



The announcement of the arrival of God's Messiah occurred in a small town to a young woman who was not married and was still a virgin. And this was God's plan for the salvation of the world.

We read this account in the Scriptures and sing songs about it every Christmas and, hopefully, believe by faith that this is how things happened.

But why this way? Why these steps in God's ultimate plan to redeem our fallen race? We can be dazzled and amazed at the Christmas lights we see in our community at this time of the year but the extraordinary account of the announcement of Jesus's birth is another brilliantly shining light in the revelation of the glory of God.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY CHURCH.....weekly at 9:30am
SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.....8:15am on 1st Sunday of the month
WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP.....weekly at 9:45am
WIGGLING WOMBAT PLAYGROUP.....Thursday from 10am
THURSDAY CHURCH.....weekly at 6:30pm
COMMUNITY PRAYER NIGHT.....7pm on 4th Sunday of the month



Sunday School & Bulletin on a break

Sunday school will be on break until the school holidays are over. Along with this, this is the Weekly News' (Bulletins) last edition as it takes a break over most of January also. **The monthly prayer meetings will also be on a break during this period.**

INTERNSHIP NEXT YEAR: An Opportunity To Partner

As we think about being and making passionate disciples of Jesus, using our God-given gifts and seeing the gospel transform the lives of those around us, **Sam Mafi and Julia Harms have discerned God's leading towards this open door.** We are committing as a church to pay for the college fees for our interns, as well as mentoring and discipling (partnering with them) as a church.

➡ **If you would like to give towards this specific partnership please label the offering 'internship' either on an envelope or on the online banking reference.** Please speak to Andrew or one of the Elders or Deacons if you would like more information about how you can financially support this.



We are so excited about this opportunity. **Please pray for our interns and their families as they step out in faith in this way.** Pray for God to use this to grow them and others as passionate disciples of Jesus for His glory!



OFFERINGS: Christmas Day

Just a note that all the offerings (money) that come into the box on Monday 25th (Christmas Day) will be given to **Baptist World Aid**, as is our usual practice, unless otherwise marked for something else.



FOR OUR PRAYERS: December - January

- **For the Elders' and Deacons' retreat days:**
3rd January (Elders) and 9th January (Elders & Deacons).
 - » That God would lead us forward as a church as we seek to make passionate disciples of Jesus for God's glory. For wisdom, discernment and direction as we seek to move forward in this way in 2018 as a church community.
- **The Kwan Family.**
 - » For peace, healing and strength for this family as Darren starts his next round of chemo again soon. For God's great grace and comfort.
- **Mary** and the family as she continues with her chemo treatment.
 - » For strength, healing and peace for her and the whole family.
- For God's leading as we look to plant a church.
- For the truth to give birth to worship and fruitful living in our lives more and more.
- To see the gospel transform those around us in a huge way in 2018.
- To discover and develop our God-given gifts for His glory in 2018.
- For more workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).
- For comfort, and peace from the Shepherd for those who are grieving, struggling, and feeling overwhelmed. For His waters of rest to settle them and for His restoration of their souls.
- Nelly's recovery from her hip surgery.
- Liza's recovery after her knee replacement surgery.
- Ben's recovery after his stomach surgery.

GROWING IN PASSION TOGETHER 2018

Bible readings for January - February

We do think that an important and helpful practice in growing as passionate disciples of Jesus is not only reading the Scriptures but **sharing in what we are reading together**. We have been doing this over the past few years and are seeking to do this even better in 2018 with a teaching series to, where possible, match what we have been reading together. Can we encourage you to join us in 2018 as we read through a few books of the Bible together.

More will come over the next few weeks. But just a heads-up that for the January - February period we will be reading through Luke and Acts. **Starting with Luke 1 on January 1st with a chapter each day of the week.**

So Jan 1st: Luke 1, Jan 2nd: Luke 2, and so on. With that, we will finish reading Luke on January 24th, **starting Acts 1 on January 25th** and continuing with a chapter a day, **finishing Acts on 21st February.**

More to come, but please speak to JJ or Lee if you have any questions.



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