

Focus on Today's News

In Matthew 6 Jesus is addressing those who are following Him. He is indicating the type of lifestyle that is to be lived by those who follow Him. Jesus gives some foundational teaching about some activities that He assumes will be a part of the life of his followers:

- Matt 6:2 - *So when you give to the needy* - Jesus then follows this with instructions about how to give in the proper way. The assumption is that if you're a follower of Christ, you will give to the needy. No problem, we know this and we have experienced that this week. Our church has generously given to the needy in China by paying for the walker (\$1300) and providing the 'comfort' foods for the Jagelmans. Also, someone has given \$1000 to each of the mission participants to help with the airfares! PTL
- Matt 6:5 - *And when you pray* - Jesus follows this with instructions about how to pray in the proper way. The assumption is if you're a follower of Christ, you will pray. No problem, this is normal.
- Just a few sentences later, however, Jesus mentions a third discipline of the Christian life. Matt. 6:16-18 - *When you fast* – The assumption being that if you're a follower of Christ, you will fast. Jesus says 'when' not 'if'. On the weekend 7th and 8th February we are asking people to consider fasting. We are asking:
 - To choose a day (either Saturday or Sunday)
 - To choose a meal or meals to fast (Breakfast, lunch or dinner)
 - To spend time with the Lord during those meal times in prayer, reflection, reading God's Word, listening to inspired music, walking, sitting quietly or participating in an activity that helps you focus on the Lord

We trust that as we begin this fasting we will experience a breakthrough in spiritual power and service in His name.

—Stephen

1 February 2009

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Today

Next Sunday

9:30am **SoulCare (K.I.C.)**
Stephen Cathcart
Back to School

9:30am **Praise and Communion**
Richard Oakes
Favourite Psalms

10:30am **Morning Tea**

12:30pm **Korean Community**

7:00pm **Connect @ 7**
Stephen Cathcart
TBA

9:30am **SoulCare**
Stephen Cathcart
???

9:30am **Praise and Communion**
Peter Cipollone
Favourite Psalms

10:30am **Morning Tea**

12:30pm **Korean Community**

7:00pm **Connect @ 7**
Stephen Cathcart
???

MOWING ROSTER

14th February 2009

Stephen Cathcart

Prayer Hotline

9487 3918

Hanna Dijkstra

All requests are kept
confidential and treated
with the greatest respect.

MINISTRY TEAM

Stephen Cathcart	Senior Minister	0419 460 487
Richard Oakes	Associate Minister	0434 104 555
John Park	Korean Minister	0425 833 510
Loida Dart	Chaplain	9440 3723
Tina Phillips	Youth Minister	0413 990 449
Louise Joyce	Office Administrator	9988 4688

Church Bulletin Information and Service Presentations

Deadline for all office requests are due by **Friday 9am**.

Please contact the office on 9988 4688 or email Louise at
office@northturramurrachurch.org.au

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9am—5pm

Web site: www.northturramurrachurch.org.au

A Fast weekend

Fasting is intentionally giving something up to spend that time focusing on God. Many times in Scripture, the bible characters fast to pray and deepen their relationship with God:

- David – 2 Samuel 12:15-17
- Paul – Acts 9
- Anna – Luke 2:37 - worshipped night and day, fasting and praying
- Church fasted and worshipped for decision making – Acts 13:2, 14:23
- Jesus practised fasting (Matthew 4:1-11)

On the weekend of the 7th or 8th Feb the ministry team invite you to share in a fast. This will be the first of 3 fasts in 2009. In abstaining we discover an alternative source of strength. One reason for practicing spiritual disciplines is to eliminate the things that keep us from experiencing the fullness of life in God. Through this practice of fasting God can break our bondage to satisfying ourselves.

Scripture

Scripture is taught at Turramurra North Public School each Wednesday at 10:30-11am. If you would like to teach a class or assist Stephen Cathcart with year 5 please see Stephen by next week.

GIVING DIRECTLY

Direct debit is a way to give to God first after we have received our wages. There has been an increase in the number of people giving by direct debit. Giving by direct debit accounts for 40% of our weekly church giving. If you would like to give your *offering* by direct debit please use the following bank details and arrange with your bank to begin the process of being a planned deliberate giver to God.

BSB 032188 A/C 132924

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for the generosity of the church for the walker, food stuffs for China and the help with airfares.
- Pray for the leaders of groups and ministries to be refreshed during January.
- Pray for Phillips family as they begin their time in China, that they settle in quickly.
- Pray for the protection of those traveling to China (Nicholas Campbell, Jo Mohr, Louise Joyce, Danielle Mathers and Sophie Clarke). Pray for health and that they will be a blessing to those they serve.
- Pray for the Oakes family as they go on holidays until 16th February
- Pray for Pastor John and Mi and the Korean community as they prepare to reach out to the local community.

Live, Learn, Love

One way that we can encourage one another is through prayer. We want to pray for encouragement, protection, family relationships and God's blessing on these families this week...

This week please pray for:

MONDAY: Eunice ANDERSON

TUESDAY: Tom and Julie BAIN

WEDNESDAY: Craig BALLINGER

THURSDAY: Chris, Carol, Josh, Miriam and Esther BARNES

FRIDAY: Neil and Narelle BARNES

Colossians 1:6

“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing”

Expressions on White House Development

The elders and management team have been considering 'what to do with the white house' for over 2 years. This task began in 2007 when the elders asked a team to investigate the use of the white house. Their report invited response and submissions from the congregation. This report was released to the church in September 2007. After further investigation it was discovered that if the white house was to be knocked down Council would not allow rebuilding under their bushfire prone legislation. This forced our hand to consider renovation.

In 2008 the elders asked a team to consider the costing of renovating the white house. The recommendation of the report was that to restore the house to a suitable standard would cost \$130 000. The reasons for renovating the white house were that:

1. It was the cheaper of the present options
2. Something needs to be done, as our inaction is a decision for further deterioration. There has been no maintenance of the white house for 20 years
3. Present white house is not fit for habitation
4. Movement of church office to new building has freed the front rooms of the white house

If we knock down the white house we cannot rebuild and we would have to consider purchasing a home in the area

In November the elders began planning the task of restoring the white house. At this point we desire the congregation's input as we have a unique opportunity with Nathan and Tina pursuing a short-term mission in China for 6 months and members of the management team having some spare moments.

Please take time to fill out the ballot paper in the foyer TODAY!