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institutions will continue to enjoy healthy budgets, nor our ministers be guaranteed stable incomes. We will likely have more limitations placed on our public and organisational activities. There will possibly be less and less walk-ins to our churches and events, at least from particular demographics. It will be important therefore, to maintain our communities, our doctrine, our patterns of life and morals. We will need to be very intentional as we pass on the gospel to our children as they come to adulthood.

Thirdly, we should be actively seeking to create a Christian culture that is holistic and self-sustaining. We no longer minister in a kind-of-Christian Australia. We can’t merely draw on the artefacts of centuries gone by. Our focus cannot afford to be on single issue outcome based activism, but needs to be something broader and with a longer view as well.

This means lots of deliberately Christian thinking, writing and singing, and preserving as many of our Christian institutions and buildings as we can manage. I suspect it also means, more widely, encouraging all Christians to be self-consciously and devoutly Christian in their personal lives. And though an intentional, aware, all-of-life Christian worship may not directly advance the gospel much of the time, it will provide a strong and broad foundation for us, and those who come after us, as we persevere in Christian life, ministry and mission.

Fourthly, we should get really good at doing church, whatever our size, without being clumsy or proud or wasteful or reckless or inward-looking. Being a smaller church will often be the unavoidable reality: less people in the area who are churchgoers or open to the gospel. Where this is true, we will need to learn how to do small church well. This will likely mean we need to have a vision for and a high view of part-time ‘tentmaking’ and ‘lay ministry’.

 And lastly, when we face uncertain and difficult times, we should pray, even as we groan in perplexity. We can confidently pray for blessing on all the aspirations and projects outlined in these articles. We can also dare to pray that the future will be brighter for the cause of the gospel; for revival, for steady renewal, for secular government that facilitates gospel ministry, and for a change from times of trouble to times of fruitfulness.

**Collect**

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured

before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain: give us strength so

to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may

see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

 

St Luke’s Anglican Church Emerald

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*Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.* [Isaiah 40:31]

**Transfiguration Ash Wednesday Lent 1**

 11th February 14th February 18th February

 2 Kings 2:1-12 Isa. 58:1-12 Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 50:1-6 Psalm 51:1-17 Psalm 25:1-10 2 Cor. 4:3-12 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 1 Peter 3:18-22 **Mark 9:2-9 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21 Mark 1:9-15**

**Christian Life, Ministry and Mission in the 2020s:**

**Further Topics for Discussion**

Mikey Lynch – TGC (05/12/2023) **Part 3**

In this final article, I share some more issues that need to occupy our attention more in the coming years.

Firstly, we need to embrace the importance of good governance and healthy institutional life. In a context where cultural demands and legislation require transparency and positive duties of care, we need to work hard at these. Though compliance can be absurdly infuriating and inefficient, there can no avoiding our responsibility. Though it takes us away from the practical work of making disciples and doing good, we need to commit ourselves to doing our paperwork.

Secondly, we need to learn to do life, ministry and mission as a minority subculture, and sometimes as a despised one. Because the change in our culture has not been simple and linear, Christianity remains simultaneously both privileged and marginalised. There will remain certain contexts where we can lean on Christian cultural capital; on shared history, values and worldview. But we need to be aware that these contexts are becoming fewer, and even within these contexts, the credibility and leverage of biblical Christianity is diminishing.

We will need to learn how to come to terms with the fact that we are becoming a small group with minimal influence. How do we face this reality without abandoning a commitment to zealous evangelism, recruitment to full-time ministry and public Christianity? We cannot be confident that our Christian

 **A guide for our prayers during the week**

**Monday**

Our diocese and the gospel

* Bishop Peter
* Other parishes
* Dean for Cathedral – Rev. Ross Nicholson

**Tuesday**

Our church and the gospel

* Children and youth
* Families
* Seniors

**Wednesday**

Our community and the gospel

* St Luke’s Op Shop
* Blackwater
* Emerald Churches

**Thursday**

Our nation and the gospel

* Prime minister
* State and local government
* Religious Freedom legislation

**Friday**

God’s world and the gospel

* Islamisation
* War and poverty
* Persecuted Church
* CMS and ABM

**Saturday**

Ministry and the gospel

* Bible Studies
* Food for Body and Soul
* Wardens and Parish Council
* Rev Daniel and Jenni

**Dates to Remember**

11 February Service in parish hall 4pm

 Food for body & soul 5.30 pm

13 February Parish Council meeting

14 February Ash Wednesday Service 7.30 am

15 February Bible study at 5.30 pm

17 February Wedding at 1.30 pm

25 February Reports for AGM due

10 March AGM

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## The BCA Prayer

##### Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society.

##### Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.

##### Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Direct Debit Giving Information**

**Account name:** St Luke’s Anglican Church

**BSB:** 034-181

**Account No.:** 810 226

**Description:** ‘Giving’

 Today **18 February 25 February**

**Welcome** Alan Alan Alan

**Power Point**  Donna Jenni

**Read** Larry, Nancy Jenni, Dianne Natalie & Russell

**Prayers** Dianne Daniel

**Sunday School** Cate & Noah Cate & Noah Cate & Noah

**Morning Tea** Jenni

**Shop** Nancy, CarolynDonna, Jenni

 Theresa

**Mowing**  Phil