



# Prayer Update

## May-Jun 2011

Hi friends! Thanks for your partnership in the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ! We really value your prayer support and fully acknowledge that 'unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers work in vain'. Many in our region are lost and need Christ. We are weak, but He is strong. So please ask big! In Christ, and for His glory, Chris (on behalf of CoastEC)

**Ekins family...** Praise God for the recent break we had up the coast with friends. It was a great week off, and we're feeling refreshed. Caleb and Hannah are growing up fast! Caleb is a real action man and Hannah is starting to stand up (she even said her first 'dad dad,' the other day!) Unfortunately, we've also had lots of sickness and broken sleep, which is starting to take it's toll. Please pray for health and some good rest.

**Trickle Growth...** By God's grace, people keep trickling into our fellowship. Pray we'd be a welcoming church, good at befriending & incorporating newcomers. Pray for wisdom as we seek disciple people in our home groups (bible studies) and help them find suitable ministries to serve in. We're hoping to start 2 new home groups in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this year. Ask for God to raise up godly leaders, & for Chris to identify and train them well. Also pray for Ruth Shooter as she trains our people to share their testimony on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Scripture...** Pray for wisdom and boldness as I work with other local ministers to get Scripture started at Tuncurry High. There are some who think the lessons we taught at the Forster campus are too Christ-focussed, are too evangelistic in asking kids to make their own decision to follow Jesus, and they also want the substitutionary atonement to be removed from the lesson about what Christ's death achieved. These are serious matters and the lessons are under review. As a result, the lessons at the school have been postponed until 27th July. I am finding this very frustrating. Pray for me to be godly, patient, gracious, wise and courageous.

**Youth...** Praise God for the solid youth core group that is being built up. The youth groups have also made a good transition to their new venue (the Guides Hall). Ask for God to sustain Evan, Alicia & Bec and also to raise up more leaders for this growing ministry (especially another bloke!).

**Holiday Hangout...** Our kids winter mission is being run by St Matts Youth (West Pennant Hills) on 11-13 July. We are hoping to connect with and share the gospel with many primary school kids! Pray for good follow up and that many will receive Christ and link in to Grommets youth group for kids in yrs 5-6.

**Finances...** Praise God for the continued generosity of His people. We are slowly growing to be more self-funded (currently about 35% of our expenses are being covered by locals; the rest is being graciously supplied by other individual supporters and partner churches). Our goal is to be at least 50% self funded by the end of the year. Please pray for us to get there, and that in the mean time the external support would continue.

**Alternate venue...** The school hall we rent for our public gathering is unavailable on Sunday 12 June and 10 July. Pray for us as we meet in Tuncurry Memorial Hall instead. Ask that it will work well for us, and will help us raise our profile in the town as we advertise our services in a fresh location for these days.

**Another Service?...** Pray that God would give us wisdom as we consider starting another service to help us connect with even more people (we're not sure when, but we're thinking about a 3:30pm service on a Sunday arvo that's geared to young families).

*"I thank my God every time I remember you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"*