



Beautiful flowers, thanks Jane

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 19th March 2026

From The Pastor:

Trust in the Lord, and do not take your eyes off him. God will never force you to follow him. He loves you so much and he will never leave you, but nor will he ever force you to follow him.

Our hearts turn away from the living God when we stubbornly refuse to believe him. If we persist in our unbelief, God will eventually leave us alone in our sin. But God can give us new hearts, new desires, and new spirits (see Ezekiel 36:22–27). To prevent having an unbelieving heart, stay in fellowship with other believers, talk daily about your mutual faith, be aware of the deceitfulness of sin (it attracts but also destroys), and encourage each other with love and concern.

What about loved ones who refuse to believe in the Lord? Love them as God loves them. Pray for them every day. Live for Jesus Christ and be prepared to always speak up for him when the opportunity arises.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Hooper for his faithfulness and hard work representing our church on the Youth Life board for many years. Paul has been treasurer and a board member, but now believes the time is right for him to retire. Paul will finish at the AGM in June. Thank you Paul for your commitment to Youth Life. Thank you to Melanie de Jager, our other Youth Life board member. If you are interested in representing our church on the board of Youth Life, or simply finding out more about Youth Life, please speak with Paul, Melanie or myself. Youth Life is also known as Religious Education Ministries (REM) and supports Scripture Teaching and Chaplaincy in Brisbane Waters Secondary College. Paul and Sheila will continue to volunteer in the Youth Life Warehouse and Op Shop.

Pastor David

9.30am Sunday Morning Service, March 15th 9.30am:

Topic: Do Not Turn Away From The Living God, Bible Passage: Hebrews 3:7-19

Kerrie, Peter and others, will be at the front after the service for anyone who wants prayer.

The service will be livestreamed: <https://youtube.com/live/tWQL2ZEHvRY?feature=share>

'Kid's Church' is on during our 9.30am service. This is a good time for parents to be blessed in the service while the children are having fun learning about God in the next room. All children are welcome!

SHOUT!! Sunday March 22nd from 3.30pm:

Come and join us for Activities and Refreshments, followed by Worship for all the family.

Church Council: Deacons, Elders, Staff and Ministry Leaders Gathering for Prayer and Encouragement - this Sunday:

This Sunday after the 9.30am service is our Church Council meeting. All elders, deacons, staff, and ministry leaders are invited to join us. We will be each sharing briefly about the ministry we are involved in and praying for each other and our ministries. This is also an opportunity to share any plans, special dates or events that might be coming up in the future.

Our Church Council meeting commences at 11am and will finish by 12.30pm.

All welcome to Lunch with Beatrix @ The Everglades, 29th March:

Please join us for lunch at 12 noon next Sunday 29th of March, at the Everglades Country Club, as we welcome Beatrix to our church.

Palm Sunday, Sunday 29th of March:

Thank you to those who have offered Palm branches to decorate the Auditorium for our 9.30am service and the Hill Hall for SHOUT!!

Easter Services:

Thursday 2nd April, 6pm: Service of Shadows – Reading the accounts of the Passion according to the Gospel of Matthew and the Prophet Isaiah.

Good Friday 3rd April 9.30am: Encounter Grace – Luke 23:32-43 (Simulcast on 94.9 Rhema Central Coast)

Easter Sunday 5th April 9.30am: Encounter Redemption – John 20:10-18 (including communion)

Readings and Prayers for Service of Shadows:

Are you able to read a Bible Reading and read a prayer at our Service of Shadows (Tenebrae Service)? Phone or message David Gilchrist on 0448 431 234 or reply to this email or see David before next Sunday.

Women's Breakfast at Daleys Kitchen, Saturday 28th March:

All women are invited to breakfast on Saturday, 28th March at 8.30am at Daleys Kitchen at Daleys Point. The food is fabulous and the venue is lovely. The menu can be seen on their website and they cater for any special dietary requirements. Feel free to invite a friend.

Let Margy know if you would like to come and if you need a lift.

Please RSVP to Margy by 26 March on 0447 431 234.

Name Badges

Janine Arrua has found a supplier for magnetic name badges like the one in the photo below.



Badges cost about \$12 each. Please see Janine Arrua if you would like one.

Of course, the church will continue to provide the sticker name badges for those who prefer those, and for guests. Thank you to Lizzie Gilchrist who sources them for the church from her work.

Paraguay Mission Trip Report:

We thank the Ettalong Baptist Church and the Connect Church in Umina, for all your prayers and support for our endeavours here in Paraguay. Most of our work has been divided amongst 4 different areas:

1. The Christ Redemer Baptist Church in Asuncion, founded by Nelida and her family, where we attended and presented in their services. We also visited their primary school where we presented a talk, sang and gave out small gifts. This school is in the centre of a slum area. The children were delighted to welcome us Aussies. Nelida provided some information that showed where Australia was on the map.

2. Support for the Reyes ministry areas. The Reyes have been Missionary Partners with our church for many years. The whole team spoke at various bible studies and church services. At Nu Hoby Village we gave information sessions regarding health issues and diet and handed out hygiene products to the women and girls. We distributed many gifts to encourage all the people.

It has been a delight to see first-hand the impact of the Reyes ministry. It is so encouraging to see that from nothing, those saved by their ministry have matured into village leaders and church leaders. The Christian influence is now present in the life of so many people. We recognise there have been so many hurdles for the Reyes, and God has worked through them amazingly.

3. Visiting the 3rd of November Church. This is a Church of God in a local village (that was planted on the 3rd of November) where we were able to share an encouraging word and participate in their service. We encouraged them in their walk with the Lord.

4. Purchase Of Supplies. From the funds raised we were able to purchase medical supplies in Paraguay, that we were able to divide between the Reyes and the local village called Nu Hoby Village. These supplies will help set up 2 medical centres in the village. We have also been able to purchase 4 water purifiers to be used by the Reyes and given out as needed. We purchased some food supplies for them, clothes and other supplies for the village.

The Paraguay Mission Team were also financially able to provide for a young missionary couple from the Christ Redemer Baptist Church in Asuncion. This helped them by purchasing a microphone and associated equipment necessary to commence a Christian radio program to nearby villages.

Overall, we praise God:

- For the support given to us spiritually and financially to be able to minister in the Lord's name.
- For all the Lord has done through us, as we have faithfully ministered and served him.
- For Nelida and the Reyes who acted as our interpreters with the local people.
- That all the team presented a Christian message at various times and venues which were well received
- That Reyes and Nelida's family have been amazing in their support of our team.
- The organisation, Days for Girls, donated kits and displayed information, which were well received.

The Reyes have asked me to thank the church for your generosity and support, and for allowing the team to visit their work with the Mbya Guarani peoples.

The team are excited that our Elders, Deacons, and Pastor David have approved an opportunity for Ettalong Baptist Church to invite a young married couple from Paraguay, Junior and Melisa Guerrero, to work as volunteers with our Church for several months. This will help them gain cross culture church experience, which they need as they prepare to become leaders of a Bible Translation program in Paraguay.

Heather, Denise, Nelida, Bruno, Anna, Penny and Jean.



Pastor's Leave:

David will be away on Tuesday and Wednesday the 24th and 25th of March, and will be attending a pastors retreat on Thursday morning the 26th of March.

Newsletter from Clint and Ros Webb:

Please find the latest newsletter from Clint and Ros Webb who live in Lebanon, on the slopes of Mt Hermon. The newsletter is either attached to this newsletter or there are printed copies in the church foyer.

EBC's Prayer Groups, All Welcome:

- **Sunday Mornings 8.45 – 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.
- **Monday mornings 8.30am to 9.30am in Hill Hall.** This prayer gathering is a time of praising the Lord and dedicating the week's ministries and the guidance of the Church to the glory of God.
- **Tuesday Zoom Prayer group.** This is held at 10am. Please see Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.
- **Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain.** Please send your Prayer requests or Praise Points to ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com, this is **available 7 days a week**.

Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain:

If you would like prayer, please send your request to: ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com

Giving:

Our bank details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

You may also give cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box next to the main entrance door in the church auditorium.

Find Important Church Documents on our Website:

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

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

Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact: Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) or Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

Send Your Newsletter Items, Including Photos:

Please send your Newsletter items & photos to: office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au by **12.30pm Wednesdays**.

If you would like a copy of our weekly Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to the address above, with your name and email address.

There are printed copies in the foyer and the newsletter is also posted on our Ettalong Baptist Church Website.

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.

Thanks to those who have sent their photos for the Newsletter, keep them coming please!