

## Kingdom Growth Night (5<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

Prayer notes, which cover approx. half of our mission partners and half of our staff/ministries each month.

### **1) Praise – Psalm 115:1-11**

- <sup>1</sup> Not to us, Lord, not to us  
but to your name be the glory,  
because of your love and faithfulness.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”
- <sup>3</sup> Our God is in heaven;  
he does whatever pleases him.
- <sup>4</sup> But their idols are silver and gold,  
made by human hands.
- <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak,  
eyes, but cannot see.
- <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear,  
noses, but cannot smell.
- <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but cannot feel,  
feet, but cannot walk,  
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
- <sup>8</sup> Those who make them will be like them,  
and so will all who trust in them.
- <sup>9</sup> All you Israelites, trust in the Lord—  
he is their help and shield.
- <sup>10</sup> House of Aaron, trust in the Lord—  
he is their help and shield.
- <sup>11</sup> You who fear him, trust in the Lord—  
he is their help and shield.

We praise you God for your love and faithfulness to us in so many ways, and especially in giving us new life through Christ. We also praise you that you are a God who has ears and hears our prayers. And so we praise you that you are our help and shield.

### **2) Praying for the world and God’s global church**

- Pray for the ongoing work of the Board of Nominators who are working to present a list of candidates for Archbishop of Melbourne to the Melbourne synod (hopefully in May 2025). Pray that God will raise up a godly shepherd, who will be faithful to God’s word, and appoint leaders among God’s flock in the Anglican churches of Melbourne that preach the Gospel and exhibit godly character in all that they say and do.
- Pray for the US, Europe and Ukraine – that they may work together to forge a lasting and just peace with Russia. Pray, particularly for the leaders, that they will have great wisdom to see what the long-term ramifications are for the world through their decisions. Pray that those who are strong will protect the weak, rather than use it to advance their own self-interests.
- Pray for Australia’s upcoming federal elections that politicians on all sides will seek election with good and honourable motives, and that when presenting their policies to the people, they will do so with honesty and integrity. Pray that as Christians, we will participate in these democratic processes prayerfully and responsibly, having in mind to be a good witness for Christ to those around us.

### **Praying for the persecuted church**

- Praise God that over 200 more Christian families in an ongoing Barnabas project have been freed from the yoke of debt/bonded labour in Pakistan's brick kilns. They have been tied to generations of servitude to greedy masters whose loans, taken out in times of crisis, trap so many. Christian children can now go to schools supported by generous donors.
- Pray that there may be ongoing attention given by the West to the thousands of deaths of African Christians killed in the growing onslaught of believers in many African countries by Islamic militants aiming for an African Caliphate so that pressure can be put on national and provincial governments to stop it.

## **2) Pray for our Gospel Partners**

### **Lauren Raiter (CMS, Spain)**

Please pray for:

- people in Spain to deeply know this God of love and hope that we freely approach in prayer.
- Lauren's task of continuing to learn all the fun complexities in this language and culture, including how to explain God's love, what hope in Him means and how we can approach him in prayer.

Thank God for:

- the encouragement of time together with CMS Europe-missionaries in last week's weekend away.

### **Ronald and Mary Suah (Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology)**

Please pray:

- for our new students who are taking their English Intensive classes, and for our three English teachers from Australia (the Sydney and Brisbane guys) who will be with us this month.
- for our Doctor of Ministry students, with 52 students that God would enable them to complete their studies well, and through their studies, grow them in Christ.
- for the faculty at MEGST. While students are increasing, lecturers are declining due to retirement. Pray God will give Ronald wisdom as he seeks more faculty in the short term but also to develop long-term solutions.
- for finances. We have raised faculty salaries this year due to the superhigh inflation. But the cost of living for families in Myanmar is still challenging. Pray God will provide enough funds for the bigger budget this year and provide for families.
- Mary and me for good health and resilience in ministry in this challenging time.

### **Enoch Shen (Power to Change Missionary, Monash)**

Praise Points:

- Praise God we met over 750 students during O-week, who filled in questionnaires with us.
- Praise God for all the students and volunteers who tirelessly helped out during O-week.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the follow-up over the next few weeks as we meet with students individually. Pray that we can continue the conversation with the non-believers we met and God would continue to draw people to himself as we invite them to read the bible and learn about Jesus.
- Pray for the Christians we met that they would get involved in one of the Christian groups and grow in Christ, and be a good witness to their friends, family and classmates.
- Pray for the Welcome Events and setting up of discipleship groups in the coming semester.
- Pray for God's protection against various cult groups that are increasingly active and seeking to draw people away from genuine faith in Christ. (These groups include Shincheonji, Melbourne Church of Christ (part of ICOC), and Melbourne International Christian Church)

### **Candice Bergamin (Moore College/AFES UNSW)**

Thanks for praying for me in my research, and the ministry of AFES/Campus Bible Study at UNSW!

- Give thanks for a large number of new students starting at UNSW who are checking out Unichurch. Pray that those who have relocated for uni will settle into a good church in Sydney, and that many would choose to join Unichurch and the mission to the campus and residential colleges
- Give thanks for a productive time of review and planning with the NTE primary team, as we begin working towards this year's National Training Event in December. Pray for wisdom as we plan and prepare for both this year and the longer term, under God
- Give thanks for the opportunity to act as a tutor in a class at Moore College this semester. Pray that I would be a help to the students as they learn from Augustine and from John's Gospel
- Please continue to pray for my confirmation of candidature in mid-March - for clarity in articulating my work in the final stages of bringing together a good research proposal

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

#### **Alan Xue (St John's, 10.30am Mandarin)**

- Pray for the new coworkers and leaders. May the Lord call and guide those willing to serve Him and others, so that everyone may experience renewal and growth in their spiritual lives through service.
- Pray for the young adult fellowship. May the Lord bring more young people into this community, so that they may come to know Jesus as revealed in the Bible and follow Him.
- Pray for the choir. May the Lord bless and guide them as they use their voices to glorify Him. May their singing be a testimony of His love and truth, uplifting the congregation and drawing hearts closer to Him.

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

- Pray for Iren Hu who is from AFES team staff of Christian Union International for her missionary and she would receive adequate support.
- Pray for the students and parents preparing for the VCE exams today. Pray that God will lead the children and that they will have the stamina, wisdom and faith to prepare well for each exam. Pray that the children will learn to rely on God in the process of studying and taking the exams. Pray for the children's parents, that God will give them the patience and love to support their children's learning and growth.
- Pray for the brothers and sisters who are preparing for baptism on April 20. Pray that God will prepare their hearts and give them enough faith to participate in baptism and come into the Lord's name.

#### **Michelle Caruana (Kids Ministries)**

Give thanks for:

- A good start to the year in Kids' Ministry with new kids and leaders and Alex starting at St John's.
- Lots of new kids joining jKids this year
- An encouraging Kids and Youth leaders training day last weekend

Pray for:

- Wisdom and godliness in discipling kids and leaders
- Relationship building between new leaders, teams and kids.

**Ricky Njoto (HTD 10.30am)**

- [insert]

**Stef Chan (HTD 5pm, Women)**

- Give thanks to God for the Christianity Explored group that runs every Wednesday night. Pray for the non Christians that are attending that they may know the Lord Jesus, and pray that the Christians that are attending will grow in their faith as they witness to others.
- Give thanks for the faith of the women of our church, may God bless the upcoming Women's Picnic on the 29th of March that it will bring about fruits that glorify God.
- Give thanks for the community of God's people. May we be known as a church that is welcoming and hospitable to friends and strangers alike. May we be servant hearted and other-centered in the way that we relate to everyone.
- Give thanks for the gift of marriage that has been given to Stef. Massive thanks for the gift of God's church that helped to witness to God's mercy and grace at the wedding. May Enoch and Stef grow closer to God each day and faithfully serve the Lord together.

**Peter Young (St John's 5pm)**

- Pray for the Blackburn Market Outreach coming up on Saturday. Pray that we'd make lots of contacts, have great God-centred conversations and be loving witnesses for Jesus.
- Pray that we as a fellowship will grow in godliness and in our love for one another - that way showing the trust of the gospel to everyone we are in contact with.
- Pray for the up-coming 5pm camp (24-26 April), that it would be a time of spiritual growth for all who attend.
- On a personal note, thank God for a good, refreshing holiday for Elspeth and Peter in the second half of February.

**Andrew Price (HTD 7.45am and 9am, Staff)**

- Give thanks for faithful witness of our older folk and most recently for the life of Noreen Evans whose funeral was last Friday. Pray their faithfulness to Christ would be a great encouragement to all who know them.
- Give thanks for the recent baptisms at 1030am congregation, for their testimonies in particular, which testified to God's work in their lives, and their commitment to Christ. Pray God would continue to grow them (and us all) in Christ.
- Give thanks for the projects being done (new rear kitchen and fellowship area for Hudson Taylor Room congregations) and pray it would be completed soon. Pray for some planned projects at St John's (a cry room for parents, and Cottage works for Kids' Church) would get underway soon too. Pray all these would promote gospel ministry and facilitate church growth.
- Give thanks for the staff and volunteer leaders who serve so faithfully in so many ways. Pray God would continue to sustain us and use us to grow his Church for his glory.

**4) Pray for each other**

(Perhaps include some family or friends who don't yet know Jesus. Pray God would open their minds to see how Jesus is. Pray God would use this Easter season and our planned Hope25 outreach services to provide opportunities to invite/share with them)