

**10.00 am**

Worship Leader J. Cole  
 Communion Leader R. Hawtin Prayer Leader H. Atkins  
 Children's Church J. Cooke  
 Singers R. Fox, R. Jackson  
 Band M. Burrow, R. Jemmeson, I. Fabich  
 Projector/ Sound D. Kelly / J. Armstrong  
 Officer on Duty B. Moritz  
 Welcome/Reception D. Shields / M. Butler  
 Helpers M. Straub, L. Biggs, H. Atkins, I. Cross, P. Leng,  
 L. Arnold, W. Whitehead, G. Diggle

Crèche J. Kelly  
 Cuppa N. Cook, K. Underwood  
 Communion Prep. A. Munro  
 Flowers / Cleaning R. Hawtin, P. Leng  
 Grounds B. Eaton, G. Hughes

**6.00 pm**

Worship Leader A. Tonkin  
 Communion Leader J. Cole  
 Singers M. Waters  
 Band S. Armstrong, M. Burrow  
 Project / Sound A. Alabaster, M. Gardener, J. Waters, B. Kiley, I. Stewart  
 Officer on Duty J. Cole? / P. Norris  
 Reception J. Kelly  
 Crèche G. Muller  
 ?

**Next Week 22nd December****The Advent Wreath**

Four weeks before Christmas, Reverend Johnson of Christ Lutheran was leading a children's service featuring an Advent wreath. He had told them what the three purple candles represented, then asked, "Does anyone know what the pink one means?" No-one answered. Finally, little Sara's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?"

**Christmas Nuts**

A pastor got this note accompanying a box of Christmas goodies, addressed to him and his wife, from elderly Sister Rose Mary.

*Dear Pastor,*

*Knowing that you do not eat sweets, I am sending the candy to your wife - and nuts to you.*



# Mainstream

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Church Office:  
 Cnr Deakin Ave.  
 & Tenth St.  
 Box 2797  
 MILDURA  
 3502  
 Ph. 5023 1201

Minister:  
 Andrew Tonkin

8th December, 2013

This coming Saturday evening a number of people from our Church will be heading over to Dareton to run our 'Carols at Nama' outreach. I am so excited about this missional event where we are seeking to share the Christmas message with the indigenous people living at the Namatjira Ave area. We will have 2 bands playing Christmas carols, face painting, pony rides, jumping castles, a free BBQ and more. We are seeking to connect with the people and share with them the incredible love that God has for each and every one of them.

As I have shared what we are doing with a number of people from outside our Church I have regularly got back a reply that has been something like, "Nama? Why in the world would you want to go there?" Unfortunately this has been a prevailing attitude for many years. Nama is widely considered to be a place full of drunkenness and violence. It is a place no one ever wants to go. Rumours have spread for years about emergency services afraid of going there without a police escort. Some people have told me that we are mad for going to Nama. Some have said to me, "Well, good luck, but you would never get me going there."

When people have responded to me in a negative way regarding our Carols at Nama it has made me think about Jesus coming to this earth. It has made me imagine Jesus in heaven, surrounded by angels, just before he left glory to be born into this world. I wonder if any angels said to him, "The earth? Why would you ever want to go to the earth? That place is full of violence and immorality. The people have been given chance after chance and they just keep turning their back on your father and embracing sin. Good luck Jesus, but you would never get me going there."

Well praise God that Jesus did come to this earth, live in human flesh, feel the struggles and pain of humanity and bear all our sin on the cross. If Jesus had remained in glory then we would all still be lost in our sin. Jesus has now commanded each and every one of us to 'GO!' And so we have chosen to go to Nama and tell the people of the wonderful Saviour called Jesus. Will you please pray for the Carols at Nama? Pray that God's love will shine and the people of Nama and Dareton will be greatly blessed.

**ANDREW**

# 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 following the morning service.

## Today, Sunday 8th December

10.00am Andrew Tonkin  
**Christmas**  
Worship Leader Brendan Moritz  
Communion Leader Craig Beasy

6.00 pm Andrew Tonkin  
**Christmas**  
Worship Leader Brendan Kiley  
Communion Leader Bruce Eaton

## Next Week, Sunday, 15th December

10.00 am Andrew Tonkin  
&  
6.00 pm *Carols by Candlelight*

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Presented by Mildura District Chaplaincy  
At Nowingi Place

Sunday, December 15th  
Program commences at 7.15 pm  
Food and drinks available from 6.00 pm.



# Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL

## This Week

Sunday	8th	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.30 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7FM
Monday	9th	12 noon	Craft
Thursday	12th	11.45 am	C.W.F.
Friday	13th	7.30 pm	Youth Groups
Saturday	14th	6.00 pm	Nama Carols



# DECEMBER

## **Am I your Christmas?**

*Continued..*

'I've come to thank you, to tell you that I love you, and to thank God for the love in you that taught me to love him.'

Dark brown eyes gazed into faded blue eyes.

'Are you my Christmas?' he whispered gently.

Of course!' she answered.

'Am I your Christmas?'

## **C.W.F**

Just a reminder that our Christmas meeting is next Thursday, the 12th December at the home of Andrew and Kylie Tonkin. We will meet at the Church at 11.45 am and leave at 12 noon. Remember to bring a plate to share, a chair and your husband.



## **PEANUT PAL**

Next Monday, the 16th, is the night we find out who our Peanut Pal has been for the last year. As usual, please bring a small gift for your Peanut Pal and a small plate of supper. We would also ask for a gold coin donation for the Kmart Christmas Tree.

If you haven't returned your new information, or haven't contacted Robyn to tell her you don't want to continue, you need to do that today. If you are new to our church family and a lady and would like to know more about how you can be a part of caring for another lady in the church for a year, then please see Robyn.

## AM I YOUR CHRISTMAS?

A little boy stood stiffly gripping the iron rails of the bed. In spite of Christmas decorations the room looked drab and deserted. Around his neck hung a crude sign "I'm your Christmas." Suddenly he began to shake the rail in fury. Tears ran down his face and angry sobs and incoherent words filled the room. 'Christopher.. Christopher...what's wrong? Protested the young nurse. 'You said somebody would come for me. You said I was someone's Christmas.' He looked wildly around. 'But they didn't come. They came for all the others...why didn't someone come for me?' It was hard to distinguish the words spoken with a cleft palate, but the nurse was used to him. Putting her arms around him she rocked him gently. 'Somebody will come. I know they will. I've asked God to send you someone.' Dark eyes looked tearfully at her. 'Are you sure, nurse?' She nodded. 'Yes, I'm sure,' she said as the door opened behind her.

In the foyer of the home a troubled Matron was talking to Annie Mears. 'Miss Mears - are you quite sure you want this child for Christmas?' she asked. 'Quite sure,' said Annie signing the form with work-roughened hands. 'Christopher isn't easy to deal with, you know. As well as his other problems, the cleft palate makes him difficult to understand.' 'Matron - it's Christmas. Christmas is a time for sharing. Besides, I've prayed.' Matron sighed. A nice woman, but so impractical... one needed more than prayer in the case of this child. It wouldn't work but at least Miss Mears couldn't say she hadn't been warned. 'Come this way,' she said. Christopher and Annie Mears gazed at each other for a long moment. Then with a sudden gesture the child grasped the cardboard sign around his neck and thrust it at her. 'Am I your Christmas?' he asked. The words were incoherent, but Annie seemed to understand at once. Firmly she grasped the sign and hung it around her neck. 'Of course you're my Christmas', she answered warmly. Wonder filled the small boy's face. 'Am I your Christmas' asked Annie. 'Yes, yes' he shouted excitedly. 'Come on then, we're going home!' said Annie Mears. Christmas Eve, eighteen years later, Annie sat crocheting beside the Christmas tree. A tall young man in uniform smiled at her from the photo frame nearby. Christopher, wounded in action and a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam. Would she ever see him again? The doctors had told her she didn't have long to live. Yet, in spite of the doctor's verdict, in spite of having no news of Christopher, she knew that she would know joy this Christmas. Feeling weary, she put aside her work and gently slept...

'I'm your Christmas' She was dreaming, of course. The sign being held before her eyes widened. It was real and so were the hands holding it. 'Christopher!' Two strong arms wrapped around her and a voice said lovingly "My Christmas!"

He told her how he had escaped and made his way home and of the long months behind barbed wire when he's had time to think'

'I remember the screaming tantrums you endured... the times I ran away from school... the back-breaking years when you worked to earn money for the operation on my mouth... the way you struggled to put me through college.

## ANGEL TREE

The Women's Ministry Team is again asking you to buy a gift for the Angel Tree this year. All gifts will be given to women and children in the Women's Refuge or the men and women in the Hospitals' Chemotherapy Program.

Please take an angel from the tree and attach it securely to your purchased gift for the person described. The gifts need to be around \$10 each.

All gifts are to be returned to the Church on or before Sunday, 15th December .

Gift suggestions are on the notice board.





# Family News & Prayer



- \* "Thank you for your gifts, cards and prayers for our beautiful baby girl, Libby Rose Giddings"- from Michelle and Danielle Giddings.
- \* Our sympathy is expressed to the Armstrong family as they mourn the death of Charlotte's mother last Monday in Wollongong.
- \* Congratulations to Alys Beasy who was honoured last Thursday for the work done by Doug and Alys the year Doug was Rotary District Governor.
- \* **Do you have Mail to collect? Please check the pigeon holes today.**

Max Lucado's

## ***THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE***

A beautiful new Christmas film that is coming to the cinemas on 5th December. It is based on Max Lucado's book and set in the English countryside in a small town called Gladbury. See the film on the opening weekend.



**Free Christmas Day Lunch**  
**12 - 2 pm**



Christmas Day lunch is on again this year, and open to all who might be on their own for Christmas. Names can be placed on the sheet provided in the foyer. Please Take a ticket for each person you have written on the list.

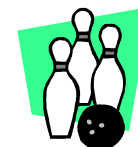
There is also a sheet for anyone to place their name on, to help out or provide items for the lunch. Any financial assistance toward the cost of the meal would also be greatly appreciated.

**RSVP: 19th December**

## Youth Groups

**Friday, December 13th**

**7.30pm Until 9.30**



**IGNITION & XLR8**

***Ten Pin Bowling***

**King's Avenue**

### Dates for your Diary

December 9	Board Break-up
December 10	Adv. Club leaders
December 13	Youth Group Break-up
December 14	Carols at Namma
December 15	Chaplaincy Carols
December 16	Peanut Pal Night
December 25	Christmas Lunch



Since 1984, PNC Financial Services Group has used a 'Christmas Price Index' to calculate the cost of the items mentioned in the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". The price tag for 2012 was \$25,431.18; an increase of \$1168 over 2011. For more information go to [www.PNCChristmasPriceindex.com](http://www.PNCChristmasPriceindex.com)

*I auditioned for the role of an angel in the Nativity play at school. I didn't get it. I auditioned for Mary; didn't get it. So I made up the character of the sheep who sat next to baby Jesus.*

*-Nicole Kidman*

