



Prayer Update No. 22 - Winter 2016

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.

1 Peter 3:12a

Dear Friends

Five years exactly will have passed this Sunday June 19th since the very first ANeW prayer meeting was held. We are holding a special gathering of Thanksgiving at 5pm at St John's Lambton to mark the five years. You might like to take time this Sunday to praise and thank God for all he has done for us in the last five years.

We continue to be amazed at God's provision for and growth of ANeW. A heartfelt thanks to every one of you for your dedicated commitment to pray for ANeW church. It is so encouraging to see the fruit of your labours in our church. May God bless you and your loved ones as he blesses us.

MONDAY **CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL**

Arthur continues with the various ministries associated with his work with ANeW; his work with New Lambton Parish, his work in the Newcastle area, his work across the Diocese and his work across the Australian church through the General Synod Office. These clearly involve a range of very different activities at different times. In some ways much of his work is not activity that you would expect someone also involved in church planting to be involved in. He continues to seek prayer to be able to juggle all these activities and to know which ones to prioritise at which times. In the midst of all this he is enjoying being a grandfather more than he ever expected!

- Please pray for daily wisdom and discernment for Arthur in prioritising his various responsibilities which so often require more time than is available.

Praise God for

- the continued growth of the 10.30 congregation.
- the continued growth of the 5pm congregation.
- the different musicians who lead us in song in church across the day on Sundays.
- those who lead in prayer at church and the faithfulness of their prayers.

Prayer

- wisdom as we seek to know what is the next step in relation to the evening congregation which is now too big for the building it meets in.
- wisdom as we seek to have the building where we meet on Sunday mornings, renovated so that it can be more useful.
- faithfulness as we preach through 1 Samuel over winter.
- Men's Breakfast Sat. July 9 with Arthur speaking on the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.
- wisdom for August when we will focus on Human Sexuality in church over a couple of weeks.
- that God would raise up the right staff for ANeW for ministry in the future.
- wisdom and understanding in the day to day dealings of church - to make wise decisions.

My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. Ps 119:28

TUESDAY YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

We have settled into our year well and truly now and we are getting to know new people and familiar people more and more. From the start of the year we have been studying the book of 1 Samuel which has been fantastic.

Praise God for

- new relationships that have formed with new people joining ANeW and the young adults' bible studies as well as the provision of leaders and houses to facilitate more groups.
- '*Setting things on fire*' - a combined event for our young adults where we set things on fire and then heard testimonies from a few in our groups.
- our Wine | Cheese | Trivia event where Ross Ciano challenged us to let go of 'lame excuses' when it comes to the Kingdom of God.

Prayer

- the recent re-shuffling of our young adults' bible study groups; that close relationships would continue to form and grow and that we can spur one another on to holiness within them.
- our young adults as they juggle study, work, ministry and relationships – that they can grow in each area and grow in their love of Jesus.
- *the father of one of our group has cancer*. Please pray for healing and for the comfort of God to be with her and her family.

For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:14

WEDNESDAY KID'S MINISTRY – Denise Rothwell and Heidi Wood (acting volunteers)

Amy Soutter remains on maternity leave and will return to minister with us in the second half of the year when a new job description will be prepared to suit her role as both the Children's Ministry co-ordinator and as a mother. Meanwhile, Denise continues to lead the Time Out little children whilst Heidi co-ordinates KFC.

Time Out – Denise

Praise God for

- more kids coming.
- a great team and a fun program led by Denise.

Prayer

- that our Father would sustain our leaders.
- that new kids would be able to come consistently and settle in well.
- that these children would remember the love of the Heavenly Father and one day call Him their own.

K F C – Heidi

Kids for Christ (KFC) has continued to grow and mature as a program since seeing the high school boys split off into their own group. This has given some of the younger kids space to open up and be themselves, as well as ask some deeper questions around their faith. So far this term we've worked through the book of Proverbs and explored a short series on Doubt – give praise to God for the wisdom that our children have and for their willingness to become more like Jesus.

Praise God for

- How well the KFC leaders have stepped up into leadership roles and worked amazingly as a team while Amy transitioned out and Heidi took over co-ordination.
- New leaders who will be joining the team in Terms 2 & 3 this year.
- New families who continue to come along and are accepted so lovingly by the kids at ANeW.

Prayer

- that the KFC leaders will work together well and communicate well as a team while Heidi is away doing university placement and unable to co-ordinate week-by-week.
- that the children will continue to grow and to mature in their love for God as they explore the book of 1 John in Term 2.

*Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 18:4*

THURSDAY TEEN MINISTRY – Anabelle Copeman

Ministry life for me is all about constantly adapting to changes and planning for growth in the youth and children's ministries. Taking 15 youth and 4 leaders to Katoomba Youth Convention has been a highlight of the last few months. I continue to enjoy taking the gospel to Newcastle East School, teaching SRE.

Arthur and I now have a beautiful grandson, Charlie (born to our daughter Fiona and her husband Ernest). This has added a wonderful new dimension to our lives. Our son Russell and his wife Isabel are expecting a child in August. I am looking to stepping back from some ministry responsibilities to allow more time for family.

Praise God for

- new leaders being identified and trained for all our youth and children's ministries.
- the contribution Shanalle (year 13 youth works student) is making and her growth in maturity and skills.
- a great trip to Katoomba with the youth.

Prayer

- that more space can be found/made for morning crèche and pre-school ministries.
- that the youth will invite friends to the outreach nights, the friends would come, and the ministry bear fruit for the gospel.
- for wisdom in planning for the future, both personally and for the ministries.
- **S.R.E.:** that more children will choose SRE over Ethics and that this opportunity will not be lost.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens. Ps 148:13

Great thanks to God for a wonderful Women of Truth Conference. We had over 300 women from 30 different churches in the Hunter come and hear Philipians taught by Sue Harrington (Holy Trinity Adelaide). It was a terrific day and already the gospel has produced fruit in the lives of these women :) YAY!

Praise and thank God

- for a wonderful Women of Truth Conference.
- for His steadfast love.
- for our salvation in Jesus.
- for the hope that we have in Christ.
- that we are not alone but that God's spirit dwells within us.

Prayer

- for the ladies doing Simply Christianity at the moment that God would draw them to Himself.
- for the ladies reading ' Finishing our Course with Joy ' - J I Packer - that all might have the motto; 'to live is Christ - to die is gain' (and if to live, that means fruitful labour.)
- for all the women who meet together around God's word - that we might all grow in our love and knowledge of God and love each other well.
- for a hunger for ANeW to know God, to proclaim Him and for all Christians to be bold gentle voices of truth in an increasingly antagonistic society.

We have a family holiday in July that we are really looking forward to –

- please pray for safety in travel and refreshment.
- that Jamie continues to get paid work

I have a few speaking engagements coming up - 30th July, 13th August and 22nd September -

- please pray for faithfulness, clarity and discernment and that the Holy Spirit will be preparing hearts to hear God's voice.

When my people humble themselves—the ones who are called by my name—and pray, seek me, and turn away from their evil practices, I myself will listen from heaven, I will pardon their sins, and I will restore their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

If at any stage you are praying for ANeW and would like an update on prayer points, you are welcome to email Dianne at: ddouglass83@gmail.com