

Prayer Update No. 32 - Summer 2018/19

Dear Friends

As Christmas draws closer, in the midst of all the pressures we face at this time, may our Lord help us to be focused on the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and may that focus be shared with our family, friends and acquaintances. May we all be filled with the joy of that birth and enjoy God's peace amidst the hustle and bustle around us. Merry Christmas to you all.

Dianne

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL

Please keep in your prayers over summer the following five matters, all of which are significant in the life of our church.

1. **A new staff member** – Sam Broadfoot. It is a great joy to have Sam (with Bo-Jasmine, Sophia and Lucy) joining us full time from 20th January. There have been a number of things to get in place to arrange for an additional full time staff member. After a Sunday of prayer at church, a house three doors from the church became available to lease for Sam and the family to live in, which is wonderful. Sam will be assisting with a variety of ministries associated with the church. Please pray for Sam and Bo-Jasmine as they settle back into Newcastle life and into our church.
2. **A refreshed church** – on 22nd November the Diocesan Council of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle approved ANeW and New Lambton jointly forming a fresh church to be known as **All Saints ANeW**. Further to that the Diocesan Council also approved a varied management and governance structure for that church, with a small elected Council and a number of teams reporting to that Council. We are still working on the details of that structure, but we believe it will assist us to be focused on ministry and to keep the ministry on a Biblical track.
3. **A Church plant** - For some time we have been talking and praying about establishing a Sunday ministry out towards the freeway to the west of Newcastle in the suburb of Fletcher. We have reached the point where we have a pilot group of people ready to commence a Sunday meeting in Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College Chapel in Fletcher on Sunday 3rd February. This will initially be led by Jamie and Cathy Young (and I am very grateful to them for undertaking this ministry). Some time in March I will free myself of other duties and move to leading this. It is then our prayer that at the right time God will raise up the right person to join our team to lead this ministry long term.
4. **A property sale** – New Lambton parish has operated a small retirement village on two sites in New Lambton for many years. The parish has been slowly extracting itself from this operation. There are four units which are between the Rectory and the church hall, which we intend to keep. These are already not operating as a retirement section and are simply rented out. There are then seven units (five still operating as a retirement village) on a separate site which are on the market to sell as an operating village. Please pray that these would sell.
5. **A renovation** – The kitchen in our church hall is being completely replaced over summer. Our prayer is that the new kitchen will further assist us with ministry. The hall is increasingly the hub of our ministry operation during the week. Please pray that the renovation would go well and that the kitchen would assist us with ministry. This renovation will then lead us into a more major renovation of the church itself, which would be largely funded by the sale of the retirement village.

Overall please pray that God would give me the wisdom and strength to lead **All Saints ANeW** in godly and wise ways and to be a church which is shaped by the Bible.

TUESDAY NEW TEAM MEMBER – Sam Broadfoot

Hi, my name is Sam Broadfoot and I've just finished 4 years studying at Moore College. In 2019 I'm returning home to Newcastle, joining the team at All Saints ANeW. My wife Bo-Jasmine and I both grew significantly thanks to evangelical ministries in Newcastle, and we can't wait to continue serving the Lord in a familiar yet new context.

Praise and thanks

- Praise God for saving me, a sinful Novocastrian, and equipping and sending me back into that same harvest field. **Pray** He would be pleased to repeat this work thousands more times for the glory of Jesus.
- Praise God for the opportunity to study full time, and the wonderful support and teaching at Moore.
- Thank God for providing a house for us almost next door to church.

Prayer

- ask God to produce more fruit in Newcastle, calling thousands more to worship Jesus.
- pray our kids (2yo, 1yo) would transition well from college to a less communal home environment, making new friends to grow together in Christ.
- pray that I'd also grow through the transition from full time student to full time minister, trusting Jesus and being sustained by him.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

WEDNESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

We have mostly wrapped up our regular weekly ministry for the year. Bible study groups have finished and a number of young adults head away for the summer break, though a good number will continue to stay in Newcastle and help with various Christmas services.

Praise and thank God for:

- the Sam Chan evangelism DVD series we have completed.
- weddings and babies amongst the Young Adults.

Pray for

- a number of students heading to the NTE with AFES in Canberra. Pray that it would be a great time of learning and growth.
- our new strategy for evangelism next year (coming out of our recent study series). Pray that we would be able to spend good time with our non-Christian friends and family.

THURSDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter

We have had a fabulous year with leaders and children stepping up in their roles and a desire to serve our God and our children.

Praise and thanks for:

- The growth in our children
- God's constant provision through his people.
- People's wholehearted willingness to serve our children in various capacities.

Pray for:

- Strength for our leaders who have many other responsibilities and happenings.
- Deep understanding as we challenge our school age kids to consider the topic of suffering, that they would be well prepared to face life and trust God in all things.
- To make strong connections with families demonstrating what God's family is like, causing them to desire to be a part of it.

..... the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

THURSDAY YOUTH and ADMINISTRATION – Anabelle Copeman

We are currently busy in the lead up to Christmas. We had 100 people, of all ages, at a Gingerbread House recently. Last week I was part of a team doing SRE seminars in 6 schools. We don't have a student team from Sydney Uni Evangelical Union this year.

My role continues to change and evolve as the ministry grows and changes. This term I am looking after junior high on Sunday nights as well as leading the 10.30am Kids church team. With staff changes next year and the start of the Fletcher Church plant, I will need to be flexible to adapt as necessary.

Arthur and I are looking forward to a break in January, including a week at CMS Summer School.

Praise & Thanks that:

- we have been able to organise the Christmas outreach events using our own people and the sense of excitement these people have had doing mission together.
- our youth have been inviting their friends and numbers attending Friday night youth have grown. The year 6 children have transitioned well into youth this term.
- 7 from our church are going to Next Gen young leaders conference at Katoomba in January.

Please Pray:

- that God would bring fruit from the Christmas activities and services.
- that God would provide the leaders we need for youth and children's ministry as some leaders are stepping down.
- that through Next Gen and our own training, we will raise up leaders for the future.
- for a relaxing break away in January, that will prepare us for ministry in the New Year.

..... the Lord turn his face toward you

FRIDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT – Kate Rogers

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

(2 Peter 3:18)

Praise & Thanks for:

- the Spring High Tea - Susan Ravenhall gave a clear and compelling **gospel message** to the 140 women there.....including some ladies from TimeOut, Mainly Music and craft group.
- our Ladies' Growth Groups have been blessed by our studies in Jonah, 1 Peter, and Nehemiah (the latter in conjunction with the sermon series.) Those of us who livestreamed Paul Tripp's talks on Parenting were greatly encouraged and challenged.....particularly as the gospel principles he outlined (calling, identity, authority and false gods) are applicable across all our relationships.
- Book Club - as we finish the year reading "You Can Really Grow" (by John Hindley) – an invitation to a deeper relationship with Jesus, and encouragement to be growing in love for Christ.....growing in the likeness of Jesus.....and growing together as God's family.
- Christmas and God's priceless gift to us of a Saviour who brings joy, peace, forgiveness, restored relationship with God, abiding love and eternal life.

Pray for:

- our Growth Groups and their leaders - to be shaped by God's Word, to build each other up in love, and together to share the gospel with those who need it.
- a *Christianity Explored* or similar **course** to run next year for those seeking to know more about Jesus.
- the TimeOut Team to continue to love and serve our families well and make/take opportunities for gospel chats.
- that God will be working in people's hearts and lives to draw them to Himself..... and for effective follow-up and discipling.
- preparations for Christmas events and services - that many who don't yet know Jesus will come and hear a clear and life-giving gospel message: *good news that will cause great joy for all the people.....a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11.)*
- for a restful and enjoyable break over the summer.

..... and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

SATURDAY OUTREACH and 10.30am SERVICE – Beck Bishop

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

It has been such a joy to see how members of All Saints/ANEW just jump in and have a go on various teams, in hospitality and out of their comfort zone- e.g. recent SRE Christmas assemblies

Praise and Thanks:

for the faithful and consistent Mainly Music teams at New Lambton and Fletcher:

- for the amazing way they have loved each other deeply; have got to know the families God has put in our care and serve them in such a self-sacrificial way; have included new team members and have encouraged core Mainly Music families to get more involved.
- Also, that we were able to host the Mainly Music regional conference and visit the Wednesday morning service once a term.

- for the three students from Newcastle Uni (whom Jess Khor recruited) and those from our own Church who formed a team to present Christmas assemblies to 6 schools in the inner city of Newcastle, and for the wonderful way that the school students engaged.
- that the Ladies craft club at Fletcher has grown in number and also in their openness to hearing the things of God. *Thankful for mum's (Carol Copland) leadership of this.*
- that we have been given the wonderful opportunity to have a pop-up Nativity photo booth at BTAC Fletcher's (Bishop Tyrell Anglican College) 'Carols at Fletcher' on the 9th Dec and an opportunity to teach some Children's Christmas Songs and a short word from the stage.

Pray:

- that we will have many opportunities to meet and connect with families at BTAC Carols and that the appropriate team will be raised up for this.
- *Mainly Music gives thanks for Kat Leis and Siok Poh and their faithful service.*
- Pray that more team members are raised up for Fletcher and New Lambton for 2019.
- Also pray that there are many new SRE teachers keen to train and commence in 2019 especially for the 6 schools that Beck co-ordinates in the inner city.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. 1John 5:11

SUNDAY *Michael Marklew – Minister at St Paul's Church Stockton*

Hello Friends & New Lambton ANeW,

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. I do enjoy sending these updates each quarter. While numbers have not increased in any significant way this past quarter, we are seeing greater homegroup attendance and increasing volunteer numbers in every ministry. Our home groups are all working towards a theological certificate now which is also a huge praise point.

Main Prayer Points.

- Children's Ministry. I am so thankful that we now have creche, preschool and primary aged children's programs. Please be praying for more children and for more regular attendance.
- Alpha has finished and praise God for those who came to faith in the Lord Jesus through this outreach program. Please be praying for our next evening Alpha to start in Term 1 next year. Please also pray for a daytime Alpha with creche that is still in the planning stage to start in Term 2 as an intentional outreach to our Mainly Music families.
- Mainly Music continues to grow and our team has really stepped up making this a wonderful outreach and service to our community.
- Please give thanks that our Home Groups are all working through a Ridley Certificate and please be praying that this will be a fruitful time, that it will increase Biblical literacy and faith in Christ.
- Christmas Carols on the 16th of December. The parish's first big community event in many years is receiving lots of attention. Please be praying for a packed Church, plenty of volunteers, for the music team and that this event will see people engage or re-engage with the Church community into the future.
- Summer Club on 22-24th Jan. This will be the second time we have run this event and I am very pleased to see how keen the parish is to run it again. I am also very thankful that it looks like we can run it this year with entirely home-grown leaders (unless of course we get inundated with enrolments! Let's pray we do!). Of course, we do give thanks for the assistance of many ANeW and NLA people last time and let's pray that we will need to reach out for your help again.

We are most thankful for your prayers.

Your brother in Christ, Michael Marklew, St Paul's, Stockton

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matthew 2:10

If at any stage, you are praying for ANeW/All Saints and would like an update on prayer points,

you are welcome to email Dianne at: ddouglass83@gmail.com