

Church Contact Details: PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520;

Phone: 4226 1750

Website: www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org

Facebook: Wollongong Congregational Church

Rev Con Despinidic 42713235. Mob. 0427431709

cdespini@gmail.com

Elders:

Wendy 42292483 / mobile 0407936981

Leonie 42713235 / mobile 0428180355

Annette 42716763 / mobile 0401089938

Church notices: Email Annette: ameldrum@ozemail.com.au

Church Account details:

Congregational Church Wollongong

BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743

**My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made
perfect in weakness.
Most gladly therefore will I
rather glory in my infirmities,
that the power of Christ
may rest upon me.**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

LDS SCRIPTURE
OF THE DAY



Wollongong Congregational Church

9th August 2020

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Please continue to join our activities:

- **Listen to Con's video recorded devotion each Sunday from our website**

www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org

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

- **Communicate through our Church Prayer Chain Ring or text Leonie**

Tuesday Bible Study at 10am at Annette and George's home.

We are continuing to meet for our Church Service at 10am each Sunday. Please wear a mask and distance.

Keep 1.5 metre distance from others and avoiding hugging, kissing and hand-shakes. No need to RSVP

All welcome but please do not attend services

- ◆ if you have any cold or flu symptoms,
- ◆ have travelled to hotspots
- ◆ if you have been in contact with anyone known to have Covid-19

URGENT! Annette is resigning from her church duties from 30th Aug as Annette & George are moving to Canberra to be closer to their family.

We need a team of people to fill the Secretary and Newsletter positions now, to ensure a supported process. Training can be provided. Open to anyone who feels led to serve our church and our Lord. Can you help with:

- **Writing letters** as requested by Con, the Elders or the church meeting
- **Taking and writing up minutes** of Church Meetings
- **Keeping lists** – Church members, Members and Adherents, Church email list
- **Keeping the Church Directory up to date**
- **Newsletter**—**updating the template** each week and adding Con's message and/or - **emailing out the newsletter**

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve—Janice is still experiencing pain
- ◇ Gail and Ray in Hong Kong for God's provision as they plan to come home
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA working for Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ◇ Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Cessnock Congregational Church*
- ◇ Church family members: *Gail and Sam Dixon*
- ◇ 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 the Middle East displaced by violence
- ◇ Joyce Souter's son John, who is fighting cancer
- ◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers
- ◇ Conviction of how we can best support & show love to others around us
- ◇ Completion of outstanding issues with Con and Leonie's new home so they can move in
- ◇ Dennis and Karen Bagnall and the letter box distribution of "Living Water" Gospels of John throughout the Illawarra.
- ◇ Ruth and Mary recovering from falls—both at recovering at home
- ◇ SRE and school ministry workers; for wisdom, strength and grace and for health as they serve their schools
- ◇ Max and Irma recovering from surgery
- ◇ Nabila and her family who have relatives in Lebanon who may be affected by the traumatic explosion and unfolding situation
- ◇ **Those grieving: Gordon's sister Shirley and Dennis Oxman's brother Allan** passed away this past week. Shirley's funeral will take place in the church possibly Friday 14th but numbers may be restricted to 20 so attendance by invitation only.

Praise God for answers to prayer

- ◇ Con and Leonie finally received their occupation certificate
- ◇ Annette and George have sold their home and can move to Canberra

Update re house. This week we received our Certificate of Occupation. Exciting! Now we wait for several things to be fixed before we can move in to our new home. Thanks for your prayers re this.

Many years ago I heard the statement 'we are all a product of our past'. I continue to marvel at the truth of it though I do not believe that it has to be a ball and chain in our lives. Our past can be a steppingstone to better things or a deep hole of despair. I believe that God is a God of blessing, God can take the negative of our past as well as the present and turn it into good.

I don't want to minimize the impact of the past, or sound condescending. If there is pain and despair, I believe that it is real-and should always be the subject of our prayer and compassion.

The past can also be a reminder of the forgiveness, healing and blessings of God the Father.

I also believe that there comes a time of choice in each person's life, a choice of heart and mind.

To accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour, to believe in God or not to believe in God, trust or not to trust, to allow our fears and pain to control, or to allow the power, grace and mercy of God to prevail. For some this may be a gradual revelation.

The apostle challenges the church at Galatia to get back to God. They should have known better, they knew the Grace of God, yet they blindly went back to practices of the past under the guise of a religious spirit. These things were supposed to make them more spiritual but they did not.

In addressing the problems of the church at Galatia, Paul refers back to the life of Abraham the father of faith and examines the lessons of Abraham's past. We can learn from his life and experience. Most things can be traced back to a point in time when there is a crossroads, this decision or that. 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- a decision based on faith or taking things into his own hands! Unfortunately he did both. The Galatians were familiar with the story of Abraham as an example of faith and obedience. As we examine his life, we see that he is also frail and vulnerable. Being completely human and fallible, the thing that 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 and the provision of God the Father in his life.

Here are three things about faith

1. Faith always has tribulations. The faith walk will often involve trials and tribulations in our life.

2. 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. It is not until we put our belief in the Father, into action that we exercise our faith. And it is in those times that the Faith of God shines through in our lives. The apostle Paul struggled with many problems, in this instance he asked God three times to intervene, God's response is revealing. **But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.** 2 Corinthians 12:9

3. 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 makes all things possible not easy.

Con