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### Church Finances

**Please consider continuing to support our church finances as some running costs will continue despite our closure. Direct Debit can be set up using account details below. Cheques can be posted to PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520. Otherwise simply put your tithe aside until we re-open.**

**Congregational Church Wollongong**  
**BSB: 032695**  
**Account No: 494743**

## A Prayer for Connection

Dear God,

We're grateful that You never leave or forsake us. And, we're grateful for the technology that helps us stay in touch with each other.

Give us the strength to endure this difficult season, and deepen our connection with You and Your people.

Today, help us remember that this time of social distancing and isolation will not last forever.

Empower us with an extra dose of Your love, peace, hope and joy. Remind us of Your promises, and please heal our land.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**YouVersion**



# Wollongong Congregational Church

**29th March 2020**

**Keeping our sense of community is important.** Wendy has organised contact lists so that we can be sure to keep in touch and to pray and support each other on a regular basis and no one feels too isolated. We feel that it is just one way that we can keep connected as a church family during these trying times. Several people have volunteered to take a phone list. It is NOT intended to replace the normal interactions that we have with each other.

**Remember always that we serve an awesome God!**

Please continue to send Annette any prayer requests and news you would like Included in the newsletter. Anything you would previously have shared at church. I'm sure we all miss these interactions.

**Keep an eye on the Church Website and Facebook page as Con is working on recording some devotions on video which can be viewed online.** Many people now have the time and opportunity to listen to online content who would never venture into a church, so we have a wonderful opportunity for outreach and it will be comforting to see and hear our Pastor preaching again at a time when we look for some normality.

**Also, don't forget to Listen to Pastor Con on Pulse 94.1 FM Sunday Worship 7-10am. Repeated: Tuesdays 10pm to midnight. Morning devotions 6-7am each day.**

**For ways to support our church finances please see the back page of this newsletter.**

***Abe has suggested that we as a church set aside a few minutes each Sunday around 10am to specifically pray unitedly through the prayer points in the bulletin and also give thanks for God's blessings. This way we can be united in spirit as a church family. May God bless us each one and as a church, give us wisdom and keep us all in good health.***

Dear Church family, you would all be aware of the unprecedented situation that Australia is in; a very unsettling set of circumstances. With a heavy heart we face the situation; for the time being we will not be holding church services at the Wollongong Congregational Church. The church is not a building, it is God's people, it is the presence of the Lord Jesus in the midst of His people, we can pray and we can encourage one another.

This insidious virus has devastated so many countries and economies. We have been told to be level headed, stay calm, don't hoard or panic, and yes wash your hands, sneeze into your elbow and stay at least 1.5 meters away from each other! The vulnerable, those with health conditions and compromised immune systems are encourage to self isolate, grandparents are warned that contact with their precious loved ones may be the very thing that kills them!

It began with toilet paper, then many empty shelves and the demand for essentials is escalating. We are told to keep calm as there is plenty to go around. Good advice! The good, bad and the ugly have all been witnessed. What a shock to our sensibilities! The truth is that I don't feel courageous in the Lord but more like Gideon cowering in the threshing stall.

I need an internal force to assist me, something supernatural! The angle of the Lord called Gideon a mighty man of valour! I am sure that this was not how Gideon saw himself. So what made him great? His grunt and strength or was there something else at play here?

Just for a moment, I had forgotten that the Word of God says: *"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."* **1 John 4:4** This revelation does not mean that I act irrationally or not 'walk circumspectly'! As I turn to the Word of God I am encouraged; *"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* **Ephesians 5:15-20**

I need to remind myself of these truths everyday.

I need to be vigilant and aware of my circumstances and surroundings.

I need to take stock of my resources this includes family and friends.

I need to be a friend and encouragement to others.

I need to praise God and take all my woes and cares to Him.

I need to hide that last bit of chocolate for you never know when it may come in handy!

I need to be reminded of God's provision: Philippians 4. Blessings  
Con

Many local churches, including SALT and St Michaels are making their recorded services available online. Why not tune in?

Should anyone have a need or desire to talk about an issue, please feel free to ring Con or an Elder.

## Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ Those In Care: Ron Ratcliffe; Hugh Kirk; Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve
- ◇ Gail and Ray (Hong Kong) and for children & families in all 3 schools
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA: Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Living Bible Fellowship Goondiwindi Queensland*
- ◇ Church family members: *Geoff, Susan, Courtney & Kaitlyn Troth*
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading concerning our need for Elders and Deacons
- ◇ Opportunity to employ an Assistant Pastor
- ◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in Macedonia and their Pastor
- ◇ Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con's radio program
- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel
- ◇ Persecuted Christians in *India*
- ◇ Gods intervention to enable doctors to make wise diagnoses for patients
- ◇ Con and Leonie for strength and improved health
- ◇ Roger for continued recovery
- ◇ Margaret, Dianne and family for God's peace and sustaining
- ◇ Dennis, has appointment with heart specialist 23 April and requires a procedure to repair muscle in heart wall. Under recommended self isolation. Also, still suffering ongoing headaches and periodic seizures.
- ◇ Those suffering with Coronavirus and for eradication of the virus
- ◇ For those experiencing loneliness due to self isolation
- ◇ Janice Roworth, for relief from pain

## Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please ring or text Leonie.

**If you would like to be involved in the Prayer Chain, please ring Leonie.**

**Lynne's Cards:** If anyone needs cards from her ready made stock or would like something special made, you can contact Lynne by phone or email with requests and she will deliver them personally.  
Church building fund will still benefit 100%.

**National call to prayer, daily at 7:00pm.** "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be faithful in prayer." Rom 12:12  
Pray that many would experience God as their refuge and help at this time.