

Katoomba Baptist Church Bulletin

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:4

41 Waratah Street, Katoomba NSW 2780.

February 2021.

Pastor: Steve Cooper. Contact: mob. 0451 954 675; email cooper.steve.j@gmail.com.

Sunday service, 10am, as per Covid regulations. The messages are available on YouTube.

Katoomba Baptist Church website: <https://katoombabaptist.org.au>.

Bible Study: Second and Fourth Wednesday of the month in the church hall.

Church prayer meeting: each Saturday, 9am. Prayer for Israel: third Friday of the month, 1.30pm.

From the Pastor

'When Christ calls a man,' wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 'he bids him come and die.' The essence of discipleship is contained in those words. Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross and follow him (Matt 16:24). Being a follower of Jesus involves costly decisions. We say **no** to selfishness, greed, apathy, pride, prejudice, compromise and injustice. We say **yes** to love, compassion, simplicity, sacrifice, service, humility and doing what is right. These choices are costly and demanding – and this is what Jesus expects of all his disciples.

During the early months of this year, January to March, our church is considering this theme of Jesus' call to be his disciples. What does discipleship mean for us, today? We're exploring parts of Matthew's Gospel, reflecting on what Jesus calls his followers to do. Many Christians around the world are doing the same, during the season of Lent (17 Feb - 3 Apr). Lent is an invitation to prepare for the Easter season. We examine our own discipleship, confessing sin and repenting of what is lacking. We renew our commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

Let me encourage you to spend time, during these coming months, reflecting on how you are going as a follower of Jesus. Take a few minutes each day to ponder this theme. Read Matthew's Gospel, and consider what Jesus calls his disciples to do. Ask God if there are parts of your life that need adjustment in order for you to be a faithful and fruitful disciple.

If there is any way I can support you or pray for you, as you think about what it means for you to follow Jesus, please let me know.

Your companion on the journey,

Pastor Steve Cooper

Have you thought about becoming a Christian?

Becoming a Christian means entering into a relationship with God. Our sin and guilt blocks that relationship. God offers the free gift of his love and forgiveness. To receive that gift, we must take a step. The step begins by **acknowledging** that Jesus is God's Son, the Saviour, Rescuer and King. We **turn away** from sin and rebellion. We **trust** in Jesus, who died in our place and was raised to endless life, conquering sin and death. We **receive** God's gifts of forgiveness and new life. We **commit** to follow Jesus as our Lord. If you would like to find out more, or take this step of entering a right relationship with God, please contact Pastor Steve.

Special Church Members' Meeting

During this year, our church members will consider a new Church Constitution. In preparation for that, the Pastor is calling a meeting on 14 February for church members to discuss a particular issue: the connection between baptism and church membership. We may decide to remain with our current policy, or we may change. Please read the paper prepared by Pastor Steve, and come ready to share your thoughts at the Special Church Members' Meeting, 11.30am on Sunday 14 February.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday 5 March 2021

... when Christians around the world will join to pray for VANUATU (as COVID permits).

Katoomba Baptist Church will be hosting a local prayer service in our building from 10am-11am on that day, followed by a COVID-safe morning tea. Planning is well underway. If you have any decorations from the islands that you would be willing to give for the day, please see Maree McCraw or Jenny Norman. Many of our KBC women are involved and all the local churches are encouraged to come.

Come and learn about the life of Christian women in Vanuatu. Invite some friends. Pray together for Vanuatu and for Australia using prayers that they have sent for our service.

Everyone is welcome – men and women.

There will be an offering for a Bible Society project in Vanuatu.

Let's together make this a local fellowship occasion.

More details from Joy Cooper. 0416 770 848

"The Spirit does not glorify Himself; He glorifies the Son... This is, to me, one of the most amazing and remarkable things about the biblical doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seems to hide Himself and to conceal Himself. He is always, as it were, putting the focus on the Son, and that is why I believe, and I believe profoundly, that the best test of all as to whether we have received the Spirit is to ask ourselves, what do we think of, and what do we know about, the Son. Is the Son real to us? That is the work of the Spirit. He is glorified indirectly; He is always pointing us to the Son."

[Martyn Lloyd-Jones]

Please pray

- for our Pastor Steve, for the Lord to guide him and bless his ministry.
- that the Lord will minister to all who are undergoing trials and suffering, here and everywhere.
- for Israel, for the "Peace of Jerusalem" (Ps 122:6) and for the Gospel there "To the Jew first." (Rom 1:16).
- for our persecuted brothers and sisters in nations rich and poor and for those who persecute them.
- for the Lord's mercy in this time of pandemic; for His love and guidance to every person in need.
- with thanks for all His blessings, in our lives, in our church, in our nation.
- for revival in our community, state, nation, and throughout the world, and for our faith to increase.
- for the Lord to guide those in authority and to sustain and strengthen Christians in governments.
- that the Lord will help us to use our gifts for His glory and to share the Gospel with others.
- that the Lord will draw to Him our unsaved loved ones and all for whom we have a burden.
- for missions to be fruitful, especially those we support as a church, and for the preservation of converts.
- that we continue to grow in Christian love as a church, serving the Lord and each other.
- Maranatha! ("Come, O Lord!")

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

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." [C.S. Lewis]

From the FEBC website, <https://febc.org.au/why-media-radio/>

Why are radios and internet programs so important? Because they can reach populations that others can't.

- *Hard to reach places – inaccessible by road*
- *Across borders where missionaries can't go*
- *793 million people who can't read*

It's crucial that FEBC provide our listeners with radios. In fact, few things undermine the impact of our broadcasts more than our target audience being without radios. Yet this is a common problem in many remote and poverty-stricken regions where we broadcast the gospel.

*In some cases, our listeners have no access to electricity, and a family or village can only listen to our broadcasts if we provide **solar, wind-up or battery-operated radios**. In other cases, our audience is so poor they could never afford to purchase a radio on their own.*

For many who cannot read or write, radio is a key means of communication. The radios are pre-tuned to the relevant FEBC station(s), where listeners can hear not only the Gospel message, but also music, news and other quality-of-life programs designed to enhance their daily lives.

*What we have learned is this: when launching a new station or language broadcast, we must also distribute radios as part of that effort. The cost of purchasing and placing one radio in the hands of a listener is **\$30**. According to our international leaders, **one radio often impacts at least 25 people** in developing areas.*

February birthdays. Alan O, 3rd.

May the Lord bless you abundantly on your special day and through the year ahead in your walk with Him.

Spurgeon on being like Christ

... I find that time would fail me if I were to give you an entire likeness of Jesus; but let me say, imitate Him in His holiness. Was He zealous for His master? So be you. Ever go about doing good. Let not time be wasted. It is too precious. Was He self-denying, never looking to His own interest? So be you. Was He devout? So be you fervent in your prayers. Had He deference to his Father's will? So submit yourselves to Him. Was He patient? So learn to endure. And best of all, as the highest portraiture of Jesus, try to forgive your enemies as He did; and let those sublime words of your Master, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," always ring in your ears. When you are prompted to revenge; when hot anger starts, bridle the steed at once, and let it not dash forward with you headlong. Remember, anger is temporary insanity. Forgive as you hope to be forgiven. Heap coals of fire on the head of your foe by your kindness to him. Good for evil, recollect, is god-like. Be god-like, then; and in all ways, and by all means, so live that your enemies may say, "He has been with Jesus."

[Charles Spurgeon, from the sermon "Christ's People — Imitators of Him, Acts 4:13"]

Prayer for Israel: Friday February 15, 1.30pm (contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

"The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel." [Psalm 147:2]

Giving: Please remember that you can give online to Katoomba Baptist Church at BSB 704-922 and Account Number 100008926. Thank you for your faithful commitment to giving.

Contributions welcome: The KBC bulletin is available in print on the first Sunday service of the month and as a PDF version on the church website: <https://katoombabaptist.org.au/library/bulletins/>. Contributions of a devotional nature and enquiries can be made to the editor, Bill Fewer (email: hillbillyfewer@gmail.com).

Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

[Matthew 4:19]