



TERM 4 - 2013

DAILY READING NOTES - REVELATION 1-5

Week	Passage
1	Revelation 1:1-3
2	Revelation 1:4-8
3	Revelation 1:9-20
4	Revelation 2:1-11
5	Revelation 2:12-3:6
6	Revelation 3:7-21
7	Revelation 4:1-8
8	Revelation 4:9-11
9	Revelation 5:1-7
10	Revelation 5:8-14

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

List the name of your family/friends here.

REVELATION 1-5: LION AND THE LAMB

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal Reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your growth group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Sign up for these notes as a daily email at evchurch.info/series

WHAT G?D

i can't see him. i don't hear him.

Wed 30th Oct, Wed 6th Nov, Wed 13th Nov
7:30pm @ EV Church

evchurch
solid hope - jesus

digging deeper

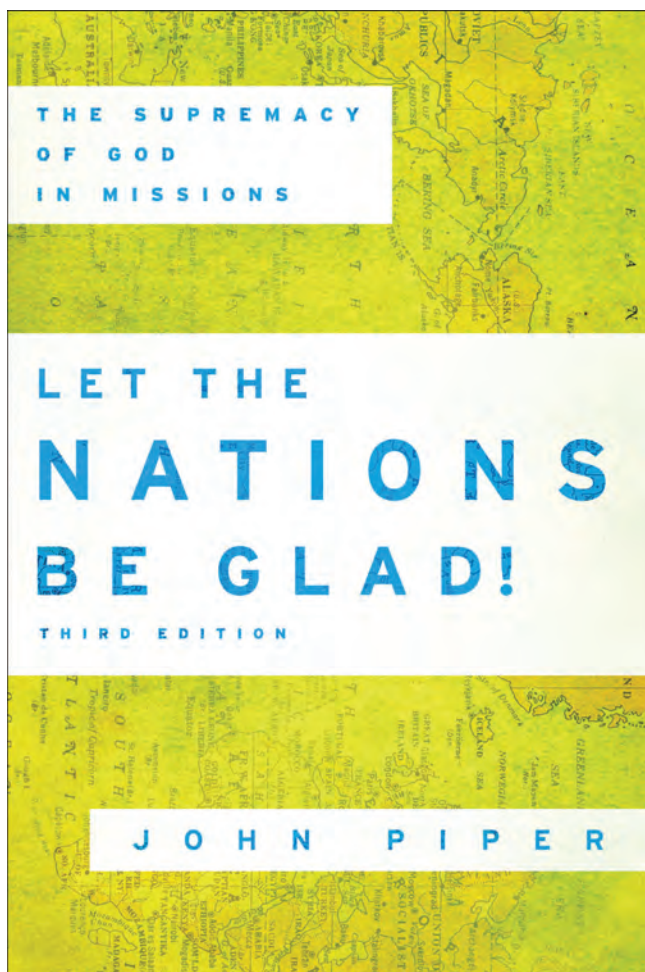
GOD'S BOOK, GOD'S PLAN
the unfolding plan of God

Monday 14th October 2013
7:30 - 9:30pm @ ev church

ev
church

LET THE NATIONS BE GLAD

This amazing book draws on key biblical texts to demonstrate that worship is the ultimate goal of the church and that proper worship fuels missionary outreach. John Piper offers a biblical defense of God's supremacy in all things, providing readers with a sound theological foundation for missions. He examines whether Jesus is the only way to salvation and issues a passionate plea for God-centeredness in the missionary enterprise, seeking to define the scope of the task and the means for reaching "all nations." As we work our way through Revelation 1-5 this term, this would be a great book to read along with it to help shape your mind and heart towards global missions – beginning here on the Central Coast and to the ends of the earth. Copies are available through the EV bookshop each weekend.



INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION 1-5:

Imagine for a moment that you were alive towards the end of the first century AD. You're living in one of the seven key cities in the province of Asia Minor (Turkey) under the rule of Rome. The Emperor Domitian is in power and absolutely delights in it. In fact, he delights in power so much that worshipping his image as a god, had become the true test of a person's allegiance to the power and rule of Rome. Dire consequences await those who will not bow their knee.

But you, along with relatively small groups of people throughout Asia Minor have heard an amazing message that changed your life! A message about the reality of Jesus the conquering Christ who died, was buried and was raised again to secure the salvation of humanity trapped in the bondage of sin. This Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God, the rightful reign and rule of God over His creation. He was coming back again to bring all things to completion. He will bring judgment on God's enemies, defeat evil once and for all and bring His people into the full and eternal presence of God. He alone is worthy of your worship! Having heard this message, you believed and put your trust in Jesus, you became a Christian.

But as time went on life stayed the same, nothing changed. Domitian is still in power and demanding your allegiance (worship). But worse than this, Christians around Asia Minor refused to worship his image and many of them were severely beaten, some jailed or exiled, others have even been killed. It's a terrifying & confusing time.

As if that weren't enough, the Jews are constantly mocking & persecuting you for believing in something so ludicrous as a crucified King. By paying a temple tax to Rome, the Jews were able to dodge the

problem of worshipping the emperor. But their hatred of the Christians meant they would gladly rat them out to the Roman officials at every chance they could!

More than that, people coming into your church gatherings trying to persuade people away from the gospel & in to all kinds of evil behavior. You are not only battling persecution from those outside the church but internal battles over the message that you came to believe in from the beginning.

Over time, questions begin to plague your mind. What has become of this gospel message I heard, is it still alive in me? Where is the promised return of Jesus? Was it a mistake that I became a Christian? Was it all a delusion? Is this simply another religion that may have worked in the remote areas, but here in the city it's just too hard? Was it just a wonderful 'ideal' that has now been shattered on the hard rocks of political and social realities? Was true power not to be found in Jesus after all, was Rome really the authority to which we must bow?

Into this situation Jesus graciously engages with His people through His Apostle, John. He engages with them to encourage and strengthen them, to warn and rebuke them, and to prepare them to stand fast until the end. An end which is confidently in the hands of Jesus alone. He is the all-powerful Lion of Judah who is also the lamb slain who secured the redemption of God's people and the final victory over sin, death & Satan through his death & resurrection. Jesus said that his words for the seven churches of Asia in the first century were to be read in all the churches for they spoke of things that are (were) and things that will be (future). They declare a message of the true power and ultimate victory of God demonstrated through the weakness, suffering & death of the lamb.

The pastoral purpose of this book is to remind God's people of the Sovereign glory & power of Jesus, and the victory He has won through His death (1:5; 5:9-10). It calls God's people to make a decision about where they will stand today. Will they trust in the promises of God, identifying themselves with Jesus & His bride looking forward to the day when He will return – or with those who oppose Jesus? God's people are called to share in Christ's conquest by faithfully enduring hardship and suffering (13:9-10). They are to remain loyal and faithful to Him, holding fast and bearing witness to the message of Jesus and the promises of God despite even the most terrifying and difficult of circumstances. Worldly powers and the circumstances of everyday life are not outside God's control, the end has been decided and is the powerful hands of Jesus (5:5, 12-14). For this reason, God's people are called to confidently trust in Him in the midst of hardship and faithfully bear witness to Jesus until the end (12:11).

The evangelistic purpose of this book calls for God's people to bear faithful witness to the testimony of Jesus. Not merely his death, burial & resurrection but also His promise to return in judgment (20:15). Jesus will finally deal with evil, punish all those who proudly oppose Him and to fully realise the God's promises of a new heaven & earth and the place of God's people with Him forever! (ch's 21-22). The realities of life & death, Heaven & Hell, are presented in stark terms calling for all people to decide something about Jesus and His cause for the end is coming and history will be wrapped up soon. The glory of heaven awaits those who have fallen in worship of the slain lamb. But for those who will not bow the knee in worship, the judgment of God is coming through a second death. This is a reference to Hell itself where, along with Satan, the demons

and all who will not worship the lamb, they will spend eternity. To those who have not yet heard, they must hear this message! To those who have not yet responded, it calls them to repent and seek forgiveness while there is still time!

HOW DO WE INTERPRET REVELATION?

Revelation is grounded in the events of the churches addressed at the beginning of the letter (ch's 2-3); so it's important to begin interpreting against this historical context. Revelation also relies heavily on the reader's knowledge of the OT, so look at the cross references regularly for the links back to the OT (Especially Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah and Isaiah). It is also clear that some elements of this book relate to the future from the perspective of John. This means that some of it relates to the history of the world that we live in and some of it relates to the return of Jesus which lies in the future. For more help on how to read & interpret Revelation, read the introductory notes in either Leon Morris' or Paul Barnett's commentary, they are very helpful.

This term we are going to be looking at chapters 1-5 of Revelation. These chapters focus our attention on a vision of the Sovereign glory of Jesus as both Lord and Savior. When we see Jesus clearly, along with those in Revelation 4-5, will fall before Him in worship for He is the Lion and the lamb of God slain for the sins of the world, there is none more worthy than Him of our praise and worship. The series title is "Lion & the Lamb"; this is the declaration of chapter 5 that results in the praise of worship of Jesus by every creature in heaven and earth, from a people rescued by Him from among all the nations! Enjoy your time digging in to Revelation 1-5 this term!

WEEK 1: REVELATION 1:1-3

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 1:1-3

1. What does the word 'revelation' mean?
2. Who is doing the revealing, and to whom will it be revealed? (for additional info, see the intro section in the daily reading notes)
3. What sense of expectation do these verses give about when 'these things' are going to take place?

Praise God that He does not leave His people in the dark about present or the future; He has revealed all we need to know to trust Him each day.

DAY 2

READ DANIEL 2:19-28b; 44-47

1. The book of Daniel contains 'apocalyptic' (revealing) language similar to the book of Revelation. What do these verses teach us about the ability for humanity to search out the deep mysteries of God's purposes in the world?
2. Looking at verses 44-47, what has been revealed about the future?
3. How do God's promises of future hope help us think about today's struggles?

Praise God for revealing what we could never know on our own, especially for the confidence of a day when His Kingdom will prevail over all evil.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 1:1-3

1. In yesterday's reading (Daniel 2), God revealed that a time was coming when the kingdoms of the earth would come to an end, they would be crushed and God's eternal Kingdom would be established once for all time. With this in the background, what might John be referring to when he says, "... for the time is near"?

2. How might these opening verses have been understood by the suffering & disillusioned Christians around Asia in the first century?

3. God's Kingdom was established through the coming of Jesus & the victory won through His death & resurrection. However, the final chapter is still to come! All Christians live in what we can describe as the overlap of the ages, of the "now and not yet" of God's Kingdom. How does this framework help you understand the place of evil and suffering in the world today?

Thank God that in the coming of Jesus, God's Kingdom was established and the victory won! We are now living in the last days as we await the return of Jesus. Pray that you might remember this truth as you live each day, especially when hardship & suffering comes your way, looking confidently to the future God has secured for you in Christ.

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 1:1-3

1. What is actually being revealed?

2. What response is required of those to hear it?

3. What benefit is there for those who receive this revelation?

4. How might this apply to you today?

Pray that you would take seriously the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. Pray that God would help you understand it, take it to heart and act on it today.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 1:1-3

1. In verse 3, John describes this document as more than a revelation, it is also a 'prophecy', what might this mean?

2. Prophecy is an often misunderstood idea. Read Rev. 19:10, how is prophecy described by John here?

3. According to these verses, what should the response be when hearing the words of this prophecy? Why does our response matter?

Thank God for clearly revealing His Word to us. Pray that you might come before this prophecy over the coming weeks in reverence and awe of the God who reveals Himself and calls us to obey.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: REVELATION 1:4-8

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 1:4-8

1. Last week we saw that this document is a “revelation” (a revealing of things previously hidden – both present and future) and a “prophecy” (the Word of God & the testimony of Jesus that demands a response), what does v. 4 add to our understanding of what type of document we are reading?

2. Who is the intended audience of this letter? How does letter address us today?

Praise God for His Word to the seven historical churches of Asia Minor who also represent the church through the ages. Help us to hear your words to these historical churches as words for us to consider of our own lives today, may we be those who hear & take to heart what is written for the time is short.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 1:4-8

1. This passage puts the spotlight on the Father, Son and Spirit – the triune God of the universe! What do you learn about each member of the Godhead here? Who gets the majority focus in these verses?

2. For the Christian living in the first century under the powerful & frightening rule of Domitian, the Roman Emperor, what important message do these verses offer?

3. Powerful social/political forces exist in every age. At times they are overt, other times quite subtle in their influence. There is a real danger for the Christian to lose confidence in God's promises when ungodliness becomes the powerful and persuading norm. We don't have to bow down in worship of an image of the emperor today, but there are many ways we are influenced to worship things other than God – can you think of any?

Thank God for the great reminder of who He is as Father, Spirit and Son. Praise Him that there is none like Him for is the Alpha & the Omega, the first and last. All people and events of history find their place beneath His Sovereign rule, which He exercises by His Son. Ask God to teach you to trust in Him and not be swayed by the fears that come when things don't seem to be going to plan. We remember today that you, our God, are the Almighty one!

DAY 3

READ DANIEL 7:13-14

Context: Daniel was a prophet during Israel's captivity in Babylon in the 6th century BC. He wrote during a time of suffering and persecution among God's people in a similar literary style to Revelation. His prophecy reminds the people that God is Sovereign over all world events & looks ahead to a time when God would resolve the evil of the world and establish His Kingdom once and for all through his representative, the son of man.

1. What authority is given to the son of man?
2. How does his power compare to that with the people or nations of the world?
3. To a people suffering under the pain of persecution, what hope would these words have offered?

Thank God that there is one who was promised to come with the full authority and power of heaven to establish God's rule over all the earth. After his death & resurrection, Jesus claims to be this one (Matthew 28), the victory has been won, authority has been given and we now eagerly await His return to see all things made complete!

DAY 4

READ ZECHARIAH 12:10 - 13:1

Context: Zechariah was a priest who returned with the Israelites from captivity in Babylon to begin rebuilding the temple (538BC). Powerful opposition caused this project to cease with just the foundations laid and a deep discouragement set in. Zechariah prophesied to the people about a day when God would restore all things, a day when God's Messiah would come, he would turn things up right again but not before times of further distress and hardship.

1. What initial impression do these verses give about Israel's acceptance of God's Messiah?
2. What does it seem like they will do to God's Messiah?
3. How do the people respond once they realize that this was God's man and God's means for bringing salvation?

Praise God for His promises given hundreds of years before He sent Jesus. Through these we can see and understand that He is powerful to save, but His power would be made know in ways that turn upside down the way the world thinks. God's ultimate power would be revealed through the weakness of His Messiah's death.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 1:7-8

1. In what ways are the prophecies of Daniel 7:13-14 and Zechariah 12:10-13:1 fulfilled in these verses?
2. What encouragement would these words have been to those in the first century who were suffering under the torturous and cruel rule of Rome?
3. Are you living your life in light of the immanent return of Jesus in His powerful glory? How should this reality affect the decisions we make each day?

Praise God for the wonderful reminder of the glorious & powerful rule of Jesus who is coming again to bring God's Kingdom to its fullness! On that day, everyone will see His glory & everyone will know His power!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: REVELATION 1:9-20

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 1:9-20

1. What do verses 9-10 tell us about the historical context, author and recipients for what we are about to read?
2. In what way is John suffering the same struggles as those early Christians around Asia Minor?
3. What exactly is John to write down, and who is he to send it to?

Note: Notice that there are not 7 individual letters, one for each church. It is one entire letter, which includes aspects that relate to individual churches for the benefit of them all. Each of these churches has similar characteristics to the churches right throughout history, even to us today. This whole letter was to be sent and read to these churches, which suggests that its contents are not restricted to a single place & time. The number 7 is used to describe completion, perfection or unity. The 7 churches are real, but they also represent the completed church, God's single church throughout the ages.

Thank God for His word, pray that you would be given insight to understand it as it was intended to its original hearers, and then as a word to us today.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 1:12-16

1. These verses contain the primary vision of Jesus himself. They are steeped in OT imagery, look up the following verses and think about how they help you understand the images used in this passage:
 - a. Lampstands (Ex. 25:37; Zech. 4:1-2, see also Matt. 5:14-16)

- b. The son of man's appearance (Dan. 7:9-10; 10:4-6; Ez. 8:2, see also Matt. 17:1-9)
- c. Voice (Ez. 43:2)
- d. Sword in the mouth (Isaiah 11:4, see also Rev. 19:15)

2. Remembering that Revelation is like a picture story, communicating truth through images, what overall picture of Jesus does all of this OT imagery add up to?

3. Those first century Christians were bombarded with images of the 'glory' of the Roman emperor who they were to worship. How does his glory compare to that of Jesus described here? How do you think that would have impacted them?

4. Is your own understanding of Jesus anything like this vision? How does this picture of Jesus impact you today?

Pray that God would help you see the incredible power and sovereign glory of Jesus so that you might fall before Him in right placed worship. Ask God to help you see Him clearly for who He truly is!

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 1:17-18

1. Having been brought face to face with the risen, powerful & glorified Jesus, how does John respond?

2. Why do you think John responded this way? (See also Ex. 19:21; 33:20; Judg. 6:22-23)

3. If you were a first century Christian, why would knowing about John's response to Jesus be helpful for you? How is this helpful for you today?

Pray that God would help you see the incredible power and sovereign glory of Jesus so that you might fall before Him in right placed worship. Ask God to help you see Him clearly for who He truly is!

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 1:17-18

1. How does Jesus respond to John (who is lying prostrate in fear on the ground)?

2. Why does John have nothing to fear?

3. How would Jesus' words to John be a comfort to those reading this letter in the first century and us today?

Pray that God would help you place your confident trust in Jesus, having no fear about life or death, for Jesus, the Living One, rules over all history – past, present & future – and there is none like Him!

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 1:19-20

1. What 3 things make up the contents of this vision that John is to write down and send out to the seven churches?

2. The 7 stars or 'angels' are most likely the leaders of the churches represented by the 7 lampstands. Who is holding these stars? What encouragement would this picture be to the struggling and persecuted young churches across Asia Minor?

3. What reassurance do these verses give you today, especially if you are facing pain, suffering or persecution?

Thank God for the amazing picture of the glorious and victorious Jesus, the one who rules all time, even over death & Hades. He stands among his church, with them, holding its leaders in his powerful hands. He continues to hold His church today and the gates of Hell shall not overcome it!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: REVELATION 2:1-11

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 2:1-7

1. Looking at verses 1-3 how is Jesus described here
2. What aspects of the Ephesian church does Jesus find praiseworthy?
3. How do these positive characteristics serve as an example for us to pursue today?

Praise God for the faithful endurance of the Ephesian church in battling wickedness and false teaching. Ask God to give you perseverance in the same things – battling sin and wickedness and holding fast to the Apostolic witness of Jesus.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 2:1-7

1. Despite the Ephesian's hard work and perseverance, they do not merely receive praise from Jesus. What critique does Jesus have of the Ephesian church?
2. What might it mean to lost your first love?

3. This church began in some extraordinary circumstances (see Acts 19); it was now about 40 years old and existed in a place that was hostile towards Christianity. After 40 years of defending against wickedness, false apostles and their teaching, had their initial enthusiasm for Jesus been replaced by a mere defence of truth? What warning does Jesus give about their current state? What response does He require from them?

4. What kinds of things do people do when they are driven by a love of God and each other?

Pray that God guards you against a dry orthodoxy of faith, but that your passion for truth & godliness is matched by a love of God & each other that overflows into all you do.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 2:8-11

1. Looking at verses 8-9 how is Jesus described here? Given the present and the future reality facing this church, why is this truth about Jesus so important for them to hear?

2. What aspects of the church in Smyrna does Jesus find praiseworthy?

3. The Kingdom of God is often described as an upside-down kingdom compared to worldly expectations. Where can you see this reality at work in Jesus' words to the church in Smyrna? How might it be important for us to remember today

Thank God that Jesus died and was raised to life again never to die again! Thank Him for the confidence that we can have in facing persecution and great difficulties in life that our faithfulness to His promises will result in us being given the crown of life – real life, eternal life forever without the pain and suffering caused by sin, death, Satan or suffering!

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 2:8-11

The Jew's who were persecuted and displaced after the destruction of the Temple in AD70 were a disgruntled bunch. They managed to avoid the emperor worship by offering the Temple taxes (which no longer existed because it was demolished) to Rome instead. Their hatred of the Christians was intense causing them to expose them to the Roman authorities because they did not worship the image of the emperor.

1. Despite the obvious human level of the persecution in the Christians in Smyrna, who does Jesus lay the blame with? In their persecution of the Christians, who have the Jews sided with?

2. What warning does Jesus give of things to come? How is this young church to respond?

3. Which life does Jesus place the greater priority on, this earthly life or the life to come? What impact does this have for the way we view this choices we make in this life?

Pray that you God would help you see the absolute importance of knowing Christ and being faithful to Him even to the point of death. Pray that your view of the world might be so transformed by the gospel that all that this world says matters fades into insignificance compared to the life to come.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 2:1-11

1. What promises await those who hear & take to heart the warnings of Jesus? (v. 7 & 11)

2. Jesus is clear that a second death awaits those who do not respond in faith to His Words. What is this second death (see Rev. 20:11-15)

3. How might these promises be both a great incentive for responding rightly to Jesus' warnings, and at the same time a reality check of the events of this life?

Praise God for revealing the stark realities of life and death, heaven and hell. Ask God to help to see and take seriously the life you have been given that you give yourself to the faithful service of God, no matter the cost in this life, for you know the promise of Jesus for the life to come.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: REVELATION 2:12-3:6

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 2:12-17

Pergamum was an inland city; it most probably became the capital city of Asia Minor, known for its massive library of religious books, its Roman temples & healing centers, and its Temple to Augustus (Roman Emperor), which most likely began the Emperor worship throughout Rome. Over time a second and then third temple was added for the worship of Roman Emperors. More than this, a large hill stood behind the city that was filled with a multitude of heathen temples, and all that came with that – sexual immorality most notably. It really was a city dedicated to the gods, but not the true God. It was a city that screamed of the imperial power of Rome, its emperors & gods.

1. How is Jesus described in the opening of this letter?
2. Why might this picture of Jesus be important given the context these Pergamum Christians were living in?
3. What encouragement is offered to this church given its especially difficult circumstances?
4. What encouragement do you find in these verses today?

Pray that you might consider the picture of Jesus, the supreme warrior who comes in power, and gain confidence in your Christian witness despite opposition. Pray for the multitudes of Christians around the world today that suffer terribly for their faith. Pray that they would stand firm and endure for the sake of Jesus.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 2:12-17

1. What does Jesus rebuke this church for, and what warning does he issue?
2. What promise does Jesus make to those who repents & overcomes?
3. Why do you think idolatry & sexual immorality are such a problem for God, and for His people?

Pray that you might take seriously the warnings of Jesus about adapting to, or being influenced by false teaching, and the immorality of the culture around us. Guard yourself from both for the glory of Christ, that your place in heaven might be secure.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 2:18-29

The church in Thyatira is the smallest and least important in terms of size & location, yet it receives the longest letter. The city was strong in commercial trades and was known especially for its expertise in wool dying. Each trade guild had a patron god to which they would sacrifice regularly. Along with emperor worship, the pagan religious activity in this town also proved to be a snare for this small Christian church – both inside it and out.

1. To what extent does Jesus' title and the imagery used to describe Him in this letter shape the way you think of Him??
2. What things does Jesus praise about the church in Thyatira?

3. What does Jesus' praise of this church suggest about the importance of progress and growth in the Christian life?

3. Looking on your own life, have you made progress in the Christian life? Has your love (for God & each other), faith, service and endurance grown over the years

Praise God for such a clear picture of Jesus, the sovereign Son of God who sees all things with his piercing eyes; who is quick & powerful to come against those who oppose Him. Thank him for the great joy that you have come to find in your salvation through him. Pray that He would help you grow more and more in your love, faith, service and endurance for the glory of His name.

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 2:18-29

1. What rebuke does Jesus bring to this church as a whole?
2. How is the prophetess' attitude towards Jesus and her teaching described?
3. What warning does Jesus issue to the prophetess and those who follow her?
4. What does this letter suggest about the importance of growth?
5. Is it possible to hide the truth of your heart from Jesus? What does this suggest about the importance of your actions and your thoughts towards the gospel of Jesus?

Pray that God would help you hold fast to the gospel, to not tolerate false teaching that leads to evil behavior. Confess your sins before God for Jesus sees your heart and knows what you struggle with. Repent and pray that God grants you the grace & strength to put your sin to death so you can live a life of growth that is pleasing to Him.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 3:1-6

Situated at the junction of 5 roads, Sardis was a wealthy trade city. It was built on a hill so steep that its defenses made it almost impregnable. Its perceived secure location and easily made wealth seems to have contributed towards its general cultural slackness. In times past it was a city easily captured by enemies despite its defenses. It seems that this cultural slackness has impacted the church and this letter is a particularly pointed wake up call to them.

1. It is interesting to note that this church is not described as being under the persecution of the Jews or the Romans. Given the description of their state of health, why might they not be under persecution?
2. What rebuke does Jesus bring to this little church?
3. Mediocrity is the reality that emerges from the lack of conviction. This church is going through the motions but has lost its heart. What is Jesus' warning to this sleepy little church?
4. What about you today, are you just going through the motions? Are your actions driven by gospel convictions, religious duty, or are they not really driven at all?

Pray the God might wake up His church across the world from mediocrity and laziness due to a lack of gospel conviction. Pray that you would again remember the gospel and its importance so that it not only drives your life, but that you can encourage those around you to the same end! Beware of the externals, guard your heart and care for those around you – remember Jesus for he is coming soon!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: REVELATION 3:7-21

DAY 1

REVELATION 3:7-13

The church of Philadelphia was strategically placed at the junction of the approaches to Mysia, Lydia and Phrygia. It was literally the gateway to the East. Established by the Greeks, it was a strategic center for the program of Hellenisation (turning the conquered nations into Greek nations through implementing a common language, religious, cultural & political frameworks). It was another prosperous city, full of idol & emperor worship. The church, though small, was doing well despite persecution from the Jews and Romans. Along with Smyrna, they are the only two churches not rebuked by Jesus.

1. In light of Jewish persecution & the rejection of Christians from the Synagogue - how is Jesus described? What might the description of Jesus be about?

2. What encouragement does Jesus offer this church?

3. It is sometimes taught that suffering is not in the plan and purpose of God for your life, but that victory over struggles, good health and a prosperous life are. Yet, Jesus praises this church for their perseverance and endurance despite persecution. What place might suffering serve in the Christian life? See also James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-19; 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Romans 8:28.

Praise God for the confidence that we can have in our place in your kingdom because of the authority of Jesus – the one through whom your promises to David are brought to reality. Pray that we might live in the struggle & suffering of this life in light of the certainty of God's coming kingdom and remain faithful to Him through all circumstances.

DAY 2

REVELATION 3:7-13

1. What warning does Jesus give this church and how are they to respond?
2. In the end, Jesus asks this church to hold firm to the gospel and not deny His name. What does the faithful witness by weak humans to Jesus help to reveal about God? (See Rev. 3:10; also 2 Cor. 4:1-18; 12:7-10)
3. How does this passage cause you to think about your weakness and how God might use it?

Pray that God helps us all hold fast to the gospel and the glory of Jesus' name so that through our weakness He might be glorified as the one who holds us! Be encouraged today that your faithfulness to the things of Jesus is evidence of this firm grip of you.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 3:14-21

Laodicea, another key city positioned at the junction between three important roads. It was one of the richest commercial centers in the world. It was well known for its strong banking sector, a famous medical school and its unique black wool. Affluence marked the city; it lacked nothing that money could buy. This cultural reality had pressed hard on the church, so much so that they feel they do not need anything because they were so rich! Yet, they receive the most scathing of all Jesus' comments to the churches.

1. How is Jesus described in the opening of this letter?
2. Who is Jesus being contrasted to and what does the contrast suggest?

3. What encouragement is offered to this church? What does this reveal about their spiritual state?

Praise God for the truth of Jesus' word and His clarity of sight into the human heart as the Sovereign creator and ruler over all things. We cannot hide from Him, nor should we ever think we are independent to our need of Him for our material wealth. Pray that you would be reminded again today of your desperate need of Jesus and the salvation He brings because of the depths of your sin & pride.

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 3:14-21

1. What critique does Jesus have of this church?
2. What warning does Jesus bring before them and how are they to respond? What does v.19 suggest Jesus' motives are in this harsh confrontation?
3. What danger does wealth and self-sufficiency bring to our ability to see our spiritual state clearly according to these verses?
4. What things would a person be doing if they were genuinely zealous for Jesus?

Pray that God would help you feel the punch of these verses, that we might beware of the dangerous power of wealth to both entice us and blind us to the truth of our desperate need of Jesus. Ask God to help you repent of indifference and self-sufficiency and be zealous to make the gospel of Jesus known.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 3:7-21

1. Looking back over both letters, what promises await those to hear & take to heart the instruction of Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus constantly reminds the churches (& us) about eternal realities? What difference does it make to our perspective in life?
3. How do these passages challenge the way you live today?

Pray that God might help you have eyes fixed on Jesus and the eternal realities of Heaven and Hell so that you might live your life with the right perspective. Ask God to help change your heart regarding the priority of His Kingdom in your life.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: REVELATION 4:1-8

From the perspective of the OT, the prophets spoke of the “last days”, the coming of the Messiah, and the final Judgment of God as all coming at the same time. With the coming of Jesus, that ‘end time’ stretched out in both what it meant and how long it would last. Instead of just national Israel, the whole world has now become the scope of salvation. Instead of a ‘Last Day’, there is an “age of the Spirit” where the gospel of Jesus would be preached, calling for people to make a response. Instead of an immediate end to suffering and evil, there is now an age of suffering, which shapes for God a people who will live with Him.

In ch’s 4-5 we see what the end will look like, this end is centered on Jesus and will become a reality through Him. We see the total conquest of the lamb who was slain. His victory is an ‘already’ reality of these last days. Then, at the end of ch. 5 we are given a glimpse of the end of these last days, the final end will be a people from every tribe and nation, of every living creature in heaven and earth all in worship of Jesus, the lamb slain.

Christians are to live knowing that Jesus has already won the battle. They now live in an age of the Spirit, which is marked by suffering, in the confident hope that Jesus will come again to bring all things to completion. It is because of this that the Christian is able to make sense of their current suffering and persecution. Despite their circumstances, they are already a kingdom who reigns on earth, but they reign in the same way their king did – in the context of suffering through which God is preparing for himself a people!

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 4:1-8

1. Having first been given a vision of the glorious risen Jesus and his messages to the churches, where is John’s attention turned now?
2. What is your first reaction to reading these image rich verses about God? What emotions does the passage arouse in you?
3. Why is having a clear picture of God’s Sovereign rule over creation so important (past, present & future)?

Praise God for the vivid reminder of His glorious & Sovereign rule over creation, there is no one greater than Him and He alone is worthy of our worship. By His hand things are created and have their being; nothing is left to chance in a universe ruled by our Lord & God!

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 4:2-6

1. These verses reveal for us the very throne of heaven. What images are used to describe God here?
2. Why do you think God is 'likened' to precious jewels and glorious colours?
3. What might the significance of the rainbow be about in this description, what might it suggest about God's character? (See Gen. 9:15-16)

Thank God that He is not like us, that he is majestic and amazing almost beyond description & that He is an eternal promise keeping God full of grace & mercy. You can trust Him because His promises are certain!

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 4:2-6

1. If the full expression of Israel is made up of 12 tribes, and the full contingent of disciples numbered 12. In light of this, who might the 24 elders represent? (See also Rev. 21:12-14)
2. Remember that the Christians of John's time were under severe persecution - as though in the chaotic churning ocean during a storm. What then, might the calm still waters that are like glass represent before the throne of God? (See also Rev. 15:2-4)

3. How might the picture of God's final victory over evil have helped those Christians in the first century as they were feeling crushed by the powerful hand of Rome? How does this help your perspective today?

Thank God for the amazing picture of the people of God gathered from among Israel & the nations, those who have passed through the suffering and persecution of this world, those who now enjoy the still waters of God's victory gathered around the very presence of God!

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 4:6-8

1. How are the 4 living creatures that encircle the throne of God described?
2. What might each of these descriptions tell us about these creatures?
 - a. They were covered with eyes
 - b. One was like a Lion
 - c. One was like an Ox
 - d. One was like a man
 - e. One was like an Eagle
3. If these creatures are those with superior sight – both sight into heavenly and earthly realities. If they represent the most noble, the strongest, wisest and swiftest of all created beings. Then it follows that their perspective of God is one we should take notice of. What do they reveal about the nature of God, how do they describe Him?
4. How does this passage help shape your view of God today?

Pray that God would help you see His awesome holiness, His Sovereign Lordship and mighty rule over all things. There is none like Him for is the God who always was, is, and always will be!

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 4:6-8

1. There are only a few places in the Old Testament where God gave men a vision of the very throne of heaven (Ezekiel 1 & Isaiah 6 for example). The language in each account, as here is Revelation, is rich in imagery to help offer a greater picture of what was seen. What does Ezekiel 1:28b tell us this imagery is trying to convey? How does this help us think about John's purpose in using this imagery here, what is it describing?
2. If we are to follow the lead of the 4 living creatures, what is the right response to seeing God's glory?
3. What help might this have been for persecuted Christians in the first century who were told to bow down and worship the image of a mere Emperor?
4. What help is this passage for you today?

Praise God for this wonderful vision of His glory that leads us to join with the living creatures in the right response of praise and worship of God.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: REVELATION 4:9-11

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 4:9-11

1. Having just heard the praise of the living creatures declaring the glory & attributes of God "... Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come..." (v. 8), what is the response of the elders?
2. What does this suggest about the nature of worship?
3. What, therefore, is the outcome of forgetting, or simply not regularly remembering the nature and character of God?
4. What steps might we take to ensure we are regularly remembering the truth about the nature & character of God?

Praise God for the picture we get here of His amazing holiness and glorious character. May we, like the 24 elders (representing all God's people), remember who He is and respond in worship that cries out "you alone are worthy" God. May we be captured today by a bigger vision of God on His throne and the rightful place our worship before Him because of who He truly is.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 4:9-11

1. The worship of the living creatures was shaped by the awesome declaration of the attributes of God (who He is). What motivates the declaration of praise from the elders? (v. 11b)

2. Why is it important to remember both who God is and what He has done?

3. What encouragement does remembering God's power in creating the universe offer those struggling in the first century under the power & rule of Rome?

Ask God to help you see and understand the truth of both who He is and what He has done. In His Sovereignty, He rules the universe for it is was created by His will and is sustained by His will. Let your agreement with the truth of God's rightful rule outwork in worship of Him today. May this truth help your perspective of all that you are going through, and may face in the future.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 4:9-11

1. What might it mean for the elders to lay down their crowns before the throne of God?

2. Why is it significant for these young Christians to see the elders offering their worship & allegiance to God alone?

3. People of all ages are enticed to offer their worship to all kinds of things that have a perceived power or value that makes them worthy of our worship. Worship begins by an agreement with the message about someone or something's worth and results in our actions submitting to that truth. It follows then, that our actions speak loudly about the things we find most valuable, most worthy of our time, money & energy. Do the actions of your life reflect your worship of God as the one most worthy of your allegiance?

Pray that God would enable you to see the areas in your life that have not been surrendered to Him in worship. Take time to reflect on the value you place on the pursuits that are not about the glory of God.

DAY 4

READ PSALMS 38:1-22

1. As we have been looking at in Revelation 4:9-11, God's role in creation is a substantial category that drives our right placed worship of Him. What is the connection between God's role in creation & Him being worthy of praise in Psalm 33?

2. What power do the nations have compared to God in v. 10-11?

3. What is the message to God's people according to v. 18-22?

4. Without a confidence in God's Sovereignty, what happens to our hope in times of great struggle? What help does this Psalm offer to give us confidence in God?

Ask God to give you greater confidence in His rule over His creation that you might learn to trust more deeply in Him through all the circumstances of life.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 21:1-4

1. God's activity in creation is not over. He promises to create a new heaven and earth in the future. What place does God's promise of the new creation have in shaping the way we walk through life in this one?

2. Why is it so important to maintain an eternal perspective of life?

3. Jesus tells us that following Him will not be easy. In fact, he says it will cost us much in many different ways (Luke 9). If we do not firmly believe in the supreme value of the eternal reality God has planned for us, what difficulties will we face in letting go of our worldly dreams in this life? What difficulties will we face when things don't go to plan in this life? How much are we likely to truly give up for the cause of Christ in this life?

Ask God to press upon your mind a renewed confidence in the eternal promises of God and what He has planned for us in the new creation. Ask Him to help you give up your worldly dreams in this life and abandon yourself to His purposes for the glory of God and the possibility of many others joining with us in the worship of Him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: REVELATION 5:1-7

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 5:1-4

1. What is the significance of God's right hand, and what is in it?

2. Remembering that Revelation relies heavily on the reader's knowledge of the OT, look at the following verses to help you understand what this scroll might represent:
 - a. Ezekiel 2:9-10
 - b. Psalm 139:16
 - c. Daniel 8:26

3. The plans & purposes of God for the world have been decided; they are perfectly sealed up in a scroll and remain in the strong right hand of God. They cannot be opened or brought to reality by any created being in heaven or on earth. How does this passage challenge our sense of self-importance? What does reveal about the true nature of humanity before God?

Thank God for the comfort we can have knowing that past, present and future are in His hands. Pray that your sense of dependence on God might grow, and with it, your confidence in trusting Him.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 5:1-4

1. What is the angel's question?

2. Why might John have reacted the way he did in hearing that "no one was worthy"?

3. Without someone worthy to open, read and bring to completion God's purposes, what does this do to our sense of hope in a broken and hostile world?

Pray that God impresses on your heart the deep reality of our moral unworthiness and the complete lack of hope that exists without God's solution to the world's pain & mess.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 5:1-5

1. John, sobbing because no one was found worthy, is given a message from one of the elders, what is he told? (v. 5)

2. The titles of this "worthy" person are significant for us to understand. Look at the following verses to help you understand what these titles refer to:

- a. Genesis 49:9-10
- b. Isaiah 11:1, 10
- c. Revelation 22:16
- d. Romans 15:12

3. Held together, these titles speak about the promised one from the line of Judah, whose mighty rule would never end. He is the rightful & promised King over all creation, the one through whom an era of peace would begin. The nations would come to him and the Gentiles would put their hope in Him. Jesus is the only one worthy to bring God's purposes to fulfilment. How would this have been an encouragement to the Christians in the first century?

4. Depending on how you first came to hear about Jesus, your initial acceptance of Him may have been shaped strongly by His saving work at the cross, His grace, forgiveness & love towards you. It is important to remember that He is also the all-powerful King of God's Kingdom, the promised and rightful Lord over all things. How should this shape the way we come before Him?

Rejoice that there is one worthy to bring about God's purposes in the world. It is Jesus, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the root of David. He is God's all-powerful, promised & eternal King of Heaven and earth. He is the LORD! Our hope is right placed in Him.

DAY 4

READ REVELATION 5:5-7

1. What is the surprise in reading through these verses?

2. Verse 5 says that the Lion of the tribe of Judah "has triumphed"; that the victory "is" complete. Then, he sees a lamb as though slain. What might this suggest about how & when the triumph of this Lion took place? (see 1:4-6; 5:9; Is. 53:4-7)

3. Horns are used as a symbol of strength or power, the number 7 describes perfection or completion (Duet. 33:17; Ps. 18:2; Dan. 7:24; Zech. 1:18-21). How are we to understand the description of Jesus as the lamb slain – of power or weakness?

4. How does the suffering of Jesus being central to God's purposes help us re-think the place of suffering in the Christian life today?

Praise God for sending Jesus to suffer & die in our place, to conquer sin, Satan & death and rise victoriously again! Pray that God helps you live in the confident hope of a future with God because the battle has been fought and the victory already won meaning the future is now secure in the hands of Jesus.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION 5:1-7

1. Chapter 4 began with a vision of God on His throne resulting in praise and worship firstly simply because of who He is (v. 8), and then because of His role in creation (v. 11). As we hit chapter 5, the focus narrows on the only one who is worthy to bring about God's purposes, Jesus. What place does Jesus, His death & resurrection, have in the saving purposes of God in the world?

2. There are many voices in our culture that suggest Jesus is merely one of the many ways "up the mountain" to God. How many reasons can you find in this passage to explain why this simply cannot be the case?

2. Where is the only place we should look for certainty in this life and the one to come?

Ask God to give you a bigger vision of the glory of Jesus, the victorious lamb who was slain to free us from our sins and secure for us a certain future with Him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: REVELATION 5:8-14

DAY 1

READ REVELATION 5:8

1. Last week we looked at the unique worthiness of Jesus to bring about the purposes of God in the world. The future of the world now lies in the powerful hands of Jesus alone. In v. 7, Jesus came forward to take the scroll, v. 8 picks up the response of those who witnessed this event. What is the reaction of the living creatures & the 24 elders?

2. What does this response reveal about the identity of Jesus? (See also 22:9)

3. People have a range of opinions about the identity of Jesus – good man, wise teacher or prophet to name a few. However, none of these views will result in them falling before Jesus in worship. Whilst there is often many reasons for people's views about Jesus, what is the main reason given here that would stop a person worshipping Jesus?

Praise God for sending Jesus, the only one who could bring about God's purposes in the world. He is worthy of all worship and praise for He is God the Son! Pray that the centrality of Christ, as your Lord and Savior, might lead you to genuine heart felt worship of Him today.

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 5:9-10

1. The supreme worthiness of Jesus as the powerful Lion of Judah, who is now and forever pictured as the slain Lamb, is so amazing that a 'new' song bursts forth in the heavenly courts. Looking at the content of the song, what reasons are given for why Jesus is worthy? What is being declared?

2. What do these reasons tell us about the victory that Jesus achieved and when it took place?

3. As you consider this incredible picture of a people gathered from every tribe, language and nation. What insight does it give you into God's heart for the world? How does this challenge you today?

Praise God for sending Jesus, the one who was slain to buy back a people from every tribe, language & nation. Pray that God gives you a greater passion to see the glory of Jesus made known throughout the world. Ask God to help you see what steps you can take today to play your part in making the glory of Jesus known on the Coast. Pray for our mission partners who are at work around the world proclaiming Christ.

DAY 3

READ REVELATION 5:11-14

1. The 4 living creatures and the 24 elders have just declared a new song that proclaims the truth about Jesus and what He has achieved. Having heard the declaration of this truth, what is the result in the heavenly realms and beyond?

2. What does this suggest about the relationship between the declaration of the truth about Jesus and worship?

3. How might the first century Christians have responded to these words given the persecution and struggle they were facing?

4. What impact does this passage have on you today? Is your heart captured by the truth of Jesus, who He is & what He has done for you?

Pray that God takes the truth about Jesus deep into your heart & mind so that your conviction about who He is and what He has done for you might cause a deepening sense of wonder, awe and worship to well up from deep within you.

DAY 4

READ REVELATION EZEKIEL 36:22-27 & ISAIAH 49:6-7

1. What do these verses reveal about God's motivation in bringing salvation and who He plans to bring it to?
2. Why do you think God's passion for His glory is so important?
3. Why do we struggle with the idea of God's glory being the central motivation of His activity in the universe (especially our lives)? See Romans 1:21-23; 3:23)

Praise God that in spite of humanity being in rebellion against Him, in bondage to, and condemned by our sin, with our backs turned against Him, that He purposed to save a people for Himself. He does this not because of anything worthy in us, but because of who He is. He graciously gathers a people to, and for Himself who would again know and delight in the truth about God, who could behold His glory in order that we might fall down in right placed worship of Him again.

DAY 5

READ REVELATION EZEKIEL 36:22-27 & ISAIAH 49:6-7

1. As you reflect on these verses today, considering deeply the way in which God's glory is revealed again to a world lost in sin. How are people from all tribes, languages and nations able to know the glory of God again and so bow in worship of Him?
2. In what way does our worship of Jesus fuel our commitment to taking the gospel to the nations?

3. As we head towards this holiday season, what role are you willing to play in making the gospel of Jesus known to those here on the coast? What would you be willing to sacrifice to take the gospel to the nations?

“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!” Pray that your heart & mind would be captured by a vision of the risen, glorified Jesus with people from every tribe, language & nation gathered around Him in an amazing declaration of praise and worship due to Him for by His death he has purchased men for God! Ask Him to give you, and all our mission partners, an ever deepening conviction and confidence in the gospel of Jesus for He alone has the power to save!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

EV MISSION PARTNERS

EV is committed to the proclamation of the gospel all over the world. For you and your group's prayers, a list each congregation's Mission Partners is listed below. At the end of this list are photos and a brief biography of each mission partner.

SATURDAY EV

Chris and Sharon Ekins
Derek and Anna
The Geneva Push

SUNDAYEV AND BREAKFASTEY

Jono and Amy Vink
Paul and Sandra King
Colin and Jill Bakon
Daniel and Renae Godden
Kirstin Hawkshaw
Jai and Jay-Ellen Wright
The Geneva Push
Derek and Anna

NITEEV

Daniel and Renae Godden
Martin and Jen Shadwick
Chris and Sharon Ekins
Kirstin Hawkshaw
The Geneva Push

PENINSULAEV

Daniel and Renae Godden
Kirstin Hawkshaw

EV MISSION PARTNERS



CHRIS AND SHARON EKINS

COAST EVANGELICAL CHURCH, FORSTER

Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background. Praise God that they now have about 60 adults and 30 kids who call Coast EC home. Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel and teach the Bible. Pray for stability in staff with a new one coming and another leaving. Praise for a new group starting to take form in Taree. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.



DEREK AND ANNA

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Derek and Anna (Liam and Jasmine) have come from Crossroads, one of our sister churches in Canberra, where Derek did MTS. They are living in a large city in Southeast Asia. Derek teaches in a local college, training workers from all over the country, who will go back to their towns as leaders bringing the message to those with whom they live. Besides teaching in the bible school, Derek and Anna are now involved in establishing a School of Mission, aimed at equipping local believers with the skills and character needed to reach out to the unreached of their country. The first classes are scheduled to start in August, and there are already 15 students enrolled. Pray for wisdom as they develop the curriculum which could include the Kairos course.



THE GENEVA PUSH

Geneva has been set up to provide a means by which we can pool our energies to fuel a whole new generation of church planting that might see thousands of Australians saved to know Jesus. Geneva is seeking to achieve this outcome by communicating the vision and need of planting so more and more young people think to give themselves to planting. Through God, we are seeking to find 16 church planters to mentor during the second half of this year. It has set in place a high quality assessment process to find the best guys, and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to best ensure planters have the biggest impact they can as planters. Pray for the Refresh conference in Sydney in September. www.thegenevapush.com



JONO AND AMY VINK

TANZANIA

Jono and Amy, along with their children Lili, Isaac, Brie and Abe, are working in Musoma, Tanzania. Jono helps to train church leaders by grounding them in Biblical theology and in practical exegetical skills. The aim is to equip locals to teach the Bible and pastor God's people in Tanzania. Pray for a preaching conference in September and its preparation which is linked with The Centre for Biblical Preaching (Mike Raitor). Amy homeschools and is involved in running various groups and Sunday School at the local church. Amy is also working with local women in the new Rhema Coffee Shop, which provides not only income and training for local women, but is also a base for evangelism and discipleship.



PAUL AND SANDRA KING

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Paul and Sandra are sent by us to bring the gospel to France and they currently live in Strasbourg. They serve with French Christians in the University Bible Group (GBU). Their ministry with university students involves evangelism, discipling, and training students to teach the Bible. They also coordinate full-time ministry apprenticeships; one program is called RELAY working with the GBU in universities, the other is NEW GENERATIONS working with local churches in cities. Pray for the ministry volunteers who work in churches around France. Pray for the GBU National training conference in August where over 100 students gather. Email: prayerpoints@cms.org.au for more info.



COLIN AND JILL BAKON

SIM: LATIN AMERICAN MINISTRY

After 12 years of ministry in Ecuador with SIM, Colin and Jill gained an understanding of Latin American culture and mission in that context. Colin's role involves training and mentoring Christians in Latin America in mission mobilization in response to many wanting to be involved in the world Christian movement. He is developing a network of local volunteers who journey with churches and prospective missionary candidates. A project has been started up to help in this. See <http://www.sim.org.au/wake-up-train-up-and-step-up> Praise God for the completion of the Kairos course translation into Spanish. Pray for the development of the Kairos "New Nations team" who will oversee the launching of Kairos into different Latin American countries. Jill is helping the Australian SIM office in forming budgets for those who go out from Australia in short term missions.



DANIEL AND RENAE GODDEN

SALT CHURCH, WOLLONGONG

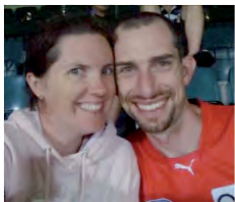
Dan and Renae moved to Wollongong this year to start a new evangelical church there. Salt Church has begun to meet together and build new relationships with people in the Illawarra who don't know Jesus. Be praying for the core group who have committed to Salt Church already, that God would give them heaps of opportunities to tell people about Jesus. Pray for another pastor to help in this ministry. Pray for the Illawarra region, that God might work in such a way that there would be a flood of new disciples of Jesus right across the region.



KIRSTIN HAWKSHAW

(CMS MISSIONARY IN NEPAL)

Kirstin is working as an Occupational Therapist in Pokhara, Nepal and continuing to attempt to improve her communication through language study. She hopes to be salt and light as she does training and cares for people with disabilities through a community rehabilitation program which involves travel to villages across a significant part of the middle of Nepal. She is involved in a small local church and is praying for many more opportunities through church, work and life to be a witness to Jesus and to be discipling Christians in the relatively young though vibrant church of Nepal. Pray for safety and strength during the monsoon season from June to August and for deepening relationships with colleagues. With her home assignment in November, pray that she will be able to prepare people to take on her role.



MARTIN AND JEN SHADWICK

(AFES NEWCASTLE UNI)

Martin and Jen are graduates of our EV MTS program. They both work full time with AFES at Newcastle Uni, engaging in evangelism as well as discipling and training Christian students. Martin leads the AFES staff team which oversees two groups – one for Australian students and one for international students and a new ministry to Muslim students. Praise God that some local churches are starting to invest in the ministry but continue to pray for more finances for them and the team especially. Pray for them as they look forward to the birth of their first child soon and for the Wintercon conference in late July.



JAI AND JAY-ELLEN WRIGHT

MAKE CHURCH, MACKAY

Jai and his wife Jay-Ellen moved to Mackay and have really enjoyed getting to know the place and the people! Jai and Jay have a vision for starting new churches and a love for country Queensland which goes hand-in-hand with a strong desire to share the good news of Jesus. Jai did two years of full time ministry training at “UniChurch, Qld”(Brisbane) and then spent four years in Sydney where he studied at Moore Theological College, completing a Bachelor of Divinity. During this time, Jay-Ellen invested in their three young children, Amber, Ebony and Kade and now their latest, little Jett. Pray for strength in her role as mum. They have seen God’s hand building this church in so many ways and are super excited to be in Mackay sharing God’s love. They look forward to a “housewarming” service in September.

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing solid hope to the coast - Jesus.

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