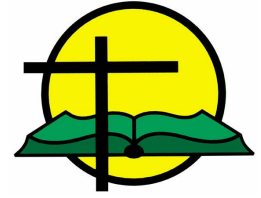


Westview Baptist Church



Sunday 5th June 2016

Hebrews 12:4-29 — Suffering in a New Light

A listening ear in times of troubles can be more than just an act of love by another, it can also be an opportunity to see your troubles in a different perspective. This will not take away the hardship, but good can sometimes be seen even in difficult situations. Counselors call this 'reframing', taking something that is causing fear or dysfunction and giving the person a helpful way of understanding it.

The way that the author of Hebrews does this for the suffering Christian community is to remind them that they are "children of God", and so any suffering that God allows in life should be considered discipline from a loving Father in heaven. The writer reminds them, and us today, that discipline is always difficult at the time, however the aim for such discipline is righteousness, holiness and peace. What is required is trust in our Father.

Hebrews 12 rejoices in God's love and acceptance. It can only be understood in the biblical idea of "adoption". J. I Packer, in his classic book "Knowing God", speaks of adoption as our highest privilege. He says...

"In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship—he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge [justification] is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father [adoption] is a greater."

How does knowledge of such joy allow you to see your present situation and suffering in a different way?

Family News

Hayley – South East Asia

Hayley's Bridge Program will be heading to South East Asia on 18th June until 7th July. They are encouraged to have prayer supporters during that time. If you would be interested to receive the email from the coordinator of the program with updates, then please send Hayley an email hayleycalman@gmail.com.

June Birthdays – Happy Birthday!

Jake Smith (5th), Sandra Burgess (15th), Lee Arundel (28th), David Rollason (28th). We are thankful that you are a part of our church community. Happy Birthday! Is your birthday in June? If we don't have your birthday please speak to JJ.

Tony & Lynne Kenning

Feedback has come to the Elders over sometime now and at the WRAP meeting we will be presenting Tony and Lynne's names to the church to commence the process to be recognised as deacons of the church. If you have any feedback toward this please direct it to the Elders. More will be said at the WRAP meeting.

The Next Question Box Sunday Is Coming Up – 19th June

Have you got a question? About the Bible? About God? Maybe something we have been going through in Hebrews that you don't really understand? If you have a question, why not write it down and put it in the wooden box on the back table. Or you can email it in: questionbox@westview-baptists.info



What's Coming Up?

100 Days of Prayer Starts **THIS Monday 6th of June**

Join with us from Monday 6th June for 100 days of prayer. 20 weeks. Monday to Friday. Daily reflections and prayers + suggestions of things to pray for. More will be said about this over the next few weeks.

www.facebook.com/100daysofprayer2016



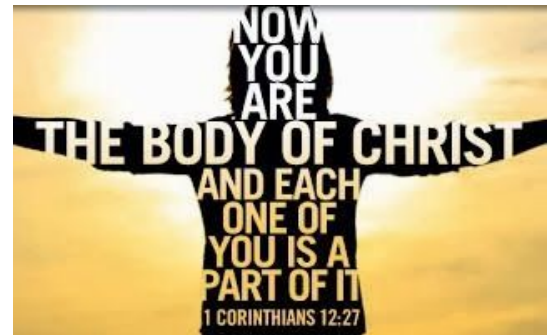
Community Men's Group – Tuesday 7th June 6-8pm

All men welcome. Feel free to come along and bring a friend. This is not a 'Christian' event but hosted by the Doonside community cottage. Come along for so food and friendships. Speak to JJ for more information.

WRAP Meeting – Sunday 19th June

This will be a significant WRAP meeting as we aim to affirm our purpose, mission, values and vision together as church. If you are able to make it that would be wonderful. If you have any

questions or further suggestions about the vision and this process please speak to Tony, JJ or Lee before the WRAP meeting. Also if you have any other items for the agenda for that morning please speak to them. As usual the meeting will follow the service, starting about 11am.



Creating Safe Spaces - Saturday 25th June

Anyone who would like to be involved in teaching Sunday School or specifically children's ministries would be benefit by attending this event. A few from Westview will be going along to this one in June. Please speak to Lee if you are interested.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Syria **Leader:** President Bashar al-Assad
Population: 18.6 million **Main Religion:** Islam
Government: Republic under an authoritarian regime
Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

Church in a Warzone

Syria has been caught in a savage civil war since the Arab Spring in 2011. Christians in Syria are constantly at risk from Islamic extremists including the Islamic State (IS) who hold their capital in the country. While almost the entire country is affected by the conflict, the estimated 1.1 million Christians living in Syria as a minority are particularly vulnerable.

New Testament to Now

Christianity has been in Syria since first century AD and appears prominently in Acts 9, when Paul is blinded on the road to Damascus, the modern day capital. While the church has been in Syria since this time, it has been a minority for many years with Sunni Muslims making up a majority of the population.

Instability

The church is now under intense pressure as Islamic Extremists spread terror. Christians are often targeted in attacks as churches are destroyed and Christians taken captive. It is not just Islamic State but also al-Nusra Front, the Syrian al-Qaeda affiliate, and other Islamic Extremist groups who pose the greatest threat to Christians.

Most of the Christians who remain in the country have fled to areas still under the control of the Government. Some Christians remain in active war zones and are constantly at risk.

Please Pray:

- > Pray for the Christians who are displaced and rely on local churches, Open Doors and other international organisations to provide for them.
- > Pray for Syrians who are unable to flee war zones and are at risk from war and Islamic Extremists.
- > Pray for international powers to work together to end the conflict in Syria.

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