

Kingdom Growth Night (6th October 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 those in authority, that God will grant them wisdom as they navigate the COVID pandemic.
- Pray for the Health Care professionals who are stretched. Pray God would protect them and sustain them, especially those amongst our church family at both Blackburn and Doncaster.
- Pray for Victorians, that we won't let our frustration with lockdown get the better of us as a society. Pray particularly for Christians to model godly and gracious behaviour, that puts others ahead of ourselves, bearing with the weaknesses of others, and learning to serve in difficult times without complaining.
- Pray for Year 12 students undergoing final exams in the coming weeks, especially for those in NSW and Victoria, who have had to do this without much face-to-face interaction with teachers or their classmates. Pray in particular for those in our church (Edith, Emma, Ilona, Jacqui, Linda, Rachel, Shiya, Jack, Max, Quentin).
- Pray for the people of Afghanistan, that the world will not forget their plight after withdrawal of coalition forces and loss of democratic Government.
- Pray for the people of Myanmar, who continue to face the loss of basic freedoms in their day to day lives.
- Pray the people of the Canary Islands, who face loss of their property due to volcanic eruptions last month, would be able to rebuild and have what they need.
- Pray for the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, that it will not boil over into armed conflict, but can be resolved diplomatically.
- Pray for increased vaccination coverage and more effective treatment of COVID around the world. Pray that poorer countries will also have access to vaccines.

THE CHURCH

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

- Pray for the upcoming Synod of the Melbourne diocese in October, that it will be an opportunity for the Anglican churches in Melbourne to reaffirm and re-focus its effort on Gospel ministry, and to direct resources to that aim. Pray for the truth of God's Word to be upheld during these sessions.
- Pray for the TGCA (The Gospel Coalition Australia) conference being held for the first time online (mid Oct). Pray that it will be a time of mutual edification in the Word, and that as Gospel-minded Christians and churches come together across Australia, we will be encouraged to persevere in standing firm for the Gospel.

PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER

- Pray that as we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday, that it will be an opportunity to thank God for His grace and providence to us as individuals, families and the church over the last year. Pray that we might be encouraged and strengthened in our faith, and that it may serve as a testimony to others of God's steadfast love in Christ Jesus.
- Pray for the Parish Councils of both HTD and St John's that they may be united in setting goals and initiatives, and providing the right resources to enable it to come to fruition in the coming year. Pray for wisdom and faith in discerning what is the will of the Lord.

Further prayer points from Staff Team

Vijay Henderson (HTD 10.30am congregation)

- Give thanks for all the spiritual blessings we have in Christ (Eph 1).
- Pray that God would enable us to bring the pandemic in Victoria under control so that we can get back together as a church as soon as possible.
- Pray that we would work hard on the battle with sin.

Helen Baxter (Pastoral Care, Wed@2pm, 7.45am and 9am HTD congregation)

- Give thanks for the generosity and care of our church family toward each other during our extended time of lockdown. Pray that we would find strength to continue this in the months ahead.
- Please pray for the health and safety of vulnerable members in our congregations who require medical treatment in hospital across the coming weeks. Pray that despite the high Covid numbers in our health system, people will be protected and able to undergo whatever tests or treatments are needed without any complications.

Jan Budin (St John's Kids' Ministry)

- Thank God that we can meet together again soon.
- Pray for wisdom so all can be welcomed to St John's when gathering is allowed under state guidelines.
- Pray for perseverance and strength for families to continue to faithfully walk with the Lord.

Geoff Hall (Youth Ministries)

- Give thanks for a break that Tiff and I had recently. We had a refreshing and relaxing week off work together which was peaceful and fun.
- Give thanks for a break from youth ministries, giving the leaders a chance to rest from their preparation
- Pray for energy and creativity as we chart and plan for a possibly confusing term 4 with returns to face to face coming in different ways
- Pray for wisdom as the ministry team leaders of kids, young adults and youth work together to plan and train ministry teams for 2022.

Hertz He (HTD, Mandarin 10.30am congregation)

- Pray for all our church families safe in the pandemic time.
- Pray our Church online services are going well, all our congregation can get into every Sunday.
- Pray for our Bible Study and life groups to keep to connect and encourage each other.

Stef Wong (HTD, MTS Apprentice)

- Give thanks to God for last weekend's MTS Recruit Conference, challenging men and women in how we live our lives for God. Pray that everyone who attended, including those from our church are encouraged and challenged to live live wholeheartedly for God, whether in paid ministry or not.
- Please pray for the upcoming women's event on the 23rd of October. Give thanks to the leaders and speakers who have worked hard in preparing for this upcoming talk! Please pray that women from different congregations will come to this event even though it is online. Pray for cross-congregational and cross-generational fellowship amongst women of HTD in partnership with St John.
- Give thanks for the recent one week annual leave the Stef recently had. Rest is always such a good reminder that God is a God who never stops working, meanwhile we are human being that leans on His finished work.

Michelle Caruana (HTD Kid's Ministry)

- Give thanks for opportunities to catch up in person with leaders and families over the school holidays.
- Pray for a return to meeting in person at church and perseverance and patience while we are still online.

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

- Thank God for a good time of rest while on leave and some time spent with the family in our ever but slowly increasing mobility radius.
- Pray that God will raise up leaders and volunteers who will be committed to the work of the ministry at HTD and St John's in 2022.
- Pray for careful planning as we come back together again at St John's and HTD.
- Give thanks that God has kept many in our congregation safe during this period (particularly the elderly and those who are vulnerable). Pray for resilience and ongoing strength to support one another during times of isolation and separation physically.

David and Esther Ruan (Mandarin 1.30pm congregation)

- Pray for the New Believers' Class, may all people in the class believe the Gospel and be baptised.
- Pray for the congregation to continually commit to the Great Commission.
- Pray for Alan Xue's radiotherapy to go smoothly.
- Pray for David and Esther to be strong in Spirit and physically healthy.

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

- Give thanks Alan's chemo has been effective and please pray his ongoing chemo and radio would remove his cancer completely.
- Give thanks for the way so many care for one another, especially within small groups.
- Pray that we'll be able to regather face to face next month, and be able to do so in a loving and caring way.

3) Praying for our Gospel Partners

Matt & Kate Vinicombe (CMS, Groote Eylandt)

Please thank God for...

- more opportunities to build trust and deepen relationships with more of the church people.
- synod and the Aboriginal leaders conference. It provided some good training on handling God's word and children's ministry as well as a good chance to catch up with others from the different remote Anglican parishes.
- for Beth's birthday and the person that God is growing her to be.

Please pray for...

- Gayangwa continues to look for potential leaders to replace her - please pray that God will raise up a godly leader to serve at the Angurugu church.
- We are thankful to God that Groote has remained COVID free and that vaccine roll out is going well. Pray that for the vaccine roll out would continue well.
- That we continue to grow in our language ability. The second half of the year feels rather interrupted (with many important things) and we need to find new ways of spending time on language and working it into our daily interactions.

Peter and Elspeth Young (Pioneers, Thailand)

- Like the rest of the world, Thailand struggling with the Delta variant, but slowly, with restrictions and a concerted effort at vaccinations, new COVID infections are starting to reduce somewhat. We are now down to @ 11-12,000 new cases/day from 23,000.
- We have both been able to get two doses of COVID vaccine, Sinovac (Chinese) then AstraZeneca, which is the current regime in Thailand. It affords some protection. We know it is not accepted in Australia, but hopefully next year there may be possibilities for a booster of some kind.
- Bangkok has had a very difficult time with COVID. God has used Christians in praying for seriously ill patients. When God has answered prayer, these folks have been now open to hearing about Jesus. Thai Buddhist hearts are very hard. Elspeth heard from a doctor in Bangkok of 7 or 8 people now seeking God after the doctor prayed for them. That is amazing! Pray for more hearts to be open.
- The International Director's Office (of whom we are a part) is in transition for the next few months as the International Director changes. Some members are going on home assignments and others are re-assigned. There will be a single lady and us left on the team in Chiang Mai. We are staying to help with transition until sometime in 2022. Pray for us all in the changes to keep our eyes on God.
- Peter is hopefully getting the final video clip for the peacemaking training this week from some Thai colleagues. Please pray for the first roll out of the training on October 5, 12 and 19 evenings (on Zoom). Pray that these will be used in our teams and where members work, as they encounter differences, and conflict.

Jacob and Sarah Kelly (Bush Church Aid, Echuca)

- Thank God for the new lead pastor settling well into the role at the Echuca church - in particular as this has lightened the work-load on Jacob.
- Thank God that Sarah's pregnancy is progressing well. Pray for Sarah as she prepares to deliver the baby in the next two weeks. Pray for Jacob and Sarah as they adapt to the new family member.
- Pray for Jacob as he finishes this year's studies.
- Pray for Jacob and Sarah as they prepare to move to Kyabram next year, where Jacob will have more church-wide responsibilities there. Pray for them especially as they prepare to leave their church family and colleagues.
- Pray for a smooth start to ministry at Saint Andrews Kyabram. Pray that they would be able to make good connections and relationships within the church and community.
- Ask God to enable Jacob as he adjusts to the new church, his wider role/responsibility, and his ongoing theological studies.

Sandra Joynt (AFES, Monash University)

- This semester I am training our FOCUS leaders as we study 1 Peter. Please pray that international students will be prepared to live as strangers in the world wherever they are, finding their true home with God. Pray that they would be prepared to endure suffering and persevere, while looking forward to eternal glory. Pray for non-Christian students "investigating" Christianity in FOCUS to understand the reason for the hope that we have, and taste and see for themselves that the Lord is good.
- Thank God for several important conversations recently with students who are considering further training in Gospel ministry. Ask God for wisdom, opportunities and gospel-centred priorities as they make decisions.

Candice Bergamin (AFES, Deakin University)

- Give thanks for the students who've joined us over trimester 2, including a number of unbelievers. Pray that God would save those who are yet to put their trust in him, and continue to mature his people through the work of his Spirit in them.
- Give thanks for the new CU executive committee. These 6 young men and women will lead the student club for the next three trimesters. Pray for their godliness and unity in Christ, and that together they and the staff will encourage one another. Pray for God's wisdom and hand over us as we plan for next year.
- Give thanks that I finished my NTE strand prep for this year, by God's grace. Pray for NTE - it will be smaller conferences than originally planned; Deakin will combine with Monash. Pray for the national, state and local planning teams, and ask that God will bring many students along to be transformed by, trained in, and sent with the gospel.

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.