**PRAYER FOCUS 16 November 2021**

‘**Jesus travelled** through **all the towns and villages** of **that area**, **teaching** in **the synagogues** and **announcing** the **Good News** about the **Kingdom**. And **he healed** **every kind** of **disease and illness**. **When he** saw **the crowds**, **he** had **compassion on them** because **they were confused** and **helpless**, **like sheep** **without** a **shepherd**. **He said** to **his disciples**, “**The harvest** is **great**, but **the workers** are **few.** **So pray** to **the Lord** who is **in charge of the harvest**; **ask him** to **send more workers** into **his fields.**” Matt. 9: 35-38. (NLT).

**THANKS AND PRAISE**

* **God** has **always been concerned** for the **people of all language groups** in **the world**; **not just** for the **descendants of Abraham**. (For instance: Gen 12:3; Gen 28: 14).
* For **last Sunday’s** **mission service**.
* For **Jesus Christ’s coming** to **earth** to **ultimately be** our **Saviour** and then **to rise from death**.
* For **God’s faithfulness**; including **in fulfilling all biblical prophecies**. Just as **many OT prophecies** were **fulfilled during Jesus Christ’s earthly lifetime**, **those concerning His return** and **bringing world events** to a **climax** will **surely eventuate in God’s time**.
* **Jesus Christ** is **the same** **yesterday, today** and **forever**. (Heb. 13: 8).
* **Obedient Christians** are **not promised** an **easy or comfortable life**, but **we are promised** **Jesus Christ’s constant presence with us**. (Matt. 28: 18-20).

**COVID 19, HEALTH, GOVERNMENT & EDUCATION AUTHORITIES**

* For the **success of efforts** to **encourage** a **higher uptake of COVID 19 vaccination** by **at risk groups**. E.g. **proposed Ernie Dingo advertising campaign** aimed at **First Nations peoples**.
* For **wisdom and resilience** by **paramedics, health authorities** and **staff** as **COVID incidence** **continues** on.
* For **wise forward planning** to **catch up** with **normal health screening programs**, **management of people** with **chronic illnesses** and **resumption** of **elective surgery**. **Coronavirus** has **impacted these areas** and they are **likely to result** in **adverse health outcomes**.
* That **over time international students** will **return to Australia** to **study.** That **effective outreach programs** (e.g **Christian Union** in **tertiary education centres**) will provide **these students** with **opportunity to hear, comprehend** and **respond** to the **Gospel of Jesus Christ** while **completing their studies**.
* For **those in our church or community** who **face/are experiencing loss of employment** and **may fear** being **unable to provide adequately** for **their families**.

**CHURCH MATTERS**

* For **continued wisdom and stamina** for **our pastor** and **church leaders** in **determining how best** to **comply with changing COVID regulations** while **promoting unity** and **openness to our community.**
* For **continued effective ministry** to **encourage teens** through **youth Bible studies** (**Tuesday** evenings) and **activities(Friday** evenings: 19 Nov.-Bush Masterchef, 26 Nov. -Wide Games). For the **encouragement** of **all youth leaders**, for **good interaction** with **teens and parents.**
* That **Fourth Friday Fellowship** will **provide a great forum** for **older people** to **interact** and be **encouraged** on **Friday 26 November**.
* That the **sermon series** on the **early chapters of Luke** from **21 November** will **help us all** **focus** **on** the **centrality of Jesus Christ** and **His love for unsaved people** as we **approach Christmas**. **Pray** for **all who contribute** to **each of our services**.
* That **Kids Connect** may be **effective** in **drawing many kids** **close to Jesus Christ** **early** in **their lives. For wisdom and effectiveness** for **all Kids Connect leaders**.
* That **many more within our church** will **become aware** of **the importance of prayer**; including **group prayer**.

**INDIVIDUAL NEEDS:**

* **For Luke F**.- for **improved health** and the **best possible plans** for his **education in 2022**.
* For **Geoff & Jan R.,** **Roy C. & Barbara B**., **George & Lois T**. and for **those who support** these **folk.**
* **For Anker O.** to **remain as well as possible** as he **continues** **taking oral chemotherapy**.
* For **Tammy, Isabel S.’s daughter** in Qld. **Tammy resumed work** on **Monday 15 November**. She does **light duties**, **only 5 hours/day,** **only** on **Mon., Wed. & Fri**. At the **end of her first** **day** **she was exhausted** and bought **take-away food for tea** with her **husband**. Her **cerebro-spinal fluid leak** has **been sealed off**. **For settling** of her **low grade headache**, **her backache** and **for increasing stamina**. **Tammy appreciates our prayers** and **now feels more hopeful**. **Remember** to **pray for Isabel** as she **helps carry Tammy’s health burdens** from a **distance.**
* For **Bruce S.-** **going well**. **Denies having pain** despite having his **pain medicine reduced**. **More mobile**, **attending dining room** for **meals** and **helps staff** in the **garden.** **Enjoyed visiting** **Cherralyn and Wayne** last **weekend.** **Requests visitors**. **Room 16, Sutherland Lodge**, (Maddocks Gardens).
* For **Don & Elsa K**.

**KEREN FUHRMEISTER, Hospital Director, “AFRICA MERCY”, MERCY SHIPS.**

Following **three months** in **dry dock,** the **ship is back in Tenerife**, **the largest** of the **Canary Islands** (a **Spanish territory** located **off the coast of Morocco** in **NW Africa**). “**Global Mercy**”, the most recent ship of **Mercy Ships**, is in **Antwerp**, a **port city** on **a river in Belgium**. In **January 2022 “Africa Mercy**” is **due to sail to Senegal**, **West Africa**, which is **French speaking.**

* **Eleven families recently joined** the **ship.** **School** is **in progress** for the **northern hemisphere** **school year**. **More members** of the “**hospital team”** will **be joining the ship this month** and **in December**.
* **Current preparations** include **deep cleaning** the **hospital,** **restocking supplies** and **reviewing procedures** to **safely operate** a **hospital in a pandemic in Africa**.
* **It seems** to be **a miracle** but **99% of the ship’s adult crew** have **been vaccinated** against **COVID 19**. As **Senegal’s vaccination rate** is **only 5.3%** the **hospital crew** do **not want to endanger** the **local people**.
* **Pray** that the **hospital crew** will **remain protected** from **COVID 19.**
* For **ongoing patience** with **constant mask wearing**. The **only exceptions** are **when eating/drinking** or **inside own cabin**.
* For **God’s protection, wisdom** and **help** for **all the crew**. For **times** of **rest and refreshment**.
* For **resilience and strength** for **Keren** in **this most challenging period** of **her life**. That **she** will **complete all the tasks** she **needs to do**.
* **Some teams** are **already on land in Senegal** now **selecting patients suitable for surgery** when “**Africa Mercy” arrives**.