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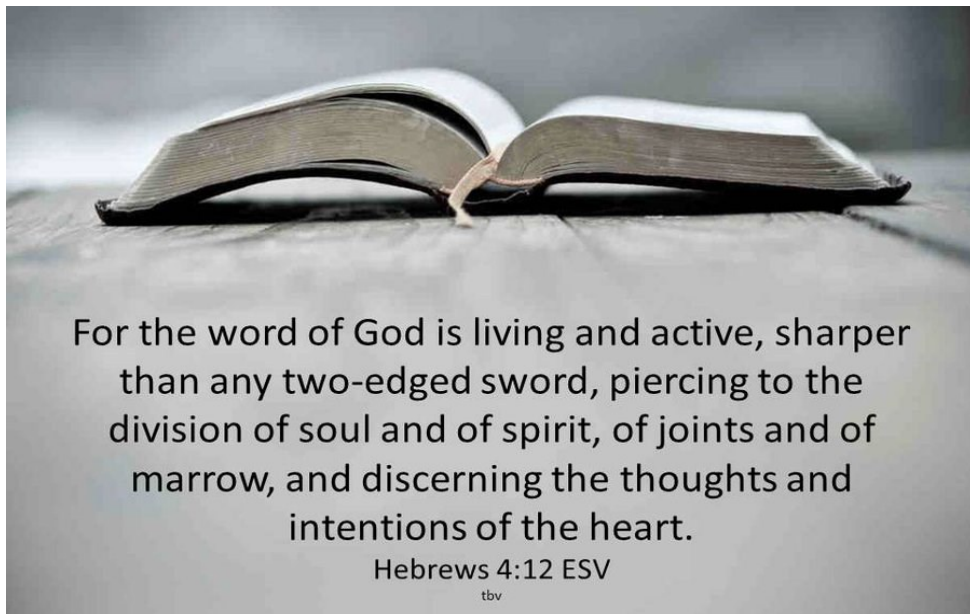
**Church Newsletter:** Phone Jenny Bergstedt: 0400489673

**Church Account details:**

Congregational Church Wollongong

**BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743**

*Our Church Monthly tithe for August will go to support  
 Jenny and Dave Rowe, our missionaries in the US,  
 working for Wycliffe Bible Translators*



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

tbv



# Wollongong Congregational Church

16th August 2020

**Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.**

**We now continue to meet for our Church Service at 10am each Sunday.**

**Please remember to wear a mask. Keep 1.5 metre distance from others and avoiding hugging, kissing and hand-shakes and help with after service disinfecting.**

**All welcome but please do not attend services if**

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

**Please continue to join our activities:**

- ⊗ Listen to Con's recorded video devotion each Sunday from our website [www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org](http://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.
- ⊗ Church Prayer Chain Ring or text Leonie
- ⊗ Tuesday Bible Study at 10am at Annette & George's home- farewell meeting

**URGENT! Annette is resigning from her church duties from 30th August**

**Jennifer Bergstedt will take on the newsletter. Thanks Jenny!**

**We need someone to take minutes at the 20th September church meeting.**

**We need people to fill the Secretary position 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 any of these?**

- 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

I have noticed when reading the Apostle Paul's letters that he teaches doctrine; he rebukes then he encourages. Sometimes in that orders other times it starts with encouragement, rebuke and then teaching. His encouragement takes the form of instruction that which is practical.

For example, the book of Ephesians begins with good sound theology and finishes with practical application of that theology in the believer's life. It is no different with the letter to the Galatians; this letter is full of good doctrine and practical application for living the Christian life.

A lifetime ago when I was in College, the study of theology was rather taxing and for the non-academic it was difficult at best. One student who had little education would often not turn up to theology lectures. I had befriended him; he was older than me. We were both struggling with Bible College. I found that it was not his level of education that was the problem. I was 19 and I had little life experience, he was much older and appeared to understand life and the Christian walk better than I. What was his problem? It was his mind set, his attitude. He would often say that theology was very impractical "why learn all this theory?"

***It is important to know what we believe***

***It is important to know why we believe***

***It is important to know how to live out what we believe.***

***If that is not practical, then I do not know what is!***

We can get ourselves into hot water when we do not take the time out to understand, who we are as Christians and what the Holy Spirit does and can do in our lives.

We are forgiven. We are reconciled to God. Sin no longer separates us from God.

When we come to Christ, we become a child of God. We are reconciled to our fellow human beings. We become part of the Church of God. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and we experience spiritual renewal. You learn to know the Lord Jesus.

Christianity is a relationship with God the Father, through God the Son in the Power of God the Holy Spirit.

Peter says in **2 Peter 1:4** that we "***participate in the divine nature***".

We limit ourselves when we neglect to study God. God reveals Himself through His Word. We believe that the Bible is that Word. I love the way that the author of Hebrews puts it:

**Hebrews 4:12** ***For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***

And the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

**Conclusion:**

We all need a good strong foundation for living.

The best foundation ***fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*** Hebrews 12:2

Con

## 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: *Derwent Valley Christian Fellowship*
- ◇ Church family members: *Richard and Jill Donnelly*
- ◇ 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 *Pakistan* who have no work due to Covid lockdown
- ◇ 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 repairs to Con and Leonie's new home
- ◇ 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 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
- ◇ Don who is in intensive care with pneumonia – no visitors are allowed

## Income and Expenditure for July

<b>Income</b>	\$15,299.44
Plus ATO Money (income)	\$ 7,166.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$ 6,947.66