

20th September, 2015

RHYTHMS OF PRAYER:

LONGING

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

I was heartened last week when I saw the rally in Melbourne central. It was called 'Light the Dark'; a rally to advocate for the acceptance of Syrian refugees, and on a stormy, wet and cold night, over 1,000 everyday people like you and me met and lit candles in remembrance and advocacy. They were there with heavy hearts, longing for the government to change their mind, and bring peace to those in need.

This story gives me incredible hope, and reminds me of a long-standing narrative of the bible that says the bible is a mix of two stories of **longing**; 1) The people of God are longing for God's faithfulness, 2) God is longing for his people to live **in faithfulness**.

Yet, so often we can get distracted and forget the truths of our faith.

Paul

in his letter to the Corinthian church, (a church that was being led astray), highlights his personal suffering for the Gospel. He has been whipped, jailed, beaten, chained ... etc. and yet his heart still beats with a rhythm for longing, for justice and peace and faithfulness in this world here and now. Nothing that he has gone through has diminished his longing for God's kingdom here on earth.

Indeed as we look at the **Lord's Prayer**, we see a prayer of longing. A prophetic prayer of longing. A rhythmic prayer for God's kingdom here and now! ... **Our Father, you are holy, your kingdom come now. Give us our daily needs and help us to forgive unendingly. Protect us from those that would harm us!**

Now that is a rhythmic prayer of longing! **I am longing for your kingdom here and now!!!**

Drew Nicholls

Welcome to Ringwood. We are not a perfect church.... But we do love the Lord and seek to take his life, call, ministry and hope seriously. We seek to THRIVE in his favour through an attentiveness to the Word, joining in community, seeking to recognize and exercise our gifts and connection with the wider neighborhood.

WORSHIP THIS MORNING

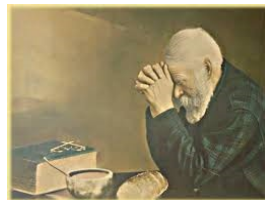
Worship Leading: Linda Mill
Song Leading: Annora Hummerston
Speaker: Drew Nicholls

NIGHT CHURCH - 6.00pm

Worship Leading: Brooke Tregenza
Song Leading: Rachel Broadbent
Speaker: Nick Crawley
Belgrave Heights Christian School

NEW 10am SERIES: Rhythms of Prayer:

A journey of prayer exploring a variety of modalities through cleansing (Psalm 51), pleading (Daniel 9) and sung praise (Luke 1), to intimacy (John 17) and longing (1 Samuel 1), from the depth of the 'Our Father' (Matt 6) to Paul on his knees (Ephesians 3) and even when we are engulfed in the consequences of our own action (Jonah 2). Starts today.



WHY not get some friends together or your life group and catch the movie : WAR ROOM (Prayer is a Powerful Weapon) in major cinemas NOW !!!

MOVE
MISSIONAL VOCATION

MOVE is a series looking at those within our community that are doing missional work as their vocation everyday. As part of this 6 week series we will have a speaker from a missional organisation come each week and share with us their heart for mission, for everyday *Kingdom Work* in small practical ways.

A thank you to our dear church family,

How blessed we are and how blessed mum was, to be part of such a lovely family of faith. We thank you sincerely for the thoughts and prayers that have given us incredible peace and calm to cope with everything the past week has held. In some ways it has been a most beautiful family focused week.

Our sincere thanks from *Andrea, Ken, Mitch, Lachie and Aidan*

Prayer Action:

- ◆ Pray for our federal Government in the aftermath of another significant week of leadership change. Pray for stability, vision, wisdom, direction and grace.
- ◆ Pray for our nation as a whole as we continue to navigate global change and a significant range of challenges to moral resolve, ethical integrity and neighbourly decency.
- ◆ Uphold those currently facing significant transitions and change. Pray particularly for those caring for loved ones in palliative care and for those navigating life stage transitions.
- ◆ Uphold the Phillips family as they move and settle into the USA for a couple of years. Pray for health, connection, friendship and kindness in new schools and making a home in a new culture.
- ◆ Pray for the Indonesian Mission team as October draws closer. Give thanks for the level of prayerful and financial support that has been offered toward this venture. Pray also for our good friends in Salatiga, Central Java, as they actively prepare for the arrival of Craig Brown, Drew Nicholls, Bec Murray, Kaity Ludgater and Ben Moore.
- ◆ Uphold those individuals and households that have been really doing it tough with cycles of flu. Pray particular for those who live alone Be proactive and follow up with people seeing if they need shopping etc.
- ◆ Give thanks for our connection with new arrivals to Australia ... pray for an increase in our ability to assist, mentor, support and encourage those on a new journey in a new land.
- ◆ Continue to pray for Claire Newnham and the incredible work done by Mercy Ships.
- ◆ Pray for Natalie Palmer as her new role with OM unfolds. We will have a commissioning of her on October 11.
- ◆ Please pray for Andrea Salmon and her family on the death of her mother, and subsequent funeral last week. Give thanks for the gracious, faithful, kind and encouraging life that Betty has lived so well !

To order copies of the **sermon on CD**, please find an order form in the attendance register. Leave in the register and these will be processed and available, usually within one week. If you would like to offer a donation to this ministry, please place this in the offering bowl.

Kidszone is in recess for the holidays.

PIZZA BOXES will be available for primary aged children during the 10.00am service.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY : 12.30pm-2pm
(In recess over the holidays)

SUNDAY ROAST

The next **Sunday Roast** will be on **Sunday, 27th September** immediately following the morning service. This is for any of our **seniors** who may live alone and rarely cook a roast dinner for themselves.

The cost is \$10.00. Please put your name on the Response Sheet on the noticeboard.



MONTHLY MOVIE MOMENT

If you're a regular moviegoer or one-movie-a-month type of person; then I invite you to come along to the next Monthly Movie Moment!

The next Moment will be **"Oddball"** at Croydon Cinemas on Friday 25th.

Please rsvp your attendance and to check times by phone 0409 007 396 or email (timbo_marriott@hotmail.com) (Tim Marriott)



UPCOMING WORKING BEE

The next working bee will be held on Saturday **October 10th from 9am - 1pm**, here at the church. If you can spare 1 or 2 hours or more that would be great!!

We will be doing all the normal cleaning of the church, window cleaning, gardening and odd jobs.

Please plan on bringing what you need to do for the task you wish to do.

If you have a trailer and/or a wheelbarrow, a spade and rake could you also bring those and any tools that you think you might use.

We have invited our Chin Burmese friends so it would be great if there is more of us than them!!

Morning tea will be at 10.30am, if anyone would like to offer to cook something for it that would be helpful as well. Every bit helps towards making our church a better place to be.

Please let us know what you can do and if you can come.

Date: October 10th, 2015

Times: 9-1pm or anywhere in between

Enquiries: via Adrian or Max



THANK YOU for your GENEROUS SUPPORT:

“The Ringwood team heading to Salatiga in Central Java on October 6th was so encouraged by the generosity of the Ringwood church community last Sunday. In glorious sunshine, you took the opportunity to enjoy some superb sausages and onion and, more importantly, donated over **\$650** to the costs of the trip. **That generosity has been a real boost to us and has accounted for 50% of our total on the ground costs!** Thanks so much. Please keep us in your prayers as we get close to our departure date.”

(The Indonesian Mission Team: Craig Brown, Drew Nicholls, Kaitly Ludgater , Bec Murray and Ben Moore)

Farewell and God Bless:

Today we take some time to honour the **Phillips family** as they head off to live in the USA for a couple of years. We are going to really miss them and the wonderful sense of service, generosity and joy they bring to this community of faith. Thank you for all the encouragement, connection and delight you have released here ☺.

Pray for Matt as he becomes established in the work place, for Fiona as she navigates a significant array of changes and for William, Andrew and Olivia as they adjust to a new culture and make friends. Uphold them as they find a church and connect with neighbours and make new friends.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SAMARITAN'S PURSE:

“Open up a whole new life ... through the power of a simple gift”

1. Find a shoe box, or you can purchase one for 50 cents from Pauline Lomman in the foyer, following each service from **September 28th**. Pauline will also have instructions on how “Operation Christmas Child” works.
2. Determine if a boy or girl will receive your gift, and what age that child would be.
3. Follow some simple guidelines, fill the box with a variety of simple gifts that will bring delight to a child.

Our shoe box drop off date will be Sunday, October 19th, 2014.

If you would rather make a donation, please take an envelope marked Operation Christmas Child and place this in the offering bowl.



Continue to pray for Claire Newnham and the incredible work done by Mercy Ships. This is a reflection written by one of Claire's friends on the Africa - Mercy Ship. It might help to enlarge your prayers for the nature of this mission:

"You came to the ward this afternoon. There was talk on the ward about your arrival. Someone said you had been found while the advance team was looking for patients. They didn't expect to find you.

You came with your mom to the ship, wrapped in a pink blanket so tightly that I couldn't even see you. You were just a bundle of pink in your mom's tiny arms. At not even five feet tall, your mom is small to me. But you were so much smaller. I heard your cry from your blanket and your mom began to breast feed you. Still, I did not see your face. You were in a corner in the room. Many doctors came to see you because you were special. But special isn't always something good. It means you had to be poked several times to draw blood because your veins are so small. Your little cry became much stronger as we attacked your veins for blood. This was heart-breaking to hear. It's the worst part of our jobs. But you are so small and need so much care that we had to keep trying until we got enough. There is no way to explain this to you.

I finally see your little feet poke out from the bottom of the blanket. They are beautiful feet. Tears well up in my eyes even though you aren't my patient, but that doesn't matter. I still find that I love you and I haven't even seen you. I automatically think of God and how much he loves each one of us. How much His heart breaks for us when we are hurt. How much he wants to heal every one of our pains and put us back perfectly together while we trudge on in this fallen world. I am overwhelmed by how much I can be loved by God, who created me and knows me intimately, if I love you as much as I do and I haven't even seen your face.

You have a dirty diaper. Despite getting hardly any food, you manage to void and get a diaper change. I see your long legs and again hear your plea. Your little legs shake from the cold of the room as we obtrusively undress you. The diaper you are wearing is for a newborn, but it is huge on you, swallowing up over half your body. Your mom goes to redress you in newborn clothes, which look like they are made for a two year old they are so big for you. She places a bonnet on your head to keep you warm. She is doing her absolute best. She goes to breastfeed you again. She continues this routine nearly every thirty minutes. I don't know how she's been doing this for seven months. I don't think she's slept, but by her quiet and continuous care and obvious fierce love for you, she doesn't show the wear it has put on her.

Finally, your little head pops out from the blanket. My heart melts. You are the most beautiful baby girl. Your small face and wrinkles on your forehead make you look like a tiny newborn, but your long feet and hands reveal your age. You are seven months old, but your eyes carry sorrow deeper than I knew they could go. Your seven months have been a battle. Your little body, somehow surviving, is the proof that you are a fighter. And that your mother is fighting with you. The cleft on your lip tells the story of why your life has been such a battle. You have a bilateral cleft lip and palate. It's an opening in your mouth and lip where your lips and mouth bones didn't fuse all the way, leaving a gap that travels from your nostril down to where

your lip should end. But this is split for you, on both sides and under both nostrils. And because you don't have a contiguous mouth, the little free-floating piece of upper mouth below your nose sticks far out. Your tongue has been pushing up against it in your attempt to get food and no lips exist to help push it back. Our lips are the reasons all of our upper jaws and teeth don't stick straight out, but because you have no such barrier, your maxilla just keeps extending forward. The holes in your mouth mean you can't make a good seal in order to breastfeed and because you can't eat, you are starving. I hear you were born weighing eight pounds, but at seven months old you weigh under five. In seven months you've actually lost weight, even though you've somehow continued to grow. Your long skinny fingers and beautiful feet tell you are not new to this world, and your body bears the scars of one who has had to fight for every day of life.

Our goal on the ward will be to spend the next few months attempting to get you as much nutrition as you've missed since birth. We will give you formula to help supplement your mother's milk, carefully watching your weight and lab levels to make sure you will tolerate your new feeding program. Our goal is not only to get you healthy, but healthy enough to have surgery. Surgery that will fix your cleft lip and palate. Surgery that will allow you to eat and speak. There is a possibility you will have hearing damage due to improper drainage for your ears, and speech problems due to the loss of your palate, but these are issues we can't now address. Our goal is to get you to surgery. Our goal is for you to live.

And so we pray for you. We pray you will tolerate the new feeds. We pray that you will gain weight. We pray that you will recover fast enough to make it to surgery while we are still here, that we won't have to leave you behind knowing you regained your health and your strength but are left with a cleft. We pray that you will survive."
(Shelby Olufson)

IN SUPPORT OF EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH MELBOURNE'S (ECCM) INITIATIVE:

Nunnak Ti means 'Living Waters'. It is a radio program that is broadcast out of Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) in the Falam Chin language every week to Burma.

Each week ECCM record a sermon, and the following week it is broadcast on 5 days at different times in Chin State, Burma.

They preach the Gospel, and give encouragement to their brothers and sisters using these radio programs, especially at this time when they are recovering from the recent floods.

These radio sermons are also made available online, from the ECCM website, for those who have internet access, or who do not have access to short wave radio handsets.

ECCM have organised for a number of T-Shirts to be printed with their Nunnak Ti logo, and have been made available for fundraising for this ministry. These can be purchased for \$20 each and are available to be purchased at the close of the 10am service today (20.9.15)

Foundation Closure

In 2003 there was a decision made, with the church's approval, to provide a level of tax deductibility for people's donations to the church. This decision led to the formation of a set of Trusts under the banner most of us know as "The Foundation." Malcolm Lowe was the instigator and visionary in the Foundation's development. The Trustees of the foundation have been: Ian Henry, Bruce Armstrong and Ken Morton.

Anne Morley has been the Fund Manager of the Foundation and has to be greatly thanked for her commitment to ensuring we have complied with the regulations and that all monies were dispersed correctly. Anne certainly made the job of the trustees easier.

The benefit of the Foundation was that people were able to make tax-deductible donations to the Foundation that were able, according to strict guidelines, to be donated to the church and other approved organisations. The amount of tax deductibility was then able to be donated to the church. This meant that there were potentially additional finances to run some of the church's programs.

The purpose of the fund was always to ensure the church was able to access additional funds in order to expand our mission. The Foundation was able to allocate funds to three Trusts that were developed. These were: 'Welfare', 'Education' and 'RE in Schools'.

The rules for tax deductibility are quite strict and when The Foundation was initiated it was able to comply with the rules for the formation and ongoing management of Trusts.

As time went by, church programs and rule changes, made by those who decide the Trust rules, meant that we were unable to continue to comply with the very strict regulations. Consequently we wound up two of the Trusts (Education and Welfare) but maintained our 'RE in schools' Trust.

The trustees have decided to wind up the Foundation and the RE in Schools Fund as the regulations and church programs no longer suit the benefits that the Foundation was initially able to provide.

Over the life of the Foundation the church has received \$1,585,925.55 Other organisations, such as COCOA and Access Ministries have benefited to the amount of \$6,800. Chaplaincy and RE salaries have also received \$56,138.

You can see that whilst the Foundation was in operation there were wonderful things able to be done through the donations the Foundation was able to provide to the church and other organisations.

Ken Morton on behalf of the Trustees

Ringwood Church of Christ presents...

Kids Activity Arvo

featuring a screening of

Lucky Door Prizes

\$5 to cover afternoon
tea and activities



Tuesday 22nd September 2015

2pm - 4.30pm

**Gold Lounge Area
for Parents**

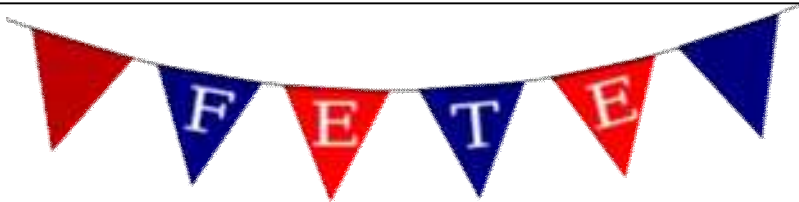
Ringwood Church of Christ

Games

13 Bedford Rd Ringwood

For children in Prep - Grade 6

RSVP to the office ph. 9870 8169 or email: office@ringwoodchurch.org.au



Saturday October 24th, 9am - 2pm

Mark the date in your diary - preparations are well underway and this year's fete looks fantastic. To ensure a great day, we need your help: there are many things that you can do!



Fete Focus... Trash and Treasure, Op Shop, 'Regifting' & Book Stall

We would love items like furniture, toys, bric-a-brac, garden tools, for our Trash and Treasure stall. Unfortunately we can't accept any electrical goods or lounge suites. Please ensure items are in good condition so that we avoid taking unwanted goods to the tip after the fete. Items can also be delivered to the church on Friday the night before the fete. If you cannot store items until then, please contact Brian Tanfield to arrange pick-up. Pre-loved, clean clothing and smaller household bits and pieces are also welcome for the Op Shop.

The Book Stall organisers would love any novels, cookbooks, children's books in good condition, magazines and DVDs. No videos, textbooks or encyclopedias can be accepted.

After the success of our first '**Regifting**' Stall, it's on again. For all those well-intentioned, but mismatched gifts that you may have received for birthdays and Christmases past, and which are now taking up space in a cupboard somewhere.

Calling **musicians** and **buskers** – book a time to use the piano, platform or a quiet corner.

Book a Stall

Do you have a great idea for raising funds for our church or another worthy cause? If you would like to book a stall contact Andrea, letting her know of any special requirements you may have (such as powerpoint access, extra display space, etc.) But be quick - stalls are filling up fast!

Fete meeting – all welcome!

Our next meeting is 8pm Wednesday September 16th at the Salmons

Fete Team:

Andrea Salmon ph: 9879 5014
John Newnham: ph:9893 1811
Russell Cheal ph: 0415 865 331
Brian Tanfield ph: 9720 5145
Natalie Robson ph: 8288 1988
Gail Pratley ph : 0419 590 718

email: andreas@photobarn.com.au
email: jbcak@optusnet.com.au
email: rubarb.cheal@gmail.com
email: tanfbel4@hotmail.com
email: robson.natalie.b@gmail.com
email: gpratley@optusnet.com.au

Mission Trip 2015

In October 6th -12th, we will be heading to the Church of Christ Bible College in Salatiga, Indonesia.

Please pray for us, as we prepare for this exciting trip, that we may be respectful and honoring of their culture.

Thank you in anticipation:

Craig Brown, Drew Nicholls, Ben Moore, Rebecca Murray and Kaity Ludgater



REFRESHMENT DAY for PASTORAL CARERS (Caring for Carers):

The Pastoral Committee (Community Care and Well-Being) set aside in our new Constitution, has been meeting over several months to consider the ongoing development of Pastoral Care in the life of the Church. As part of their discernment **they have booked a retreat Centre in Templestowe for Saturday September 26th to facilitate a day devoted to 'caring for carers'.**

If you are interested in finding out more or sense that a pastoral refreshment day may be important for you (or someone else) please let Marg Goddard, Trish Burch, Julia Fullerton, Gail Pratley or John Sharpe know ASAP and we will send you the information.

Worshipful, faithful and regular giving to God's work ... *consider*

I authorise Ringwood Church of Christ, 13 Bedford Road, Ringwood 3134. to charge my credit card for \$ _____ being my offering for today.

Or

My regular offering amount of \$ _____ to be debited from my credit card each week/month. (Please circle the appropriate option)

Visa

Mastercard

Card
No:

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Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Card Expiry Date: __ / __

Contact No: _____

Direct Debit or Internet Banking

Ringwood
Church of
Christ Inc.

NAB

BSB: 083 343
Account No:
89 395 1419



Birthday Greetings - September

Monday	21st	Jarrold Kutka
Tuesday	22nd	Gwenda Hart
Thursday	24th	Belinda Carter, Nathan Kutka, Julie Lanaway, Matthew Pritchard
Friday	25th	Jenny Bonsor
Saturday	26th	Brianna Ricci

Next Week - 27th September, 2015

RHYTHMS OF PRAYER: CLEANSING PSALM 51

Speaker:	Geoff Sprott
Worship/Communion:	Meryllyn Sprott
Song Leader:	Janet Woodlock
Bible Reading:	Joe Kutka
Communion Helpers:	Cathy Glover, Gray Starkey, Barbara Steen, Julie & John Lanaway, Marion Evans, Peter Alsop
Band:	Chris Sharpe, Daniel Wright, BRASS, John Sharpe, Darren Evans, Ian Homewood
Singers:	Julie Waterhouse, Jon Fraser, Michelle Pritchard
Audio:	Neal Glover
Projection:	Greg Carroll
Morning Tea:	Helen & David Stanhope
Communion Preparation:	Cathy Glover
Flowers:	
Welcome :	Sue Rosel, Doug Goddard, Graeme Addicott
Offering Counters:	Colin Pritchard, Russell Cheal
NIGHT CHURCH:	'MOVE: Missional Vocation - 5
	Speaker: Michael Blumel - Urban Seed
	Leaders: Gill & Phil Wright

Op Shop: **Wednesday/Thursday
(In recess for the holidays)**

Oasis Meals: - **Thursday
(In recess for the holidays)**



NOTICEBOARD:

Seeking accommodation – see general noticeboard.

Lovely furniture for sale - see general noticeboard.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8.30am Communion/Study

10.00am Worship

6.00pm Evening Service