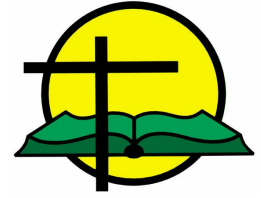


# Westview Baptist Church



*Sunday 10th - Sunday 24th April 2016*

## A United Vision

We as a church are seeking to consider afresh our purpose, mission, and values, so that we can discern a picture of our future together. It is a sharpening or clarification of our aim and desires as a community. It is a process which helps us understand our focus as a church. Consider the difference in the doctor who will treat your symptoms and the doctor who desires your good health. Consider the cleaner who will sweep and vacuum and the cleaner who desires a clean and pleasant environment. In the same way, we can be a church who does good things or be a church who desires to glorify God in everything we do.



What will be presented this Sunday morning is the outcome from the Elder's Retreat, which was later influenced by the Deacons, which was further influenced and refined by a series of discussion groups over the last two months. Over 22 people have actively been involved with this process with the discussions made known to the whole church for feedback. Starting this week, the Elders are encouraging each person who considers Westview their home, to follow a devotional program, five days per week, for four weeks, to discern one mind (the mind of God) for our Church. This is an important aspect of our thinking as the church is the individual followers of Jesus in community with one another. Therefore, if it can't be our personal purpose, mission, values and vision, then it will never be that for our church either. We would love to hear your feedback to the daily devotions. You can send in your personal and corporate feedback anonymously by going to this link:

[tinyurl.com/541devotion](http://tinyurl.com/541devotion)

## **Family News**

### **Janelle's Mum's Funeral Service**

The funeral service for Janelle's mum will be held on Wednesday 13th April, 10:30am at Pinegrove, West Chapel. Please continue to keep Janelle and the family and friends in your prayers.

### **Scripture in Schools**

Thanks so much for your prayers for Scripture in our local schools! We finished off with year 7 this term at Doonside High. We went through the 'gospel beads' where we look at green (creation), black (sin), red (Jesus' death), white (forgiveness), and yellow (eternal life/heaven). We had two classes between Bay, Alex (from Doonside Anglican), and JJ. One of the classes was particularly challenging with their behaviour but it was a great opportunity to tell those kids about the love of God in Jesus. Please be praying for them that God would work in them through His Spirit with the good news they have heard, that they might respond. Also we had a great term with the new Christian lunch time group. We would have had 20-25 students coming along to our last one before the holiday break. Please pray for these students as they come along that they would respond to Jesus and grow in their faith. Students will need to bring notes from home to come along to this group, so please pray this would not prevent any of them from coming along. Doonside and Crawford Primary schools also have finished for the school holiday break - we finished out the term looking at Easter and the story of the prodigal son coming home. If you have any questions about supporting or coming along please speak to JJ. Please continue to partner with us in prayer! Thank you so much.

### **Keith & Lin Low**

Keith and Lin will be away for a few weeks on a cruise and have asked that people would pray for this time away, for good health and safety.

## What's Coming Up?

### **WOW (Women of Westview) Tea & Trade!**

**Saturday 7th May 9:30am.**

### **Fundraiser for Mission Project!**

Calling all women! This is an event where you can bring along a few items you're happy to donate, that you think someone else will love & be willing to pay for. Some cash to buy what you like and a friend or a couple (if you like)! This will be a great opportunity to spend time together, to enjoy a cuppa and chat and raise some money for our mission project. For more information please speak to Wendy.



### **Fruitful Church Seminar "Growing Church by giving it away"**

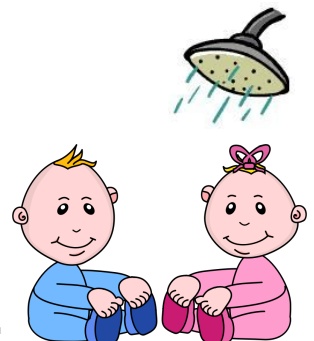
Pennant Hills Baptist Church on Saturday 30th April from 9:00am. Our Eldership would like to encourage people who can make this to attend as it will be a good opportunity to help our thinking in this area. The cost for the day, which includes the book, lunch, and materials will be covered for anyone 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.



### **Sujin's Baby Shower.**

**Saturday May 14th**

Sujin is having a baby girl! All Westview ladies are invited to her baby shower on Saturday May 14th 10-12pm. See Becky for gift ideas and more details.



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

**Country:** Niger

**Leader:** President Issoufou Mahamadou **Population:** 18 million

**Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic

**Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

## **Small population of Christians**

More than 98% of the population in Niger are Muslims. Only an estimated 2% of the population are Christian, the majority being Catholic. Believers in Niger face persecution from Islamic extremism, as there is a growing influence of radical Islam in the country. Extremist group Boko Haram also operates in the country.

## **Islamic extremism increasing**

Even though a high percentage of Niger's population is Muslim; religion is understood to be a private matter and generally steers clear of politics. There are now indications, however, that the separation of religion and state is increasingly under pressure. Radical Muslim clerics of the Izala group are present, who are known to be a radical group (also operate in Nigeria). Izala and other extremist groups create pressure on minority religions and on Muslims they consider to be deviating from their version of Islam.

## **Attacks on churches**

In 2015, there were a number of violent attacks against Christians. At least 82 churches, Christian schools, houses and orphanages were destroyed, 70 in January 2015 during the Charlie Hedbo attacks. At least 2,000 believers were threatened and forced to leave their homes during January 2015 alone. Christians in Niger have never been attacked at this scale. Christians face discrimination mainly from their community and family. Converts to Christianity are seen as a threat, and believers are persecuted by their family members as their new faith is made known. Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram are continuing to cross Nigerian borders into neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad, with the objective of implementing Sharia law in these countries.

## **Please Pray:**

- > For the churches that have been attacked and burnt down, that the congregations will continue.
- > For Christians who have been forced to leave their homes.
- > For new believers, that God's love and peace will overflow into their family.



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