

Book of the Month

When the game is over it all goes back in the box written by John Ortberg
John Ortberg is one of the most gifted current Christian communicators I am aware of. His preaching offers profound insight into biblical texts with practical application that you can put to work as soon as you stand up from the pew and head off into the world. I was pleased to find his writing is much the same. In this honest look at the life of the everyday person Ortberg offers real help. His book identifies the issues of security and achievement that many of us wrestle with. But where Ortberg excels is that he does not just call on us to try harder to be a better Christian, he offers a new way to think, a way to really repent in order that we may take delight in no longer trusting in the things of this world but in the eternal things of God. One of the best books I have read.

Review by Shane Dirks

Cost: \$ 12.00



St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	For all Generations 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 Pearn	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Chris Jones	Assistant Youth/Children's Minister	9479 3710
	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 Thurs	9479 3700
Administrator	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700

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.

August 2011



August 2011 Preaching Calendar

7 August	Praying for God's Work	Daniel 8 & 9
14 August	The Monopoly of God's Employees	Daniel 11 & 12
21 August	Worship Belongs to God	Exodus 20:1-17
28 August	Time Belongs to God	Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-18



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

Senior Minister's September Pastoral Letter – Matt's Matters

Dear sisters and brothers,

Many of you will have heard of the death of John Stott this past week; he died peacefully at home with friends beside him. Over the years John Stott has made a huge impact on my ministry both from the preaching schools I've attended at which he spoke and more especially through his books and commentaries. The Anglican Church, indeed the worldwide Christian community has lost one of its giants, but of course he is not lost, he is actually at last home with the Lord he served with such energy, wisdom and dedication for over 70 years. Two members of the Leighton Ford Point Group to which I belong, sent me an email with tributes to John. One is a strong Presbyterian and the other of Charismatic persuasion and they got me thanking God for John and also thinking about my own reflections of this outstanding and gifted brother in Christ. One lesson in particular I thought was worthy of comment in this month's pastoral letter is reflected in the fact that John would be loved and honoured by two ministers from quite different church backgrounds.

John always remained a committed Anglican and yet was also a world Christian. He was able to enjoy fellowship and exercise ministry across a vast range of Christians across all cultures and denominations, gaining their respect and admiration. His deep commitment to the central place of the authority of Scripture in matters of doctrine and practice was wonderfully expressed to in much of the Lausanne Covenant (for a copy refer to www.lausanne.org/covenant). John was the chief author of this document, which was so thoughtfully and thoroughly biblically written that nearly every Christian denomination readily assents to it.

John in so many ways demonstrated how Christians of different denominations, with their own theological perspectives, should be able to engage in robust theological debate with the Scriptures open and, despite not always coming to like minds, remain in fellowship around the gospel. John truly was a believer who reflected the generosity of Christ as he engaged with sisters and brothers from across the global church and worked tirelessly to deepen the theological depth and gospel width of the Church across all nations. I have a great desire that we as a whole church can be a community of faith who, like John Stott, place the Scriptures as our final authority and that we let it be the continuous shaper of our understanding of God and life. Like him, I urge us not to read the Scriptures to discover and confirm what we have already determined is there, but rather to open the Bible to discover what God has revealed. This will mean a willingness to listen to Christians from different tribes to ensure we are not blinded by our own prejudices. This does not mean our doctrine/teaching is completely fluid, changing every week. As the Lausanne Covenant and the well known Christian creeds show, there are substantial basic fundamentals we can all affirm. But on second order issues (eg. the method of baptism, styles of worship, women's ministry, Church governance, etcetera) we should be wise like Stott and be generous in our approach. Yes we establish what we believe but we don't ever close the books. Rather, in the fellowship of the worldwide church we seek God's face in prayer and Bible study because we recognize with great humility there may yet be more truth to be revealed from Scripture.

I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for John Stott, a man of enormous intellect and scholarship and yet a humble, prayerful, godly brother in Christ, who served the Anglican and worldwide church with energy, integrity and grace.

St Matt's Diary and Notes



FAREWELL FOR ROB AND CAROLINE CONWAY TODAY 7 August

Join us in thanking Rob and Caroline Conway for the 9 years of fruitful ministry at St Matt's. A lunch will be held after the 10am service as well as a Supper after the Confirmation service at 7pm.

If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please pop it in an envelope, clearly marked and place in the plate or into the church office over the next 2 weeks.

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH 14 August 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 Mutton (9484 0174) or Pat Gould (9868 4630).

Saturday 13 August

Working Bee @

St Matt's

8am—1pm

Please join us for as much time as you have to help keep up the maintenance of St Matt's. It would be terrific to have members from every congregation attend.



Get Ahead of the Sermon

Did you know that each week eight questions about next week's sermon passage are on the St Matt's website. www.stmatts.org.au

Click on 'resources' and then 'Bible studies' and familiarise yourself with what the preacher will expound next Sunday. You can do this personally or in a HOME group.

"Eternity"

The July issue of this excellent free newspaper is available in the foyer – don't leave church without one!

MOORE COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

If you are interested in attending Moore College, they are hosting an info night on:

**15 August, 7.45pm—9.15pm,
St James Hall, 15 King Street, Turramurra**

For more information go to their website:
www.moore.edu.au.

Winter Evensong Series with St Matthew's Singers



Sundays at 2.30pm in the Church followed by afternoon tea.

Sunday 21 August Speaker: Reg Tidball



ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP September Meeting

Date: 7th September Time: 11.30am

**Come and join us for
LUNCH FELLOWSHIP**

This meeting will follow the general pattern of our first Lunch Fellowship in March. As then, there will be no formal address but various activities during the meal to help strengthen our fellowship and provide interest and enjoyment to all. Everybody is welcome, so come with your friends and enjoy both food and fellowship with us.

Book the date!

**Are you interested in
world missions?**



The Annual 'Reachout' conference is a great way to find out more and to ask questions of various mission groups.

The conference is on at Katoomba in just two weeks time. (August 13 & 14).
Register online at <http://www.reachoutmissions.com.au>.

This year's theme is AMBASSADORS- what does it mean to be an ambassador of Christ and how can we be doing it better??!

They have 2 great speakers lined up- Jamie Taylor and Paul Windsor- both of whom have heaps of experience in cross-cultural ministry.

There will also be 9 workshops to choose from, heaps of mission agency displays, singing, prayer and much more!

The Horn of Africa is in the grip of the worst drought and famine to hit the region for half a century.



1.5 million lives are at serious risk right now with an estimated 9 million at risk over the next 18 months.

The Archbishop of Sydney, The Most Rev Dr Peter Jensen, through Anglican Aid, is seeking the goodwill of all Sydney Anglicans to show an extraordinary outpouring of compassion and generosity to raise \$500,000 for drought and famine relief for the people of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

5,000 gifts averaging \$100 will reach this target

Join together with Anglicans all over Sydney and beyond and make August 2011 a month when we can make a real difference to those suffering from this devastating humanitarian crisis.

Donate online at www.anglicanaid.org.au or call 1800 653 903

St Matt's will have a special retiring offertory one Sunday in August.

St Matt's Intercessory Prayer Network

The confidential Intercessory Prayer Network which operates at St Matt's has been bringing the needs of many people before the Lord over the past year. The team of intercessors are praying for up to 15-20 people at one time and many have testified to the encouragement and strength received as a result of this.



We urge you, if you need prayer or know of anyone who does (they need not be a member of St Matt's), please send your requests to prayer@stmatts.org.au or else speak in private to a senior member of staff. This Prayer Network is completely confidential and private - no one will approach you or any one being prayed for without your explicit permission.

".. Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares about you". 1 Peter 5:7

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan Barnes, Damon Beck, Margaret Dawson, Dudley Foord,
Brian Forbes, Caroline (Betty Hampton's daughter),
Betty Hampton, Jeannine Lucas, Peter Mahler;
Margaret McGilvray, Jane Mills, Cliff Perriam, Geoff & Margaret
Simpson, Stan Skillicorn, Bev Snow,
Janet Winterbotham, mother of Sally Lane (Member 10am).





Matts4kids pupil free day 18 July – what a great day!!

Although numbers were down on previous pupil free days we had 14 new children. We really enjoyed the 46 children who did attend.

Emma Collett from Youthworks talked to the children about the power of God to heal. She was also looking at Who was this Man? Was he to be a king?

Joffa – a cartoonist, came to workshop with the kids, for 2 hours, which was fantastic and he inspired all the kids to be proud of themselves and not be anxious about making mistakes. No erasers were available to change what you had done.

As usual the 2 professors Keene and Lloyd created some experiments for the kids to investigate – the older kids took home pan pipes (well done Prof Lloyd) and the younger ones made a balancing butterfly based on 5c pieces (great work Prof Keene).

The kids all love to make craft and have something to take home. The games are always a firm favourite which gives some extra exercise in the day.

What a wonderful group of leaders we have training up to be influential in these young children's lives. Thanks to you all for committing to this event.

And what would a great day be without a terrific team in the background feeding the hordes. Thanks to all those who worked in the kitchen and making the goodies. It was all greatly appreciated.

Our next big event will be leading up to Christmas.

Consider giving your time to our family festival on the Carols Night – a great opportunity to reach out to families in the community, on Friday 16 December.

Yours in His service,

Jacki Hellstrom

Children's Minister



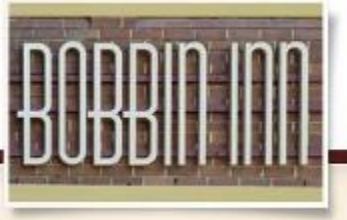
Orana Seniors Fellowship

Report on Lunch 'off-site' at Bobbin Inn Cafe

On Wednesday 6 July the Orana group went to Bobbin Head for lunch and fellowship at the very pleasant Bobbin Inn Café. Some twenty-seven of us were driven via car pool to this beautiful spot in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The day was bright and sunny and we were seated together inside, in the restaurant area, alongside a large warming log fire where we could look out through the windows across to the shimmering waters of Cowan Creek and beyond to the background of wooded 'headlands'. The 'packaged deal' for lunch provided us with a great meal, including a main dish of fish & chips with salad, dessert of cheese cake or apple tart, both with cream, and tea or espresso coffee, all with table service. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the location, the meal and the time together and expressed their enthusiasm for outings of this nature. We are indeed very blessed to be able to enjoy and to be so close to such great natural beauty.

Bill Allen

PS, Why not invite your friends to the next one on 7 September.



ST MATT'S ASIAN CONGREGATION

PRAY FOR US!

- * The month of July has seen heaps of new faces coming to visit us. We are thankful that God has answered our prayers - all at church have been praying for 3 friends for the past couple of months!
- * Pray that we can follow up and look after these newcomers. Pray especially that our church lunches will be helpful in extending our fellowship time.
- * A new boy at youth group became a Christian at the end of July. Pray for him, that God may increasingly give him assurance and maturity.
- * Pray for the leaders following him up
- * An Annual Sydney-wide youth evangelistic happening later this month - pray that the youth will bring their friends to hear the gospel and not treat this as a Christian social event.
- * Kenny and family returned from holidays in early July and delighted to see how church has grown without him! Give thanks that God is sovereign and can still use weak vessels to do his work. Pray for energy, health and wisdom for August!

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you once again for all the donations we have received over the last month. We have been holding items back from Kingsgrove preparing for the Women's Night on 17 August.

We do encourage you to attend this interesting and informative night. There will be a number of different activities for everyone to engage in, putting together sewing, baby, hospitality and shoe kits as well as some sewing of clothing, threading elastic and tape, sewing on buttons, trimming stamps, sewing rugs together and more. All these items will be taken to Kingsgrove depot on the following Tuesday to be packed for Tanzania. Thank you again for your interest and your generous giving.

Roslyn Dearden

How does giving up something for 40 hours help someone who struggles to have enough food every day??

At St Matthews this year, we are taking the way we do the 40 Hour Famine to a whole new level! Where does the money go and why should I support it?



In East Timor, a mere 600kms from Aussie shores, I met some really poor families that faced a massive obstacle every day just to have enough food to survive. The inequality between us and them is shocking and outstanding! However, one of the most amazing things I saw in East Timor was the impact and transformation of families and communities from the work of World Vision.

Lourdes, Antonio and their children were struggling to survive on one basic meal a day of cassava (like sweet potato) just 4 years ago. Through World Vision's agricultural training and interventions the family now produces enough to sufficiently feed the family plus sell surplus to markets! They have recently built a concrete house which will soon have electricity. The whole family now eats well and all their children (except for the youngest) now go to school. Famine funds help that to happen...

As a Christian, I want my life to demonstrate the love of God and the glory of his kingdom following the example of Jesus and his compassion to the poor which is undeniably evident in the Scriptures. Supporting the 40 Hour Famine is an extremely powerful way to do this. Change through this work is real – I have seen it firsthand. I would love to encourage you all to support the 40 Hour Famine by sponsoring someone or making a general donation. Please come along and celebrate with us on the 21st August at the break-the-famine lunch where you will hear more about the work in East Timor.

Find out more or donate online at www.40hourfamine.com.au/stmattsyouth

Marissa Flynn, 7pm. World Vision 40 Hour Famine Church Ambassador



Matts4Minis (formerly Cubby Club) has had a great start to the year and we can't believe that it is already Term 3! Our Tuesday group has 19 families and the Wednesday Group has 15 families and both groups are still growing with more babies on the way. This term we are looking forward to our Animal Farm visit; the Women's night; and our Family Church Service with Quizworx puppet show.

Please pray that families who have not been to church before will want to come to the Family Service; for the mums to come to the Women's night; for mums with new babies and those expecting babies; and give thanks to God for our wonderful leaders and helpers who give themselves each week to serve in this important ministry. We would love some more St Matt's helpers.

If you are interested in joining Matts4Minis please contact Kathy Romanis - kathy.romanis@gmail.com

LOOKING OUT— CHECKING OUR WORLD VIEW



Tickets On Sale Today \$10

St Matt's Women's Outreach Event

Wednesday 17 August, 7.30pm

Speaker: Anna Powell

Bring your friends to an evening for women & help pack, sew and prepare items for distribution to those in need in Tanzania. Come and hear how looking out for others can reshape your world view.



What does a life worth living look like? How do I measure worthiness? Is it about my public achievement or personal satisfaction?

What does a life worth living look like?

This year, Jane and Cathie will take us through the book of Philippians. We'll see how Paul kept his eyes on the prize of his heavenly citizenship and his feet on the ground by walking in fruitful labour. It is an inspiring testimony that he was able to say "For to me, to live is Christ; to die is gain. (Phil 1:22).

If your desire is to live a life that is eternally significant then WKC 11 is for you!

**Women's Katoomba Con-
vention**

This is your time

for a weekend away unlike any other, to journey to Katoomba, awake in the crisp mountain air and to spend the time with friends you never get to otherwise. Expect a refreshing weekend, digging deep into the Scriptures, all preparing you to return home inspired to live a life worth living.

Choose one of two weekends

Double Day

10 - 11 September

Saturday 9:30am - 4:15pm & Sunday 9:15am - 12:30pm

Night & Day

16 - 17 September

Friday 8:00pm - 9:15pm & Saturday 9:15am - 4:45pm



Men@StMatts will be screening a few of the World Cup games in Hall 1, yes, on a big screen. Join the fun and come along to support the Wallabies!

Sunday 11 September 1—4pm
Saturday 8 October 3.30—6.30pm
Everyone Welcome!!

Men's Dinner with Nick Farr-Jones

Building on the momentum from our recent Men & Meat night the Men@StMatts recently welcomed over 150 eager men to Hornsby RSL for our annual dinner.

Headlined by guest speaker Nick Farr-Jones, the night was a great opportunity to meet some new faces, share a meal together and, for an hour, hear from a faithful Christian who certainly has been blessed with an extraordinary life.

The former Wallabies captain was, however, made to wait on the sideline as our panel of “experts” kicked off proceedings with a great introduction, providing insight not only into our guest speaker but the recent success of the Azerbaijan rugby team.

While we were subsequently treated to a delicious meal, great fellowship, some rugby trivia and a passing competition, the highlight for many was hearing from Nick. He shared some fantastic stories from his time on tour with the Wallabies, of growing up as a kid and his more recent life in the corporate world. Above all, he shared how his relationship with God has impacted him at each of these stages.

There were challenges for all those who attended and I’m sure many took something different away, however, in rugby as in faith Nick kept coming back to the significance of focusing not on the scoreboard or the end result, but the process by which you get there. As Christians this means understanding the importance of our faith in this life as we journey towards our goal of heaven.

All in all a great evening and big thanks to all those who came, invited friends, prayed and helped with the running of the night.

If you would like any further information of up-coming events or small groups run for men please contact the church office.



Warden's Update



Financial Matters

Late last year, we asked all members of St Matthews to review their giving, and to prayerfully consider if they could *increase* it and make it *regular*.

As reported in the last issue of Matt's Matters it is obvious that many have prayerfully considered their situation and have increased their regular giving. We are very grateful for God's blessings which have continued during the months of May and June.

Our June offerings, excluding rectory and building fund, totaled \$65,179 for the month. This was \$2,141 ahead of the budget for that month. This represented an average weekly giving of \$16,294.

However, when we take into account additional special donations that have been made during the first six months of the year our Average Weekly Giving for the 6 months to the end of June rises to \$17,968, which is \$1,920 (12%) above the budgeted giving and \$3,913 (28.3%) above the same period last year.

This is a very encouraging result and clearly something for which to give thanks. We must however be mindful of the fact that we are operating in 2011 to an exceptionally tight budget which included substantial restrictions on staffing, maintenance and capital expenditure. The growth in our giving, provided it continues, should allow a slightly more expansive budget in 2012. This would permit staffing that is closer to meeting our ministry needs and objectives. The results of early advanced planning suggest that we will need an average weekly offering of \$19,600 which would be 9.1% above our average weekly offerings of \$17,968 for the first six months of this year.

Whilst on financial matters, did you know that if you have a discretionary trust you might be able to make a distribution directly to St Matt's and in doing so give to the work and ministry of St Matt's from your gross income.

It is usually a good idea to obtain advice from your accountant prior to making any distribution of this nature but if you would like to discuss how this could work, please contact Colin Gibb or Claire Jones.

The Church Roof

Many will be aware of the problems with the church roof; it is fine unless it rains, when leaks become a significant problem, causing both damage and inconvenience. This is a problem that is unlikely to be solved without significant expense; however, as a trial we have agreed to modify a small section of the roof by fitting a larger 'valley'. The section above the Sunday School cupboard in Hall 1 has been modified. We will let you know if this 'test fix' works.

John Parker

(On behalf of the wardens including Claire Jones and Rob McGregor)

Late notice: July 2011 Giving was 5.8% below budget.

60 Seconds with a Warden

Name – Rob McGregor



Nick Name – Mac

Married - to Chris and father to Jamie and Lyrian

Pets - A King Charles Cavalier named 'Toffee'

Residence—Hillside Crescent, Epping. Grew up in Epping, ventured as far afield as Cheltenham and Beecroft, then returned to Epping

Work – Self-employed as an information designer. I help government and big business communicate more effectively with clients and customers.

Food—Summer's eve, beach bench, can of beer, fresh prawns, spicy sauce, crunchy chips (wrapped in last month's Tele) ... or anything from a three hat restaurant. Chris made the best scones, so I married her.

Social Activities/hobbies – Classical music concerts, plays, thriller-type movies, rugby (go the Wallabies!), photography and making photo books

Found Jesus – Eastwood Brethren Sunday School, age 8. Wall poster said: 'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' Rom: 6:23. It was there every week.

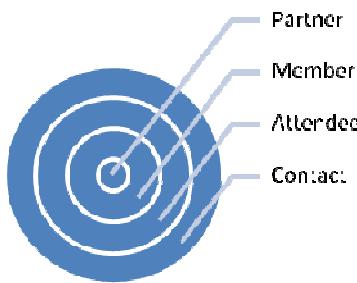
Fellowship – the 'Dubbo' home group (awesome); an extended family with 4 Anglican clergy; long-term friends from SU, EU and AFES; St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Inverell

Currently Reading – 'The Poems of Shakespeare's Dark Lady'

Words of Encouragement – Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word. Pray without ceasing.

It was exciting to have the first meeting of the StMatts@School Congregational Life Leaders on Friday 15 July. Present at the meeting were Virginia Coote, Meredith Donkin, John Hadden, Peter Ryan, and Simone Tobia. It was a great time together as we began to understand some of the pastoral issues which face the 9am congregation, and how this team may be able to lead our members in congregational life together.

I shared what I think the bible explains are the 3 key elements of pastoral ministry, being teaching, governance, and care. We considered how we could work to disciple our members in order that they may be disciple-making disciples as Matt 28:18-20 calls them to be. Part of this discussion was to consider the following diagram and think about how we lead people toward the centre.



Some important factors to come out of this discussion were:

- ◆ What is the impact of meeting in a place that is not ours for the remainder of the week?
- ◆ How may we better integrate this congregation with the resources, facilities, ministries, and overall life of St Matt's parish?
- ◆ How are people travelling in their current ministries; are there efforts sustainable, invigorating or taxing, viable?
- ◆ What is the optimum way for 9am to proceed in terms of size and focus?
- ◆ How does 9am fit within the mapping of all the St Matt's Congregations?
- ◆ How can we help to ensure no one is missing out on Christian fellowship and care?

Clearly there is much to pray about, and a series of questions to work through. I will keep you posted.

Shane Dirks

Hillston

Situated on the banks of the Lachlan River, Hillston is a centre for dryland crop farming, sheep grazing, and fruit and vegetable production. The township of approximately 900 people has large properties which, due to ongoing drought, often rely on bore water. Ministry in a town of this size relies on fairly traditional avenues of outreach: confirmation classes, baptism interviews, Bible studies, scripture teaching, and Sunday services.



Lindsay and Lyn Whybrow

Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow moved from their home in Springwood NSW into the Rectory at Christ the King Anglican Church at Hillston in January 2007. Lindsay became the ministry leader at the church. They live in the community, participate in local activities, and are regarded as BCA Co-Workers. As well as traditional means of outreach such as confirmation classes and Bible studies, the Whybrows collaborate with churches from Sydney to deliver annual mission events such as a holiday club for children and a variety of social nights.

The Whybrows are link Missionaries with St Matthews and our 'Grey Nomads', our Young Adults and Evening Service congregations have made visits to do property maintenance, run programs and generally encourage the Whybrows in their difficult and sometimes frustrating work.

Lindsay says:

"At times I feel very much like a one man band. That's just the way it is. There is some outreach happening in one form or another. There is much time consuming relationship building to go on. I long to see God's word not return to Him empty, but to accomplish that for which he sends it.

The words of Ephesian 6:19-20 are appropriate (except for the bit about the chains!)”

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

AUGUST 2011

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!

7 August- Lindsay & Lyn Whybrow BCA Hillston NSW

- The Hillston congregations remain quite consistent, although there has been a bit of a drop in numbers. There have also been rising numbers of visitors to church—for whom this is their main exposure to Christ.
- Praise God for the provision of recent baptisms including the Whybrow's own grandchildren.
- Praise God for the consistent youth group and also the provision of scripture teachers—continue to pray for these vital ministries.
- Give thanks for the ongoing ministry and outreach opportunities both Lindsay and Lyn are committed to currently and over the last few months. Pray for God to sustain them and bless their work.
- Lyn has been putting a lot of her time in volunteering at the hospital and the pre-school. Pray that fruitful relationships will form.
- Lindsay often feels like a one man band. Pray that he will trust God for strength and the motivation to go on in his ministry.



14 August- Daniel & Dominica Lai, Wycliffe

- Daniel and Dominica will join a mission conference in Korea in August. Pray for travel mercy and good discussions with practical outcomes.
- Daniel will join the mission representatives' retreat, and, together with Nathaniel and Hannah, will attend the ReachOut Conference and help out with the Wycliffe booth at Katoomba from 12-14 August.
- Daniel is organising the main speaker for another public meeting on Sunday night, 14 August and a pastors' fellowship lunch on Monday 15 August.



21 August—Scripture Teachers at WPH & Cherrybrook

- Give thanks for the continued faithful service of our many scripture teachers and helpers across West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook, and John Purchase primary schools.
- Thank God for the wonderful opportunity to reach children in these schools who have no other involvement with the church.
- Give thanks for Matts 4 Kids on the 18th July. Thank God for providing many leaders and helpers. Pray for the children who came along that they may be impacted by His word.
- Pray for the new teaching Semester beginning late July in Term 3—Lessons on “Jesus Teaches about Having Faith in God”.
- Pray for the scripture lessons in August on Luke—Hearing God’s word, Rich Fool, Loving God, Loving Others, the Great Party.

28 August—Chris & Sharon Ekins CEC Forster

- Pray and give thank for all the missions that happened in July from St Matts WPH, and covering all groups including primary school, women, men, youth and young adults, and general events. Pray for the people who attended, that their hearts may be changed and the Forster team can do effective follow up.
- Thanks for scripture starting at Tuncurry campus year 7. Praise God for his faithfulness in opening this door and pray it will be fruitful.
- Praise God for growth at Grommets and the start of Chicks, a high school girls homegroup. Pray for Ev and Alicia as they consider recruiting more leaders.
- Pray for the possibility of starting a new Sunday service in the afternoon/evening.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 7 September, 7.30 in New Line 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)

St Matt's is doing the 40 Hour Famine! 19-21 August 2011

DID YOU KNOW: *That East Timor is only an hour's flight from Darwin? And that 50% of children in East Timor are malnourished?* The 40 Hour Famine is about giving something up to raise money and help families in East Timor fight poverty! If you are interested in doing the famine you can collect a booklet from either Steve (8am) Owen Belling (10am), Shane (9am & 5pm) Marissa Flynn or James Waugh (7pm).



If you would like to support someone doing the famine, please donate online to St Matts youth doing the famine:

www.40hrfamine.com.au/stmattsyouth, or place your donation in one of the famine envelopes available in the church foyer.

Also this year St Matts is having a **break-the-famine lunch celebration on Sunday 21st August**.

Please join us in celebrating from 12 noon until 2:30pm where we will share a meal together and then hear about families in need, as well as the work World Vision is doing in East Timor and what the



ReachOut is an excellent missions and aid agency conference at KCC annually. A great place to explore mission options and have your questions answered.

For more info or to register online go to: reachoutmissions.com.au

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.

Psalm 9:10-11