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### Church Finances

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

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

**Summary of COVID19 – Conditions to be met for recommencing Church**  
Paraphrased from recent Australian Government websites and FCC advice

A Covid-19 Safety Plan must be completed in consultation with members

A record kept: names & mobile numbers or email of those attending.

Up to 50 may meet - but 1 person per 4 square metres applies. People must still be 1.5 metres apart. Families can be together. (*For our Church, around 20*)  
Conditions of entry must be displayed, including maximum capacity allowed.

No crowding allowed inside, and must manage gatherings outside as well.

Move, remove, or use barriers, for seating/tables to ensure distancing.

*No hymnbooks and Bibles – all words projected. Bring your own pen, water etc.*

Only those who are well should attend. Certain medications lower the immune system. *Advisable to check with your doctor or pharmacist if at risk*

Each person to use hand sanitiser provided on arrival and tissues and hand sanitiser after coughing, sneezing, and blowing their nose (*have bins available*)

No hugging, kissing, or shaking hands. Cough etiquette to be encouraged.

No singing permitted, though a solo singer is allowed if they are 3 metres away.

No shared items: books, collection plates, communion plates (*prayer book*)

**Cleaning** after church: Gloves to be worn. Hands to be thoroughly washed before and after. Use detergent and water (*physically rubbing/ scrubbing etc*). It is OK to use disinfectant wipes so long as the surface is rubbed & allowed to dry.

All surfaces touched – seats, door handles, grab surfaces, tabletops etc need to be cleaned (Bathrooms must be kept well stocked with soap/water or hand sanitiser. ***We will need volunteers to do the recording, wiping down etc.***



# Wollongong Congregational Church

7th June 2020

**Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please join any of the following activities to keep in touch until we can meet together again.**

- Listen to Con's video recorded devotion each Sunday which can be viewed from our website [www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org](http://www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org) **JUST CLICK THE LINK!** Why not share the video each week with friends?

- Tune into Con's radio program on **Pulse 94.1 FM Sunday Worship 7-10am**. Repeated Tues night 10pm. Morning devotions 6-7am daily.

- Join our Tuesday Bible Study 10am on Zoom

- Join Our Church Prayer Chain. We encourage everyone to join our prayer chain especially at this time while we cannot meet and pray together as a church. Ring or text prayer requests to Leonie 0428180355.



We love the new church posters Yvonne organised for us!

### **COVID19 – Conditions to be met for resuming Church services**

The Elders continue to monitor current circumstances to help us prepare for resuming our church services and meetings. Under current spacing guidelines we can only have 13 people in our small chapel and 4 upstairs. If families or couples attend, we could stretch to 20 or so. **See back of this newsletter for summary.**

We would like to know if you would consider attending a combined church service and meeting of members in July if conditions continue to improve.

If successful, services could resume, with one service in the morning and a repeat in the afternoon with a thorough clean in between.

Please let us know what you think?

## **Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 Galatians 4:21-31**

The Apostle Paul asked the Galatian Christians, *Do you really want to be under the Law? Why ask the same question time and time again?* **These Christians** should have known better, they knew the Grace of God, yet they blindly went back to the superstitions of the past under the guise of a religious spirit. **These things were supposed to make them more spiritual but it didn't.** We need to see a situation for what it truly is before we can effect any change in our thinking or life.

**Paul goes back to the History of the nation of Israel- right back to Abraham.** I believe that most things can be traced back to a point in time when there is a crossroads and a decision.

**Understanding** where we have come from is important.

**Recognising** where we are at present is also important.

**Having the wisdom** to know what to do from this point onward is a leap of faith.

**The decisions we make as Christians are important.**

**In Abraham's life there was a big decision to be made.** They were familiar with this story of Abraham. **He is an example of faith and obedience** yet he was also frail and vulnerable. He has been called the Father of a mighty nation and the Father of faith.

**What made him great was the call of God.** Abraham knew what it was to hear the voice of God. He understood failure and he grew as he experienced the forgiveness of God the Father. Herbert Lockyer says that *"His choice was all of grace, he uttered no prophecy, wrote no books, sang no song, gave no laws"*, yet in a long list of Bible saints he is spoken of as the FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL and as the FRIEND OF GOD.

What I like most about this Old Testament character is that he was a man of faith, an example for us to follow. Having served God faithfully for 175 years Abraham died. That's it, He died! There was a full stop to his life. There will be a full stop to the life that we live on this earth.

The Bible says: *"and as it is laid up to men once to die, and after this - judgment"* (Young's Literal Translation) **Hebrews 9:27.**

Abraham left behind a legacy of faith. I believe that some people fall in love with the idea of Christianity and religion and are yet to experience **the walk of faith.**

**Faith always has tribulations** – the faith walk will often lead to trials and tribulations in our life. There will be struggles and decisions to make. Not all decision will have the outcome that we desire. The faith walk at times is perilous; we do not know what is around the corner. Oh! But what a life!

**Faith shines no matter what.** It is while we live out and exercise our faith that the Grace and love of God shines through in our lives. We often hear the creeds, "I believe in God the Father..." or pray the Lord's Prayer "Our Father". It is not until we act out, our belief in the Father, in our lives and actions, in our words and deed, that we exercise our faith. It is in those times that the Faith of God shines through in our lives.

**Faith in God will never disappoint.** God is faithful by whom you are called. *"As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."* **Romans 10:11**

FAITH TELLS US THAT NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD, GOD IS ALREADY THERE.

**Con**

## **Prayer Points**

**Please pray for:**

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ Those In Care: Ron Ratcliffe; Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve and a speedy recovery for Janice after surgery
- ◇ Gail and Ray in Hong Kong for God's provision and leading
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA: Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Wandong District Church, in Victoria*
- ◇ Church family members: *Daniel Andria & Nathaniel Bell*
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading concerning need for new Elders, Deacons, 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 *Eritrea*
- ◇ Gods intervention to enable doctors to make wise diagnoses for patients
- ◇ Con and Leonie for strength and improved health
- ◇ Margaret, Dianne, Wendie and family for God's peace and sustaining
- ◇ Those suffering from COVID-19 and for early availability of a vaccine
- ◇ For those experiencing loneliness due to isolation.
- ◇ Joyce Souter's son John, who is fighting cancer
- ◇ Bernice still undergoing treatment for leg ulcers
- ◇ Conviction of how we can best support & show love to others around us
- ◇ The poor, the hungry and the persecuted
- ◇ Lynda for God's healing
- ◇ Teachers in our schools and especially for Andrew, Helen and Wendy's daughter Nicole, for strength and tenacity while under heavy workloads

Please set aside a few minutes each Sunday around 10am to unitedly pray through the prayer points in this newsletter and give thanks for God's blessings and praise for answered prayer.

**NEWS FROM GAIL in Hong Kong.** Thanks to Max for continuing contact.

- Praise that classes, (except kindergarten) have resumed after reduced effects of the virus in HK.

- School Boards no longer support the Christian-based curriculum and now push for schools to adopt a secular standpoint. So they seek new premises to operate independently.

- They hope to finish up and return to live in Australia. (Around 40 years ago she left our church to serve there with YWAM - with just one suitcase!). Prayer needed for the considerable organisation required on both their work and home fronts to allow smooth transitions in a short time frame.