

Connect



News from Riverstone Community Church

3rd October 2021

Today The Resurrection – Its Effect Speaker: Eric Gordon	10 th October Continuing in faithfulness Speaker: Dave Ward	Previous services available on line. Select "Fit to Page" or "Shrink to Page" when printing this Connect.
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Prayer, Praise & News.

- * **Ted Davis** – Recovering from major spinal surgery. Still on crutches and probably will be for some time.
 - Nerve induction test indicated signals not properly connecting with muscles in his right leg.
 - Pain from unknown source in left hip and awaiting specialist appointments in a few weeks.

Praise – That pain medication is doing its job and that he's feeling more encouraged.
Pray – For resolution to the lack of right leg functionality and for healing from hip pain.
- * **Heather Davis** – Has had her fifth round of chemotherapy.

Praise – That she's not experienced any severe side effects.
Praise – That she has been encouraged knowing that we are supporting her with prayer.
Pray – For the tumour to be removed or reduced.
- * **Kirsten - Ace & Joanne's Baluyut's neighbour.**

She was diagnosed earlier this year with MS.
Recently diagnosed with 6 lesions in her spine and 1 in her brain. Starting low dose chemo.
Kirsten & her husband and two children (aged 8 & 2) aren't Christians.

Praise – That Jesu is sharing his faith with the 8 year old son.
Pray – For the chemotherapy to reduce the lesions.
Pray – For the family to come to know Jesus.
- * **Russell White** – Ongoing surgeries for multiple skin cancers.

Pray – That the treatment is successful and **pray** for Alison at this time.
- * **HSC Students** – Ben Gross, Amity Jackson, Elijah Marlow, Georgia Owen and Chloe Boucher.

Pray – That they can overcome the difficulties of lockdown and have clear thinking.
- * **Our church** –

Praise – For the ability to enjoy church online each Sunday.
Pray – That we would lean on Jesus and remain united, connected and be light and salt in the world around us.
Pray – For the elders to have wisdom in making difficult decisions
- * **Afghanistan** –

Pray – For those in Afghanistan – Especially for Christians that they will be protected.
- * **Australian Governments – Federal and State.**

Pray – That they make wise decisions so that we can live in times of peace.
Pray – That Covid infections would come under control and restrictions would be lifted soon.

“I GAVE MY LIFE TO JESUS IN LOCKDOWN 2020” - Michelle's Story

“I knew of the Lord but I did not know Him,” states 20-year-old Michelle of her upbringing in a nominal Christian household. *“We stopped going to church most Sundays and just continued living our lives ignoring God.”*

As she grew older, Michelle recalls becoming a rebellious teenager – living for herself and getting trapped in destructive and sinful habits in the search for happiness.

But God was drawing Michelle back to Himself.

“Last year I was struggling with how to make it through the whole Coronavirus situation financially. I had less than twenty dollars left in my bank account and no hope for my future.”

“One night as I sat in my room feeling depressed, miserable and mad at myself, my eyes caught onto an old, somewhat dusty bible - I stared at it thinking ‘Really?’

“But deep within me I thought, ‘What do I have to lose?’”

“So I began searching for Him. Initially in a self seeking way – I wanted Him to bless me with money. But as He spoke to me through His Word I got something I didn't see coming. Eventually being in lockdown at home seemed more like being locked in my room with the word of God.”

God transformed Michelle’s heart and mind over the weeks and months that followed and it was during this time that she came across Youth for Christ on the internet and reached out.

“I needed help,” Michelle recalls. *“I was at home, alone and on fire for Jesus but no one could understand why, even myself.”*

A YFC missionary was able to begin a discipleship journey with Michelle, connect her into an online prayer group with other young Christians and, as lockdown restrictions eased, help baptise her.

This year Michelle’s desire to live for God and share her faith with others led her to join the YFC team as one of our first Abide Interns where she’ll live in community with other passionate Christians to go deeper with Christ.

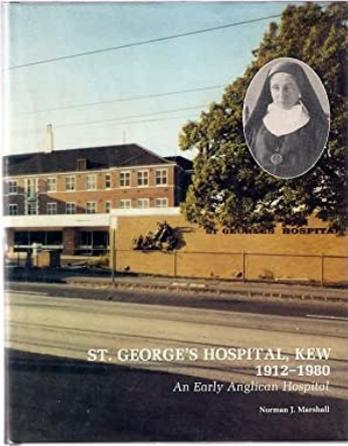
“The impact of giving my life to Christ has opened doors I never thought possible. I never saw Jesus as the focal point in my life but now everything is for Him because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

“I recently baptised my little sister and I’m wanting to do so much more.”

Michelle with YFC missionary, Lyndal. When COVID-19 restrictions lifted, Michelle drove to Brisbane to be baptised in YFC Director Cindy McGarvie’s backyard.



Laurie Cowell 1938 – 2021



Laurie was born 9th Feb 1938 at the St George's Hospital Kew, Victoria



Laurie went to meet his Saviour 24th September 2021

BUILDER FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Growing up on a farm near Ballarat Vic. Laurie accepted the Lord as his Saviour and went on to become a builder. He then went to Emmaus Bible School, married Margaret who had been nursing at Ballarat and after further training they went to Chad as missionaries. Now with their growing family they served the Lord among an unreached people group, learned their language and established many local Churches. Sadly they lost their only daughter in a drowning accident.

After 10 years they returned to Australia and continued to build new churches in Baulkham Hills and Campbelltown before joining GLO in 1983. Laurie established the GLO School of team ministries and in 1988 took over the leadership of GLO from Ken Harding.

He and Margaret together with the Lintons and others then established Riverstone Community Church, building the present complex for GLO, this Church and Sports Centre on this site - all with the able assistance of Max Maddocks and the MMM Teams. Laurie's vision continued to build into many areas in Australia and such overseas countries as Romania, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Korea, Mongolia and several other countries.

About ten years ago his health began to decline and after returning from Indonesia, his son Andrew took over the leadership of GLO. Laurie has built for time and for eternity

Well done Laurie Cowell!

Ken Harding

Financials



BSB 062596 A/C 00903153

Birthdays this week

Wednesday	Aedan Cowell
" "	Maybelle Thomson
Saturday	Peter Gordon
" "	Donna Davis
" "	Ellen Kerlake

