

September Mission of the Month: *Open Doors & The Persecuted Church*

Open Doors was established in 1955 when Brother Andrew, a newly committed Christian, began smuggling Bibles into Eastern Europe. (*Read the story from the book God's Smuggler – available in the Church Library*)

Since then Open Doors has expanded to work in over 70 countries, providing Bibles, training and practical support to the persecuted church. Open Doors seeks to strengthen and prepare Christians living in persecution, and to mobilise the Australian church to identify with the global body of Christ.

Open Doors works through local partners and build long-term relationships in countries all around the world, with people who know and understand what is needed to see the church strengthened and the gospel proclaimed. The mission is to help the local church transform their nation for Jesus.



Please keep giving!

We may not be meeting physically for worship, but we still have bills to pay and ministries to support. You are encouraged to make use of the electronic funds

transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:

BUC Property Committee BSB 634-634 Acc 10000-1487

Mission of the Month giving can be done electronically as well: write "Mission" in the description.

**Keep on praying - We may be locked down,
BUT we are never lock out from God!!**

The physical weekly Prayer Meetings are in recess, but all are welcome to join in the Zoom prayer gatherings. Click on the zoom link:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98976481554?pwd=WndnL1V5T0plYkJacFF3UGFHdUplQT09>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Jan & Gordon Allan
- * Jen Dinning
- * Marcia Schnabel
- * Kim Allen
- * Gordon Richardson
- * John Bishop
- * Denis & Lisle Wall
- * Sierk Dykman – in respite care at Allambie Heights Village
- * Matt Phillips – undergoing radiotherapy treatment for cancer
- * World: global covid crisis; refugees & the persecuted Church
- * Our international mission partners (Bruce & Kathy in Nigeria, Edwardes Family in Ireland)

Have a prayer request? * Email: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



Belrose Uniting Church
in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations
of the Uniting Church in Australia
Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

We aim TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

GOOD NEWS WEEKLY
Sunday 10th October 2021
16th Sunday of
Covid Lockdown 4.0

Good News: Sunday Services
to resume on
Sunday 24th October 2021!!

Subject to Government mandates and Synod advice, the Church Council has determined that it is feasible for us to resume physical Sunday Services on Sunday 24th October.

As expected, there will be conditions and restrictions.

We must abide by the public health order which mandates:

- * compulsory masks & QR Code check-in
- * physical distancing – 4 sq/metre
- * NO singing 😞
- * sanitising of surfaces

Churches are exempted from prohibiting unvaccinated people from entering, so **please be advised** that there may be unvaccinated people present at Church.

On the advice of Synod, we will **not resume Morning Tea** until later in the year - probably December.

Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks
(Ph) 9451 3916 (Mob) 0408 308 196
Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)
mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



**October Sermon Series: *The Church Under Fire!*
#2 Confidence despite suffering.**



Revelation 1:9 - 20

The Book of Revelation was written during an intense time of persecution and suffering for the 1st century Church. **The last remaining Apostle of Jesus, John,** was in exile on **Patmos**, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea, as a result of anti-Christian persecution under the Roman emperor Domitian.

Pray: *Heavenly Father, thank you that you have not left your Church without a message of hope. May the light and peace of Your Word encourage me today.*

Read: Revelation 1:9 - 20

Reflect:

1. Last Man Standing!

Rev 1:9 - 11

In this time of persecution and suffering, John received visions and messages (revelations) from Jesus to pass on to the Christians in various places (and through them, the whole Church) who were experiencing the oppression of a wicked and brutal Empire – Rome. Through these revelations, John sought to encourage the Church to persevere with confidence in spite of their suffering.

John encourages them by:

- * acknowledging their suffering – it was because of the Gospel
- * acknowledging their fellowship in the Kingdom – he shares their pain
- * reminding them that we have supernatural resources – patient endurance in Jesus

2. A Vision to Inspire Confidence

Rev 1:12 – 20

John is given an amazing vision of a man standing among some lampstands. It is apparent that it is a vision of Jesus, arrayed in glory.

In this vision we see that:

- * there is a greater and more glorious Emperor than Domitian!
- * King Jesus is alive! – the Romans could not destroy Him.
- * King Jesus is more powerful than Domitian – He holds the keys to eternity
- * King Jesus reigns in heaven, but He is also with His people (the lampstands – we are the light of the world - Matt 5:14).
- * Jesus has a message for His Church – a message of hope in the midst of persecution & suffering (as the Book of Revelation will convey).
- * Jesus is in control!



3. Confidence Despite Suffering

The Book of Revelation reminds us that the Christian Church will always encounter opposition and antagonism if it is faithful to King Jesus.

Organizations such as *Open Doors* and *The Barnabas Fund* alert us to the immense suffering and hardship many Christians endure in the world today – it is not just a 1st century phenomenon. There were more Christians killed for their faith in the 20th century than all of the previous 19 centuries combined!

However, in spite of this harsh reality, we can endure persecution and suffering with confidence. Why? How?

Because Jesus' message to us via St John is that while suffering for the sake of the Gospel is real & perhaps inevitable, **however:**

- * NO earthly power, Emperor or government is more powerful than Jesus
- * Jesus is in control and will ultimately bring all earthly powers to account
- * Jesus will ensure His people will come out of suffering into eternal glory

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it be! Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.' (Rev 1:5 – 8)

Pray: *Thank you Lord God that King Jesus reigns!*

Lord I lift the Persecuted Church up to You – fill them with Your Spirit that they may endure with confidence. Lord, help me to be a faithful "lampstand" in my community today. In Jesus' name, Amen.



WHAT'S ON @ BUC?
All meetings at the Church are post-poned until the covid lockdown order is lifted.

But we are able to meet virtually for "Morning Tea" every Sunday at 10.30 am via Zoom – join us as you are

able: click on the **Zoom link**

<https://ucanswact.zoom.us/j/91941752010?pwd=SkJDdDI1YWIWekkzdG41V0dmRExJdz09>

OR you can Phone in without video: **Phone 8015 6011**

And enter 91941752010# (Meeting Id) 805693# (Passcode)