

Church Contact Details:

33 Market Street Wollongong
PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520; Phone: (02)4226 1750

Website: www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org

Facebook: Wollongong Congregational Church

Rev Con Despinidic (02)42713235 Mob. 0427431709
cdespini@gmail.com

Elders:

Wendy (02)42292483 / mobile 0407936981

Leonie (02)42713235 / mobile 0428180355

Newsletter: Jenny Bergstedt *Note my new email
jenabe.bergstedt@gmail.com

Please continue to join our activities:

⊗ **Listen to Con's recorded video 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.

⊗ **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*

20 September 2020

— Welcome all and be blessed —

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

Church meeting today 20 September 2020

Agenda and Minutes have been emailed out

Please pick up a printed copy if needed

Please pack your own sandwich or lunch

Church account details:

Congregational Church Wollongong

BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743



Acts 5 is the story of true Christian commitment and the essence of Discipleship. The early church is experiencing growth, there are signs and wonders performed, the apostles were able to speak with boldness and there was a beautiful attitude of love for one another. The church became an Island of refuge in a hostile world.

'What is it that stops us from being more committed?' It may just be a lack of faith or selfishness, or fear or a lack of desire. Why is it that some are warriors of the faith while others slink away? Why does one man or woman strongly believe in prayer and others struggle with the concept? I am not asking these questions to make anyone feel guilty. I am curious even when I look at my own life, there are times when I am conscientious about what I believe and there are times when I am slack. There are also times when I look at others and say; "why aren't I like that person?" **We can be like that person or like that other church. We are who we are. Each one of us can take steps of faith and this begins with one small step at a time.**

When we read the Scriptures and biographies of great people, we often see the highlights of a ministry. They are there to encourage and excite us about the possibilities of the future, a future lived by faith. There were many down times; meals shared, times of laughter and times of serious discussions, just like we have. It was in these times where relationships were formed, it is also at these times when our relationship with God can develop and grow.

One thing is obvious, during the struggles of everyday life and survival, the church was in fellowship. When we look at the Christian walk, we see many fantastic rays of light that we experience, or can experience. A prayer cried out in anguish. A Prayer of thanksgiving. A healing or a time of sickness. These things bring us close to God.

In **Acts 5** we are given insight into the integrity of the early church. No matter what they had experienced, the good news was that God had not abandoned them, nor does He abandon His people today. **Along with God's** protection there was an obligation to let others know and to tell the world, shout it from the mountain top that **JESUS SAVES!**

- This was a miracle that could not be denied! Yet it appeared to be completely ignored. How often do people ignore God's blessings!
- To make a big deal of their escape would mean that they would want to know how they escaped: An angel let them out! Now that would make good press wouldn't it?
- To make a big deal of their message, to acknowledge it, would mean that they would have to take personal responsibility for the death of the Lord Jesus.

To acknowledge sin in our lives is to take responsibility **for that sin. We are challenged in the scriptures to repent of that sin**, and to rely upon the forgiveness and provision of the Lord Jesus. God is the God of restoration and forgiveness; He will always work wonders and miracles in our lives. My prayer is that each one of us would have the clarity of mind and heart to see His wonderful works in our lives.

Summary of last week's sermon by Pastor Con

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading for new Elders and Deacons
- ◇ Church family members: *Irma & John Facey*
- ◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ 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: *Gresford (1902), East Gresford NSW*
- ◇ 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 *India*
- ◇ 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
- ◇ Janice Roworth still in Wollongong Private, with a painful leg infection. And also pray for her son Steve
- ◇ Don Souter's family at this time of mourning
- ◇ George and Annette as they now settle into their new home in Canberra