



UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS 1-12

DAILY READING NOTES TERM 4, 2014

Week	Passage
1	Acts 1
2	Acts 2
3	Acts 3:1-6:7
4	Acts 6:8-8:40
5	Acts 9:1-31
6	Acts 9:32-11:18
7	Acts 11:19-12:24

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

List the names of your family and friends here:

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

INTRODUCTION ACTS 1-12

Together with the gospel of Luke, Acts is part two of a two-volume set with a clearly stated purpose. In Luke 1:1-4, Luke tells us that his purpose in writing was to provide an orderly account of the events that happened. He researched the facts from eyewitnesses so that Theophilus (a recent Gentile convert) may have certainty about the things he had been taught about Jesus.

By the end of Luke's gospel, we have been taken through an historical account focusing on Jesus, the one that all Scripture points towards; the one purposed by God to be the Lord and Saviour, Christ the King. The focus of volume one (Luke's gospel) is to present us with the historical Jesus as the promised Messiah who had to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:46).

The focus of volume two (Acts) is about the next stage of God's purposes through Jesus. We are told that Jesus, because of His death and resurrection, is the reason that a message would be preached by the Apostles (who were eyewitnesses to these events). The Apostles would preach a message calling people to repentance for the forgiveness of sins beginning in Jerusalem and going out to the nations. This gospel message would be preached after Jesus sent His Spirit, who would empower them for this task (Luke 24:47-49).

When Luke begins his second volume, he reminds Theophilus of this background in Acts 1:1-5. All this prepares us for Acts 1:8, which serves as both the mission statement and the structural key to unlocking the book's message. After Jesus ascends to heaven, He pours out His Spirit marking the beginning of a new era, the last days have come! From here, we are introduced to a very different bunch of disciples to the ones first described as huddled together in an upper room. Peter now stands up in front of a crowd of thousands and preaches the first gospel message, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit, declaring Jesus to be both Lord and Christ. Peter calls people to repent so they might find forgiveness for their sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This message results in 3,000 people being saved that day!

While often referred to as the Acts of the Apostles, the book seems less interested in praising or highlighting them. It is far more interested in the

ongoing ministry of the risen and ascended Jesus, who continues to be at work in the world by His Spirit through the Word spoken by the Apostles.

Jesus is still present and active in the world by His Spirit. He is still active in salvation through the preaching of His gospel word. The book of Acts tells us that the ministry of Jesus has not ended, it has only begun! It tells us that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God's purpose to gather a people back to Himself cannot be stopped by anyone or anything! And this is exactly what we read about. Chapters 1-7 record the unstoppable nature of the gospel and its impact throughout Jerusalem despite the rise of persecution and opposition. Chapters 8-12 show the gospel's impact into Judea, Samaria and eventually into the Gentile world – pushed forward even more by those who try to stop it! Chapters 13-28 focus on Paul's three missionary journeys where the gospel continues all the way to Rome where the book ends but the preaching of the gospel doesn't. The history recorded for us by Luke shows over and over again the opposition to and persecution of God's Apostles and His people – yet the message they preach cannot be restrained, it is supernaturally empowered making it unstoppable!

This term we will be looking at Acts 1-12 - "Unstoppable", a great series title because it describes the unstoppable nature of Jesus' ongoing ministry to gather a people back to Himself through the Spirit-empowered preaching of the gospel. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He has won the ultimate victory over sin, Satan and death, and has poured out His Spirit through whom He continues to work in the world.

The book of Acts reminds us that the Christian life will not be easy. It does not promise comfort or ease; quite the opposite. However, it does draw our attention to the confidence we can have in the invincible risen and ascended Jesus, who we can trust to bring about God's purposes in the world as we declare the powerful gospel message about Jesus Christ the Lord. Acts reminds us that Jesus' mission in the world has not ended, it continues through us (as it did with the Apostles) as we declare the life-giving gospel to a world lost and dead in sin. In this book, we are given a clear vision of Jesus' unstoppable mission in the world and our part in it.

WEEK 1 ACTS 1

Acts is a book where there is often interpretive disagreement. In fact, it has been said, the book of Acts is the seedbed of all modern day heresy. As we look at Acts, a common question people ask is, how much of what happened in Acts should we expect to happen today? This week we will spend some time thinking about how we should approach reading and applying the book of Acts so we are in a better position to start working through the content of its message.

DAY 1

Read Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2

1. Luke is commonly held to be the author of both the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He was a historian, medical doctor, missionary, travelling partner and valued friend to the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:10-14; 20:5-6; 28:16; and Col. 4:14). What do you learn from these opening verses about Luke's purpose in writing Luke and Acts?
2. From what we read in Acts 1:1-2, how does Luke describe the focus of his work in the "former" book?
3. The Christian faith differs to all other religions because it rests soundly on the verifiable reality of historical events. Why is this premise so important for Theophilus to understand? Why is it important for us today?

Thank God for the confidence we can have that He has used men like Luke to preserve for us the truth of events that happened concerning Jesus and what He taught. It is not just the imagination of someone's fanciful religious dreams, but the reliable truth about the God of the universe who came to bring salvation in the person of His Son, Jesus.

DAY 2

Read Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:3-8

1. Yesterday we looked at Luke's purpose in writing a well-researched and orderly account so that Theophilus could have confidence in the things he had been taught about Jesus and all that He fulfilled. By the end of Luke's gospel, we see the crucified and resurrected Jesus and hear some of His final words to his disciples about what must happen in fulfillment of the Scriptures. What does Jesus say must happen?
2. How much of what Jesus said in Luke 24:45-49 had already been fulfilled by the end of Luke's gospel? In light of this, how does the end of Luke's gospel prepare us for what we should expect to read about in the book of Acts? How does this match up with Luke's words in Acts 1:3-8?
3. What does Luke tell us about God's purpose for the nations?
4. What do we learn about how God will bring about the fulfillment of these purposes?

Praise God for the forgiveness of sins made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection. Thank Him that His heart is to rescue a people from all the nations to Himself. Thank Him for pouring out His Spirit to empower the Apostles to bear witness to all Jesus said and did to win the possibility for us to be forgiven and saved!

WEEK 1 ACTS 1

DAY 3

Read Acts 1:8-11

1. Acts 1:8 outlines Jesus' program for His disciples. How might this verse shape what we should expect to read about in Acts?
2. When you think about this week's readings in Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2 (along with Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:8), how do these verses help answer the question about the type of book we are reading? (Hint: Is it like a letter written to a church offering 'instruction' about how they should think and how they should live? Or, is it a historical narrative 'describing' the events that happened in fulfillment of the Scripture?)
3. Acts 1:1-11 sets the scene of Luke's second volume with great expectation of the coming of the Holy Spirit who will empower gospel preaching to the nations. Where is Jesus now? Does this mean His ministry has ended? If not, how does His ministry continue? (Hint: Who do the Apostles bear witness to, and who empowers them?)
4. How do these verses help us think about the purpose of the Holy Spirit being poured out?
5. Given Jesus has not yet returned, we are still in the same era that the disciples were in, one that God purposed to empower the gospel to go out to the nations by His Spirit. How does this challenge the way you think about the role of the Spirit in your life today?

Praise God for His purpose to pour out His Spirit to empower those first Apostles, and all those throughout history who followed them, to preach the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Thank God for His faithfulness to His promise and the assurance of Jesus ongoing ministry in the world by His Spirit through the preaching of His Word – because your faith in Jesus today rests on this and calls upon you to continue the same work by the presence and empowering of the same Spirit.

THINKING FURTHER The Kingdom of God

It is important to understand what the disciples meant by their question in Acts 1:6. Briefly, the Old Testament prophets envisioned a great future time of restoration where Israel would be triumphant and God's enemies destroyed. This would take place on the Day of the Lord, the day when God would personally intervene in history as the King (or Messiah, which means the same as Christ – anointed one). This day would restore national Israel as the centre of God's rule over his people. Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt and Davidic rule re-established. Gentiles (all non-Jews) who wanted to be included would come running, seeking to be accepted because they saw the glory of God revealed in the redemption of Israel. That day is also the day on which the Holy Spirit is poured out on all people. It is the day on which salvation comes to all those who call on the name of the Lord.

WEEK 1 ACTS 1

DAY 4

Today and tomorrow we will consider the difference between reading an historical 'description' of events (which are sometimes unusual like here in Acts) compared with the clear 'instruction' we are given in other places of the Bible to shape how we are to think and act, and what to expect God to do in the everyday reality of life.

Read Matthew 17:24-27 and 22:16-22

1. How did Jesus go about getting money to pay His taxes?
2. Is Jesus' confirmation of the need to pay taxes (22:16-22) matched with a command to do it like He did (17:24-27)? Does Jesus' unusual approach to paying taxes give us reason to expect we should do the same?
3. Is there any other teaching in the Bible about how we should raise money to pay our way through life, including paying our taxes? (See 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13.)
4. Looking again at Matthew 17:24-27, why does Jesus pay His taxes in this way?
5. How then should we respond to the Bible's teaching about how to pay taxes and working?

Here in Matthew, we see that an historical account often serves a different purpose than to simply provide an expectation that we should experience the same thing again as part of our normal lives. Acts is also an historical narrative telling the story of the events that happened after Jesus ascends to heaven, and how they work together to fulfill God's purposes. So, when things seem odd, or unusual, we ought not get too hung up on the events themselves but try to understand how they fulfill Jesus' ministry.

Pray that God would help you see the greater truths about who Jesus is and what He's doing in the world rather than merely getting hung up on whether something would, could or should happen again. Pray that God would help you work hard to understand His Word and apply it faithfully to your life today.

WEEK 1 ACTS 1

THINKING FURTHER

If you are keen to dig deeper and look at more examples, consider the following passages:

1. Acts 5:1-11 shows how the Apostles dealt with sin, but 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 seem quite different. Which approach are we to follow today: the 'description' in Acts, or the clear 'instruction' by Paul in 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians?
 - a. How does this help us think about the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles compared to the way we are to minister today?

2. John 11:38-44 and Acts 20:7-12 record the occasions when Jesus and the Apostles raised people from the dead. Yet it is not the only way people today can be involved in the same ministry – see John 11:25-26 and 2 Timothy 1:9b-10. If Jesus and the Apostles are not meant to be a model for us to follow, why did they do it that way?
 - a. How does knowing about the physical miracle of Jesus and the Apostles in raising people from the dead give you confidence in the greater miracle of the gospel bringing people back from spiritual death into spiritual and eternal life by believing in the gospel of Jesus?

3. John 9:1-12 and Acts 14:8-9 describe Jesus and the Apostles healing people. Is there a command for us to do the same? Now look at the instruction Christians are given in James 5:13-19. How does this passage help us see a difference between Jesus and the Apostles and our role today?
 - a. When faced with illness, how should we respond in light of this? Is this the way you face sickness today?

What to Conclude?

There is a clear difference in how we should read a document that is 'describing' events compared with one offering 'instruction'. Acts is an historical account 'describing' events for us rather than a document to instruct us how to live. Tomorrow we will consider why there is sometimes a difference between Jesus and the Apostles' model of ministry compared to the 'instruction' given to Christians by them. We will consider what purpose those things serve if they are not models or commands to follow.

WEEK 1 ACTS 1

DAY 5

Read John 20:30-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:12

1. Why are some of the more unusual, or miraculous events described as occurring for Jesus and the Apostles? How does this impact the way we think about them today?

2. What things might we look for to know if a particular historical event is a model for us to follow? If an event has no command for us to do likewise, what are we to learn from it?

Praise God for sending Jesus, the true King of all creation, the one with power to rule over all things. Thank Him for the miracles He performed so that we might know He is the Son of God and have confidence to believe in His name. Thank Him also for the message of the Apostles, who were chosen by Jesus to continue His ministry with His authority. Let us listen to their words as the words of Jesus Himself. Take time to pray for your family, friends and those all over the world who need to hear the message of Jesus so they too might believe in His name.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2 ACTS 2

DAY 1

Acts chapter 2 comprises three main sections. The first section (2:1-13) describes the event of Pentecost. In the second section (2:14-36) Peter explains the event by interpreting it through the lense of Old Testament fulfillment – this is also a key section to help us understand what to make of the Pentecost event. The third section (2:37-47) describes the effects of this event on those people who are now part of God's people, His church.

Read Acts 2:1-13

1. What might the following imagery Luke uses to describe this event mean?
 - a. “Blowing of a violent wind” (see also Exodus 37:9-14; Job 38:1)

 - b. “Tongues of fire” (see also Exodus 3:2f; 19:18; Luke 3:16)

2. How does the crowd respond to the disciple's new speaking abilities, and why?

Praise God for sending His Spirit to those first disciples at the time of Pentecost to empower them to declare the life-changing message of the gospel to the world.

THINKING FURTHER The Old Testament and Holy Spirit

We shouldn't think that the Holy Spirit only appears at Pentecost. In the Old Testament, He is linked with creation (Genesis 1:2), the judges (Judges 11:29), kings (1 Samuel 10:10) and prophets (2 Kings 2:15-16).

However, these experiences of the Spirit were very different from ours. They experienced the Spirit only as a temporary blessing to empower them for particular tasks. Moreover, only some of those under the old covenant received the Spirit. Because of God's promise through the prophets, they longed for the time when there would be a full and permanent experience of God's Spirit.

Have a quick look at the following passages. What growing expectation do they give?

- Numbers 11:26-29; Deuteronomy 30:6
- Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-28
- Isaiah 11:1-3; 62:1
- Joel 2:28-32

We see from these passages that the prophets longed for the pouring out of the Spirit on every Israelite, and they believed that a particular king (the Davidic Messiah) would come who would have that Spirit permanently and lead them forever. More than this, they saw that the coming of the Spirit on all Israel would signify the arrival of the Day of the Lord, that is, the beginning of the 'end times'.

WEEK 2 ACTS 2

DAY 2

Read Acts 2:14-21

Over the next three days, we will move away from the description of the event of Pentecost into Peter's (or God's) explanation of what it all means.

1. Peter's explanation begins by connecting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with a promise in Joel 2:28-32. What conclusions does he draw from this Old Testament passage? (Hint: look at yesterday's 'Thinking Further' section)

2. What key parts of this prophecy apply to us today?

3. Take some time to reflect on the reality that God now dwells among His people by His Spirit – men, women, boys, girls, the young and the old. Anyone that calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, and the very presence of Jesus by His Spirit will dwell in them. What an amazing promise of God has been fulfilled; such an intimate connection to the God of the universe is now made possible! What reaction does reading about this event stir in you?

Thank God for bringing His promise to fulfillment, for pouring out His Spirit at Pentecost and beginning a new age. Thank God for the gospel coming to Australia where you had the chance to hear it and to call upon the Lord and be saved. Thank Him that you have now also been gathered into God's people, a people in whom He dwells by His Spirit.

THINKING FURTHER The New Testament and the Holy Spirit

Luke pointed out from the very beginning that Jesus is the Spirit-anointed one in fulfillment of the Old Testament hopes (that's what Jesus' baptism is about, see Luke 3:22; 4:1; 4:14 and most importantly 4:18-21). He is the promised Spirit-anointed leader who will be with his people and lead his people forever.

At Pentecost, Jesus pours out the Spirit in fulfillment of all the prophets' expectations. Pentecost therefore marks the coming to fruition of the Old Testament hopes of the new covenant, the creation of the new people of God, and the beginning of the new age. It also fulfills Jesus' promise to be with His people always (the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ; He continues to be present with us but in a different way), and it marks the end of Israel's exclusive claims on God. All people may now enter into his presence by faith in Christ, and faith in Him alone (see the Joel passage quoted in Acts 2).

Therefore, Pentecost is an enormously important occasion. It brought joy to those who were there because they understood the implications of what was happening. As an event it is hardly repeatable, but its implications flow down to each one of us as we too may have Christ with us by His Spirit as we put our faith in Him.

WEEK 2 ACTS 2

DAY 3

Read Acts 2:22-36

1. Peter's explanation about the Spirit being poured out results in preaching that is actually all about Jesus! What do we learn about Jesus from the following verses?
 - a. 2:22
 - b. 2:23
 - c. 2:24-32
 - d. 2:33-35

2. Why is Peter's explanation about these events so amazing?

3. How does this passage impact the way you think about Jesus?

Praise God for His eternal sovereign purpose to send Jesus to suffer and die at the hands of wicked men. For through this, His plan of salvation unfolds as He conquers sin and death, rises from the grave never to die again, and now reigns in sovereign power as both Lord and Christ. Thank God that even when things look grim from an earthly perspective, that God's purposes in the world cannot be stopped because He will work sovereignly to bring them to completion!

THINKING FURTHER Baptism of the Spirit

These opening chapters of Acts introduce us to the language of 'Baptism of the Spirit'. This language is often misunderstood causing some confusion so we will consider it briefly here to help clarify it. There are several key passages in Acts that describe the outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-13; 8:14-17; 10:34-48 and 19:1-7). They follow the basic order of the gospel going from the Jew to the Gentile, which Jesus described in Acts 1:8. Initially, Jews and God-fearers in Jerusalem receive the gospel (Acts 2), then Samaritans in Samaria (Acts 8), then a Roman God-fearer in Caesarea (Acts 10) and later converts of John the Baptist in Ephesus (Acts 19).

In each case, it is very significant that the Apostles are called to physically witness the coming of the Spirit as the gospel spreads beyond Jerusalem. This is because up until now the Israelites had been God's chosen people. God had worked almost exclusively with them, and so it was enormously difficult for Jewish Christians to accept that the gospel had brought an end to their national privileges and put them and the Gentiles on equal footing. Therefore, each stage (Acts 1:8) that the gospel went out of Jerusalem was highly significant. The Apostles witnessed each stage of God's outpouring of his Holy Spirit onto a previously rejected people, so that now Jew and Gentile became members of his family without favouritism.

This 'pattern' is not seen with later writings because the Apostles no longer needed to defend the presence of the Spirit within the Gentiles (a previously difficult thing for the Jews to accept). The Gentiles had clearly been included as God's new people. This helps us understand that what we have here in Acts is not meant as a pattern for us to follow, but is the record of the unique and unrepeatable beginnings of the new people of God.

Spend time now comparing the four accounts of the Holy Spirit's coming (Acts 2:1-13; 8:14-17; 10:34-48 and 11:1-18; and 19:1-7).

What are the differences and similarities?

What is the significance of the Spirit's coming on these four groups?

WEEK 2 ACTS 2

DAY 4

Read Acts 2:22-36

In Peter's first gospel sermon he connects the event of Pentecost to the promises of the Old Testament showing their fulfillment. We've looked at how he refers to Joel 2, but there are two other Old Testament passages he quotes. Today we will consider what point he is making about Jesus from each of these passages.

1. In 2:31, Peter connects Jesus' resurrection to Psalm 16 to prove that Jesus is the _____.
2. In 2:36, Peter connects Jesus' ascension to Psalm 110 to prove that Jesus is the _____.
3. Why does acknowledging the truth about Jesus demand a response by those Peter was speaking to in this first sermon, and still today?
4. Jesus is declared to be both Lord and Christ, Ruler and King, who reigns in power over all things because of His resurrection and ascension. He is the One who continues to be present in the lives of His people by His Spirit, and He continues to be at work in the world by His Spirit. How does this impact the way you think about the presence of Jesus in your life today?

Take some time to reflect on Jesus as both Lord and King. Give thanks to God for sending Jesus, and for the comfort and confidence we can have knowing His continued presence in our lives today. Pray that God would help you have great confidence to live your life as one who is on mission for Jesus in every way!

DAY 5

Read Acts 2:37-47

Today we will consider the last section of this account, which describes the people's response to Peter's message, the gospel, and the ongoing effects of the gospel on the people as their lives are changed by this new reality they find themselves in.

1. Peter has declared the gospel of Jesus, Christ and Lord, killed yet resurrected and now ascended in power at the right hand of God. Hearing this message the people are "cut to the heart", and now ask Peter how they should respond. How does Peter answer them?
2. How does Luke describe for us the ongoing effect of the gospel on this new community of believers?
3. Remembering this is a 'description' of events, how should we apply this 'description' of those first Christians living in a radical and genuine Christian community to us today?

Praise God for those first 3,000 people who owned their guilt in sending Jesus to the cross, those who turned back to God in repentance and faith to find forgiveness and restoration back into God's people by His Spirit. Pray that the reality of the gospel might take hold of us all today in deeper ways, causing a greater conviction in us to be about Jesus and His mission in the world. Pray also that we might have an increasingly genuine display of a life changed out of materialistic self-indulgence into generous sacrificial service of each other.

WEEK 3 ACTS 3:1-6:7

This week's readings explore the impact of the gospel as it takes hold of those in Jerusalem in fulfillment of God's purposes (Acts 1:8). We come across the first of fourteen miracles in Acts that verify the Apostle's ministry as the God-ordained continuation of Jesus' ministry. We see how this miracle opens the door to gospel preaching and as gospel preaching increases we also see growing opposition. However, amongst it all we will see over and over again that the gospel is unstoppable!

DAY 1

Read Acts 3:1-26

1. Looking at 3:1-10, we see a wonderful miracle of a lame man who is healed by Peter. Miracles are a sign that point to something beyond the miracle itself. Look back at Acts 2:22 to see what truth Jesus' miracles conveyed about Him. In light of this, what statement is being made about God's role in the Apostle's ministry through this miracle in 3:1-10?
2. This miracle opens the door to Peter explaining the gospel to the crowd (3:11-26). What does he say about:
 - a. Jesus?
 - b. How the people should respond?
 - c. What the outcome will be for those who do respond well?
3. Peter's preaching tells us Jesus was sent to wipe away our sins (3:19) and to turn us from our wicked ways (3:26). Do you know the forgiveness of sins and a life changed from pursuing sinful desires?

Praise God for such a clear endorsement of the Apostle's ministry by empowering them to perform miracles to bring glory to Jesus and the good news of what He has done to bring forgiveness of sins and new life! Pray that God would grow your awareness of sin and ungodliness in your life so that you might continue to live the life Jesus has made possible for you by His death, burial and resurrection.

DAY 2

Read Acts 4:1-31

1. The context for this chapter flows straight out of chapter 3 where Peter (with John) has healed a lame man and begun preaching about Jesus to the crowds. What impact is the gospel having on the crowds? (Hint: there are two key responses)
2. What do the religious leaders ask Peter and John?
3. Peter is "filled with the Holy Spirit" (4:8) and gives them the answer. What does he say?
4. A recurring phrase in the book of Acts is people being "filled with the Spirit". What outcome does being filled with the Spirit have on Peter (4:8)? And what outcome does being filled with the Spirit have on those young Christians who prayed together (4:29-31)?

WEEK 3 ACTS 3:1-6:7

5. In 4:12 we are reminded that Jesus is the only way people can know the hope of salvation. We are also reminded that God gives the fullness of His Spirit to empower His people to speak about Jesus boldly. This should be a cause for great joy, growing confidence and motivation for us to focused prayer and evangelism. What things tempt you to be quiet about Jesus?

Thank God for the gospel that brings salvation to those who believe. Thank him for the insight we see here today that opposition to Christians speaking about Jesus should be no surprise, but that God gives His Spirit to empower us to speak clearly and boldly despite opposition. Pray that God fills you with His Spirit today that you might speak about Jesus with boldness.

DAY 3

Read Acts 4:32-5:11

1. Looking at 4:32-37, what positive impact is God's grace having on this new community of Christians regarding their wealth? How does their example challenge you today?
2. Looking at 5:1-11, what is at the heart of Ananias and Sapphira's sin and why is it judged so harshly?

3. It is easy to copy external behaviours that have the appearance of godliness and integrity without the honesty of heart that must accompany it to be pleasing to God. We can all be at risk of ‘faking it’ at times for a range of different reasons. The great danger is not that people might be disappointed in us if they find out, but that our fake actions are telling lies to the Holy Spirit. While this case in Acts is extreme, and not the norm, it serves as a sobering reminder about the importance of living genuine lives, honestly before God and each other. How does this challenge you today?

Ask God to guard you against the satanic temptation of thinking you can pretend to be godly by your actions while being another on the inside. Ask God to forgive you for the times when you have not been honest before Him, and pray that God continues to transform your heart so that you might live freely, honest about where you are and grow in being generous with what you have.

DAY 4

Read Acts 5:12-42

1. What different reactions do you see here to the Apostle’s work?
2. Even though they face increasing opposition, what motivates the Apostle’s to keep going? (See 5:29ff)
3. Remembering that the Apostles are still in Jerusalem (5:12, 5:16), and that Luke is interested in helping us see the fulfilment of God’s purposes (Acts 1:8), how do his comments in 5:14 and 5:41-42 serve that purpose?

WEEK 3 ACTS 3:1-6:7

Opposition to the gospel was part of the early Christian experience and has remained the case down through the ages in varying degrees. Even today, Christians around the world are heavily persecuted, even to the point of death. While this is a cause for concern and prayer, it is extremely important to see the way the Apostles handled opposition – they continued to boldly and courageously trust in Jesus by declaring the gospel despite opposition. God sovereignly used this hardship to bring the fruit of salvation for “more and more men and women” (5:14) in fulfillment of His promise.

Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world today who are suffering for the sake of the gospel, that God would strengthen their faith, fill them with His Spirit and enable them to press forward for the sake of ‘more and more’ men and women being saved. Pray also that you would consider how you might step up in counting the cost in speaking about Jesus to those you can today.

DAY 5

Read Acts 6:1-7

1. Yesterday we saw that Jesus was saving more and more men and women around Jerusalem as the gospel was preached. Here we see this growth in Christians bringing with it the increasing importance to love and care for those in need. What do you learn here about the importance of churches maintaining a clear priority of the ministry of the word and prayer?
2. What is the outcome of this decision to enable the Apostles to continue focusing on this ministry? (See 6:7)

3. As you consider the spiritual requirements of those who served the practical needs of those in the community (6:3, 5), is there a 'lesser' need for personal godliness to serve God's people like this? As you consider your own ministry, no matter what it is, how is this a challenge for you today?

Pray that God might continue to give us wisdom for how to best love and care for those in need among us without compromising the priority of gospel ministry so that we might continue to see God save many more people.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4 ACTS 6:8-8:40

The first five chapters of Acts have focused on Jerusalem, where the Spirit has empowered the gospel to be preached resulting in more and more people being saved but along with it comes a constant rise of persecution. This week we will see the gospel break out of Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria in fulfillment of God's purpose (Act 1:8). It begins with rising hostility in Jerusalem climaxing with Stephen being stoned to death. Stephen's death causes the Jerusalem Christians to be scattered far and wide. Amazingly, in God's wisdom and sovereignty, this persecution causes the gospel to spread to Judea and Samaria (8:4-25), to the Gentiles (8:26-40) and eventually to the most unlikely of converts, Saul (9:1-30 – we'll read about Saul next week).

DAY 1

Read Acts 6:8-15

1. What (false) charges are brought against Stephen?
2. What causes Stephen's opponents to resort to making up false charges about him?
3. What reality check do we find here about the way some people will respond to the gospel?

Pray for those around the world who are hostile towards the things of Jesus, especially those who go to extreme lengths to oppose the gospel of Jesus and those who follow Him. We know that hostility will often be aroused by the gospel, so pray that God's church all over the world might not shrink back in fear, but stand strong, full of the Holy Spirit, holding out the truth of Jesus for all to hear.

DAY 2

Stephen has had two charges brought against him. First, that he spoke blasphemous words against Moses and God (6:11). (Blasphemy means to speak about God, or things of God without any reverence or respect.) Second, this charge is raised because he never stops speaking against the temple and the law (6:13). As you read through Stephen's speech, think about how his response defends himself against these allegations.

Read Acts 7:1-53

1. How does Stephen defend himself against the charge of blasphemy? (Hint: what does Stephen's speech reveal about his attitude towards God and His Word?)
2. What does his speech teach about the importance of the temple as the place where God presence will dwell? (7:44ff)
3. What does his speech show about how the Israelites treated God and his law (7:39ff)?
4. Who does Stephen liken the religious leaders (Sanhedrin) to and why?

Pray that God would help you develop an ever-deepening reverence for God, His Word and a delight in the One to whom it all points, Jesus.

WEEK 4 ACTS 6:8-8:40

DAY 3

Read Acts 7:54-60

1. What is the response of the religious leaders to Stephen accusing them of the same sin as their forefathers?
2. What happens to Stephen?
3. In the midst of this rising aggression where things spiral quickly to a fatal outcome, Stephen's eyes are fixed on the realities of heaven and the sovereign rule of Jesus. How would this vision be a comfort for Stephen? How is this relevant for us today?

Pray that God might help you become so convinced of the sovereign rule of Jesus and the realities of a life beyond the grave which so shadows this life that you might be able to face death without fear, but with certain and solid hope.

DAY 4

Read Acts 8:1-25

1. Looking at 8:1-3, what purpose does Stephen's death play in God's sovereign plan for the nations (Acts 1:8)?
2. What reaction increases in response to the gospel growing?

3. The Samaritans are a race of people resulting from the mixed marriages of the Jews with the Assyrians dating back to the Assyrian assimilation in 722BC. The 'pure' Jews looked down on the Samaritans as second class because they were no longer true Jews or heirs to God's promises. In light of this history, why might it have been important for Peter and John to witness them receiving the Spirit through faith in Jesus alone, with no reference to anything Jewish at all?

4. How does Simon respond to seeing the Holy Spirit being given by the laying on of the Apostle's hands? How do the Apostles respond to his request?

Praise God that the Spirit (and salvation) is not frustrated by the aggressive persecution of God's people. He is not restricted to the Jewish people. He is given freely to anyone who hears the gospel, repents and puts their trust in Jesus. The Spirit is not a commodity that can be purchased, or a genie in a bottle that can be controlled or manipulated. The Spirit has been poured out to empower gospel preaching to the nations so that salvation might go to more and more people as they repent and put their faith in Jesus. Pray that God would strengthen the conviction of His church and raise up many more people who will count the cost and take the gospel to the nations.

WEEK 4 ACTS 6:8-8:40

DAY 5

Read Acts 8:26-40

1. Up until now we've seen the gospel preached to crowds of people in a public setting. In this section we see the importance of personal evangelism in God's purposes also. What can we learn from Philip in the way he shares the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch?

2. How does this account help to show the fulfilment of God's purposes given in Acts 1:8?

Pray that God would stir your heart and give you opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with someone you know. Pray about who you might like to ask to read the Bible with to begin that journey.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5 ACTS 9:1-31

DAY 1

Read Acts 9:1-2

1. How might you describe Saul from these opening verses?
2. This is not the first time we've encountered Saul. Look back at Acts 7:59-8:3 to gather some more insight. What is the likelihood that this man, left to his own devices, would ever become a Christian?
3. The passion and energy that Saul exerts in his desire to destroy those first Christians must have been terrifying. Have you ever experienced opposition because of your faith in Jesus? How does it affect you?

Pray that God would give strength and courage to His people around the world, especially those facing fierce hostility because of their faith in Jesus.

DAY 2

Read Acts 9:3-9

Paul's conversion is given to us three times in the book of Acts (Acts 9, 22 and 26) because it is so strategic to God fulfilling His purposes to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

1. What happens to Paul?

2. Who does Jesus say He is persecuting? Why is that a surprise?
3. How does Saul respond?
4. Do you think the account of Saul's conversion is meant to be understood as a normal pattern for others?. Why or why not? (Hint: think back to Luke 24 and Acts 1)
5. How is Saul's conversion an encouragement for us today?

Praise God for His sovereign grace in changing even the hardest of hearts to respond in repentance and faith. Pray for those you know personally, our mission partners and those they are seeking to reach, and the worldwide church as it seeks to take the gospel to the nations.

DAY 3

Read Acts 9:10-25

1. What does God tell Ananias about His purposes for Saul? (9:15-16)
2. What evidence do you see in this account of Saul's changed attitude towards God, His people and the unbelieving world?

WEEK 5 ACTS 9:1-31

3. When does Saul get started on his new mission in life?

Thank God for His sovereign plan to take the gospel to the nations, even through the most unlikely of servants! Reflect for a moment on this: it was God's sovereign work in Saul's life that caused the gospel to come to us today. Thank God for His faithfulness to His promises!

DAY 4

Read Acts 9:26-31

1. What do you think it was like for the Apostles to hear that Saul was coming to town?
2. What does Paul do that would have been a compelling reason to believe he was a genuinely converted man?
3. What is the importance of 9:31 for the book of Acts?

Praise God for sending the gospel out to Judea and Samaria, for strengthening His church there – and beyond through the ages. As the book of Acts tells us, God is interested in more and more people being saved. Keep praying that God would work among us to be saving people.

DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

1. After reading about Saul's life before Jesus, how does reading his reflections in 1 Timothy impact you today?
2. How does hearing Paul's story offer hope to those who are a long way from God?

There are people all over the world who are violently opposed to the gospel of Jesus. How might you respond in prayer for them today?

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6 ACTS 9:32-11:18

This week we will read through Peter's ministry as recorded from 9:32-11:18. The dominant focus of this section is Peter's vision, which is connected to the conversion of Cornelius and his whole household. It is a turning point in the book of Acts because it is the first account of a 'Gentile' conversion marking another key transition in fulfillment of God's promise (Acts 1:8).

This week's readings will finish with Peter heading back to Jerusalem to explain this event to the Jewish Christian leaders. This section concludes with them praising God that salvation is for all nations, and is only possible on the basis of repentance and faith in Jesus, not Jewish customs, practice, or laws. This lays the foundation for the global mission which the rest of Acts focuses on (chapters 13-28) as Paul's three missionary journeys record the unstoppable gospel going all the way to Rome.

DAY 1

Read Acts 9:32-43

1. What is this account about?
2. Who is acknowledged as healing Aeneas? Is that a surprise to hear? Why might that be significant?
3. What impact do these two miracles have on those who heard about it?
4. How might this be a greater miracle than the physical healing of Aeneas and Tabitha?

5. What do you find challenging about this account?

Praise God for the continuing ministry of Jesus in the world. Pray that God gives you a heart like His for those who are sick, hurting and in real need. Pray also that He gives you clarity on the greater spiritual need for salvation that people have, and the need that is met in them hearing and responding to the gospel in repentance and faith in Jesus.

THINKING FURTHER Healing in Acts

There are four clusters of miraculous signs and wonders in the Bible. We see these clusters during the time of Moses, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and the early Church. Each cluster of miraculous signs comes before a significant event in the history of God's purposes in the world.

The raising of Tabitha is meant to remind us of others in the Bible (see 1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Luke 7:11-17; 8:41-42, 49-56). We are meant to see that the power demonstrated by these three key characters of times past (Elijah, Elisha, but particularly Jesus) is continued on in the ministry of the Apostles. It tells us that this is another highly significant moment in God's history of salvation. For the first time the gospel was going to break free from Israel and go to the Gentiles!

We are not meant to understand these miracles as normative for us today, just as we would not see Elijah's or Jesus' miracles as normative for us. This is not to say that God can't or won't heal outside these times, but to think of them this way is to miss the bigger point. We are meant to look to what the signs point us to. In this case, the gospel is about to break out and go to the Gentile nations in fulfillment of God's purposes and this is highlighted by another 'cluster' of miracles to draw attention to the importance of this moment in history.

WEEK 6 ACTS 9:32-11:18

DAY 2

Read Acts 10:1-8

1. What can you learn about Cornelius from this passage?
2. It's hard for us to grasp the gravity of what's happening in this passage without some background. Up until now, a devout Jew would have absolutely nothing to do with a Gentile; they would not sit down at the same table as a Gentile! That Cornelius, a Gentile, is acknowledged by God as god-fearing and generous, and that his prayers have been considered a "memorial offering before God" is nothing short of amazing. Something truly extraordinary is happening in this passage. What does God tell Cornelius to do and how does he respond?
3. Cornelius responds to God's message with trust and obedience. How does his response stir you today?

Thank God for showing us His heart for the nations, while we don't see the full story yet, we at least see that God hears the prayers of those who genuinely seek after Him. We also see God preparing the way for Cornelius to meet Peter, one to whom the gospel has been entrusted. Pray that God would give a hunger to many people to be reconciled to Him, and that many more men and women would be raised up and entrusted with the gospel to share with them. Pray that you might be faithful with sharing the gospel to those you care for.

DAY 3

Read Acts 10:9-23a

1. How does Peter's response in 10:14 help us understand the significance of the vision he saw?
2. How might God's response in 10:15 shed some light on what He wants Peter to understand by this vision?
3. As you consider the sovereign work of God to bring Cornelius and Peter together, what does this suggest about the importance of this meeting for God's purposes unfolding through it?
4. What encouragement is it to you to read about the depth of God's sovereign involvement in daily life? How might this help shape the way you pray for those who don't know Jesus?

Thank God for so clearly preparing the way for Cornelius and Peter to meet. While this account is strategic in the book of Acts as it records the first Gentile hearing and responding to the gospel, we know the same God who orchestrated these events is still at work in the world today. Pray for those you long to see restored back to God, that God might sovereignly work in their hearts to prepare them to hear the gospel, as He did with Cornelius.

WEEK 6 ACTS 9:32-11:18

DAY 4

Read Acts 10:23b-48

1. Looking at 10:23b-33, what role has God played in orchestrating this meeting? How did he prepare Peter? How did he prepare Cornelius?
2. Can you summarise the content of Peter's gospel message in 10:34-43?
3. What is the outcome of Cornelius (and his household) hearing the gospel message? How does Peter respond?

It really is hard for us to feel the weight of what just happened in this event. For the first time in all of Israel's history, God had included (blessed) a Gentile in fulfillment to His promise made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) without any reference to the Jewish law. The good news of what Jesus has done in His life, death and resurrection has opened the way for all people to come back to God! This is possible through repentance (turning away from sin and back to God) and faith in Jesus alone.

A new era has dawned, one where the Spirit of God was poured out on those first Gentile converts because they trusted in Jesus. This now marks God's program for the world, one that the rest of Acts will continue to unpack. This same gospel must be preached to the nations so that more and more men, women, boys and girls can be gathered back to God to find forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life with God.

- Have you turned back to God and put your trust in Jesus?
- Are you aware of this urgent priority both for your own life, but also those around you who don't know Jesus?
- How can you pray about this today?

DAY 5

Read Acts 11:1-18

1. Luke has already recorded the details of Cornelius' conversion (10:1-48), yet he records the same details again a second time as part of Peter's explanation of this event to the Apostles in Jerusalem (11:1-18). Why might Luke spend so much ink describing the details of this event a second time?
2. Remembering that Acts 1:8 is God's revealed program for the world, what significant transition has just taken place in God fulfilling His promise (especially 10:15-18)?
3. How does this passage ignite your passion for mission?

Pray that God continues to work in your heart to bring it in line with His – that we see the desperate need to take the gospel to the Gentile world, the thing that began with Cornelius' conversion and continues today.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7 ACTS 11:19-12:24

This week we will witness increasing opposition to the gospel and those who carry it, even to the point of death. Yet in the midst of this we will witness God's sovereign use of this opposition to ironically cause the gospel to go even further, showing it to be unstoppable! This section ends with a great reversal of power. King Herod, who is driving an even more intense outbreak of persecution, is struck down by the true and living God. The final picture of this chapter is a description of the unstoppable and all-powerful Word of God that continues to spread and flourish.

DAY 1

Read Acts 11:19-30

1. What do we learn about the impact of Stephen's death for the gospel going out to the Gentiles?
2. After hearing Peter's explanation of Cornelius' conversation (11:1-18), the Apostles in Jerusalem are ready to respond to the growing number of Gentiles being saved (11:21). What do they do?
3. We see here the miracle of God saving more and more people matched with the ready response of the church to teach those people, to ground them in the faith, and to help provide for their practical needs. How does this bring clarity to the heart of what God's people are to be about?

Pray that EV would continue to be a place where more and more people would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, be grounded in faith and support one another in community. How are you going in serving God by being in ministry at EV (and beyond) and working to see God's church grow? How can you pray about that?

DAY 2

Read Acts 12:1-4

1. What do you notice in these verses that increases to a whole new level?
2. The story of the gospel going out to the nations has been tainted by opposition and persecution. Given the spiritual and eternal importance of God saving a people for Himself out of the bondage to sin and Satan, is it really a surprise that increasing opposition is found where the gospel is growing?
3. At this point, what hope does there seem to be for Peter?
4. How would you go facing such strong opposition to your faith in Jesus? Would you stand strong, knowing it might cost your life?

Pray that God would increasingly help you see your life through the lenses of eternal realities, matters of life, death, heaven and hell. Pray that you will give yourself to things that will echo into eternity.

WEEK 7 ACTS 11:19-12:24

DAY 3

Read Acts 12:5-10

1. It's worth remembering that Jesus himself chose the Apostles and commissioned them to be His Spirit-empowered witnesses to the world about the wonderful good news that forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life might be taken to the nations (Luke 24; Acts 1). At this point in the story, we see a beautiful combination of the earnest prayers of God's people and the divine power of God standing behind His Apostles enabling Peter's escape so that the gospel might continue to spread. While this is not a promise that every Christian will be supernaturally rescued from prison, it is a remarkable picture of God's sovereign power to fulfill His promise to bring the message of the gospel to the nations. What encouragement do you take from this passage?
2. While escape was made possible for Peter, many Christians today remain in prison for their faith. What example does the church of Peter's day offer us for those currently in prison for their faith in Jesus?
3. How healthy is your prayer life? Do you pray for those outside this country, those imprisoned for their faith in Jesus? How can you apply today's passage to your life?

Ask God to increase your heart for the nations, both that they would hear the gospel and be saved, and that those who suffer for the sake of Christ might stand strong.

DAY 4

Read Acts 12:11-19a

1. What insight does this passage give you about the way Herod understood and used power?
2. How do the fervent prayers of the Christians indicate where they understood true power to be found?
3. What makes this a refreshingly honest account of history? Can you relate to these Christians at all? If so, how?

Thank God for His sovereign rule over history, that even the most apparently powerful humans are not able to stop His purposes coming to pass. Pray that your trust in God grows as you see God's faithfulness more and more.

WEEK 7 ACTS 11:19-12:24

DAY 5

Read Acts 12:19b-24

1. What does this final account reveal about how Herod saw himself?
2. How does God respond to Herod's arrogance?
3. How does this account end? What does this conclusion tell you about the nature of true power and where it lies?

Kings and queens come and go, but the Word of the Lord endures forever. Pray that God continues to add to our number those being saved as we hold out the Word of the gospel. Pray that you might grow in your confidence that God's gospel word is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

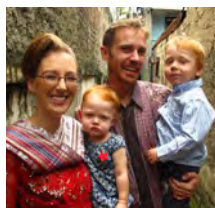
EV MISSION PARTNERS



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 the church is growing. 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 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 (and 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. Pray for the ongoing teaching at Derek's Bible College and at the School of Mission, which has a focus on mobilising interest in Muslim Ministry, and equipping people for that. Pray for Anna as she is currently working towards bringing together some local Muslim ladies who are open, and forming them into a group of inquirers. Pray for God to reveal himself to these ladies.



THE GENEVA PUSH

Geneva was set up to provide a means by which they can pool their 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. It has set in place a high quality assessment process to find the best church planters, 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. Visit www.thegenevpush.com

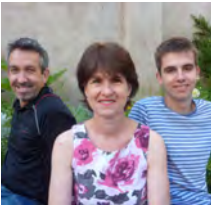


JONO AND AMY VINK

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 at Bunda Bible College.

The aim is to equip local pastors to teach the Bible and lead God's people in Tanzania. He is also involved in local pastors groups writing bible study material and visiting different groups each week. Amy home schools and is involved in leading a ladies bible study. Amy also works with local women through "Rehema" which is an income generating project – café and crafts - seeking to train local women to be able to provide for their families as well as all profits going to helping other needy women and children.



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. They hold evangelism events "Dialogue Veritas" where students and friends are invited to talks based on a survey about God and life.



COLIN AND JILL BAKON

SIM: Latin American Ministry

Colin trains and mentors Christians in Latin America in mission mobilization in response to many wanting to be involved in the world Christian movement.

He mentors a network of local mobilisers who journey with churches and prospective missionary candidates. A project has been started up to help fund this. See www.sim.org.au/wake-up-train-up-and-step-up. Praise that over 100 people have been impacted through the Kairos course and over 20 are in training to run the course themselves. Praise for interest coming from many Latin American countries in Kairos and with work projected to start in Ecuador, Mexico and El Salvador.

EV MISSION PARTNERS



DANIEL AND RENAE GODDEN

Salt Church, Wollongong

Dan and Renae moved to Wollongong from EV to start a new evangelical church. Salt Church are now meeting together and building new relationships with people in the Illawarra who don't know Jesus. Praise God that there is a growing core group. Pray for another pastor to help in this ministry and for the refurbishment of their new premises. 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.



FIEC

(Staff worker/Chaplin – Jim Ramsey)

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) is a fellowship of churches and pastors across Australia. These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC began in 2002 when a small group of evangelical pastors had the simple aim of encouraging one another to proclaim Christ and plant more churches. In 2012, their annual conference had over 170 people in attendance, representing thirteen member churches across Australia. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years. Pray for the preparations for the Annual Conference (Sept 15-18).



MARTIN AND JEN SHADWICK

(AFES Newcastle University)

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 - a new ministry to Muslim students. Praise God for the blessing of their daughter Hannah. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life. Praise for the new team members in AFES Newcastle: Jess Khor, Andy Bootes and Heather Green. Pray for them as they grow together as a team. Praise for new funding to help in the ever-growing International students' ministry, which is headed up by Rodney Nohra. Praise God for special funding to help with the Arabic ministry and pray for Ashraf Mehanni who heads this up.



JAI AND JAY-ELLEN WRIGHT

MAKE Church, Mackay

Jai and his wife Jay-Ellen moved to Mackay after ministry in “UniChurch, Qld” (Brisbane) and four years in Sydney where he studied at Moore Theological College, completing a Bachelor of Divinity. Jai and Jay-Ellen are planting a church in Mackay, QLD. They have four children, Amber, Ebony and Kade and little Jett. Pray for strength for Jay-Ellen 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 are coached by Geneva Push.



KIRSTIN HAWKSHAW

(CMS Missionary in Nepal)

Kirstin is working as an Occupational Therapist in Pokhara, Nepal. 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. As she is in her second term now, pray for her as she readjusts to living in Nepal.

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully.

Please join with us in bringing solid hope to the coast - Jesus.

Details for direct deposit or scheduled payment:

Central Coast Evangelical Church

BSB: 704 922

Account: 100006281

Please label your giving for your congregation. Label with one of the following:

- ‘for Breakfast EV’
- ‘for Sunday EV’

- ‘for Saturday EV’
- ‘for NiteEV’
- ‘for PenEV’

For tax-deductible giving to our new church building, please use the following account details:

EV Church Building Fund

BSB: 704 922

Account: 100007523

If you require a receipt put your name and SBF (School Building Fund) as your reference on the direct debit please.

