

### Church Contact Details:

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**Newsletter:** Jenny Bergstedt \*Note my new email  
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### 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 Con and Leonie's home at Figtree.
- Personalised cards can be ordered from Lynne Grimm, 3 for \$5.00 proceeds go to the Building Fund 0438770764



## Wollongong Congregational Church

13 September 2020

- Welcome all and be blessed -

### Farewell Blessing Annette and George

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*May the Lord bless you and protect you.*

*May the Lord smile on you and be  
gracious to you.*

*May the Lord show you His favour and  
Give you His peace.*



Please only attend Church if well.

Masks are available should you need them.

Please follow Covid-19 protocol

Please stay for Morning Tea following our service

### Don Souter sadly passed away on Wednesday night

**Church meeting 20 September-** Agenda and Minutes have been emailed out. Please pick up a printed copy if needed.

### Church account details:

Congregational Church Wollongong

BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743

## Summary of last week's message... Galatians 6

There are at least 6 statements that stand out as we read the last chapter of Galatians. I would like to start with the last one. It is as if Paul is saying "there is one important thing that you must all understand." <sup>15</sup> **"Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation"**. This is where the rubber hits the road. This 'new creation' is found in the words of our Lord when he spoke to Nicodemus in **John 3**. <sup>3</sup> **Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again"**. **2 Corinthians 5:17** **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**. Paul concludes with this, it is as if he is saying, forget all the arguments, who is right, who is wrong and get to the heart of the matter. Get right with God! **Verse 1** **"But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted"**. It may be okay to fight spiritual battles; look at others and their faults; to stand on one's soap box or argue with the many that would put you down, and defend yourself and so on. Or it may be okay to stand strong and defend the faith. It is so easy to spend time looking at others and what they do or do not do. We should be diligent about our own physical and spiritual wellbeing! I love the words of Corrie Ten Boone **"Look at self and be distressed, look at others and be depressed look at Jesus and you'll be blessed."** The best way to watch yourself is to focus on the Lord Jesus. **Hebrews 12:2** **"fixing our eyes on Jesus"**. To watch oneself is to be careful that we do not slip into the same sin that those around us commit. Paul moves away from his argument with the legalist, and focuses on the problem of falling into temptation. When we take our eyes of the Lord Jesus, it is so easy to "slip up".

**Verse 15** **"Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load"**. (One concept here is that of a soldier carrying his own backpack, that we must take responsibility for who we are). We are to take pride in what God can do through us not comparing ourselves with others, their successes, or their failures. We are not to expect others to do it for us. **Verse 7** **"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows"**. God has ordained that we reap what we sow; surely this is the principle of cause and effect. God warns His people about where they sow; this is what Paul is talking about here. I am often challenged with the idea of 'what legacy' do I leave for my children and for those around me. This passage is not just a stern warning about mocking God, it is an encouragement to invest wisely in the things of God. The previous verse speaks of sharing with one another, meeting other's needs, investing in the mission and teaching of the church. Being a Christian is not a consumer orientated activity, it a call to service. This service includes the wise investment of our time and resources. One final thought. It is part of the overall concept that is found in **Galatians 6** and it is self-explanatory. <sup>9</sup> **"Let us not become weary in doing good, <sup>10</sup> let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"**.

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 now resettling in Wollongong
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA working for Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ◇ Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Georges River (2002), Panania*
- ◇ Church family members: *Leigh Emery*
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading for new Elders and Deacons
- ◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in Macedonia
- ◇ 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 *Iran*
- ◇ Joyce Souter's son John, who is battling cancer
- ◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers
- ◇ 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
- ◇ SRE and school ministry workers as they serve their schools
- ◇ Irma is waiting for hand and back surgery, so she and John have decided to self-isolate until then
- ◇ Nabila for God's peace and healing
- ◇ Lynda's nephew Rodney Ratcliff in Victoria is home and doing well. Continue to pray for healing and less pain
- ◇ Jennifer Ramsay for a speedy recovery
- ◇ Janice Roworth in Wollongong Private since Monday, with a painful leg infection
- ◇ Don Souter's family at this time of mourning
- ◇ George and Annette as they now settle into their new home in Canberra