

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.

June 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 the coming months of June and July, the focus of our preaching will be on Paul's letter to Colossae. Colossians is one of the apostle Paul's most powerful and attractive letters. The theme of Colossians is **'Jesus Christ, our life'** (3:4). That means the Lord Jesus should be at the centre of our lives. It's a theme that Paul needed to emphasise to the Christians in Colossae, and a theme that's so relevant for us today. The Colossian church was tempted to move beyond the basic message of the gospel of Christ. The culture around them taught that to be spiritual - to grow and be enriched in our spiritual lives - they needed **additional** religious rites or disciplines, more sophisticated knowledge, superstition, astrology, worship of angels and spirit beings, or some compelling experience. Paul was concerned that these new believers were drifting from the supreme importance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our own time, we too face the pressures of our culture around us to **add** things to the basic gospel message. These are false attempts to be close to God or to reach our full potential as human beings. We need Paul's reminder that Jesus Christ is our life - he is the supreme Saviour and Lord, and all our thinking, words and behaviour should be shaped around him. Let me encourage you to read Colossians several times this month, and reflect on how the Lord Jesus should be the centre of our lives.

Your companion on the journey,
Pastor Steve Cooper

"Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who has a heaven for everybody, but a hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own, as truly an idol as any snake or crocodile in an Egyptian temple. The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and beside the God of the Bible there is no God at all." [J.C. Ryle]

Members Meeting

All members of KBC are invited to attend our Members' Meeting on Sunday 20 June, at 11.30am in the church sanctuary. We will vote 'yes or no' to two documents: 1) the proposed new KBC constitution; 2) suggested policies to implement part of the new constitution.

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 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.

Please pray

- for our Pastor Steve and our church leaders, for the Lord to guide and bless them.
- 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).**

June birthdays. Vickie T 10th, Anna W 23rd.

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

[And thanks to Gerardo for his beautiful hand-crafted crosses which are presented to our birthday folk.]

From Voice of the Martyrs Australia [<https://vom.com.au/project-turkey-refugee-outreach-and-support>]

Thanks to our Australian supporters, Voice of the Martyrs is financially supporting an outreach centre in Turkey which is ministering to refugees who have fled violence and persecution from various parts of the Middle East including Iraq, Iran, Syria and Afghanistan. Life for refugees in Turkey is a challenge, there is a lack of employment opportunities, housing and medical care.

Those who do find work are frequently taken advantage of, they may be paid only a third of the going rate and sometimes, are not paid at all.

Our partners are providing care, love and practical assistance to Christian refugee families who have fled violence and oppression. They offer funding for much-needed medical costs, daily necessities for those who are out of work (including loss of jobs during COVID-related restrictions) and provide opportunities for prayer, church gatherings and discipleship.

In addition to caring for vulnerable Christian refugees, our partners are advancing God's kingdom through outreach and evangelism, to those who do not yet know the Lord. Sharing Christ's love is a powerful witness, and it opens hearts and minds to the Gospel message.

During a distribution of food and clothing packs, one Afghan lady said, "I didn't even have a bottle of oil at home and I was feeling desperate. I didn't know how I was going to feed my kids. Your food pack helped us a lot. Thank you!" Another Afghan family said, "These gifts are from God".

A Kurdish Iranian family almost lost their 15-year-old son when he attempted to commit suicide. He suffers from deafness and the family could not afford a hearing aid. When one of the ministry's pastors offered to provide funding, the family cried with joy and gratitude. Since then, they have been regularly attending online church meetings and prayer meetings. All four members of the family have now accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

Spurgeon on Christ in us

You all agreed with me when I spoke about Christ being all, you understood clearly that he is the only ground of our hope; can you also go with me in this part of my subject, Christ is in all his people? Is Christ formed in you, the hope of glory? Do you know anything about an indwelling Christ? Verily I say unto you, the Christ on the cross will never save you unless there be also Christ within you; it is the Christ on the cross in whom we trust, but the outcome of that trust is that he is born in our hearts. His power comes from his love, his grace, his truth, himself; and we live because he lives in us. Do you understand this? If you do not, I pray God that you may, for, unless Christ be in you, you know what the apostle says: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobate." If you are disapproved of God, Christ is not in you; if Christ is not in you, you are disapproved of God. But if he lives in you, you are "accepted in the Beloved," and that life of yours shall never die out, but you shall by-and-by behold your Saviour's face in the kingdom of his glory.

Brethren, we are not what we ought to be, we are not what we want to be, we are not what we shall be; but we are something very different from what we used to be. The change in us is as great as in that blind man who said, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." The change is not merely external, but it is vital. The Lord has taken away the heart of stone out of our flesh, and given us back the heart of flesh which belonged to man in his unfallen nature, and then upon this heart of flesh he has also wrought wondrously, making it sentient to spiritual influences which once did not affect it, and writing upon the fleshy tablets of that renewed heart his perfect law. Glory be to the name of Jehovah, a notable miracle has been performed upon us, a miracle so marvellous that it is comparable to the resurrection from the dead, and in some respects it even surpasses the wonders of creation itself. We shall tell this story in the streets of the New Jerusalem, and we shall draw around us attentive crowds as we narrate our experience, and tell the tale of the sin which ruined us, and of the mercy which reclaimed us. (Charles Spurgeon, from the sermon "All and All in All", Colossians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 15:2 .)

Prayer for Israel: Friday June 18th, 1.30pm (please contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

[Zechariah 12:3]

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).

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

[Revelation 22:18-19]