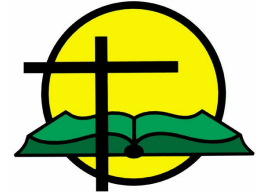


Westview Baptist Church



Sunday 6th March 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

Thy kingdom come! (Luke 17:20-37)

When we consider the kingdom of God we need to differentiate the kingdom from the last days. The kingdom is here, now. It will be here forever. Jesus was asked then, as many people still ask today, when the kingdom of God would come. His reply to this question included teaching that corrected misinterpretations and misunderstandings about the kingdom of God and the last days, or as Jesus refers to them in this passage, the days of the Son of Man. But Jesus makes one thing very clear: the kingdom of God is not a place you go to, either you live in it or you don't.

Jesus tells us that some day he will return in visible power. We won't need to wonder about it. We will see it like we see lightning light up the entire sky. When will this happen? Many have tried to pinpoint times and dates since Jesus returned to His Father. But we are warned by Jesus not to be distracted from living in the kingdom now by trying to discover what cannot be discovered. "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority." (Acts 1:7). Rather, we are to get ready for the last days, which we must all face, either because Jesus returns or we depart this world. We get ready by doing His will, by living in the light of the truth of His word, by praying together and building each other up in our faith, by proclaiming Him to those not in the kingdom of God. This life will end, but we have read the last chapter in the book, we know what will happen, we have no fear, only confidence in the position we have in His kingdom. "The Spirit and the bride say "Come!". And let him who hears say, "Come!". Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17).

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.

March Birthdays!

A big happy birthday to all our March birthdays! Michelle Arundel (2/3), Becky (12/3), Robert Davies (14/3), and Upendra (28/3). We are thankful for each one of you and wish you a wonderful birthday filled with joy and blessing.

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.

What's Coming Up?

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.

Thursday Morning Prayer Every Thursday 6am.

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

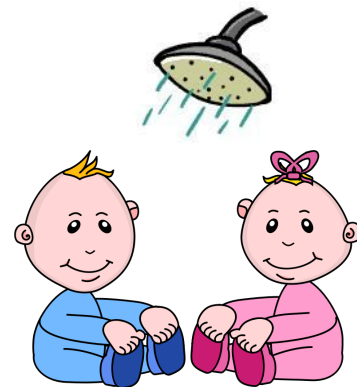


Passage For Teaching Next Week: Luke 19:28-21:38

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

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 looking after this so please speak to her for further information.



Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Mali **Leader:** President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
Population: 17 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic
Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

Persecuted from Islamic Extremists

Believers in Mali face persecution from Islamic Extremism. Mali has a secular political system, banning religious political parties even though a high percentage of its population is Muslim. Up until the 2012 Islamist militant takeover, Christians had always had sufficient space in society, including foreign Christian missionaries.

French intervention lessens threats from extremists

The situation in the north of the country has been more difficult than in the south. Prior to 2012 international missionaries were able to work in the north unimpeded. However when Islamic militants to the north of the country they were no longer safe. Due to a French military intervention in January 2013 the situation improved however the threat of militants, particularly in the north of the country, has not completely been averted.

No church in the north

In the north of Mali there is still no possibility of normal Church life. Christian communities and infrastructure has been largely destroyed with many of the Christians who fled still afraid to return. At the same time, the Church in southern Mali has been negatively affected by the increasing visibility of various Islamic Extremist groups. While society has generally accepted Christian gatherings, believers feel threatened by the lingering Islamist movements.

Please Pray for our brothers and sisters in Mali

Pray for:

- > For Christians living in the north who face more persecution.
- > For Christians living in fear of Islamic militants, that they will be strong in their faith.
- > For God to continue to build his church in this country.



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