

St Mark's Northbridge Week of Prayer and Fasting Mission Partner Prayer Points

Kenny and Rose Lloyd – Port Elizabeth, South Africa

- Apprentices: pray that Faith Felix will continue the whole year as an apprentice in 2024, that Pepe will also continue and that Yongy will start an apprenticeship.
- Pray for much needed help for the ministry in the township & at our church in the city centre where many students live.
- Praise God for good progress in all the preliminary work in the township before the small school/church building can begin. Please pray for the opportunity to buy the plot of land next door if it pleases God.
- Give thanks for the work God has been doing in the students last year, and that the new believers would grow and stand firm in their faith.

Ryan, Jo, Isabelle, & Hugo van der Avoort – Durban, South Africa

- Gives thanks for the family's trip to Singapore and Australia, but please pray as they settle back into relationships and responsibilities in Durban, especially for Jo as a part of her heart remains in Australia.
- Pray for Hugo who is currently suffering with a case of impetigo.
- Praise God for the provision of 72% of the funds needed to support the full time and part time workers for The Bible Talks ministry.
- Pray for Jo as she mentors the female workers and leads the music ministry at church. That God would also provide wisdom in knowing what she should/shouldn't take on. Some regional opportunities are also knocking on the door.

Jo (Pioneers, Middle East)

- Give thanks for God's presence, his care and kindness, and for all the people he has connected to Jo over the past 10 years (including St Mark's).

- Give thanks for our various Christmas gatherings and the friends who were there and asked questions to understand us better.
- Pray for the protection of civilians in the conflict nearby, the just restraint for combatants, a change of heart for leaders, and also that the conflict wouldn't escalate to other parts of the region.
- Pray for the new intern who has just arrived, and the volunteer who is coming to help out at the Center for a month. Ask that they would feel welcome, that they would adjust and settle quickly, and that they would build connections with students that allow them to go deep in the time they have.

James Lane (FEAST) – Scripture Teaching, South-west Sydney

- Praise God that in 2023 FEAST grew from teaching SRE at three schools to now six schools!
- Give thanks that last year two ISCF lunchtime groups re-started again, and give thanks that two groups have started for the first time across Prairiewood High, Fairvale High, Cabramatta High, Westfield Sports High.
- Please pray all the students that attend will continue growing in their faith and spur one another on to live for Jesus at school.
- Thank God that St John's Park High has allowed us to have a separate class for the diverse learners. Please pray that lunchtime groups can also begin soon at St Johns Park High.
- Pray for the provision of a new team member for a day paid position in 2024.

Ray Notley – Pioneers

- Pray for Ray as he travels to Myanmar 11-19 February, for contentment as he travels, for good opportunities to build relationships with new team members serving at Restoration Bible Institute and the new graduates. Please pray for peace and a stable government for Myanmar.

- Pray for Pioneers mobilisation team to keep supporting and walking alongside new enquirers, those applying and those already preparing to go to serve in mission among unreached people.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to continue to raise up new workers.
- Thank God for those people who have served through short term trips over the summer months. Please pray that as these people return to their day to day lives, they will reflect on how they have experienced the Lord at work in their lives, and how God might be prompting them to serve in the future.

Susanna Baldwin – Wycliffe Bible Translation (Darwin)

- Give thanks that the Plain English Version (PEV) draft of Genesis is in final checking stage before publication. Pray that the translation consultant can identify any remaining issues for improvement.
- Please pray for Susanna as she checks and re-works an early draft of 1 John for the PEV, so that this book will also be for consultant checking and publication.
- Pray for her planned visit to Groote Island in late February to connect with translators from the Anindilyakwa language group: for building relationships, that might lead to some of those ladies to go to Darwin for a week of uninterrupted translation work.
- Pray that Susanna can serve graciously and helpfully in the organisational and administrative side of the work as she sits on the Management Committee
- Pray that God will raise up more ministry workers to come alongside Indigenous Australian language communities and support them in their great desire to translate the Bible for their people.

Elani & Riaan Rottier

- Pray for the transition to Australia mid-year, as they prepare for their first home assignment.
- Praise God for the surfing ministry that Riaan has recently been involved with, for the 17 new believers in the last year.

- Pray for the people that came to Christmas events and heard the gospel. Please pray for the message to remain in their hearts and that many of them would be interested in learning more.
- Please pray for those impacted by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake on New Year’s Day.
- Prayer for physical and spiritual health, and give thanks for many answered prayers.

Appeal: Write to re SRE tonight or tomorrow

Could you make a submission, like the one below, to the Productivity Commission by Friday (access the website via the QR code)

I am dismayed at the suggestion from the Productivity Commission to remove the tax deductibility status of donations to SRE, on the basis that SRE produces little community-wide support.

On the contrary I would suggest that SRE enhances students’ understanding of their chosen religion, particularly when classes are conducted by adherents of that religion, and that based on evidence, it further delivers key psychological benefits to students, promotes multiculturalism and social acceptance, and reduces the risk of student radicalisation.

The evidence also shows that people of faith are 25% more likely than their secular counterparts to donate money and 23% more likely to volunteer time.

In light of these and other benefits, I ask that the suggestion to remove tax-deductible status be reconsidered.

