

Mainstream



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22nd November, 2015

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." (MATTHEW 5: 43-44)

Is it even appropriate to ask people to pray for perpetrators of evil, when there are countless innocent people suffering under their oppression? We see it as 'more Christian' to be the Good Samaritan and pick up the pieces rather than praying for the people who attacked in the first place. Traditionally and historically, we're not equipped as the Church – we don't know what to do about the bad guys. Prayer in times of crisis has become too messy for our theology and we need a deeper understanding of God's purpose in human history. We should be actively praying for the repentance and "Damascus Road experience" of those committing evil acts. We should always balance our response to evil with grace and truth.

Here are three practical suggestions of how to pray:

1. If you want to pray that they would all perish, instead try praying for justice.

It's so easy to wish that every Islamic extremist would be killed. But rather than pray for their deaths, perhaps instead ask for God's will and justice to be done, trusting that his understanding is greater than ours.

2. If your instinct is to pray for military success, pray instead for peace.

Even Pope Francis has suggested that military action against ISIS could be justified. But rather than focusing our prayer on further violence, petition the Lord for peace, reconciliation and stability.

3. Rather than only praying for Christians to be saved, pray also that members of ISIS would turn to God.

How incredible it would be for radical Muslims to see the witness of the global Church, the testimony of persecuted Christians and encounter the living person of Jesus. Nothing is impossible.

(Adapted from an article from 'Christianity Today')

Welcome

Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall following the morning service.

Today, Sunday, 22nd November

10.00 am

Brendan Moritz

The Story 30

Paul's Final Days

Worship Leader

Michael Waters

Communion Leader

Joshua Cole

6.00 pm

Brendan Moritz

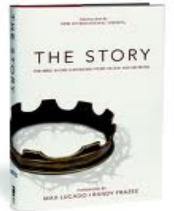
Worship Leader

Joshua Cole

The Story 30

Paul's Final Days

Café Tonight



Next Week, Sunday, 29th November

10.00 am

Andrew Tonkin

&

The Story 31

6.00 pm

The End of Time

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Natalie Moritz is cooking Christmas Lunch again this year in the Church Hall.

There are lists in the foyer for you to mark if you: can donate food items, can assist on Christmas Day, or would like to attend.

(Thank you to those who have already made a generous donation)

If you will be alone at Christmas time or you know of someone who would like to attend, you will be all be made most welcome.



Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL

DUBIOUS DEMOCRACY

I didn't expect to get a lesson in democracy on a hiking trail. There were five of us hiking that day. On a sunny day, the trail would have been spectacular. It climbed steeply out of the valley, snaked alongside an emerald green lake, then up beside a stream cascading down. Father along, the guidebook assured us, was a magnificent waterfall. But this was not a sunny day. The rain came down in squalls. We were cold, wet, and miserable. We stopped by the pond for some soggy lunch. "How many of us want to go on," asked a voice from beneath a dripping poncho, "and how many want to go home?"

The vote was unanimous. We all wanted to go back.

Then I think I said something like, 'it seems like a shame not to see the waterfall, since we're so close. We could leave our packs and be back in 15 minutes.' "You go if you want to," my daughter replied. "I'll wait there with the packs."

So I sprinted off through the trees. Ahead of me, a waterfall plunged down a cliff like a column of white lace. I snapped some photos. When I looked up, I saw that three others had decided to follow me. Only now they had gone on ahead, pushing closer to the falls. One of them didn't stop at the falls. He started struggling up the steep, treacherous trail to the top. The other two followed him. So did I. And so we went to the top. And as we paused there to catch our breath, one of the women asked a penetrating question: "We voted unanimously to go back down and ended up here? Is this how democracy works?"

Yes, unless you have leaders who will take you where you want to go. Over my lifetime, I've had the misfortune of belonging to a variety of organizations where people held meetings. They voted. They made a decision, and then they waited for something to happen. But it didn't because no-one took the initiative to lead.

Sometimes the opposite happens. The leader having gotten out the front, ignores the vote. History is full of examples of leaders who didn't take people where they wanted to go. Some of the worst dictators were originally democratically elected—Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler.

Halfway up the hill, when I caught up with the group, I asked, "Where are you trying to lead us?"

"I'm not trying to lead you anywhere," the person in front said. "Every time I turn around, you're right behind me!" Followers have responsibilities, too.

Family News & Prayer

- Continue to pray for Joan Ferrett, Wally Duke, Marianne Haigh. Joan's operation was very successful last Wednesday. Pray now for healing for her.
- Glenn Bell is celebrating his 70th Birthday next Saturday, 28th November. Happy Birthday Glenn.
- Marj Teague has moved home. She now resides at Oasis Aged Care, 1039 Karadoc Avenue, Irymple.
- There is still a 'lavender' gift parcel in the office with no name attached. Could the giver please let someone know who it is for or collect it, thank you?
- Our congratulations to Rachael Morey (Diggle) as she is being ordained as a Church of Christ minister this weekend in South Australia.

GROCERIES

Our Grocery cupboard is running low on items again.

Please consider purchasing something extra when you are buying groceries.

We need: Long-life milk, small cereal packets (not oats), cans of spaghetti, meals in a can.

Peanut Pals

Our Peanut Pal night is fast approaching. Ladies, how many times have you remembered your Peanut Pal this year? Have you let her know you have been thinking about her? Do you still wish to participate?

Are there any ladies who would like to join in this year? Please see Robyn Hawtin for more information about being a Peanut Pal.

On Sunday, Robyn will be giving out sheets for you to update your Peanut Pal information records.



YOUTH GROUPS

November 27th—29th More information—Josh Cole

IGNITION & XLR8 CAMP FUSION

Make sure you have registered because this is going to be the best one yet.

Mission Update



Forced re-conversions in India

In India, 315 Christians have been forcibly re-converted in Varanasi, the holiest city in Hinduism. Violent attacks against Christians have recently increased and many who have left lives of Hindu worship have been targeted.

Please pray that:

- New Christians who are facing immense pressure would not give up their faith.
- The Hindus targeting Christians, would have their eyes opened to the living God.
- The church in India would continue to grow despite the rise in Hindu nationalism.

Please Note: All church Bank Account Numbers have now changed! When keying in BSB, it may come up with INDUE Ltd BSB, but this is correct. Please change your bank account debits as soon as possible.

Must Say '[Mildura Church of Christ](#)' on both accounts now.

Have you changed your direct deposits yet? Please do this before we close off the NAB Accounts!

This includes the Extend Account!!

GENERAL ACCOUNT

DIRECT DEPOSITS- Mildura Church of Christ

BSB number 703-810 Account Number 05300208

EXTEND ACCOUNT

DIRECT DEPOSITS - Mildura Church of Christ

BSB number 703-810 Account Number 05300270

CHRISTMAS CARDS



For sale in the Library

\$3 for hand-made cards
\$2 for all other cards

ANGEL TREE

Sunday, 29th November

Gifts back by Sunday, 13th December



This year we will be buying Gifts for Meminar, Haven and the Private Hospital cancer patients.

We will also be offering some Angels for sale. These will be sold for a donation, and the money collected will be given to the Base Hospital to buy an ipad for a treatment chair.

The Base Hospital is hoping to get an ipad for each Treatment chair in its oncology ward. These ipads cost approx. \$500 each.

We'd like to help to buy one ipad, and show care for all the patients requiring cancer treatment, rather than individual gifts just for those who require treatment at Christmas time.

Thank you for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	December 4th	Carols at Merbein
Saturday	December 5th	Community Carols in Henderson Park
Sunday	December 13th	Carols by Candlelight
Saturday	December 19th	Carols at Namma

PIGEON HOLES

In the foyer there are some pigeon holes, where you will find, from time to time, someone has left some mail for you. Could everyone keep a check on what's in the pigeon holes as there may be a birthday card, Christmas card or note for you in them.

This Week

Sunday	22nd	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
Monday	23rd	11.00 am	Craft Group
		7.30 pm	Board Meeting
Tuesday	24th	5.30 pm	Adventure Club
Wednesday	25th	9.30 am	Days for Girls Sewing
Friday	27th	6.30 pm	FAFFS
		7.00 pm	Camp Fusion
Saturday	28th	12 noon	Share Group



NOVEMBER

SHARE GROUP



CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP LUNCH

Saturday, 28th November
12 noon for 12.30 pm

Have Fun, Sing Songs, Bring a Friend

Please put your name on the list for catering purposes

F.A.F.F.S.

Family And Friends, Fifties—Sixties

Pizza and Holiday Snaps

Showing some of our holiday photos from 2015
Meeting at Diane And Michael Morrall's home

Friday, 27th November at 6.30 pm.

Michael's cooking us pizza, so RSVP to Diane for numbers



C.W.F.

Next month's Meeting—Thursday, 3rd December

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our planned trip up the Darling on the Wentworth, but we have been able to arrange a visit to the Australian Inland Botanical Gardens for lunch. We are leaving the church at 11.30 am for a train trip around the garden at 12 pm, then lunch afterwards. Cost for the day is \$15 which includes the train trip and lunch. If you have any special dietary requirements, please let Carole know by Sunday, 29th November. Husbands will be most welcome also.

NEXT WEEK, 29th November

10.00 am

Worship Leader
Communion Leader
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Children's Church
Welcome/Reception
Helpers

A. Tonkin
M. Cameron
W. Whitehead
R. Turlan, B. Kiley
R. Fox, B. Kiley, G. Stewart, B. Moritz
C. Waters / J. Armstrong
K. Underwood
E. Gibbs, J. Kelly, K. Thomas, S. Thomas
D. Shields / M. Butler
G. Diggle, C. Meade, J. Renfree, P. Duscher, J. Booysen, J. Wiffen, R. Jackson, N. Cook
L. Homfray, H. Nicholson
J. Bradford, B. Witcombe, R. Witcombe
C. Waters
R. Jackson, C. Armstrong / M. Waters

6.00 pm

Worship Leader
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Reception

A. Tonkin
B. Kiley Prayer Leader -A. Tonkin
N. Moritz, A. Kiley
B. Kiley, B. Herman, B. Moritz, I. Stewart
J. Corrie / P. Norris
K. Underwood
G. Muller ?

After a special exhortation for support of foreign mission, the offering plate was passed. When it was presented to one man, he said to the usher, "I don't believe in missions."

"In that case," whispered the usher, "take something out—it's for the heathen."

A circuit rider, encountering many a meal that needed seasoning, carried with him a tiny bottle of Tabasco sauce. He would put it on the table before him at eating-houses.

A stranger, eyeing the bottle with curiosity, asked permission to try it. He put a liberal quantity on a piece of beef, and ate it. There was a pause.

The stranger (gulping down a glass of water) sputtered, "Say, parson, you preach hell don't you?"

The circuit rider replied, 'I feel it is my duty to remind the wicked that there is retribution beyond the grave.'

The stranger replied, "Anyhow, you're the first preacher I've seen who carries samples!"

A letter to the men's fellowship read:

"All members are requested to bring their wives and one other covered dish to the annual banquet."

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.