

Kingdom Growth Night (4 Nov 2020)

Prayer notes provided are to assist your prayers on Kingdom Growth Night, but they also allow you to keep praying through the month.

1) Opening Prayer (7.30pm)

2) Presentation and Q&A – Brad and Michelle Jackson (7.31pm)

- Please pray that our children will make good friends, will soon feel connected to a church and will grow in their faith.
- Please pray that God will open the door to ministry positions for us that suits our gifts.
- Please pray that God will continue to grow and strengthen our Japanese friends who are new Christians and our Japanese co-workers.

3) Praying for the World and the Church (7:50pm)

THE WORLD

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- Many parts of the world continue to see the uncontrolled spread of the coronavirus, and therefore lockdowns by Governments. Pray that God will have mercy on those who are vulnerable, physically, mentally and financially and that the spread of the virus will slow. Thank God that Australia has been able to suppress the virus. May this experience humble us as a nation, rather than lead us to become proud.
- Pray for the upcoming US elections (the result of which by Kingdom Growth Night might be known). Pray that it will take place peacefully, without anger or violence and that Christians will be a witness to the power of the Gospel to unite people across the political divide. Pray that there will not be any flare-ups in racial tensions whatever the result of the elections.
- Pray for the flare up in violence in France and now also, Vienna, Austria by Islamic extremists. Pray for leaders from both western nations and Muslim countries to work towards calming, rather than stoking fears. Pray that this may prompt people across the world to seek the truth that is found only in the God of Jesus Christ. Pray for those whose lives have been impacted through the loss of loved ones, and those who live with increased anxieties and fears as a result.
- Thank God that in His mercy, Manila, Philippines has been spared the worst of Typhoon Goni. Pray for those who have still lost their lives and homes in other less densely populated parts of the country. As of Tuesday 3 Nov, the typhoon is headed towards Vietnam. Pray that the Lord may cause it to be downgraded to a tropical storm with decreased impact and severity.

THE CHURCH

PRAY FOR THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Pray for the body of Christ, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, spread across the world. Pray that:

- they may be light to the world by their word and deed, and that in their witness, they may be true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, calling people out of darkness, and into light and holy living.
- the brothers and sisters who are being persecuted will remain steadfast in the Lord. Pray particularly for the church in China, and the Middle East (for example, Iran) and in Africa (including in Nigeria where Christians have been killed, and the government has turned a blind eye to it). Pray too for the Slavic Christians in the countries that were part of the Soviet Union, but are now ruled by Muslim majorities. They now face discrimination and have been hit particularly hard by COVID19. Pray that throughout the world, the church will grow despite facing trials and suffering for the Lord Jesus.
- churches which are drifting away from the truth of the God will repent. Pray that Christians will not be deceived by false teaching, especially with false promises of prosperity or license to immoral living which comes by preventing the grace of God. Pray particularly for the Anglican Communion, and movements

such as GAFCON, that they may work effectively to call people back to faithfulness to God or face the fearful judgement of the Lord.

PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER

- Thank God for those who have served on Parish Council this year, and as churchwardens and treasurers. Pray that the Lord will raise up His servants to fulfil these responsibilities again for the coming year. Pray too for a time of blessing at the AGM.
- Pray that God will instil in all of us prayerfulness in our lives, and the discipline to pray, be it individually, as groups, or as a church. Ask that the Lord will grow us all in dependence on Him and give us the purity of heart and mind to ask for things that are in accordance with His will.
- Pray for our many Growth Groups in the church, that they will persevere in meeting to study God's Word and give themselves to prayer. Pray for greater opportunities to meet in person as the restrictions ease.
- Pray for our student ministers – Daniel and Stef, and others who doing theological studies, that God will help them in their final exams and assessment, and that their studies will grow them in their ability to teach the Word of God to others, and to train others in ministry.
- Pray that as we plan for Christmas outreach and celebrations, that we will find the most effective and creative ways to maintain our witness to Jesus, despite the social restrictions that may still be in place. *Pray for your families, neighbours and friends and to ask that God will prepare their hearts for you to reach out to them in the coming weeks and for opportunity and courage for you to be able to do so.*

Further prayer points from HTD Staff Team

David and Esther - pray for the congregation's new believers, may God keep them and grow them in Christ.

Jan - Praise God for his kindness in giving me extended family time with mum as she entered her eternal home. Pray for God's peace and clear direction as I return home; renewed passion and setting up of new children's ministry area at St John's; God's provision for work and God's miracle of healing for Ken.

Vijay - Give thanks for the easing of restrictions and pray that we can get back together on Sundays as soon as possible. Pray for the church to sensibly plan our safe return. And in the meantime, would we not be consumed by politics but remember that we are united in Christ, and that we should have gospel priorities. Pray also for members of the church family who are struggling in life for one reason or another.

Geoff - Give thanks for the ongoing good work of many volunteer leaders especially with exams looming. Pray that God would sustain them through this period in study, church and ministry commitments. Give thanks that despite the difficulty of ministry online our young people have still been eager to come. Pray that as restrictions ease Geoff and the leaders would be creative in adapting our program.

Michelle - Give thanks for opportunities to meet up and connect with church family in person; the team of leaders in the Children's Ministry continuing to connect and engage with the kids in videos and on Zoom. Pray for wisdom in planning how to return to church and for 2021, continued perseverance with online ministry and Alex, as he approaches his final VCE exams

Alan - Pray for Cathy's father and Ying's mother that may God take care of the treatment of cancer. Pray for the brothers and sisters who were unable to return home to visit their parents because of the travel ban during the epidemic. Pray for God to grant them peace and hope to protect their bodies and souls. Pray for all college students, secondary school students and students taking the VCE exam and pray that God bless their studies and exams.

Mark – Praise God for the caring community of God's saints at Blackburn and HTD. Thank God for their love of God's word, and for families where parents nurture their children in the faith. Pray that we will be moved to reach out to our friends, neighbours and loved ones with the Gospel during Advent and Christmas. Pray that God will raise up leaders for ministry in 2021.

Andrew – Give thanks for the way so many church members are caring for one another and Staff continue to labour for the Lord. Pray God would keep us all standing firm in the faith, especially those doing it tough. Pray God would enable restrictions to ease more and for wisdom as we seek to re-gather and make the most of Christmas to share the good news of Christ.

3) Praying for our Gospel Partners (8:10pm)

MEGST – Ronald and Mary Suah

A Prayer Letter:

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to send our prayer points to you all.

I'm glad to see the lockdown restrictions lifted in Melbourne. Yangon is still in the middle of Covid 19 crisis. The upcoming general election in a week's time and the government's inability to support the people financially make lockdown or restrictions practically impossible. The situation we are in is not desirable. Anyhow, we try our best to look after ourselves. Unfortunately, our former Business Manager, who retired two years ago, and his family are infected by Covid 19.

Our Seminary is doing well so far with the online courses. What we do may not be an ideal compared to face to face learning, and yet we praise God for the opportunity to overcome the pandemic crisis. Our third term starts in two weeks. My house church has been hit harder by the crisis as we could not meet, nor online streaming is possible. But we praise God for sparing our lives until today.

Prayers points for MEGST:

- Give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity to move on with online education. So far so good.
- Pray for our students as some of them struggle financially and technologically too.
- Pray for Uncle Bawi Do and his family infected by Covid 19.

Prayer points for Suahs:

- Give thanks to the Lord with us as I'm fully recovered from my Bell's Palsy sickness.
- Pray for me as I have to work very hard to write two research paper by the end of January 2021.
- Pray for us that God will continue to supply our family need financially amid this pandemic challenge.

Cam and Jess Davey – Colombo Theological College (Sri Lanka)

- Pray for the Sri Lankan Government. as they seek to deal with another outbreak of COVID cases and the curfew has increased in various places, though not in the area where the Daveys live.
- Give thanks for the Colombo Theological College, that continues to train and equip students to teach God's word. Give thanks that the College has been able to move seamlessly back to online learning after the recent outbreak of COVID cases.
- Give thanks that Cam has been able to teach classes and also add several hundred volumes to the library. Pray for wisdom as he begins to also prepare lectures in Romans for next year.
- Give thanks that Jess' Christian counselling course is going well and pray that God will sustain her with the increased busyness.
- Pray for their visas, which they're still waiting for. But give thanks that Immigration has given a 3-month extension because of the COVID situation.
- Pray for 'J' our neighbour, that we would have opportunities with them to show love and have gospel conversations

AFES (Vic Uni) – Tiff Hall

Give thanks for:

- the new exec who are keen to develop our prayer, outreach and care for members
- the students leading bible studies and growing in their faith through that process
- the new apprentice coming on next year who was a Vic Uni student
- the community that has formed online that cares for one another and is very prayerful
- conversations students are having with unbelieving friends and family about Jesus. One student practiced her bible study on a friend and now they're reading the rest of the book together
- the helpful and supportive admin people at Uni who are generous with funding and keen to help us continue as a club

Please pray for:

- wisdom as restrictions change and that we would care for everyone and not leave people out
- planning for next year, that God would make the new exec wise and godly
- the new apprentice, that God would provide support for him, both financial and otherwise and that he'd settle in quickly and that we'd care for him well
- our alternative NTE this year, that if some of us do meet in person we'd be safe, and that the students will grow in their ability to read the Bible for themselves and catch a vision for mission locally and globally.

AFES (Melbourne Uni) – Jillian Davey

- Give thanks to God that we have been able to meet some new international students through our Relationship with Trinity Foundation studies (Trinity Foundation Studies is a short course international students can do after finishing school in their country to help them gain access to a Melbourne University Bachelors course). Please pray for the ministry happening through this ministry.
- Please pray for preparations for NTE (National Training event) if will be very different this year, and our planning committee doesn't yet know what we will or wont be able to do.
- Please be praying for international students, this long lock down has been very hard on them, especially since they have less of a support network.
- Give thanks to God, that ministry has been able to persevere, even in the face of long lock downs.

Cross and Crown (Melbourne)

- Give thanks that one young man came to Christ 2 months ago - please pray for his maturity and establishment in the faith
- Please pray for wisdom for Adam and the other leaders as we chart a path back to physically regathering
- Please pray that God will calm any anxieties and comfort people in distress, and assure them of his sovereign care and power

CMS – General

CMS sends missionaries to countries where the opportunity for open Gospel ministry is increasingly more difficult. Pray for those working in such places:

- Thank God for recent student camps, for strong relationships built with campers and some real changes visible in their lives.
- Thank God for team retreats. After the camps, teams had a week together to debrief and rest.
- Pray for staff in local teams, as they prepare for the new semester. Some campuses are still searching for suitable meeting venues and key volunteers.
- Pray for discernment as missionaries are often very stretched in terms of energy and time, with many students requesting to catch up 1-1 recently.
- Pray for one mid-week group studying the book of Mark, with four new members having recently joined. Pray for the hearts and eyes of these new students to be opened.
- Pray for God's provision for missionaries seeking to move house in the coming weeks.
- As winter approaches, pray for God's mercy and protection from a second wave of coronavirus.

CMS – Matt and Kate Vinicombe

Give thanks to God for...

- the random opportunities that come up to practice language.
- the continuing encouragement and widening networks of relationship on Bickerton Island.
- the few friendships that that our kids have developed with local kids.

Please pray...

- for opportunities, boldness and clarity for the church here (including us) to speak God's good news of Jesus into the messy and complex situations of their families and communities.
- for more regular language helpers.
- for growth in relationship with people who are associated with the church.

Our other Gospel partners will be the focus of next month's Kingdom Growth Night.

4) *Praying for others personally in church or your group (8.25pm)*

Spend some time praying for one another and for needs specific to each individual and to family and friends.