



**July 2018**

### **PRAISE GOD FOR REVIVE YOUTH NIGHTS!**

BYM is giving thanks for the amazing Revive Youth nights we have had in June, which you as our Baptist family were praying for! God worked in amazing ways at each event touching the lives of teens who attended. The theme of "Make Noise" was carried through at each event at Narwee, Dural, Windsor District, Bathurst & Narara Valley. Overall about 1300 teens heard the message of Jesus over these youth nights with one more event to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June at Taree for the first time. Please join us in prayer for that one also.

The Bathurst event had a significant response to the call at the end of the message brought by Emma Pendleton from Thornleigh Community Baptist. Of the 170 people present about 100 responded asking for recommitment, new commitment & prayer for what God spoke to them about on the night! It was an awesome event to be part of & the team were just as blessed by seeing God move in such a mighty way.



### **PRAYER FOR OUR REGIONS**

The Regional Ministers will be meeting together 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July firstly in Orange then in Dubbo to have a time of training & to meet with the Pastors in the Western Districts. I thought this would be an appropriate time to have some focused prayer for some of our most distant to Sydney Regions. As soon as I asked the Regional Ministers if they had any prayer points that they would like us to pray for their Regions, I was immediately sent back replies of how grateful they were that the Baptist family would be praying for their Regions. So thank you to everyone in advance for your prayers for them, they are very much appreciated!

Chris Smeda (Pastor, Bermagui Baptist) went into Canberra Hospital after a heart attack & had open heart surgery. The church at Bermagui has asked the Baptist family for prayer for him. Chris is from South Africa and has only small number of family members in Australia. He has been at Bermagui since 2011.

Many thanks  
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*Prayer Focus of the Week Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018*

**ILLAWARRA & SHOALHAVEN (Michael Bate, Regional Minister)**

1. Praise God for the first combined Pastors gathering between the Illawarra and South Coast regions in June. Pray for more opportunities to work together as one larger region in strategic ways & pray for development of vision over the greater region. Pray for God to raise up regional leaders.
2. The region has noticed that those churches taking risks for the kingdom and seeing growth are being attacked with pastoral issues that distract their attention and stop their momentum. Pray for protection for these churches and their leaders against this attack.
3. There are a number of churches who have had staff finish up. Pray for the senior leaders of these churches, who are moving their churches through times of transition, and taking on increased responsibilities. Pray for endurance and protection of these leaders.
4. Pray for church planting in the Illawarra which has seen a couple of church plants fall over in previous years. Pray for a new legacy over church planting in the region. Pray for the identification of new opportunities and the raising up of new leaders for church plants particularly in the Albion Park/Calderwood area and Shell Cove development.
5. Pray for the Illawarra region as it looks at strategy for raising evangelism in the local church and across the region.
6. Pray for Youth ministry across the region that God would continue to resource and grow this area with passionate and committed leaders. Praise God that Youth Pastors and Youth leaders are in the early stages of meeting together across the region to support one another. Pray for God to breath greater life into this initiative.

*Prayer Focus of the Week Commencing 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**NAIDOC WEEK 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July**

1. As this is NAIDOC week, pray that our nation would take time to celebrate the “history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.” Pray that our churches would also find meaningful ways to engage with and celebrate the culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
2. Pray that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders would be welcomed in our churches and for more opportunities and platforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians to share in all churches.
3. Pray that our churches would consider how they may connect with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and build relationships with them. Pray for open pathways to building relationships and that we would have listening ears to learn from their experiences.

**Prayer:** God of our past, present, and future, You have been present to this continent from the moment of creation. You witnessed Uluru push up through the earth, the first crashing of waves on sandy beaches, the rise and decline of megafauna and the amazingly diverse creatures that succeeded them. You gave life to the Indigenous nations that belonged to this land since time immemorial and grieved their displacement and the decimation of their cultures after European colonisation.

You have been present as cities emerged, populations grew, wars were fought and a modern nation built. With tender heart you watched each of us breathe our first breath, and have followed us all the days of our lives. Throughout all this history you have witnessed the good and the bad, the joyous and the painful, the honourable and the shameful.

God of our past, grant us the ability to face up to the shameful and painful parts of our history as readily as we celebrate the honourable and the joyful.

God of our present, grant us the compassion to hear the cries of those who continue to be wounded, the courage to repent, the willingness to learn and change.

God of our future, grant us the courage to do what is necessary now to safeguard the future of our environment, the courage to do what is necessary now to bring healing and reconciliation between Australia's first nations and its newer arrivals, the courage to do what is necessary now to be a good neighbour to the nations of the world, and the courage to do what is necessary now to see faith spread throughout this land.

*\*This prayer has been adapted from an A Just Cause Prayer Tool, <https://ajustcause.com.au/pray-for-justice/>*

*Prayer Focus of the Week Commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**WESTERN DISTRICTS REGION (Stephen Gaut, Regional Minister)**

1. Praise that God is at work! Pray that we will all get on board with Him.
2. The drought has hit the region hard and towns and therefore churches are struggling. Please join us in praying for rain, and that people will not seek the easier option of ending their life but will seek help. Pray that people will be able to band together in their communities and face these issues together. In my community most farmers have already written off this year's crop - another year with mounting debts and no income.
3. Pray that churches that cannot support ministers will be able to have good lay people still able to share God's Word week by week.
4. Pray that our churches engage with their communities and see the real needs out there. That we ask the question, "How can we or what does it mean for us to be the church in our local context?"
5. Pray that although we might be separated by great distance we will not be alone as we are part of the Baptist family as Christian brothers and sisters.
6. Pray for the ministers suffering major health issues either physically like cancer or mentally like depression/anxiety - pray for good health, renewed strength and a passion for Jesus and his people.



**Baptist Churches**  
of NSW & ACT

*Prayer Focus of the Week Commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018*

**RIVERINA DISTRICT REGION (Andrew Skewes, Regional Minister)**

1. Praise for the recent Campfire (Pastor's retreat on the farm over 2 days and 2 nights) where 9 of the 11 Regional Pastors attended. It was an encouraging time with Lyn Thow as Spiritual Facilitator.
2. Praise for the encouraging outcome over the June long weekend of the BOOT camp (Bible Outlook and Outreach Training) for young adults. Thirty keen young adults attended.
3. Praise for the great encouragement we received recently with a delegation to Greater West for Christ in Minchinbury.
4. Pray for the Riverina Leadership Academy that begins on the 12th August:
  - For all the preparation;
  - For those who will be giving input;
  - For those who will be participating.
5. Pray for churches who are seeking pastoral leadership:
  - Junee
  - Temora

*Prayer Focus of the Week Commencing 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**NORTHERN RIVERS REGION (John Wilson, Regional Minister)**

1. Pray for the Churches in this Region: Alstonville, Ballina, Banora Point Community, Casino, Lismore, Lower Clarence, Murwillumbah, Ocean Shores, The Hub, Tweed Coast Community, Water of Life Ministries.
2. Praise God for:
  - Alstonville Baptist just appointed a Families Pastor;
  - Murwillumbah Baptist has re-opened;
  - Churches embracing the NR30 vision (30 Churches in the Northern Rivers by 2030).
  - New students starting studies with Morling College.
3. Pray for Casino Baptist as they search for new pastor.
4. Pray for Tweed Heads Hub church as they plan building extensions.
5. Pray for our investigation into church plants at Coraki and Lennox Head.



**DATE SPECIFIC PRAYER POINTS**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July:**

- The Baptist World Alliance Gathering (Global Baptists) is meeting in Zurich from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a handful of Australians there representing BUA and in roles on some of the committees. Pray that the Spirit will be present in all meetings and discussions as they seek the Kingdom first. Pray for a sense of unity as well.
- Sydney Grace Community Church (one of our Affiliated Churches) have asked for prayer for their Bible seminar starting tonight and running until 15<sup>th</sup> July with Pastor Dennis Park speaking. Pray that many new people will come and join them for this special event. It will be a wonderful opportunity for people to learn more about the Bible and the saving message of the gospel.
- Pray for Andrew Palmer from Global Interaction as he speaks at Ingleburn Baptist Church today.
- Kiah Ridge welcome a Cru Study Camp on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Pray for smooth running of the camp, the volunteer leadership team, effective study for the campers and opportunities for campers to connect with Jesus.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:**

- Pray for the BaptistCare Pastoral Care Volunteers Course beginning in Forster today.
- Kevern (Site Director, Kiah Ridge) is on leave for at least 2 weeks – pray for safety and refreshment. Pray that the team continues to work well and staff stay healthy during a busy season. Work is continuing on developing a Master Plan for the future development of Kiah Ridge. Pray for wisdom, creativity, and a vision that is truly God inspired.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:**

- Pray for our Regional Ministers as they meet together in the Western Districts Region. Pray for a good time of collaboration, support, encouragement and learning as they meet together and visit local churches in that region.
- Praise God for the service of Morling staff throughout Semester 1. Pray for a fruitful rest, as many take a break throughout July. Pray also for the academic Staff returning from Sabbatical in Semester 2. Thank God for the productive time they've had over the last six months.
- Pray as the Assembly Council has their annual retreat today and spends some time looking at pastoral longevity and other leadership matters. Pray for them as they work on the agenda for the September Assembly.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July:**

- As the Regional Ministers visit the Western Districts, pray for the communities in this area suffering through drought. Our Regional Minister there, Stephen, says the news may say that they are only in a "slight drought" but the rainfall figures and reality on the ground is more than 'slight'. Pray for the farmers and communities struggling because of this, and for our Baptist churches in this region as they support people and witness Christ to them.
- Chris Barnden, Interim General Director for Global Interaction, will be visiting our NSW ACT staff here.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Pray for the Western Districts Pastoral Development day in Dubbo with the Regional Ministers. Pray for the Pastors in the Western Districts remote areas to be encouraged and equipped on this day.
- Pray for final resident at Five Dock to vacate her unit in order to redevelop the entire site for use by Social and Affordable Housing units. Final decision is required by today.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Praise God for the generosity and partnership of Baptist Churches around Australia as you supported the Crossover Easter Offering. Pray for Crossover to use these funds wisely over the coming year to continue to equip Australia Baptists to share Jesus!

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July: BWAA -** *Last month, through our Matching Grant Appeal, we met a mum named Rith who lives in Cambodia – a nation currently facing political turmoil.* Please pray for a peaceful national election, which will be held at the end of this month. Ask for ongoing stability in Cambodia... so its citizens, like Rith, can be safe.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray that the Lord would call out from our churches gifted and committed young people to train for pastoral leadership in our churches.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Pray for the Morling College Workshop on the topic: Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care- extending the Mission of the Church, that this will be a stimulating and productive time for participants.
- Muana, Global Interaction Team Leader for the Thai team, will be sharing with the i68ers.
- This is Global Interaction's Strategic Mission Week, involving some of our cross-cultural workers, Muana and Villy from Thailand; and Maz and Esther from South-east Asia.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray for the board and The Principal of the College as they make decisions on the leadership structure of the College. Pray for discernment and prayerful reliance on God throughout the process.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray for those in Consultancy training today & tomorrow as they are equipped to support and lead our churches toward the vision of 1,000 healthy churches! Pray that God will be equipping them with both wisdom and discernment, as well as vision and hope for our movement.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Praise God for answered prayer -- Ben and Petra (cross-cultural workers in the Silk Road region) have received word that they can now get work visas, saving them a monthly trip out of their host country to renew visas as has been the case to date.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July: State Youth Camp -** Please be in prayer for churches as the promotion and registration process gets underway. Particularly for churches who will be fundraising to bring young people to SYC18 and for those who will be attending for the first time this year, that the planning process will be smooth for them.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July: BWAA -** *July marks the beginning of the peak rainy season in Cambodia.* Last year, it was disastrous for farmers in Cambodia, washing whole rice crops away. Thank God for the disaster risk reduction work which has since been carried out with your support. Pray for protection of families and livelihoods during the rainy season this year.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray for the ten people approved as Recognised Ministers this past month, that they will know God's power for ministry in their various settings.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July: SRE** - Prayer for reviewing SRE training and the development of online resources. Wisdom for Lisa and Shree as they still learn their roles and learn how to balance the demands of their job.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray as the SRE team continues to build relationships with various people across the State and establishing an Advisory Group as decisions are made around the strategic direction and future of SRE.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July:** Pray for the State Youth Camp Band who are meeting at Kiah Ridge today & tomorrow to be encouraged and explore what God has in store for camp this year and opportunities to support churches. Give thanks for all involved and pray in particular for Joshua Mayne from Hawkesbury Valley Baptist who leads this team.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Pray for new students as they begin their studies today with a Study Skills Intensive. Pray that they will be encouraged and equipped and not overwhelmed in their first days at College.
- Pray for the State Youth Camp Core Team who are meeting at Kiah Ridge today & tomorrow to be encouraged and explore what God has in store for camp this year. Give thanks for all involved and pray in particular for Sarah Alarcon from Erina Baptist who leads the team.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July: BWAA** - *The level of regulations for non-government organisations in Cambodia is increasing.* Please pray for our partners as they navigate these growing demands. Ask God to go before them in all that they do.

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** Pray for people of all ages to be challenged by, involved in and/or called to cross-cultural ministry. Pray that we will be a listening people who hear the call of God on our lives and a willingness to leave the comfortable for the sake of spreading the good news of Jesus!

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July:** Praise God for the beginning of Semester 2! Praise Him for the fruitful student numbers for this new semester. Pray as students and staff gather together today for the first chapel of the Semester.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Pray for new coaches being trained today to come alongside others to empower them, and those they serve, to release their God-given potential. Pray that this training will be glorifying God, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, to develop Christ-centred coaches who build up Christ-centred people throughout our movement.
- Pray for Pip Miner who will be doing training with the Plunge group of students in readiness for their cross-cultural trip.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July: GodSpace** - Prayer for the team as they review GodSpace for 2019 and prepare materials for next year. Pray for a smooth process and that we would meet all our deadlines & for wisdom with how to continue to move forward for next year as there are some major decisions to be made. Praise God for the way he has used GodSpace and will continue to use it across NSW and Australia.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July: BWAA** - *As we look ahead to Be Love Sponsorship Sunday next month, please pray for all the Cambodian children who are part of our Child Sponsorship program.* Thank God for leading their families to be part of this incredible story.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July:** Regional "Sending" Event at Toronto Baptist, for Mat, Shannon and family going to be part of the Outback team in Central Australia (pray for their support levels to be such that will enable departure in October this year).

