

Kingdom Growth Night (7 Apr 2021)

Prayer notes provided are to assist your prayers. For April 2021, we will not be gathering face-to-face at church for Kingdom Growth Night, but encourage members to use these notes for their private prayers, or in their Growth Groups.

2) *Praying for the World and the Church*

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

- Pray for the ongoing political crisis in Burma, where the military continues to crackdown on democratic protests, and lives are being lost, and the people are despairing of their hopes for a peaceful and free society. Pray particularly for the Christians, among whom are Ronald and Mary Suah (our Gospel partners) and the people of Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST). Pray for the faithful witness of the church – bringing light in exposing sin and corruption, and pointing people to the power of the Gospel.
- Pray for many countries, including our near neighbours such as Papua New Guinea, where the health infrastructure and services are struggling to cope with the increase in COVID cases. Pray for richer nations such as Australia, to be generous in providing assistance, and for infection rates to be brought under control through effective measures.
- Pray for the towns, villages and homes of people impacted by the severe floods in Indonesia and Timor Leste. Pray for the government to be effective in their rescue efforts and relief for those left homeless. Pray for those who have lost loved ones and possessions that they may be comforted.

THE CHURCH

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

- Pray for the instances of moral failure among Christian leaders across the world. Pray for godly sorrow that leads to humble repentance as the true evidence of God's work by His Spirit. Pray for God's flock to be protected and not to fall away from the faith and eternal salvation as a result. Pray for the church of Jesus Christ to maintain vigilance so as to practice both orthodoxy and orthopraxy. Pray that when we fall short of God's holy standard, that we will repent and seek forgiveness without delay and distraction.
- Pray for the ongoing work of the Gospel that occurs in Melbourne and Australia. Pray that God will continue to raise up faithful ministers of the Gospel. Pray that young men and women will be increasingly trained for Gospel ministry, growing in Biblical conviction, godly character and ministry competence.
- Pray that faithful churches will work selflessly across denominations and parish boundaries to be a united witness to a lost and dying world of the glorious Saviour that is Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER

- Thank God for the faithfulness of brothers and sisters in Christ in our church at Blackburn and Doncaster. Pray that as we head into winter, that our zeal for the Lord's work and our love for God's people may not wane. Pray that we will be kept in good health – in body, mind and soul – so that we may continue to serve the Lord together.
- Pray for the pastors and ministers of each congregation, both English and Chinese. For those who are taking leave (eg, Andrew and Geoff), pray for good rest and time for reflection and renewal in God's Word. For the others, pray for discipline in word, prayer and mortification of sin.
- Pray for the many leaders who serve in the kids, youth, young adult, ESL, MOPs and other ministries. Pray for patience and love for those they lead, and for equipping to handle the word of God effectively and faithfully. Pray for great joy in ministry.

Further prayer points from Staff Team

Vijay Henderson and HTD 10.30am congregation

- Please pray for our sense of fellowship at 10.30am.
- Pray that we would be reflecting on the teaching this past term and be working hard, by the Spirit, to put it into practice.

Esther Ruan and Mandarin 10.30pm congregation

- Pray for God's protection for our church to be free of COVID19, and all people to be back to normal Sunday service soon.
- Pray for the congregation to be strong in faith, love and hope, and be witness to Jesus and His salvation.
- Pray for the congregation's 60th Alpha Course, may the Lord bring more people come to church to hear the Gospel.

Hertz He and Mandarin 10.30am congregation

- Pray for our Alpha course and start on 22/4.
- Pray for more new families to join in our 10:30 service

Geoff Hall and HTY and JTs ministries

- Give thanks for an encouraging term 1 for HTD youth ministries
- Give thanks for the HTY easter dinner held last Thursday night. Give thanks for the non-Christians who came and heard the gospel. Pray for good follow-up.
- Pray that the leaders get a good rest over the school holidays.

Mark Chew and St John's and 5pm congregations

- Give thanks for the people who have come to know Christ at the St John's and 5pm congregations. Pray for them as they prepare for baptism.
- Give thanks for the many who have signed up for the 5pm camp. Pray for a good time of Bible teaching and growing in love and fellowship.
- Pray for godliness and maturity of faith so that we adorn the Gospel with our good works and Christlike care for each other.

3) *Praying for our Gospel Partners*

Peter and Elspeth Young (Pioneers – Thailand)

Pray for strength and endurance over the next few weeks (till end April) as the weather gets increasingly hot and the smokey season is upon us.

Give thanks that after 4.5 years of attending church, we are able to help with coffee & use our stumbling Thai to greet folks, once a month.

Give thanks for some deeper interactions with Thais both at church and in the hospital.

Pray for Peter as he works on a webinar for release next month.

Pray for a meal the other English teacher (Gill) and Elspeth/Peter will be having for the resident doctors hopefully on 21 April. Give thanks for being allowed to do this. Pray for Residents to come, fun and openness of conversations and the Spirit's leading in the conversations.

Pray for a former student of Peter's in Nigeria, Rev. Polycarp Zongo, who was abducted by extremists in October last year. Pray for his wife and young family.

Andrew and Heather Reid (ETCAsia – Singapore)

Give thanks for the encouragement of the personal contact and prayers of friends supporting them in their planned return to Australia in the middle of this year. Thank God for his supplying ministries for both of them to come back to in Australia. Thank God that these are with strong friends and strategic gospel ministries.

Please pray for:

- a good finish for both Andrew and Heather at ETCAsia before returning to Australia permanently on 1 July.
- their planned travel back to Australia in the coming months, hopefully on 1 July. However, in a Covid-19 affected world, where travel is fragile and uncertain, please pray for God's mercy in finding suitable flights, dates, and times. Pray for all things related to the move back to Australia to go well (and not be too costly in terms of time and money).

Thank God for the appointment of Marty Foord as the new Principal of ETCAsia, and for Ben Thompson as the new OT lecturer. Pray that they will both settle well into their new roles and the Gospel ministry of ETCAsia will continue to thrive through their leadership.

Bush Church Aid

BCA are holding their biannual Field Staff Conference this coming weekend on the Sunshine Coast through to Wednesday next week. All Field Staff (37+) and their families will be attending from across Australia. This is a great time of fellowship, encouragement and sharing of experiences equipping people to Reach Australia for Christ.

- Please pray for safe travel both to and from the venue.
- Give thanks that COVID travel restrictions have not prevented the conference from going ahead
- Pray for a time of learning through the Cultural Awareness Programme on the agenda
- Pray for good fellowship and sharing of experiences as many have endured long periods of isolation
- Pray for the large number of kids attending and the helpers that have organised their special programme
- Pray for refreshment as some will extend their stay as an annual leave opportunity
- Pray that God would use this time to enthuse and equip all attending in the valuable and demanding ministry in which they have chosen to serve

Sandra Joynt (AFES – Monash Uni)

- Thank God for a good start to the year - it's great to be meeting in person once again on campus.
- Please pray for our FOCUS getaway happening this week (6-8 April) at Belgrave Heights. We have about 25 international students coming - it's our first residential camp in 16 months!
- Pray for a great time together building relationships and digging deeper in God's word as we study the book of Joel - "The Gracious Judge". Pray that the Word of God will powerfully move the hearts of those coming. We have 3 students attending who are not Christian - pray especially for K, V and A.
- Please pray for good health and safety, and all the logistics involved in making the camp run smoothly.
- I'm still fighting off a head cold & would appreciate prayers for strength & energy for these 3 days.

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

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