

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 * Kim Allen
- * Gordon Richardson * John Bishop * Denis & Lisle Wall
- * Sierk Dykman is in care at Allambie Heights Village
- * Matt Phillips is undergoing radiotherapy treatment for cancer
- * Marcia Schnabel is in palliative care in Wesley Gardens
- * World: global covid crisis; refugees & the persecuted Church
- * 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 17th October 2021
17th Sunday of
Covid Lockdown 4.0

Good News: Sunday Services
to resume next
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 next 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
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Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)
mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



October Sermon Series: *The Church Under Fire!* #3 *Strength to endure suffering* Revelation 2:8 - 17

1. Seven Churches Under Fire Revelation 2:1 – 3:22

The messages John received in his visions were addressed to the “seven Churches” (1:11) in what is now the east coastal area of modern Turkey.

They were Churches experiencing severe persecution. Some of them are commended for their perseverance, while others are rebuked for their compromising weakness or failure to persevere.

What comfort can the Gospel give to these suffering Churches, and to Christians today who suffer persecution because of their faith in the Lord Jesus?

Pray: *Heavenly Father, thank you that Your Word is truth, and a source of hope and comfort. Open my ears, my eyes, my mind and my heart to receive what you have for me this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Read: Revelation 2:8 - 17

Reflect:

2. Words of Comfort to Endure Suffering Revelation 2:8 – 17

i) **Smyrna:** hear the Word of the Eternal King vv 8 - 11

- * the One who is greater than any earthly ruler or power
- * the One who has endured immense suffering, but is alive!
- * the One who knows what they are going through

You will be tested – slandered, imprisoned, to the point of death
BUT, it will not go on forever, so

- * be not afraid, be faithful and endure
- * anticipate glory & the crown of life

ii) **Pergamum:** hear the Word of the One who speaks Truth vv 12 – 17

- * He knows your situation and your challenges
- * He knows you have been faithful
- * He knows also your weaknesses and failings; yet forgives
- * He will bring evil doers and heretics to account

So, repent, trust Him, overcome (persevere)

- * He will sustain you
- * He has your eternal destiny secured

3. Strength to Endure Suffering

From these messages to these two Churches (and the other 5) we should be able to take comfort and find strength to endure suffering, knowing that:

- * Jesus is Lord over all the powers & difficult circumstances
- * Jesus is with us in the midst of persecution and suffering
- * Jesus knows we are weak and frail, yet will not give up on us,

offering forgiveness, hope, peace, comfort and eternal glory

* opposition to the Gospel will not go on forever, the coming King will bring all things to account and make all things right.

So Jesus says to us as well:

**“Do not be afraid” (v 10); “Be faithful” (v 10); “I forgive” (v16);
“I am with you and will come again for you” (v 16).**

Pray: *Thank you Lord that King Jesus is in control. Remind me of Your faithful presence whenever I feel anxious or afraid. Please strengthen Your Church to endure, with faithfulness, the challenges that beset us in this age, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*



WHAT'S ON @ BUC?

Meetings will gradually resume in the near future. An up-dated calendar will be circulated soon.

But we will still meet virtually for “Morning Tea” this 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=SkJDdDI1YWlWekkzdG41V0dmRExJdz09>

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

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

Next Sunday 24th October 2021

As we open our Church doors again in this covid transition time, I recognize that not everyone is in a position to physically meet – we all need to assess our own situations, especially if we are vulnerable, acknowledging that there may be unvaccinated people in our services.

If you are on a roster for a Sunday task and are unable to be present, please let me know and we can arrange someone else to take that role.

**9.30 am Morning Church *The Church Under Fire*
#3 *Strength to endure suffering* Revelation 2:8 - 17**

Service Leader: Ian Weeks

Preacher: Ian Weeks

Music: Allan Leslie

Reader: Sepesi Piukala

Welcoming: Tova Swadling & Helen Meillon

Flowers: Laumahoi Vakalahi

5.30 pm Evening Church Mark 10:35 - 52

Responding to Jesus: James, John & Bartimaeus

Service Leader: Ian Weeks

Preacher: Rico Tice