

Mainstream



Church Office:
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MILDURA
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Ministers:
Andrew Tonkin
Joshua Cole

13th December, 2015

Every detail of the Christmas story tells us that Mary and Joseph endured more than their fair share of trials as they waited for the arrival of Jesus. Mary left town. Joseph refused to reject her on the basis of an angelic dream. We can just hear the neighbours gossip about the scandalous events of Mary's pregnancy. But they prepared and endured it all to be on a much greater mission than any carpenter's family could imagine.

As you prepare for Christmas and all God has in store for you in the New Year, be challenged to prepare for all that's in store in the following ways:

Eliminate distractions. Don't allow the stress of the Christmas season to distract you from what really is important. Spend more time with the family and less time at Centro. Simplify your life. Be still and listen to God's voice. "Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:2a).

Notice God's hand. Reflect on this past year. Perhaps you, like many, have faced financial difficulty or job stress. Perhaps this year has been a time of suffering through ill health or relationship disasters. How has God carried you through all these things? Remember the words of Joseph in the Old Testament: "You planned evil against me; God planned it for good." (Genesis 50:20).

Discern God's will. Take time to ask God in prayer to give you direction. "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Unite in a mission. Mary and Joseph undertook an amazing mission on the way to Bethlehem. It certainly must have strengthened their bond as they conquered many obstacles and challenges. There's nothing more powerful than a couple, a family, or a church rallying around a cause.

Whenever we're on mission with God like Joseph and Mary were as they waited for the birth of Jesus, we have to prepare.

ANDREW TONKIN

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, 13th December

10.00 am

Joshua Cole

Christmas

Worship Leader

Isaac Fabich

Communion Leader

Matthew Cameron

6.00 pm

Carols by Candlelight

Next Week, Sunday, 20th December

10.00 am

Andrew Tonkin

&

6.00 pm

Andrew Tonkin

Café Tonight

TONIGHT

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

Food stalls open at 6.30 pm

Run by local Christian Fellowships

*At the Ornamental Lakes and
Nowingi Soundshell*



Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL



Family News & Prayer



- Continue to pray for Joan Ferrett, Wally Duke, Marianne Haigh, Ian Mansell, Marj Teague
Pray for Nancy McAllister who has had a slight stroke and for Bob McAllister who had a fall in Woolworths.
- Joan and Denis Ferrett would like to say “thank you” to all our dear friends for their prayers and good wishes while Joan has been in hospital, and to let you know that she is well on the mend again.
- **FOR SALE:**
Two “lift” chairs. Green patterned fabric in good condition. \$500 each.
Phone Heather on 5025 2055.

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.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

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



Mission Update



HOPE FOR EMMANUEL

Emmanuel Children's Program was started because many children lost families in the long wars with the north—not just their parents but their whole families. Last year, because of the internal conflict in South Sudan, the number of children without families at Emmanuel swelled from 250 to 410. Many families in South Sudan have extra children from relatives who have been killed.

The Emmanuel project enables families to look after additional children who are not related, covering schooling and one meal a day. It has been a miracle of God's grace to see the change in the children over the last four years. The first photos that came back to Australia were of shy, sad, malnourished children who were hanging on to life. In 2012, when a team from GMP visited, there were smiles and an amazing marching parade with lots of formal speeches. In 2014, the children put on exhibition soccer and volley ball matches to welcome us. The principal joined in the volleyball and the two school captains made welcome speeches. The mood has changed for the better. The school pattern has settled. We are now raising funds to construct new buildings for the school, which will help transition the school from an Under Tree School to a real school. Buildings mean greater recognition by the government and international agencies. We can then negotiate with the government asking that they take over the wages of the teachers, and that the World Food Program covers feeding the children, once the buildings are complete. There is hope and a future for Emmanuel!

Colin Scott
COCOA Director

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	13th	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
		7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Monday	14th	11.00 am	Craft Christmas
		12 noon	Administration Meeting
		6.30 pm	Board Christmas Tea
Wednesday	16th	6.30 pm	FAFFS Christmas Tea
Sunday	19th		Carols at Namma



DECEMBER

ANGEL TREE

Gifts due back today Sunday, 13th December

This year we have asked for Gifts for Meminar, Haven and the Private Hospital cancer patients.

The Angels for sale for the purchase of an ipad for a treatment chair at the Mildura Base Hospital has exceeded the \$500 amount needed to purchase one. Thank you for your wonderful support.



PEANUT PAL NIGHT

Next Monday night, 21st December at 7.30 pm is our big Reveal Night when we come together to celebrate Christmas and learn who was our Peanut Pal this year. Please bring a gift to the value of \$10 for your Peanut Pal and a gold coin donation for the gifts we buy for the Kmart Wishing Tree. A small plate of supper too please. More information, contact Robyn Hawtin.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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, 20th December

10.00 am

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

Crèche

Cuppa

Communion Prep.

Cleaning / Grounds

6.30 pm

Worship Leader
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Reception
Cafe

A. Tonkin
M. Cameron
W. Whitehead Prayer R. Jackson
D. Ferrett, K. Tonkin, B. Kiley
C. Beasy, E. Tonkin, B. Kiley, J. Tonkin
E. Moore / B. Moritz
K. Underwood
No Adventure Sunday
J. Ferrett / J. Booyesen
W. Duke, C. Meade, M. Straub, P. Duscher, H. Atkins,
J. Wiffen, C. Staley (reader), B. Eaton
M. Beardsmore, H. Nicholson
B. Witcombe, R. Witcombe, Z. Stewart
R. Jackson
R. Jackson & C. Armstrong / W. Duke & R. Barthelson

A. Tonkin

J. Cole

S. Armstrong, A. Alabaster, A. Gray

J. Waters, I. Fabich, J. Tonkin

T. Eaton / P. Norris

K. Underwood

J. Kelly

N. Moritz, W. Cochrane, K. Moritz, B. Moritz



Myra was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new party dress. In the dress shop she asked, "May I try on that dress in the window, please?" "Certainly not, madam," responded the salesgirl. "You'll have to use the fitting room."

On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for Christmas. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present should be. Unable to decide, Nathan entered the cosmetic section of the department store and asked the salesgirl for some suggestions.

"How about some perfume?" she asked as she picked up a bottle costing \$75.

"Too expensive," muttered Nathan. The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for \$50. "Oh, dear, no," Nathan groaned. Growing rather annoyed at Nathan's meanness, the salesgirl brought out a tiny \$10 bottle and offered it to him. Nathan became really agitated, "What I mean," he whined, "is I'd like to see something really cheap."

So the salesgirl handed him a mirror.

Don't accept your dog's
admiration as
conclusive evidence
that you are wonderful.

Ann Landers