

Mainstream



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Andrew Tonkin
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6th December, 2015

ADVENT: WEEK 1

Waiting and Faith Go Hand-In-Hand

What's the longest you've had to wait for something? I imagine almost everyone has a memory of Christmas Eve as a child; squeezing your eyes shut, trying with all your might to go to sleep on Christmas Eve.

Waiting is still difficult. We expect everything to be at our fingertips the moment we have the desire for it. It's a world we're growing into and it's addicting. We live in a world of easy downloads, instantaneous email, on demand and food prepared in a few minutes. Yet God finds ways of making us wait. Waiting and faith go hand-in-hand.

In **Hebrews 11:13** we are reminded that faith involves trust in God's promise even if the promises of God are fulfilled long after we're gone. The writer says, "**These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance ...**"

Advent is about faith and waiting. What are you waiting on God for this year? Remember the years of silence as God's people waited for the Messiah. Take time today, right now, to reflect on the fact that God's timing is quite different from ours. Are you willing to plant faith and wait upon God? Nothing seems to be appearing on the horizon today, but just wait! God always keeps his promises, even to those who have little faith. Just wait.

ANDREW TONKIN



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, 6th December

10.00 am

Andrew Tonkin

A Heart For Christmas

Worship Leader

Ruth Jackson

Communion Leader

Bruce Eaton

6.00 pm

Andrew Tonkin

Worship Leader

Isaac Fabich

A Heart For Christmas

Café Tonight

Next Week, Sunday, 13th December

10.00 am

Andrew Tonkin

&

6.00 pm

Carols by Candlelight

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



SUNDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

Food stalls open at 6.30 pm

Run by local Christian Fellowships

Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL



Family News & Prayer



- Continue to pray for Joan Ferrett, Wally Duke, Marianne Haigh.
Pray for Ian Mansell who has been in hospital for a couple of weeks.
Pray for healing for Joan as she leaves hospital.
Pray for Marj Teague who had a recent fall.

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.

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.



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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

For sale in the Library
\$3 for hand-made cards
\$2 for all other cards



Mission Update



Metamorphosis—Ruth Perkins

As I've travelled I've been overwhelmed by people's generosity, not only in their hospitality, but in gifts to help me and the project. I was also reminded of God's generosity and variety in creation.

Meanwhile, the south-eastern corner of Niger continues to struggle with attempts by terrorists to take over villages there. Many M's in the area are beginning to show interest in Christianity as they see the atrocities of other M's and the graciousness of Christians. New believers, however, are often persecuted. Whilst the western world is horrified by the recent attacks in Paris, the reality is that in Nigeria and many other parts of the world, such things are daily occurrences.

Praise God that Ashley, our long-awaited office manager, arrived in Niger in August and has been settling into life in Niger. She has been able to do a little language study, but when I return to Niger at the end of February, I hope to free her up to do more. I have been asked when I return to take on a part time administrative responsibility for SIM Niger. I am still trying to understand exactly what the position involves and how much time it would take, before weighing up if I have the gifts, skills and time to do it. During the farming season, when I am not teaching in the villages, it would probably be quite feasible, but will it be a different story when I am teaching? I need to better understand the situation and be able to hear what God is saying.

You can donate to SIM ministries and Ruth Perkins by donating to Faith Promise for Missions.

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

This Week

Sunday	6th	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
Sunday	13th	7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight



DECEMBER

ANGEL TREE

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

Sunday December 13th Carols by Candlelight
 Saturday December 19th Carols at Namma
 Monday December 21st Peanut Pal Night

Thursday December 24th Christmas Eve Services
 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm

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.

NEXT WEEK, 13th December

*Have Yourself
 A Merry
 Little Christmas*

10.00 am

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

J. Cole
 I. Fabich
 M. Cameron
 K. Hawtin, K. Kiley, A. Thorne
 A. Thorne, I. Fabich, G. Stewart, B. Moritz
 T. Eaton / J. Armstrong
 W. Whitehead
 S. Armstrong, R. Jemmeson, M. Gardner, J. Tonkin
 M. King / M. Cox
 J. Bradford, G. Diggle, P. Duscher, J. Booyesen, I. Cross,
 J. Wiffen, B. Eaton, P. Leng
 J. Kelly, A. Beasy
 K. Underwood, G. Beruldsen, J. Purcell
 A. Munro
 P. Leng, R. Hawtin / N. Underwood, R. Witcombe

6.30 pm

Carols by Candlelight

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, the gasped, "Didn't you get my email?"

A stingy man went Christmas shopping, but everything he saw was too expensive except a \$50 jug that was on sale for \$2, because the handle had been broken off. He bought it and had the sales assistant mail it so that his friend would think that he had paid \$50 for it and that it had been broken in the mail.

A week after Christmas he received a thank you note from his friend.

"Thank you for the lovely jug," his letter read. "It was so nice of you to wrap each piece separately."

A four year old boy was asked to give thanks before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation.

He began his prayer, thanked God for all his friends, naming them one by one.

The he thanked God for Mummy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the gravy, the cranberry sauce, the mince pies, the Christmas pudding, even the brandy butter.

Then he paused, and everyone waited. After a long silence,

the young boy looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank you', that would suffice.