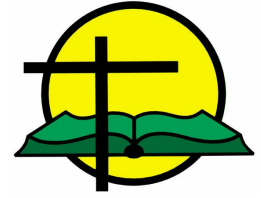


Westview Baptist Church



Sunday 20th 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

Are you a Judas or a Peter?

Both Judas and Peter betrayed their Master. Both sinned (both were sinners), but only one turned back in repentance and faith. We see such a contrast between Judas and Peter in some ways. We know Judas was a thief and deceptive (John 12:6), Peter on the other hand had recognised Jesus as God's King (Luke 9:20), and yet in Luke 22 both betray Jesus their Master. One for money and with a kiss, and one in denial and fear. But what is the difference? Jesus tells Peter that he has prayed for him, that his faith may not fail. Jesus knew despite Peter's best promises to go to prison and death with his Master that he would in fact deny him within hours of his promise not too.

And we do see in these two men, two betrayals but only one who turns back with faith and repentance in Jesus. Judas realises after what he did that it was wrong but he does not turn to God for forgiveness and grace. His sin is not atoned for, he rejects Jesus unto his own death. Peter however, we see, even in Jesus own words that through Jesus' prayer he will not reject him unto to death. Peter will reject his Master, but he will Jesus' says turn and he is then to strengthen the others, who also fled and so denied their Lord.

Which will you be? Judas? Or Peter?

Will you realise your sin, but run from Jesus to everything else even to death, and so not have your sin forgiven... Or will you realise your betrayal, and let it lead you to the Passover Lamb, to Christ Jesus, who endured even the wrath of God so that you can be forgiven and have everlasting life in Him? Run to Christ. Find joy and peace today in Jesus, He says "whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

Family News

Some very sad news

Some very sad news with the passing suddenly of Val van Niekerk. Many in our church family knew her well. The funeral was held in the Gold Coast on Thursday. At this stage not a lot more information is known, but please do pray for the van Niekerk family and those who were close to Val during this difficult time.

Westview 2020 Vision Discussion Group

The latest discussion group paper for our vision discussion group this Sunday 20th March can be viewed online [here](#) and there are also some copies available on the back table, otherwise please speak to one of the Elders or Deacons for a copy. The discussion group will be held at the church property from 7pm finishing around 8pm. All are welcome to come and be a part of the discussions. If you can't attend, please direct your feedback to someone you know will be there. If you are unsure who will be, one of the Elders or Deacons would be fine.

What's Coming Up?

Greater West for Christ Leadership Academy

GWFC will be running an 8 week (May 2nd - June 20th) leadership academy. This is open to anyone would like to go along. It involves reading through 40 devotionals in your own time. 8 Monday evening teaching sessions held @ Minchinbury and during these 8 weeks, intercessory prayer over your leadership development. Tony Calman will be one of those involved in contributing to the devotionals. And it is absolutely free. For more info please speak to Tony. To register please contact GWFC (p.adcock@gwfc.com.au or 0417 554 047).

Men's Breakfast Saturday 2nd April. 8:30am.

Calling all men! It's time to gather together for a healthy breakfast of quinoa and flax seeds... JUST KIDDING! Come along for a great breakfast together. This is a great opportunity for us to spend time together, share and grow as men. Feel free to bring others! If you intend to come please speak to Alex or Clark.



2020 Westview Future/Vision Discussion Group Sunday March 20th 7-8pm

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

Community Prayer Night Sunday 27th March 7-8pm

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



Indoor Soccer Sunday 3rd April 2:30-3:30pm.

All are welcome. Emerton Leisure Centre. Jersey Road, Emerton. Please let JJ know if you intend to come. It should be about \$5 per person.



Passage For Teaching Next Week: Luke 23-24:53

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

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Colombia **Leader:** President Juan Manuel Santos
Population: 46.7 million **Main Religion:** Christianity
Government: Republic **Main Source of Persecution:** Organized Corruption

A hostile nation

Formally, Colombia is a modern democratic country with guaranteed religious freedom. However, large areas of the country are under the control of, drug cartels, revolutionaries and paramilitary groups. Organised crime and corruption have created a culture of fear. In this context, all inhabitants of Colombia suffer from the conflict that has lasted for decades, but Christians are specifically vulnerable to such hostilities. Christianity represents an alternative way to behave in society, especially for young people, which makes churches a direct competitor to criminal organizations.

Traditionally Catholic

Colombia is traditionally a Catholic nation, but many who call themselves Catholic do not practice their faith actively. Non-Catholic organisations (including Evangelicals), have to pay a 4 per cent tax on all offerings. Non-Catholic missionaries and religious leaders must also pay a 17 per cent tax on all financial assistance received from abroad.

Christians living in fear

In families, conversion from indigenous traditional beliefs to Christianity is not tolerated as it is seen as a threat to the community's ancestral traditions. For this reason, baptisms and other family-related expressions of Christianity need to be carried out in secret. Christians have been killed for their faith by guerrillas, paramilitaries and other criminal organisations. Criminal groups have also ordered the closure of churches, sometimes because these churches have criticised their activity or because they are viewed as accomplices of groups that oppose them.

Please Pray:

- >For safety for Christians who are at risk of becoming victims of violence.
- >That the Colombian government would do more to protect Christians and ensure they can worship in safety.
- >For the next generation, that they will seek Jesus and show a new way of life.



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