

St Paul's and St Luke's

Prayer Collective

Our link to You



Saved by Jesus Christ
Growing in Jesus Christ
Proclaiming Jesus Christ

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:8

Prayer Points

- Lord God, as Paul directs the church in Romans 15:1-7, may our church at St Paul's & St Luke's build one another up in fellowship and in love for God. Grant us the ability to live in peace and harmony with one another, as we are encouraged by your Word and persevere in faith. May you give us unity of purpose mind, body and spirit, that we may glorify you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us to draw others into relationship with you, that those who do not know you amongst our families, friends and our local community here in Tamworth, may see you, seek you and understand your Word, revealed to them by the Holy Spirit.
- We uphold our Tuesday and Wednesday playgroups and pray that you will draw more mums and caregivers from our local community to come; that you will give them ears to hear the love of Jesus and hearts that desire to know him through the loving friendships established with Julie, Madelon and the Christian ladies who attend. Lord, we pray that this ministry will bear much fruit for your kingdom and attendance will increase as the playgroups are re-established post-Covid.
- Lord, we commit to you the planning of events in our church family for this year and for those of our ministry team who are at the forefront in leading us in this endeavour. May they be inspired, enthusiastic and creative and may others step up to help with planning and running these events so that the workload is shared among many, rather than few. We pray that 2021 will be a year when we can once again join together often in fellowship both inside and outside of church, unrestricted by the impact of Covid-19.
- We pray for all the people who serve in various ministries within our church. We ask that you convict our hearts to step up in serving one another and fill the gaps we have this year, as we are led by the Holy Spirit. We especially commit to you the need for people who have a heart for raising our children in the knowledge of you, both in kids church and in scripture classes at West Tamworth and Westdale. We pray that SRE will remain in our public schools both here in Tamworth and across NSW and bring the gospel to children and families that more will join your kingdom.
- We praise you for providing permanent part-time support for Scripture Union in our region by the appointment of Olivia Ruigrok. We pray that Olivia and Dave Tankard will work together well, that they will be prayerful and hard-working in seeking to support volunteers who do existing gospel work. May you help them to establish new gospel work for Christ's glory and the good of children, young people and families of our region.
- God of grace and comfort enfold those in our church family who are unwell or struggling with your mercy. Strengthen them with the shield of faith and enable them to accept what is to come; heal them and bear their pain, keep them in peace, and fix their hearts on you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



Prayer for our Mission Organisations

Compassion Australia

Thank you for the work of Compassion as they bring His hope into the lives of children and families in poverty all around the world. Lord, continue to convict our hearts here at St Paul's and St Luke's of the value and privilege it is as we partner with Compassion in their work.

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Lord, raise up more sponsors amongst our church family here to support the work of Compassion and may we be enriched as we reach out in love and prayer to a child or children. May we provide a face for Jesus in their lives that they may grow up in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

Recently, I have been reflecting on my bible reading and prayer life. Most people I speak to struggle with doing at least one of these well, if not both. We know the bible calls us to build our relationship with God by growing in our knowledge of Him. This can only be done, through bible reading. But bible reading alone, will only grow our relationship with him so much. As we read God's Word and reflect on it, the Holy Spirit convicts us of the truth of His love for us and moves us to relate to Him deeply. A deeper relationship with the Father needs prayer. In prayer we acknowledge who He is, our Lord; what He has done for us, saved us through the blood of Jesus and given us His Holy Spirit that we may be transformed as His people.

As I reflected on my own faithfulness and love of God, I was reminded, that when I go through the motions of bible reading and prayer without the reflection on His Word, I am not allowing the Spirit to work in my heart fully. When I feel God is distant, far off, it is not because He has drawn away, It is because I am the one who has drawn away. So, I picked up a book called Spiritual Healthcheck by Carl Laferton with my daughters and we read together and talked about where each of us are at.

Carl reminds us to remember that God is love, that when we are struggling in our Christian life, we need to remind ourselves, not of our love for God, but of His love for us. As we do this, we draw closer to the one who made us, the One who offers us grace through the blood of Jesus Christ. We draw closer in the knowledge of His love for us with thankful, humble hearts. As I share an exercise taken from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 with you, I pray that you will join with me in drawing closer to our Lord and Saviour and recalling His great love for you. Knowing God is love, I have replaced the word 'love' and 'it' with the name of Jesus.

"Jesus is patient and kind; Jesus does not envy or boast; He is not arrogant or rude. Jesus does not insist on His own way, He is not irritable or resentful; Jesus does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Jesus bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Simone Hurst
