

April 2020 | Monthly Newsletter of Lilydale Baptist Church

the church **Messenger**

A Community of People who Worship, Love, Serve and Discover Jesus Together



For Pastoral Care and Prayer Support

please contact Pastor Stewart
on 0402 287 720

For Church Family Prayer Support

contact Peter or Fiona McLeod
on 5967 2755 (AH) or
Fiona 0427 682 301

For Email Prayer Chain requests

please email
prayer@lb.org.au



Church Information...

Church Office

2/28 John Street Lilydale. 9735 2233
Email: office@lb.org.au
Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm

The Mustard Tree Shop & Café

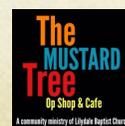
3/28 John Street Lilydale. 9735 3500
Mon-Fri 10am-3pm Sat 10am-1pm

Online Giving

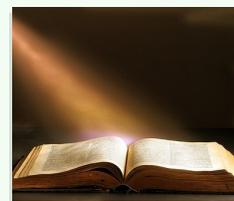
Lilydale Baptist Church General Fund
BSB: 704 922 Account: 100007931
Lilydale Baptist Church Mission Fund
BSB: 704 922 Account: 100007924
Mustard Tree Welfare
BSB: 704 922 Account: 100008629



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In the presence of God

In last month's newsletter, the cover article drew our attention to the words of the opening verses of Psalm 103. Let me remind you of those words,

Let all that I am praise the Lord;

with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

Let all that I am praise the Lord;

may I never forget the good things He does for me.

The article drew attention to the central nature of worship being praising God. I wrote, Psalm 103 goes on to identify key points for which David praises God. He forgives all our sins, heals our diseases, redeems us from death, crowns us with love and tender mercies, renews our strength, reveals Himself to us. He is compassionate, merciful, slow to anger, will not constantly accuse us, will not remain angry with us, His love for us is unending, compassionate, tender, knows us intimately and still loves us

Nothing has changed since last month! You might be thinking, Stewart what on earth are you saying? Haven't you seen the news? Read a newspaper or an online article or two? Everything has changed in the last month, from international travel to having a coffee at the local café. We can't gather with friends, family, at church and on and on you might go. And of course, you are right, the world around us has been turned upside.

We have been cut off from each other, no not really! We can email, phone, text, write (an old-fashioned letter), Facebook and a myriad of other opportunities are at our disposal to connect and remain connected. And we certainly have not been cut off from God.

This season, and it is only a season, will pass. Forgive me if that sounds a little dismissive. In the midst of this moment there will be challenges, sadness and pain as we navigate the moment. But the reality is, our hope is not centred on today but on a future, which will be perfect in every way.

In a great little book by Max Lucado, titled *Before Amen*, he encourages us to come into God's presence as excited children in the presence of a loving father. He takes the Lord's Prayer and condenses it in to just a few lines, Father, you are good. I need your help. They need your help. Thank you. In Jesus name. Amen. He explains how we can use this model; the prayer Jesus gave his disciples to give thanks, pray for ourselves and pray for others. He calls it a pocket prayer. Not that we need to pray it all at once, but we can use parts of it throughout the day

I have already heard wonderful and encouraging stories from some Lilydale folk about how they are finding a quietness and closeness in the presence of God at this time. In their prayers, in their Bible reading and other ways, they sense God is close, sustaining them and strengthening their faith. May this be your experience and the experience of your family as you draw close and dwell in the presence of God.

Pastor Stewart

LBC Ministries...



Study of the Old Testament

Saturday @ 8am
in the Fellowship Hall

This Breakfast/Bible Study is part of a series of informal, interactive studies for men in the historical books of the Old Testament. BYO Bible and a healthy appetite for breakfast. RSVP for breakfast to Bruce - 0419 501 528 or Gordon - 0412 349 886 (in recess)



BLINGG Craft (in recess)

First Thursday of the month 7.30pm
in the fellowship room

LBC Gardening Group

The LBC Gardening Group is a team of people who are interested in helping with the care and upkeep of our church property. We meet on the second Saturday of the month 9.00-12.00. Morning tea is provided and lots of fun guaranteed.

Please speak with either Vicki or Jenny if you are interested or just come along with some tools, gloves and a vision for a much improved property. (In recess)



If you are interested in joining a group please speak with Pastor Stewart.



You can listen to past sermons on either our church website (www.lb.org.au) or via the link shared on Facebook

Lilydale Baptist Church Privacy Collection Notice:

Personal information provided by you and collected by Lilydale Baptist Church will be used in conformity with our Privacy Policy, which can be found at (www.lb.org.au) or a copy can be obtained from the church office.

In Action – **Prayer** on the move for God!

Every second Monday night

@ 7.30pm there is a prayer group in the home of Luke and Bec Williams. This group is for the express purpose of praying for the needs of our Church family and the direction and vision of the Church. If you are interested please contact the church office for details . 9735 2233

“Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything by prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6.



Update : from Graeme & Dawn Taylor

Dear Friends,

We want to take this opportunity that we have been given to thank you very much for your prayers for us particularly from Wednesday to Friday last week when we were travelling home.

There were many challenges before us but you and many others prayed and God answered, for which we are very grateful. To Him goes all the glory for what He did in enabling us to make this journey and even to arrive home earlier than we were expecting.

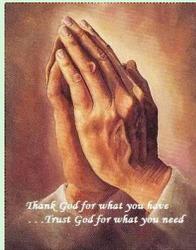
Just to mention a couple of answers to your prayers:

- we had been told that we wouldn't have a hope of crossing the border from Lesotho into South Africa with Dawn having a British passport – God gave Graeme courage to remain firm, insistent and diplomatic during the fifteen minute nerve-racking interaction with the immigration officer until he put an entry stamp into both of our passports

- we were kept safe when one of the back tyres of the vehicle in which we were travelling to Johannesburg at the legal speed of 120 kph blew out

We have appreciated phone calls, visits through the window and parcels of groceries from those who have been caring for us.

Many thanks,
Graeme and Dawn



Prayer & Praise Points

Praise that Jenny McInnes is recovering at home after her operation last week.

Pray for Joy McMorris, Dorothy Serpell, Malcolm & Val Wraight, They are all in need of prayer at this time, pray for pain relief, comfort and God's peace especially during these difficult times.

Pray for our Church as a whole and rejoice that we can keep in touch through various means, and encourage and support each other .



Make & Mingle

It's about fellowship and support. Its a great time of sharing and talking. So if your just wanting to sit, talk and share come to the church on Thursday morning, 9.30 - 12.00, and "mingle". **You can of course also bring along your craft!!**
(in recess)

“For the life of the body is in it's blood, and I have given you the blood on the alter to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible”

Leviticus 17:11

All things Mustard Tree...

Closure of The Mustard Tree

Due to the escalating risk posed by COVID-19 (Coronavirus), The Mustard Tree will be closed until further notice. We are doing this for the safety and wellbeing of our customers, staff and volunteers.

This is a preventative measure only and there are currently no cases of Coronavirus at The Mustard Tree.

We will be keeping Foodbank open for as long as possible. Appointments for food assistance can be made by phoning 9735 3500



Apple and Ginger Cake



Hummingbird Cake



Berry Crumble Cake



A Word from the Admin Staff:

Hoping every one is okay and practicing all the isolation rules, we are keeping the office open at the moment, the hours are Monday—Thursday 9am—3pm.

Please keep up dated with our weekly newsletter which is sent out each Thursday and our new LBC Connections, which will be sent out each Saturday and has our links to the Sermon and input from our Worship Leaders, with songs from the Youtube link and bible reading and prayer points all put together so we can celebrate church at home together but differently.

Also we have our Zoom link up, the instructions to set up are on the LBC website, (resource page) so we can connect with prayer meetings et c. More info about this will be in our weekly newsletter.

If you are having any problems please don't hesitate to ring the office and we will be able to assist you.

If you have any prayer requests please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Stewart, our Elders or the Office and we can assist you in putting those prayer requests out for you.

As we seek to stay in touch and connected as a church, remember that everyone is only a phone call away, and if you need to talk, please pick up your phone. If you need help in anyway, or you are unwell please do not hesitate, to let us know. We are still a church family, and we are here for each other during this difficult time.

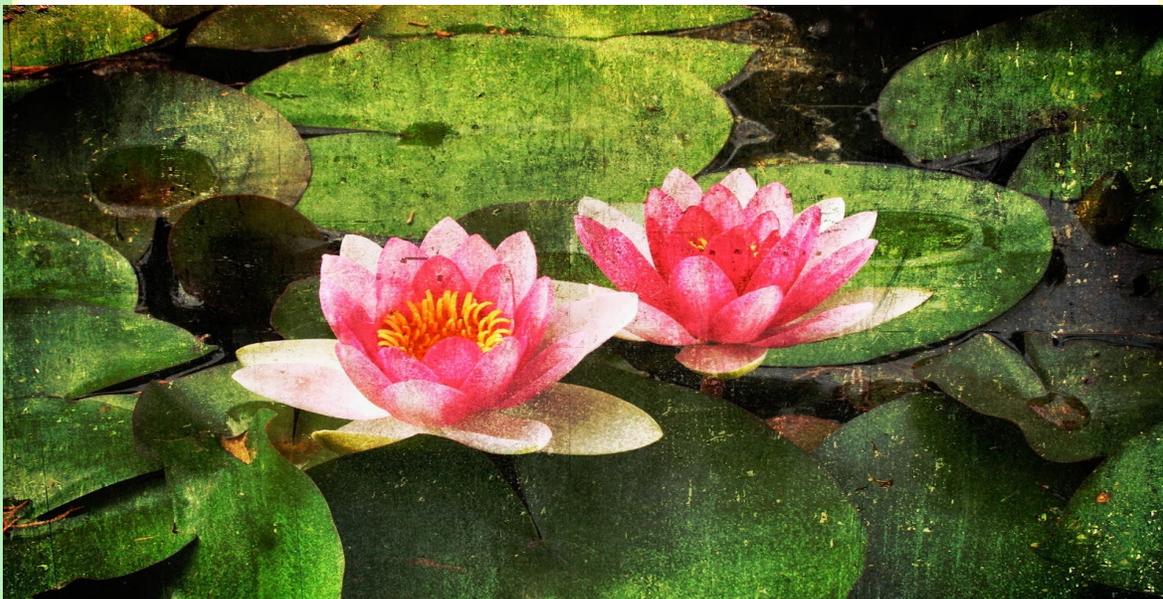
We pray that you all stay safe and well, and at least two arms length apart from each other.

Blessings

Jenny & Vicki



*My God is
my refuge
and my
fortress,
My God,
in Him I
will trust.
Psalm
91:2*



Getting Motivated for Missions

MISSION



matters

How can they hear about Him (Jesus) unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14

K PEOPLE David & Eliza



K PEOPLE Ben & Petra



Please continue to uphold Ben & Petra and their children in prayer.

K PEOPLE of the Silk Road

On the weekend, **David and Eliza's** neighbour went into labour and the family asked if David would drive her to the hospital. In the end this wasn't needed, and David and Eliza stayed back with their neighbour's relatives and took the opportunity to pray with them for a safe delivery and health baby. The next night, David and Eliza were invited to a dinner with the family. On previous occasions when they had shared anything related to their faith, this family had not been particularly open to the conversation. However, at the dinner, the family shared how grateful they were for the prayer and David's willingness to drive to the hospital if needed

For Prayer:

- Thankfulness for the opportunity David and Eliza had to show practical support and genuine care to their neighbours
- That the coming weeks and months will bring further opportunity for faith conversations and relationship building with this family



WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Michael & Charlotte Corden
(Melora & Alexis)
Torres Strait (based in Cairns)

Pray for Michael as he continues to do his translation work, and also remember Charlotte and Melora & Alexis who all have illnesses and require medical assistance at various times.

Pray for God's healing hand on all of them, that they will all be protected from the Corona Virus especially as they are probably a little more vulnerable than most due to their medical conditions.

Pray for the whole family as they seek to serve him.

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POWER TO CHANGE

**Dave & Judy Huddleston
(Tim, Liam & Caitlin) -
Deputy National Director
& Member Services
Leader**



Praise and thanks for...

The arrival of Autumn - this season is always welcome. Dave is thankful he can continue to embrace the great outdoors through regular weekend hikes.

The recent National Leadership Team residential, hosted in Kallista. Give thanks for God's guidance, for unity and for great fellowship as we discussed various important topics and needs.

After a hectic start to the year, Judy and Dave appreciated a short break, relaxing in Torquay over the long weekend.

Pray for God's wisdom and patience in navigating the challenges and opportunities of COVID-19

Our family – coping with some significant adjustments and some uncertainties around studies, schedules and part-time employment. For effective communication and support for one another.

Power to Change National Office – the Mulgrave office is currently remaining open with some team members now working from home. Dave is continuing to commute most days.

National Crisis Response Team (Dave, Pam, Amanda and Stacey) – may God direct us, may we have access to accurate information and may He help us to provide the essential communication and direction needed across Power to Change. Please pray for peace and protection of all team members.

Pray for the development and rollout of creative digital initiatives to share the love and hope of Jesus amongst students and families.

Dave & Judy

Getting Motivated for Missions

MISSION



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JEWELS OF HOPE— Lesotho Dawn Taylor Australian Marketing Manager

Praise that:

- the long-awaited parcel of jewellery has arrived intact and in good condition

God performed miracle after miracle to bring us home safely and well

Pray for:

- Dawn as she seeks to do all that there wasn't time to do in Lesotho (with having to leave early) using technology.

The Basotho people in the light of the corona virus – they have no means of testing for it and the already overcrowded health system would not be able to cope if the pandemic reaches them.

Thank you,

Dawn

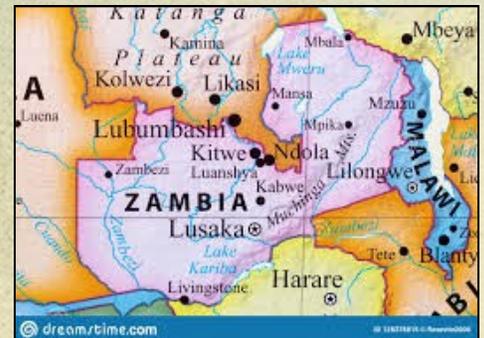


Dickson & Jennifer Chilele BAPTIST UNION Zambia

Dickson continues to study at the Central Africa Baptist Seminary. Our support of the work in Zambia has been co—ordinated by Keith Gallagher who has just retired after 48 years of missionary service with Global interaction. We thank God for men like Keith as they have faithfully served the Lord in cross cultural mission.

1 Chronicles 16:24

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”



Isaiah 6:8-9

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Getting Motivated for Missions

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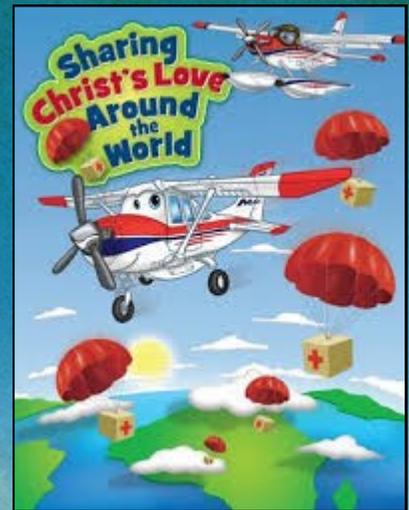


matters

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**MAF—MISSION
AVIATION
FELLOWSHIP**
**Marcus and Julie
Grey – Chief Pilot
and Home Support**



Praise:

Prayer and Praise:

*Marcus is back up north at the Training Centre, with lots of tests scheduled for him to conduct over the next couple of weeks. Please pray for him and all his students /pilots. For good health and safety.

*Pray for the Timor team at this time!

*Pray for the vulnerable and sick.

*Praise God that the Church is not a building and God is still on the Throne!!

Thanks for your love, support and prayers.

Julie and Marcus



**MAF PILOT AND
HOME SUPPORT**
**David and Jen Pett
(Jonathon)**

Praise:

- We are thankful that Graham's health has improved but please pray for his work situation - he has lost his weekly casual work because the conference centre has shut down.
 - Please pray for Jonathan who is under greater work pressure due to the increased reliance on IT and telecoms, and supporting local medical centres. His wedding arrangements for August are now uncertain.
 - Please uphold our UK families and aged Mums who are now in lengthy isolation.
 - Please pray for MAF staff around the world separated from family and living in locations where health care, security and stability are fragile.
- Please pray for wisdom and protection so that MAF aircraft and staff do not transmit the virus but find appropriate means to continue serving remote and vulnerable people.
God bless,

Getting Motivated for Missions

SOLOMON ISLANDS Eric and Jemima Maefonea (Josiah, Amos, Erima & Vicki)



Pray for:

Please remember Eric and Jemima at this particular time as they seek to serve and honor God amidst the difficulties that we are all facing, and how that looks for them in their country.

Pray for their protection and that they and their family will be kept well and safe.



OVERSEAS MISSION FELLOWSHIP Simon and Meg Crittle (Melanie) Japanese Diaspora Ministry Melbourne OMF International



Simon and Meg Crittle, OMF International. Japanese Diaspora Returnee Ministries. As you can imagine, the social restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic are having a significant impact on our regular ministries, which rely considerably on building relationships through social contact. Pray for God's guidance in responding creatively to the challenges of the situation.

- We will be using Skype video calling for some of our individual English lessons, and also to re-connect with Japanese families who have returned to Japan. Pray that in this time of uncertainty, God's Spirit will stir Japanese hearts to seek the peace that only comes from God through Christ Jesus. Pray that our words may fulfil Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."
- We thank God that we were able to run four sessions of the Japanese Mums English Class in February and March, including Meg's talks on "Wisdom for parents from the Bible", which have been very popular. (Of course, we have now had to suspend the classes for the time being.) • Pray for one of Simon's students, an associate professor from a major Japanese university, who returned to Japan in March. Although not actively seeking, he is open to discussing the Christian message, and attended some church events. Simon has given him a book of 100 key Bible passages, so please pray that God's word will reach his heart. We hope to take the professor and his family to church on our next visit to Japan in 2021.

Getting Motivated for Missions

MISSION



matters

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CROSS CULTURAL WORKERS

Matt Inglis
Japan



Praise:

Here are my prayer/praise points (it's still Wednesday here in Japan!):

My immigration status is dependent on both my four part-time jobs and my annual combined income. My workplaces have been variously impacted by COVID-19 so far and there is lots of scope for further changes. With my current immigration expiry date of 11 March 2021, please pray that God will protect my ability to continue serving Him here in Japan. Please also pray for Japan while you are praying for Australia/the world concerning this pandemic.

In Christ, Matt



Melissa van Leeuwin
Centre for Disease
Control in the NT
Department of Health
in Alice Springs

CROSS CULTURAL WORKERS

Prayer points

Pray for the CDC in the NT as we work on COVID-19. Our other work, such as Rheumatic Heart Disease, TB and other notifiable diseases, still continues on and we simply add the contact tracing, triaging for patients requiring testing, medical advice and all things public health for COVID-19 to our workloads. We are a small team, particularly in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Pray for strength, energy and wisdom as we walk through this epidemic.

Pray for health care professionals across the NT as they provide care for those with COVID-19 and the many other diseases. Pray particularly for those working in remote areas, which are home to extremely vulnerable people.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers

Melissa