



## December 2019 & January 2020

Considering the terrible bushfires and drought conditions, this will be the focus of our prayer for the whole month of December. Please join us in prayer as we call out to our Father God on behalf of our brothers and sisters. May I also take this opportunity to thank you for joining us in praying together throughout 2019, and I look forward to praying with you throughout 2020. May you have a wonderful and refreshing Christmas celebrating Jesus' birth!

Many thanks  
Carolyn Altman, Prayer Coordinator

*Prayer Focus of the Month - December 2019*  
**DROUGHT & FIRE – A LAMENT**  
*By Dean Rerekura*

How long O Lord?

How long will you withhold rain from a thirsty land?

Lord, the hopes of too many are as dry as the land they look at and live on.

Yet, you are the owner of the floodgates.

You are the Commander and Creator of the clouds.

So we cry to You, and yet ours is a cry of faith, for where else have we to go?

We depend on you and we are desperate for you.

Please, do only what you can do.

Make it rain.

But Lord, our fear is not only that there is not enough water, it is also that there are too many fires. Please Lord, as you quench the thirst of the soil, also quench the fury of the flames.

Lord, we pray for the tiring fire fighting men and women, and also the SES volunteers, who even now, are driving into the furnace as other are driving out.

Please keep them safe and comfort their families.

Lord, comfort the families, friends, and communities who are mourning the loss of loved ones, and are even now, coming back to the cinders of lost homes and possessions.

O God, these communities are suffering.

Yet Lord, you are compassionate and caring. You are close to the broken hearted and you raise up the downtrodden.

Lord, you once went before your people in a cloud of glory, now we ask that you arrive in clouds of rain. Yes and yes again, our only hope is you.

Hear our cries - maybe they have been too slow in coming, but God, history tells us that the slowness of your people does not diminish the swiftness of your loving kindness and mercy.

So we ask for your mercy once again.

Mercy, so that the land can be healed.

Mercy, so that the emergency can be withstood.

Mercy, so that the grieving cannot be without hope.

Mercy, so that Australia might know that you are God, and there is no other. Amen.

***Prayer Focus of the Fortnight Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020***  
**GLOBAL INTERACTION**

- Epping Baptist have a Global Exposure team heading to Cambodia, and Mayfield Baptist have a Global Exposure team heading to Thailand.
  - Pray for these teams of people as they visit with cross-cultural staff and see evidence of the work in which they are involved (some will have opportunity to help running some English classes, etc.). Pray that they will be made aware of what it is like to live and work in a different cultural and language background to their own.
  - Pray too, that as they each put aside, for a time, their own individualism and walk together as a team, they may share new insights and encourage one another in this journey of investigating global mission further.
  - Pray that they may become aware of what God is doing and saying in each of the places they find themselves, that they will start to see His world, bigger than our own small worlds, from God's perspective.
- Candidates preparing to join one of Global Interaction's global teams in the near future, will be participating in various training courses during January 2020.
  - Pray for these candidates as being away for so many weeks of training is often difficult for individuals and families, as they try and get the most from the training.
  - Pray for patience in living out of suitcases and outside their normal situations, as well as living with other people they have not necessarily met before the training sessions begin.
  - Pray also for the children being involved in their own training sessions,
  - Pray for safety (especially in this extreme summer season already plagued by bushfires), adequate rest, the exhaustion of trying to take "it all in".
  - Pray for relationships with other future cross-cultural workers, making the most of meeting people with experience of cross-cultural work and gleaning wisdom from formal discussions as well as the opportunity for informal discussions around meal times, etc.

***Prayer Focus of the Fortnight Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020***  
**SIMPLE CHURCH NETWORK**

- The NSW/ACT Baptist Simple Church Network (currently recognising eight affiliated, smaller, creative, different expressions of Church) thank God for these new expression churches.
- Please lift them up to our Almighty God to protect these vulnerable churches doing things differently. Lead these congregations into deeper community discipleship and for opened eyes to invite new people & see where Jesus is working and join in with courage.
- Pray for wisdom and direction for the SCN Steering Team to spur-on these churches, equip them, and make this paradigm more known to call out more creative leaders and different relevant Churches in NSW/ACT. Pray for the planning happening ready for the Simple Church Day to be held 22/3/20 and a website.
- Pray specifically for the following Simple Churches:
  - Between (Oran Park) about to be affiliated with the Baptist Association via the Simple Church Network, for wisdom and open doors.
  - Water of Life (Mullumbimby) for Delhove, Rhonda, and their four children who have been in four short term rentals awaiting the right property for ministry with local alternates and travellers.....so that they can be a light in a dark place!
  - For Shift (Canberra) and Cornerstone (Central Coast) going through some changes, that God may lead and open up his directions.
  - Church on the Hill (Gloucester) who ran an Alpha course Oct-Dec 2019, pray for those that attended that they will continue to seek and grow.
  - Following up some possible new Simple Church leaders.

## **DATE SPECIFIC PRAYER POINTS**

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – BaptistCare HopeStreet Women’s Services – CALD Research Report**

In December the Women’s Services team from BaptistCare HopeStreet will release our first research report on Sydney’s sex industry, providing insights into the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women working in the city’s lower-end brothels. The research surveyed over 100 women on their experiences being CALD sex workers in Australia. Thank God for the opportunities the report provides to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the women in the course of their work. Pray for Women’s Services staff and volunteers as they draw on the report findings to improve services and continue supporting CALD women working in Sydney’s brothels.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Pray for the staff at Morling College who have begun to move into the new Ministry and Learning Centre. Pray for a smooth transition during this time.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Pray for the many SRE classes that will be doing special Christmas presentations to family, friends and school teachers over the next couple of weeks.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Praise God that the Baptist Association staff, Baptist Financial Services, Global Interaction, Crossover and Australian Baptist Ministries have all settled well into their new offices in the Ministry and Learning Centre.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Today is the annual interviews with accreditation candidates. Please pray for wisdom for the Committee of the Ministry as they meet with the candidates & as they have their monthly meeting following on from the interviews.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Pray for Morling students, staff, board members and alumni who will be leading Advent and Christmas services throughout December. Pray that the message of Christ’s birth will be shared with communities around the country with conviction and joy.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Pray for our BaptistCare chaplains who will have many opportunities to share the amazing Christmas story at numerous functions. Pray also as they minister to those who find Christmas a particularly challenging time.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Pray for the many Churches within our Baptist Association that will be holding Christmas Carols for their communities over this Christmas period. Pray that these will be a wonderful time of showing God’s love to our communities.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Please pray for Cross-cultural staff in various locations around the globe who will be using the season of Christmas as a means of sharing the reason for God sending his Son to earth. Pray for open hearts and ears to hear God’s love for the world in which we live and work.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - Pray for the preparations that are happening in the lead up to Christmas for the BYM State Conference being held on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February. Pray that everything gets completed before lots of people start taking leave.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Praise God for an inspiring meeting of the Australian Baptist Ministry Women’s Leaders in Melbourne last month! Pray for the raising up of a Leadership Team for Baptist Women and for discernment for the Women2Women Director Linnah Hahn.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Pray that the staff of BaptistCare HopeStreet will be able to reach out to many clients especially those impacted by drought and fires, showing God’s love during this Christmas season.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Praise the Lord for a fruitful year of classes, conferences, events, intensives, church visits, mission experiences, and chances to service Him wherever we are. Pray for a restful break over Christmas and New Year for the staff at the College.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Thank our Father for our Children’s Ministry Pastors & leaders and our Sunday School teachers that teach our children each Sunday. May they have a chance to rest and be refreshed over this holiday period.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Praise God for the many faithful SRE teachers that give up their time each week of school terms to teach SRE. Pray that they will be able to continue on in 2020.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Give thanks for all our Deacons, Elders, Secretaries, Treasurers and Board Members who work to keep our Churches going at this administrative & compliance level.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Thank God for all of our wonderful Youth Pastors and youth leaders who give so tirelessly to our teenagers week after week. Pray for a really refreshing break for them.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Give thanks for all of our people who do the often 'unseen' jobs in our Churches, who work behind the scenes to keep our Churches running smoothly.



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** – Pray for our Pastors who will be preaching tomorrow on Christmas Day. Most of them would have preached on Sunday, and now need to prepare another message for tomorrow, and another one for the following Sunday. Pray for strength for them and time to listen to God and to hear from Him.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December** – Pray for all of our Churches as they share the hope and message of the real meaning of Christmas with many people that don't normally attend Church.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December** - Pray for our new BaptistCare Board Chair, Rob Dunn and Deputy Chair Corinne Glasby.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December** – We ask for continued prayer regarding the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety following the interim report. For wisdom and clear direction for the commissioners, government and the aged care providers.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** – Global Interaction Candidates will be doing Transition Training combined with other mission agencies through Missions Interlink.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January:** Pray for students who are enrolled in Summer School at Morling College as they approach the end of the Summer Semester and begin studying for exams. Pray especially that they will be able to get some downtime before the start of Semester 1.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January** – This is Global Interaction's Strategic Mission Week being held in Melbourne. Pray for everyone taking part in this.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January:** Praise God for the relationship that Morling has developed with Vose Seminary, and the opportunity the College has to provide Vocational Training. Pray as students consider vocational training, and as staff prepare for teaching this new course in Semester 1.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – Pray for Global Interaction's Member Care Retreat.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January** – Pray for those people taking part in Global Interaction's Culture and Language Workshop in Melbourne.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – This is Global Interaction's Partnership Week. Pray for a fruitful time together.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January:** Praise God for those who have already applied to study at the College this year. Pray for those who are still considering study – Pray that they will be continually open to discernment from God for what 2020 entails for them.