

Prayer Diary

July / August 2010



Vision and Leadership

- 21st Jul • Continue to pray for the Vision & Leadership Team, as they think strategically about furthering the vision this year. Pray for the Team's ongoing work as they hold up the vision for us all to work towards.
- Pray for the six main focus areas for the development of the vision this year, and for the portfolio holders and ministry personnel responsible for them ... church services (Gav B, Rod H and Ian FJ), leadership development (Rod H), children's ministry (Sue B and Benita DR), youth ministry (Sue B and Ian FJ), social justice (Sandra R) and community engagement (Rod H). Pray for a clear 'action plan' to come together as we try to make all these areas work, and pray that as a church we will be ready to embrace whatever changes might be necessary to see the vision become reality.
 - Pray for the staff team....Rod, Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue ... as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the vision. Give thanks for the developing sense of 'team' as the staff work together, and pray for time amongst the busy-ness of day-to-day ministry to be able to maintain focus on the big picture of our church.
- 22nd • Pray for the current sermon series, and the four-part Bible study for life groups, as we think again about membership of the church, and what it takes to support the vision and see it become reality.
- Pray for Rod, as he works on his own areas of leadership and 'vision' as well as overseeing the rest of the team, and the development of the vision as a whole. Pray for his discipline and time management, as he works at maintaining a sustainable lifestyle, balancing work, leisure and personal spiritual growth.
 - Give thanks for the establishment of a Leader Development Team, and for a more intentional approach to encouraging, supporting and developing leaders in our church.

Church Services

- 23rd Jul • Pray for the Service Teams and Committees, including DRV, as they meet regularly to assess, discuss and plan for each of the services.
- Give thanks for the continuing faithfulness of those who help out on the various rosters at each of our services.
 - Pray that each of the services at St John's would be a place where newcomers can connect and build a strong sense of belonging, as we share community with one another and with God.
- 24th • Pray for Parish Council as they focus on Church Services as one of the key areas to realise our vision in 2010.
- Pray for the 9:45am and 7:00pm services as they continue to trial a new structure for the music ministry, giving thanks that it has been working so well.
 - Pray for Mark Cameron as music coordinator and for Andrew Harding, Dan Gale and Kyle Lane as band leaders, as they serve the church in this important ministry.
 - Give thanks for the sound operators and projectionists and the important impact they have in our services.

Support Ministries

- 25th • Praise God for the encouraging emphasis on prayer....for the increase in those attending the **Big Prayer Days** each term, and the greater use of the **Emergency Prayer Chain**.
- Praise God for the organisation of **Life Groups** that Mark Harding has done as the Life Groups Coordinator. Praise God for the leaders who manage each life group and for the members of each group. Pray that existing life groups would be open to welcoming new members and that more leaders would be raised up so that all can experience the benefits of being part of a life group.
- 26th • Give thanks for the connection the **Practical Meal Roster** has had with the Playtime Ministry. Pray also that God would raise up a coordinator for this ministry as it becomes a vital support not only within St Johns but in our connection with the local community.
- Give thanks to all who help out with the various **support ministries**, for their continued support of those in our church and community.
 - Pray that as a church we are open to the needs of all around us, and that we can continue to make and impact.

Children and Youth Ministries

27th Promiseland

- Jul
- Praise God for another great term!
 - Praise God for the commitment of the leaders and the wonderful asset they are.
 - Pray also for new leaders to fill some of the gaps in the primary group (at least 2 more needed).

Kaleidoscope Kids

- This event will start on the 21st July, the first Wednesday of Term 3. We are looking forward to the beginning of this new program that will hopefully reach out to the kids of the community! Pray that relationships are made and that families are reached.
- Pray also for the leadership team as they begin this new ministry.

28th Kids Fun Day (Pupil Free Day)

- Praise God for a great first time event which attracted 24 kids on the 19th July. Pray for the connections made, that they will grow and impact the lives of the kids and families.

School Scripture (SRE)

- We are looking forward to another term of SRE in our schools.
- Praise God that we have filled the space at Sutherland North (thanks Marcus).
- Pray for the need of another teacher for a Year 1/2 class at Sutherland

29th Youth Ministry

- Pray for the preparation of a proposal to Parish Council for a new Friday youth program, one which will have a more direct outreach focus. Pray for the presentation of the proposal to Parish Council and, if successful, the beginning of raising funds and securing resources.
- Pray for the upcoming Blackstump festival: for the patience of those who will organise and support our campers; for the inspiration and challenge of those who will attend the festival; for Ian who will be presenting a Bible study at the festival; and, for Rod as he supports the leadership of the festival with chaplaincy services.
- Pray for YASDUN, being led from this term by Team Starkey (Drew and Hannah). Pray for the youth who will attend and benefit from this Life Group.
- Pray that the youth connected to our church would feel welcome amongst us, thus making St John's their spiritual home.

Adult Ministries

30th Men@stjohns

- Jul
- Give thanks for the success of the men's breakfast held in June and the 40 men who attended.
 - Pray for the men's team as they plan for the Term 3 event to be held in September.
 - Pray that this important ministry will continue to meet the needs of men in our church.
 - Give thanks for the men committed to attending the weekend away from 19th-21st Nov. Pray that others will commit to come as well.

31st Women in Fellowship

- Praise God for the recent MAC Retreat. A group of women from St John's were able to attend, and were encouraged to find an "Oasis in God" in the stresses, storms and seasons of life.
- Pray for Kath Ansell as she prepares to come and share with us at the breakfast event at Como Hotel on September 4th. Give thanks for her passion to encourage us in our relationship with God.
- Ask God to raise up a speaker for the women's Christmas event, with the opportunity to invite friends and family along to hear of God's love, at a time in the year which can often be busy or lonely.

1st Seniors

- Aug
- Ask for God's wisdom and guidance for the Adult Ministries portfolio holder (Gareth Wyatt) and leaders of seniors ministries.
 - Give thanks for the warm welcome that our seniors teams receive when they visit nursing homes and retirement villages. Ask for opportunities to reach out to residents, families & friends each week.
 - Give thanks for the faithful service of all team members.
 - Ask for God to prepare new members / reserves to join the Tuesday teams at nursing homes and Seniors Club as needs arise.
 - Ask for 'Open House' to grow in meeting the needs of our community.
 - Praise God for Derek Thomas who spoke at a recent senior's event on his time in the Korean War. It was well received by all.

Outreach

- 2nd
- Pray for Glenn Starr (The Jannali High School) and Fiona Francesconi (Gynea and Kirrawee High Schools) as they share the gospel week by week in the schools. Pray too for the Boards which support them, that they will continue to be able to raise sufficient funds to maintain these vital missions in our local high schools.

Social Justice

- 3rd • Give for the new Social Justice team which met for the first time in June. Pray that they will be open to God's leading about where we serve Him and those less fortunate than ourselves. Pray that God will give them direction on where to focus our attention, energies, time and financial support as a church and as individuals for the year ahead.
- Aug • Give thanks for the connections made through the Coffee@Peace stall. Pray that as a result of the conversations that were had, and the literature we distributed, that God will be convicting people in our community to consider making ethical choices whenever they go shopping, considering how their purchases affect those in poor communities overseas.
- Pray for those that come seeking practical help through the church office, that we can meet their physical needs. Pray also that we can be Christ-like, offering true love and generosity to those who are often feeling vulnerable.

Community Engagement

- 4th • Give thanks for the assembling of a **Community Engagement Team**, and pray as the team sets up on-going oversight for the various arms of this portfolio. Pray for a clear plan, as we move forward in developing further opportunities for engaging with our community.
- Pray for the **Kids Hope** program at Sutherland School, planning a Kids Hope Lunch at school this term. Pray for the provision of at least three new mentors to fill the needs of the school. Pray for a good start to mentoring in Term 3. Give thanks that our program at Sutherland has 'birthed' a new program at another school, because one of the teachers has been so excited by its value.
- Pray for the **Playtime** ministry, now running on Mondays and Thursdays. Pray that leaders and support team members will be energised to allow this new Monday group to develop successfully, so that this ministry may continue to grow in its effectiveness. Pray for a number of the Playtime mums who are facing difficult circumstances. Pray that as a church we can support these women in their time of need.
- Continue to pray for **Court Support**, and the week-by-week connections with people feeling vulnerable and ill at ease with their circumstances.

Community Engagement (*Continued*)

- 5th • Pray for the opportunities taken by **MU Australia** (Mothers' Union) as they engage in multiple ways with the wider and unchurched community, and work and pray for the strengthening and encouraging of marriage and family life.
- Give thanks for our involvement with the **Coffee@Peace Festival**, and pray that the 'show-bags' containing information about Fair Trade as well as about St John's, and a Luke's Gospel, etc, will continue to have an effect on all who took them.
- Pray for the process of researching our local community, as we seek to understand what needs exist in our community, and where we can get involved to lend a serving hand.

Mission

- 6th • Give thanks for all the missionaries we are able to support. Pray for our Mission Focus, as we have a few changes in who we support. Pray that we can implement plans for stronger links and support for our mission teams.
- Pray for the **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... as Brad and Krisha continue to run, and teach at, Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa. Give thanks that Helen's health is improving and ask that God will heal Krisha's mum Kaye after her cancer treatment.
- Pray for Andrew **Cameron** ... as he continues to implement and plan new "Ambassadors in Sport" soccer camps. Give thanks for the camps held in Melbourne, Adelaide and Scone during the last school holidays and the 60 kids who attended. Pray that churches will be diligent and sensitive in following up contacts provided by these, and other camps.
- 7th • Pray for the **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pray for perseverance and wisdom for Cesar as he pastors his congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile, as well as giving parish training to students from the ministry training college. Pray for Cesar and Ani as they build relationships with those who came to the marriage program.
- Pray for **Sylvia Jeans** ... as she adjusts to life back in Sabah, after retiring from CMS. Pray that she continues to be supported to do what she believes God has called her to.
- Pray for the **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... pray for 'Immersion', the cafe and English school they have established in Gijon, Spain. Pray for the kids camps over summer, that Andrew and Leana can build relationships with the children and families who attend. Give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate and build relationships with the locals following Spain's win in the

World Cup.

Mission (Continued)

- 8th • Pray for the **Prattens** (David, Catherine, Jess, Amy, Esther)... give thanks for David's job and pray for Catherine as she starts her new job this week. Pray also for Esther who has returned to Australia, as she settles back into Sutherland Shire Christian School. Pray that they will rely on God to provide a home for them to live in, bringing stability for their family.
- Aug • Pray for the **Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... as they continue to work alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible into local languages.

Equipping

- 9th • Pray that the new initiatives that the Equipping Team is moving towards will help assist the community and the church.
- Pray for opportunities to be presented to the Equipping Team that we can take advantage of and reach out to our community.

Communications

- 10th • Pray that we can continue to explore ways to better communicate with the church family and those in our community.
- Pray that we can continue to improve the way we support the communications needs of the various ministries in our church.
- Pray for God's guidance as we perform a review of the website to ensure it meets the needs of our church.
- Give thanks for the continuing enthusiasm of Patrick Helm in his role as IT Team leader.
- Give thanks for Glenn Reeve as he faithfully changes the church sign each week, and for Kristen Doran as she continues to come up with great designs for our church publications.

Property Development

- 11th • Praise God for the dedication of the Property Development committee and the fact that we have come so far in the negotiations.
- Pray that we can get the best possible outcome for the church.
- Pray that the Diocesan representatives can provide helpful guidance when we meet with them.
- Pray that the committee might have wisdom in decision making and in negotiating, being Christ-like in all our actions.

Property Maintenance

- 12th • Give thanks for the 25 people who helped out at the recent Working Bee, for their servant hearts and the various jobs that were lovingly completed.
- Aug • Give thanks for those people who willingly give their time to the maintenance, cleaning and lawn mowing rosters. Ask God to raise up other church members to get involved and to help share the load.

Finance

- 13th • Pray for the commitment made at this year's AGM to employ additional staff, that resources would materialise from the congregations to make these staff members salaries payable.
- Pray for ongoing and special needs to support our link missionaries.

Administration

- 14th • Pray for our Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth and Gavin) as they take responsibility for many aspects of the administration of our church, putting in long hours around their day jobs.
- Pray for Sue as she tries to balance the regular things like producing the bulletin and songsheets, with the one-off things like parishioner requests and projects that Rod and Graham ask her to do.
- Pray for Graham as he balances the many tasks and requests on his plate. Pray for wisdom to focus on the right things.

Planning

- 15th • Pray for God's guidance for the Parish Councillors as they work with their ministry leaders to activate their portfolio plans for 2010. Pray that these plans will work towards achieving our vision. Pray that Parish Councillors might work together in love and cooperation, respecting each other's views and arriving at decisions that will glorify God and support the work of our church.

Future Prayer Days.....(6am, 10:30am, and 7:30pm)

- **Monday August 16th BIG Prayer Day, Term 3**
- Thursday September 16th
- Wednesday October 20th
- **Monday November 15th BIG Prayer Day, Term 4**