

## Kingdom Growth Night (1st December 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 draft legislation before both the Federal and State parliaments – the former which would provide some protection for religious freedoms in the context of discrimination to preserve the ability for Christian organisations to uphold Biblical teaching, while the latter would remove those same freedoms. Pray for the sovereignty of God to reign so that His will be done. Pray for Christians with the ability to influence the course of both bills to have their voices heard in the debate.
- Pray for wise decisions to be made in relation to the omicron variant, and that more data and information as to its infectivity and the effectiveness of vaccines to be gathered and analysed quickly so that decisions can be made on facts.
- Pray for the people who live in flood prone areas in Australia and around the south pacific during this current La Nina season. Pray that God will be merciful to spare them the worst of the tropical storms and cyclones.

#### THE CHURCH

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

- Pray that God will continue to raise up Gospel workers around the world – men and women who will faithfully preach the Gospel and teach God's Word without fear of ridicule or persecution. Pray that they may be wise to discern the hidden idols of the heart so that they may apply the truth of Christ's teaching into the lives of those who are blinded by the god of this age.
- Pray that churches across Melbourne will continue to be generous and loving to their communities, so that they may be a light to the world.

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

- Thank God for those who have stepped up to serve in Parish Council this year, and pray that God will give them good health and sufficient time and energy to dedicate to this task of leading the church with Andrew and Tim, on matters of property, finances and ministry.
- Pray for the upcoming carols and other outreach events at Holy Trinity and St John's, that those who are invited will come and we will be able to warmly welcome them and share the wonderful news of Christ's coming and gift of salvation to them.
- Pray for those for whom Christmas will be a hard time of year. Pray that God would comfort them with the hope Christ's birth, death and resurrection gives us all.

#### Further prayer points from Staff Team

##### Michelle Caruana (HTD Kid's Ministry)

Give thanks for:

- Being able to return to church in person and face to face ministry

Pray for:

- Good planning for Christmas services and that many will invite others to hear the gospel message.
- Wisdom in conversations with current and potential leaders for 2022

**Jan Budin (St John's Kids' Ministry)**

- Praise God for the enthusiasm of children and leaders in learning God's word together.
- Give thanks for His protection and enabling in regathering.
- Pray for God's clear leading and timing to a new church family as Jan moves interstate.
- Pray for the provision of a replacement children's ministry worker for St John's Blackburn.

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

Give thanks that visits to residential aged care settings are allowed once more; pray for the swift re-establishment of relationships with our older church family - both those in care and those who live alone - who have experienced significant loneliness over these past months.

As Christmas approaches pray that God will give us many opportunities to share the joy of our Saviour's birth and the good news of the gospel with our families, our church family and our wider community.

Please also pray for church members who have lost loved ones across the year and may find this season challenging to navigate. Pray that they will keep their eyes fixed on Jesus; put their hope in the Lord; and that the people of HTD will surround them with love.

**Stef Wong (HTD, MTS Apprentice)**

- Give thanks to the amazing HTD church family who have supported Stef physically, emotionally and spiritually in her recovery from recent wrist surgery!!
- Please pray for wisdom and discernment for 2022 direction of women's ministry, pray that the Lord will raise up more leaders to serve in this ministry
- Please pray that the members of our church, both regulars and new, feel welcomed as they transition back to in-person church. Please keep praying for our brothers and sisters who find this transition full of challenges.

**Geoff Hall (Youth Ministries)**

- Thank God for the hard work put in by all the leaders who have served in online ministries, particularly over the recent lock down, for their energy, creativity and heart.
- Thanks for the chance to meet face to face again in recent weeks, particularly for our relaunch last Friday (Nov 26).
- Pray that in the 4 weeks left relationships may be rekindled, fun may be had and many may be built up and challenged by the word.
- Pray for those who aren't yet able to return, that we may follow them up well and that we might see them soon

**Hertz He (HTD Mandarin 10.30am congregation)**

1. Pray God to protect us safe in returning back worship in church.
2. Pray God to call more young families to stand up to service.

**Vijay Henderson (HTD 10.30am congregation)**

Pray for the church family to make their way back to church without fear. Pray that unvaccinated Christians won't feel like strangers in their own church. Pray that Christmas will be a time of refreshment for those of us whose spirits are low.

**David and Esther Ruan (Mandarin 1.30pm congregation)**

- Thank God for 12 people who believed Jesus and baptised this year.
- Pray for these newly baptised Christians to grow in Christ.
- Thank God for His protection and strengthen the congregation through the year.
- Pray for God's guidance in 2022.
- Pray for David and Esther to be strong in faith and energy next year.

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

- Give thanks to God for the regathering of God's people at St John's and HTD. It was wonderful to see the joy in the faces of those who meet each Sunday and the encouragement from being able to speak face to face. Thank God that, thus far, we have been able to do so safely.
- Pray for a fruitful season of outreach and evangelism over the Christmas period, as we seek to share the good news of Jesus with friends and family

- Thank God for the new people at church, and pray that we will help them to settle in well (connecting them into Growth Groups, and allowing them opportunities to serve at church).

#### **Andrew Price (HTD 7:45am, 9am, Wed@2pm congregations, St John's 3pm Open Service, Staff)**

- Give thanks for the joy of Christmas as we remember afresh our Saviour's birth.
- Pray that the Christmas services will be an encouragement to us and invitation to trust in Jesus for others.
- Pray that we'll all get a chance to recharge of the Christmas break, as most people are feeling drained.
- Pray as we reach 95% double vaccinated, that we might all be able to come back together safely.
- Pray for God's sustaining grace for me after a very tiring two years.

### **3) Praying for our Gospel Partners**

#### **Candice Bergamin (AFES, Deakin University)**

- Give thanks that we're out of lockdown (I'm sure you can relate!) and that both church and CU gatherings can be back in person, and for the joy of reconnecting
- Give thanks for around 7 unbelievers who've been joining us; pray that they'd come to know and trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- Pray for National Training Event - give thanks for 134 people registered for the Deakin-Monash version of NTE! This is a real answer to prayer, as for a while there I wondered if people would come. Thank God that so many have taken up this great opportunity to learn how to understand and communicate God's word, and pray that the Lord would transform, train and send them with the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Pray for many farewells - of graduating students I've discipled for several years, and all 5 of our apprentices (including Amba, whom I train). Pray for them to stand firm and keep living for Jesus, and for wisdom to make decisions and navigate change with faith in Christ's hand on their lives.
- Give thanks for Courtney, who along with her husband Ryan is joining us for an apprenticeship next year. Pray for their preparations and for us to form a good trainer-trainee relationship

#### **Sandra Joynt (AFES, Monash University)**

- Please pray for our NTE conference THIS WEEK (see Candice's prayer points). Monash and Deakin Uni will join together over 2 sites (Belgrave Heights and Hawthorn) to accommodate differing vaccination statuses.
- Thank God for the chance to spend these days in person together after a semester online!
- Please pray for the health and safety of all who attend.
- Pray for our strand groups, where students will spend hours each day learning how to read, understand and communicate part of the Bible.
- Pray for our speakers and staff leading strand groups and organising logistics - for energy, humility, and good preparation.
- After NTE, please pray for wisdom as we make plans for FOCUS ministry in 2022, and a good rest sometime over summer.

#### **Jacob and Sarah Kelly (Bush Church Aid, Echuca)**

Pray for:

- us that we would continue to adjust to being parents and that we would begin to settle into a routine.
- the move to Kyabram next year. Please pray especially that the move to a new house would be smooth, that Sarah and Theodore would adjust to their new church and that Jacob would build good relationships in the parish and be empowered to preach the gospel faithfully in the church and community.
- the leadership team at Christ Church Echuca as they prepare for Jacob's departure.
- the Christmas ministry at Christ Church Echuca, especially the Advent teaching series Jacob is leading called 'Signs of Hope: Prepare the Way of the Lord' and the Christmas services.

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

1. We are grateful that though the recent COVID19 wave in Chiang Mai has stretched ICU and hospital facilities for over a month, it hasn't become unmanageable. The numbers now seem to be reducing and double vaccination rates are up to 60% (>12 yrs).
2. We are hoping with the relaxation of Australia's travel restrictions that we might get to Aus. for 3 weeks over Christmas + to celebrate a special birthday for Stephen. (Dec 17-Jan 8) But, we are very aware that COVID and world events are in God's hands.
3. Pioneers International has a new International Director, Mark Syn (from Melbourne and Singapore). He will take over as of March 1. This has a huge impact on our team and our work. We will be in discussions with what this means for us.
4. Pray for ongoing work & witness at the hospital, that Elspeth may be sensitive to and obedient to the leading of the Spirit in different situations. Pray for prioritising what things really need to be done in the next few months.
5. Pray for us to be open to how God is leading, not just in the big things, (as we look to return to Aus in the 2nd quarter of next year), but in small things too. Pray that we would be obedient in all things.

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

Please thank God and pray for:

- Kate and Tavis Beer- thank God for sustaining them over many years in the Northern Territory and how he has used them. Pray for them as they move back down south, their final home assignment and settle into the next stage of life.
- For providing good, quality friends at just the right times here.
- Kate has made it to Darwin still pregnant! Kate and Chloe are in Darwin while Matt and Beth are on Groote until the 5th of Dec, when they will fly to Darwin. Kate is due on 10th of Dec. Please pray for the birth and timing etc. We would love to get back in time for a few events in December, and Christmas.

### **Cam and Jess Davey (Pioneers, Sri Lanka)**

- Give thanks that 2021 is almost completed and for God's mercy and grace has been evident amongst the challenges.
- Give thanks that Jess' Sunday school class where a number of the mothers who come with their kids are Buddhists, yet have listened in. Please pray God would bring them to Christ.
- Pray for peace in Sri Lanka as a nation, since it's unsettled at the moment with various protests.
- Please pray for renewal over Christmas holidays, for us and the whole church world-wide. The covid situation has meant there are many weary people - may God strengthen and renew his church.
- Pray that we might be able to do some small trips in December after spending most of 2021 at home. We hope to visit teammates who've recently re-arrived in country, a 3 night trip with our church Bible study, and a couple of nights away with just our family from Dec 31-Jan 2nd. However, there may be another lockdown starting Dec 20th. So please also pray we'll meet whatever lies ahead with grace.

### **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.