



# Pirrota's Press



*Now the just shall live by faith (Heb 10:38).*

## Prayer Points

- The family in general
- Our ministry
- Life groups
- Marriage Course
- Preaching preparation
- "Introducing God" Course
- Our Muslim friend
- Outreach efforts
- Church Planing meeting on the 20th of July
- Sharon's new job
- Our financial support may remain steady

## Dear Friends,

Amazingly Easter has come and gone and winter has well and truly set-in, even here in sunny QLD. Where does the time go? We want to begin our news update by thanking you for your consistent prayers for us as a family, and for our ministry in Redland Bay. Your prayers have been answered as we look back over the

last 9 months and see how we as World Team missionaries have worked together with the local church to plant a new church that is primarily focused on reaching the unchurched. We have a good group regularly attending and we are growing in vision and direction.

### FAMILY NEWS

**We as a family** love being together in this amazing place we now call home. We are all involved in things that keeps us busy. John with the Church-planting ministry. Sharon has started her first (out of home) job in 16 years. She is working 1 to 2 days a week as a teacher's aid in a school for special needs children, she loves it. Shardi and Dave are expecting another bub in December. Dave continues to study hard at Bible college and also runs a study for the older teenage boy that go to Victoria point Baptist Church. Little Allegra their daughter (and our precious granddaughter) is walking now and is a joy and delight to us all. Nathaniel is close to finishing his electrical apprenticeship, Ashlee is halfway through her first year at Uni, studying Nursing and Josh is in his final year in home Schooling. Busy little bees.

Last week our whole family was invited to the home of a Muslim Indonesian lady for a traditional Indonesian

meal. This lady has been attending our church and is keen to know more about the God we worship. We hope and pray that she continues to seek to understand more as we reach out with Gods love to her.

### Non-Biblical idea of forgiveness

I was saddened the other day as I listened to a startling story on prime time TV News regarding the up and coming "World Youth day", which is going to be held in Sydney this year. The man speaking was an ex-gangster who was converted to the catholic faith and who's life seemed to have been changed as a result. This all sounded good until he shared what had made the greatest difference in his life. He said that it was in the sacrament of confession. This sacrament is a non-biblical teaching, which Catholics include as one of many means of Grace, which can assist in the salvation process. It may seem that confessing our sins to one

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**CONFESSION**

another as James commends is the idea here but it is not.

The religious act that Catholics call confession can only be carried out by a priest and therefore forgiveness can only be experienced by those who have had their sins absolved by the priest and through penance, which are priestly prescribed prayers and rituals by the confessed person who must follow in order to be forgiven. This makes a mockery of the love and free grace open to all who come to Christ without condition. God's word tells us that we are to come with "a broken and contrite heart" (psalm 51:17b). This person and every other catholic needs to know that true forgiveness comes from Jesus alone. Heb 9:22b says: "and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness". Jesus death, burial, resurrection and ascension was the once for all act of deliverance that guarantees our forgiveness, acceptance and adoption. Therefore Jesus became once and for all our priest, sacrifice and King forever. He did it all; we come humbly to the cross of Christ

with nothing to offer but ourselves. This story is sad because this person found a sense of forgiveness but because it was a ritual through a fallible priest and penance its not a lasting forgiveness. Pray that Our Lord will use us to reach out to the many Catholics we know and help them to see that the Saviour of the New Testament doesn't want sacraments or religious duty, just faith in Christ alone.

**Cancer awareness morning tea**

On Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, we as a church had the pleasure of managing the catering for a yearly community event called the Biggest Morning Tea (Hosted by Redland Bay Residents Association). The event is in honor of those who have fought and are fighting their battle with cancer, and fundraiser for research and support. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know local folk personally as we mingled and worked along side many. Praise the Lord for the contacts made in this event and for other doors that may open as a result.

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**MINISTRY**
**Golf Day**

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June (SRCC) South Redlands Christian Community ran an all day ministry and outreach event. We began with our Church service in the morning lead by a group from "Island Breeze" (A ministry of YWAM). They presented songs, dances and a challenging word on missions. We were encouraged as we learned about the changes that have taken place in the world in the last 15 years regarding the rapid growth of Christianity in many parts of the world, and saddened by the decline of Christianity in what once were called Christian countries. We then continued our fellowship with our café hour before lunch. We had 45 to the luncheon and 20 stayed on to play a game of golf.

Pray that our witness to the pre Christians was positive.

**Marriage Course**

SRCC has now run it's 2nd Marriage course with a good group of 10 attending. Many good reports have come from those who were present. We have plans for another course to be held in September. Some from this last group are excited about inviting locals that have shown a real interest. Pray that those who have gained so much from this course will share with their friends

**Introducing God**

We have been so blessed this year as we have studied prayer, evangelism and fellowship in our weekly Life Group. We have been working through some enriching material

from Willow Creek ministry that have been highly valued, as we continue to think of ways to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Heb 10:24).

As a life group for the next term we have decided to invite a pre-Christian friend to an outreach event that we have planned to commence on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. This 7-week series is called "Introducing God" and is an effective ministry for reaching people with the gospel who know nothing about Christianity and the church. Pray for us as we prepare for this series and seek to encourage our friends to attend.



Thanks so much for taking the time to keep up with all our news it is always great to share what God is doing in our lives.

May God continue to lead you as you faithfully love and live for Jesus. John, Sharon, Nathaniel, Ashlee and Josh (Shardi, Dave & Allegra)