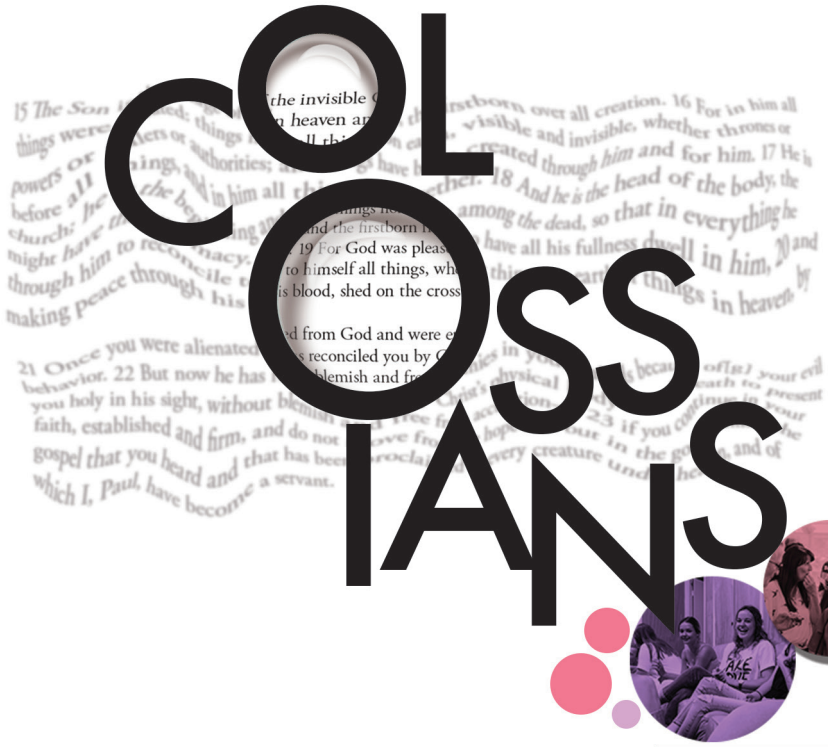


COLLOSSIANS



*TRUTH IN
TRUTH OUT*

CHURCH NEWS

JUNE - JULY 2018

WELCOME

A friend often tells me this story. He was talking with a reasonably powerful man in another country. Being a missionary meant the conversation turned to the state and size of the church – its influence and health. The other man took a little delight in reminding my friend that the church looked weak and was in a bit of turmoil. To which he replied, ***“Yes, that’s true. But I’m on the winning team. In the end, we win.”***

My friend is right. The church wins – not because she is more powerful than everyone else.

THE CHURCH WINS BECAUSE JESUS HAS WON. HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION MEAN HE HAS DEFEATED THE EVIL ONE, TAKEN THE STING OUT OF SIN AND HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH. HE HAS DONE ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO BE RECONNECTED TO HIM, HIS FATHER AND HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

It’s because of what Jesus has done we win. We know that accepting Jesus’ offer of forgiveness for our sin means we are transferred to the winning team. One day we will see His face and live in His presence without fear.



JOHN GRAY
Senior Minister

One day, Revelation 11:15 tells us, the whole earth will be observably His Kingdom. The Church wins because Jesus has won.

The day we experience all this will be THE great day. It will also be THE most horrendous of days for far too many. For them will be the heart stopping realisation that Jesus is true to his word. Offering forgiveness to all, he also warned that to reject Jesus now was to face His rejection then. This is sobering, to say the least.

This is why we take Jesus' great commission seriously: to make disciples. We want to do all we can, with all we have, to bring people to Jesus.

We want them to move from the losing team to the winning team. We want them to enjoy the wonder of sin forgiven, guilt forgiven (psalm, 32:5), knowing Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We want them to know the wonder of being called a child of God.

It's my prayer that, as we continue to meet together Sunday by Sunday, we will experience a deepening joy of knowing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And we will have the joy of seeing family and friends come to Christ.



GLOBAL OUTREACH

JOHN AND FIONA

Serving in South East Asia



THE CHALLENGE OF WHERE HOUSE CHURCHES GATHER

Russel was a new, vibrant believer, from a small village in Madar province. Soon after coming to faith he started a small secret believers fellowship in his home. However, once his brother found out about it – he burnt down Russel’s home in anger. That was the last time this group of believers met together. Where could they meet now?

Our previous church fellowship in Farid are also struggling to find a place to meet. Even though Farid is a small town not many of the member are open to having the church meet in their own home for various reasons. Perhaps their landlord would not approve and evict them? Perhaps it would draw too much attention from their non-believing family members or neighbours? Perhaps their house isn’t big enough?

Now, our house church here in the capital, has just been asked to vacate the flat where they have been meeting for years. The true reason for the eviction by the, previously welcoming landlord, is unknown.

Now the church is unsure where it will meet! Will they be able to find another open-minded landlord willing to rent them a small flat? Will the church need to split into smaller groups so they can meet in members houses?

The issue of where to meet is a very significant issue for believers here, either in the city, or in the town, and even more difficult for those in the village. This is one of the leading reasons for why gathering the church here is such a challenge.

Please pray – for our house church here in the capital and the church in Farid as they look for new meeting locations. Pray also for the many believers in villages who are not meeting because of no suitable meeting location – that the Lord will open doors to them.



“NOW WOMEN ARE VERY CARING TO THEIR CHILDREN. THEY LOVE THEM INSTEAD OF SELLING THEM”

This is a quote from one of the street women in our **“Children’s Uplift Program”** (CUP). It was her reflection on how she has seen change amongst the women in the program with her. Most of the women come from the streets or slums of Mirpur (in the capital). The vast majority have been street-based sex workers in order to provide for their family. The above comment captures the sad cycle that these women can end up in where they sell their children for sex or to traffickers to survive.

The program is a 12 -month program which aims to help clients transition into other employment (primarily sewing). It provides emotional/counselling support and literacy and life skills training. Every morning clients sit under the teaching of the Word. I (Fi) sit facing them for the teaching time and it always surprises (and delights) me at how happy and excited their faces are. Rather than resenting teaching that is “other” for them, (they being from the majority) they love it. Most womens’ experience is injustice upon injustice and betrayal upon betrayal from people who should have cared for them. How wonderful to hear of the One who loves, accepts, sees and reaches out to them.

A requirement to enter the program is that ladies must bring their kids to the centre every day where they are cared for and taught in the Children’s section.

Please pray - for Fi as she helps mentor the CUP Director (a national lady). It’s a tough job for Hosneara to keep a calm and caring environment in this project!



John, Fiona, Zeke and Clay will be back home in Australia for a visit in July!

A particular need they have is for the first month in Australia. If you know of any accommodation that they might use for July/ August in the Gyemea/ Sutherland area please let us know via email.

Also if you would like them to visit your Small Group or share at your event please email and let us know!

info@spch.org.au

CRU[®] SUPAWEEK

CRU[®] Day Camp at St Paul's
Yrs K-6 co-ed
Mon 9 - Fri 13 July 2018



REGISTER TODAY

www.stpauls.church/crusupaweek

Drop-off is between 8am-9am. Pick-up is between 5pm-6pm
Online price: \$199*

* This price is for online registrations only. Add \$10 for bookings made via other methods.



CHILDREN WRESTLERS



There are many colourful characters in the world of wrestling, a world I must admit I am not particularly familiar with.

However as I have worked through the book of Colossians I have found a wrestler I want to be like:

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you.

In 4:12 Paul indicates that one of the Colossians is in jail with him, yet even incarceration presents no barriers to this man literally agonizing that the Colossians “may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured”.

Epaphras challenges me to consider both *how often* I wrestle and *who* I wrestle for in prayer. We believe that salvation is by faith, a gift of God, not because of who we are or what we have done.

Therefore I cannot sit back and expect my children to just follow my faith.

Paul repeatedly urged the Colossians to continue in their faith, ***“established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel” (1:23).***

Unfortunately it appears they did not (2 Timothy 1:15). Like Epaphras then if I desire for my children to mature in their faith I should be engaged in fervent, laborious, agonising prayer over them.

How are you going in wrestling in prayer for your children? For the children in our church? For the children in our community? ***Will you seek to follow Epaphras’ example with me and wrestle on behalf of the children at KidsConnect, Kids Alive, SRE and Supaweek?***

MATT KELLER
Children’s Minister



THE BLUE ARMY

IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

The best way to join our community and
stay up-to-date with our events

Visit facebook.com/stpaulsch

Click on GROUPS to find us



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS IN
EVERY COMMUNITY.
COME AND FIND OUT MORE.**

**TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 7:30PM IN THE CEC
Q&A PANEL
GUEST SPEAKER: DIANE COLEMAN**

For more information www.stpauls.church/infonight



DISCOVER
DISRUPT
DISCIPLE

Monday 4th June
7:30-9:30pm

D3 is a SEND ministry of St Paul's that has been running for over 3 years. It is all about **Discovery, Disruption and Discipleship**.

As we continuously learn and grow with the fast-changing world around us and its impact on our lives and our businesses, we are also needing to think about the impact on church.

On the first Monday of every month, a group of like-minded entrepreneurial and future-thinking brothers and sisters meet to explore the potential of discovery, disruption and discipleship in a new world.

Our next meeting is on June 4th and will be focusing on Artificial Intelligence with content from Stanford University. AI is already part of our lives...so bring your robot too!

TO FIND OUT MORE:

email d3@spch.org.au

facebook.com/stpaulsch

Click on GROUPS to find us

GEOFF DEUTSCHER
Anglicare Minister



ST JAMES
CHAPEL



ANGLICAN PARISH PARTNERSHIP NEWS

We were delighted to recently welcome the M28 group to St James' and have them serve morning tea after the 9:30 service and then enjoy learning from the wisdom and experience of the aged.

Not only did they get to experience a more traditional Prayer Book service (which is no bad thing) but they were privileged to sit at the feet (as it were) of Dr Grace Warren, a world renowned Leprosy Surgeon who has served in 27 different countries with the Leprosy Mission.

Her story has to be heard to be appreciated - as someone who grew up in an era where women couldn't train to be surgeons, she turned down the opportunity for marriage and family in order to follow God's calling on her life.

She was awarded the Star of Pakistan in honour of her humanitarian efforts in that country. Quite a lady!

We hope to offer these insights from the past several times throughout the year.

NEW CHAPEL TAKING SHAPE. . .

The new St James' chapel is slowly rising from the ground. All the underground car park and floor has now been completed and the steel framework starting to take shape. We have been told that the first weekend of December is the most likely date for our first service in the new chapel.

Please pray that we will make the most of the opportunities the new chapel presents to us.



"A taste of honey"

You are invited to a special event for mature women

Prime Time

Tuesday 26th June at 1:30pm
421 Old Northern Rd Castle Hill

Guest Speaker: Sheryl McIntosh

There will be an interlude of beautiful music followed by a delicious high tea

Cost:\$20

RSVP essential

Email: primetime@spch.org.au
or phone 9634 1278



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT COURSE

SATURDAY 21ST JULY 9AM-5PM

We would like to invite you to take an opportunity to work on your marriage. This course is for all married couples and will help you grow in your relationship. No matter what stage you are at in your marriage this day will be of great encouragement to you!

For more info or to register visit
www.stpauls.church/marriagecourse



M28 GOES TO FIJI

On Sunday 8th July our team of M28 students and leaders will head to Fiji on our annual Mission Trip.

We are so thankful for the support of our church, and we are expectant for what God will do through us and the work He will do in us as we partner with the church in Fiji to reach people.

We would absolutely love you to be covering us in prayer for the week, and have included our itinerary so you can see what we are up to each day!

TO FOLLOW OUR TRIP:

[www.facebook.com/
stpaulsyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsyoungadults)

DAILY ITINERARY AND PRAYER POINTS



Sunday 8th July	Fly Sydney to Suva
Monday 9th July	Team Building (Amazing Race) Walk Up Evangelism in the streets
Tuesday 10th July	Village stays Group 1: Vaturua Group 2: Naimalavau
Wednesday 11th July	Village stay
Thursday 12th July	Travel to Peninsula Hotel for debrief and rest
Friday 13th July Saturday 14th July	Homes of Hope Slum visits Evening: Youth Group
Sunday 15th July	Church Travel to Crusoes Retreat Spend the day in the local village
Monday 16th July Tuesday 17th July	Debrief
Wednesday 18th July	Travel home to Sydney

-Pray for safety and health for the whole team, for travel nerves and anxiety, pray that we would settle in quickly and cope with being in a foreign country

-Pray for boldness in all of our interactions with the Fijian people

-Pray for the team as we run kids programs, bible studies, rallies and youth group, pray that all we say and do will point people to Jesus

-Praise God that families in the villages and slums are willing to open their homes to us, invite us in and show hospitality to us. Pray that we would honour these visits by being generous with our time, listening to their stories, praying with them and encouraging them

-Pray for our visit to Homes of Hope, that our eyes will be opened and that we may be able to have a positive and helpful impact in our time working at the organisation

-Pray that we might be able to debrief well and share our experiences with our church family on our return. Pray for changed hearts and lives, and thank God for all He will do through this experience



CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE

TUESDAY

5TH

SENIORS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

12-2pm in the CEC

Guest speaker: Mrs Noelene Beer OAM

"Lost Opportunities?"

WEDNESDAY

6TH

CREWMEN STATE OF ORIGIN

7:30pm in the church

Join us for Game 1 - \$5 BBQ dinner

TUESDAY

19TH

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE
INFORMATION NIGHT**

7:30pm in the CEC

Guest Speaker: Diane Coleman

Q&A panel

For more info visit www.stpauls.church/infonight

TUESDAY

26TH

PRIME TIME

An event for mature women

1:30pm in the church

Guest speaker: Sheryl McIntosh

"A Taste of Honey"

Cost \$20

RSVP is essential

please email primetime@spch.org.au

or call 934 1278

For all upcoming events please visit
stpauls.church/comingup

JULY

SUNDAY

1ST

VITAL SIGNS SURVEY

All church services

A chance for us to check how we are going as a church - online and paper versions available

THURSDAY

3RD

SENIORS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

12-2PM in the CEC

Guest speaker: Mr. Michael Brierley
"Hope For the Hopeless"

SUNDAY

8TH

M28 FIJI MISSION TRIP

Please pray for our team as they head off on their mission trip - returning 18th July.

MONDAY

9TH

SUPAWEEK

Our week long school holiday program for primary school kids - for more info or to register visit www.stpauls.church/crusupaweek

SATURDAY

21ST

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT COURSE

9am to 5pm

For more info or to register please visit www.stpauls.church/marriagecourse

SUNDAY

29TH

SMALL GROUPS DAY

All services

A chance to celebrate our Small Groups Leaders and an opportunity for you to join a Small Group

OUR MISSION

BRING
PEOPLE TO CHRIST

BUILD
PEOPLE IN CHRIST

SEND
PEOPLE OUT FOR CHRIST

OUR VITAL SIGNS



CONTACT US

www.stpauls.church

Office: 419 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

P (02) 8858 1111 E info@spch.org.au

LIVING LEGACY - Please remember St Paul's in your will. For more information, please phone the office on 8858 1111 in confidence.



ST PAUL'S
CASTLE HILL