

Prayer Diary

May 2009

“Unless the Lord builds the house
those who build it labour in vain”
Psalm 127:1



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Psalm 127:1**

Prayer is something we often feel guilty about. We can feel that we don't pray enough; we can get so overwhelmed by all the things that need praying for that we don't pray at all; or we always seem too busy for meaningful prayer.

But prayer is a privilege and prayer is powerful. God commands us to pray and He hears and answers our prayers, even if not the way we would like Him to.

Ephesians 6 tells us that we are in a spiritual battle and that we need to put on the full armour of God so we can take our stand against the devil's schemes. That armour includes truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We are told to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”
Eph 6:18

This is primarily a prayer diary to encourage you to pray for Unichurch and the people and ministries that we as a church support. But it is also intended as an aid for your other prayers. You may already have a system to pray for the various people in your life and other ministries and concerns that you wish to bring before God. If not, you can use this prayer diary. By filling in the boxes at the bottom of each page you will have your own personalised prayer diary. Of course for things you want to pray for once a week, simply insert them four times throughout these pages.

There is also a verse or verses each day to prompt you to pray for your own personal godliness. We are saved by grace, but having been saved, God wants us to grow in holiness and Christ-likeness.

You can use this prayer diary in your private or family prayer time or with your Bible Study group each week.

In the opening pages of this prayer diary, you will find some direction for your prayers using the model of ACTS—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. This is just one of many patterns we can follow as we pray. It gives some balance to our prayers.

Let's pray!!

ACTS - Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplica-

Adoration

"The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin..." (Exodus 34:6-7)

When we focus on these marvellous attributes of God it makes us want to adore Him and praise Him. There are two times to praise God – when we feel like it and when we don't. Remember, the disciples praise God even when their circumstances are difficult (Acts 5:41-42; 16:22-25). Indeed they seem to praise God continually (Acts 2:46-47).

We too, are called to praise our great God (1 Peter 2:9; 4:11). Consider some of the following passages and spend some time praising God for who He is.

Psalms 89:11-16

Psalms 103

Psalms 135:5-7

Psalms 138

Psalms 146

Isaiah 40:18-26

Lamentations 3:22-25

Romans 11:33-36

Ephesians 1:19-21

Colossians 1:16-17

Colossians 2:13-15

1 Timothy 1:17

1 Timothy 6:15-16

Revelation 4-5

Psalm 95:1-7

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

3 For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

7 for he is our God and we are the people of
his pasture, the flock under his care.

Romans 11:33-36

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgements, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

ACTS - Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplica-

Confession

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
But whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

Our God is a Holy God and we are a sinful people. It is only through the death of Jesus that we can have our sins forgiven. As forgiven people it is right and proper that we:

- examine our hearts (Psalm 4:4, Jer 17:9-10, Mk 9:43-47).
- confess our sins before God (1 John 1:8-9).
- ask His forgiveness for ourselves (Matt 6:12).
- ask God to teach us to forgive others (Matt 6:14-15; 7:1-5).
- ask God to change us to be more like Him (Eph 4:22-24).

God’s word helps us to do these things. Read through one of the passages listed and come up with some prayer points, following the guidelines above.

Galatians 5:13-21

Ephesians 4:22-5:3

Col 2:12-13 and 3:5-14

Psalm 51

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your
way:
we have done wrong,
and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour.

1 John 1:8-9: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

ACTS - Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplica-

Thanksgiving

God gives us “life and breath and everything else” (Acts 17:25)

Remembering what God has provided for us, especially our salvation, our appropriate response is one of gratitude and thanksgiving. Often times we may not feel thankful, however when we consider things in light of God’s word and His mercies to us, we have much to be thankful for.

Jot down a list of things you can thank God for. Paul’s thanksgiving prayers are very helpful here.

Giving thanks:-

- in our lives
 Psalm 139:14-16
 Ephesians 1:3-10
- in the lives of others
 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Colossians 1:3-14
 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Spend some time giving thanks to God for all He provides, especially for the salvation He has given us in His Son and for our certain future with Him.

A General Thanksgiving

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you
for all your gifts so freely bestowed on us.
For life and health and safety,
for power to work and leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of
men,
we praise and glorify your holy name.
But, above all, we thank you
for your spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;

ACTS - Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplica-

Supplication

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

Our God is powerful to answer our prayers. He is willing to answer our prayers, in accordance with His will. If only we would ask!

We can know God’s heart and mind on many things because He tells us in the Bible. Read some of the verses below for ideas on what to pray:-

- for the desires of God’s heart

Matthew 6:9-15, 33

Philippians 2:9-11

Romans 1:16-17

1 Peter 1:15-16

Galatians 5:22-23

2 Peter 3:10,13

- for our concerns and the concerns of others

Matthew 6:25-34

Romans 8:26-27, 35-39

Romans 12:1-2

Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 37:4

The Lord’s Prayer

Our father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Church Family Life

Day 1

The Bible has much to say about how we should live toward one another as Christians. Overwhelmingly, one word keeps coming up: love. However, there are many others. Please choose a few from this list to pray about our life as a church family.

We should _____ one another:

love: John 13:34, 1 John 3:11, 4:7, 11-12, 2 John 1:5, 2 Thes 1:3

bear with & forgive: Col 3:13, Eph 4:32

serve: Gal 5:13

show hospitality to: 1 Peter 4:9

be humble toward: 1 Peter 5:5

not speak evil against: James 4:11

not grumble against: James 5:9

confess our sins to: James 5:16

consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds: Heb 10:24

encourage and build up: 1 Thes 4:18, 5:11

not lie to – Col 3:9

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:5–8

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

A team of people led by Wez Coffey have started a church which currently meets at Dutton Park State School on Sunday mornings at 9.30am. Our prayer is that this will be the first of others to come in the years ahead.

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly remembering you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Please pray for:

- the gospel to grow in our city of Brisbane
- the team to grow in love for God and each other
- good relationships with the school administration
- Wez’s ongoing leadership and pastoring of the church
- open doors for the gospel in the local community
- intentional witness to Jesus as people live everyday life
- unity among the believers at Unichurch southside

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!”

Philippi-

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

Bible Study Groups

Day 3

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psa 119:105

Please pray that Bible Study groups will be places where people learn to submit to Jesus as Lord as the Bible is used to teach and admonish one another.

Bible Study Groups at church

morning church

Monday - Simon Leister & Rob McLeay; Terry Leister

Tuesday - Ross McKenzie

Wednesday - Roy Davidson; Lorraine Scott

Thursday – Ladies Bible Study; Ian Ruthenberg

Friday – Rob Dunn; Stuart Rice

evening church

Monday – The running group: Jared Bird

Tuesday – Andrew Morphy & Jenessa Brown

Wednesday – Rodney Weatherhead, Andrew McPhail, Roy Cassim, Luke & Clare Glanville, Andrew Morphy

Thursday – Adam Herd

Friday - Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students (FOCUS) – John Lew

Saturday – Kirsty McNamara

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.” 1 Peter 4:7

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.” Eph 4:11-12

Please pray for the work of Moore Theological College & the Queensland Theological College as they seek to equip men and women to preach and teach His word that many more may know the comfort and joy of calling on the name of the Lord. Pray also for Bruce Winter (principal of QTC) and John Woodhouse (principal of MTC): that they would give wise and godly leadership to their colleges and would have “a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Tim 1:5)

People from unichurch at QTC:

Rodney Weatherhead (current student minister at unichurch),
Dan & Ruth Leister (with Samuel)
Peter & Melissa Kutuzov
Christina Brown

People from unichurch at Moore*:

Jai & Jay-ellen Wright (with Amber & Ebony)
Dan & Anita Saunders (with Natalie)
Jen Young

*Prayer bulletins can be downloaded directly from the college
www.moore.edu.au/fileadmin/publications/latestprayerbulletin.pdf

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.” Hebrews 3:12-13

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) is a fellowship of churches and pastors across Australia, to which Unichurch belongs. Our church is committed to praying for fellow churches in the FIEC and continuing to promote the planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. The pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

These are the FIEC churches: Albury Bible Fellowship, Bathurst Evangelical Church, Central Coast Evangelical Church, Coast Evangelical Church (Forster), Crossroads Christian Church (Canberra), Curtin Community Church (Perth), Hunter Bible Church (Newcastle), Maitland Evangelical Church, Northern Lakes Evangelical Church (Gorokan), Orange Evangelical Church, The Lakes Evangelical Church (Berkeley Vale), The Point Community Church (Port Macquarie), Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church, Western Suburbs Community Bible Church (Perth). Links to these

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

Public Gatherings

Day 6

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” 1Timothy 4:13

- Please pray that our public gatherings will be centred on our Lord Jesus as he is revealed in the Scriptures

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jn 13:34-35

- Please pray we would have a genuine love for one another and be welcoming to visitors who come into our fellowship.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” 1Peter 4:10

- Please pray that people will use their God-given gifts for service.

Please pray for the people involved in the things that make Sunday mornings and evenings work: morning tea, supper, welcoming, music, sound, data projector, leading, preaching, set-up, pack-up, praying, reading and the bookstall.

Please pray for the variety of people who come to our services: newcomers, regulars, visitors, those struggling in life and in the faith, those doing

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” 1 Peter 3:15

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

Rachel is about to be sent to Eurasia with the Church Missionary Society. (<http://www.cms.org.au>) Due to the sensitive nature of the work, we do not know specifically where, and we only refer to her as Rachel. She will be commissioned at Unichurch on the 2nd of August at both morning and evening church, and will out shortly afterwards.

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I’m in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer each person.” Colossians 4:2-6

Please pray for:

- good support from link churches
- confidence in God’s ability to provide all her needs in Christ Jesus
- the ability to grasp the language and communicate proficiently
- strong relationships with other missionaries and the local church
- opportunities to explain the things of Jesus to the people of Eurasia
- people to become followers of Jesus, the light of the world, and so not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. John 8:12

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Colossians

3:16

- Thank God for Graham & Lyndal Knuckey (morning service), and Luke & Clare Glanville (evening service) as they lead the music teams.
- Please pray that the songs we sing will help the word of Christ to dwell richly in us.
- Please pray that song writers will be faithful to the Word of God and that we will have wisdom in choosing songs that glorify God and teach us about Him.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matthew 7:1 –5

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.” Colossians 1:6

Under God, the Gospel continues to bear fruit and grow.

Give thanks and pray for:

- ex-Unichurch members serving in other churches
- growth of Queensland Theological College (see day 4)
- growing number of evangelical churches in Qld
- evangelical student ministries in Brisbane
- ex-Unichurch members now in full-time ministry:

Presbyterian ministries: Linden & Emma Fooks, Andrew & Simone Richardson

Baptist ministries: Andrew & Sue Prince

University ministries: Bill & Linda Colyer, Tony & Rachel Jenner (Darwin), Chris & Megan Lindsay, David & Tori Walker (Townsville), Andrew & Kylie Brown, Geoff & Jayne Tacon, Tony & Michelle Rowbotham

Theological College Faculty: Andrew & Robyn Bain, Mark & Jennie Badley

Independent Church Ministries: David & Lorraine Rowbottom (Perth), Steve & Keiyeng Nation

Missionary Work: Paul & Helen Douglas, Rachel, Scott & Kerry Shaw

With the goal of seeing continued growth of the Gospel, **please pray for:**

- the ministry of Queensland Theological College
- growing Bible-based ministries
- love, unity and growing Christ-likeness amongst believers

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.”

Romans

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

There are about 40, 000 students at both UQ & QUT. They are small cities in their own right and Unichurch was initially started, and continues, with the universities as one of our main areas for mission.

Please pray

- that the gospel will bear fruit and grow in these places. Col 1:6
- thanking God for the partnership we share with UQ Evangelical Students, QUT Christians, Student Life & Uni Impact in the task of presenting Christ to students.
- that the students will live in a manner worthy of the gospel and that they will be blameless ... in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world (Phil. 1:27-2:15).
- that Christian students would not be led astray by other philosophies.
- for students to be equipped and willing to serve in the leadership of God's church
- that students would be wise in their use of the time they have at university.
- for growth in the ministry amongst Christian post-graduate students
- that Christian lecturers would be public about their faith and have opportunity to speak for Jesus amongst their peers and students.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” James 1:19-21

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

A great deal of work is done to ensure that we function well as a church family. We have a good relationship with Ironside State School where we have been meeting for many years now.

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world....”
Philippians 2:14

Please pray for:

- those involved in serving in all manner of ways each week to ensure that church functions well.
- our relationship with the school administration.
- wisdom and understanding in dealing rightly with other authorities.
- administrative tasks to be helpful in creating opportunities for prayer and the ministry of the word.
- systems to work smoothly with a minimum of frustration.
- good communication throughout the church.
- our Treasurer, Secretary and Administrator, giving thanks for their loving service of our church, and asking that God would enable them to be faithful in their ministries to us.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable”
1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

Each Sunday a faithful team of people from evening church serve families at morning church by running programs for children from crèche to Yr 10. Crèche also runs on a Thursday morning alongside the Ladies Bible Study.

2 Timothy 3:14. "...as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Please bring these ministries before God in prayer, and thank God for those who serve and teach in these ways.

Please pray for:

- children to be regular in attendance
- children to be established in the faith
- children to be kept safe
- teachers to be encouraged in their work
- teachers to be growing in their Christian walk
- children to be a witness to their friends
- parents to be bringing their children up in the knowledge and fear of God

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

- Praise God for the opportunity to hold a youth group where the gospel can be proclaimed, and fellowship enjoyed amongst young adults. Please pray for the students in youth group as they navigate their way through adolescence, forming beliefs and making choices more independently.
- Please pray that the students in youth group would come to put their faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray that those students who are already Christian would continue in faith and become established in Jesus, growing in Christ-likeness.
- Pray that Youth Group would be a safe and loving environment where students can love and serve God and each other as well as learn and grow in practical faith.
- Pray for the students in their schools where it is difficult to live out being a Christian. Pray that they would be given all strength through the Holy Spirit to endure and persevere, also be a light in their part of the world.
- Pray for the leaders. Pray that they would lovingly serve as an example of Christ to the students in Youth Group. Pray that they would conduct themselves in holiness and love. Pray too that they may act wisely and with self-sacrificing love towards the students.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

CMS missionaries in Nepal <http://www.cms.org.au/>
Bruce, Libby, Stephanie and Ruth are in Nepal, Daniel and Julia are studying in Brisbane at UQ, and are at church with us.

Ephesians 1:17 Pray .. “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.”

For Bruce:

- co-ordination of postgraduate training for General Practitioners, overseeing of rural mission hospitals and advice on the training of health workers for rural Nepal.
- mentoring of Christian doctors and medical students.

For Libby:

- teaching at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC).
- training of young people in godliness and wisdom.

For Daniel, Julia, Stephanie, Ruth

For Nepal

- stability of government (1 Tim 2:1-7).
- order out of chaos due to growth, pollution and poverty.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:12-13

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Col 3:12-14

- Please pray that marriages and families will be places where people bear with one another and forgive each other.
- May love bind everything together in perfect harmony.
- Please pray that wives will submit to their husbands and that husbands will love their wives (Ephesians 5:22-25).
- Pray that families will be able to look to the needs of others also.
- Please also remember those who are going through the pain of infertility, struggling in strained marriages, longing to be married, preparing for marriage or newly married, and ‘empty-nesters’.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

“...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you, not for shameful gain, but eagerly, not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.” 1 Peter 5:1-5

The Board meets monthly and helps oversee the affairs of the church.

Please pray that the Board would grow in:

- love for one another
- godliness and a hunger for holiness
- insight and understanding of issues at hand
- wisdom and godliness in decision-making
- courageous and faithful leadership of the church
- ongoing submission to the scriptures

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

Romans 10:13-15 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Praise God for:

- The gospel of Jesus, by which anyone can be saved
- The freedom we enjoy in our country to read the Bible and share the gospel openly, without fear of imprisonment or persecution
- Books and courses to help us explain our faith and share the gospel

Pray for:

- Personal outreach to be a priority in our lives (families, friends, neighbours, schools, workplaces)
- Church-based evangelism to occur through preaching, Unichurch International and individual conversations
- Event-based evangelism (Easter, Christmas, kids club, men's and women's events) to be effective, with good relationships established and good follow-up.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." Colossians 4:2 –4

my family and friends

my church family

other concerns

The Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) is generally a 2 year full-time hands-on experience of ministry. The trainees go through a massive gear change in both life and career. It is a time to see what a life of ministry might look like before going on to formal theological training.

In 2009, Andrew Morphy and Kirsty McNamara are our MTS workers.

2 Tim 2:1-2 “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Please pray for:

- Those doing MTS
 - godliness in the busyness of life
 - growing competence and confidence in ministry
 - understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses
 - teachability
 - clarity of direction of future ministry
 - growing understanding and confidence in the scriptures
- Those considering full-time ministry and MTS

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

my family and friends

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other concerns

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:11-13

Pray that our church would be taking up opportunities to be prepared for works of service through courses on evangelism, follow-up and Bible study group leading. Pray also for those undertaking PTC courses (Preliminary Theological Certificate); that they would study well, growing in knowledge and Christian love and maturity.

Pray that many would be:

- equipped to serve God and one another
- growing in competency to serve
- growing in confidence to serve
- able to have opportunities to put their training into practice
- able to see the fruit of their service in people becoming Christians and maturing in Christ.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:8-9

my family and friends

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other concerns

Long-term Church Staff

Day 20

Roy, Karen and Jessica Davidson
Dave, Tanya, Elizabeth and Stephen Pitt
John, Grace and Irene Lew

1Tim 4:16 “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

2Tim 4:5 “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

Thank God

- for the unity in the staff team and for ongoing unity and love for each other and their families as the wider team changes from time to time.

Pray

- for godliness and faithfulness to the gospel.
- that their homes will be a haven of love and holiness.
- that the staff team will be prepared to endure suffering for the gospel and be diligent in their own personal evangelism.
- that the word of God and prayer would not be neglected for the sake of other things.
- for courage to speak the truth in love, not fearing men, but God, who will judge the fruit of our labour.
- for wisdom for Roy and the Board as they consider future staffing decisions. Pray that the right people will be employed to serve at Unichurch and that they will work well with the team.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.” 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

my family and friends

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other concerns

“..... we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2

Thess 1:11

Paul and Helen, Rose, William and Zoe Douglas

Missionaries with CMS in China (<http://www.cms.org.au/>), Paul is seconded to Evergreen, an ‘above the radar’ Christian organization in Shanxi province. (www.evergreenchina.net)

Please pray for:

- growth of the gospel through the distribution of the “Big Picture Bible”
- many of those contacted through medical work to believe in Jesus
- balance of Medical work and Ministry of the word
- many to come to be Christians through the Douglas’ work in China
- the Douglas family to demonstrate godliness by being slow to anger, quick to forgive and willing to put others before themselves.
- open and humble hearts among the many short term workers, interns and volunteers who come to serve

Scott and Kerry, Ellie, Rachel and Timothy Shaw

Serving under the radar in Asia.

Please pray for:

- equipping of local leaders for leadership in the church
- the Church to be strengthened
- people to be added to the faith day by day

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:10-11

my family and friends**my church family****other concerns**

“..faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17

Focus 217 seeks to implement a Biblical response to the poor who are within the household of faith, our local community and abroad. The group gets together about every 3 months at Jeff & Di Stitt’s home (ph 3378 7298). We meet to specifically discuss how to use our resources to benefit those in need. We also spend time reading a short Bible passage and praying.

Focus 217 is seen as an extension of what many of us are already doing in our Christian lives (working with refugees, the indigenous community, advocacy/social justice, fair trade and the homeless). Overall, Focus 217’s most significant contribution to Unichurch is giving people the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need, both in word and deed.

Please pray for

- the Pari Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe and particularly for Kidzcan, the project that Unichurch raised money for. Pray that medical supplies are made accessible to the hospital so that those who need medical care can receive it.
- the Barnabas Fund (www.barnabasfund.org). Pray for the persecuted Church world wide, and specifically pray that those being persecuted would be strengthened by Jesus Christ and for the protection of their civil rights. See also www.persecutedchurch.org

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

my family and friends

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other concerns

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

- give thanks that in Queensland we still have the freedom to go into schools and teach children about God and Jesus. Pray that these opportunities would continue, especially for the sake of unchurched children.
 - please ask God that these seeds that are sown will bear fruit in His good timing.
 - pray for more Christians to see the importance and privilege of teaching Christian Religious Education and have the willingness and boldness to fill vacancies.
 - pray for good and fruitful relationships between RE teachers, school staff and parents.
 - Pray for those from Unichurch currently teaching RE:
 - Ross and Robin McKenzie @ Ironside SS
 - Roy Davidson @ Fig Tree Pocket SS
 - Andrew Morphy @ Kenmore SS
 - Karen Grenning @ Brookfield SS
 - Jess Gauci @ Chapel Hill SS
 - Shem Foo @ Rainworth SS
- that they would prepare diligently, teach faithfully and love the children entrusted to their care.

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32

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2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

See also 2 Cor 8:1-15, Matt 6:1-4, 1 Tim 6

Unichurch operates solely from the financial resources given through church attendees. Ten percent of all monies received is direct toward missionary giving. We support Church Missionary Society, Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, New Tribes Mission, FIJI Youth For Christ, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches and City Bible Forum.

Please pray for:

- good stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to each of us
- faithfulness in meeting our personal financial commitments
- our generosity in light of God’s grace towards us; that we would give cheerfully, faithfully, generously, sacrificially and intentionally
- the church’s ability to meet it’s financial commitments
- our treasurer, Mike Lubke, thanking God for his faithful service
- the Board’s faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to them
- faith that God will provide for all our needs in Christ Jesus

Give thanks for

- God’s generosity to us in Jesus
- God’s faithful provision to Unichurch so far

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

my family and friends

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other concerns

1 Tim 2:1-6 “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men-- the testimony given in its proper time.”

See also Romans 13:1-7

Pray for our leaders (Prime Minister – Kevin Rudd, Premier – Anna Bligh, Lord Mayor – Campbell Newman, Federal & State local members) that they would:

- govern justly
- care for the marginalised and oppressed
- seek the good of others
- not be authoritarian
- come to salvation (for those not Christian)
- have Godly wisdom and self-control (for those who are Christian)

Pray for ourselves:

- our submission to the governing authorities, which God has established
- our repentance when we break the laws

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1

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He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."
Mark 9:36-37

Scripture Union Chaplaincy Work

Almost 50% of Qld state schools (more than 600) have a chaplain, serving over 330,000 Qld students. This represents 40% of all Queensland state primary schools and 80% of all Queensland state high schools.

SU Qld Chaplains provide a personal point of Christian contact, care and support for students, teachers and their families within their schools.

Pray for all SU Chaplains, and in particular for Unichurch's Marion Birchley, Chaplain @ Ironside State School. Ironside has 760 students, 1/3 from non-English speaking backgrounds

Please pray for:

- positive relationships with staff, students and parents
- Marion to have wisdom and creativity to fulfil her role sensitivity
- more funding to allow Marion to spend more time at Ironside SS
- an openness for people to seek after God

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:19 –21

my family and friends

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other concerns

Unichurch has been sending a team annually to work with Youth for Christ Fiji for a number of years. Shem Foo and Andrew McPhail work closely with Sereki and his leadership team to train the next generation of leaders, particularly in the ministry of the word and prayer.

Ephesians 4:11 "... he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood."

Please pray for:

- our ongoing relationship with Youth for Christ Fiji
- our part in equipping believers for word ministries
- Sereki and his leadership team
- the youth of Fiji to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- the Youth for Christ leaders, that they would lead by the word
- strong Christian leadership in the schools and universities
- the raising up of godly local Pastors and teachers
- stability of the government of Fiji

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:29 –32

my family and friends

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other concerns

“.. obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.” Ephesians 6:5-6

“Masters, provide... what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.” Colossians 4:1

See also Ephesians 6:5-9 and Colossians 3:22-4:1

Please pray for:

- godliness in the workplace: diligence in work, not caught up in office gossip or politics, godly witness to co-workers, salt and light (Matt 5:13-16)
- godliness on the road: that God would protect those away from home from various temptations and pressures; that God would sustain their faith
- godliness at home and in the world: patience and protection for wives and families at home while husband travelling; not being choked by the “worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth” (Matt 13:22)
- those looking for work and those whose jobs might be affected by the Global Economic Crisis
- City Bible Forum : www.citybibleforum.org : Running since mid 2007, and now under the directorship of Glenn Hohnberg, the City Bible Forum puts on public talks, co-ordinates prayer groups, runs training courses and seeks to work with other Christian endeavours in the city. Please

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

my family and friends

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other concerns

There are people from many nations for whom English is not their first language. John Lew heads up the oversight and direction of helping these people understand and obey the gospel of Jesus. A group meets before morning and evening church to read and discuss the passage being preached on, in preparation for the service.

Acts 10:34 “.... Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him....”

Please pray for:

- friendships to develop towards those not fluent in English
- understanding of the gospel as it is proclaimed
- belief in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for salvation
- raising and equipping of leaders for Christian service in the world
- networking of believers into Christian fellowship when they move home

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19

my family and friends

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Working with New Tribes Mission (<http://au.ntm.org/>)

Paul and Debbie have been working in the Philippines in and around a town called Lapoc for a number of years. They have planted a church there which is now being led by people who have become Christians from that town. This church has in turn been sending out people to evangelise villages near and far. Paul, Debbie and Jubab are living in Ballina in 2009 to concentrate on translating the book of Luke into one of the local languages.

Colossians 1:9-14”from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.... He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Please pray for:

- growth of the gospel in and around Lapoc
- perseverance of co-workers, evangelists and Bible teachers
- safety from those opposed to the gospel
- the triumph of the gospel over witchcraft and evil spirits
- the translation of the scriptures into the local language

my personal godliness (having been saved by grace)

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:23-25

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Church Prayer Meetings

Mission Prayer Meeting

A group meets on the 3rd Monday evening of the month to pray for overseas mission work. See the bulletin for monthly details or contact Shem Foo at shem.foo@abi.com

Before Church Prayer meetings

- 8.45am Sunday mornings in the music room. Any questions ask Nickie Westcott: 3701 5404
- 5.30pm Sunday afternoons just outside the church hall. Any questions James Page: 0403 415 640

In Need of Prayer?

If you have a particular prayer concern, why not pray with a Christian friend or contact one of the elders or ministry team: www.ucq.org.au.