

Kingdom Growth Night (7th July 2021)

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

- Pray for the coronavirus outbreak in Sydney to be brought under control, and for vulnerable communities and individuals to be protected from the impacts (physical and mental) of the outbreak and associated lockdown.
- Pray for the stability of the nation of Afghanistan as the Western forces that have been stationed there for decades withdraw. Pray that there will be stable government and the opportunity for their citizens to have normal lives and access to education, healthcare and livelihoods.
- Pray for the simmering conflict in the Middle East not to escalate into violence and conflict. Pray that there will be genuine peacemakers on all sides who will work towards lasting peace and if necessary, be willing to compromise, rather than adopt a winner-takes-all attitude.
- Pray for our Governments at Federal, State and local levels, that those elected to govern will do so with justice and care for the weak. Pray too that the oppositions will be constructive in trying to hold government to account, and all sides will lift their level of discourse to reflect the wisdom of God.
- Pray for those in Australia whose precarious living conditions put them at heightened risks of danger, homelessness and poor health, particularly over the winter months. Pray that they will find help in their time of need, and that the churches in Melbourne may show generosity to them.

THE CHURCH

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

- Despite the upcoming GAFCON conference being postponed because of the COVID outbreak in NSW, pray that the work of this organisation to promote faithful and Biblical witness within the Anglican Communion will continue and will be effective in their mission. Pray that the leadership of this movement will embody godliness, humility and wisdom, and that their plans will be aligned with God's will for the growth of His kingdom.
- Pray for the parish churches in Melbourne which are currently without a lead pastor. Pray that godly and faithful ministers who will teach the Bible and equip the flock for the work of the Gospel can be found to lead these churches.

PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER

- Give thanks for the lives of faithful disciples at St John's and HTD, who've recently been called to glory. Pray their faithfulness may be an encouragement for us to stand firm in the Gospel.
- Pray that God will help us use the resources we have at Doncaster and Blackburn (land, facilities, people and financial) to serve the Kingdom to the fullest extent possible. Pray that Andrew and the leaders of the church will plan well for the future, step forward with faith in the Lord, and be strategic in investing for the growth of the church under God.
- Pray that God will continue to fan into flame a culture of prayerfulness and passion and commitment for evangelism among the people of the HTD-St John's partnership, both among the English and Chinese congregations. Pray that under God, we will have the joy of seeing more and more people come to faith in His Son Jesus.

- Give thanks for those who have recently been baptised (or will soon be) and those who will also be confirmed soon. Pray that the occasion will be an opportunity for them to be grounded in their faith, and increase their commitment to serve God in all that they do in their lives.

Further prayer points from Staff Team

Vijay Henderson (HTD 10.30am congregation)

- Give thanks for the way the church has been flexible through the ups and downs of RSVPs and changing restrictions. Pray that God would use Covid to grow our church. Pray that we would continue to grow God's people and welcome newcomers.

David and Esther Ruan (Mandarin 1.30pm congregation)

- Pray for the 1:30 congregation's 60th Alpha Course which starts on 11 July. May the Lord be with us and help us to win people for Christ.
- Pray for David, Esther, co-workers, and the whole congregation to be strong in faith, and continually grow in Christ, in spite of the impact of the pandemic.
- Pray for Alan's coming medical treatment, to be effective and a good result. Pray for his wife Renee and children to be sustained by the Lord. Pray also for the Blackburn congregation's ministry not to be affected, and may the Lord call out more people to serve Him.

Hertz He (Mandarin 10.30am congregation)

- Pray for God to open the door for all of us can come back to church to worship HIM.
- Pray for God to guide our Sister Fellowship and Brother Fellowship which we just built up and use the two groups to let us grow up.
- Pray for some families can be reunited because they are blocked out of Australia for a long time by the Covid 19.

Jan Budin (St John's Kids' Ministry)

Michelle Caruana (HTD Kid's Ministry)

- Give thanks for i) more people being able to return to church in person and ii) school holidays providing a break for leaders
- Pray for the upcoming kids and youth training meeting for HTD and St John's will be a time of continuing development of leadership skills, good fellowship and partnership.

Stef Wong (HTD Ministry Apprentice)

- Please pray for Stef's mum and eldest brother's family who are recovering from COVID 19 in Jakarta, praise the Lord that the worst symptoms have passed. Pray for comfort and strength for Stef as she surrenders control to God.
- Please pray for the upcoming 5pm Women's Event on effective Christian partnership, please pray that the women will be encouraged in their fellowship in Christ.
- Give thanks to the 5pm welcoming ministry and their hard work in creating a welcoming culture. Give thanks to the entire congregation that continues to have intentional conversations every Sunday with visitors and new people.

Geoff Hall (Youth Ministries)

- give thanks for the many new people we met at HTY during term 2, particularly those who became regular.
- give thanks that even though lock down disturbed the momentum people were still eager to come
- give thanks for the handful of assistant leaders that God has provided, in answer to earlier prayers.
- pray that the break from youth ministries will be good for the leaders
- pray for the leaders as we begin planning for HTY camp

Mark Chew (HTD 5pm, St John's 8:30am, 10:30am congregations)

- Give thanks for the flourishing of Growth Groups at HTD and St John's. Pray in particular for the Sunday All-Age Growth Group, that God will raise up sufficient volunteers to look at the kids.
- Pray that the one-one Bible reading that occurs between members of the congregations will continue to grow and will be of mutual encouragement to all who participate, as they are nourished in God's Word and sustained for Christian living through prayer.
- Pray for the upcoming Marriage and Singleness Seminar for the Young Adults that they may grow in wisdom and maturity in relation to this are of their lives.

Andrew Price (HTD 7:45am, 9am, Wed@2pm congregations, Staff)

- Give thanks for the staff, students and many volunteers who serve at both HTD & St John's.
- Give thanks that restrictions are easing in Victoria.
- Pray for the many who are facing health difficulties at this time. Pray that God would grant work whatever is good for them and that they would continue to trust in his promises. Pray God's grace would be sufficient for them and those who care for them.
- Pray especially for Alan Xue (St John's Mandarin) who has cancer. Please pray God will grant the doctors wisdom and his treatment plan will be effective or that God would grant him direct healing.

3) Praying for our Gospel Partners

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:

- Pray for student ministries running summer camps in July and August. It is a tiring and busy time for missionaries, however it is one essential way for the workers to deepen their relationships with locals.
- Pray for energy and wisdom for missionaries preparing for camps.
- There are still uncertainties around the students' final exam time and when they can leave campus. Please ask that students can come to the camps.
- Pray for a restful break/holiday after the camp season, for missionaries who need it.

Matt and Kate Vinicombe (CMS, Groote Eylandt)

Please thank God for...

- for the widening and deepening of our relational network here. And the positive affect that has e.g. new kids at Sunday school and more culture and language helpers like Craig.
- Matt's parents are visiting this week. We are so thankful that they could leave Melbourne before the lockdown and eventually make it to us.

Please pray...

- for the church mob in Angurugu to continue to meet over the next few weeks. Gayangwa is away for a few weeks in Darwin and we will be away after that for a couple of weeks.
- our continued language learning. We have learned our 200 verb prefixes (well, to some sort of level). Now to nail our suffixes (a much shorter list, though a bit more tricky in how they are used).

Chris and Julie Dean (CMS, Timor Leste)

Update: Chris and Julie have just booked flights to leave for Timor Leste on 31 August. Pray for all permissions to leave Australia and enter Timor Leste to be obtained, and for adjustment for all in the family that Chris and Julie are leaving behind in Australia.

Ronald and Mary Suah (MEGST Myanmar)

For MEGST:

- Please pray the MEGST community as we open our school (Mon 5 July) through an online programme.
- Please pray for our 33 new students as they begin the Intensive English Programme, which AUS/NZ teachers will teach online. **Note:** Last year online teaching has come with mixed results. We overcame Pandemic through online education, and yet with a high dropout rate.

For my family and my church:

- Please pray for my Mum (77), who is currently in the hospital fighting for her life (I hope and pray she will recover). COVID is not suspected, so we had not tested.
- Please continue to pray for me as I have multiple roles for my family, church, college and others. I need good health. I am so thankful to you (HTD) as I have a functional home office through your support. This

mobility/flexibility enables me to do much more work for MEGST and other related works from a home-based workstation.

- Please continue to pray for our Hlaingthaya Helping Hand project, which successfully distributed rice bags and cooking oils to 600 families already. We are set to do the third phase to reach 1,000 families by next month. Many in Yangon and the regions as well are simply struggling for basic needs. I appreciate your generous support.

Special Prayer:

- Covid-19 third wave has hit very hard on my home region, Chin State and Kalay-kabaw valley. In a month, Covid-19 has killed about 300 people, including more than 50 pastors. I would appreciate your urgent prayers.

Andrew and Heather Reid (back in Melbourne)

Having returned from Singapore, Andrew will begin work part-time as the pastor for discipleship and training with Cross and Crown from September, while both Andrew and Heather will work part-time to train men and women in preaching with the Centre for Biblical Preaching.

Give thanks for:

- great open doors for ministry.
- the appointment of Marty Foord as the new Principal and the appointment of other Ben Thompson as OT lecturer and Alastair McEwan as Hebrew lecturer replace both Heather and Andrew.
- the Lord for his sustaining of us in difficult times.

Pray for:

- Heather returning to doctoral study. She now has limited time to finish and needs to give focus and energy to this.
- Andrew has a number of books under contract that need to be written. Please pray for the first one he wishes to focus on--A book for Langham on 'The Five Looks', a method for interpreting the Bible that has been used by Langham preaching and which Andrew has also used in a variety of contexts to train people to read the Bible for themselves.
- the change to see Andrew's mother as soon as possible in Dubbo (it's been nearly two years).
- borders to open such that a visit to Joel and Sam and the Western Australian grandkids in Broome might become possible.

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.