressure from their families to renounce their Christian faith publicly, with the backing of the government.

Please Pray:

- > For the Comorian expat church, that God would strengthen them and give them boldness to proclaim the gospel despite the risk.
- > For the Christians from Muslim backgrounds who are pressured by their families and communities to give up their faith.
- > That the rise of radical Islam in Comoros will decrease and Christians will be able to worship without facing severe pressure.



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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