



March 2013

Dear partners in the gospel,

As you know Synod affirmed the work of the Church Planting Taskforce (CPT), and made provision for the ongoing funding of church planting across the denomination by setting aside a prescribed offering for the work. In a separate communication from the CPT all churches will be asked to hold this offering on Pentecost Sunday, 26 May 2013, when we remember that Christ sent his Spirit into the world to enliven the mission and build His church. This is an appropriate Sunday to focus on the work of church planting and the missional task God has given to the church.

Giving sacrificially for the work of church planting is important, but a greater task is the task of prayer. For this reason the "Fourfold Task" adopted by Synod 2006 begins with prayer. As churches we are urged:

"To call upon God for such an outpouring of his Spirit that his people will be assured of his love through his Word, seek to please the Saviour in all things, manifest the godly life and be filled with prayerful and sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world."

Prayer changes things. If we believe this, then we had better be praying that God will change the eternal destiny of our neighbours and country. In the seven weeks after Easter Sunday leading up to Pentecost, church and individuals are encouraged to pray for the work of the Gospel in Australia and beyond. To assist individuals and churches to focus their prayers in the days leading up to Pentecost, a "Prayer Calendar" has been put together beginning with Easter Monday and ending on Pentecost. The prayer items highlight the work of the gospel throughout Australia and beyond.

There are several ways you use this prayer calendar:

1. Duplicate the entire calendar (.PDF format attached) monthly newsletter, include it in your bulletin on Easter Sunday, 7 April, and/or post it on your website;
2. Include the prayers for the week in your weekend services.
3. Print the prayers for the week (.doc and PDF format attached) in your weekly bulletin and/or post it on your website, encouraging people to pray daily.
4. Give a copy of the prayer calendar to your prayer teams and/or pray through each item at the meeting of sessions and/or elders.

Imagine your church, filled with God's Spirit, being of one mind and one body as it brings its life into line with God's great purpose of restoring the world under the lordship of Christ. Imagine every one of your church's members fully committed to seeing God's purposes become a reality. May God hear our prayers, may his Kingdom come, and may each one of us and our churches be filled with a sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Jack De Vries, on behalf of the CPT

How to Pray for the Lost

For yourself, pray

- that you will be open to God's leading.
- that the Lord will provide opportunities for you to influence your unsaved friends.

For unsaved friends, pray

- that God will draw your friend to himself.
- that they will seek to know God.
- that they will believe the Bible.
- that Satan is bound from blinding them from the truth.
- that the Holy Spirit is working in them.
- that they turn from sin.
- that they believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and obey him as Lord.
- that they take root and grow

