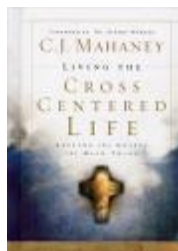


Book of the Month *Living the Cross Centered Life* C.J.Mahaney

This short but powerful little book is rich and is a perfect supplement to our 2012 'Radical Discipleship' theme: going deeper in order to grow stronger'. As Jerry Bridges author of *The Pursuit of Holiness* writes, 'This is a book to be read and reread many times. Its message will never grow old or out of date.' It is a wonderful reflection on the heart of the gospel, the cross of Christ showing how we who have experienced the grace of God ought to live a cross, centred and shaped life. It incorporates wonderful quotes from past and present great ones: Spurgeon, Stott, Piper and Carson. Mahaney employs what were for me new images and language, which made the message of the cross fresh and challenging. One such challenge comes at the end of chapter 10: 'So cultivate this joy...be continually meditating on the gospel. Let the cross always be the treasure of your heart, your best and highest thought...and your passionate preoccupation.' The book is available in hard back at \$12.95 and as a compact disc for \$19.95 so you can listen to it while you drive around in the car. I strongly commend this book to us all. May we read it and then in the power of the Spirit of Christ all live 'radical' cross centred lives.



Steve Abbott

Cost: \$ 12.95

St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	Family Service for all Generations
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

Senior Minister	Steve Abbott	0417 410 596/9479 3700
Associate Minister	Jon Phua	9479 3700
Young Adults Minister	Nerida Peart	9479 3702
Youth Minister	Geoff Everett	9479 3700
Chinese Minister	Ken Wong	0425 272 755/9479 3700
Asian Minister	Kenny Liew	0448 515 408
Children's Minister	Jacki Hellstrom	9479 3700
Pastoral Care/Young Women	Karen Braga	0401 933 264
Pastoral Care Wed/Thurs	Bill France	9479 3700
Church Administrator	Kat Butler	9479 3700
Communications Co Ord	Tina Piccione	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

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



Matt's Matters

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

April/May 2012



April 2012 Preaching Calendar

1	The King Comes & Spring Cleans	Luke 19:28-40 & 19:41-48
6	Good Friday: The King Cursed & Crucified	Luke 23:26-34 & 23:35-49
8	The King Crowned in Resurrection	Luke 23:50-56 & 24:1-12 25
15	The Risen King Teaches Scripture	Luke 24:13-27 & 24:28-35
22	The Risen King Assures & Ascends	Luke 24:36-43 & 24:44-53
29	Advancing the King's Message	Acts 1:1-11 & 28:17-31



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 Ministers April/May 2012 Pastoral Letter
The Importance of Remembering



Dear sisters and brothers,

In 2012 the month of April could be called 'Remembrance Month'. Over the Easter Weekend Christians all over the world will recall the central truths of the Gospel: the death of Jesus on the cross and his rising to life on Sunday. Then on 25 April the largest religious event in Australia will take place: ANZAC Day. Both of these commemorations are concerned with costly sacrifice and freedom.

The opening words of the ANZAC Day Service read, *'On this day above all days we recall those who in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for Australia and for the freedom of mankind...'* The Word of God explains that the ministry of the one divine-man Jesus had to do with freedom won because he gave his life, *'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.'* (John 3:16).'

The sacrifice of brave soldiers may have given us freedom from oppressive tyrants and governments BUT the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has given us freedom from *'the law of sin and death'* (Romans 8:2). The ANZAC sacrifice may have resulted in a better lifestyle on Earth BUT Christ's sacrifice has provided the Christian with a quality of life that even death cannot touch.

The peace that the ANZACs bring is uneasy it never lasts, for it's unable to arrest the conflicts between nations. The peace that Jesus wins lasts, it is eternal. It's the peace between Creator and creature, which results in genuine peace between people from all races and colour, who authentically recognize Christ as Saviour and Lord. So God declares, *'Christ is our peace, who has...destroyed the dividing wall of hostility...His purpose was to create in himself one new people...thus making peace.'* (Ephesians 2:14-16).

The actual memory of the great tragedy of war on ANZAC Day serves to emphasise the necessity of the gospel. News reports on world conflicts reveal the broken and dead bodies of people of all ages once filled with life now lifeless. The pictures remove any thoughts of the glories of battle. Jesus came to our world as the Prince of Peace, he came to reconcile the world to God, to make friendship with God possible. He defeated our enemies Satan, sin and death not with aggression but submission, not with the weapons of war but with his own life, sacrificed freely on a Roman cross.

Unlike the broken bloodied bodies, which have scattered the battlefields of history, Jesus' bloodied body is something to glory in as we saw from John 12 on Sunday's message, 25 March. The cross is a symbol of the glorious love filled victory that God in Christ Jesus won for humanity. In war most people die unintentionally but some intentionally (eg. A suicide bomber). Jesus death was intentional but of a different order, *'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...., when we were enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son....'* (Romans 8:8, 10). This is spectacular news for a broken, war filled world.

It's a message the church and its members are called by God to share with those who have yet to recognize their need of it. We are to intentionally sacrifice our time, energy and resources to show in holiness of life and graciousness of speech the love of God in Christ Jesus. In the world where ANZACs are still needed the Easter story needs to be proclaimed. Each of us can share the story of our encounter with God's grace. Also in May there are several outreach opportunities to assist you in your ministry of witnessing (see my prayer points below for details). Please join me in praying, that many people will find freedom from sin, and peace with God through the glorious sacrifice and victory of Christ especially over the next two months.

Your partner in proclaiming the Prince of Peace,
Steve Abbott

Prayer Points

- Pray for Staff and Parish Council as we work through the 'Radical Together' feedback and determine how St Matt's may need to change in order to do the best and important instead of the good and urgent.
- Pray that our Easter Weekend Services (6-8 April) will be filled with many fringe, nominal and searching people who have received the advertising postcard and/or been invited by our members. Pray that many will be converted.
- Pray that many people will join in our second parish prayer day on 30 April in NewLine Cottage from 6am-9pm and that God will hear and answer our prayers for his glory, the growth of his Church & the advance of his Kingdom.
- Pray for our month of outreach and the 4 weeks of evangelistic preaching in May from Luke 18, that all the preachers will preach the Word carefully, clearly, creatively and with conviction. This month will include a special Seniors Lunch (May 2), a Women's Event (May 9) and a Men's Dinner (May 26). Please pray that the Unchurched and non-Christian people will accept invitations to attend the special events and Sunday Services. Pray that many will be converted.
- Pray that Sue and I will have a relaxing and refreshing weeks annual leave (9-15 April) and that we'll commend Christ and his gospel to our family, who we'll be spending time with during this week.

St Matt's Diary and Notes



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

8 April & 13 May 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:

Colleen Cummings 0403239321or

John Hain 9872 9965

PASTORAL CARE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

ARV Castle Hill invites you to develop your ability to express Christ's love to frail old people. Stage 1 training commences Thursday 3rd May 2012 and continues each Thursday till 14th June. An information session will be held on Thursday 19th April at 10am.

Enquiries to ARV chaplaincy 9634 0530.

WEDNESDAY SERVICE ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Wednesday 2 May

10AM Morning Tea followed by a

Holy Communion Service

11.30am Lunch

with Guest Speaker: Jill McGilvray

"God's Kaleidoscope"

Please book soon so you don't miss out and invite your friends and family!

MARY ANDREWS COLLEGE CONFERENCE: OASIS: IT'S ALL ABOUT LIFE.....

We all have relationships with family, friends and colleagues - at home, at work, at church, in the community. How can our relationships be strengthened to the glory of God? If you are interested in attending this year:

Friday 22 June to lunchtime Sunday 24 June 2012 and would like to share a cabin, please contact

Karen Braga on 0401 933 264 or

Linda Stickley 0405 123 107

PARKING IN THE ST MATT'S CAR PARK

Please could you ensure you do not use the disabled, visitors or parking for prams, unless authorised to do so. We had a lady come to church on Sunday who had a broken ankle, could not get parking close by, so went back home. We'd really

It was wonderful to have so many families at Matts4Minis in Term 1 and we had a great time with our 'water' theme. Our net, hanging from the ceiling in Hall 3, is full of octopus and fish that we made in craft! Last week we did footprints with paint and then had our feet washed. We learned about Jesus washing his disciples feet. With the 9am Easter Sunday service coming up we are really looking forward to lots of Matts4Minis families coming along.



Kathy Romanis

**Archbishop's Professional Standards Unit
Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney**



**CHAPLAIN / COUNSELLING CO-ORDINATOR
30 hours per week part-time**

This part-time position exists to assist the Archbishop in responding to, following up and caring for complainants and victims of sexual misconduct and child abuse. It reports directly to the Director of the Professional Standards Unit (PSU).

The PSU receives, substantiates, investigates and arranges consideration of allegations and complaints of sexual misconduct and child abuse against Clergy and Church workers.

Expressions of interest for this position are sought from persons who have relevant training and extensive experience in pastoral care and counselling.

The position will require:

The skills and abilities of a mature and caring Christian who has a deep understanding of the needs and concerns of victims;

Sound knowledge of Diocesan structures and a commitment to its Mission.

Enquiries in the first instance to Lachlan Bryant on (02) 9265 1514 or to lcb@sydney.anglican.asn.au

Applications Close 27th April 2012



Foundation Bookshop

LAST CHANCE MOVING SALE

50% OFF

ALL BOOKS DURING APRIL & MAY

Due to Castle Hill Renewal, we are relocating and are drastically reducing our stock of Christian Books.

WHEN Every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10am – 4pm

WHERE Foundation Bookshop, 33 Western Rd, Castle Hill (in Leumeah Building)

CONTACT Phone 9894 8524 Email sales@foundationbooks.com.au or visit www.foundationbooks.com.au

PAYMENT Cash or cheque. Visa and MasterCard accepted for purchases of \$20 and over. Pay via phone, email, snail mail or in person.

All sale proceeds go to ARV Foundation. Friends & family welcome.

BE QUICK, DON'T MISS OUT!



ARV Foundation

Your KINGDOM come

A NORTHWEST COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERING

Come and join us in praying for our churches & our community

When: Friday April 27th

Time: 8pm

Where: Victory Community Christian Church

**For more information please contact our office (p) 99805333
or email office@victoryccc.com.au**

*Steve & Sue Abbott will be
attending, please join them
there*

Christian Studies Dedication Service

On Thursday 22nd March, the Annual Dedication Service of the Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Christian Education Association was held at the Pennant Hills Baptist Church. The purpose of the service is to dedicate the work of the Christian Education Association, its teachers and volunteers for the next 12 months.

The Association represents the coming together of 13 local churches who see the two local high schools, Pennant Hills High and Cherrybrook Technology High, as a key mission field on our doorstep. The teachers and church representatives work in partnership to do God's work locally.

The program was action packed with students from Cherrybrook talking about the impact the program has on the whole school under the direction of their teacher, Peter Murphy. Graham Castle from Pennant Hills presented a DVD on Christian Studies at Pennant Hills.

We acknowledge and thank the work of the 17 volunteers who help with lunchtime groups and some classes. We are particularly thankful and want to acknowledge the contribution made by Kenny Liew, Darren Hua, Geoff Everett and John Carr from St Matthews.

Thanks and acknowledgements were made to Grant Howard who regretfully has had to be made redundant from Pennant Hills due to falling numbers at the school. Gav Poole, Chairman of the Association, prayed for Grant and the contribution he has made over the past seven years.

Thanks to those members of St Matthews who attended the service. We appreciate your support and the support of many others over the past 25+ years.

Diary Date: Community Partnership Dinner

25 August 2012 at Thornleigh Community Baptist Church. More details later.

MAY 2012 MONTH OF EVANGELISM



SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENTS @ ST MATT'S

Wednesday 2 May	Senior's Anniversary Service & Lunch
Wednesday 9 May	Women's Evening—"Women with Purpose" Helping women in need
Monday 21 May	Community Issues Night: Hearing the Cry – Suicide Prevention Strategies with Margaret Appleby OAM
Saturday 26 May	Men's Dinner " Pizza & Trivia Night"

MAY 2012 Preaching Calendar

6	Will Our Faith Go the Distance?	Luke 18:1-8
13	Are We an Unexpected Friend of Jesus?	Luke 18:9-17
20	Are We an Impossible Friend of God?	Luke 18:18-30
27	Are We Able to See Spiritually?	Luke 18:31-43

Invite your friends an family!!



Pupil-free day

Monday 23rd April, 2012

8:30AM - 3:30PM

There is an exciting day planned for children aged K-6 at St Matt's.

A day of fun, games, craft,
entomologist visit with bugs to hold
and Bible learning
all in a safe and caring environment.

Cost: \$20 per child before 16 April

Cost: \$25 per child after 16 April

(\$20 each for first 2 children, \$10 for additional children)

Book now!

Morning Tea and Lunch Provided.

www.stmatts.org.au or 9479 3700

CALLING VOLUNTEERS FOR MATTS4KIDS!

If you have time to help with Matts4Kids this term, please could you put your name down on the lists at the back of the church or hall.

If you have any EMPTY GLASS JARS, please could you drop them in the church which are needed for our Children's Ministry.



1-2-3 Magic Parenting Course

St Matt's Anglican Church
1 New Line Rd, WPH
24 and 31 May and 7 June 2012
Thursdays 9.30am – 12pm
To book: 9479 3700 or office@stmatts.org.au
Pre booked, limited childcare available

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 , Damon , Es and Laurie ,
Margaret , Dudley ,
Brian , Caroline (Betty daughter),
Betty , Jeannine , Jane , Cliff ,
Geoff & Margaret , Bev ,
Janet , mother of Sally , Irene and her daughter Brenda (recovering from
a serious bicycle accident).



Job Seekers @ St Matt's

Within the St Matthews community there are currently people who are seeking employment. If you are able to assist please contact Malcolm North on 0439 866 447.



Finance Manager/Controller - an accountant with over 30 years experience in industry is seeking a Finance Manager/Financial Controller role. Interested in considering opportunities for permanent/contract in both the Corporate and Not-for-Profit Sectors.

Treasury / Finance Manager - Over 25 years experience in the corporate, large project financing and treasury management in large corporates and multinationals with Asia Pacific experience. Interested in considering opportunities in treasury and financing risk management in the Corporate sector.

Consultant Information Technology professional - with over 15 yrs experience in Finance industry with core experience in Information Management. Interested in full time/contract role in corporations or consulting firms.

Senior Business Analyst / Project Manager (Process focus) - MBA qualified, Strategic Management professional, with 8 years consulting in Business Process Analysis, 5 years in IT management, 10 years as a Systems Analyst, is seeking contract or permanent role.

Industrial Design/Production Management - 30 years experience in Commercial fit out design and installation. Design experience in sheet metal, sand and pressure casting (3D INVENTOR). Design & implementation of new product into production. Mine lighting DIP approvals.

***For anyone interested in meeting for support a
St Matthews group meets each
Tuesday 8.00am - 9.30am in NewLine Cottage.***

st matts youth update

Youth @ St Matt's – Term #1

This term has rocketed by... although I'm pretty sure people have been too busy to notice! Last Friday night was our last week of 'Clubbers' (Club 78) and 'FNL' (Friday Night Live Y9-12) for term 1.

This term the youth program adapted a parallel teaching series based on 'Radical'. In addition to the normal weekly program Club 78 splashed out and went swimming at the Homebush aquatic centre and FNL lowered the temperature with a night skating on the ice. Following weeks of wet weather the Family BBQ experienced a high attrition rate and we hope many more families will join us when we hold the next one, on the **28 October**.

Coming up in just a few weeks is one of the highlights of the year, 'Too Much Fun'. This year's camp will be held from **April 19-22** in the Royal National Park on the shores of the Port Hacking River at: Deer Park, Chaldercot and Telford. The theme this year is 'Wild vs Man' with talks to be given by Hans Kristensen and Arnaldo Santiago from the Gospel of Luke. The early bird rate for camp runs out SOON, so don't miss out!

If you've been praying for us – thank you! Please pray that MANY will come along to TMF this year and that of these, many might respond to the message of God's remarkable love and forgiveness in Christ. We look forward to being able to share with you news of what God did in answer to your prayers!

Many thanks.
In Christ,
Geoff



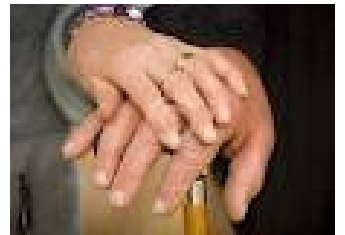
WEDNESDAY CHURCH, SENIORS AND PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

The 10.30am Wednesday Midweek Service has been humming along – we regularly have over 30 attending and peaked at 44 recently – most encouraging!!! It follows morning tea at 10.00am, and is a shorter more traditional service with shorter, but nonetheless relevant sermons by a variety of speakers – if this appeals why not give us a try!!

Similarly, the monthly Orana lunches have seen great roll ups – we heard Jon and Lika Phua tell us something of their Christian story in February, and in March enjoyed lunch together at Berowra Waters. On **April 4th** we will welcome **Ian and Ruth Batey**, one of our link missionary couples who will be sharing of their experiences in Spain. **May 2nd** is the combined Midweek Service/Orana lunch celebrating the Anniversary of Wednesday Church – we are thrilled that **Jill McGilvray** will be the speaker as she was instrumental in setting up the Midweek service and set the direction for much of the pastoral care framework of our church. Don't miss these lunches!

The Pastoral Care team continues to do a great job in support of those with particular needs. There is also a group looking at broadening and developing the concept of pastoral care within the church with a view to offering a course during the church 'focus' month in August. There will be an "encouragement" night for pastoral carers early in May: "Sowing Seeds of Hope".

Please continue to pray that in each of these important elements of our church life, growing in the knowledge and love of the Lord will be central.



Bill France



MISSION AID GROUP (MAG) April/May 2012

Thank you once again for your continued generosity over the past couple of months. We continue to receive a great variety of goods, all much needed by our friends in Tanzania. Suggestions for the next couple of months are: small sewing scissors (to fit in our sewing kits), or any other sewing kit item eg. cotton, needles, pins, tape, elastic etc. baby singlets (size 00 or 000), 8 ply knitting wool for squares or jumpers or anything from the green MAG brochure.

Don't forget Sunday 29 April when the SYDNEY MALE CHOIR will be at St Matt's to entertain us from 2pm. They are well known both here and overseas and have been chosen to represent Australia at the Anzac Day Dawn Service in 2013, at Villers-Bretonneux in France. Please keep the date free as this our fund raiser for the year and we would love as many as possible to join us for the concert followed by afternoon tea.

Thank you, Roslyn Dearden

9am Church

March saw a contingent of 9am-ers helping clean the West Pennant Hills Public School for Clean Up Australia Day. Our visibility was helped by our St Matt's T-shirts!

The 9am service continues to see new people each week, who appreciate the large number of children and the family friendly environment of our meeting.

Keen 9am-ers: Ruth Middleton and Meredith Donkin benefited greatly from attending Col Marshall's 'Vinegrowers' Seminar for women on March 17. The seminar was based on the groundbreaking ministry book 'The Trellis and the Vine', and we at 9am will be keen to ensure that our ministry is not just structures, administration and events, but training, multiplying and discipling people.

With Steve Abbott's blessing, for Easter, 9am will be joining the rest of the St Matt's family for Good Friday in the church building (8am or 10am). Then, we will be having our own 9am Easter Sunday Service in the school. Importantly, this will allow us to invite friends, family and those of the school community to join us in our special celebration. Already, families from Matts4Minis have been invited along with other friends.

Some prayer points:

- Give thanks for the new people and guests each week. Pray that each person is welcomed, included, and helped in their relationship with God and with his people at 9am.
- Give thanks for great resources such as Vinegrowers. Pray that our planning at 9am is not only about good structures, admin and events, but is focussed on training, evangelism and discipling of people.
- Give thanks for the joy of Easter, that we might rejoice in the Lord, in the death and resurrection of Christ. Pray especially that the 9am Easter Sunday service is family friendly, accessible, that many guests will come, in response to invitations.

*In Christ,
Jon Phua
9am Pastor and Associate Minister*



**Over a cuppa with
Steve and Melinda McKerney and family;
St Matt's Link Missionaries**



Names: Steve and Melinda McKerney

Children: Jaidon (17), Lewis (15), Ezra (12) and Sheamus (10)

Residence: 7 Warman Court, Leeming, WA, 6149

Found Jesus: [Steve] at the age of 23 through reading Luke's gospel and the providential meeting of an evangelical Christian. God is sovereign!

Connection to St Matt's: Youth Minister 1997-2001 (5 fantastic years!)

Missio Work: With AFES in Perth at Murdoch University reaching the lost Gen Y's in Perth.

Favorite local eatery: Sandrino's in Fremantle

Social Activities: Coaching Lewis or Ezra in Soccer (I think it is Ezra's turn this year!), camping with friends, having people around to our house.

Currently Reading: 1 Corinthians. 'Surprised By Meaning' by Alister McGrath [In preparation for a campus mission about Atheism]. Among other things, McGrath tells his story of how he moved from Atheism to faith in Christ.

Words of Encouragement to those who want to "radically" challenge themselves:

Jesus died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15

This is one of the clearest 'applications' or 'implications' of the cross for every Christian. It is extremely simple to read and to understand: it says that the reason Jesus died for us was that we would stop living for ourselves and put Jesus first in everything.

This verse continues to 'radically challenge' me and I pray it will have the same impact on you too as you reflect on it. It's worth memorizing!

60 Seconds with Geoff Everett

St Matt's Youth Minister

Name – Geoff Everett

Nick Name – “Geoffro”, “Geoff”, “Evo”, “Hey you”?

Married – Not yet...

Pets – I’d love one...

Residence- I reside in West Pennant Hills

Work – Best. Job. Ever. Working with youth @ St Matt’s... ;-)

Food- I’m quite partial to food of all kinds. (Seafood... Chinese... Thai).

Social Activities – Brunch and coffee with friends...

Found Jesus – He found me... a few times. The first time was during high school.

Fellowship – I’m quickly getting to know many of the Men of St Matt’s and I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to join them at a number of events including the men’s convention and the ‘men & work’ breakfast.

Currently Reading – Collected essays by C.S. Lewis; The Accountable Man by Tom Eisenman; The Bible.

Words of Encouragement - *“Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.”*

Jerry Bridges



Link Missionary Update

Link Missionary and Ministry Update

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me" – Romans 15:30

How can we support our Link Missionaries and Ministers?

- Attend Missionary Prayer Night first Wednesday of each month – New Line Cottage 7.30 pm
- Attend the Mission Course at St Matts in August
- Receive prayer letters from Link Missionaries, and
- Use St Matts Prayer Diaries regularly.

Who are our Link Missionaries and Ministers?

As a church family at St Matthews we provide prayer and financial support to a number of missionaries whom we call our 'Link Missionaries'. Some are overseas and others are here in Australia. We also support Christian Studies in local high schools and several members are involved in Kairos Prison Ministry:

International Missionaries

Ian and Ruth Batey – serving in the Church of the Ascension, an Anglican parish in Seville, Spain. See an article on the Batey's work in Spain on the Christ Mission Society (CMS) website <http://www.cms.org.au/globalvision/summer2010/destination?sessid=a90bf34b5b8253df8b93890318ccbd27>

Mike and Jo – serving in a large city in South Asia by equipping local men and women in leadership.

Morgan and Anna Powell – serving in a Bible Institute in Arequipa, in the south west of Peru where Morgan is teaching a Bible College and working in the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) course with churches and pastors around the city.

William and Grace Eyika – serving in Dagoretti Corner Baptist Church, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Newsletter. For breaking news, subscribe to the Dagoretti Corner Self-Help Group Email News <http://dagoretticorner.org/>.

National Missionaries

Jenny Fallon – serving as personnel director for Serving in Mission (SIM) Australia, Penshurst, Sydney. Find out more about SIM at www.sim.org.au

Chris and Sharon Ekins – serving in the Coast Evangelical Church (CoastEC) in Forster, NSW. Find out what happening at Coast EC at www.coastec.net.au.

Rob and Leanna Haynes – serving in the Northern Territory. Rob is working at Nungalinya College, a Christian residential training college for Indigenous people. Find out more about Nungalinya at <http://www.nungalinya.edu.au/College/TheCollege.htm>

Daniel and Dominica Lai – serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia in Sydney after working in East-Africa for 12 years. Find out more about Wycliffe at <http://www.wycliffe.org.au/about-us/>

Steve and Melinda McKerney – serving with Murdoch Christians United (MCU) on Murdoch University campus, Perth, WA. Check out the funky MCU website <http://mcu.org.au/>.

Lindsay and Lyn Whybrow – serving in the Anglican church at Hillston, NSW. Find out more on the Bush Church Aid website at <http://bushchurcaid.com.au/missionlocations/hillston>

Link Ministries

Christian Studies at Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Technology Schools- Graham Castle and Peter Murphy teach Christian Studies and encourage student volunteers who lead lunch-time groups in our local high schools.

Kairos Prison Ministry - A number of people from St Matthews are involved with the Kairos prison ministry at Dillwynia women's prison, South Windsor, and Emu Plains women's prison. Find out more at <http://www.kairos.org.au/>

Link Missionary Prayer Focus

- Prayer Focus
- As prayer points and news arrives from our Link Missionaries, and as mission events are coming up on the calendar, the Mission Resource Group will pass these onto you via the quarterly Prayer Diary, the St Mathews Mission website and here in Matts Matters (see below). If you have missionary news or events to share, please contact Wendy Noble wendy.noble@gmail.com. This issue we focus on news from the Powells, the Bateys, the Gibbs and Christian Studies in our local high schools.

The Powells

Morgan and Anna Powell have just returned to Peru after home leave in Sydney. Much has changed for them: they came with one daughter, Anika, and returned with two daughters (baby Lila); they have moved cities within Peru, and Morgan is beginning a new role. Read more about their news and pray for them. If you would like to receive the Powell's monthly prayer letter, contact SIM Australia, PO Box 42, Penshurst, NSW 2222, also check out the Missions link on the St Matts website.

Dear Friends at St Matts,

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement during our time of departure, travel and arrival in South America.

We have found the last month or so quite difficult with the travelling and living out of a suitcase or two. Anika has found it quite difficult and although she seems to be doing better now it seems she is wondering where home really is. There are times when you wonder why you come halfway around the world and bring your two little daughters with you, one just 10 weeks old.

This weekend we moved into the apartment above one of the mission houses. This is where we will live until June/July when the family living in the house returns to the US and then we will move into the house. It will be another move but this time just downstairs. We have been in five locations in five weeks and that has been particularly hard for Anika. It is hard to know what she must be thinking about what is happening in our lives. It has been a tiring time but we are thankful that everything has gone smoothly.

Our time in Lima went well with our visa applications going smoothly so far. We will need to return to Lima in a few weeks' time to collect our identity cards and then we begin the process for the children. We are adapting again to life and culture in Peru. Arequipa is dry, dusty and noisy with the customary car horns, alarms and fireworks a regular feature. We are getting back up to speed with our language which after a year back in Australia is a bit rusty, and also getting to know the local culture and the church scene.

I have been up to visit the bible institute in a small town about 45 minutes from Arequipa. It is by no means luxurious or well equipped. I had a chance to speak to some of the students and was encouraged by their great desire to serve the Lord and who have travelled far and made sacrifices to come and study. They are greatly needed in their churches. Of the 40 or so churches in the city of Arequipa belonging to the IEP denomination, only 12-15 have pastors. So far we only have a small snapshot but it tells us that there is a great need for Theological Education to help strengthen the churches of Peru and we feel privileged to be able to serve God in this area.

In Him,

Morgan and Anna



Morgan & Anna's Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for a safe trip and that we are settling in and the girls are sleeping well at night.
- Pray that our visa application will be processed smoothly.
- Give thanks for the provision of a place to live.
- Pray for our language and culture acquisition.



Ian and Ruth Batey

Ian and Ruth Batey are currently in Sydney with their three children Samuel, Emma and William. They have been missionaries in Spain since 2008. The Bateys give thanks that their children have settled well into school in Sydney, and ask for prayer for positive deputation visits and their re-entry to life in Seville. On Sunday April 01 after the 10AM service, Ian and Ruth will share some of their story. If you would like to receive the Bateys' prayer letter, contact Church Mission Society (CMS) Australia <http://www.cms.org.au/get-involved/subscribe>, also check out the Missions link on the St Matt's website.

Dear Friends at St Matt's,

We are already half way through our time in Australia, and enjoying seeing family and friends, and catching up with our ministry partners in person. We are also enjoying the break from speaking Spanish. Our CMS accommodation in Riverwood is well situated for school, shopping and public transport, and is certainly in a very multicultural area. We feel closer to 'the nations' here in Riverwood than we do in Seville! Living overseas has made us much more sympathetic to new migrants to Australia. We know first-hand that living the daily routine in another culture can be a tiring and emotional experience. It makes me wonder how isolated many immigrants must feel here, and what a great opportunity churches have to offer a helping hand and a new friendship, and at the same time testifying to the love of God for us all in Christ.

Our return to Seville is getting closer every day. I often wonder how we will go as a family re-assimilating into the Spanish culture, the language challenges, the kids' return to school, and the enormous challenge of re-planting our church in our local area. We will certainly need the care and support of our wonderful partners in Australia.

Wherever we are though, we do trust that God will not burden us beyond what we can bear, that he is always with us, and that our mission is first and foremost his mission and his task, to reach all people everywhere with the message of salvation in Jesus.

God Bless,

Ian and Ruth

A Postcard from Nerida!

Well, it is strange to me that I am already into my 3rd year here at St Matt's! How is that possible? How has the time gone so fast? Well, you know what they say - Time flies ...

This week I had the privilege of being down at an Arrow training course in Melbourne. Steve sat on the board of this organization for many years, and it really is wonderful! I had the joy of a week with fellow pastors from a range of denominations, some excellent education and presentations on various ministry skills, and lots of laughter to boot. (If you will believe it, I was one of the quieter ones there!) But one of my favourite parts of the week was hearing Richard Coekin of St Jude's Carlton speak from 2 Corinthians. It reminded me again how God's word is living water to us.



When Paul talks about his thorn, he says that God gives him a specific message – “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” He boasts about his own weaknesses, so that Christ's power would rest on him! Richard called this “weak power”. The amazing thing about God is that he has entrusted his precious Gospel to us - not to herculean characters or X-men, but to those of us who are weak and failing, and inadequate to the task - to jars of clay. But again as Paul says, this is to show that the all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. This is something that I am endlessly thankful for. That it is God's ministry and kingdom, not mine, God's strength and beauty, not mine, God's wisdom and power, not mine! And yet I have a treasure – *“For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”* And this is the treasure of the Gospel that feeds us, that fills us, that communicates God's love to us, and finally compels us to continue to tell people about our Triune God and what he has done in Christ. I don't know about you, but often the enormity of the world's need, or even our many tasks and ministries at St Matt's can seem too much, but I was reminded that it is our weakness, when combined with God's power that takes forward his Kingdom. So friends I want to encourage you in every way you are being faithful to God, whether they seem big or small – because all of them are part of our radical obedience to God. Weak power – I've decided it's the best kind!

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you. I love being here at St Matt's, I love getting to journey with all of you. Getting to know you and hang out with you has been my favourite part of the last two years, and is a constant source of delight and joy.

Blessings on each of you!!

Love in Christ, Nerida

The Easter Story

Help complete the Easter story below by finding the missing words in the letter grid. When you cross off all the words, the remaining letters will spell out a big word for what Jesus did at Easter.

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



On the day we now call _____ Friday, in the city of _____,
Jesus was hung on a _____ next to two _____. After he _____,
his body was taken down and laid in a _____. Some Roman _____
were posted outside to guard the body.

_____ days later, on the _____ morning, some of his _____ went to
the place where his body was, but instead they found that it was _____.
They saw an _____ who told them, "Jesus is _____. He is _____
from the dead. Go and tell the _____."

Forty days later, they watched Jesus go up into the clouds to _____.
He went to be with God his _____. We remember that God _____ the
world so much that He gave His only son for us.

Final Answer: _____