

NORTH PINE PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

December 18 to January 21

Dear Friends,

I am currently using an on-line devotional which is put out by the Bible Society Australia. In the lead up to Christmas the current devotional series is titled **Prepare him Room**. Using scripture verses each devotional study looks at the many people who were called upon to make room for Jesus as well as the various circumstances that God manipulated to ensure that his plan of salvation came to fruition.

How challenging it must have been for Mary and Joseph to act on faith and to trust in God. Mary accepts God's will knowing that it could expose her to public disgrace. Joseph accepts Mary as his wife even though the Jewish law would condemn her. He trusts in God and makes room in his heart for Mary so that she will be protected.

Even the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus are controlled by God. Caesar Augustus wanted a census taken of the entire Roman world which meant that Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem where Jesus would be born. We are challenged to focus on the sovereignty of God and how he uses unexpected means including the Roman bureaucracy of the time in order to achieve his purposes.

While Caesar Augustus measured the expanse of the Roman Empire, the Lord used the census as part of his preparation for Jesus' birth, and the fulfilment of his promises. In the sovereign plans of God, even Augustus helped to prepare Christ room, no matter how slight and spare that room was to be. Joseph brings Mary to Bethlehem to be counted, and, as it happens, for Jesus to be born. In that place, Mary and Joseph welcome Jesus, the One who was promised.

There are two things that inspired me in this devotional series. Firstly, that God is able to do so much more than we can imagine. When I look at the world in despair I have to remind myself that He is the Sovereign Lord who brings about His good purposes in spite of what earthly powers and authorities try to do. Secondly, I need to **make room** for Jesus in my life. I must remember not to let the busyness and the material values push him to one side. This Christmas, let us pray that more people will hear the message of hope and salvation and make room in their hearts for Jesus.

God bless

Anne Kratzmann

| DATE | TALK TO GOD ABOUT THESE THINGS |
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| MONDAY 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for new people to visit our Church this Christmas - may they feel welcomed and loved and encouraged to return give thanks with Graeme and Susan (BCA Longreach) that God has faithfully guided their ministry in western Queensland for our Church Family to grow as they read the Bible: David & Sally Ludlow; Myra & Graham Luxton; Merv & Adele MacDonald |
| TUESDAY 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the Holy Spirit to uphold and bring peace to those who are facing Christmas without loved ones give thanks that St Paul's Yr 12 students had a successful finish to the year culminating in Valedictory at the Cathedral for our Church Family to know the closeness of God: Stuart MacKenzie; Rhonda Madden; Dylan & Clare Malloch; Russell & Liz Martin |
| WEDNESDAY 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for those in our Church Family who are in need or unwell (check e-News) - may they feel God's healing love this Christmas with Bruce and Libby for the completion of the national and provincial elections in Nepal and for subsequent stable government for our Church Family to pray often and for all things: Gail Master; Don & Joan May; Harry Mayer; Sue McGoldrick; Audrey McKillop |
| THURSDAY 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for Pete, Kara, Luke, Jojo and Micah to enjoy family time and a joyous Christmas celebration with Graeme and Susan (BCA Longreach) that Christmas Services will bring the light of Christ into people's lives for our Church Family to grow in faithfulness: Michael, Michelle, Lily & Jacob McKenna; Rod & Robyn McKewen; Muriel Meahan |
| FRIDAY 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for all who give their time to prepare our Church for worship - may their faithful service draw our attention to God for St Paul's staff who have moved on to new opportunities - may they be blessed in their new ventures for our Church Family to feel God's abiding presence: Andy, Kit & Ethan Meng; Kim & Georgia Merrell; Geoff & Susan Michie |
| SATURDAY 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for Chris and Lynda to be inspired as they prepare Christmas sermons so that the gospel message will be heard for Christians around the world who face persecution for their faith - may they be able to celebrate this Christmas without fear for our Church Family to worship joyfully: Cathy & Graeme Miles; Norma Miney; Carol Murray; Dorothy New; Gladys Neylon |
| SUNDAY 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that many people will attend the Christmas Services and that they will have a real experience of God's love give thanks for all our talented musicians and singers as they lead us in praising Jesus our Saviour for our Church Family to grow in their love for Jesus: Ron Murray; Gary & Jenny Palmer; Nathan Palmer; Judy Parker; Nancy Parsons |
| MONDAY 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give thanks that on this Christmas Day we can come with joyous hearts to worship Jesus, our Saviour and our King that visitors and newcomers will understand that this Christ Child has brought joy to the world for our Church Family to rely on God's timing: Nola & Brad Patrick; Marcia Patten; Clive, Sophie, Nathaniel, Hayden & Naomi Peckham |
| TUESDAY 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the Holy Spirit will use the message of Christmas to bring about softened hearts and transformed lives with Chris and Helen (Pt Hedland) for God's protection on seafarers - may they know God's faithful love for our Church Family to trust in god's faithfulness: Joan & Belinda Penman; Michelle, Shaun, Hope & Jorja Pinnock; Barbara Pollard |
| WEDNESDAY 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for our Leadership Team and all involved in preparing and collating Annual Reports for 2017 give thanks with Bruce and Libby for INF work as part of post-earthquake rebuilding in Nepal - may all involved be blessed for our Church Family to be truly Biblical: Wayne & Sheena Polkinghorne; Belinda Pollard; Kellie, Troy, Adam, Alyssa & Ella Postle |
| THURSDAY 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for each one of us to reflect on our Personal Growth Plan and to consider ways to grow in discipleship in 2018 give thanks for the new roof at St Aidan's and for the many people who have generously given to the cost for our Church Family to constantly turn to God in prayer: Jessica PUNCHARRD; Phil & Noreen Quinn; Peter & Ros Rawlinson |
| FRIDAY 29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that each one of us will commit to daily Bible reading and prayer for St Paul's teaching staff and students to enjoy their holiday break and to remain safe as they travel for our Church Family to feel confident to share God's Word: Allen & Jovana Reed; High Reed; Betty Reid; Yvonne Reik; |

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| SATURDAY 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Chris and Lynda will have some quality time to spend with family and a time to relax and to re-energise • give thanks for the work of Scripture Union in 2017 - for chaplaincy and for camping and outreach programs • <i>for our Church Family to grow in their generosity:</i> Dell & Alan Robertson; Margaret Sansom; David & Robyn Sargent; Verney Sayers |
| SUNDAY 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for our Vision 2020 and for all that we have achieved this year in God's strength and for His glory • with Chris and Helen (Pt Hedland) for financial stability and good outreach at the Seafarer's Centre • <i>for our Church Family to be obedient to God's calling:</i> Sandy & Pete Sayer; Millie Schoermer; Peter Schofield; Beth Schwede |
| MONDAY 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for this New Year and for the promise that it holds - pray for the Holy Spirit to guide each one of us into an area of ministry • for our local SU Chappies - Lindsay (Special School), Bee (Dayboro) and Troy (Beachmere) as they prepare for a new school year • <i>for our Church Family to entrust their lives to Jesus:</i> John & Doris Scouller; Iain, Julie, Daniel & Sonya Simonds; Marg Skewes |
| TUESDAY 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for wisdom for Chris and Lynda as they finalise the preaching program for 2018 • for Graeme and Susan to have safe travel as they drive long distances in western Queensland • <i>for our Church Family to know God's truth:</i> Kelvin & Mandy Slade; Joan Smith; Penny & Maurie Smith; Mary Snell; Mal & Shirley Sprott |
| WEDNESDAY 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Lynda and our Growth Group Leaders as they make preparations for new studies and finalise meeting times for this year • with Bruce and Libby for their work visas to be processed quickly • <i>for our Church Family to trust in the power of prayer:</i> Thelma Sprott; Daryll & Kim Stein; Joan Stephenson; Glen & Kris Stevens |
| THURSDAY 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for our newly elected Parish Council to be blessed with wisdom and discernment and a spirit of co-operation and unity • for St Paul's School leadership as staffing appointments are made for 2018 • <i>for our Church Family to know the joy of worship:</i> Leila Stock; Helen & Chris Stoneham; Ken & Janice Suddick; Judy Tainton |
| FRIDAY 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for our Ministry Leaders as they prepare and plan for their ministry areas this year • for safe travel for all who are attending CMS Summer School - may there be a great time of fellowship and learning • <i>for our Church Family to model their lives on Jesus:</i> Charles & Chris Sweeney; Jeanette Taylor; Ken & Margaret Thompson |
| SATURDAY 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for all welcomers and those who provide morning tea at our Sunday services • for the speakers at CMS Summer School to be inspired as they explore Ecclesiastes and its message for us today • <i>for our Church Family to share God's love with others:</i> Laurie & Lawrence Thorpe; Kelly Tomlins; Alan & Peta Turner; Nev & Elise Victor |
| SUNDAY 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for uplifting worship at all services today and for great learning for children at Summer Kidz • for God to bless Peter Jeffery as he begins this new year as Curate at Sunnybank • <i>for our Church Family to seek ways to serve & change the world:</i> Catherine Walker; Maree, Grace & Reuben Walker; Rhonda Watkins |
| MONDAY 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for all who commit to weekly prayer groups - may they be inspired as they seek God's will and intercede for others • for a great new start for Libby Hayes and Matthias (short term teacher) as they begin the school year today at Pokhara Study Centre • <i>for our Church Family to rest in God's enduring love:</i> Phyllis Watson; Dwayne, Colleen, Nathanael & Brooke West; Isis Wilson |
| TUESDAY 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the Care Cupboard to start well this year and for many people to be blessed by God's provision • give thanks for the work of LinC volunteers and pray for more people to become involved in this great ministry • <i>for our Church Family to feel God's healing power:</i> Judy & Ivan Wilson; Eileen Wittleton; Roma Wood; Kelvin & Trudy Woodrow |
| WEDNESDAY 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for God to raise up new leaders for the ministry areas of Mission, Alpha and Pastoral Care • give thanks for the success of St Paul's transition programme for students moving into year 7 in 2018 • <i>for our Church Family to grow in discipleship:</i> Bruce & Barbara Worthington; Emma Worthington; Paul & Gayle Worthington |
| THURSDAY 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Chris and the Wardens as they settle into a new routine and for wisdom as they consider issues and make decisions • for God's guidance for Pete, Kara, Luke, Jojo and Micah as they settle in Sydney and consider new options for this year • <i>for our Church Family to use their gifts to serve:</i> Peter & Evelyn Wray-Brown; Ann, Scott & Brodie Youngman; Jeff & Dawn Acworth |
| FRIDAY 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for God's wisdom and discernment as Chris and Parish Council consider the next step for Youth Ministry at NPAC • give thanks with Graeme and Susan for Susan's ordination as Deacon - may she be richly blessed in her new role • <i>for our Church Family to grow in their love for the Bible:</i> Graeme Aldom; Don & Sharon Amos; Owen Anderson; Alison Anstee |
| SATURDAY 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for inspiration for Liturgical Assistants and Readers as they prepare for Sunday Services • for our local SU Chappies - Dave (Pine Rivers), Marie (Dakabin) to be blessed in their preparation for school • <i>for our Church Family to show God's love every day:</i> Chris, Jenny, Emily & Joshua Anstee; Margaret Armitage; Dan & Jenni Avenell |
| SUNDAY 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that we will come to worship today open to hear God's message and ready to live it out in our daily lives • for families in need in our community to receive the support that they need - may they look for hope in Jesus • <i>for our Church Family to be obedient to God's calling:</i> Sharon, Pete & Lily Armstrong; Greg, Nerissa, Tahlia, Kyah & Amarli Baines |
| MONDAY 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for the outreach of the Furniture Ministry - may there be many opportunities to share the Gospel with others • for ongoing good health for John Naumann (Tanzania) and for good financial support for the Amani Centre • <i>for our Church Family to pray together:</i> Joan Baker-Winn; Dennis Balderstone; Claire Barrett; Peter & Gayle Beard; Jean Beattie |
| TUESDAY 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for all who give so generously of their time to the Care Cupboard - may they be blessed in this service • for St Paul's School Student Leaders who have been appointed to positions of responsibility - may they rise to the challenge • <i>for our Church Family to bask in God's goodness:</i> Michael, Donna, Baily, Corbyn, Kaleb, Roman & Castiel Barlow; Lorna Beattie |
| WEDNESDAY 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Chris, Lynda and the Admin team as they make preparations for our Leadership Team Retreat later this month • that God will make clear the plans He has for Graeme and Susan in the coming year to enable them to reach those who are seeking • <i>for our Church Family to meditate on God's Word:</i> Sarah & Elise Bennett; Thelma Beveridge; Joan Bird; Clare & Colin Birditt |
| THURSDAY 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for all who are being confirmed this year - may they be richly blessed in their preparations • give thanks that there are strong expressions of interest to participate in the St Paul's Vanuatu Outreach programme this year • <i>for our Church Family grow in their love for Jesus:</i> Leonie Bond; Ralph & Sylvia Bowles; Beryl & Daphne Box; Shirley Bretherton |
| FRIDAY 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give thanks for the opportunity to invite non-Christians to social events such as Table Tennis and Lazy Sunday Dinners • for wisdom for the St Paul's School Council and Senior Leadership Team as they review and update the School's Strategic Plan • <i>for our Church Family to give thanks in all circumstances:</i> Charles Brooks; Alicia, Matthew & Harrison Brough; Lyn & Barrie Brown |
| SATURDAY 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for more people to be encouraged to join a Growth Group so that they can grow as a disciple of Jesus • for Bruce Hayes to develop good working relationships with leadership, staff and colleagues at Green Pastures • <i>for our Church Family to be Mission focused:</i> Noelene Brown; Wilma Brown; Alex Browning & Raiha Paraha; Paul & Rebecca Browning |
| SUNDAY 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for God to give us generous hearts so that we can achieve our vision to serve and change the world • for all attending Mission Matters Prayer to pray fervently for those who faithfully proclaim the gospel message to others • <i>for our Church Family to live by our Vision and Values:</i> Steve, Melanie, Michelle [Krause], Matti & Savannah Burtle; Meryll Cahill |