

# IN A STATE OF PRAYER

MAY—JUNE 2011

**“I believe in the resurrection and the life”.**

*It takes a lot of guts ... and faith, to believe in, or to get one's head around the idea of resurrection. Ultimately we all originate from cosmic dust, so whether we are dealing with the original creation of life, or the idea of coming back to life, the most truthful thing we can say is that 'life' in all its forms, remains a mystery.*

Borrowed from Greek into English, the word **'anastatic'**, meaning 'the nature of revival', captures the original Greek meaning used by Paul and the Gospel writers of 'to stand again' or 'cause to stand up'. Translated into Latin, we encounter the word **'resurrectio'** -to be 'resurgent' or 'to rise again'.

Many languages struggle to put the concept of 'being resurrected' into words, as it is not part of their natural belief system and world-view. In Aboriginal languages with which I have some familiarity, translations range from the very literal 'to become alive from the dead' to other meanings such as 'to become renewed' or 'to be alive again'.

Languages, like people can be alive and vital or they can die, but unlike people they can also come back to life again. If we needed any proof we need only look at the Hebrew language which, after a period of 1,800 years, is now spoken again in the modern state of Israel. Around the world there are now numerous successful language revival projects, including the Kurna language which after about 130 years of non-use is now being taught in a number of primary schools and at Adelaide University, arising from initial language workshops conducted in the 1990's.

For the past 2 years I have had the privilege of being involved in a CSIS\* Scripture-in-Use project based in Mowanjum, West Kimberley. The first translation of Mark's Gospel into Worrorra by the great pioneering Presbyterian missionary Rev JRB Love, was published by the Bible Society in 1930. Worrorra is now an endangered language, but in partnership with a local language revival program based in Mowanjum, the words and revised spellings generated from Love's early translations are now available to assist the Mowanjum people in this most important work.

So I passionately believe in the concept of the resurrection, especially when it is applied to languages and communities, but when it comes to the physical resurrection of people .... I am happy to leave that with God, and name it as "God's business".

May the peace of the Christ be in you and remain with you all, this Easter season.  
(Howard Amery 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011)

# BOARD OF MISSION

Our staff and volunteers are committed to assist congregations, faith communities and individuals exercise their mission and discipleship in such a way that people are: "changed, gifted, called, equipped and sent."

Please continue to pray for **Tina Rendell** (Director) and **Sue Willgoss**, (Assistant and Support Person.)

## **ACCOUNTS:**

Pray for **Koko Sunarko**, Accountant and **Veronica Rebolledo**, Front Desk and Accounts Support person.

## **RURAL MISSION &**

### **DEVELOPMENT:**

Pray for **Ross Neville** in the office at Orange and for **Gillian Blowes**, Administration Assistant.

### **Healing & Wholeness:**

For matters concerning healing, visit our website:  
<http://nsw.uca.org.au/bom/healing>

## **RURAL CHAPLAINS:**

Pray for **Kel Hodge** in this important role of assisting our people in Rural areas in this time of need.

Pray for **Julie Greig**, based at Hillston, enable her to provide support and encouragement to people in the bush, particularly isolated Christians. Keep her safe whilst living and travelling alone.

## **SMRF:**

Pray for **Rebecca Wing** Administrator—Synod Mission Resource Fund.

We pray for **Carolyn Robertson** and **Adele Smith** in their roles as SMRF Consultants.

Pray for support being given to congregations and preparation for the sessions held throughout the year. Pray for the new mission projects funded by SMRF.

## **CROSS CULTURAL:**

Pray for Myong Duk Yang who, having completed his placement with the Board of Mission, takes up a position with the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

## **CROSS CULTURAL CONSULTANT:**

Pray for **Charissa Suli**, whose role has expanded to full time Cross Cultural Consultant, as she continues working with congregations providing intergenerational workshops.

**LIVING IS GIVING:**

Pray for **Camilla Raven**, the Living is Giving Administrative Assistant and for the new Public Relations/Marketing Consultant for Living is Giving, **Marije Nieuwenhuis**. Camilla and Marije are located in Uniting Creative under the oversight of Marjorie Lewis-Jones.

Pray for **Wah Sim Chan** who visits congregations and makes presentations on behalf of Living is Giving.

**NCLS:**

**Ruth Powell**, NCLS Director, pray for direction in this important work.

Pray for: **Amelia Fotofili**,  
Admin Assistant

Pray for the team workers:

**Sam Sterland, Michael Pippett, Chris Simpson, Michael Brady and Natalie Swann**

**LEADERSHIP INSITUTE:**

Pray for **Peter and Sue Kaldor** as they continue to work with ministers and lay people in Leadership Intensive Courses within the Leadership Institute.

**UAICC:**

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. Pray for **Pearl Wymarra**, in her position as Development Outreach Officer for Congress.

Pray for **Hazel Leano** as UAICC Resource Officer. Hazel is assisting Pearl and Congress NSW and ACT.

**New church work:**

Any new church work is a challenge and North West Uniting Church at Annangrove is one of several initiatives across our church. New things are happening across our rural areas and in many urban and regional situations.

Please continue to pray for and seek to know more about new mission work in your areas and presbyteries.

Pray for our Synod and Presbytery mission consultants and leaders as they continue to encourage and resource across the State.

### **TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'...**

The lyrics of the song by Bob Dylan are resonating with the staff of Boards of Mission and Education since Synod Standing Committee made a decision to realign both boards with effect from 1 July 2011. Details about the merger and background information involved in this change can be found on the Board of Mission Website: [nsw.uca.org.au/bom/](http://nsw.uca.org.au/bom/)

As you can imagine this is a time of uncertainty and transition for staff of both boards who are faced with the challenge of seeking new employment before the end of the year whilst still faithfully carrying out their existing duties.

We can give thanks for the pastoral care and support provided particularly with a careers advisor who is helping staff shape resumes and consider opportunities for their future.

We pray God's blessing on those who have already moved on to new positions, John Oldmeadow, Jan Bell and Natasha Holmes. Nicole Fleming will be taking a new placement soon.

Pray for patience and trust in God's provision for those who remain as they send off resumes and profiles and manage positive and negative responses.

Pray for the two Boards, the Combined Boards Working Group and the Implementation Group as they work on different aspects of bringing about the new Uniting Mission and Education Board.—Sue Willgoss

## Praise Points:

**Dapto** is thankful for the movement of the Spirit for its Market Ministry at the local showground. Dapto Sunday Markets bring about 10,000 people through the grounds and this gives a tremendous opportunity for outreach for the church, which has a table on the last Sunday of each month.

Lord, thank you for the variety you give us. **Hornsby** is thankful that they have been able to welcome Rev Pauline from the other side of the earth to guide them over a 3 month exchange period.

Give thanks for a successful World Day of Prayer service at **Peak Hill** on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. All churches in town were represented and took part. Everyone seemed to enjoy the service as we prayed for Chile and a good time of fellowship took place.

Maurine from **Peak Hill** gives thanks for your prayers when visiting Peak Hill Hospital on a Thursday. She often feels she is in the right place at the right time.

**Thornleigh Hillcrest** gives thanks that the small number of children that meet on Monday afternoons for Kid's Time has increased this year to about twelve. These children are from local neighborhood families not yet linked to the church.

**Blaxland** gives thanks and praise for their Easter services, particularly the Maundy Thursday service and meal. Thank you, Lord, for all the people who attended and heard your word.

**Blaxland** gives thanks for those who attended the Lent studies. Thank you, Lord, for the leaders who prepared and led each session, and for the many people who were challenged about their relationships.

**NorthWest** gives praise and thanks for the way God is growing the church in the area, and believes it will continue to grow.

**NorthWest** gives thanks for successful surgery for Marie, Suzi's work and commissioning, and a good response to the Macca-Chat program.

**Dee Why** gives thanks for the concerts presented by the music group *Loosely Woven*, led by Wayne. They spend a lot of time rehearsing and perform at many places around the Northern Beaches with donations given to charities.

**Dee Why** gives thanks for Anne for taking the Bible Study group while Minister Rev Meredith Williams was away on leave.

**Dee Why** gives thanks for everyone who supported the street stall in April and provided cakes, craft and cheer. We pray that all who visited were positively impacted.

**Narrabri** praise the Lord for the provision of a Ministry Agent for the North-Western Resource Program. Narrabri and Moree churches share in this cooperative ministry and are excited with what God is doing with it.

**Dubbo** praise God for the new families who have become associated with the congregation and for families who have presented their children for baptism.

**Dubbo** give thanks for the strong congregational support for the Lenten Bible studies this year.

## Prayer Points:

### May:

#### Sun May 1

**Maitland East** and **West** have joined together for this weekend for a time of refreshment and fellowship. Lord, please be with Rob Hanks as he leads in conclusion today.

**Grafton** requests prayer for the Childrens' Church, and its teachers Natalie and Jane. May they be blessed and see the numbers increase.

#### Mon May 2

**Dapto** asks for continued prayer over all aspects of its work including pastoral care, finance and spiritual growth in the church.

This evening, the **Normanhurst Christian Education Association** (NCEA) holds its Annual General Meeting. The Association, supported by twelve local churches, employs a teacher, Magda De Boer, who leads SRE classes at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools. Lord, please bless the NCEA Management Committee as it endeavours to raise the necessary funds for this ministry (\$100,000 in 2011) and guide Magda as she conducts classes for over 800 students in these two selective high schools.

Lord, we ask for your blessing to be on the participants of the training course in Pastoral Care to the Aged, which starts in **Port Macquarie** today. These courses will enable the congregation members to interact more effectively with the residents of Shalom House. Lord, please use this Ministry to share your love and saving grace with those in Aged Care.

#### Tue May 3

Today, **Wesley Mission** releases the results of recent research into the state of the hidden homeless 'families'. We pray for all those who are sleeping rough with friends and relatives and in other forms of temporary accommodation. Lord, we lift up to you all children who are currently not living in their own home. Please hold and protect, and create for them a bright and stable future.

Pray for the **South Grafton** monthly Craft Group held in the church hall; that it will be a way of reaching out to the lonely and un-churched who come to share and learn new skills.

#### Wed May 4

**Peak Hill** KYB Group meets each Wednesday morning. Give thanks for this dedicated group who are growing in wisdom and understanding of the Bible and the Christian way of life. Pray that they will be good witnesses of their faith to family and friends.

**NorthWest** asks for prayer for each key person, small group and ministry of the congregation. Please pray also for those experiencing hardships and struggles, and for mission work.

We pray for young people who are rebuilding their lives at **Wesley Mission's** Central Coast supported accommodation program, working through their brokenness and pain. Lord, as the young people find some stability and structure, help them manage daily living and let them come to know you in a personal way.

#### **Thurs May 5**

Lord, we ask that you be with **Hornsby** Thursday Club as they start another month of activities.

Each Thursday from 10-11:30am Elizabeth and her helpers run the Ben Street Buddies group for children 5 years and under, along with parents and carers. We pray with **South Grafton** for this ministry to be blessed and for those who attend to hear the good news of Christ's love.

Lord, please bless the Bent Street Choir who practice each Thursday and minister in praise and song each week in the morning service at **South Grafton**.

#### **Fri May 6**

Lord, work on the hearts and minds of the women who attend the **Grafton** Ladies Bible Study each Friday. We pray they will be open to the words of the teachers.

Lord, thank you for your support of the children and leaders of the 'Rock Kids Club' at **Narrabri**. We value the regular participation on the Uniting, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in the club. Please continue to bless the team and children. We pray that the club will meet the needs of primary aged children also. We thank you also for the SMBC team's contribution to the club.

Please pray for the Strategy Committee of the Macquarie Darling Presbytery as it assists the **Dubbo** congregation in making decisions regarding missional uses of its property.

#### **Sat May 7**

The Kids Hope Aus. Families are having a games afternoon at **Port Macquarie** today. Lord, thank you for the impact this ministry is having on the primary school kids. We pray for the Holy Spirit's presence in the relationships between parents and mentors.

A Mini Fete will be held at **Murwillumbah** this morning with funds raised to support the work of the Special Religious Education Teacher working in our High Schools. Lord, we pray for a day of fellowship and sunshine, as members of the combined churches work together. We pray that each person serving will reflect Jesus in all they say and do.

#### **Sun May 8**

**Mother's Day**

**Grafton** asks for a blessing on all mothers on their special day. We pray that it will be a day to stop and appreciate the role of Mothers in communities far and wide.

**Koinonia Fellowship** of **Peak Hill** is having a congregational meeting today. Pray that everyone will be listened to and cared for, and that decisions made will be beneficial to the people of Peak Hill.

The 6pm service at **Wesley Mission** today will focus on Wesley's work with the homeless. Lord, we ask that you would listen to their prayers.

On this Mother's Day we ask for a special blessing on all mothers everywhere. Lord, please be with the worship teams at **Murwillumbah** and **Burringbar** as they share in services this morning.

### **Mon May 9**

Lord, Mother's Day is not always a happy time for many in our community. We pray for those who have dysfunctional relationships with their mothers, especially those living in the many **Wesley Mission** supported accommodation centres. Comfort them today, fill them with your love and bless their relationships.

During National Volunteer Week (9<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May), **Wesley Mission** gives thanks for the 3,000 volunteers who support our work every year. Without them, we would fall short in meeting the needs of so many throughout the community. We pray that our volunteers may know their worth in the eyes of God and recognize the true value of their gift of time to Wesley Mission.

The elders of the **Thornleigh Hillcrest** Congregation meet this evening to share a time of fellowship and prayer. Lord, grant them spiritual oversight and give each Elder your blessing as they encourage each other in serving the congregation.

### **Tue May 10**

Holy Spirit, please lead **Narrabri** in an initiative to promote youth in the community. We thank you Lord for the successful SES program of 2010 and pray for another opportunity in 2011.

Lord, we thank you that the LifeForce program is freely available to train in suicide prevention. We pray for the forthcoming seminars being run by **Wesley Mission**. Please walk ahead and choose the people for this training, so that lives will be saved.

### **Wed May 11**

**Peak Hill** Club G will meet each Wednesday after school in May and June. Give thanks that the leaders show great love to the girls, some of whom come from low socio economic homes. Pray that the girls will grow in faith and be enthusiastic about following Jesus.

**Dubbo** asks for prayer for Korean young adults who have come to the city for work and have become associated with the congregation. Pray that they will be nurtured in faith, find friendship and encouragement and achieve competence in their use of English.

### **Thurs May 12**

Lord, we ask that you will be with the ladies at the **Dee Why** craft group this morning. We thank you for those who provide chat, cheer and comfort and for those who give expert help with crafts.

**Fri May 13**

Please pray for Katherine Bell and the High School Ministry team at **Narrabri**. Praise God that the school meeting building 'The Living Room' is completed and operating. Lord, we ask you for a sound financial basis for paying staff for this ministry.

**Sat May 14**

**Port Macquarie** Uniting Family Groups are hosting a Regional Gathering today. We pray that Father Sanchez's talk on Grief and Loss will bring God's wisdom and understanding to the members. We also ask for safe journeys for those traveling in from other towns.

**Sun May 15**

Lord we lift up to you all those who are attending financial and gambling counseling through **Wesley Mission** Centres. We thank you for those called to serve this way. Give strength and wisdom to those being counseled as they change their habits and live life in a new way.

At **Maitland**, the Youth Group meets fortnightly and the Sunday school each Sunday during school terms. Lord, we ask for your blessing upon the young people and their families and we pray that others will join them. We thank you for the leaders and support people and pray that all will know and grow in your love.

**Mon May 16**

**Dubbo** asks for prayer for David and Corinne Hawley and their children as they work in the Red Sea area under auspices of Interserve.

**Tue May 17**

**West Epping** asks for prayer for guidance and direction for the Church Council, Ministry Team and Leaders as they meet to discuss future direction for the church.

Lord, please motivate the congregation at **Narrabri** to start U Turn Groups in the community. We pray also for the possibility of starting a group for students in external bible college studies.

**Wed May 18**

Every third Wednesday from 10-11:30am, **South Grafton** holds Southside Seniors, a group for older, mostly retired members. Lord, thank you for the fun, friendship and fine food this group offers. We pray for its leader, Margaret, and ask your blessing over the many helpers.

Lord, you have promised to be with us through all of life's difficulties. Please enable those gathering tonight at **Port Macquarie** for the Palliative Care Remembrance Service to experience your promise. We thank you for the Hospital Oncology Department's sponsorship of this service.

The Community Craft Group meets this morning at **Burringbar**. We give thanks and praise for the support the group is giving to community activities, and pray for them to be blessed.

#### **Thurs May 19**

**Hornsby** Church Council meets tonight. Lord, overwhelm them with your love as they seek to do your will in the area.

#### **Fri May 20**

**Macquarie Darling** Presbytery meets for a 2 day Presbytery at Dubbo today and tomorrow. This Presbytery covers a large part of the state. Pray for the Presbytery as it works with many congregations that can not afford a minister. Give thanks for creative initiatives that are taking place to allow lay people to lead their congregations. Pray that congregations in the Presbytery will continue to take advantage of the training offered.

**Dubbo** asks for prayer for Rev Margaret Middleton as she prepares for retirement to take effect later this year.

#### **Sat May 21**

The Cluster Group (for seniors; working or retired) of the **Thornleigh Hillcrest** congregation is travelling to Bundeena for a picnic outing today. Lord, may this time together be an opportunity for deepening friendships.

#### **Sun May 22**

What a legacy of memories and wisdom our seniors have to share with us. **Dapto** thanks God for them and prays for those who help with transport to collect them from the Retirement Village each Sunday.

#### **Mon May 23**

We pray for those who provide lunch, entertainment and fellowship for a group of disables and elderly people at **Dee Why** church every Monday morning. Lord, let them be an example of your love.

Staff and children at **Murwillumbah** UnitingCare Preschool are enjoying the many different programs in place for Term 2. We give praise and thanks for full enrolments, committed teachers and support of families.

Tonight is 'Games Night' at **Murwillumbah**- a time of relaxation and enjoyment as fellowship is shared over scrabble and other board games.

#### **Tue May 24**

A **Peak Hill** group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6.30pm for a meal followed by Bible Study. Pray that the group will grow in their relationship with God and their understanding of the Bible.

#### **Wed May 25**

**Grafton's** Monthly Leisure Group requests prayer for its frail, aged and disabled attendees, many of whom are from Nursing Homes in Grafton. Pray that the leader, Dorothy, will continue with enthusiasm to be a blessing.

The **Port Macquarie** congregation gives thanks for the induction of four ministers into the Mid North Coast Presbytery this year as Congregation and Zone Ministers. We pray for Holy Spirit inspired leadership for these people.

At One with God is an ecumenical service held at **Maitland** each Wednesday. Speakers from many churches are involved. Lord, we ask for your blessing for all those who attend. We thank you for Joan, Noelyne and Bobbie who organize the services, and we pray for your continued guidance for them.

#### **Thurs May 26**

Dear God, please be with **Dee Why** as their meditation prayer group meets every Thursday afternoon at St. David's. Thank you for Rev Grahame Ellis leading them with inspiring tapes of other notable leaders.

#### **Fri May 27**

**Peak Hill** Friendship Luncheon is held on the last Friday of the month. Pray for the team as they show love to those who attend by providing morning tea, lunch, entertainment and a devotional. Pray that those who attend will be blessed and feel the love of God surrounding them.

#### **Sat May 28**

**Narrabri** pray for the development of pastoral caring ability for every member of the congregation. Lord, we ask for your blessing over the Pastoral Care Course.

#### **Sun May 29**

The **Peak Hill** Free to Worship Youth Service (F2W) is held on the last Sunday evening of the month. Pray that the speakers will bring a suitable message that will be helpful for the young people and that the young people will respond.

Pray for **Dubbo** as they meet today to decide on the use of church properties.

Today **Thornleigh Hillcrest** holds 'Hospitality Sunday' when members of the congregation host a meal in their homes for about six other people. Lord, may this time be used to encourage each other and become better acquainted.

Lord, please be with the leaders at **Blaxland** as they prepare the new monthly evening service. Guide them so that the service will grow.

As the Ecumenical service of worship is shared at **Burringbar** this morning, we pray for all attending. Lord, we ask that the ministry be a blessing to all.

#### **Mon May 30**

Lord, we ask for your intervention for all the job seekers who turn to **Wesley Mission** to help them gain employment. We pray for doors to open so that disabled and indigenous people can find the right employment. Let them not be anxious, but know you are guiding and blessing them.

#### **Tue May 31**

**Hornsby** pray that Rev Pauline and her husband Terry will have had an enjoyable and rewarding stay. Lord, be with them as they prepare for their long trip back to Petts Wood and as they journey home.

## June:

### Wed June 1

**Dapto** currently has a successful new venture for “younger” women called W.O.W (Women on Wednesdays) Bible Study Group. Lord, please grant a sense of direction to a similar group for men.

**Blaxland** asks God to be with those in the congregation who are ill or aged. Lord, we pray that those who are already frail will not go down with any winter flu, and that they will know your loving care.

### Thurs June 2

**Blaxland** asks for prayer for Minister Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau as he goes on long service leave. We ask that God will bless this time of rest for him. We ask also for God to be with those leading in his absence.

Please pray for **Dubbo's** Sunday school teachers and Public School scripture teachers as they embark on a new year of nurturing children in the Christian faith.

### Fri June 3

Lord, we ask you to bless the preschool operating out of the **Grafton** Uniting Church premises. Please reveal yourself to the children and let the church volunteers be a blessing to them.

Lord, please support the elderly folk in the **Narrabri** congregation and community. We pray particularly for the church services conducted once a month at the two aged care facilities in Narrabri. We pray for those who have health problems and trouble getting around. We thank you Lord for the wisdom and nature the ‘Golden Oldies’ bring to the congregation.

### Sat June 4

**Central West Emmaus** is having a gathering and Team Commissioning at Wellington today. Pray for the men’s and women’s teams that are coming together for walks in September. Pray that they will bond together and be ready to serve faithfully as members of the teams. Pray for the whole community as they support the walks and sponsor people to attend as pilgrims.

### Sun June 5

Lord, we ask for your blessing over the “Messy Church” service being held for families at **East Maitland** today. We ask that we may all grow in love for one another and for you.

Lord, please be with the children who attend Children’s Church at **Grafton** each Sunday morning. Allow the teachers, Natalie and Jane to have an impact not only on the children but also the parents and carers.

### Mon June 6

**Peak Hill** Church Council meets today. Pray for caring and loving listening and respect of all beliefs.

As Shalom House, the Uniting Care Centre in **Port Macquarie** nears completion we pray for guidance for the staff. We also pray that Jesus will be the foundation of this service to the community.

#### **Tue June 7**

Lord, we ask for the **South Grafton** Ladies Craft Group to be a strong witness to people attending from outside the church family. We pray they will respond to witnessing, while also enjoying friendship and fun.

#### **Wed June 8**

We thank you, Lord, for the dedicated executive and hard working members of our Day Fellowship meeting today at **Dee Why**. Please inspire the speaker to encourage all who attend to support your work. May our president Angela be uplifted with enthusiasm and wisdom by all her helpers.

Lord, we thank you that you have provided employment for so many disabled people through **Wesley Disability Enterprise**. As they diligently work at packaging, cleaning and gardening, help these supported employees, some of whom are struggling with changes in their workplace. Help them to take one small step at a time and we pray that their managers will be patient and caring during this process.

#### **Thurs June 9**

Lord, please grant the **Dapto** congregation with strength and direction as many of their willing workers feel overwhelmed in their senior years with the need for new helpers in Ministry.

Lord, please bless and guide Joshua Renn, the Christian chaplain/worker at **Finley High School**. Please allow his faith and teaching to lead young people to Christ.

#### **Fri June 10**

Lord, please bless the Friday **Grafton** Ladies Bible Study. We pray for an increase in numbers.

In **Maitland** there are a number of people with serious illnesses. Lord, we pray that your healing hand will be upon them and they will know your peace and love in their lives. Please give strength to their careers and comfort those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Dear Lord, **Narrabri** are thankful for the lay preachers and leaders doing a wonderful job. We ask that at least two more suitable preachers will come forward for training and working in this area.

#### **Sat June 11**

Lord, we pray with **Grafton** for protection, patience and mercy on the people traveling on the roads during this holiday long weekend.

Lord, please be with those attending the Presbytery Lay Leaders Weekend. Let this be a time of refreshment of body and spirit to those who give so much in leading worship and in administration at **Murwillumbah** and **Burringbar**. Please bless the Worship leaders during the absence of the Lay Leaders.

**Sun June 12**

Thank you Lord for the gift of your Holy Spirit poured out on the day of Pentecost. Open our hearts and minds to make room for your Spirit within our lives, and within our church.

**Mon June 13**

Tonight is Fellowship Night at **Murwillumbah**. As the men meet in the church hall for a barbecue and the laides share in a meal at a local restaurant, we pray that the bonds of fellowship will be further strengthened, and as a result that there will be good witness to the wider community.

**Tue June 14**

Lord, please be with the leaders and members of the **Dee Why** Bible Study Group as they learn more of the meaning and application of your word.

**Narrabri** are thankful for the faithful Sunday school teachers. Please pray for some Scripture teachers of God's choosing to come forward for training and ministry in local schools. Lord, we ask for your blessing on their valuable ministry.

**Wed June 15**

**West Epping** asks for prayer for two newly-formed groups meeting regularly: the Dementia Carers' Support Group and 'Andiamo' – a support group for people who have experienced bereavement.

**South Grafton** Seniors Group meets today. Pray for the leader Margaret and her helpers.

Please pray with **Port Macquarie** for all the wonderful people who exercise the gift of pastoral care. Lord, please strengthen these people as they encourage others who are often in difficult situations.

**Thurs June 16**

Red Dove Op Shop is open for trading today at **Murwillumbah**. We pray blessings on all who enter through these doors today. As the volunteers serve, pray that they will be alert and equipped to witness the love of Christ at every opportunity.

**Gerringong's** mid-week kids clubs, Boys in Gerringong (BiG) and Girls in Gerringong (GiG) meet from 6.30pm-8pm on a Wednesday night during school term. They are both going strong, with over 50 boys and girls attending in recent weeks. With such large numbers, the leaders would greatly appreciate prayers. Please pray for safety, and that the gospel will take root in the kids' lives.

**Fri June 17**

Lord, **Wesley Mission** asks you to be with the Bible Discovery Group from Edward Eagar Lodge who are studying self-esteem. We pray that they will recognize that God loves them, and they are precious to him, regardless of what the world may think.

**Sat June 18**

**Narrabri** are thankful for the emergency services in town. Please pray for their training, safety on the job, and give thanks for what has been achieved so far, such as the two members of Narrabri Uniting Church and Narrabri SES who were sent to help clean up after Cyclone Yasi.

Please pray for young people from **Dubbo** who have moved away to pursue tertiary studies or work. Pray that they will find people who will befriend them and nurture them in their faith.

#### **Sun June 19**

A small group from **Thornleigh Hillcrest** will visit Ashleigh Lodge this morning. They will lead a time of worship for the aged care residents there. Lord, please guide the worship leaders and bless the residents during this service.

We thank you, Lord, for those who contribute to worship each Sunday at **Dee Why**. We pray that you will be with those who help with door greeting, flower arranging, morning tea, preparing rosters and providing lifts for the elderly throughout our churches.

**South Grafton** church members hold their monthly meeting today. Pray that the decisions made will be in accordance with the Lord's will and purpose.

#### **Mon June 20**

Pray for the **Peak Hill** Central School Chaplain, Caleb, and the Primary SRE teacher, Gai, as they teach children about the great love of God and that they are special in God's sight. Pray that the students choose to follow Jesus.

The Worship Committee of **Thornleigh Hillcrest** meets tonight to plan traditional and contemporary services. Lord, may your Spirit guide them.

**Narrabri** ask for prayer for the facilitation of small groups in the church.

#### **Tue June 21**

Today, the Coordinators of **Wesley Mission's** Supported Accommodation Services are meeting to share, plan and develop their work supporting over 300 homeless families and couples throughout Sydney, Newcastle and the Central Coast. Lord, please guide and bless this important work. We ask that your Holy Spirit be with Pastor Don Walker as he gives the devotion.

Lord, we ask for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon the members of the Port Macquarie Church Council as they meet tonight. Please direct them in their decision-making.

#### **Wed June 22**

Lord, **Wesley Mission** asks you to be with Don Walker, Pastor of Edward Eagar Lodge, as he attends the Pastoral Counselling Institute Retreat today and tomorrow. Refresh and renew him as he continues to bring comfort and support to so many in need in our community.

Lord, please be with **Dee Why's** elders tonight at an "Enrichment" evening, as they renew their love and concern for everyone in the church and strengthen their faith and wisdom, enabling them to care for others.

The **Grafton** Leisure Group meets today. Please pray for the members and the leader Dorothy.

**Thurs June 23**

Lord, we pray for cooperation among the churches of **Narrabri** so that they may bring Christ to those in the community who do not know him.

**Fri June 24**

Lord, please bless the Church choir at **Maitland** as they sing each week during the service and also present a Cantata each Christmas and Easter. Thank you for their faithfulness and witness through music over many years, and for Dorothy and Noel who lead.

A new ministry for high school aged young people has begun this year in **Gerringong**. The group meets fortnightly on a Friday night in Nestor House. Please pray for this important new ministry as it finds its feet.

**Sat June 25**

**Narrabri** pray for a focus on the word of God. Lord, as we read and prayerfully meditate on your word, may we be inspired and sustained for this life and our future life in heaven.

**Sun June 26**

Lord, please be with the leaders at **Blaxland** as they prepare the new monthly evening service. Guide them so that the service will grow.

The children of **Port Macquarie** have a time this afternoon of discovering God through song, craft, storytelling and fun. Lord, please help them to absorb what you have for them as they participate.

**Mon June 27**

There is a lack of ordained ministers in the **southern Riverina**. The congregations ask God for guidance for those who are responsible for their own service and pastoral programs. Lord, please let reluctant participants discover new talents and compassions as they work as the body of Christ in their towns.

**Tue June 28**

**Narrabri** pray for awareness and a suitable response to mental health problems in the community.

**Wed June 29**

Thank you Lord that Pittwater Uniting Church has an outreach to **Wesley Mission's** Edward Eagar Lodge Congregation. We pray that both groups will grow spiritually and come to a fresh understanding of each other and of you, God.

**Thurs June 30**

Within a few months, the implementation of Project Reconnect is likely in the **Berrigan** and **Savernake** congregations. We ask the Lord for wisdom and patience, guidance and love as we work together in our worship services.

# *Keep Knocking*

“I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you.”

When Colonel Harland Sanders retired at the age of 65, he had little to show for himself, except an old Caddie roadster, a \$105 monthly pension check and a recipe for chicken.

His first plan was to sell his chicken recipe to restaurant owners, who would in turn give him a residual for every piece of chicken they sold– 5 cents per chicken. The first restaurateur he called on turned him down.

So did the second.

So did the third.

In fact, the first 1008 sales calls Colonel Sanders made ended in rejection. Still, he continues to call on owners as he traveled across the USA, sleeping in his car to save money. Prospect number 1009 gave him his first “yes”.

After two years of making daily sales he had signed up a total of five restaurants. Still the Colonel pressed on, knowing that he had a great chicken recipe and that someday the idea would catch on.

Of course, you know how the story ends. The idea DID catch on. By 1963 the Colonel had 600 restaurants across the country selling his secret recipe of Kentucky Fried Chicken (with 11 herbs and spices).

In 1964 he was bought out by future Kentucky Governor John Brown. Even though the sale made him a multi-millionaire, he continued to represent and promote KFC until his death in 1990.

Colonel Sanders’ story teaches an important lesson: it’s never too late to decide to never give up.

Earlier in his life the Colonel was involved in other business ventures– but they weren't successful. He had a gas station in the 30s and a restaurant in the 40s, and he gave up on both of them. At the age of 65, however, Harland Sanders

decided his chicken idea was the right idea, and he refused to give up, even in spite of repeated rejection.

He knew that if he kept knocking on doors, eventually someone would say “yes”. This is how Jesus has commanded to approach life. He said, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9). This verse follows a story Jesus told emphasizing the importance of a “never-give-up” attitude in prayer. Jesus is saying, “Ask- not just once, but as many times as is necessary. Keep on knocking until the door is opened.”

If you have made half-hearted attempts at doing God’s will in your life... if you have given up too easily in the past... remember: It’s never too late to become persistent. It’s never too late to decide to never give up.

