

Kingdom Growth Night (6th December 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 the ongoing conflicts in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, South Sudan, Myanmar and other places. Pray that God will bring these wars to an end, and that leaders on both side of the conflict will work to find a political situation, so that ordinary people can return to their lives and rebuild homes and cities destroyed by the conflict.
- As Christmas approaches, pray that God's Spirit would move mightily in the hearts of people around the world. Pray that as carols that are heard on the radio and shopping centres, the lyrics will strike a chord in the hearts of many and bring them to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for churches around the world as they prepare Carols and Christmas Services. Pray that they would all faithfully proclaim the good news of Jesus and many Christians would have opportunities to invite their family and friends to them. Pray for our own Carols and Christmas services at both St John's or HTD, that the gospel would be faithfully proclaimed and that God would use our services and this time of year, to save many people for His glory.
- Spend a moment praying for your own non-Christian friends or family, that there might be an opportunity to share the good news of Christmas with them or invite them to a service – either way that God might save them!
- Pray also that the poor and friendless among us will not be forgotten this Christmas, but that as Christians, we might extend the love of Christ to them, in our generosity and hospitality, so that their hearts may be opened to receive the grace of God in the Gospel.

2) Pray for our Gospel Partners

Candice Bergamin (AFES, Deakin University)

- Please give thanks for the flurry of Trimester 3, and pray that seeds of the gospel sown would go on to bear much fruit.
- Pray that the student from Mauritius that Candice has met on campus, would know God's gracious and compassionate heart, and the safety and justice of Jesus' Lordship.
- Pray for wonderful fellowship, evangelism, serving, and growing on NTE mission - with much thanks for our beloved partner churches.

Sandra Joynt (AFES, Monash Uni)

- Thank God for AFES National Training Event (which finished today (6/12) in Canberra!). Pray that the 2000 students who attended will continue to be transformed by, and proclaim, Christ and His gospel.
- Pray for our staff team as we plan ahead for 2024 — for wisdom in decisions that will shape FOCUS ministry (& my particular role) in the future, and for humility and gospel unity as staff and students work together in Christ's kingdom.
- Please pray for God's provision for my own financial support, as I seek to increase my hours on campus in 2024.

Jacob and Sarah Kelly (Bush Church Aid, Kyabram)

- Praise God for a successful and beneficial study leave and time of rest.
- Praise God for the team of guest preachers who enabled Jacob have a short break from preaching every week.
- Praise God for the Bible Study groups which have been developing.
- Praise God for the team of lay leaders who are growing into their roles.

Pray for:

- the lay leaders who are still learning the ropes of what it means to be on the church leadership.
- the Church Festival just past (25-26th Nov) that it enabled a good time of fellowship, gratitude and evangelism opportunities.
- the upcoming Christmas services, especially the inter-church Carols in the Park which Jacob is helping to organise.
- Jacob and Sarah to have the opportunity to 'reset' and plan during January.

Ridley College

- Thank God for the faithful service of Ruth Weatherlake, the College Librarian, who will retire in March after 32 years.
- Pray for God to raise up more Gospel workers and for Ridley to play its part in training men and women for ministry.
- Pray for the College leadership as they implement the Strategic Plan, and oversee the administration and finances of the College. Pray that they may be good stewards of the resources which God has entrusted to Ridley.

Liz Bolton (Navy Chaplain)

- Give thanks for the opportunity to do life alongside people who serve in the Navy, especially while at sea.
- Pray for wisdom to make the most of opportunities, not just to care for people but to share the hope we have in Jesus with them.
- Pray God will grow Liz in Christ too as she depends on him for strength to keep ministering to others.

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

Stef Wong (5pm, Women)

- Give thanks for the 100 (approx.) wonderful women who came with their excitement and friends to the recent Gingerbread House Making Day. Pray that the Lord will continue to soften the hearts of those who came to hear the Gospel of Christ.
- Give thanks for the recent MTS Recruit Conference, where many from our 5pm congregation attended to be encouraged and challenged to consider ministry apprenticeship. Pray that the Lord will raise more Gospel workers!
- Give thanks for another year of TYA (Trinity Young Adults) ministry, praise God who continues to work in our lives and reveal Himself to us. Give thanks for the hard work of the leaders!
- Give thanks to God for all the visitors that are coming to our church around this time of the year, pray that our church family will continue to be welcoming to strangers, just like Christ has welcomed us.

Fiona McLean (HTD 10.30am, Women)

- Thank God for the Gingerbread House event on 18th November, for those who were involved in organising it, for our speaker, Sunny Lei, who did a great job, and for all who came. Pray that God would help those who aren't yet Christians to reflect on what they heard.
- And thank God for our daughter Anna's wedding on the same day, which was a wonderful occasion (and explains why I wasn't at the Gingerbread House event!).
- Pray that members of 10.30 will be bold in inviting people to our Christmas services, that God would give us many opportunities to speak about Jesus over the Christmas period, and that we will be loving, clear and wise in what we say.

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

- Praise God for his enduring promises and faithfulness displayed to us in Jesus and pray that we would remember afresh during Advent his goodness, his mercy and his grace.
- Please pray for people in our church family who are suffering with illness, depression, loneliness, grief, or difficulties associated with ageing, all of which are often amplified during the approaching Christmas season. Pray that as a church we would be mindful of this and make room for those who have needs at this time.

Hertz He (HTD 10.30am Mandarin congregation)

- Pray for safe travels for families on the road.
- Pray for the Christmas Sacred Music Service, may new friends experience God's presence in the service.

Michelle Caruana (Kids Ministries)

Give thanks for:

- all the faithful and committed leaders in the Kids Ministry at HTD and St John's.
- new leaders joining next year.

Pray for:

- many people to hear the clear gospel message as they come to Christmas.
- a Kids' Minister for St John's.

Chuck Zhang (HTD Mandarin 1.30pm)

- Give thanks for the recent holiday the family enjoyed overseas.
- Pray God would sustain Chuck as he continues to study full time and serve the 1:30pm congregation 2 days a week.

Ricky Njoto (HTD 10.30am)

- [insert]

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

- Thank God for His goodness to us as a church, for sustaining us in our faith, as we spur one another on to love and good deeds. Pray that members will use the summer months (with holidays) to rest well and refresh their souls with the joy of the Lord.
- Thank God for those at 5pm congregation who have done the Leadership Training Program this year, and pray that their convictions, character and competency to lead would have been strengthened through this program.
- Pray for the outreach events over Christmas, including the Carols services at Blackburn and Doncaster, but also Christmas services (kids, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). Pray for regulars and visitors to both be convicted of the wonder of the Lord Jesus, and his gift of salvation to all who put their faith in Him.
- Thank God that I will have a chance to rest after Christmas and to spend time with family and friends over the New Year holidays.

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

- Give thanks for God's kindness to us over the past year, where we've seen:
 - New Christians & baptisms across both English and Mandarin congregations.
 - New staff who've joined us this year (Fiona, Stef, Chuck, Ricky) and next year (Peter).
 - The new partnership with the Emmanuel Iranian Congregation at HTD.
 - Newcomers who've joined our church family at both St John's & HTD.
 - People's ongoing commitment to hearing God's word, both on Sundays and during the week via Growth Groups and personal devotions.
 - The perseverance of our older folk who despite significant health issues and loss, continue to follow Christ!
- Give thanks for a break in mid-January
- Please continue to pray for a Children's Minister at St John's.
- As mentioned above, please also pray for our Carols and Christmas services, that God would use our efforts to save many and grow his kingdom 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.