

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.

March 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

This year, Easter is in the first week of April. Good Friday is 2 April, and Easter Sunday will be 4 April. Easter can be a significant opportunity to focus on central events in our Christian faith: the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Of course, we should remember these events often, all through the year. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we recall Jesus' sacrificial death. Every Sunday we celebrate, among other truths, the glorious resurrection of our Master. However, Easter can be a very moving and helpful way to consider the story in detail, reflecting deeply on the significance of the cross and empty tomb.

We are preparing special services for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I hope you will join us. In preparation, let me encourage you to read through Matthew's Gospel – especially the account of Easter week in Matthew 21-28. You could take three or four days on each chapter, reading slowly, imaginatively, meditatively and prayerfully. Invite God's Spirit to speak to you in a fresh and deep way as you contemplate the story.

As you ponder the Easter story, reflect on what it means for you to follow this Jesus. The coming month is part of Lent, a season where Christians prepare for Easter, examine our faithfulness as disciples of Jesus, confess our failings and sins, and renew our commitment to Jesus. I'll be preaching this month from Matthew 9, to help us in this reflection.

If there is any way I can pray for you during this preparation time for Easter, please let me know. I'd be delighted to pray with you and for you.

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.

Have you thought about being baptised?

The Lord Jesus instructed his followers to 'make disciples' - and an important part of making disciples is baptising people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:18-20). The early church took this instruction of Jesus seriously, so that when people became Christians they were baptised soon after their commitment to Christ (e.g. see Acts 2:38-41). Baptism involves full immersion in water, identifying with Jesus in his death and resurrection (see Romans 6:3-4). The person baptised is making a public commitment to live as a disciple of the Lord Jesus (see Acts 8:35-38). If you would like to find out more, and explore if you should take this step of baptism, please contact Pastor Steve.

Congregation and Members' Meeting – Sunday 14 March, 11.30am.

All who consider KBC to be their home church are welcome to join our Congregation and Members' Meeting on Sunday 14 March. After morning tea, the meeting will commence at 11.30am. Agenda and reports will be available on Sunday 7 March. This is an opportunity to hear what is going on in our church, with reports from various leaders. Come to be more aware of the Lord's work, ask questions, make suggestions and express your views.

“Dr. Bonar once said that he could tell when a Christian was growing. In proportion to his growth in grace he would elevate his Master, talk less of what he himself was doing, and become smaller and smaller in his own esteem, until, like the morning star, he faded away before the rising sun.”

[Dwight L. Moody]

Please pray

- for our Pastor Steve, for the Lord to guide him and bless his ministry and his family.
- for the Holy Spirit to deepen and enrich our faith through the Word, prayer and communion with God.
- for this church and all faithful churches throughout our community to be as salt and light.
- 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 to reach Jewish people (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 comfort to every person in need.

- with thanks for all His blessings, in our lives, in our church, in our nation, in all creation.
- for revival in our community, state, nation, and the world; for conviction of sin; for repentance.
- 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.
- with thanks and praise for the blessed hope that purifies, the hope of the Lord's return.
- 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).**

From the Bible League Australia website, <https://bl.org.au/content/bringing-hope-behind-bars/gjpzk0>

"Bringing Hope Behind Bars"

In Australia, there are currently more than 41,000 prisoners in custody. While these people are incarcerated, there is a unique opportunity to reach them with the Good News of the Bible and God's Word.

From 15th February to 5th March 2021, Bible League's Bringing Hope Behind Bars Campaign will partner with 17 Christian radio stations across Australia. With this partnership, we aim to meet an initial goal of 3,500 Bibles. Each year the total need in Australian prisons is about 5,500 – 6,000 Bibles.

Bible League CEO, Hilton Edwards, expressed his excitement at being able to partner with the radio stations and share God's Word with so many. "We are so excited to be partnering with Christian radio stations around Australia to make a real and lasting difference in thousands of prisoners' lives," Hilton said. "This continues the great work we have done in prisons over the past five years."

The Prison Bible is translated into a prisoner's language, helping them to see that there is a loving God who cares about them and loves them.

You can partner with us today as we continue to Bring Hope Behind Bars. Every \$15 donated will provide an inmate with their own Bible.

March birthdays. Irene R 16th, Emma G 18th, Mae S 21st, John B 30th, Daniel T 31st.

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

Spurgeon praying

Our Father in heaven, our hearts are full of gratitude to You for Your Word. ... Although as yet we do not know what we will know, we have learned from it what we can never forget — that which has changed our lives, has removed our burdens, has comforted our hearts, has set our faces like flint against sin, and has made us eager for perfect holiness.

... We thank You for the glorious Man, the God whom the Book reveals as our Saviour. ... we thank You for the blessed Spirit, for without His light upon our understanding, we would have learned nothing. ... Blessed be the sovereign grace of God, who has chosen unto Him a people who delight in His Word and who meditate on it day and night!

... Bless Your people. Bless them by saturating them with the Word of Your truth. ... Oh, that the Word of God might be with us when we are in the midst of an ungodly generation. May the Proverbs furnish us with wisdom, the Psalms comfort us, the Gospels teach us the way of holiness, and the Epistles instruct us in the deep things of the kingdom of God.

Lord, educate us for a higher life, and let that life be begun here. May we always be in school, always disciples. When we are out in the world, may we try to put into practice what we have learned at Jesus' feet. What He tells us in darkness, may we proclaim in the light. What He whispers to us in our prayer closets, may we shout forth from the housetops.

Oh, dear, dear Saviour, what could we do without You?

[Charles Spurgeon, from his prayer "The Presence of the Word"]

Prayer for Israel: Friday March 19, 1.30pm (contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

"The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel." [Joel 3:16]

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).

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it." [Luke 10:28]