



Thank you, David Gilchrist for photo of 'sunset at Umina Beach.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, Thursday, 11 July 2024:

From the Pastor:

This week I visited Koorong Christian Bookshop at West Ryde to purchase a Bible for my Barber. He wants to read the Bible and doesn't know where to get one. We give away Bibles at church to those who don't have one, but I wanted this Bible to come from me, so I went shopping. I have to admit it was overwhelming. I could feel a headache coming on as I looked through the myriads of Bibles that were available. Shelf after shelf of Bibles. Different translations, different shapes and sizes and colours, different binding types, some with study notes, some with wide margins, some with atlases and concordances and devotional inserts.

Aren't we blessed? Today, while we open English Bibles in many translations, on our phones, in church, on our bedside table, or audio-Bibles, there are 52 countries in the world where possessing a Bible is illegal. Many believers face harassment, abuse, imprisonment, torture, or even death, simply for having a Bible in their possession. In North Korea the Bible is illegal and you and your family can be killed if you are caught with one. In Afghanistan, or Somalia, just possessing a copy of the Bible could be a death sentence. In other countries believers must share one Bible between a whole church community, travel great distances to find a copy, or sit huddled in underground meetings, whispering passages of the Bible in the secret of their homes.

The Bible is a light in the darkness and hope for generations. It challenges the authority of kings and upends the empires of the world. It brings hope to the hopeless and good news to the poor. But we should not be surprised that as believers we will also experience trouble. Jesus said believers would suffer just as he suffered. When Paul was converted on the road to Damascus the Holy Spirit spoke of him to Ananias saying, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." (Acts 9:16)." Faith in Christ brings great blessings but often great suffering, too. Paul would suffer for his faith (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-27). God calls us to commitment, not to comfort. He promises to be with us through suffering and hardship, not to spare us from them.

Blessings,

Pastor David

Sunday Morning Worship 14th July at 9.30am:

We continue our series on the Apostle Paul, "The Challenge of a Changed Man." This week we are looking at Suffering for Christ. As it is school holidays we will also have a special time for the children which will be on the Live Stream, so you can also show it to any children who won't be at the service.

Prayer will be available to you at the front of church, after the service, with Denise, Joy and others.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/uXZEAV4Pj1U?feature=share>

SHOUT!! Is In Recess until Sunday 21st July:

4pm, SHOUT is in recess this week and next week due to the school holidays. Instead, we will have a short children's spot in the 9.30am service. This will be Livestreamed with the rest of the service. Activity sheets are also available that relate to the children's spot. See Pastor David for a copy of the activity sheets.

31ST JULY - only 2 weeks away ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE:

All Church Leaders & Ministry Leaders / Coordinators:

Only a little over two weeks remaining to send in your Annual Reports. Thanks to those who have done so, however, there are quite a number still to be received. Please send the report in a WORD document, or in the body of an email, thanks Jean.

ANNUAL REPORTS are now due. Please send your reports to me by the **31st of July** for compilation of the Annual Reports booklet. Thanks to all those who have already sent reports through.

Please describe what your ministry is, who you minister to, a review of the past 12 months, and plans and visions for the future or what is specifically applicable for your ministry.

Thank you. **Jean Lynch** Administration Deacon jeanelynch@gmail.com

Pastimes Craft Group is in recess until Friday 26th July:

Our craft group is taking a break for two weeks over the school holidays.

Thanks, Sheila Hooper.

Skills For Life Fundraising 20th July, 12pm. BYO BBQ at Lions Park:

Only one week away! Everyone is welcome, it should be a wonderful day!

Skills For Life is having a fundraising event planned to raise important funds for Mango Tree Academy in Kisii Kenya. Saturday 20th of July 12pm, BYO BBQ at Lions Park. Please give a donation on the day.

RSVP, see Les Baker or phone: 0412 866 513.

Tempo Terrific Band Concert 3 August 2:30pm. Tickets on sale Sunday:

Due to popular demand, the Missionary Committee has asked the Tempo Terrific band to return to put on another concert to raise funds to support our 10 Missionaries here and overseas.

Come along and enjoy the music and the lovely afternoon tea. For catering purposes please purchase tickets as soon as possible. Some extra tickets will be available on the day.

Tickets available now from Kerrie and Peter from this Sunday 30th June, in the lower hall after church on Sundays (Phone 43244412 or 0438477567)."

Ticket prices are: \$15 adult \$10 - concession

\$5 - school student \$30.- family ticket

Please contact Jane about Women's Retreat August 16 – 18 2024:

Yes, amazingly it is that time of the year again. Women's Retreat @ Bethshan, we realise the need for deep discussions, sharing of lives, connections with like minds, relevant Bible teaching, great food and contagious laughter. If you need a break from life, a recharge of spiritual batteries and a safe place to share, this is the retreat for you. **Registration: 01/06 - 26/07/24**

Retreat Date: 16-18 August 2024. See Jane Keuning for details or phone: 0425 263 763. Jane has asked that you let her know if you are going, and if you are staying or doing day visits, please.

Spring Fair is only 2 months away, Saturday 7th September:

Flyers have been printed!

Don't forget that we will be needing homemade cakes, slices etc, for the cake stall.

- Please continue to keep this activity in your prayers for all the preparation that is happening now and in the future.
- Christmas Samaritans Boxes will also be on sale, ready to be sent. All you have to do is purchase one already filled. There will be a stall selling these so think about supporting this well recognized outreach and mission activity at the Spring Fair this year.
- It is not too early to sign up for duties, see the chart on the notice board in the large hall, you won't be expected to do the tasks if your plans change nearer the time, it's just that Heather wants to go away knowing that there is enough support for the fair.
- We need 1 more volunteer to run a new stall with Winda for the Spring Fair. The EBC tour group have discovered in Rome quite a different range of ice creams we could sell. Heather would organise the store, food etc. just needs someone to sell them. Please email her heatherlcrawford@bigpond.com.au if you can help. Thank you, Heather. 0419 297 496

Items Needed for Mainly Music and SHOUT!! Craft:

Mainly Music and SHOUT!! are in need of these items for their craft projects:

Paper roll bases and Wafer roll tins



If you are able to help, please see/contact Jane Keuning phone: 0425 263 763

BAPTIST WORLD AID. Cards on sale in October:

Wendy Creamer will be selling cards again in October to enable the amazing projects below to continue.

MALAWI.

Locals Take the Lead:

Community development is about locals working together to solve problems. Over the past year our Partner in Malawi, has seen community members increasingly take ownership of their projects. Youth now manage natural resource initiatives like planting seedlings and maintaining tree nurseries; residents are promoting hygiene and sanitation in marketplaces; and one community group used their resources to build classrooms for a local primary school.

Sunday Morning Prayer Group 8.45am to 9.15am:

A small group of people meet to pray each Sunday morning before the 9.30am service at the back of the Downstairs Hall. You are welcome to join them.

Crossroads Counselling with Meg Toon:

Just a reminder of this service available to everyone. Phone: 0414 238 614

EBC Ongoing Property Maintenance is needing Volunteers:

Please see a list of jobs below. Many people do already assist in an ongoing capacity, for which we are very grateful. However, there are numerous other jobs that can be done by others.

- Gardens- including reduce tree litter on NW corner
- Window cleaning inside and outside including high windows
- Door locks and catches etc
- Outside hose down/ scrub grime, cobwebs etc
- Upper and lower gutters, November, February, May and September as needed.
- Assist Caroline for annual clean/disinfection of toilets seat attachments
- Spray – ‘bugs/ wasp’ etc
- door locks catches etc

Geoff Toon **0405 020 649** can give you a further list to choose from.

Ettalong Baptist Church Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact:

Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone:0448 431 234) or Deacon—Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

Find important Church Documents on Website Documents page:

You can download and print documents, or simply read and fill in documents online!

<https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents/>

Zoom Prayer Group are in recess until 23rd July:

See Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.

Giving:

As Christians, we believe it is especially important that we give financially to support God’s church. Prayerfully consider and budget what God would have you give.

You may give your weekly offering using the following methods:

- 1). Through direct electronic transfer. You can do this using online banking or ask your bank teller to set up an electronic transfer for you using the bank details below.
- 2). Deposit your offering directly into the church account at any branch of the Westpac Bank.
Our account details are:
Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church
BSB Number: 032 527, Account Number: 350 062
- 3). Use the box at the main entrance door to the auditorium for cash or cheques.

Note from the Office. Newsletter Deadline is Wednesday Morning:

If you would like anything added to future Newsletters, please send notices to the email below:

office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

Unsubscribe / Subscribe:

If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter by snail mail, please let the church office know.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, please reply All to this email with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from this email list.

A Letter from Andrew and Oksana Ford:

Let me start out with a very Big Thank You for keeping us in your prayers and for your messages and support!

So, when I stepped into the role of YWAM Ukraine leader it was a shared position but since my co leader was no longer permanently in Ukraine due to the war he stepped down (a few months ago) and I am now doing the role on my own. This has taken some getting used to, as I have always liked working in a team and as long as I have been a missionary I have always worked together with others.

The name we give to this role in YWAM is “Convenor”, it’s the idea of bringing together our location or major ministry leaders to keep and build unity within YWAM Ukraine, to pastor and support our leaders, and encourage new vision and growth while staying within the foundational values of YWAM.

To fulfil this role, I need to keep connected to our leaders and their teams, it means running regularly meetings to bring our leaders together, it means organising an annual conference (end of October), it means messages and calls and visits, it means listening and praying, it means preaching or sharing :) it also means keeping and building connections to our international YWAM family.

I am honoured to do this and have plenty of times felt inadequate, but I am grateful that God is growing me in this role, and I am thankful for the support I get in return from the other YWAM leaders I am serving.

But here is the thing, both Oksana and I love to do ministry where we are reaching out to people that don’t know Christ and serving those that are in need. And so doing a purely internal YWAM ministry even though it is very important leaves us not totally satisfied so we continue to do other types of outreach ministry. For example, as you already know Oksana has been doing some hospital visits with the Azov battalion, this is only when that battalion have wounded soldiers that are sent to hospitals in Lviv. So, it is just from time to time that Oksana’s help is required.

So, a few other of these ministry opportunities we have been a part of recently.

It has been a lot of fun for me to be a teacher for an intermediate group of students at an English club outreach that our local Church runs. It is mostly university aged young people that it is focused on and more than half of those that attending are non-Church goers. There have been several of our students start coming along to Church and are their journey of getting to know Jesus.

From Andrew and Oksana



Ettalong Baptist Church

PRESENTS



TEMPO TERRIFIC BAND

Concert

Saturday 3rd August, 2:30pm

Raising support for our Mission Partners both locally and overseas.

Enjoy the music and a delicious afternoon tea.

**Ticket prices: \$15 adult, \$10 concession, \$5 school student and
\$30 family ticket**

For tickets phone Ettalong Baptist Church office on **43431237**
between 9.30am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday, or
message EBC on Facebook Messenger and we will be in touch.

8 Barrenjoey Road, Ettalong Beach (at roundabout).