

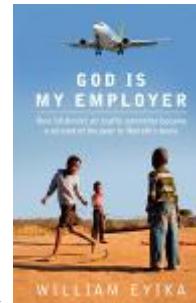
Book of the Month

GOD IS MY EMPLOYER by William Eyika

Cost: \$ 20.00

On the 4th of July 1976, Israeli commandos carried off the most celebrated hostage rescue in the history of aviation, landing at Entebbe Airport in Uganda in the middle of the night and rescuing more than 100 Israeli citizens. William Eyika was one of Uganda's air traffic controllers, and he miraculously escaped President Idi Amin's subsequent purge of his colleagues. He later became chief ground instructor at the East African Flying Academy in Soroti, Uganda. After Idi Amin's reign ended, Soroti was attacked repeatedly by rebel forces, government forces and savage tribesmen. William's father was murdered by tribesmen, who drank his blood. William had a powerful encounter with God and became a Christian and the pastor of the local Baptist church.

Review is from www.Godismyemployer.com



St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	Multi Generational Family Service
Sunday 9.45am	Chinese Service; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 11.15am	Asian Congregation; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 5pm	Contemporary Service
Sunday 7pm	Contemporary Service
Wednesday 10.30am	Traditional Anglican Service

Ministers - All members of the Congregation

Minister	Steve Abbott	Mobile 0417 410 596	9479 3700
Assistants	Shane Dirks	Associate Minister	9479 3700
	Nerida Peart	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Wendy Estall	Pastoral Care/Seniors Minister Mon - Thurs	9479 3707
	Karen Braga	Pastoral Care/Young Women	0401 933 264
	Kenneth Leung	Chinese Minister	0433 766 211
	Kenny Liew	Minister of Asian Congregation	0448 515 408
	Jacki Hellstrom	Children's Ministry Co-ordinator Tues & Fri	9479 3700
	Tina Piccione	Communications Co-ordinator	9479 3700
Administrator	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700
Organist	David Parsons		9871 8007

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

E: office@stmatts.org.au www.stmatts.org.au



Your monthly update on what
Matters at St Matt's.
Reflecting the generosity
of Christ in and to our community.

September
2010



September 2010 Preaching Calendar

5 September	The LORD of All Peoples	Exodus 17:8 – 18:12
12 September	The LORD's Way	Exodus 19:1-9, 20:1-17
19 September	Discipleship: Listening to Jesus	Matthew 17:1-27
26 September	Discipleship: How Relationships Work	Matthew 18:1-19:2



If you are feeling new to St Matthews, please fill out a Communication Card found in the church or hall or at the back of the school hall. One of our ministry team will be in contact with you soon. Stay for morning tea/supper after the service to meet others who have made St Matt's their spiritual home.



www.stmatts.org.au

Pastoral Letter—Steve Abbott

Dear sisters and brothers,

Let me begin this month by publically expressing my enormous gratitude for everyone who contributed to making the Parish Camp such a resounding success. At Merroo many people gave time and energy to ensuring our time together was edifying and encouraging: session leaders were creative and enthusiastic, the band had prepared and practiced carefully and we were enriched by their leadership of our singing and the 'techos' put themselves out doing all they could to ensure presentations were effective. However, it's important to highlight the outstanding and tireless ministry of the Parish Camp Committee under the leadership of Mark Donohoo. This team met monthly, produced the creative strategies and plans to make the camp such a great time and then ensured during the camp everything went according to plan. We say thank you to them and to our Heavenly Father for their service to us all. I also want to say a big thank you to Andrew Lewis and Reg Tidball for looking after the combined 9am service while so many were away at the Camp.

This month sees our latest quarterly Prayer Diary published and ready for pick up. A huge thank you to Kevin who very kindly and graciously puts this very important and strategic tool together for us. I want to urge us all to make regular use of this throughout the week and encourage us to keep it near our Bibles so that we might remember to pray for the parish when we regularly read God's Word.

I have been reminded as I've prepared my messages on Exodus over the last few weeks, none more than last week (Exodus 15:22-17:7), of how the people of God are so utterly dependent upon the LORD God for every element of their redemption from Egyptian bondage to accommodation in the Promised Land. We regularly observe Moses, Israel's leader, crying out to the LORD seeking his assistance to lead this stubborn and willful people (Exodus 15:25; 17:4). On other occasions without even a prayer the LORD, who sees and hears all, extends grace and mercy to provide all these complaining people require (Exodus 16:4). Nothing has changed, for the Christian Church in all its frailty and brokenness is also on a redemption pilgrimage.

Christians live in a foreign, pluralistic society as strangers and aliens: refugees who wait in anticipation of the new creation, our own promised land, our home with God. Our pilgrim journey requires us to be in constant dependent prayer to the Father and Son so that he will supply his Spirit (Luke 11:13) enabling us to press on and not lose heart.

All of us at St Matt's need to be a people of dependent trust whose lives are characterized by prayer-fullness. Like the apostle Paul, who regularly sought prayer for his ministry, all our staff need your prayers as they provide spiritual leadership in a variety of ways. Many others involved in ministry outside of St Matt's, not least our missionaries, also seek our prayers. All these people and many ministry events are included in our Prayer Diary and I want to encourage us all to join in prayer so that the Lord may grant us his abundant grace and favour, so that we might in all things bring him glory, grow in godliness and reach more people for his kingdom.

Of course by now our first core value should be ringing in our ears. Just in case we've forgotten the details let me remind us of its contents:

Unrelenting prayer to God – *Everything we do at St Matt's begins in dependent prayer to the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In 1 Timothy 2:1-6 the apostle Paul makes prayer the first priority of the Christian community and in doing so brings the church into line with Jesus' own persistent commitment to prayer throughout his earthly life. So we align ourselves with our Lord and his apostles' priority and give ourselves to persistent, prayerful dependence on God*
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

May we embrace this core value in both our personal and corporate life, but let God have the final word: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 'Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' .

Prayerfully yours,

Steve Abbott

Steve & Sue's Prayer Points:

- ♦ Thank God for the terrific Christianity Explored Group Sue and I were able to lead and for the lives that have been wonderfully impacted by the gospel of Christ.
- ♦ Please join me in praising God for the very encouraging responses to my four August Wednesday lunchtime messages on Everyday Evangelism at St John's Parramatta's Bible Talks.
- ♦ Pray for all the preachers as we continue to preach through Exodus this month and then commence a new series on Matthew 17-23 pray that the messages will deepen our love of God and our commitment to his mission purposes in the world.
- ♦ Pray for our Missions Week 12-19 September and especially for Greg Anderson our guest speaker, former Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionary and now lecturer in Missions at Moore Theological College (MTC)
 - check details in this Matt's Monthly.
- ♦ Pray for Sue and I as we celebrate the marriage of our youngest daughter Kellie and fiancé Marcus on 18 September – pray that in all things we'll commend Jesus to them. We'll be having a week's holiday around this event 15-21 September.
- ♦ We thank God that Sue loves her new role as a Medical Receptionist, three days a week, for Cathy Lee an Obstetrician & Gynecologist at the SAN Medical Clinic three days a week. Pray that she will serve the patients and specialist well.
- ♦ Pray for Steve that he will have wisdom and courage in providing overall leadership of the staff and parish.



St Matt's Diary and Notes



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

12 September 12.30—2.30pm:

If you usually eat alone on a Sunday and wish to join with others for lunch and fellowship, you are invited to our 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' in NewLine Cottage. Tea and coffee will be supplied and it would be appreciated if you could bring finger food to share.

Further details:
Pattie (9484 0174) or
Pat (9868 4630).

SERVICE LEADER TRAINING

For all service leaders

Saturday 11 September

9am – 12pm

At the main church building

MUSIC SEMINAR

18 September, 9am—1pm

Instrument and Band Workshop

Everyone welcome!

PETER PAN—A MUSICAL ADVENTURE

Normanhurst Uniting Church Musical Society Presents the Australian Premiere Production of Peter Pan.

29, 30 October & 5 & 6 Nov at 8pm

30 October & 6 Nov at 2pm

Adults \$25, Concessions \$20, Children \$15

Bookings 9680 1442 or www.nucms.org

WORKING BEE—A BIG ONE!

27 November, 8am—1pm

Please diarise this date as we need as many helpers as we can get.

Church Camp Talks Available on CD

If you would like a CD copy of Mike Raliter's talks from the Parish Camp, they are available for \$10. Order forms are in the foyer. Please complete it and pop it in the post box on the office door.

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you for your continued support over August. The goods were all delivered to Kingsgrove last week. Suggestions for this month are as follows: All kinds of good tools in working order (these can be 2nd hand), plastic or metal tool boxes and small items such as nails, screws, nuts, bolts, etc., any stationery, tea towels, towels, face cloths, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste and of course any items on the yellow pamphlet. All are very much appreciated.

Roslyn

BIG FUN DAY OUT

William Clarke College is holding another

BIG FUN DAY OUT! It's a fantastic day of fun for all the family on:

Saturday 18 September 2010
At

**William Clarke College
1 Morris Grove, Kellyville**

BIG FUN DAY OUT is a community event for people to gather and have a fun time together as a family. It is also a chance for the community to visit William Clarke College and see it first hand.

St Matthew's Church Camp 2010

On the election weekend in August, over 240 people of all congregations and all ages made their way up into the beautiful countryside of Kurrajong for the biennial church camp. Most came to stay for the whole weekend and were not disappointed. After we arrived and received our little gold bags of goodies, Friday night went off with a bang, as we met Mike Raiter, our speaker, and got involved in Shane's creative exercises.

Saturday began with beautiful singing lead by Henry Burnett and the praise team. We were challenged by Mike Raiter to experience God at a different level, and to work to make new connections in our community. With so many St Matthew's people thrown together for a couple of days, conversations were many and varied. On Saturday afternoon, newly-formed groups discussed the morning's topics and conversations started going deeper. New relationships were forged across the congregations and a greater sense of unity seemed to blossom.

Marvellous family fun was had at the Saturday Night Extravaganza. The 18 teams formed on the night had their minds stretched with trivia and their bodies contorted in the physical activities of Minute-to-Win-it games. We saw pain when 20 or 30 pegs were attached to their faces (including some bloodshed). We were amazed at the flexibility of the youngsters to reach their faces closer and closer to the floor. The creativity was flamboyant as playdough models were built of "our church community". The serving attitude of many was shown by how quickly everything was returned ready for the next morning.

On Sunday, we awoke to glorious sunshine and a hot breakfast. After Mike's final talk on the search for well-being and meaning in life, we finished our weekend by throwing our sins (written on red papers) into the log fire and taking Holy Communion as we accepted God's forgiveness.



St. Matt's Link Missionary Profile

William and Grace Eyika

William Eyika is Senior Pastor of Dagoretti Corner Baptist Church and Project Director of Dagoretti Corner Self Help Projects, Nairobi, Kenya. D.C.S.H.P is the development arm of the church in the urban slums in accordance with biblical mandates of Matt 25.

Born in Uganda in 1949 as a catholic, William went through normal schooling in catholic primary and secondary schools and joined Makerere University Medical School to study medicine (1970/71). In that same year Idi Amin staged a military coup, killing several political leaders and academicians and forcing Ugandans into exile. William left the university due to insecurity in Uganda and went to Nairobi, Kenya as an Air Traffic Control/Pilot cadet. He was one of only seven out of 400 candidates who passed the aptitude interview conducted in Kampala.

In 1973 life was excellent, as a young bachelor with a job and money. William married Grace that year in the coastal town of Malindi without a church wedding and got transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport as Approach Controller. They were transferred all over East Africa: Mombasa, Nairobi, Dar-es-salaam and Entebbe. All this time they were not Christians, but went to church occasionally.

In June 1976, William had a close shave with death when Israeli commandos raided Entebbe Airport and freed hostages from Palestinian terrorists. Radar controllers were supposed to inform security forces about the enemy planes, but it was virtually impossible since radar had electronically been jammed by the Israelis. All the night-watch controllers were killed. Although William did day-watch Amin's military tribunal still grilled him for over 10 hours before releasing him.

William was reluctant to receive Christ in spite of prayers and pleas by Grace who was now saved. His stand was "salvation is for the weak and poor." However in November 1983 he became restless and could not sleep for 2 nights. The third night he woke up Grace at 3.00 am and asked her to lead him in a prayer of salvation, He was full of sweat and terrified. After the prayer of salvation he had a brief sleep and Jesus spoke to him in a hoarse stereo voice with a waterfall background sound; "William, money is not happiness, I Jesus am the happiness, I can even make you happy here. From now on I shall be with you wherever you will go."

After many adventures escaping from Uganda, William and Grace settled in Kenya. William worked with World Concern International, joined the Baptist Seminary and worked with Baptist Mission of Kenya; started Kenya School of Flying; planted Dagoretti Corner Baptist Church with para church projects (D.C.S.H.P); studied in Daystar University (1995/2000) and completed an M.A degree in Community Development at Nairobi University.

William says: "I am on my way to heaven co-piloting with Jesus Christ, we have landed in the slums of Nairobi and are busy loading passengers for heaven (saved souls). We shall one day take off – destination heaven with full board. Jesus knows when!"



ST MATT'S FINANCE UPDATE

OFFERINGS FOR AUGUST 2010:



Set out below are the offering figures for AUGUST 2010:

AUGUST 2010

	2010	2009	2010 Budget
Offerings + Rectory	62,457	74,176	74,000
Weeks	5	5	5
AWG - August	12,491	14,835	14,800
AWG - YTD	13,715	13,369	14,800

Our total giving for the month was a very disappointing \$11,500 (15.5%) behind budget.

After 8 months our total giving is now \$37,000 (7.1%) behind budget.

ST MATTHEW'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

As discussed in all services in recent weeks, our financial giving has slipped below our needs over the first eight months of 2010. Please pray that God will bless us with generous hearts to give sacrificially and cheerfully to fill this shortfall. More information can be obtained from the wardens: John Hadden, John Parker and Sue Wright.

GIFT APPEAL FOR THE EYIKA'S

Praise God that in excess of \$5000 was forwarded to the Eyika's to assist in medical expenses as a result of the recent accident to the choir.

St Matt's Warden's Update

Small Projects completed in recent weeks:

Look out for these minor improvements (with major benefits) recently completed around our church:

In the kitchen:

- A smaller volume bin with a foot activated pedal to overcome the concern of contamination
- “Master Chef” oven mitts to overcome a potential OH&S issue.

New line Cottage Ramp:

The ramp is completed and the metal hand rail is installed.

Crying Room Courtesy Screen:

A frosted film to a height of 1200mm has been applied to four pieces of glass within this window wall (but not the door), to provide some privacy for feeding mothers and those using the chapel for prayer.

New Furniture & Council Kerb Side Clean Up:

We have “new” second hand furniture donated from a business undertaking an office relocation. Redundant furniture from our offices and other items from 3 NewLine Road were placed out in the council kerbside clean up.

And a reminder.

We all enjoy using our church facilities for various activities. At times however some house-keeping issues are over-looked. We are launching a way of remembering! Watch out for the signs to be affixed in strategic locations.

Learn Leaving:

Leftovers - Not in here, keep the fridge clear.

Litter - Throw it in and empty the bin.

Lights - Still on, what's going on?

Locks - Security knocks.



SMAC

St Matt's Asian Congregation Update

The youth at the Asian Congregation have been growing heaps this year. We are now a group of about 30-40 students. As part of our congregation's evangelistic strategy, we participated in an evangelistic event organised by a collection of churches across Sydney. On Saturday 26 August, the youth joined a few thousand other youths at the Sydney Entertainment Centre to attend RICERally. The highlight of RICERally (after some performance of Christian culture through music, worship, skits and dance) was a gospel talk from Mark 2 highlighting the "Epidemic of Sin" and the need to be forgiven by God.

Many of our youths took this opportunity to invite non-Christian friends and a couple of them even turned up to our follow-up event the next day. **Please pray for the follow up of these new non-Christian or unchurched contacts. Pray for our Christian youths to be welcoming and loving to outsiders.**

RICERally has shown us the need to evangelise to the many youths of Sydney who have yet to hear the gospel of Jesus. It has provided a comfortable setting for the youth to invite their non-Christian friends to hear about Jesus. We look forward to attending RICERally again next year so that more may come to know Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Are you needing prayer?



Is your need related to health, a relationship issue, exam worries or teen troubles. Maybe it concerns financial problems, retirement worries or any number of other issues. Is it someone you love who is needing prayer?

Your request will be kept in the strictest confidence and not discussed with anyone, unless it concerns someone at risk.

To access the IPN, you send your prayer request by email to prayer@stmatts.org.au If you do not have email, you are invited to phone your request to Wendy Estall on 9479 3707 or if the request is urgent, please phone 0437 885 848.

As your need is met, or as changes take place, you are requested to keep the team updated so that prayer remains appropriate and accurate.

At no time will you be approached by team members over prayer issues, other than the Co-ordinator who may contact you to ask for progress reports, or Pastoral staff who may care for you.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16 NV).

ORANA SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP

October Meeting

Date: 6th October Time: 11.30am

Speaker: Dr Barbara Ferguson OAM

Barbara comes to us with a lifetime of experience in the caring ministry area. This began among child victims of the Vietnam War and was followed by involvement with refugees in USA, academic study there and then university social-work programs in Australia. Now in retirement Barbara regularly visits the D R Congo where she trains counsellors who work amongst women and children traumatised in the on-going military conflict there.

We are sure this will be a special time of learning and fellowship.

Book the date!

We extend a very warm welcome for all to join us at this
Orana meeting.

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Margaret ,
Dudley , Brian ,

The Hill Family (passing of Margaret father, Silas Horton)

Moby (Grandson of Keith),

Caroline (Betty daughter), Win ,

Jeannine , Jane ,

Jill , Kevin , Mary ; Cliff ,
Geoff & Margaret , Stan , Bev ,

Rob (Kim father).



 **DAVID PARSONS CONCERT**

Playing Organ and Piano

Many people missed out on the last concert so we are organising a second David Parsons Concert this year in aid of MAG (Mission Aid Group).

It will be on Monday, 11 October 2010 at 11 am. Tickets will go on sale from 5 September after the 8 am and 10 am services

Matts 4 Kids



Saturday 11th December

Would you be interested?
Please let us know
on the clipboard
after the service



At least one parent or guardian must attend the event with all children. A carer will be on site to provide you with coffee as your children enjoy the day. \$10 Lunch, chat with BCA staff and enjoy a fantastic day out with your kids.

Register at www.bushchurchaid.com.au by September 30th or email info@bushchurchaid.com to receive a registration form. Upon registration, an event information pack will be sent to the address provided.

When: 9th October 2010
Where: Pomeratta Park
(map sent with
registration)
Time: 1pm - 2pm



**A Day in the Park with
BCA for Kids**

SIM Mission Encouragement Trip to Ecuador

During September 2010 and the first week of October, Jill McGilvray and Jenny and Greg Swanton (from our 10 am and 7 pm services) will be heading for South America with Jenny Fallon. Jenny is, of course, one of our St Matt's link missionaries, and is the daughter of Anne Fallon (of our 8 am service). She served with SIM (Serving In Mission) in Burkina Faso for many years. Jenny is now the Personnel Director of SIM in Australia and is heading up this adventure to Ecuador.

One of the key objectives of the trip is to encourage Australian SIM missionaries who are working in Ecuador, including our own Morgan, Anna and Anika Powell. The group will also visit and support other Australian SIM missionaries in the country including Mark Jenner, Chandra Smith, and the Woldhuis family. As Jill says, "we will support them in whatever way makes sense when we are there – in prayer and encouragement and in practical ways like baby sitting or doing something fun with them".

Jill leaves on the 13th September and will be visiting some SIM missionaries with Jenny Fallon in Santa Cruz, Chile (Priscilla and Luke Lundstedt) and an SIM school in Cochabamba, Bolivia before being joined by the Swanton's for the Ecuador leg of the Encouragement Trip. Jenny Swanton said "a lot of St Matt's members have asked us what we can send with you to encourage the missionaries you visit? We've asked the missionaries for some ideas and there are a number of small food and personal items that they would like. We know that Morgan and Anna are about to purchase a car seat for Anika, and we thought is would be really nice to be able to pay for this for them." A giving well offering at services on the first 2 Sundays of September, will be used to provide these gifts of encouragement to the Powells and others. The team of four recently had their first Spanish lesson, and are practicing hard in preparation for South America.

Key prayer requests for the team are:

- ♦ Praise to the Lord for the opportunity to be with these missionaries and to encourage them in their work. Pray for many practical ways for the team to help and support them whilst they are there;
- ♦ Pray for learning and understanding of the team for the challenges that missionaries face in cross cultural mission;
- ♦ Pray for safe travels to and from South America and within Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Ecuador



Muchas gracias!

st matt's youth update

The past month has been an exciting time at St Matt's Youth. We have had the joy of seeing over 20 young people confirmed by Bishop Ivan Lee on 8 August. We have had great combined youth nights on the 20 and 27 August. Also, at Pennant Hills High we continue to get approximately 20 kids each week at the lunchtime Bible Study, Tuesday Lunch Time (TLT).

Check out photos of these great events at the youth gallery on:

<http://youth.stmatt.org.au/gallery/main.php>

This term Senior Youth Friday Night Live (FNL) is looking at an overview of the Big Picture of the Bible, Club 78 continues to look at 1 Thessalonians, and Sunday 78 will be working its way through sections of John's gospel. In terms of September and October, please be praying and keeping an eye out for:

Camp 78 on the 10-12 September. Speaker is Andrew Beitsch

Camp Unreal (Yr11 retreat) on the 8-10 October.

For Next year:

Summer Madness(Yrs 9-12) is on the 23-26 Jan 2011.

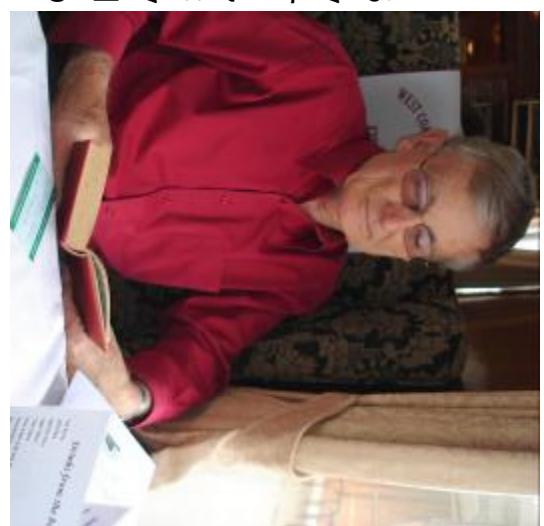
TMF (7-12) is on 8-11 April

For Term Plans, Camp forms and any further info please check youth.stmatt.org.au or contact Rob Conway at rconway.stmatt.org.au.

60 Seconds with a Warden

Name – John Parker

Family – Margaret and I have been married for 45 years, where did those years go? We have three lovely daughters and nine grandchildren. Our eldest daughter Alison, married to David has three teenage boys, Ryan, Mitchel and Wesley. Wendy-Jane is married to Tim; they have two boys, Isaac and Harrison and our only granddaughter, Lucy at primary school and kindergarten. Emily our youngest daughter, married to Jon has three little boys, Xavier, Silas and Micah.



Found Jesus – Although I came from a non-Christian family my parents initially encouraged me to attend Sunday School but later felt that 'church' took up too much of my time. I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour just prior to the Billy Graham Crusade in 1959, which had such an impact on many of us of that generation.

Work – Now retired, I worked for over 37 years for a major international telecommunications company; this included a number of years spent interstate and abroad in Belgium and New Zealand. During my working career I was involved in all aspects of manufacturing and, in the latter periods, roles in trouble-shooting and general management.

Hobbies – I have a keen interest in travel, particularly by train (and ship and plane) and enjoy model making, with a special interest in model railways. Other interests include moviemaking and fixing things and relaxing by reading as well as watching TV and movies.

Fellowship – Margaret and I are regular members of the 10am morning services at St Matt's, Margaret is also part of the Wednesday service whilst I belong to a bible study group that meets on Monday nights. Over the years, I have been involved in all aspects of children's ministry at a number of churches and am now part of St Matt's team of SRE teachers.

Words of Encouragement – There are so many words from the Bible that have a great meaning to me but two verses in particular have re-enforced my walk with the Lord over many years; the first is John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*. The second comes from Pauls second letter to Timothy: 2 Timothy 2:15 – *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth*.

St Matts @ School

Connecting Encouraging Growing

The Last month or so at St. Matts @School has seen a couple of changes that we pray will continue to help us grow. As we see church not as a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners. The kind of growth we are looking at is one that sees current members discipled to be all they can be under God and those who do not yet know Jesus given a great introduction to his word and his community.

Functionally this means that the team of elders (Bron and Geoff Gelding, Saffron and Paul Sweeney, Simone and Ernest Tobia, along with Rachel and myself) have spent less time meeting with each other and more time meeting with the teams we minister alongside. The priority is not to 'get the job done' or simply 'fill the roster' but to partner up and minister alongside one another.

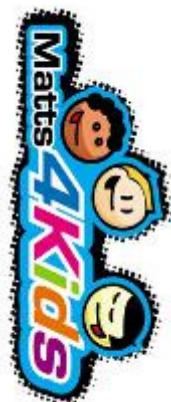
Through this the vision is to build a culture where Christians are always on the look out to disciple those around them - the fellow Christian and the not yet Christian. As the team of elders meet for strategic times together we have commenced working through the book Total Church together. The book teaches a non institutional way of promoting the Gospel, and introducing people to the blessing of God's community. Its thrust is to take us from seeing Church as one more thing to juggle in a busy life, to seeing the community of God's people as something that changes who we are and how we function day to day.

It is early days, but we are excited by the developments in our Children's program (now called Matts 4 Kids Church) lead by Rachel and her team of champs. Rachel and Jacki Hellstrom have been working hard to develop a

program that builds a missional pathway to enable us to see Kids and their families come into our community, be introduced to Jesus, and become disciple-making disciples of Jesus - Much more to come, watch this space!!

We are very much looking forward to the movie night and working bee at WPHPS this month as an opportunity to reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community!

Shane Dirks



Monthly Bulletin

ST MATT'S CHINESE CONGREGATION

Some great fellowship moments at
Cherrybrook Public School



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Please pray for link missionaries each week. For more information on all of our link missionaries please see the missions page at www.stmatts.org.au
Pray for organising ongoing mission opportunities in St Matthews now and in the future!

5 September - Lindsay & Lyn Whybrow BCA Hillston NSW

- Praise God for the great time at Lindsay's 60th Birthday celebration
- Give thanks for the success of the recent visit from a team from St Mary's church in Sydney. Their time was very profitable for all and the partnership is a blessing.
- Pray for the Lay Conference coming up in September. Pray for the speaker (from Wales) and the workshops and the topic of Anglican spirituality
- Pray for the outreach event in September 'Back to Church Sunday' that this will be a blessing to many.
- Ask God that he will provide a youth group for the community, including former confirmees who do not have a chance to meet as young Christians.
- Pray for Lyn's recent ill-health.



19 September - Scripture Teachers

Cherrybrook and WPH Public Schools

- Praise God for the provision of many Scripture teachers, in partnership with Cherrybrook Anglican Church at John Purchase, Cherrybrook Public and West Pennant Hills Public schools.
- Give thanks for Simon Hill's great work in Semester 1 and pray for his future ministry at uni.
- Thanks for Kate Hodgkinson's service at WPH and Cherrybrook classes.
- Praise for Mike Edwards from CAC joining us as a relief teacher
- Praise God for the provision of the Connect teaching material and pray for those revising it.
- Give thanks for Shane's message to WPH Primary students during education week. Pray that God will use this for his purposes.
- Pray for good preparation and presentation of lessons during Term 3 on 'Choosing God's Kingdom—Exile and Return'.

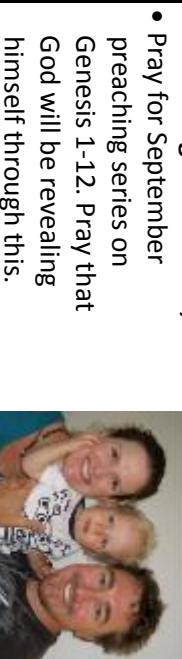
12 September - Daniel & Dominica Lai WYCLIFFE Bible Translators

- Pray for Daniel's upcoming mission mobilisation strategy and preaching at various churches in Sydney, South Africa and Hong Kong.
- Pray for the talks and Chinese Perspectives courses being organised for September and October across Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.



26 September - Chris & Sharon Ekins

Coast Evangelical Church, Forster



- Pray for September preaching series on Genesis 1-12. Pray that God will be revealing himself through this.
- Pray for Chris visiting St Matt's in September for a Coast Update and that the partnership between our churches will be strengthened.
- Ask God to bless the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches conference that Chris will be attending Sept 6-8. Pray for good fellowship, encouragement, equipping and resource sharing.
- Pray for Church Planters 'Geneva Refresh' Retreat 4-5 Sept, that God will prepare Sharon and Chris for the next season of work at Forster.
- Pray that God will continue to bless the youth group with more leaders. Pray for the baptism on 26 Sept for those kids who have decided to follow Jesus.
- Pray that God will provide a new treasurer to fill in from a couple who had to return to Sydney for work.

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 6 October, 7.30pm, NewLine Cottage.

Please come along and join us in the important ministry of praying for mission throughout the world.

(Mission prayer nights are held the first Wednesday of every month)

Mission Week 2010
12th–19th September

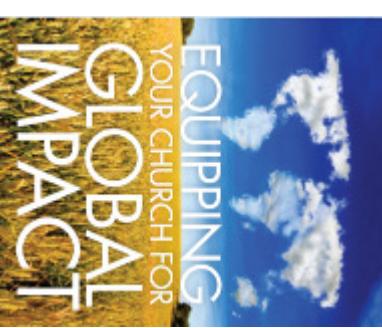


There's a world of mission out there!
Come along to the:
MISSION

BBQ

to discover it!

Come and be encouraged, and support God's work in our world!



Saturday 18th September from 6pm

All welcome! Tickets sold prior only for catering purposes.

\$15 per person or \$40 per family

(proceeds going to missions at St Matts)

Hear about mission from Greg Anderson, Lecturer in Missions at Moore College and ex-missionary from NT. Also Kay Elliot (5pm congregation) will share with us about the work of The Crossroads Foundation, Hong Kong.

SMBC Mission Conference
Saturday 18 September



If you missed going to the awesome Reachout Missions conference, there is still the opportunity to gain a great mission experience at the Reachout E-track night conference:

“Mission: Only for the Hard-core?” Saturday 16 October 6.45pm @ SMBC Croydon

\$10 pre-booked or \$15 at the door. For more information see www.reachoutmissions.com.au

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

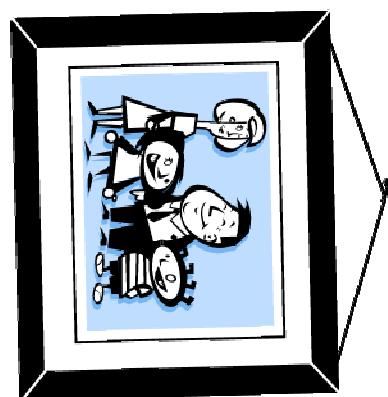
Reachout e-track
MISSIONS CONFERENCE

“To expand, encourage and enthuse participation in God’s mission”

Families Find-a-Word

These words are all FAMILY words. Relationships are the most important thing in the world. When you've found all the words going in any direction, the 14 leftover letters spell out 4 words about another relationship.

B E V O L M O T H E R S
O G M G R A N D S O N G
N G R A N D F A T H E R R
D S I E N O D I N N R E
S L E V H R S O E E D T
Y E O V E T U R R P L H
T G I H I N A S A H I G
I A E L E T N A S A P W C A
D I L D I S A A P W C A
E R C O U M U L M E R D
R R N O F N A O E E T A
E A U L T T H F H R S S
H M E B R E H T O R B R



Aunt	Families	Household	Relationships
Blood	Generation	Love	Stepfather
Bonds	Given names	Marriage	Surname
Brother	Grandfather	Mothers	Uncle
Children	Grandson	Nephew	
Daughter	Heredity	Parents	

Bible family trivia questions (Bible verses given to help)

Who was Jesus' mother? _____ Matthew 1:18

Who was Moses' brother and sister? _____ Numbers 26:59

Who was Adam and Eve's first son? _____ Genesis 4:1-2

Which two of Jesus' disciples were the sons of Zebedee?

Luke 5:10

Family Meeting – A Report and Some reflections by Steve Abbott & Jacki Hellstrom

On 15th August we held a meeting with families from various services. Jacki, Shane and Steve gave statements explaining the current situation within the children's ministry and outlined plans for growing the ministry in order to reach as many children and families as we can with a view to enfolding them into the life of our church (see below). Currently we have over 90 children

involved in our crèche and Sunday programs spread over 3 services (not including those at the Chinese and Asian services). We are running the same teaching program at 9am and at 10 am so there is consistency should families need to move between services – however most families are committed to the one service.

Currently there are several young families with babies and preschoolers attending the 5pm Service, where a crèche is run and the crying room is also put to good use. It has been the thinking of the staff team that we cannot provide a Sunday school program at 5pm (our facilities are already being used by the youth and we are under pressure resource-wise), although a crèche program for the toddlers could be easily implemented. There will be a meeting organized with the 5pm families to discuss their long-term expectations and needs as we seek to chart a course into the future.

Looking Ahead

It was clear there is some disquiet with regard to the reduced attendance of children at the 10am Service, although our overall number of children has not reduced they are simply meeting in different congregations. There were suggestions made about asking families from other congregations to move to 10am to re-energise the 10am children's ministry. Of course we can't force people to change congregations and moving families around services won't reach more families and children for Christ, so whatever else we do we must keep exploring how to reach unchurched families with the gospel. The following are some first attempts at doing just this and we hope existing families will support these endeavours.



We are excited to start promoting all the children's programs under the one banner of Matts4kids with a qualifying statement underneath – i.e. pupil free day, kid's church etc. Shane reminded us that the aim of 9am was not to increase in numbers through transfer growth from 10am or 5pm. He is keen to reach new and seeking members of the community to build up the numbers at the school. There are other potential future programs that we might introduce over the next 12 month providing there are 'people' to support the projects. You may already know that we are looking for helpers for a Christmas Matts4kids. We will need at least 50 leaders on the day and more helpers behind the scenes – put your name on the lists at your service. We are also introducing a Friday afterschool kid's club (4-5.30pm) to replace the postponed FISH and BC program, which will commence in fourth term, in time to reach some new families by Christmas and involve them in our celebrations. Consideration is also being given to a lunchtime group at West Pennant Hills School to have a very definite presence there. This last idea will be very important should SRE ever be removed from the School. We will continue to plan and provide combined events to connect our families who normally meet at different times on Sunday.

At present we also have no plan to provide a Sunday 78 group at 9am. Our children's program will finish at yr6 and the Sunday 78 group will still run out of the 10am service. The reality is that currently at the school we have limited access to the classrooms we can use and there are limited additional facilities. Of course we will continue to assess the needs of our congregations, the aims and target audience of each service and monitor the attendance at each so that we might keep our finger on the pulse of this aspect of our ministry.

We hope this helps many of you understand where we believe we are heading over the next couple of years in our children's and families ministries. Any further questions can be directed to Jacki, Shane or Steve.

Don't forget, Matts4kids needs a lot of help to get our projects off the ground. Could you help?