

Kingdom Growth Night (3rd August 2022)

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 (7:35pm-7:45pm)

"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 work that is being done at the Federal level in relation to indigenous reconciliation. Pray that this potentially divisive topic can be progressed without dividing the country. Pray that the right irenic people will be appointed to lead the work, whether within the parliament or in the civil service. Pray for Christians (including indigenous Christian leaders) that we may have the wisdom to bring the truth of the Gospel to bear on this for the salvation of both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.
- Pray for the Victorian health system and those who work within it. Pray that the stress that it is under due to successive waves of the pandemic will be relieved, and that patients will still receive the critical medical care that they need and in a timely fashion.
- Pray for the weak and vulnerable people in the world who face exploitation by those in power and out of greed. Pray that God may hear that cries for help, and come to their aid.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine, Afghanistan and Myanmar, who continue to face threats to their lives, homes and livelihood. Pray that peace and stable government might be restored in those places.
- Pray too for the economic and political instability in Sri Lanka, that God will provide competent leadership to get the country back on its feet.

3) Praying for Church and Gospel Partners (7:45pm-8:05pm)

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

- Pray for the work of the Gospel in many of the countries which are Gospel-poor. Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in these countries, and that the churches in them will grow in maturity so as to faithfully reach out to their own citizens with the good news of Jesus. Pray that even when the government of the land opposes the preaching of the Gospel, that opportunities and means will still be found to do this successfully.
- Pray for the upcoming GAFCON conference in Canberra (mid August), that as Anglican leaders from across Australia gather to pray and listen to God's Word, that they'll be able to find a way forward with the current impasse that has been created at the recent General Synod regarding the blessing of same-sex marriages.
- There is a shortage of Gospel workers in Melbourne and across Australia. Pray that God will raise up more men and women to be trained and equipped to serve God, particularly in a paid capacity. Pray that they will have the courage to be willing to forsake the material comfort and earthly ambitions in order to do so.
- Pray that where vacant leadership arises in churches (pastors, bishops, etc) across the world, that the Lord will fill them with godly ministers who will be faithful to His word and have Christ-like character to be God's under-shepherd of His flock.

PRAY FOR US IN BLACKBURN AND DONCASTER

- Thank God for the recent Weekend NOT away, where there was an opportunity to walk through the Bible and marvel at the glory of God's salvation plan. Pray for the opportunity for relationship building and mutual encouragement.
- Pray for the Christianity Explored course that will begin on Sun 7 August. Pray that all who attend will have their eyes opened to the beauty of the Gospel, and to the gracious work of the Lord Jesus for them.
- Pray that God will raise up more volunteers to do the work of outreach in our churches, including ESL and jKids at HTD, KidsHope at Beverley Hills Primary and the monthly market stall at St John's.
- Pray for God to raise up the right persons to fill the roles of pastor of HTD 10.30am congregation (after Vijay's leaving), a women's minister and a kids minister for St John's.

Chris and Julie Dean (CMS, Timor Leste)

Please thank God...

- that the true Jesus is no lifeless statue (*this is a reference to the 27m Christ the King statue erected near Dili*), but is indeed the world's true Ruler, the risen King whose Kingdom – despite present opposition - continues growing; and that His Kingdom of light and peace will never end!
- that our theological books arrived safely; and pray that – in time, as we become more linguistically- and culturally-competent – they will serve as good tools to help us train, mentor, and equip others

Please pray...

- all Timorese people who do know, in personal experience, God's salvation through King Jesus, might have love and boldness to winsomely share the Gospel of Jesus plainly amongst family, friends, and beyond.
- for the Synod of the EPCTL, as they – with input from other Gospel-partners, including Rev David Burke (APWM) - consider how pastors, and other Gospel-workers, might best be identified, selected, and trained in-country.

CMS

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 one missionary in a sensitive location, planning a temporary visit back to Australia this week - there are lots of uncertainties due to Covid travel restrictions and health issues. Pray for open doors, and for a refreshing time of home assignment.

Ronald and Mary Suah (MEGST, Myanmar)

Please pray for:

- all students at MEGST for safety from Covid and political mess. Life in Myanmar has practically moved back to much like before 2010, even riskier than the previous military rule in its current form.
- Myanmar, which desperately needs a new political system. There is no way out for the military junta in its present form, yet they are determined to press on, unfortunately. People have prayed and fought for a change in the political system for more than 60 years. The citizens are imprisoned in their motherland for far too long.
- Ronald's local church and college communities for God's provisions in these tough times.
- Health and productivity for Ronald - Post-covid left him more prone to illnesses of different kinds. The political mess and economic uncertainty are impacting on his ability to work and minister as he would like.
- Ronald's daughter, Rody, who is finishing her international foundation course this year, and once again, they need God's miracle in opening a door for her to study overseas.
- God to use Ronald's Christian community to be the hope for the people around them amid a myriad of challenges.

Jillian Davey (AFES, Melbourne Uni)

Please Pray:

- Give thanks for the way that God has worked in the students at Mini Summit and Summit.
- Please pray for our ministry while our team leader is on long service leave.
- Please pray for the new students, that we will welcome them well, and they sing up to Bible study groups.
- Pray for me as I will do the bulk of the Bible study leaders training for the international student English Bible study groups. This semester we will be studying Deuteronomy.

Cam & Jess Davey (Pioneers, Sri Lanka)



As you can see in the picture, there are four young people about to be baptised (the man in the dark shirt is translating and Rev. Surangica is on the far left). The young lady in the long white top is from a Buddhist background and attended the Christianity Explored course that we ran a few years ago at our church - along with the man to her right (then her boyfriend, now her husband). The girl on her left in blue leggings attended the confirmation classes that Cam ran during 2020 and also decided to be baptised. It was a very encouraging afternoon!

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the 4 above who were baptised and please pray God would grow them in Christ.
- Please pray for the situation in Sri Lanka, which is in economic and social turmoil. For example, riots, food prices more than doubling, power outages and waiting 50+ hours in a queue for petrol (now even longer). But give thanks that our church provided food and drinks to people in a petrol queue near our church. Please pray the church will shine as a beacon of hope during this time and God would prompt people to turn to Christ and the hope we have in him.
- Give thanks for Cam's classes on parables (again) and background to the Old Testament (for the first time) and is also occupied with a few sermon engagements. Pray that God would use these things to equip his servants and build his church.
- We are heading back to Australia on 1st September. Please pray all the decisions to be made as we transition (what to pack, ship, sell or give away) and that we would finish and say goodbye well over the next month.
- Please also pray for good health as we've had a few sicknesses and for direction once we are back...we may take 2023 as a sabbath/re-set year but there are a lot of unknowns.

Staff Prayer Points (Feel free to pick just a few if pushed for time.)

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

- Give thanks for the lives of faithful believers from our church family who have recently died. Thank the Lord for their witness and service over many years at HTD and pray that God will continue to make himself known to any family members and friends who have attended these funerals and heard the gospel message.
- Covid is affecting many vulnerable older adults in our congregations and those we know in aged care, please pray for protection from severe illness and for swift recovery. Pray that those who are sick (with Covid or other illnesses) will take comfort in God's promises fulfilled in Jesus and cling to Him for their security and eternal hope.
- Please pray for Helen to remain diligent in prayer, reliant on the Bible, and humble in her pastoral care role.

Geoff Hall (Youth Ministries)

- Pray for the upcoming hty (youth) camp. For preparation, creativity and energy for leaders and Bible teachers alike. For good weather and for lots of people to come.
- Give thanks for lots of new young people we've seen at our youth ministries this and last term. Pray for encouraging welcoming and good follower up.

Hertz He (HTD 10.30am Mandarin congregation)

- Pray that God would raise up co-workers to prepare the in-person Alpha course starting in September, and pray for God's salvation for more people who will be moved and prepared to participate.
- Pray for Sally to totally recover from her brain Tumor surgery, her half body can not move now.
- Pray for our discipleship weekly training for newly baptized people.

Alan Xue (St John's Mandarin Congregation)

- Pray for the young family group. May God bless them and may the faith from generation to generation.
- Pray for the establishment and operation of the fellowship for the elderly. Pray that the Lord will use this group to care for the elderly and spread the gospel to others.
- Pray for the deceased sister Liu Qunyan. Pray for the Lord to comfort relatives, brothers and sisters in pain and strengthen their faith.

Vijay Henderson (HTD 10.30am congregation)

- Pray for us to finish well at HTD and then start strongly at Berwick.
- Pray for a good handover and that God would install the right person to take over my role.
- Pray for Andrew's energy as he takes over the 10.30am congregation in the interim.
- Give thanks that it is God and neither nor Andrew who builds His church.

David and Esther Ruan (HTD 1.30pm Mandarin congregation)

- Pray for God to continually use the congregation to evangelise people, bringing them to Christ.
- Pray for all the new Christians to grow in Christ, and become Jesus' disciples.
- Pray for David, Esther, Chuck and all co-workers, to be strong both spiritually and physically.

Stef Wong (HTD, MTS Apprentice)

- Please pray for the upcoming women's event on Biblical Sex, which is a very important topic in today's world!! Pray that many women from HTD and St John's will come and be encouraged by God's Word in the fellowship of sisters in Christ.
- Give thanks for women's ministry leaders/speakers currently working hard to prepare for the event.
- Give thanks for the many one-on-one discipleship relationships across HTD and St John's, please pray that more women will invest their time in reading the Bible with one another as they grow in Christlikeness.
- Give thanks to the start of the second semester for Stef as she enjoys herself learning more about Christian Worship at Ridley College.

Michelle Caruana (HTD Kid's Ministry)

- Give thanks for a successful Weekend Not Away and for kids leaders running the program in my absence.
- Pray for a swift and full recovery from covid for my family.

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

- Thank God for the growth and maturity of our church members, who love God's word, and seek to humbly apply it into their lives. Pray for their desire to be faithful to Jesus in their walk with Him.
- Give thanks for the dedication of the leaders— who give sacrificially of their time to serve others.
- Pray that newcomers to the church will settle in well, form good relationships with others and soon find areas that they can serve the church in.
- Pray God will sustain Mark until he gets some time off in September and October, and that he will continue to walk humbly before the Lord, and to be a loving husband, father, son and brother in Christ to others.

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

- Give thanks for all those who serve and care for one another at HTD & StJ's + staff who work hard in Christ.
- Give thanks God has granted recovery to all our people from Covid and pray he would continue to protect us from serious symptoms, as we'll no doubt all get it at some point. Pray it will drive more to Christ.
- Please pray for a new Children's Minister at St John's, Women's Minister & Assistant Minister at HTD.

4) Praying for others personally in church or your group (8:05pm-8:15pm)

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