

Kingdom Growth Night (4th October 2023)

Prayer notes for Kingdom Growth Night, but also for the rest of the month.

1) Praying for the world and God's global church

- Pray for governments across the world, that God will raise up just rulers who govern in the best interest of their countries, and in particular, that they will enable churches and Christians in their countries to worship freely and for the spread of the Gospel to be unhindered. Pray for our newly appointed Premier, Jacinta Allan, that she will govern for the good of all.
- Pray for the synod of the Melbourne diocese next week, that the discussion and debate on the floor of synod will be focussed on promoting the Gospel and advancing the Kingdom of God. Pray that godly men and women will be elected to the various committees and bodies, that will make decisions on behalf of the churches in the coming three years.
- Pray for the upcoming Voice referendum that those who are campaigning will do so in a civil and respectful manner. Pray that if the Voice will help Indigenous peoples it would pass, but if not, it won't. Either way, pray Australians will work for the betterment of indigenous Australians, especially those who live in remote communities without access to services and employment. Pray that as Christians, we will point all Australians to the one who is able to truly unite all peoples – our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for that as we enter into a season of heightened risks of bushfires and other natural disasters in Australia, that God may be merciful to spare us from devastating loss. Pray for the preparation of emergency services and those in their private properties, that they may be well prepared. Pray for churches in these communities that they will stand ready to be a witness to the Lord Jesus and that the rest of us may support them in their need.

2) Pray for our Gospel Partners

Candice Bergamin (AFES, Deakin University)

- Give thanks for a strong finish to trimester 2, including the appointment of a wonderful new CU executive team of students (Sienna, Aaron, Ryan, Zi Bin, and Hannah). Pray for effective handover from the out-going exec, and for the incoming exec to continue to grow in godliness and to be great models and leaders of the club
- Give thanks for 20 Deakin students coming to our National Training Event (NTE), and over 1000 registered nationally. Pray that those 'on the fence' would be able to commit to coming along, and that all would be transformed, trained, and sent with the gospel and greatly encouraged by their attendance
- Pray for Candice as she prepares to finish up serving at Deakin after 8 years, in order to move to Sydney to begin a PhD in the theology of ethics at Moore College. Give thanks for this exciting and daunting opportunity, and pray the Lord uses it for the building up of his people and growth of his Kingdom
- Give thanks too for the opportunity to continue serving with the AFES part time at UNSW and AFES National (for NTE)
- Pray for God's provision of all that's needed in support and practical ways as she moves, and for finishing well in her roles here, good farewells, and adjusting to much change
- Pray for an edifying commissioning event on 21st Oct, 3:30pm at HTD... (you're invited!)

Sandra Joynt (AFES, Monash Uni)

- Thank God for a great & restful time of long service leave. Pray for refreshment, wisdom and gospel focus as I return to campus, and look ahead to ministry in 2024.
- Praise God for B, a young Chinese guy who has recently become a Christian. Pray for him to grow in wisdom and persevere in gospel faith for the rest of his life.
- Praise God for A, a young Chinese woman recently graduated, who is preparing to start training with us next year as a new FOCUS ministry apprentice. Pray for her support-raising over the coming months.

Jacob and Sarah Kelly (Bush Church Aid, Kyabram)

- Pray for Jacob as he takes study leave and then for the whole family as they take annual leave following this.
- Pray that the family of believers in Kyabram will continue to grow in faith while Jacob is away.
- Pray for the church as they prepare for the end of the year and Christmas services. Pray they will be a witness of God's love and grace to many people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Ridley College

- Praise God for the fruitful studies thus far in the semester
- Pray that God would sustain the students going into the end of the semester as they prepare for exams and write their final assignments
- Pray that God would continue to shape and form the students in Christ-likeness and prepare them for the ministries they will serve in the future.
- Pray that Ridley graduates would promote the Gospel by the way they live
- Pray that board and leadership decisions would protect and provide for the College for many years to come.

Liz Bolton (Navy Chaplain)

Praise

- I am being ordained to the priesthood in Melbourne
- Noah came up for a week of holidays and that went well - good quality time with him.
- Praise God that I have settled into my church well and am now serving on Sundays with them

Prayer points:

- That the last two months of the year goes smoothly work wise.
- Prayer as I prepared for ordination to the priesthood in November
- Prayer as I will be the NSW on call chaplain during Australia's high risk weather season from Oct - end of April
- Prayer for my upcoming holiday in late October

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

Chuck Zhang (HTD Mandarin 1.30pm)

- Pray for the 64th Alpha Course which will kick off on 21 October
- Pray for the Discipleship Training Program (12 sessions, from 27 Sept)
- Pray for newly baptised members, that they will grow in their faith, and serve God with all their lives.

Geoff Hall (Youth Ministries)

- Give thanks for a very good time away at HTY camp with possibly the best weather we've had!
- Give thanks for Dave Shannon and his challenging and helpful studies on the book of Haggai
- Give thanks for the fun and the good conversations and relationship building
- Give thanks in particular for the youth leaders who made it possible
- Pray that they will be able to have rest and return to Term 4 ready
- Pray that the good relational time will have significant impact on Term 4 youth ministry
- And pray that lots of year 6s will join us in term 4.

Hertz He (HTD 10.30am Mandarin congregation)

- Pray for God's protection and care for our sister Hiayan who has terminal cancer. May God reduce her suffering and be with her always as she walks through the valley of the shadow of death.
- Pray for the ongoing Alpha course on Saturday nights. Pray that God will lead the seekers, and open their eyes to taste the Lord's grace. And keep our co-workers with strength and wisdom to be good witnesses to the seekers.
- Pray for Zhu Lin, Lina, and her son, Ashely, who are preparing to be baptized on the 22nd of October. Pray that God will keep their faith and remove all hindrances to their baptism and that they will be good witnesses to all people.

Stef Wong (5pm, Women)

- Give thanks for the week of annual leave that Stef has currently taken to spend time with her visiting parents. Pray that she will continue to be prepared to give the reason for the hope that she has in Christ with gentleness and respect
- Give thanks for the gift of Biblical friendship that the Lord has gifted to His people in our church, may we all know the joy of serving others through self sacrificial friendships
- Give thanks for the new people that are coming to 5pm, pray that many will come to know the Lord Jesus and that our community continues to reflect the joy, love and peace of Christ

Fiona McLean (HTD 10.30am, Women)

- Thank God for a few days break last week
- Thank God for our Growth Group leaders and members. Pray that these groups will be places of rich, warm fellowship, accountability and encouragement.
- Pray for opportunities and motivation for us to talk to others about spiritual matters.
- Pray that our church (and other churches) will find opportunities to respond to those experiencing loneliness in our community.

Ricky Njoto (HTD 10.30am)

- Thank God for the 10.30 Big Day In and the people who joined. Pray that the message would give us a daily reminder that we are saved by grace through faith, but such faith produces works. Pray for the growth in relationships among 10.30 people
- Thank God for 10.30 small groups that are growing. Thank God for an increasing number of people who are eager to join. Pray for God to raise up leaders and grow people through the small groups.
- Pray for Ricky's workshop preparation for the 5pm Men's Fellowship on 14 October. Pray that God would provide some dedicated time, energy, inspiration, and passion.

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

- Give thanks to God for all the pastoral care volunteers at HTD - particularly those who are walking alongside church members who are recently bereaved or facing significant health challenges.
- Please pray for the upcoming Big Day In with Bishop Paul Barker (for the 7:45, 9am & Wed@2 congregations) - that it would be a time of great encouragement as we gather and learn from God's word and enjoy fellowship together.

Michelle Caruana (Kids Ministries)

- Give thanks for a restful break for leaders over the school holidays
- Pray for the Iranian congregation now meeting at HTD and their children joining the 1.30pm Mandarin Kids Church. Pray for good relationships between children and leaders, friendships to form between the children and wisdom in teaching and training new leaders.

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

- Praise God for the many at HTD and St John's who love God's word, and study it carefully like the Bereans in Acts 17, in order to apply it to their lives correctly and to teach it faithfully to others.
- Pray for those who continue to work hard at evangelism at their places of work and community, so that the good news of Jesus can be heard by many. Pray particularly for the good opportunities that arise at ESL classes on Tuesday, jKids on Wednesday and the Blackburn market on the second Tuesday each month.
- Thank God for those who are part of the Launch Team and pray that they may grow in their love for each other and for the lost who live and work in Blackburn. Pray that they may work well under Peter's leadership, as they plan and recruit more people to join the congregational plant.

Andrew Price (HTD 7:45am, 9am, 10:30am, Wed@2pm, Staff)

- Give thanks for all those who serve at HTD & St John's and for the staff who serve too.
- Please pray for a St John's Children's Minister, as we're still looking.
- Pray that God would sustain us as a church as many are tired at this time of year and pray God would continue to grow us in both maturity and number, for his glory.

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

Pray for one another and for your family and friends who don't know Christ.