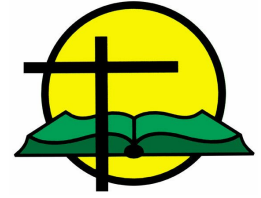


Westview Baptist Church



Easter Weekend 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

Easter: the certainty of the gospel of Jesus

This Easter weekend brings us to the end of Luke's gospel and our exploration of the events he carefully investigated, compiled and presented to Theophilus, and to us. He gathered these accounts so that Theophilus could be certain of the things he had been taught about Jesus but we don't find out what his response was to Luke's hard work. But we have an opportunity to share with each other what we have learned, what we have become more certain of, what has strengthened our faith over the course of these past few months as we have unpacked Luke's wonderful book on Sunday mornings, in home groups or even in our individual reading.

In the final chapters of his gospel, Luke records the Easter story, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. From the start Luke has been urging his readers to see Jesus for who he is, the King of the kingdom of God, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Christ of God who would make the way back to the Father possible for those who believe in him. But the final verses of chapter 24 are not the end of the story. The gospel of Jesus continues as he returns to his Father and sends the promised Holy Spirit and then sends his disciples into the world with a message of hope – to a hopeless world: *"The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."* (Luke 24:46b-48).

Family News

G'day from Beth in Adelaide!

Bethany wants to say hi to everyone and to thank everyone for your prayers, support and messages since she moved. She is enjoying her course and is attending a church in Glenelg and getting involved in ES Christian student group at Uni. She misses her church family but is thankful for your love and care. She will be visiting back home for a few weeks in April and is looking forward to seeing everyone then. Tony, Wendy & Hayley will be away over Easter visiting her in Adelaide.



Latest Vision Discussion Group Notes

The latest discussion group notes can be read here [online](#) and there are also some copies available on the back table. Please make every effort to join us on Sunday April 10th where Tony will be bringing to us the latest for our thinking as a church about our purpose, mission, values and vision for the future life of our church. If you have any questions please speak to our Elders.

Fruitful Church - Growing Church by giving it away

Something that has been very helpful in our thinking through our purpose, mission, values and vision as a church has been a little book called 'Fruitful Church' by Andrew Turner. There is a seminar with Andrew Turner at Pennant Hills Baptist Church on Saturday 30th April from 9:00am. Our Eldership would like to encourage people who can make this to attend as it will be a good opportunity to help our thinking in this area. The cost for the day, which includes the book, lunch, and materials will be covered for anyone who would like to come. There are some fliers with more information on the back table, but if you intend to come along could you please let one of the Elders know ASAP so we can book in the numbers. Thank you.

What's Coming Up?

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.



Sunday Morning Prayer Time. 3rd April 8:15am

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



Community Prayer Night Sunday 3rd April 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.



Sunday 10th April - Special Presentation

Please make every effort to join our morning service on Sunday April 10th where Tony will be bringing to us the latest for our thinking as a church about our purpose, mission, values and vision for the future life of our church.

Passage For Teaching Next Week: Question Box Sunday

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

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: United Arab Emirates

Leader: President Khalifa bin Zayid Al-Nuhayyan **Population:** 5.8 million

Main Religion: Islam **Government:** Federation

Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

No freedom

Freedom of religion is severely restricted in the UAE. The law of the kingdom does not recognise conversion from Islam to Christianity, and the legal punishment is death. To avoid death, social stigma and other penalties, Christian converts from a Muslim background are at times compelled to return to Islam. Others attempt to hide their faith, or travel to other countries where their conversion is allowed. The government does not allow any formal or informal education that includes religious teaching other than Islam. Evangelism is prohibited, but non-Muslim groups (mainly expatriates) can worship in dedicated buildings or private homes.

An expatriate church

In modern times, Christianity came to the Gulf region with the arrival of Western missionaries in the early 19th century. Islam is dominant in the Gulf region and the strict laws forbidding conversions has meant most Christians in the UAE expatriates. Many are from Asia, but large numbers also come from Africa and the West. Local converts face serious persecution.

Social discrimination and stigma

The government holds a negative attitude of towards Christians. Conversion from Islam to any other religion is prohibited and the legal framework does not protect converts from persecution or legal prosecution. Due to the serious social discrimination and stigma against Christians, openly possessing Christian materials is very dangerous, especially for Muslims.

Please Pray:

- > That God would strengthen and comfort the converts from Islam who are discriminated against for their faith.
- > For Christian materials to be available to those who need it.
- > For the expatriate Christians in the UAE, that they will stand strong when under pressure and boldly live out their faith.



www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



www.facebook.com/westviewbaptistchurchdoonside



www.twitter.com/westviewbaps



www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist

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 214