



*Seagull at Ettalong Beach.*

## **Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**At the end of this newsletter – read Joy Watt’s testimony!!!**

### **From the Pastor:**

There are many things that Ettalong Baptist Church value, but we are passionate about:

- The Bible – Knowing God through his word
- Prayer – Communicating with God
- Community – Loving people and making disciples.

This Sunday in our 9.30am service we are considering our second value, prayer!

Prayer does not enable us to do a greater work for God. Prayer is a greater work for God. Prayer is acknowledging our limitations and God’s ability to supersede those limitations. It creates humility in our hearts simply because we attest that God is more powerful and therefore greater.

Can I encourage you to always seek to be a person of prayer. In Mark 9, we are reminded to always honestly bring the burdens of our heart to Jesus Christ. There are times when the situation will appear hopeless. Many of us become discouraged when we don’t see a quick reply to prayer and are prone to giving up. But God is always in control. Trust God. Ask him to give you the faith you need to trust him.

Blessings  
Pastor David

### **Reyes Love Offering:**

It was wonderful to have the Mauricio, Michele and Josiah Reyes sharing with us last weekend. To help them with their expenses while they are on Home Assignment in Australia, we would like to take up a love offering for them this Sunday. To give to this offering please place your cash gift in an envelope marked Reyes Love Offering and pop it in the offering box near the entrance of the Church Auditorium. Thank you.

## Sunday Morning Service 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9.30am:

When You Don't Know What to Say Just Pray! Bible Passage: Mark 9:14-29

Prayer is available at the front of church, after the service, with Paul, Sheila and others.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/iq0WvBsO574?feature=share>

## SHOUT!! will be on this Sunday:

Please come and join us this Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at SHOUT!! from 3:30pm with coffee, afternoon tea, games and activities for the children.

## Church Council This Sunday:

All Church Leaders: Please join us for our Church Council gathering, 11am this Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 in the Hill Hall. All ministry leaders (or their representative), Elders and Deacons are invited to join us. **We will be sharing how God is blessing our ministry, any plans for 2025**, and praying together for each ministry of the church. Our gathering will be finished by 12.30pm.

## Property Maintenance:

We don't currently have a property manager. Therefore, we are asking everyone to work together to look after the property. Lynette Tilden our office manager is managing property maintenance. If you see something that needs fixing, and you can't fix it, please let the office know, and Lynette will ask someone to fix it. If you are able to help in a particular area, let Lynette know so she can add your name to our property contact list.

Jimmy Chamberlain is managing our property on behalf of the Deacons. If you need to pay for something, please see Jimmy and he will speak with the Deacons about it. If you need to be reimbursed for property expenses, please also see Jimmy Chamberlain.

Thank you for your help in this matter

## Men's Breakfast Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 8am at BBF Woy Woy:

All men are welcome!

Please contact Ian Makepeace for further information. Phone: 0411 012 125. Thanks, Ian.

## Ettalong Baptist Christian Comedian Show, 19<sup>th</sup> October 5:30pm:

We have Nath performing a FREE 1-hour Clean Stand-Up Comedy Show in our Auditorium this October and he would love a volunteer to get up at the start of the show to tell a joke and invite the audience to share a joke as well. Uncle Nath has been doing comedy in local Churches for seven years, to spread laughter and Joy into the community in churches. Everyone is welcome.

## Jacaranda Festival Grafton 1st & 2nd Nov, Fund Raiser Ford Family:

Grafton Uniting Church will be holding a street stall this year at the Grafton Jacaranda Festival, the first weekend in November i.e. Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November (that is the last week of the festival) to raise much needed funds for Andrew and Oksana in the Ukraine. If anyone is interested in joining Heather, going to support the stall and encourage the church at the same time, please chat to her. Thank you. Heather.

## We would love to have your photos for the Newsletter please:

Our weekly Newsletter is looking for more of your beautiful photos. Please send them to Lynette at: [office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au)

## The Long Run, please help Robert Mead:

Hi again, it's Robert Mead and I would like to thank all those who have prayed for me over the last 18 months since I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. God has been so good throughout this time revealing to me that He was going to heal me. After 20 doses of radiation last November and December my PSA dropped to less than 0.01 and the cancer is as good as gone, I only have to see my oncologists 12 monthly, Praise God.

Although I am doing well there are hundreds of men out there that are doing it tough with their treatments so that is why I'm fundraising again this month with a walk to raise much needed funds for research and special nurses. Thanks, you.

<https://www.thelongrun.org.au/fundraisers/robertmead/the-long-run-2024>

## Better World Gift Cards on sale in October:



### Disaster Toolkit

Practical tools, protective gear, and skills empower communities in disaster-prone areas. The Disaster Toolkit cards mean people can prepare for, and begin recovery, after a natural disaster.

Product info: Card size: 148x105mm Envelope included Includes information on how your gift helps families living in poverty. Card sells for \$40. (cash or card).

Coming up for sale in hall after service in October. Thanks', Wendy Creamer.

## Greeting From Beatrix:

Dear friends of Ettalong Baptist Church,

Good morning to you all from Bakong of Simunul island Southern Philippines. The fifth Typhoon just left. The wind just stopped, and life is back to 'normal'. I have been back to the island since 8<sup>th</sup> August, after four years and eight months. So many changes have happened since March 2020. I will share the changes in my next newsletter "Hope of the Islands."

The short version of the new teachers' camp went well. We have 125 campers from 19 high schools and 6 lecturers. The high school teachers and I went back to the Simunul island afterwards. Then ever since I have been trying to find out what has been happening with seekers, undecided and curious friends, who at once have their full attention to the good news about Isa Almasih (Jesus the Messiah).

I will share more in the next "Hope of the Islands" newsletter. Thank you. Your financial support and your prayer support have enabled me to make this trip. I want to say how important your support to me has been. It's such a giant help. Thank you so much.

Every Blessing

Beatrix

## 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.

## Zoom Prayer Groups every Tuesday at 10am and 7pm:

Tuesday morning group 10am,

Tuesday evening group 7pm.

See Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.

## 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)

## 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.

## Newsletter Deadline is Wednesday Morning:

If you would like anything added to future Newsletters, please send notices to the email below, or leave a note for Lynette in the office, thank you:

[office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au)

## Find important Church Documents on Website Documents:

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

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

## 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.

## Joys Testimony Given on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September:

Good morning church,

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and share with you how Robert and myself have been blessed by your prayers and by our Heavenly Father over these past four months.

We were on an amazing trip “Walking in the footsteps of Paul” when on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May at the end of our sightseeing at Laodicea, I managed to trip and fall heavily on my way back to the bus. I came down on the paved area outside of the café and am still unaware of how the top of my right arm became so broken when both my hands and knees carried grazes, and my nose was bruised from my glasses before they flew off my face. There was plenty of help to pick me up and sit me on a chair and the nurses on the team were able to assess me, while **others quickly prayed over my right shoulder for God’s healing and help in the situation. From this time on, my pain was minimal**, but my arm felt heavy and like jelly. I remember saying to nurse Sheila I think I have broken the head off the humerus and the nurse in me said I’ll be Ok as we know it just has to hang in a collar and cuff sling until it heals.

We were 45minutes from our lunch stop and our guide needed to keep us moving so a sling was found from the first aid kit, my arm immobilised, and Robert assisted me back onto the bus into my comfortable seat and off we went. After some time, I did say to Heather that for everyone’s peace of mind I should have an Xray at some stage to know exactly what my injury really was. Our guide contacted the place where we were to lunch and found out that the town had an emergency medical centre. Once we reached the town the bus dropped the tour guide, Robert and me off at the emergency centre and proceeded to take the rest of the team to lunch. At the centre I was ushered in immediately. **Thank you, God, for our tour guide because no one spoke English.** I was quickly x-rayed, and I was struck dumb when the tour guide informed me that I had a very badly smashed top of my right arm and that I need urgent surgery to repair it and remove all of the debris bone in my shoulder. **Please Heavenly Father how do we do this? My own response was NO I will be OK until we get back to Australia but Lord we prayed for healing, and you are guiding me down the surgery path. I am in a foreign country. How do we do this.? Will you provide the right qualified surgeon to do this surgery?** Our guide said he would be responsible for organising everything. **Then there was an incredible God peace, all would be well.** The staff at the emergency centre immobilised my arm and shoulder again. **Thank you, God, for the emergency staff and x-ray machine in this small remote town.** Now how will we reconnect with the team? Once outside, there was a car driven by one of the men from the café where everyone was lunching. So back to the café where our lunch waited us. **Thank you, God for your provision and such beautiful people who provided their car when fuel is so expensive.** After lunch, it was back on the bus and off to Kusadasi. How amazing! Our stop over is for three nights. Plenty of time. I will just rest. **But no God was undertaking. There were other plans afoot.**

On our arrival at the hotel, we were ushered into the hotel and the others were taken to be allocated their rooms while Robert and I were ushered aside with all of our luggage and placed into the hands of two paramedics. What was happening, where were we being taken? This was a little surreal. Were we just to trust them? The paramedics told us they were there to care for us. That our guide had been in contact, and it was all arranged to have me seen by professional doctors. **Thank You Heavenly Father.**

They ushered us to an awaiting ambulance to be taken to the Medilife centre via the local hospital for a shoulder scan. Here the head of emergency confirmed a fractured head of humerus and segmented shaft requiring immediate surgery. No one spoke English only the head of emergency.

We arrived at the Medilife centre and was greeted by Dr Amet who spoke very fluent English. **Paise God!! I am not in a place where I am unable to make myself understood anymore.** Dr Amet examined me, gave me pain relief, which I needed now after all the bumping around and a proper sling to support my arm. He explained the options to Robert and me and of what he had been able to organise for us.

1. A bed in an international hospital where English was spoken and would also include accommodation for Robert with me in my room.
2. An orthopaedic surgeon Doctor Aziz– one of the best
3. Surgery for the next day
4. Transport to the hospital for both of us
5. Transport back to the tour or a flight home whatever our choice was.

But the cost!! When told, my initial reaction was no way we could not afford that amount and was the surgery really necessary? Were we being taken advantage of? But I had seen the scan result at the hospital and knew it was. **A quick prayer. Help Lord, is this, OK? The answer was peace!! Yes, you need the surgery.** Doctor reminded me that we had very good travel insurance and that he would do all the paper work so that it would be approved when you get back to Australia. But you need to pay upfront!!! NOW but HOW? Australian banks put stops on your accounts if you move over \$10,00 dollars and the asking was multiples of \$10,000's. We didn't have phone link as we were unable to purchase a sim card which meant that we would have no bank connection if there should be an issue with the transfer. We needed to use the centres internet, but it was somewhat unstable, a problem all over Turkey. **With prayer,** Robert began the process and the way he chose proved to be successful. **Thank you, God you guided and provided for us again.**

All was organised so back in the ambulance for the trip to the hospital. I didn't ask how far. In my mind it would be just down the road like in Gosford. But OH NO! 100 kilometres later we arrived at the hospital. **Thank you for all your prayers. Praise God admission is quick.**

20 minutes later we were taken to a beautiful room eight stories up. It had normal hospital equipment for me and a king-sized single day bed for Robert to sleep on. I was ward admitted and settled for the night's sleep. **Relief I could sleep propped up. Praise God!!!**

Next morning Dr Aziz the surgeon visited, explained the procedure and that he would do his best to get us back on tour the next day if all went well and that was our choice. **Lord, this is amazing. Thank you for such a lovely surgeon and that he can speak English so well. Thank you that surgery can happen so quickly. Thank you that we can meet up again with the tour without too much delay. Thank you for your provision and care you are an amazing God.** Surgery was at 1pm **Lord, fill this theatre with your Holy Spirit, protect my mind as I go under the anaesthetic, guide the hands of my surgeon and those who will assist, I am in your hands Lord Amen.** I was back to my room by 4pm. Robert was very relieved to see me. During this time the Lord gave him the words to a beautiful poem that expressed his love for me and how he was feeling. **Thank you, Lord, for your love and care of the beautiful love and relationship you have given us. We are both so blessed.**

Next morning an x-ray first thing. Dr Aziz visited mid-morning, redid my dressing, explained what he found and did in surgery, that the x-ray showed the plate, nails and screws. were all correct and that I was free to return to the tour. **Praise God!!! Our God is a healer, and He was at work in my shoulder. I had faith and a prayer army at work in you all. Thank you again.** He, also said that he had never had anyone in our situation rejoin their tour, that they chose to go home. For me the thought of the long-haul flight straight on top of an anaesthetic was a no go. I needed time to get the strength to face it and my Heavenly Father would provide that strength when the time came, I just needed to rest in Him for a time and what better way than experiencing Paul's journey.

The big question for us now, was how do we get back to Kusadasi? Robert had attempted to have connection with the hospital internet to no avail. What's app our groups main connection didn't work. Phones didn't work, emails were out, how was this going to work. We just sat in our room, and no one came to talk with us. **As I prayed God reminded me of Mary and Joseph. How that he led them in the middle of the night to flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe. They knew no one, could not speak the language, had limited transport but that He was there all the way and provided for them so why was I concerned. Just rest, wait and watch. There was amazing peace.** Then just before midday Argon one of the paramedics from the previous evening arrived in our room. The overwhelming feelings

of God's provision in not leaving us deserted was overpowering. He had come to take us back to the hotel but needed to go and discharge me. I asked if we were going back in the ambulance, and he laughed and said no a limousine. **How great is that. Nothing by half but the absolute best. Thank you, God you are doing it again.**

We rejoined the tour and although I didn't do all the walks, I was still able to appreciate the amazing magnitude of Paul's treks, the vastness of the ground he covered and the actual time, 40 years, that it took him. We covered part of it in 17 days.

The trip home although long, tiring and arduous especially for Robert who had to manage two lots of luggage and a wife that could do very little to help, continued to show us that God was ahead and providing for us. I did forget this at Abada be airport when we went close to missing our flight due to a miscommunication by airport staff not providing the assistance we were told had been organised for us. But once on board an upgrade to economy plus gave us two seats each and placed us near amenities large enough for Robert to be able to be with me to give assistance. **Thank you, Lord again and how blessed is that.**

Once home things seemed to be very slow with the care of my shoulder. Poor communications with medical staff meant that I was two weeks later in starting my physio-rehab and I was going to be three months before I could see a specialist here in Australia. The claim through the travel insurance was very slow with their communications and several papers had to be submitted a number of times. However, **we are praising God and thankful for all your prayers and for all He has done.**

The specialist praised the Turkish surgeon's work. He was able to see on the recent x-ray I had and said it was as he would have done. He was pleased with my range of movement already gained and estimated that I already had over 90% range restoration. What range I have by June next year would be my final gain. This was an amazing outcome as he felt I would just be able to do simple self-care and maybe able to drive again. Last week I was given the OK to drive again so I am mobile. I have also been blessed with a wonderful physiotherapist who is quite the expert with shoulders. There was a delay with obtaining a physiotherapist initially as the one the specialist was recommending was full. Her expertise has certainly ensured that I have been blessed with my care needs for total recovery. **Praise God!! I have a God of total healing to what I need, and I believe I will have the last 10% before June next year.**

**Thank you again church family for your prayers and remember when we are asked to pray. Pray believing and He will give us an answer we just need to ask. And praise God the Travel insurance refund arrived in full in our bank account this week, so we have been blessed by our Heavenly Father in full. Praise God and bless you all for your faithfulness toward Robert and myself with your prayers. Amen**



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BIBLE**

*Knowing God  
through his  
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**PRAYER**

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**Sat 19th OCT 5:30pm**  
**Ettalong Baptist Church**  
**8 Barrenjoey Rd**

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