

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

- Thank God for His continued care over all His people across the world, especially those who belong to churches where they are persecuted for their faith, or else, caught up in war and famine. Pray that God may mercifully provide for them, protect them and give them the courage to stand firm in their faith. Pray specifically for the i) Christians in Tigray, within Ethiopia, where up to 5 million people face the prospect of starvation because of war and famine, ii) the drought in Uganda affecting many churches, and iii) the threat of the Islamist government in Northern Mozambique, where Christians face either forced conversions or death. Thank God for the aid that has reached believers in Zimbabwe's hunger-affected Matabeleland
- Pray for the current season leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Pray that across the world, God may use this time to draw those who've had family or personal experience with Christianity, to return to Christ. Pray God's Spirit will stir their hearts to faith and repentance. Pray particular for us here at HTD and St John's, that we may make use of opportunities to share the Gospel, and to strengthen the faith of those who are weak and doubting.
- Pray for the church in the affluent West, to flee the temptations of their society, and instead, to stand firm in the Gospel, and be willing to endure hardship for the sake of Christ. Pray for ourselves that we may practice what we ask for in prayer.

2) Pray for our Gospel Partners

Candice Bergamin (Moore College, AFES/UNSW)

- Give thanks for God's provision and care during the move from Melbourne to Sydney - in the hospitality, welcome, and generosity of friends (old and new), and in the many practicalities of setting up life in Sydney.
- Give thanks for the beginning of the semester at Moore College, including connecting with faculty and students, and starting on my PhD research.
- Pray for continued adjustment to new routines and study strategies and habits, and reconnecting with old friends along with making new friends. Pray for relational and emotional energy amidst so much change, and for the Lord's comfort when I'm missing home or feeling overwhelmed.
- Give thanks for UNSW Unichurch and pray that each week I'll make a good connection with at least one new student. Pray that the Bible study groups form good relationships and patterns of sitting under God's word together.

Sandra Joynt (AFES, Monash Uni)

- Thank God for contact with many new students over the orientation/startup weeks of this semester. Pray that new international students who have visited our events would keep coming to our regular Bible studies, and find a welcome place in our group.
- Please pray especially for the investigators' (non-Christians) Bible study group I'm leading this year - we had 16 people in the first week! Pray for these students to meet Jesus and grasp the gospel as we read God's word. Pray for wisdom and good relationship-building as I lead this group with student co-leader Sheldon.
- Pray for me and our new ministry apprentice Annika as we teach students from the book of Job at our FOCUS Weekend Away after Easter - a great opportunity to dig deep into issues such as suffering, God's sovereignty, hope, etc.

- Please pray for an increase in my financial support to allow me to work more days on campus this year.

Jacob and Sarah Kelly (Bush Church Aid, Kyabram)

Praise God:

- for the new people who have joined our church from Christmas and the new year! Pray that they would continue to come and grow in faith.
- for the people in our church who are growing in their love and knowledge of God and are taking discipleship seriously.
- for the growing amount of generosity in our church and in the commitment of lay people to contribute their time in serving the church and sharing the gospel in their lives.

Please pray:

- that Sarah and I, and also our whole church would be bold and proactive in sharing the gospel.
- that our church would continue to grow in number and maturity. Please pray for both new Christians and mature Christians to help disciple new believers.
- for the church's children's ministry. That it may be effective in teaching the children to love and serve God.

Ridley College

- Thank God for a smooth start of the semester. Pray for returning students that they might get back into studying mode quickly after 4 months of holiday. Pray for the new students this year as well. Thank God for the Launch Camp on 1-2 March.
- Thank God for the Centre for Children's and Youth Ministry at Ridley, where both students and experienced ministers continue to be equipped for serving the younger generation of Christians in Australia. Pray for the classes, mentoring groups, and online communities organised under this Centre.
- Thank God for Ridley's continuing faithfulness in equipping the wider Christian community with the gospel; through contemporary means, such as podcasts and overseas tours.

Liz Bolton (Navy Chaplain)

Give thanks that:

- even though I didn't make it home for Christmas it was a restful time for me here in Sydney.
- Barneys has been so welcoming and supportive with my ministry and will continue to do so.
- my ordination was successful and encouraging with non-Christian family members coming to the service to support me.
- for the opportunity to go to sea until mid-March

Please pray:

- my time at sea will be fruitful and I'll make some good connection with the ship's company.
- that in the year ahead, I'll trust in God's timing and his placement of me in the Navy.
- I'll look after myself, especially when dealing with physically, emotionally and spiritually tough situations that I have faced so far this year.
- some complex situations within the Navy Chaplaincy Branch and the effect this will have on all Chaplains moving forward.

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

Fiona McLean (HTD 10.30am, Women)

- Thank God for five new Growth Group leaders at 10.30, for a new group, and for new people joining groups.
- Thank God that someone I mentor has become a Christian and is getting baptised this month!
- Pray for people at 10.30 to grow in their conviction of the gospel, their confidence to explain it, and their compassion for the lost.
- Thank God for fantastic (and intense!) conversations recently about faith, God and spiritual things with friends from Gus' cricket team. Pray that they will put their faith and trust in Jesus.

Alan Xue (Blackburn, 10.30am Mandarin Congregation)

- Thank the Lord for leading the church into a new year of ministry. Pray for each cell group, asking the Lord to use these groups as vessels for studying the Bible, practising faith, and spreading the Gospel.
- Pray for the youth fellowship and the "Free Time Fellowship", asking the Lord to raise up more young people and those with flexible schedules to follow Jesus.
- Pray for the choir fellowship, asking the Lord to grant various gifts to the choir members, to present our faith through singing, and to express praise to the Lord through songs.
- Pray for all the leaders, coordinators, and coworkers of the cell groups, asking the Lord to help them fulfil the tasks entrusted to them, bless them, and bless their groups, so that the name of God may be glorified.

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

- Pray that each of us will continue to grow daily in our relationship with the Lord so that when challenging times come, our faith will be firmly established on God our rock.
- Pray for those who are unable to attend church due to illness, frailty, or other concerns - please pray for the Lord to work through our pastoral care efforts so that people are reminded of the truth in God's word, encouraged in their faith, and enabled to persevere.

Peter Young (5pm, Blackburn)

- Please pray for the new congregation starting at St Johns 5pm. Pray that the "Taste & See" services (Saturday 6th April and Saturday 27th April at 5pm) would be well attended, worshipful, encouraging and representative of what we're on about. Pray that they would excite many people to join us when we launch in late May. Pray for the launch team and others who are already committed to the venture.
- Pray for me as I "lead with L plates on". Thank God for the help and support of the rest of the ministry team here at HTD/St John's.

Stef Wong (5pm, Women)

- Thank God for the time that Stef was given to spend time with her extended family in Indonesia for Chinese New Year. Pray that her believing family will continue to put their trust in Jesus, and that her non-believing family will find their peace in Jesus
- Thank God for the ministry of women and men in our church in all parts of lives, pray that we will continue to complement each other well in gentleness, repentance, love, and humility
- Pray for the upcoming 5pm Women's Event (23rd of March) that will focus on Biblical Friendship, pray that many women will come to encourage one another in friendship

Hertz He (HTD 10.30am Mandarin congregation)

- Pray for the baptism couse, that the Holy Spirit will work in ZG1, ZG2, QL and MX's hearts, and encourage them to take the step of faith to be baptised.
- Pray that the Lord will heal brother SC, give him strength, and lead his family through this difficult time.
- Pray for the study group doing Raising Kids God's Way that those participating will understand God's heart for their children and give parents faith to follow the Bible's principles in life and in raising their children.

Michelle Caruana (Kids Ministries)

- Give thanks for a good training day for Kids, Youth and TYA leaders last Saturday. It was encouraging to see so many leaders faithfully serving in ministries for young people and being equipped.
- Give thanks for new kids starting this year at jKids.
- Please pray for new leaders for jKids. The group is growing and we need more leaders!
- Please pray for wisdom in training and discipling new leaders.

Ricky Njoto (HTD 10.30am)

- Thank God for the Newcomers Afternoon Tea last Sunday (3 March). Pray for the newcomers at 10.30 to settle into the community well. Pray for the community to be welcoming. And pray that the newcomers can grow together through God's word, and to be equipped for service.
- Pray for Ricky, Hannah, and Kai as they're anticipating the arrival of a new baby boy (due end of March/early April). Pray that they might adjust quickly to the new family situation, and that Ricky might balance between family and ministry responsibilities well.
- Pray for Ricky in his process towards ordination. Pray for his attendance at the Selection Conference at the end of the month (where he will have multiple interviews to determine his suitability for ordination). Pray for wisdom and clarity in all parties involved. And above all, for God's will to be revealed clearly.

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

- Thank God for the new members at St John's 8.30am and 10.30am service. Pray that we will welcome them well and help them to integrate into our service, including finding them appropriate Growth groups.
- Pray for the Blackburn market outreach this Saturday 9th March, that there will be good engagement with the community that will lead to Gospel conversations. Pray that God will raise up a committed core team that will persevere in this work of outreach and evangelism.
- Thank God for a good start to the Growth groups at Trinity Young Adults and St John's. Pray that God will sustain the leaders and that the group members will develop servant hearts to build one another in the faith.

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

- Give thanks for the recent baptisms at 1030am church. Pray they'll continue to grow in Christ.
- Give thanks for the Youth Leaders who've stepped while Geoff's in hospital, and the way Geoff has equipped them to do this. Please pray God will sustain the leaders & grant healing to Geoff.

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.