

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.

May 2021.

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

Sunday service 10am. The messages are available to watch 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

During this month of May, we will focus on the mission God has given his people. After Jesus was raised from the dead, and before he ascended to the Father's right hand, he gave his disciples a task: 'you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). Our job is to take the good news of the gospel message and share it with as many people as we can. We cross geographical, cultural and ethnic barriers to share the gospel of Christ. We share that message both by our lives and our words. As we look at how the risen Lord prepared his followers for mission (in Acts 1-2), we'll be reminded of the task before us. This has implications for each of us, and also for our church family. I hope that we will be open to what God says to us as we reflect on Acts 1-2 together during our worship services this month.

A friend of mine has a favourite saying: 'Live as if Jesus' resurrection happened yesterday, the day of Pentecost is today, and Jesus is returning tomorrow.' If we truly live that way, it would add excitement, confidence, direction and an urgency to share the gospel of salvation in Christ. May that be true for us during this coming month!

Your companion on the journey,
Pastor Steve Cooper

"If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience, God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the light of His face."
[A.W. Tozer]

Prayer for our Mission Partners

During May Mission Month, let's be praying for those we partner with in mission. There are several in our own church family who have a burden to reach a particular group of people with the gospel, so let's pray for each other. Pray for the Ong family (SIM) in Malawi - Peter and Jo, with children Teaghan, Lucas and Micaiah. Remember Rob and Deb Griffith (GIA), who serve with the Khmer people of Cambodia. We support two girls through Baptist World Aid child sponsorship: Alysa Khaye (13) in the Philippines, and Martha (6) in Uganda. Pray for John Burke and others who work with him in scripture teaching at Katoomba High School. Remember other mission organisations we support, including FEBC, Outback Patrol, Slavic Gospel Association, Voice of the Martyrs, Bible League, Scripture Union, Emmaus Correspondence School, GRN, Gideons, Redeemer Ministries, MAF (Matt & Linsey Painter), Hope from Above, Manna NSW, and Congo via WEC. Jesus said 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' (Matt 9:37-38).

Congregation & Members' Meeting

Please join us for the Congregation and Members' Meeting on Sunday, 16 May, at 11.30am in the church sanctuary. Two matters will be presented and discussed: 1) repair and maintenance needs for church property; 2) the new draft KBC constitution.

Interim Leadership Team

Pray for our Interim Leadership Team - Pastor Steve Cooper, Grahame McCraw, Daniel Thomas and Michael Wooley. They will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday 4 May (7pm). Pray that God will guide them as they lead our church in the Lord's work.

Pray for Greater West for Christ

It's exciting to be part of the Baptist Association for Western Sydney & Blue Mountains (Greater West for Christ). GWFC provides support, training and resources for churches, leaders and pastors. Part of the GWFC vision is to plant new churches and reach lost people with the gospel of salvation. Pray for Pastor Steve as he serves as Academic Tutor at the GWFC Training Centre in Cranebrook each Thursday. Pray for Mark Chapple, who is the full-time leader of GWFC.

May birthdays. Keith S 30th.

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

"William Carey chides his countrymen for deciding it would be impossible for the Gospel to travel over great distances and to penetrate varied cultures when they are willing to face the same trials for the sake of commerce." [William Carey]

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 missions to be fruitful, especially those we support as a church, and for the preservation of converts.
- 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 these tumultuous times; 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 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.
- 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 Redeemer Ministries update email April 2021

The work for the Lord continues to go on and expands under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A further 8 families will be redeemed that will add to the 19 families already redeemed from the Brick Kilns of Pakistan. Another 6 Christian Schools will commence that adds to the 16 Schools currently operating in the Brick Kilns. There will be 4 Mobile Medical Vans serving the Lord in the Brick Kilns. The Mobile Medical Vans also act as an Ambulance. One of the Vans is going into the far-flung areas of Lahore in Pakistan.

Pray for the work in the Amazon Jungle. The Missionary couple, Jairo and Sandra, will give leadership in the Church, visit untouched tribes to start Churches and visit people living along the Amazon river using a boat for transport. Sandra will start a Christian School in the Amazon.

*There are people who would say we should leave the people in the Amazon Jungle to themselves. Why disturb their lifestyle and their culture? To begin with it is not paradise living under the bondage of spiritism that is fearful and demon possessed. Why not leave the slaves in the Brick Kilns of Pakistan to themselves? It is their own fault. It is their lot (such is the view of Islam). **The Bible for a Christian is the guiding light for our actions and beliefs. 11 Corinthians 5** tells us " the love of Christ compels us." **Genesis 1**, "God created man in his own image, male and female he created them". **John 3**, "God so loved the world." All people regardless of their status, race, gender or colour are precious to God. Jesus paid the price for our redemption at the cross. All of Scripture is about a loving God pursuing us and wanting to give us forgiveness, peace and wholeness.*

[To receive updates and make donations, contact **Stephen Downie: stepdown65@gmail.com**]

Spurgeon on abiding in the Lord

... I trust, beloved, that some of us live in such a style that if, on a sudden, our Lord were to appear, it would cause no alarm to us. We have believed Him to be present, though unseen, and it will not affect our conduct when He steps from behind the curtain and stands in the open light. O Lord Jesus, if You were now to stand in our midst, we should remember that we had Your presence before, and lived in it, and now we should only be the more assured of that which we before knew by faith. We shall behold our Lord with confidence, freedom, assurance, and delight, feeling perfectly at home with Him. The believer who abides in his Lord would be but little startled by His sudden appearing; He is serving His Lord now, and he would go on serving Him; he loves Him now, and he would go on loving Him, only as he would have a clearer view of Him, he would feel a more intense consecration to Him.

(Charles Spurgeon, from the sermon "Preparation for the Coming of the Lord".)

Prayer for Israel: Friday May 21st, 1.30pm (please contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. [Romans 9:3]

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).

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. [Matthew 28:18-20]