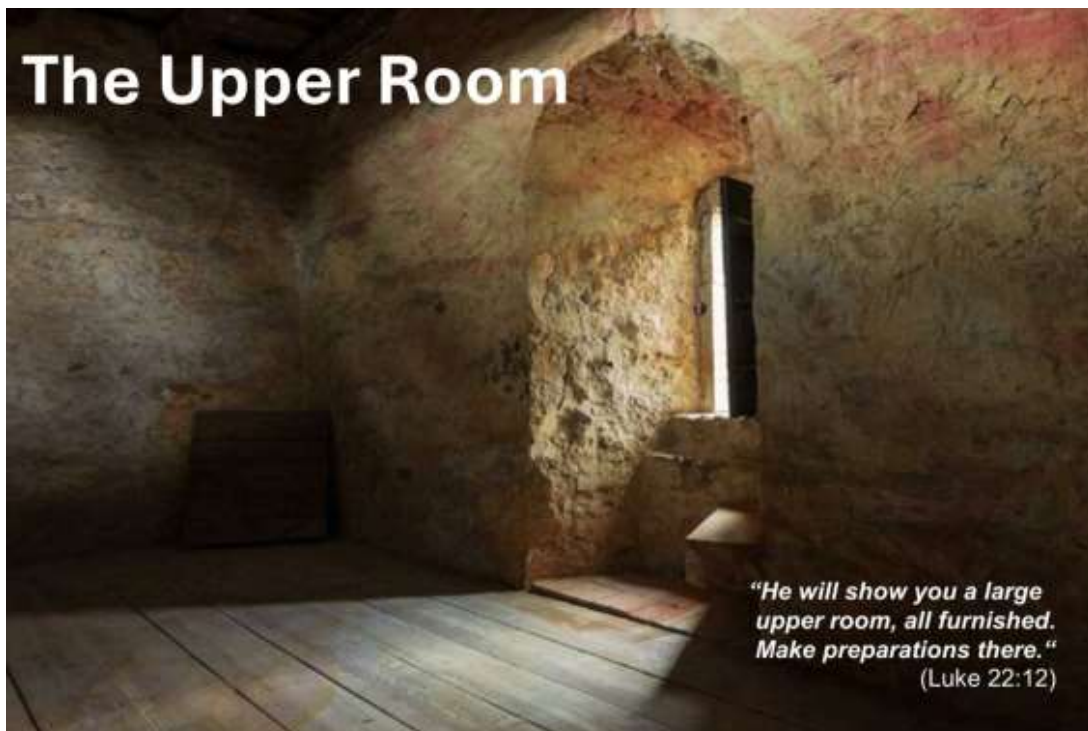




April, 2024 Newsletter

Helping the people of Pakenham find life in Jesus



Welcome to our April Newsletter.

We pray you all have had a blessed Easter, remembering with awe and wonder, the Gift and the Cost of our salvation. This month I have been reflecting on the significance of the Upper Room. Three of the most important events in world history took place in an Upper Room. This was the place Jesus conducted the Last Supper with His disciples before He went to the Cross, after His resurrection He appeared to His disciples there, and fifty days later it is where the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

Upper rooms were used as guest rooms, places to hold meetings, feasts, or gathering for meditation and prayer. The upper room was the place the disciples gathered to wait, watch, and pray.

On one occasion, while he [Jesus] was eating with them, he gave them this command: *"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 1:4,5)

This is still the pattern Jesus calls us to practice. Throughout history revival has come when Jesus' disciples gathered to pray with one heart and mind. The upper room is a place, set apart, where we die to our own needs and desires, and pray for God to come in power. It has

been called the womb of revival. The upper room is a place where God's people enter into the throne room of God.

"Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

I believe God is calling a generation that will enter the throne room and pray until our communities are transformed and invaded by the kingdom of heaven. If there was ever a time when the Church needed revival, it is now! The prince of this world is ruling in our communities, we are living in a dry and weary land because the Church has left the place of prayer. The upper room is dark, empty, dusty and full of cobwebs. There is no groaning and weeping for the lost. We need Spirit-filled, prayerful men, women and children who will spend time before the throne of God. Because we know that the only Church the devil fears is a praying Church.

Pastor Richard Schoenmaker

pastor@pc3.org.au
0416 204 797

PC3 Family Messages

Message from the Van der Honing Family

Mary and the family would like to thank the Church family for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. Also for the love, support and prayers during John's illness and with his passing. Love from the Van der Honing family.

Congratulations Lee and Ahyeon

Lee and Iona's wedding took place on March 29th and they had a beautiful day together celebrating with family and close friends. Our prayers and congratulations go to them both as they start their lives together



2-1-2 Prayer Tool

1 Timothy 2:1-2



Our challenge this year is to commit to praying for

2 people, every 1 day, for 2 minutes.

It is not hard for us to find two people we know who need Jesus. I find it best to set the alarm on my phone for the same time every day. To pray and then watch for how God impacts them and gives opportunities for me to point them to Jesus.

PC3 Women



Our first gathering as PC3 Women was spent on a lovely Sunday afternoon sharing a high tea together. It's always great to build up relationships and do life together as fellow sisters in Christ.



Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day

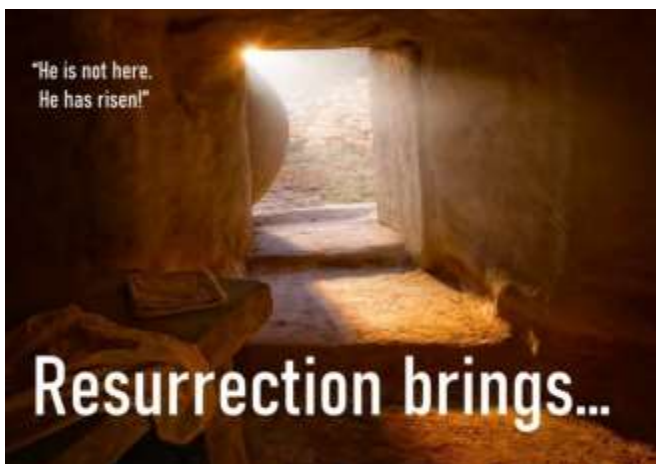


Vibe



How great it is to see children dancing with joy before the Lord. As we got off our seats to jump around, we sung loud and proud. Pastor Richard brought the message based upon the movie Elemental, focusing on what we love and what we do for love. Followed by some delicious pizza and great fellowship, we hope you will join us for the next one if we missed you this time.

Sermon Series



This month we will go through a sermon series looking at the gifts we graciously receive as a result of Christ's resurrection.

If you need a refresher, or to catch up on a sermon you missed, you will find all the messages on our YouTube Channel, via the website and on your favorite podcast channel.

7th April 'Encountering Jesus' John 20:24-29

14th April 'Life' John 14:15-26

21st April 'Peace' John 14:27-31

28th April 'Purpose' John 17:13-19

5th May 'Power' John 17:20-26

Vibe Service 'The Jesus Groove'

How to see Jesus The Emperor's New Groove

Upcoming Events

Don't forget daylight savings...

Sunday April 7th is the end of daylight savings so don't forget to set a reminder to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday evening.



It is time to bring out the good old picnic basket from the back cupboard, grab some sandwiches and pack the drinks.

On **April 14th, following the Sunday service, we will be heading down to Oakland Way Playground for a picnic.** Please bring your own lunch, BBQ facilities are available onsite. There are no toilets at the playground so please use the church toilets before heading down.

A stack of several golden-brown, textured Anzac biscuits. A red flower is visible in the bottom left corner.

Anzac Biscuits
for sale
Sunday 22 April

\$5.00 per pack
pre order gluten free option
via Lucy/Lesley/Anne

All proceeds going towards Women's conference

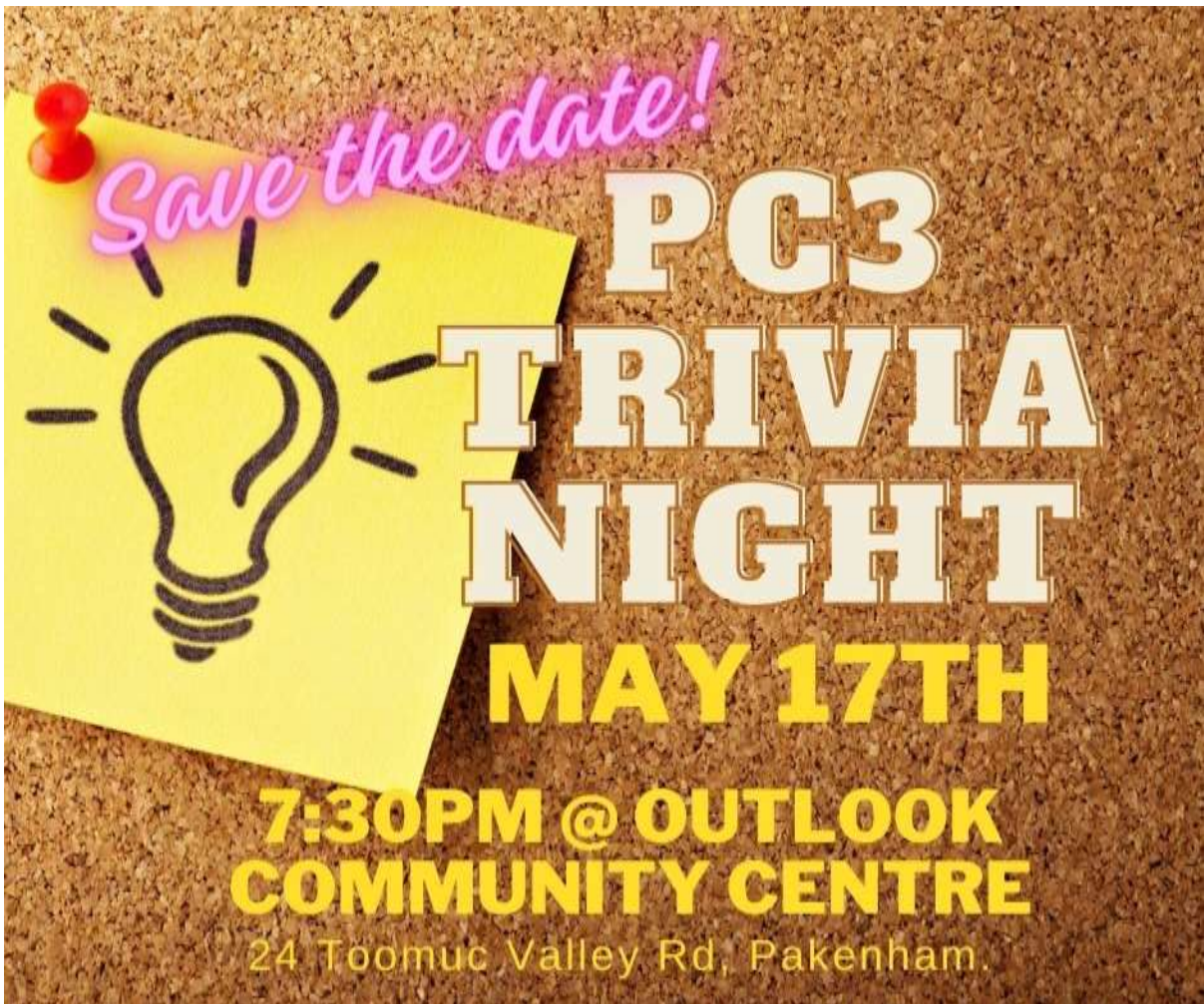


The next Lakeside Market is 21st April.

When the market is on, we have the opportunity to be a “light” and a “salt” in Lakeside. Following the service, we will go on a Prayer walk through the Market with a praying heart and open spiritual eyes, to speak to those who God places in our path. Then we will have lunch together.



Join us on **May 5th at 5pm for our VIBE service** as Pastor Richard leads us in discussion based on ‘The Emperor’s New Groove’. Please bring along a friend or family member, we would love to see them there! Dinner is provided.



A time honored PC3 tradition and a night that is sure to be great fun and full of knowledge!

We hope that you will join us on

May 17th at 7:30pm for the PC3 Trivia Night at the Outlook Community Centre (24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham).

Tickets are \$10 per person with all proceeds going towards Youth Convention, State Youth Games, and PC3 events. To purchase a ticket, volunteer or donate a silent auction item, please see Kristy Noorbergen.



If you find yourself needing a bit more notice or thrive with having a calendar on hand, jump onto the PC3 calendar to sync with your calendar app. Simply click on the following link:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=pakenhamc3%40gmail.com&ctz=Australia%2FMelbourne>

PC3's Faithful Volunteers



Thank you to all our family who help out weekly with the set up, pack down and running of our Sunday service. We could not do it without you!
 If you would like to join our volunteer roster, please speak with Pastor Richard Schoenmaker or a member of our leadership team.

| | 7 th April | 14 th April | 21 st April | 28 th April | 5 th May |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pastor | Ps Richard | Ps Richard | Ps Richard | Ps Richard | Ps Richard |
| Call to Worship | Andre | Dan | Dave | Peter | Charis |
| Second Offering | TRAIN Workgroup | Solomon Islands Workgroup | Solomon Islands Workgroup | Reformed Theological College | Reformed Theological College |
| Communion Set/Pack Up | | | | | Renee |
| Sound | Andre | Andre | Johnny | Johnny | Andre |
| Media | Dave | Dave | John | John | Dave |
| Music Coordinator | Siska | Siska | Siska | Siska | Siska |
| Jam 1 | School Holidays | School Holidays | Lynn | Leah | Renee |
| Jam 2 | School Holidays | School Holidays | Ansa | Janet | Anneke |
| Greeter 1 | Mel | John | Peter | Kevin | Kevin |
| Greeter 2 | Ian | Chris | Lesley | Janet | Janet |
| Morning Tea/Pack Up | Madhavan & Ormesher | Benson & Bond | J,R de Haan | J,J Gould | Van Rossen |
| Notes | | | | | Vibe |

Church Council Update

Dear PC3 Church Family,

We pray you have had a blessed Easter reflecting and celebrating having a heavenly Father who sent His only Son and to live, die and rise to bring us into His presence forever.

- At our last Church Council meeting we opened by considering chapter 2 of the book "Enjoy Your Prayer Life." We were challenged by a quote from John Calvin which says prayer is "the chief exercise of faith." Prayer is the primary way true faith expresses itself and so prayerlessness is demonstrating a lack of belief in God.
- We looked at our Dashboard, noting that overall our attendance numbers are steady. And we are welcoming visitors each week.
- A real concern is still our finances. The level of giving has not changed, and we are eating into our savings. The challenge is that if this trend continues we will have to seriously consider our future.
- To encourage prayer among us we will be adding prayer points for each area of PC3 life on the prayer chain. Please look out for them and pray through the points.
- To grow our Media and PA team Andre will be organising a training session for all those interested in join the team.
- Because we are an instituted Church within the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, we have a duty to hold a second collection for the work of our denomination. We will be purchasing a second offering bag and make it a part of our worship services.
- We plan to meet on the 20th April to discuss the Synod reports. If you are interesting in reading any and giving your feedback then please see Jenna.
- We continue to give thanks for the work of Jenna, our Church Administrator and Charis our Youth Worker.
- To grow in unity and community we will be having more Church picnics. We pray you can be a part of this community building exercise.
- To encourage us to improve in our witnessing for Christ we plan to give opportunities for you to prepare your personal testimony to share with those God has laid on your hearts.
- We are thankful for those who are committed to being our ministry Teams. But we are also praying more will get onboard to share the load for all our programs.
- Please commit to praying for us as we seek to serve you all as godly leaders.

Deacon's Dispatch



Hi Church Family,

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out with the Meal Train for Rogan. We know Anneke really appreciated the help in having meals provided.

We are currently finalizing the details for the Giveaway in July. We are after some drop off points for Pakenham area. If you are willing to help assist us in this way, please let us know. You would only be storing the items for a couple of days, at which point we would then collect them from you.

Please continue to reach out to us of any needs that we can assist with.

Blessings,
Justin, Renee and Lucy

Youth

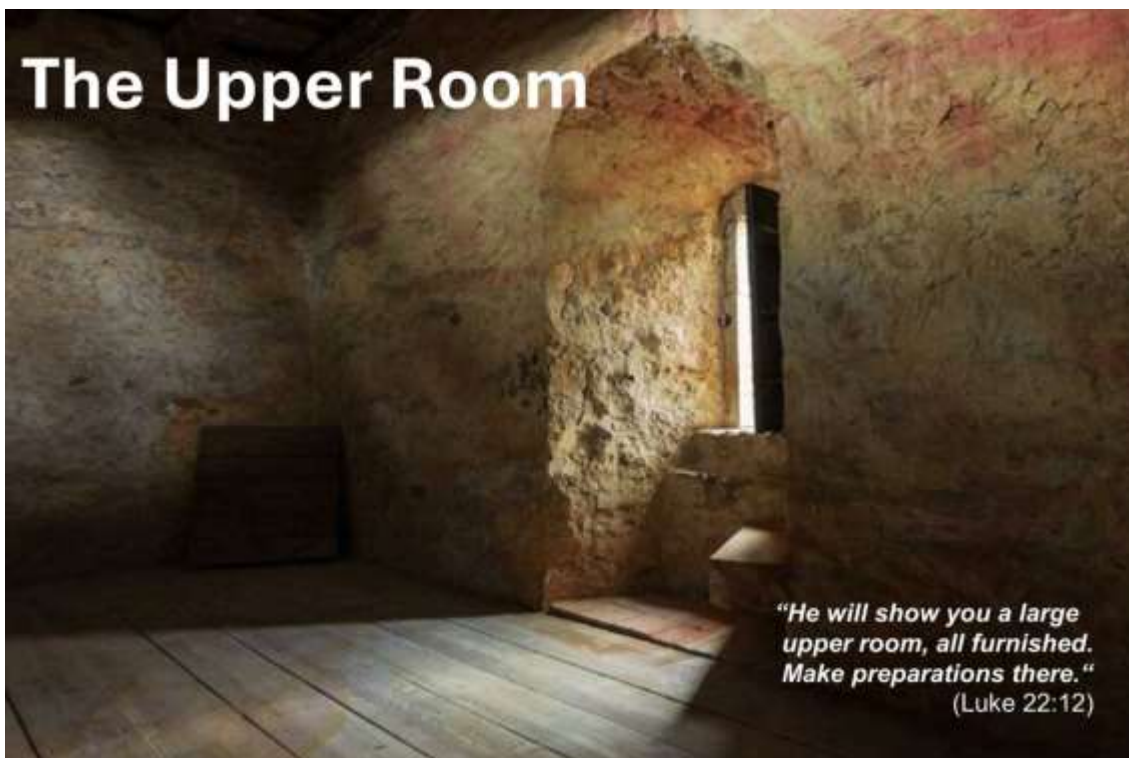


March was a busy month for our Youthies. We are still trekking through the book of Luke but what made March busy was that we went all over Melbourne and Geelong for Youth gatherings. The first gathering was at One Hope with other CRC Youths to have fun with different silly sports and to discuss State Youth Games (SYG). This year we will be sending dragons from PC3 to join the CRCY (Christian Reformed Church Youth) team. This year the theme is release as we are released into the world but we did a devotion on what God has released us from sin on the Friday night we combined. The other combined night was the Youth Service at South Barwon in Geelong. It was our first instalment of a four part series on 'The Kingdom of God is...' we were looking at the weeds and the wheat. The next youth service will be in May but for the moment we will be on a two week break for the school holidays. Have a safe holiday everyone and if you've read this far come tell me the secret in this piece and I'll give you a reward!

Charis Ormesher
~ Youth Worker ~

Soul Enrichment

The Upper Room



*"He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."
(Luke 22:12)*

HOW TO PRAY FOR REVIVAL

For me, the Upper Room stands for a place where we pray for revival. Do you have a passion to see revival in Pakenham. The kind where at least 10% of Pakenham pour into Churches.

Where sleepy Christians wake up, wayward Christians return, and seekers turn to Jesus. Where there is true unity, passionate worship, study of the Word, prayer, and caring to the poor and abused. How much of your thoughts, dreams, and prayers are occupied with this vision? It is important to Jesus, and so it ought to be important to His followers. Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples, baptising and teaching them. It all begins with focused prayer. Consider these 5 points from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-39;

1. DEVELOP A PERSONAL EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE.

Every genuine ministry flows naturally from a right relationship with our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus demonstrated this before He went to the Cross. Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed," "My Father,..." (Matt 26:39)

2. JOIN WITH OTHERS

He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." (Matt26:37,38) We are built for community, and it takes a community to reach a city. There is real power when God's people join together in true unity to watch and pray.

3. HAVE A PLACE AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane," (Matt 26:36) We live in an age of distraction. We are always so busy, and our phones are distracting us wherever we go. Jesus had a habit of going to quiet place, out of the way, to be with His Father.

4. CULTIVATE A BURDENED FOR MISSION

"He began to be sorrowful and troubled." (Matt 26:37) We cannot imagine the burden Jesus was carrying as He was preparing to go to the Cross. But it is the will of God for us to carry a burden for reaching the lost. We cannot carry this burden in our own strength. Jesus said; "Without me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). So we are called to join together and bring our burden to God. For Him to empower and enable us to carry it out.

5. HUMBLY ACCEPT GOD'S WILL

Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matt 26:39) We have to know that we cannot expect God to do our will, but His Will must be done. And remember, things may not work out as we expect or plan. We must humbly acknowledge that He who sees and knows all, knows what is best.

Consider these Puritan Prayers;

Gracious Lord, Thy name is love, in love receive my prayer.

My sins are more than the wide sea's sand, but where sin abounds, there is grace more abundant. Look to the cross of thy beloved Son, and view the preciousness of his atoning blood; Listen to his never-failing intercession, and whisper to my heart, 'They sins are forgiven, be of good cheer, lie down in peace.' Grace cataracts from heaven and flows for ever, and mercy never wearies in bestowing benefits. Grant me more and more to prize the privilege of prayer, to come to thee as a sin-siled sinner, to find pardon in thee, to converse with thee; to know thee in prayer is the path in which my feet tread, the latch upon the door of my lips, the light that shines through my eyes, the music of my ears, the marrow of my understanding, the strength of my will, the power of my affection, the sweetness of my memory. May the matter of my prayer be always wise, humble, submissive, obedient, scriptural, Christ-like. Give me unwavering faith that supplications are never in vain, that if I seem not to obtain my petitions I shall have larger, richer answers, surpassing all that I ask or think. Unsought, thou hast given me the greatest gift, the person of thy Son, and in him thou wilt give me all I need. Amen

O God of the highest heaven, occupy the throne of my heart, take full possession and reign supreme, lay low every rebel lust, let no vile passion resist thy holy war; manifest thy mighty power, and make me thine forever. Thou art worthy to be praised with my every breath, loved with my every faculty of soul, served with my every act of life. Thou hast loved me, espoused

me, received me, purchased, washed, favored, clothed, adorned me, when I was a worthless, vile soiled, polluted. I was dead in iniquities, having no eyes to see thee, no ears to hear thee, no taste to relish thy joys, no intelligence to know thee; But thy Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a new world as a new creature, has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me thy Word a slight, guide, solace, joy. Thy presence is to me a treasure of unending peace; No provocation can part me from thy sympathy, for thou hast drawn me with cords of love, and dost forgive me daily, hourly. O help me then to walk worthy of thy love, of my hopes, and my vocation. Keep me, for I cannot keep myself; Protect me that no evil befall me; Let me lay aside every sin admired of many; Help me to walk by thy side, lean on thy arm, hold converse with thee, That I may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all. Amen

Prayer For Revival

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today, acknowledging your character and sovereignty over all things. We ask that you would reveal yourself to us and to our community, that we may know you more deeply and seek your face with all our hearts.

We cry out to you for revival, for a fresh outpouring of your Spirit in our lives and in our community. We ask that you would bring a deep repentance in the hearts of people, and that you would transform our lives and our churches.

We remember how you have worked in the past, and we pray that you would do it again in our lives and in our community.

We trust in your power and deliverance, even in the midst of difficult circumstances, and we rejoice in your salvation and the hope that we have in you.

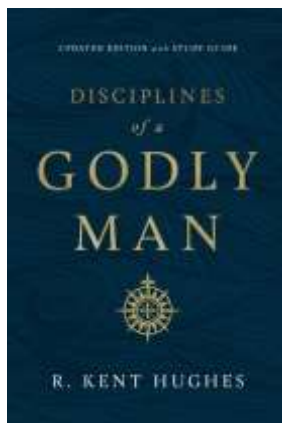
We ask that you would use us to bring about your kingdom here on earth, and that you would bring about a great harvest of souls. We pray that your name would be glorified in our lives, our churches, and our community.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior. Amen.

This month's MUST READ:

Disciplines of a Godly Man

Are you sick of living in a world where everyone is scared to warn, challenge and speak of consequences? Then this book is for you. Whether you are a new believer or a mature Christian, you will be challenged again and again by Kent's godly wisdom. He skillfully weaves together the teachings of Scripture with real-life examples as he powerfully teaches us what true Christian manhood looks like in the ordinary details of our lives. Read it and you will never be the same again!



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8. Prayer

9. Worship

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10. Integrity

11. Tongue

12. Work

13. Perseverance

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14. Church

15. Leadership

16. Giving

17. Witness

18. Ministry

Part six: DISCIPLINE

19. Grace of Discipline

International Justice Mission

Dear CRCA friends,

I hope you are going well.

In 2023, we celebrated incredible victories, and made great progress in protecting vulnerable people from violence all thanks to your unwavering support. You can hear more about the impact that you and your church made by following [this link](#).

I also would like to introduce you to Jacques, who is working closely with me and with our partner churches as we want to give more support and attention to churches across Australia. You will be hearing from Jacques over the next couple months.

There is power in the local church rallying together to fight for justice and we invite you to dedicate a Sunday to ending slavery this year. Hosting a [Freedom Sunday](#) at your church is one of the most practical ways for your congregation to learn about IJM's work and partner with us to help send rescue to the millions of people who are trapped in bondage across the globe.

Thanks again for all your prayers and support! I look forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming Synod in May.

Blessings!

Christian Koelbach
Director of Engagement
IJM Australia
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION ®

Giving

Thank you to all those who generously give to our Gospel Work!

We believe regular, joyful, and sacrificial giving is our act of worship to a God who has so sacrificially given to us. As we give, we proclaim our faith to God as our Provider and the Lord of our lives. Your generous giving supports our mission to reach Pakenham with the Gospel.

If you would like to give, you can do so in the following ways:

General Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-341
Account number:
505817
Account name:
Pakenham Christian
Community Church

Building Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-126
Account number:
616792
Account name:
Building Fund

In Person

Donations can be made
in the offering bag
passed around during
the closing song.

Life Groups

Our Life Groups are the main way we grow as disciples of Jesus together. We open God's Word together, pray together, support each other, and think creatively about how we can get involved in God's mission to reach Pakenham for Christ.

Sunday

JAM kids

Every Sunday during the service (except during school holidays)
Contact Lynn de Kretser

Life Group 5

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening each month.
Contact Dan van Rossen

Wednesday

Life Group 4

Fortnightly on Wednesday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Sean de Kretser

Thursday

Life Group 1

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Richard Schoenmaker

Life Group 2

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Lesley Schoenmaker

Friday

Life Group 3

Fortnightly on Friday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact David Barrot



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