

Prayer points for the Gold Coast June - July 2020

COVID 19 has dominated our news media and prayer gatherings across the nation through these last 2 months.

Allow the Holy Spirit to lead as you pray over the issues below:

The list below is extensive. Different people across the city will have different prayer burdens. Don't be overwhelmed by the scope here. Listen for the Holy Spirit and pray into the areas He rests on for you.

The pandemic and government and community responses to the threat have severely impacted our city.

- Hospitality Tourist and Retail sectors hard hit with business closures, job losses and family economic hardship and mortgage and rental stress.
- University Education sector impacted with the loss of international students
- Business downturn with closures, unemployment and redundancies.
- Threats to mental health and family breakdown.
- Frustrations, difficulty and pain for those who have had to delay elective surgery.
- Fear, confusion and isolation for some of our most vulnerable older people and for those at risk because of other health problems.

Praise Points:

- The flattening of the curve. Just one active case now in the city.
- Many families have found this time to be one of reconnection
- Many have found rest from busyness and are adjusting their priorities.
- Many have thought more deeply about things that really matter in life and many are connecting again with Christ and the body of Christ.

This is an enforced time of RESET.

As we look to Christ many exciting possibilities lie ahead.

- Business, Unions and Government are to sit down together to map a new pathway for industrial relations that will enable more effective business recovery.
- Over-reliance on China for our economy has been exposed opening up a rethink on how to develop Australian industry and enterprise
- Over-reliance on international students is forcing a rethink on the current models for University viability.
- Vocational Training is to be stepped up.

As the church comes out of lockdown there is a chance to:

- **RESET priorities** particularly where we now recognize life has been too busy. What is the Lord calling us to take up in this next season? What is He looking for us to lay down?
- **To examine** where we have allowed our comfort, the surrounding culture of the world and our programs to shift us away from our first love.
- God is calling us to **repentance** and into a deeper place of intimacy with Him.

Jeremiah 2:13 *My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, & have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

Our GC House of prayer team has been praying into the following:

- In this time of economic catastrophe we are praying for a greater release of the redemptive gifts that grace the Gold Coast.
 - **Pray for a release of the entrepreneurial grace** that will enable new business enterprises to gain traction, providing employment opportunities.
 - **Pray for the release of innovative solutions** to problems being experienced in the areas of media, education, health, business, and the arts and entertainment.
- Some in our city are finding it difficult to engage with life outside again as the restrictions ease.
- We are praying for the opening up of the city, resisting the spirit that would keep the GC bound.
- **Ps 24: 7-10** Pray that eyes will be opened and hearts soft to receive the King of Glory as He walks the city.
- **Pray:** That the gospel will be proclaimed boldly and without compromise across the Gold Coast bringing salvation and societal transformation. –

Our Father, Lord of heaven and earth, May Your name be honoured in our city - Your Kingdom come - Your will be done in our hearts and lives, in our congregations and on the Gold Coast, as it is in heaven.

Pray that the threat of a second wave and fear of COVID 19 that hangs over the city be dissipated, and that the peace, healing and protection of the Lord will be released to cover the city

GOVERNMENT:

We **pray** blessing over our newly elected councilors and their families.

- For the Mayor – well being, safety and wisdom
- For the new council to work together for the betterment of the city
- For innovative effective programs that meet the needs of the impoverished.

BUSINESS

Praise: Over the past 2 months we have been praying for the following:

- A capacity to handle and find ways to relieve the pressures of business be that long hours, complex legislation, litigation, and other legal & regulatory requirements including environmental concerns.

Through the impact on the business world through the lockdowns, these things are at least on the table as Business, Unions and Government sit down to respond to the economic lockdown.

Continue to pray

- That God will grant Christians in business knowledge and discernment to develop innovation that will succeed in the marketplace.
- For Christians in Business not connected with local church to be brought into places where they will find spiritual covering.

MEDIA:

Issues to pray into:

- As media is changing and disrupted there is an opportunity for the church. Everyone now has a media platform. Through Facebook, Zoom and online platforms the church has been more engaged than ever – some posts from Christians muddy the waters – failure to fact check, conspiracy posts and sarcasm are a few of the problem issues for our witness.
- Community radio is seeing unprecedented growth as the media landscape changes – The church has an opportunity to harness this, but we must take hold of it!
- Christians in positions of influence throughout media need our support and especially God's wisdom.

FAMILY:

Malachi 4:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

Psalm 68:6 (NIV) *God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing;*

Pray:

- Restoration of family values.
- State and National government alignment to support and strengthen family life and protection for the unborn.
- Healthy marriages
- Unity within families
- Single parent families
- Unsaved husbands and wives
- Extended family relationships – grandparents and the establishment of godly inheritance

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pray for :

- Victims and perpetrators
- The services working in this field – police / courts / social workers / teachers / counselors / nurses / DVPC. - for a coordinated united front.
- For discernment and wisdom in dealing with the issue.
- The engagement of the church of the city with programs aimed at understanding, empathy and bystander intervention. (*MATE – In Her Shoes – Circuit Breaker* etc)

- For a saltiness for the church of the city in this arena
- For leadership boldness and general mobilization within the Body of Christ to confront this issue and bring attitudinal and behavioural change

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT:

Pray:

- For Christian performers – bands – to find favour and exposure in the entertainment sphere on the coast as the restrictions are lifted. Pray that through character, word and action they will retain their saltiness.
- For the raising up of fresh alternatives that are inspiring and life giving in art, dance, music etc.
- For creatives in the local church to be encouraged and developed to take their place in the local church and beyond
- The development and multiplication of performing arts schools as outreach opportunities in the city.

RELIGION

Pray:

- For those attending church to know the reality of salvation and to be switched on to the call to be disciples of Jesus. To be salt and light - influencers in their families, community and workplaces.
- The complete breakdown of competition between churches
- For the church of the city to be united in purpose like never before
- Christian schools to raise disciples of Jesus
- For there to be an explosion of salvations in the city.
- For Church leaders in the city to build genuine relationships based in trust, giving one another support and strength. For greater partnerships in ministry to be developed.
- For current and developing leaders to rise to their full potential.
- That the spirit of religion where God is honored with our lips but not our hearts or in our actions would be completely broken
- For other religions in the city to be impacted by the reality of Jesus Christ.
- Financial provision, resource and buildings appropriate to the mission and calling of each congregation to be released.
- Strengthen our ability to outreach to specific people groups in our community.