

Senior Minister's March 2012 Pastoral Letter -

Matt's Matters

Dear sisters and brothers,

I want to put on public record that Celebrate Twenty Twelve was a wonderful night. Please check out the photos and short article later in this Matt's Matters. If you were unable to attend but would like to have a copy of my vision/challenge message please contact Kat Butler in St Matt's office and she can forward you an electronic copy or provide a paper copy for you.

In this talk, one of my key points of encouragement was to remind us all that our God: Father, Son and Spirit, is omnipotent: all-powerful. God has the ability to do anything that He sets out to do. His will and purposes cannot fail. He is the God of 'anything-is-possible'. I drew attention to the fact that in various parts of Scripture the LORD asks such rhetorical questions as: 'Is anything too hard for the LORD?' 'Is the LORD'S arm too short?' and also declares, 'With God all things are possible!'

Now since God is omnipotent and therefore ultimately his plans and purposes will come to fruition (according to his calendar not ours), certain things ought to flow from this for us his people. First we ought to be a people of dependent prayer. People who ask God to do what Scripture reveals he has purposed to do. And it also follows, that we ought to ask him to empower us with insight and strength through his Holy Spirit, so that we give ourselves wisely and boldly to serve these very purposes of God. What are the foundational purposes of God? On Sunday 26 February we read the wonderful purposes of God given by Jesus just before his crucifixion in John 15:16-17 *'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.'*

In this passage Jesus provides three interrelated purposes that explain why he chose and appointed his disciples. These clearly apply to disciples of every generation. The first purpose noted is 'so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last'. This is clearly a missional purpose: Christians are to intentionally 'go' into the world living proactively and transparently a life that reflects Jesus' life, so that other believers will also be produced ('fruit that will last').

The second purpose has to do with our prayers being aligned with God's mission agenda: 'so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you'. To ask in Jesus name is to ask in accord with his character and concerns as the Lord made clear earlier in John 15:7: 'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' In other words, this categorical promise of answered prayer has to do, not with our desires and passions, but with God's designs and purposes. In this case with the bearing of 'people' fruit! The third purpose has to do with how disciples relate to each other: 'This is my command: Love each other.' This is the sacrificial, other-person centred love Jesus was about to show in his substitutionary death on the cross. As Jesus had already taught in John 13:35, such love is an essential element of fruit-bearing: 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

So Jesus provides three interrelated purposes for the church (the community of disciples):- to go and bear the fruit of new believers, to pray for the same and to authenticate our witness by demonstrating the genuine love of Jesus in our relationships. I believe all too often that Christians have a tendency to become intimidated by our society, which wants to marginalize the church and believers. But we need to stop listening to and focusing on what the media and mainstream Aussie culture propagate. We need to listen to the Word of God and focus on our omnipotent Lord whose purposes will be fulfilled. We need to lift our voices in prayer to him whose arm is not short and for whom nothing is too hard! For as Jesus also taught in Matthew 17:20: 'I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.' Which simply put, means the prayers of the faithful tap into the God for whom all things are possible.

I prayed for my dad over a period of 35 years to come to Christ. At times I grew weary of prayer and was impatient with God. But God remained faithful and kept bringing me back to pray for him. Then, according to God's calendar not mine, just 6 weeks before my dad died of mesothelioma, a dear older Christian friend led my dad to faith. You see, 'With God all things are possible!' So be encouraged to be a people who persevere in praying for the salvation purposes of God and join with others on 6 March for our first prayer day.

Your partner in the purposes of the Lord Jesus,
Steve Abbott

Steve's Prayer Requests:

- Thank God for a wonderful evening at Celebrate Twenty Twelve on Saturday 25 February and for the spectacular team of people who made it happen both in planning and preparation, and on the night itself.
- Pray that many people will join in our first parish prayer day on 6 March in New-Line Cottage from 6am-9pm and that God will hear and answer our prayers for his glory.
- Please keep praying that our 'Radical Together' preaching and study series throughout March will truly deepen our grasp of what is involved in following Christ and strengthen our resolve to live intentionally and courageously for Christ wherever and with whoever we find ourselves. Also please pray that this response will flow from the grace and generosity of Christ, not from personal guilt or duty.
- Pray for all the preachers and small group leaders as they prepare, that God will use them powerfully to encourage us in joyful obedience to Christ our Lord. Pray for creative, biblically correct and convicting communication, which the Spirit will use to enable us all to go deeper and grow stronger in Christian discipleship.
- Pray that Sue and I will be disciplined in our reading of the Scriptures and our prayers.
- Pray for our faithful witness to members of our families and those in our neighbourhood who don't know Christ.



MISSION AID GROUP (MAG) March 2012

Thank you to those who came to the Annual meeting. We enjoyed a great talk by Cindy and Kees Bootsma, CMS missionaries, recently returned from Tanzania. It was very encouraging for our group to continue this practical service for the people of that country, and great to see photos of those people using many of the items we send over. We packed a wonderful number of items collected over the past 2 months. Thank you so much to all who gave these.

Don't forget to put **29 April** in your diaries for the concert to be given by the SYDNEY MALE CHOIR, a wonderful choir, well known both here and overseas.

Suggested items for this month are: Elastic, cottons, needles, sewing pins, lace, ribbons, small sewing scissors, etc: anything suitable for sewing kits. Melamine type mugs with handles and bowls, dessert spoons (these are often on special at KMart), baby singlets (size 000 or 00) at Best & Less, Target, Kmart, etc. Of course, anything you donate is very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Roslyn Dearden



A VISIT FROM THE BATEY FAMILY

The Bateys will be spending time at St Matthews from Sunday 25 March until Thursday 5 April. They will be attending church services over the two Sundays.

Sunday 1 April is a family service followed by a lunch. Members of **ALL** congregations are invited to attend this lunch from 11.15 am. This will give us more time to share with the family and hear about their life and work in Spain.

They are also happy to come to HOME groups and other groups to share more of their joys and struggles about being part of Christ's work on the other side of the world.

Please set aside lunch time on the 1 April so we can show our love and support for this much loved family from St Matthews. (Details to follow).





SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

LUNCH

11 March 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 Colleen Cummings

SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING

Please accept my apologies for not being able to run the safe ministry as planned. Please make an effort to attend the ones that are being run by YOUTHWORKS during Safe Ministry Month of March.

There is a poster on the noticeboard in the foyer, or on the website www.youthworks.net.

Sat 10 March – full course avail at 2 locations – St Augustine's – Neutral Bay and Christ Church Blacktown Or the 17 March – Lane Cove and Strathfield are closest.

These courses can be done as a whole or separately so if you only need part B you may just attend that timeslot.

Jacki Hellstrom

YOU'RE INVITED

The annual dedication service of the SRE teachers employed by the Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Christian Education Association (PHCCEA) is to be held on **Thursday 22 March 7:30pm at Pennant Hills Baptist Church.**

Please encourage the teachers through your attendance. It won't be a late evening.

Donations to the work are also needed. Now you can give by regular deductions from your credit card. See the last PHCCEA Bulletin for details, or ring John Hain 9872 9965.



MEN'S BREAKFAST—MEN @ WORK

24 March

7.30am—9.00am

St Matt's Church Building

Tickets on sale soon!



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The St Matthews Anglican Church Annual meeting will take place on
Tuesday 13 March 2010, 7.30pm.

We invite all parishioners to attend the meeting, when the Wardens, Parish Council and Parish Reps will be elected.

The Annual Financial Statements are available for collection at the back of the church/hall for your reference.

Nomination forms in the foyer or back of school halls

SCRIPTURE TEACHERS NEEDED

With the big group of Kindergarten children we are looking for another K Scripture Teacher at Cherrybrook PS on Fridays 11.20-11.50am.

And at John Purchase PS for a small yr 3 class on a Tuesday from 12-12.30pm.

If you can help please let Jacki know.

Praise God that someone has come forward for yr 2.

KIDS' ARVO CLUB HELPER NEEDED

We need some help at Arvo club with afternoon tea preparation. 2.30—4pm (includes washing up and may require prep prior to arrival).

Please contact Jacki if you are able to help.



Projek Bali Kids

Join us for a superb Balinese dinner As we launch Anglican Aid's newest development project,

Projek Bali Kids.

Gather a table group from your church. See and hear how you can get involved through prayer, gifts and hands on ministry.

Annandale Village Church
(Johnston and Booth Sts)

Saturday 10th March

6:30 for 7:00pm

Tickets \$50

Bookings on 9284 1406

TRAUMA WORKSHOP

St Andrew's Cathedral

The impact of trauma on people's lives can be debilitating. This workshop is for people suffering from trauma and for people who would like to know how to pray with, encourage and support people who are experiencing trauma.

SPEAKERS: Rev Mark Charleston and Susan Larkins.

WHEN: 10 March at 1.30pm to 5pm

COST: \$30 each

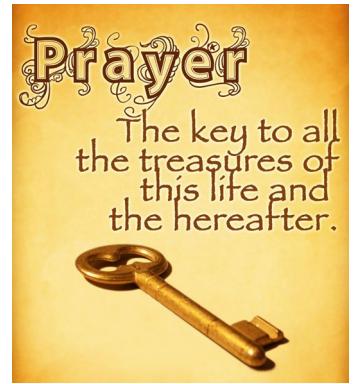
LOCATION: Golden Grove, 5 Forbes Street Newtown. Parking for 20 cars.

TO BOOK: Phone Barbara 0407 910 238 or email

brichards@sydney.anglican.asn.au

Calls to Prayer

In my pastoral letter I've noted the importance of praying to our omnipotent God and in particular to intercede according to his revealed purposes, for then we can be sure he will answer, according to his diary not ours. Therefore I want to encourage us all to join in two special prayer events that are on the horizon.



1. Parish Prayer Day – March 6

I hope we'll all make an attempt to join one of the hour sessions of prayer from 6am-9pm that will be held continuously throughout Tuesday 6 March in NewLine Cottage, which is just round the corner from the church car park on New Line Road. Come and go as you please. Come before or after work, come for lunch or whenever but do come. Let's give concrete expression to our dependence upon God as a local church and bring our ministries and the local and the global community before the throne of grace, where the omnipotent God reigns.

2. Norwest Combined Churches Prayer Meeting – April 27

The third Norwest combined churches prayer gathering will meet at Victory Church on Friday 27 April from 8-10pm. The church is just down the road from Cherrybrook Public School on New Line Road and there is parking in the grounds or on the street. We have called these prayer gatherings 'Your Kingdom Come,' based obviously on one of the early petitions from the Lord's prayer. All churches have their own particular emphases but all the churches involved share a common commitment to the Scriptures, the gospel and dependence upon God in prayer. We'll be praying for the advance of the gospel in our region and I can think of few other more important reasons for common fellowship than this. I would love it if many of you would join with Sue and myself to share in this significant opportunity for fellowship in prayer. Thanks.

Steve Abbott

Seniors and Pastoral Care.

How encouraging!!! I've only been in the role a month, but I have been impressed at the level of pastoral care that occurs naturally and without prompting across those congregations with which I am familiar. May it long continue and further develop!!!!!!! That said, it is more than likely that there are still people who fall through the cracks and whose needs go unnoticed. Please keep your eye out for such people – come to church having asked the Lord to make you sensitive to His leading as to those with whom you might chat, both before and after the service. Where you think necessary and appropriate, do let a staff member know of concerns (via the communication cards) – we are the Body of Christ, called to love one another as He loved us – by this shall the "world" know that we are His disciples.

Bill France

Young Adult Community Groups 2012

By Mitch Buckley

YA Community Groups kicked off again in the first week of February, 2012. Many groups used their first week to have a meal together, get to know each other and get focused on the year to come. This is particularly important because the Community Groups are mixed up every year, and there are always many new year 12s graduates to fit in and get to know. At the same time, without skipping a beat, we've jumped right into the 'Radical' series that St Matt's is studying across all services, and already people are being challenged by God's word.

The aim of these groups is to build us all up in our love and joy in Christ, to be new creations. This usually means studying the bible but also crucially involves prayer, sharing meals and just mucking around. We call them "Community" groups because God has made us to live in community, to be part of a new creation that experiences and declares true life in Christ.

So, what are some of the statistics and logistics?

There are over 120 young adults meeting in nine groups from Monday to Thursday every week. These groups also meet as a large combined group every month to have a meal and share fellowship together. Many young adults volunteer to lead groups and to help organise other events. Group leaders meet every month to pray for the whole community and to receive training and planning. They are listed below, please consider praying for them as they prayerfully work to teach and support us. It is a big job leading a Community Group, and these people:

Leigh and Briony Zadro (Mon)

Jack and Zara Packham (Mon)

Matt and Elise Hill (Tues)

Ben and Jess Hodgkinson (Wed)

Geoff Everett, Sam Burnett, Phoebe Chapman (Wed)

Ian and Jill McGilvray (Thurs)

Greg and Sue Wright (Mon)

Simon and Michelle Walker (Tues)

Dave and Julie Smith (Tues)





This term we have begun with hearing about people of faith from the Bible: Abraham, Moses, Rahab, and will be continuing with Gideon, Deborah and Samson. Great people with great faith in a God they could not see. How much more faith can we have in a God who revealed himself through Jesus? We have had a circus theme this term, which has been fun. The kids have been making clown hats, pencil toppers, lion masks and masquerade masks. Over the next few weeks we will enjoy adding to our circus craft by making puppets, juggling balls, magnets and circus name bunting, finishing off with a week of carnival games on the last Friday of term. But that's not all – our first family outing will be to the movies on 31 March at Hornsby Odeon to see the newly released "Lorax by Dr Seuss". Put this date in your diary and let's see the movie together, and raise a bit of money to buy some kids ministry resources. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Jacki Hellstrom



“Our family joined Matts4Minis at the beginning of last year after moving to the area the year before. We were welcomed at Matts4Minis and Timothy has enjoyed every second of it (he doesn’t understand why it is not on in the school holidays). The morning has been structured with the craft activity and free playtime first, followed by morning tea including the Matts4Minis grace, followed by some more free play time for the kids and finished with story time and singing. When we started, Timothy had no interest in the craft activity but by the beginning of the second term he has always wanted to do the craft and bring it home to show Daddy at the end of the day. We are a part of the Tuesday group and Saffron runs the story time and singing each week. This is a big hit with the kids and they love stories and songs they can interact with. Even Jacqueline at 8 months loves the singing at the end and will “dance” along to it. At the end of last year we learnt songs to perform at the Carols by Candlelight which a lot of the families attended and the kids enjoyed being on stage. Our family is really enjoying Matts4Minis and it has been great to meet other Mums in the area.”

Raelea Flower (Matts4Minis's mum and a member of the 9am congregation)

St Matthews Chinese Congregation

【從靈開始】

人的生命是從零開始，從初生嬰兒到兒童、少年、青年、成年等不同階段，就是這樣長大並邁向成熟，當中總是會經歷到很多叫人興奮的事情。同樣地，每一位基督徒的屬靈生命也是從零開始，從初信到成長，當中隨著屬靈生命的長進就帶來生命多方面的改變：性格、品格，心態、心志、志向、方向，可以是180度換轉過來，可以叫身旁的人讚賞並且帶著羨慕語・調說：我真的希望能得到你所擁有的那種生命。以下就是一個美麗生命模範，請以一份學習心情，細心閱讀這見証！

聽聽她是怎麼說的：

你知道，遇見你以後，我發現一種新的生命，溫暖暖、不作假，讓我感受很深。我在你裏面看到一種興旺的靈 -- 完全沒有內在停滯的跡象。我看得出你是不斷成長的人，我喜歡那樣。我看到你有很好的自我形象，靠的不是自助書籍的自我膨脹，而是出於更深刻的生命特質。我看你的生命有信念，你有你的優先順序，不是憑藉方便、自私的享樂和財務上的獲利而行事。我以前沒見過這樣的人。

你不論斷地傾聽我說話時，我感受到很深的被愛和被關心。你試著了解我，同情我，跟我歡笑與共，顯出仁慈和慷慨 -- 不只對我這樣，對別人也是。

你肯挺身而出。你願意違逆社會現況做你相信對的事，不管人怎麼說也不管得付出多大代價。為了這些以及其他許多理由，我真的希望能得到你所擁有的那種生命。現在我成為基督徒了，我要寫信告訴你，有你在我前面真實活出基督徒的生命，令我非常感恩。

基本上，她就是在說：謝謝你作一個感染力的基督徒。

讀到這樣的信會激勵我成為有感染力的基督徒！

主僕：王鴻溪牧師

Ken's Prayer Requests:

- ◆ My preaching through the “Radical Together” series
- ◆ That the congregation are willing to face the authentic and comprehensive claims of Jesus so that they can go deeper to know Christ and to treasure Christ and grow stronger to represent Christ individually and corporately
- ◆ That the Chinese committee really embrace the biblical insights from this transforming series
- ◆ A three day “Just for Jesus” Church Camp from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 April as a continuity of our “Radical Together” to deepen everyone’s participation in ministry, either at St Matt’s, our local community or short-term missionary.

St Matthews Chinese Congregation

We all start our life from the age of 0. That's from a new born baby, teenager, youth and then adult. We steadily grow up and go towards maturity. During the years, there must be some exciting things happened. Similarly, it applies to every Christian that their spiritual life starts from the age of 0, from a new believer to spiritual maturity. During the period, one's life will be transformed along the growth of the spiritual life: personality, character, thought, attitude, desire, direction... Life could be 180 degrees change. Other people may admire you and say: 'I really want what life you have.' Written below is a good example of a beautiful life. Please read the following testimony with a learning heart.

Listen to some of what she wrote:

You know, when we met, I began to discover a new vulnerability, a warmth and a lack of pretence that impressed me. I saw you a thriving spirit – no signs of internal stagnation anywhere. I could tell you were a growing person and I liked that. I saw you had strong self-esteem, not based on the fluff of self-help books, but on something a whole lot deeper. I saw that you lived by convictions and priorities and not just by convenience, selfish pleasure, and financial gain. And I had never met anyone like that before.

I felt a depth of love and concern as you listened to me and didn't just ignore me. You tried to understand me, you sympathized and you celebrated with me, you demonstrated kindness and generosity – and not just to me, but to other people as well.

And you stood for something. You were willing to go against the grain of society and follow what you believed to be true, no matter what people said, and no matter how much it cost you. And for those reasons and a whole host of others, I found myself really wanting what you had.

Now that I've become a Christian, I wanted to write to tell you I'm grateful beyond words for how you lived out your Christian life in front of me."

Basically, she was saying, "Thanks for being a contagious Christian."

Ken Wong



WOMEN@ST MATTS

Come & enjoy afternoon tea together & hear

Rev Dr Margaret Powell

On Cross Cultural Ministry

Saturday 31 March 2012

@ St Matt's

3.00–5.30pm

Cost \$5 @ the door



ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP **April Meeting**

Date: 4th April Time: 11.30am

Speakers: Ian and Ruth Batey

We are delighted that Ian and Ruth can be with us for our April meeting. This will be a great opportunity for us to hear them speak about their ministry in Spain with CMS and to enjoy fellowship with them over lunch. 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 Barnes, Damon Beck, Es and Laurie Cawsey,

Margaret Dawson, Dudley Foord,

Brian Forbes, Caroline (Betty Hampton's daughter),

Betty Hampton, Jeannine Lucas,

Jane Mills, Cliff Perriam,

Geoff & Margaret Simpson, Bev Snow,

Janet Winterbotham, mother of Sally Lane, Irene Turner and her daughter Brenda (recovering from a serious bicycle accident)..



Summer Exodus by Sophie Varvel.

Summer Exodus, the annual Young Adults weekend away, took place on the 10-12 February at Camp Toukley on the Central Coast. It was a great weekend where the young adults got the chance to share in fellowship through hanging out together, praising and worshiping God and building up relationships with one another. It was an opportunity to meet with their new Community Groups and also as a Young Adult community to look forward to the coming year and to all the options of how we can serve the church and one another.

The speaker was Marty Kemp (Assistant Minister at Darling Street Anglican Church), who spoke on the topic of prayer. We spoke about who the God we pray to is, about his character and what encourages us to pray to him and leads us to prayer. It was really encouraging for many to then work through the Lord's Prayer line by line and alter it into our own version, and then pray it in small groups. There was a great focus on individual prayer as well as prayer as a young adult community, with friends in fellowship and as a wider church community. There were great discussions about how we can be really devoted to prayer and make it a priority in all the things we do. Despite a forecast for extreme weather, it was a wonderful weekend of sunshine, hearing from God's word, being greatly encouraged, and getting to know each as brothers and sisters in Christ over craft, rugby, good coffee, board games, and lots of chatting!



Dear friends at St Matthew's

Muchas gracias! Thank you very much for your thoughtful and generous gift to us when we arrived back in Australia in December.

It made for a very warm welcome to have groceries organised in advance via St Matthew's.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all in March and April. Until then!

Much love in Christ,
Ian, Ruth, Samuel, Emma and William.

Celebrate Twenty Twelve – February 25

Our second annual parish celebration held at Roselea Community Centre in Beecroft was a wonderful occasion. Every congregation was represented and there were between 250-300 people including children. The fellowship over a variety and abundance of finger food was terrific and it was hard to hear oneself so loud were the many conversations taking place across the hall. Jenni Sawyer (9am) and Tim Yap (5pm) did a great job as MCs and kept the program moving along. We lifted our voices in wonderful praise, heard several wonderful stories of God's grace in calling people to himself in 2011 and others who have grown in their personal commitment and ministry involvement at St Matt's. Steve challenged us from Scripture by drawing an analogy with the role of lighthouses, which have to endure all weather conditions, are built on solid foundations and connected to a reliable power source, and provide a strong light which both warns of danger and welcomes ships into safe harbour. God appeared to speak powerfully to many people through the message and everyone who were unable to attend are encouraged to get a hard or electronic copy from the office. Our thanks go out to the organizing team and all the many people who assisted on the night to make this a very special event in the life of St Matt's. **Plan to be there next year.**



NEWS FROM OUR LINK MISSIONARIES.....

News from the Eyikas

Greetings from William and Grace Eyika.

Recently one of the teachers at Elyon High School fainted at school. He was very ill. He was taken to a clinic run by his brother who was reluctant to treat him because if things got worse he didn't want to be blamed. Eventually he was treated and is now recovering from what was thought to be typhoid fever.



We have had another thief break into our church compound. A teacher's preparation book and some text books were stolen. Last time a thief was caught attempting to steal cloths from the church. He was caught and received two years jail.

There was a problem of not having the funds for registering the Form 4 students for external examinations. Now pledges have been received to cover these costs. Thanks be to God.

Please pray for William and Grace and our other link missionaries.

News from the Gibbs – life has its ups and downs for all of us

About two weeks ago Emily, aged 2, had an infection in a cyst on her neck. Within a few hours the size increased to bigger than a golf ball. Medical attention is not quite as convenient to obtain as it is in Australia but it was found and the cyst treated. Thankfully it responded to the treatment and went down almost as fast as it came up. Her parents were very stressed.

Recently ago Matthew, aged 4 ½, performed in his first school concert. He sang two songs in a language other than English with about 100 other pre-schoolers. The occasion was to celebrate a very important national day. It was a time of celebration. His parents were very proud.

More recently news arrived that the husband of their house-help had died. He was 25 and left a wife of 21 with a young toddler. He had been sick for a while and Michael and Jo had taken him to their doctor and had tried to help the family in other ways over a long period of time. Michael and Jo were very distressed.

Saturday, 25 Feb, Jo coordinated an ex-pats women's support day for about 50 women. They had a wonderful time together where they were able to spend time supporting each other. Jo and Michael were very thankful that this time had been so effective.

All these things happened to Michael and Jo over a recent 2 week period. These, or similar things, could have happened in any of our lives. And we need to embrace life as it presents itself, knowing that God has his plans for all of us; that He is in charge.



God's people working overseas live their lives as we do in Sydney, dealing with the highs and lows. But they need our continual support and prayers. Thank you for praying for Michael and Jo and our other very much loved link missionaries.

For updated prayer requests from all our Link Missionaries, pick up a copy of the St Matt's Quarterly Prayer Diary in the foyer and check the Missionary boxes near the office door.

St. Matthews Singers need new voices.....

If you're looking for a new and uplifting way to worship at St Matthews then why not join the St Matthews Singers?



The Singers have been an integral part of the rich and diverse music culture of St. Matthews for over 20 years and regularly lead worship singing at the 8am service on the second Sunday of each month and on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. They also perform three traditional Evensongs in the winter months of June, July and August and a Christmas service of nine lessons and carols.

From time to time other Churches invite the Singers to participate in special services and events, such as weddings.

The St. Matthews Singers focus on traditional Anglican Church music and cover a wide repertoire of material from composers such as Bach, Mozart, Handel, Stanford and Purcell plus more contemporary masters such as John Rutter, Malcolm Archer and Barry Rose.

The Singers are looking for new voices, sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Age is no barrier as long as you can hold a tune.

Choir practices are on Thursdays from 7:45 to 9.30pm in the Church.

The Singers are lead by David Wheatley with expert accompaniment by either of two organists David Parsons or Graham Rawson.

Joining the Singers you will enjoy the benefits of Christian fellowship, singing in four-part harmony and the fulfilment of worshipping God through voice and song.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact any of the following members, David or Margaret Wheatley on 9481 9975 or Gene Passe-de Silva on 9875 1218.

Reflecting the generosity of Christ in school. 9am Church.

Our 9am St Matts congregation that meets at West Pennant Hills Public School, made a good start to the year, beginning on 29 January. Everyone was excited to start the year, and to see each other as a congregation after the holiday break. Lika, Joanna and I are especially thankful, that we have been so warmly welcomed by 9am, as well as by the wider St Matt's church family! As Joanna is in Year 1 at the school, we appreciate joining the school community as well.

Each week at 9am, has seen new visitors, who have noticed the warm, easygoing nature of the service, and the young family friendly environment.

This year, we are again blessed by a great team of 13 Kid's Ministry Leaders, capably lead by Jacki Hellstrom. On the 19 February, we publicly commissioned this team during our service, praying for and thanking them for their year of ministry ahead. In answer to prayers, the school has happily agreed to give us more classroom space for the Kid's Ministry, allowing for growth and flexibility in this program. We are thankful for the supportive partnership between St Matt's and school!

A new 9am men's bible study group has started at my house, meeting weekly. We are hoping this will be a valued ministry of growth, challenge, fellowship and fun.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the warm relationships between 9am-ers themselves, the school, and the great team of Kid's ministry leaders! Pray that newcomers will be welcomed and enfolded into our church family.
- Pray that 9am will continue to be salt and light amongst the school community. That in word and deed that we might commend the good news of Christ. That the Lord would open the way for evangelistic opportunities at Clean Up Australia, school drop-offs and pick -ups, & school events. For relationships to be developed, and invitations to church, bible study, Christianity Explored might happen.

In Christ,

Jon Phua
9am Pastor and
Associate Minister



Over a cuppa with the Bateys—

St Matt's Link Missionaries



Names: Ian and Ruth

Children: Samuel, Emma and William

Residence: Petit Simon 13, Mairena del Aljarafe, 41927. Seville, Spain.

Found Jesus: Through friends at school, through family.

Connection to St Matt's: Worked at St Matt's as a student minister, and then as assistant, all from 2001 to 2006.

Missionary Work: With CMS, church planting with the Spanish Anglican Church in the suburbs of Seville.

Favorite local food: Jamón Ibérico de bellota (fig-fed, cured, spanish ham).

Social Activities: Meeting friends at the park, catching the metro to Seville, waiting in long visa queues!

Currently Reading: The New Spaniards by Richard Hooper. Radical by David Platt.

Words of Encouragement to those who want to “radically” challenge themselves— Do not be merely hearers of the word, but do what it says.



OVERCOMERS

outreach

www.overcomersoutreach.net

Are you struggling with an addiction, self-destructive behaviour, or are you being affected by someone who is?

We are here to help!

Christians are not immune from addictions.
God does not want us to struggle alone.
Overcomers Outreach meets to support
those suffering from addictions,
and those impacted by another's addiction.

The Rooty Hill meeting

Every 4th Wednesday from 7.30pm
Multicultural Bible Ministry (MBM),
(in the demountables)
20 Westminster St,
corner Rooty Hill Rd North and
Westminster Rd, Rooty Hill

contact John C. 0408030150
email johncoo@live.com
or MBM office 9677 0133

<u>2012 Meeting Dates</u>	
Jan 25 th	July 25 th
Feb 22 nd	Aug 22 nd
Mar 28 th	Sept 26 th
April 25 th	Oct 24 th
May 23 rd	Nov 28 th
June 27 th	Dec 26 th



Meetings also take place in City, Claymore, Bexley, Kingsford, & Engadine