

Church Contact Details:

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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
- ⊗ 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
- ⊗ **Note:** Tuesday Bible Study will not meet this week
- ⊗ Personalised cards can be ordered from Lynne Grimm, 3 for \$5.00 proceeds go to the Building Fund 0438770764



Church account details:
Congregational Church Wollongong
BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743

Thanks to everyone who has been faithful in tithing and giving



Wollongong Congregational Church

18 October, 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

*We welcome our Guest preacher
Pastor Michael Hunt
President of the Fellowship of
Congregational Churches to our
165th Church Anniversary*



NOTICES

*Reminder! All Annual Reports to be in by
1 November, 2020

*AGM and Member's Meeting on 15 November, 2020

*Australian Church Women,
an Inter-denominational faith group who meet twice per year.
We have been invited to the next meeting at
Balgownie Catholic Church on
Friday 30 October, 2020 at 12 noon
Theme: Moving Forward in Faith. See *Jill Donnelly*

* Church Rosters

We are currently organising a new modified church roster. Please let Jo Martin know if you want to make any changes or go onto a roster.
(0458289984 or glennmartin66@hotmail.com)

Also inform Jo if there are any dates that you will not be available for until the end of January 2021. Thank you

Summary of last week's Sermon by Pastor Con

In Acts 6 there were destructive murmuring that if left unchecked could bring the house down. If you want to destabilize a situation start rumours, sow seeds of doubt, give people a sense of insecurity. The early church chose 7 men 'full of the Holy Spirit' to serve the church. The Apostles also shared their conviction as to priorities for ministry.

Years ago, at Cessnock one of the church members said to me; "if this church gets any bigger, I am going to leave". The congregation had become bigger and harder to maintain close relationships. Space became a problem and the number of children in the congregation had significantly increased. Instead of becoming a solution to the problem, this family just added to the frustrations. They felt that their needs would no longer be able to be met so eventually they left. People will come with their baggage, we can either be part of the solution or add to the problems.

Within the life of the early church there were two distinct groups: The Greek speaking Jews who had come to Palestine from other nations and did not speak Aramaic, and the Hebrews who were Jewish residents who spoke Aramaic and Greek. (p 429 Wiersbe). It appeared that the outsiders were being neglected. This caused a problem for the growth of the church.

Problems are either opportunities or stumbling blocks. They are stepping stones or they can become boulders that weigh us down or crush us!

Problems give us an opportunity to examine ourselves and the ministry that God calls us to. **The Apostles resolved the problem with wisdom** There were two problems:-

1. **Some were being neglected, they were isolated in some ways.**
2. **The Apostles had got tied down in administration in that they had lost sight of the most important aspect of ministry.**

Was it that they were trying to do too much?

D.L. Moody an evangelist of Old once said: "**it is better to put ten men to work than to try to do the work of ten men**".

I was interested to read Warren Wiersbe's, comments "**church problems also give us an opportunity for us to exercise our faith, not only faith in the Lord, but also faith in each other.**"

The Church was not afraid to adjust the way they did things. It is important to note that the Apostles and the fellowship did not compromise on the qualities of those it chose to serve them. "**Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.**" Acts 6:3

None of us are perfect, but if nothing else, this passage should stir our hearts to strive to be the people that God wants us to be. God does equip each one of us with all that we need to live the Christian faith. His grace is sufficient for every conceivable situation.

Yet at times we forget! **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
What of the Apostles? The leaders of this wonderful church? Their priority was: "but we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

◇ Australia: for God's wisdom, leading and authority over our Nation, Government, Land and Peoples

- ◇ Our church family. Surround each other with love
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading for new Elders and Deacons-Nominations sought

- ◇ Church family members: *Yvonne and Jack Jeffery*
- ◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ Irma for a speedy recovery after her hand surgery
- ◇ Janice Roworth now home and for her ongoing healing and ability to cope and have support at home. Also pray for her son Steve
- ◇ Cathy and her son Chris Edward's during their grief and adjustment
- ◇ Margaret, Diane and Wendie as they wait on the Lord for justice
- ◇ Joyce Souter's son John, who is battling cancer
- ◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers
- ◇ Nabila for God's peace and healing

- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel
- ◇ 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
- ◇ Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con's radio program

- ◇ FCC Churches: **Kogarah Bay (1929)**
- ◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in Macedonia
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA working for Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ◇ Persecuted Christians in **Maldives**

- ◇ Praise God for his goodness and any answered prayers in your life