

PRAYER FOCUS 21 September 2021

'And the **Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness**. For example, we **don't know what God wants us to pray for**. But the **Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words**. And the **Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying**, for the **Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will**'. Romans 8: 26, 27. (NLT).

COMMUNION

A simple observance with **deep ramifications for our faith**. (Mainly based on **Matt. 26: 17-30**).

- **Christians were commanded by Jesus to do it repeatedly to prod their memories**. (Luke 22: 19).
- **A reminder that Jesus was betrayed to His enemies, the Jewish religious leaders, by one of His own disciples; which was potentially extremely hurtful**.
- **Eating a piece of bread while together is to remind each believer that Jesus' body was "broken" for him/her**.
- **While together believers were to drink wine from a shared cup:**
-this symbolised that **Jesus' blood was poured out at His crucifixion to confirm God's covenant with His people. The result was that many people's sins were forgiven by God.**
-sharing in drinking the wine from the cup while with fellow believers also pointed to the unity between them.
- **Jesus commented that He would next drink wine with His disciples when God's kingdom was fully inaugurated in future; a reference to climactic events at the end of the era.**

COVID 19, GOVERNMENT, HEALTH & EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

- **For wisdom for government and health authorities in continuing to manage COVID 19 spread, set restrictions appropriately, roll out vaccines as widely as possible, provide adequate mental health supports and restrict economic and unemployment impacts.**
- **For appropriate support for the normal education of children and teens in Term 4. For wisdom for parents and teachers in supporting all kids and young people ; including those doing VCE.**
- **That holiday travel (where permitted) may refresh COVID weary people and provide some encouragement to struggling business owners.**

CHURCH MATTERS

- **Pray that John, Nic., Isaac, Joshua and Kate may have a refreshing and happy 2 week break.**
- **Pray for Geoff F. and other church leaders as they maintain the work of the church.**
- **For safety and refreshment for all who travel regionally during the term break.**
- **Remember the youth group as they drink water only to raise funds for "Safe Water September"**. That **our church may generously support the youth group's effort**. May a **significant proportion of the populations of Zimbabwe, Vanuato and Afghanistan be provided with permanent safe drinking water.**
- **May Kids Connect teachers and helpers be refreshed during the school holidays.**
- **May further Kids Hope mentors be linked with West Bairnsdale Primary kids in need of encouragement during Term 4.**
- **That Busy Bees, Fourth Friday Fellowship and Men's Shed may be able to resume in Term 4.**

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

- **Alisha H.'s father's small funeral** (due to **COVID restrictions**) has **already been held** with a **large "on line presence"** of **supportive relatives and friends**. **Alisha requests specific prayer** for her mother, **Carol**, as **Hank and Carol used to do everything together**.
- **Shiny (Coolamatong intern)** is on **two short holidays with others this week**. **Please continue to pray for Shiny, her parents and relatives (in South India)** as they **mourn her brother's recent death**.
- **Ray L.** is **managing reasonably well** but **walks with a shuffle** due to his **sciatica**.
- That **Anker O.** will **remain well** as he **continues on oral chemotherapy**.
- That **Grace F.** will **continue to steadily recover at home** following **surgery**.
- That **Luke F.** will be **able to resume his Year 10 classes at Nagle College in Term 4**.
- For **Geoff and Jan R.** to **know God's presence and help daily**.
- For **Don and Elsa K.** in **Maddocks Gardens**.

MARK & YVONNE F. with JASMINE in SOUTH ASIA

Yvonne teaches junior secondary science at an **international school**. **Jasmine is a student** at the same school. **When current wet weather settles down Mark will resume his pyrolysis experiments** in an **effort to find the most environmentally friendly and efficient way to convert soft plastic waste into oil**.

- **Abnormally heavy monsoonal rain** has caused **many landslides, floods and hardship** for **many local people**. **Food aid has been needed by many who live in remote or isolated villages**.
- **Eventually the national level of daily COVID 19 deaths has fallen below 20**. Consequently **restrictions have eased** allowing **modified "in person" learning** at **Yvonne and Jasmine's school**.
- **Jasmine is progressing with using her left arm again** after the **removal of the titanium plate** from her **collar bone**.
- **Mark has been able to resume language learning** in a **class with others** on **weekday mornings**. Ask that **he will be able to make steady progress and will use what he learns with local people in everyday life**. **Practicing using a new language entails being willing to embarrass yourself in front of other people**.
- **Remember Esther as VCE exams approach**. May she **know God's peace and be able to focus on her studies**.