

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.

July 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

The story is told of a man who was given a ticket on an ocean liner from England to New York. He was poor, so he didn't bring any food with him. He hid and slept in a lifeboat, and at meal times watched as waiters carried food to cabins. He was so cold and hungry! On the final night of the voyage, he emerged from the lifeboat and asked a waiter if some food could be spared for him. The waiter looked surprised. He said: 'Do you have a ticket?' 'Yes', replied the poor man. 'Along with your ticket', said the waiter, 'you have a cabin and as much food as you want!'

It's sad when a person fails to recognise all that is already theirs. This was the case for the Colossian Christians. As Paul wrote his letter to them, he was concerned that they failed both to recognise all that was already theirs in the faith they'd accepted in the beginning, and to translate their faith into an appropriate pattern of living. During this coming month of July, we will explore Colossians 2 and 3. Paul urges the Colossians to recognise what they already have in 'Jesus Christ, our life' (3:4), and to behave in a way that is fitting for those who belong to the Lord Jesus. Please read and meditate on those chapters as you prepare for the sermons.

Your companion on the journey,
Pastor Steve Cooper

Important notice regarding Covid restrictions

In light of the NSW Government lockdown of the Blue Mountains LGA, we at KBC are unfortunately forced to suspend all services and meetings until further notice. If you are needing to contact the Church for any reason, please feel free to reach out to us via the **Contact** page of the website [<https://katoombabaptist.org.au/contact/>]. The timetable for preparing for the KBC Repairs will be updated when we get further information from the NSW Government on restrictions. Please check the Katoomba Baptist Church website regularly to keep informed.

Church AGM on Sunday 8 August

Next month, our church has our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The date is Sunday 8 August, at 11.30am in the church sanctuary. The whole congregation is invited – members and regular attendees. At that meeting, we'll vote on various leadership positions for the coming year. In preparation, we'll invite nominations for those leadership positions from 11 July (nomination forms and job descriptions will be available). Please prayerfully consider who might be suitable for these positions, and be ready to make nominations.

Have you thought about being baptised?

The Lord Jesus instructed his followers to 'make disciples' - and part of that process 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.

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. Wendy G 15th. May the Lord bless you through the year ahead in your walk with Him.

“Every time we say we believe in the Holy Spirit, we mean we believe that there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.” [John Owen]

From the Logos Hope website [https://www.om.org/ships/stories/50-years-setting-sail]

“50 Years Since Setting Sail” by Julie Knox

OM’s Ship Ministry is celebrating 50 years of service at sea.

The pioneering vessel, Logos, and her volunteer crew left a shipyard in Rotterdam on 18 February 1971. They were bound for London, where the refitted ship was shown to supporters of the venture and loaded with literature for her maiden voyage to India.

In the five decades since, the ministry’s four vessels have covered enough nautical miles to circumnavigate the globe five times; with crew having welcomed almost 49 million people up the gangways and reached out to perhaps as many more again on shore.

Logos, Doulos, Logos II and Logos Hope have shared knowledge, help and hope in 150 countries; distributed hundreds of tonnes of books and aid supplies; supported communities after natural disasters and come alongside those who are marginalised in society. The ships’ volunteers – mostly young people from upwards of 60 different nations – have inspired thousands more to step out in service, grown in their own personal faith and received training for their future through their experiences on board.

Operation Mobilisation’s founder, George Verwer, says that when he first floated the idea of buying a ship to give the ministry global reach, people thought he had ‘lost his marbles.’ Fifty years on, he reflects:

“We rejoice over all God has done through our four vessels. At least 100 million people worldwide have come into contact with the gospel in some way. We know thousands have professed faith, but only heaven will tell the full story. We remain so thankful to God for our countless behind-the-scenes workers, prayer partners and supporters.”

Spurgeon on abiding in Christ

... “Since you have received Him, walk in Him.” Walk implies, first of all, action. Do not let your reception of Christ be a mere thing of thought to you, a subject only for your chamber and your closet, but act upon it all. If you have really received Christ, and are saved, act as if you were saved, with joy, with meekness, with confidence, with faith, with boldness. Walk in Him, do not sit down in indolence, but rise and act in Him. Walk in Him, carry out into practical effect that which you believe. See a man who has received an immense fortune, his purse is bursting, and his caskets are heavy, what does he do? Why, he behaves like a rich man, he sees a luxury which pleases him, and he buys it, there is an estate he desires, and he purchases it, he acts like a rich man. Beloved brethren, you have received Christ—act upon it. Do not play the beggar now that boundless wealth is conferred upon you.

Walking, again, implies perseverance, not only being in Christ today, that would be standing in Him and falling from Him, but being in Him tomorrow, and the next day, and the next, and the next, and the next, walking in Him all your walk of life. ... Walking implies habit. When we speak of a man’s walk and conversation, we mean his habits, the constant tenor of his life. Now, dear friends, if you and I sometimes enjoy Christ, and then forget Him, sometimes say He is ours, and anon loose our hold, that is not a habit, we do not walk in Him. But if you have received Him, let it be your habit to live upon Him, keep to Him, cling to Him, never let Him go, but live and have your being in Him.

This walking implies a continuance. There is no notice given in the text of the suspension of this walking, but there must be a continual abiding in Christ. How many Christians there are who think that in the morning and evening they ought to come into the company of Christ, and then they may be in the world all the day. Ah! but we ought always to be in Christ, that is to say, all the day long, every minute of the day, though worldly things may take up some of my thoughts, yet my soul is to be in a constant state of being in Christ, so that if I am caught at any moment, I am in Him, at any hour if anyone should say to me, “Now, are you saved?” I may be able still to say, “Yes.” And if they ask me for an evidence of it, I may, without saying so, prove it to them by the fact that I am acting like a man who is in Christ, who has Christ in him, has had his nature changed by receiving Christ’s nature, and has Christ to be his one end and aim.

[Charles Spurgeon, from the sermon “Life and Walk of Faith”, Colossians 2:6.]

Prayer for Israel: Friday July 16th, 1.30pm (please contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved... [Romans 11:25-26a]

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).

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” [John 15:5]