

## **Kingdom Growth Night (2 Dec 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) Praying for the World and the Church (7:35pm)**

#### **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*

- Continue to pray for the coronavirus to be brought under control around many parts of the world. Pray that treatments can be found to improve the recovery rates for those who contract the virus, or the vaccine will be rolled out quickly and safely to all who need them. In Melbourne, pray for continued easing of restrictions so that gatherings for church and loved ones may occur. Pray for the ability of more and more people who are out of work to find jobs.
- Pray for safety and readiness as Australia heads into summer with the heightened risks of bushfires. Pray that the Lord may be merciful to us and spare us the bushfires that were experienced last summer.
- Pray for the ongoing plight of refugees displaced by conflict in their homelands. Pray that they may find safety and permanent settlement, or that lasting peace will return to their home countries so that they may return to rebuild their lives. Pray for the Christians among the refugees that their lives will be a powerful witness to the Gospel and to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### **THE CHURCH**

##### **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH (WORLDWIDE, ANGLICAN AND IN MELBOURNE)**

- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution around the world. Pray for the churches in China and Iran, and the pastors who lead them, that the Lord will strengthen them to stand firm in the Gospel, and to persevere through trials and suffering. Pray that the churches will grow stronger under the testing of their faith.
- Pray for the Anglican Church in Australia. The appellate tribunal of the church ruled recently that individual dioceses (such as the Wangaratta diocese) are allowed to permit clergy to give a blessing of same-sex marriages. As Christians who hold to the Biblical view of marriage, we are saddened by this decision. Pray for the leaders of the church, particularly those who desire to uphold the teachings of Scripture, to be given wisdom to know that the next steps are. Pray that they may lead everyone to walk faithfully in Christ, and to support those who are left without faithful ecclesiastical supervision as a result of this decision. Pray for the General Synod coming up in 2021, that the appropriate measures and decisions can be taken for the welfare of the Anglican church.
- Pray that God will continue to grow His church, and that the gates of hell will not prevail against the body of Christ redeemed by His Son. Pray that disciples of Jesus around the world will rise up to serve God in the fulfilment of the great Commission.
- Pray for Bishop Paul Barker as he represents the Diocese in discussions with DHHS relating to the forthcoming changes in the COVID roadmap expected this coming weekend: the current intention of DHHS seems to be to increase the restrictions on churches while relaxing community restrictions generally – one proposal is not to allow anyone to sing, even a worship leader even behind a mask.

##### **PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER**

- Thank God for the ability to regather and to pray and sit under God's Word with other church members in the one place at the one time. Pray restrictions will keep easing so that we will be able to sing in church together, and for density quotients to be relaxed so that more people can come to church at the one time both at St John's and Hoy Trinity Doncaster.

- Pray for the upcoming Carols@Home outreach. Pray that many will be able to host at homes, and that friends and family will be able to come and hear the word of God through the Christmas story. Pray that we will have the gift of hospitality to that we may share Christ's love in the manner in which we welcome them. Pray that those who come will be prompted to investigate the Gospel further.
- Pray for those who are unwell with long term health challenges – that God will be merciful to them and bring them physical healing. Pray that they and their families may keep their eyes on Jesus, so that their faith and hope may be unwavering even in their times of need and trials.
- Pray for safety in travels and a good time for many of our staff and church members who will visit family and friends over December and January, after being prevented from doing so for a long time because of the lockdowns. Pray for good opportunities for Gospel conversations where friends and families are not Christians, particularly during times such as these where all humans need to find hope and peace in Jesus alone.

#### **Further prayer points from HTD Staff Team**

**David and Esther** – 1. pray for the newly baptised people, may they enjoy the Church life; 2. pray for the congregation's discipleship, may all Christians continually grow in Christ; 3. pray for David and Esther's spiritual wisdom, energy and health to lead the congregation.

**Jan Budin** – Pray for God's peace and patience as we restart St John's children's ministry on 6th Dec amidst COVID limitations. Pray for provision of godly and committed leaders. Pray for wisdom and discernment for challenging situation with my family.

**Michelle Caruana** – Give thanks that we have been able to return to church in person and the great encouragement it is to meet in person again. Give that for the growth and development of leaders in the Kids Ministry under trying circumstances this year. Give that that Alex has completed his VCE exams.

**Geoff Hall** - Give thanks for HTY starting back at church last week, many came. It was really encouraging and exciting. Ask God that many more would come in the weeks left this year. Thank God that Sunday youth (and kids) ministries have also returned to church. Give thanks that after a tiring year the youth leaders are still so eager to see and lead and teach and disciple the youth! Give thanks that God sustained the leaders and youth throughout such a trying year.

**Mark** – Praise God for the restart of congregations at St John's and 5pm. Pray that God will raise up the right leaders for Growth Groups and at church for 2021. Pray that new people will come and settle into church, and that God's Kingdom will growth through our ministry at Blackburn and St John's. Pray for the members of Christ's body to grow in maturity and knowledge of God's Word.

**Andrew** – Praise God for the restart of congregations and for sustaining our church through this year. Pray for wisdom as to how to deal with the ever-changing rules and encourage people. Pray that DHHS would be reasonable and not unfairly restrict churches. Pray that God would continue to grow his church in both maturity and number, for his glory!

### **3) Praying for our Gospel Partners (7:50pm)**

#### **AFES (Deakin Uni) – Candice Bergamin**

- Give thanks that we can gather in person as DeakinCU for NTE next week (7-9 Dec), and the gift it is to finish the uni year in this way. Pray lots of students commit to coming in person, and that through his word, God would transform them by the gospel, train them in the gospel, and send them out with the gospel
- Pray that those juggling assignments at the same time as NTE (we're in the middle of trimester 3) are able to manage their time and energy well and get through their assessments
- Give thanks that our mission partners Brad and Michelle Jackson can join us to lead a strand and encourage students to consider how to be 'senders' or 'goers' when it comes to global mission
- Pray that God would bring along lots of new students to CU next year, and that he'd guide us in meeting and welcoming them, especially if uni remains at least partially online
- Give thanks for the opportunity to have a break over Dec/Jan. Pray for rest and refreshment after a challenging year, and that I'd come back ready and energised to get back into things

#### **ETCAsia – Andrew and Heather Reid (Singapore)**

- Thanksgiving to God for a good semester with most students doing well and growing well in their knowledge of and love of Jesus.
- Thanksgiving for God sustaining us in difficult times.
- Thanksgiving for students who finished well this semester. Pray for those who struggled and did not do so well.
- Pray for us as we take an overdue holiday for a whole month between this semester and the next.
- Pray that we are able to process well the fact that our contract has not been renewed and that we will therefore be returning to Australia in July.
- Pray that the board will find a good Principal and lecturer to replace Andrew and Heather at the college
- Pray that God would open new doors of ministry for both of us after returning to Melbourne.

#### **AFES (Monash Uni) – Sandra Joynt**

- Please pray for Monash CU's local NTE conference next week (7-9 Dec). Thank God for the prospect of meeting in person in groups for the first time since March! Pray for energy for staff and students over the 3 full days of Bible teaching and training. I will be leading a strand group training local and international students to read the Old Testament in the context of biblical theology. Pray that NTE will be a great time of joining together to be transformed and trained in the gospel and sent with the gospel.
- Thank God for our 3 FOCUS apprentices who are finishing their ministry training this year. Pray for a few international students & grads who are considering training as ministry interns with us next year.
- It's hard to know how to begin to plan for next year, when many things remain uncertain. Please pray for wisdom, clarity, and a return to meeting on campus in 2021. Pray too for creativity in taking ministry opportunities as many international students are stuck here over the summer break.
- Thank God for answering prayers for some new financial partners -- my support levels are looking much healthier than a few months ago.

#### **Pioneers (Thailand) – Peter and Elspeth Young**

- 1. Give thanks that we are safely back in Chiang Mai after quarantining in Bangkok. We have hit the ground running! It is taking some adjusting after virtually 7 months of isolation of one sort or another! But we are grateful!
- Give thanks that the couple who needed accommodation, (also with our organisation), stayed in our house in Chiang Mai till a week before we returned. They looked after the place, ran our car engine each week and we have come back to find things functioning well.
- Continue to pray for the Work Permit. It is an ongoing saga but the University is sorting out the paperwork. Could you pray that a year's work permit will be granted sometime in the next few weeks.

- Peter is valuing being back with easier access to folks around for collaboration etc.
- Pray for the all-Buddhist doctors in the English class each Wednesday, for Elspeth for faithfulness and wisdom to speak truth into different situations as we learn and practice medical English.
- Pray for the Buddhist students who used to come to our home for a meal/ Bible study, that God would keep up their interest to know more about Him. We have been in contact but they have yet to say when they want to come. Pray that we would be given wisdom to love them well.

## **CMS (Groote Eylandt) – Matt and Kate Vinicombe**

### **Give thanks to God for...**

- Beth's two years (pre-school and prep/transition) at the local community school- for the lovely friends and wonderful experiences along with the resilience-building experiences. Pray that she finishes up well there (she will be going to the school in the mining town, Alyangula, next year).
- Millie and Elaine's graduation from Certificate 3 in theology (it's been a long journey!).

### **Please pray...**

- for movement with translation projects.
- for ideas and team work for Christmas events.
- for Kate's friend, N, who is considering coming back to Christ amongst the complexities of life. Pray that they would be able to read the bible together.

### **More news in the newsletter below.**

## **Bush Church Aid Society of Australia**

With the start of Advent, it is most appropriate to focus our BCA prayers this month on the ministry to children and youth that is growing through BCA support.

### **Bendigo Diocese**

Pray for **Revd George Hemmings** and his family as he commences in the new role of Youth and Families Ministry Development Officer this month. Pray for his enabling to establish and grow connections and fellowship across the Diocese through a camping ministry, discipleship and raising up of youth leaders.

Pray for **Jacob Kelly** who has successfully concluded his Ridley studies for the year and is a Student Minister at Echuca with responsibility for youth ministry. Pray that the experience and support he will receive in his training in the year ahead will equip him to serve ever more effectively in the plans God has for him.

### **Central Queensland Diocese**

Pray for **Philip van't Spyker** who moved to Yeppoon in July to serve as Families Minister with a focus on training youth and children's leaders across the Diocese. With such a large geographic area, pray for good connections and resources to develop an effective support network for the new generation of young Christians.

### **Northern Territory Diocese**

Pray for **Naomi Ireland** who has just joined the BCA family and will shortly take up the role of Children's Ministry Officer for the Diocese. Pray that she will adjust well to the climate and the cultural changes that will be part of the experience of the move.

## **The Suffering Church: Children during COVID**

- With sick parents who are often without work, many Christian children are going without schooling, warm clothing and sufficient food.
- PRAISE God that Western world believers are giving generously as never before.
- PRAY for great discernment for staff of Barnabas and other charities, who receive countless requests for assistance. Many are false, not coming from Christians at all.

- PRAY for Armenian children and their parents, caught up in terrible conflict with Turkey. With winter approaching , many are without food and shelter.  
PRAY for the impoverished children of believers in the former Soviet countries. Grinding poverty often make their lives almost unbearable.
- PRAISE GOD for faithful workers who endeavour to visit with food parcels, often in freezing conditions.

## **Ridley College**

- Give thanks for the successful completion of semester 2 despite the difficulties of online study and for the easing of restrictions as we look forward to next year.
- Pray that we will keep our eyes on the Lord's return to set all things right.
- Pray for faculty in marking essays and assignments, for grace, stamina, health and joy in service.
- Pray for students graduating, for opportunities to grow and serve the communities in which they are ministering, whether in paid ministry in their workplaces, and to live in a manner worthy of the gospel.
- Pray for students who are commencing or continuing their studies in Semester 3, that their studies will be a positive and enriching time. Pray also for times of rest and refreshment over the summer for those who aren't.
- Pray for the Ridley Board to provide godly governance to the College and for wisdom as they plan for the coming year.

***Kingdom Growth Night will resume in February 2021. In the meantime, please continue in prayer for one another and for our Gospel partners.***

### ***4) Praying for others personally in church or your group (8.05pm)***

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



## MATT & KATE VINICOMBE

with Bethany (6) and Chloe (3)

*On Grootte Eylandt, NT.*



Thanks for your continue prayers and support for us. Life is ticking along here on the eylandt and we praise God that for many of you life is returning to some form of normality.



**Left:** Millie and Elaine (left and right front row), graduated from their certificate 4 of theology studies. Photo courtesy of Nungalingya College.

**Right:** Recently there has been some movement in trying to restart translation of the bible into Anindilyakwa. There are 6 books in the current mini-bible. There are three more (John, Acts and Revelation) in various stages from very nearly finished to just finished the first draft. These have been in this state for many years. Here is Colleen (church leader in Umbakumba and an experienced translator- of the bible, and other language work) thinking through the next steps. We are also currently translating a children's version of the widow of Nain for a video and there are ongoing discussions about the way forward with the rest of the bible.

Once again, thank you for all your prayers, encouragement and support. Know that we continue to give thanks to God for you.

*From Matt + Kate*