



# Prayer Update

## April 2011

Hi friends! We believe in a Sovereign God who is powerful and willing to answer the prayers of His People for His Glory. Please approach the throne of grace boldly on our behalf! Thankyou again for your willingness to stand by us as we seek to bring Christ to the 25,000 people living in our region. In Christ, and for His glory, Chris (on behalf of CoastEC)

**Scripture...** We need urgent prayer right now re: high school scripture. We have been working hard over the last 2 years to get Scripture started in the local high schools. We are praising God for opening the door to both Forster and Tuncurry campuses (we get to teach 5 lessons to year 7 students). We are almost finished our 5 lessons at Forster, and the first lesson at Tuncurry is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> May. Sadly, there is serious opposition amongst the local ministers association to the syllabus that I wrote. One of their specific objections is to the lesson about 'Why Jesus Died'. They have said they do not believe in the substitutionary atonement (that when Jesus died he was standing in my place, taking God's wrath and judgment for my sin so I can be forgiven). They say this teaching is a denominational distinctive and we need to find a new syllabus that we can all agree on. A special meeting of the ministers association has been called to deal with this (13th April, 1pm). Thank God for the bold support of the Presbyterians and C3 church pastors who are willing to stand firm with me on this. Please pray for wisdom and courage for other ministers who should be taking a stand; and that as a result, the wolves would be silenced and the pure gospel is able to be presented in the local schools. This is a heavy burden, and much is at stake. Please pray.

**Slowly Growing...** God continues to gather His People. About 60 Adults and 30 kids now regularly attend the CoastEC church service, and 46 Adults are attending our Home Groups (bible studies). Praise God for drawing people together. Ask that as we grow in number we'd also grow in depth and maturity. Also ask that God would raise up more leaders to train so we can cater for more people who want to join groups.

**Another Service?...** Pray that God would give us wisdom as we consider starting another service some time down the track to help us connect with even more people (we're not sure, but we're thinking about a 10am service and a Sunday arvo service on top of that...once we have the right core group and enough resources).

**Staff...** Praise God for the great start Ruth Shooter has made! Ruth is our Ministries Coordinator and also heads up Music. She has been establishing ministry teams with team leaders; helping us all be more focussed on certain areas of ministry, and helping new people to church get involved in serving. Pray for God to give her wisdom. Thank God for her energy, enthusiasm and the encouragement she's already been to many.

**Youth...** Evan, Leesh and Bec have been doing a great job! There are now 22 regular kids at our youth groups (15 at Grommets yr5-6; and 7 at Wired yr7-10). Unfortunately we had to find another venue, so please pray that the transition from the Scout Hall to the Girl Guides hall would be smooth. Also ask God to raise up more leaders for this ministry (especially another bloke), and that a new core group of year 5 kids would emerge.

**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.

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