

St Paul's and St Luke's

Prayer Collective

Our link to You



Saved by Jesus Christ
Growing in Jesus Christ
Proclaiming Jesus Christ

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

A Chat with Lesley

Through the week I had the privilege to spend time with our dear friend, Elizabeth Parker to reflect on the importance of making time with God. I don't know about you, but it doesn't matter how much 'free' time I have, if I'm not mindful, it's very easy to get through a whole day without having spent any intentional length of time talking to God in prayer. As I talked with Liz, it became clear that by making prayer and bible time a part of everyday routines, Darrell and Liz have really put their minds to work, to prioritise this for themselves and provide a model for their family as they grow in faith. Each day, the family spend time together gathering around the breakfast table to read God's word and spend time in family prayer. This has been a special time of the day that was established from when the children were young and Liz hopes it has laid a Godly foundation for their children as they have grown up and gone their own way.

Liz shared it is a great privilege of hers to support her family in prayer and is guided by Paul's words in 1 Timothy 4:8, "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." To guide her in praying specifically for each member of her family and for their spiritual growth, Liz draws inspiration from a book by Melissa Kruger, *5 Things to Pray for Your Children*. This book has been a great source of ideas to pray for her family and prioritise them in her prayer life. Being the wife of a busy minister, she shared what a privilege and blessing it is to check in with and pray specifically for Darrell when times are particularly challenging and for his own growth in godliness.

Having grown up in a Christian home, Liz draws much strength from the example of her family stepping out in faith each day. Much influenced by the ministry of Mary Sumner, she prays that she will be God's person every day. This is not always an easy task and Liz admitted she can be impatient as she waits on God to answer her prayers, but she trusts that God is capable and faithful. She draws encouragement from the story of Abraham who waited for 30 years to see God's promises to him fulfilled. What a great reminder for all of us.

May we too, pray in faith and wait on God to intervene. May we trust him even when he doesn't answer our prayers the way we want him to and be encouraged when God grants the desires of our hearts, when we haven't even asked.

I was greatly encouraged by my catch up with Liz and I hope you find some pearls of wisdom from my reflections of our chat too. I look forward to chatting with someone again as I walked away so encouraged and had so much fun. Be prepared, perhaps it might be your door I knock on next!

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Prayer Points....

- Uphold the people of Uganda as they face the ongoing need for food and resources. Praise God that our Diocese has showed such generosity in their time of need and that people's faith will be deepened, both in Uganda and here in Australia.
- Praise God for the wonderful work of Darrell, Chuck, Isaac and Di. Give them wisdom and energy as they seek to implement the new Covid 19 policies and procedures in preparation of meeting together once more.
- Pray for our 'Seeing Jesus Clearly' Year of Evangelism across the diocese, that even with Covid 19, we will all do what we can to be Godly examples of Christian faith and share our love for Jesus at home, in our workplaces and amongst our local communities. Uphold the parishes of Gunnedah and Kootingal/Moonbi, that God may bless them with wisdom in evangelism and planning post lockdown outreach.
- Pray for our children, teenagers and teachers that they may have a renewed appreciation for one another as they settle back into school. May those who find school and changes to routine difficult, be supported to make a smooth transition back to face to face learning.
- Those in sickness or trouble: Andrew Alexander, Peter Anderson, Megan Brown, Doris Campbell, Donna Condon, Naomi Danaher, Sophie Doran, Alice Eather, David & Marie Eather, Vic & Annie Garland, Alan Hartigan, Nick Lynch-Whitten, Diane Mason, Joyce Page, Bev Pitcher, Becca Simpson, Jenny Simpson, Suzanne Turner & others that we know.

Prayer for our Missionaries

Nick and Lorelle Hood and their children, AFES, Newcastle University

Pray for wisdom as Nick and Lorelle navigate the cautious return to face-to-face connections and seek to love students and those they come into contact with.

Pray for Amelia and Isaac as they adjust to the return to school.

Praise God the family have coped well in this challenging time and are grateful for God's provision.

In my reflections this week, I found myself thinking on our call to live our lives in step with the Holy Spirit, share our faith with unbelievers and glorify God in everything we do. Liz shared with Lesley that she finds encouragement to trust in God through the example of Abraham. Romans 4:20 says of Abraham "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he became strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." I imagine, Abraham's perseverance and trust in the Lord for over 30 years must surely have been a great example to all those around him.

*In fact, as I read the Mary Sumner prayer mentioned by Liz and read of her life and mission to mothers and families, I was struck by how relevant this is for all of us. Like Mary Sumner, may we provide a model of Christian teaching and leadership in our homes and work at keeping prayer central to the lives of our families. May we set the tone for our children at whatever stage of life they are at, whether still young and underfoot; or, teenagers developing their a sense of who they are; or, adults, perhaps partners and parents themselves. May our families be the start of **our** ministry, today and every day.*

The Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.