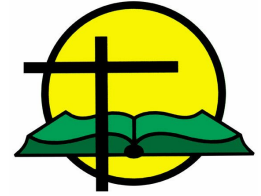


# Westview Baptist Church



*Sunday 28th February 2016*

## **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*

## **Secrets of the Kingdom**

The Bible presents the truth that, left to themselves, humans are lost. It also tells us that the Lord Jesus came to 'seek and to save the lost.' (Luke 19:10)

Jesus told his followers that they learnt secrets of the Kingdom through his parables. The passage from which our teaching comes today (Luke 14:7-17:10) includes at least 8 parables and we will be looking at 3 of them, which all deal with being lost. They show that some people are lost and don't believe it, some are lost and don't know it and some are lost and know it.

At one time or another all of us fell into one or another of those descriptions. Understanding what it means to be lost and how it can be fixed is the difference between eternity with God or without God; of heaven or hell.

There is a way back to God and all heaven joins in celebrating when lost people agree with God about their lostness, coming to Jesus for forgiveness and entry into his Kingdom.

## **Family News**

### **2020 Vision Discussion Group**

Last Sunday night was the first meeting to discuss together the vision and way forward for us as a church for the future. This time together was great. Thank you to all who gave of their time to come and to hear and discuss together these important things in the life of our church community. Minutes of the meeting are available on the back table or please speak to any of the Elders for a copy. The next meeting will be held on Sunday 6th March (7-8pm), with the intention for fortnightly meetings for the next few months. All are welcome. It is a time for us to pray, meditate on the truths of the Scriptures, to think, to consider and discuss what, when, where and how God is leading us for the future. If you are able please do consider joining us for this time.

### **Update from Bay and Beck Ayling**

Our good friends and local Cobis worker (Churches of Blacktown in Schools), Bay and his wife Beck (and their 3 boys), have their latest newsletter available here [online](#) and there are a few copies on the back table. Things have started back at Doonside High and Seven Hills High. JJ and Alexander Purnomo (the pastor from Doonside Anglican) currently support Bay with the weekly Scripture teaching. Year 7 has started just this week with a great number of students with the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus. Bay and Beck are 'missionaries' who are supported by local churches. They are a worthy financial cause to support, if you are interested in partnering with them in this way please follow the link [here](#) or speak to Allan or one of the Elders.

### **Baby Shower - Save the Date.**

Calling all ladies! There will be a baby shower for Sujin on Saturday May 14th so please save the date. More details will be given closer to the date. Becky Preece is looking after this so please speak to her for further information - thanks!

## **What's Coming Up?**

### **Passage For Teaching Next Week: Luke 17:11-19:27**

Why not make some time to read over the passage during the week?

### **Community Prayer Night Sunday February 28th 7-8pm**

All are welcome. It's held at the church property.



### **Community Prayer Morning Sunday March 6th 8:15am**

All are welcome. It's held at the church property.



### **2020 Vision Discussion Group Sunday March 6th 7-8pm**

All are welcome. It's held at the church property.

# **Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters**

**Country:** Indonesia **Leader:** President Joko Widodo

**Population:** 256 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic

**Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

## **Continued suffering for minorities**

Indonesia is a diverse country that claims to be tolerant to all religions, however religious minorities continue to suffer and Christians face problems in registering church buildings. Christians have at times even suffered violent attacks. Islamic by-laws are in place in some regions and territories, with Aceh province ruled by Sharia law.

## **Diversity and disunity**

Indonesia is well-known as being the biggest Muslim country in the world. With a population of over 260.5 million citizens, 86 per cent of whom are Muslim. The Portuguese came to Indonesia in 1511, and brought with them Catholicism. Christianity became a major religion in eastern Indonesia, whereas Islam maintains a strong hold in the western and central parts.

## **Islam is deeply entrenched**

As Islam is deeply entrenched in much of Indonesia, converts to Christianity always have to be careful in the way they worship, especially if they are the only believers in their family. In mid-October 2015 at least nine churches in the province of Aceh were forcibly closed and broken down while two others were torched. An additional 13 churches have been given six months to apply for building permission.

## **Please Pray:**

- > For unity among Christians from different regions, denominations and ethnic backgrounds.
- > That the President, Joko Widodo, would make an effort to secure religious freedom and protection for minorities.
- > Pray for believers who may have lost their church to continue meeting.



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