

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer
7PM Social Soccer

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Today Ian
27th Aidan, Lynne S
28th Patricia

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- * Use Psalm 103 as a guide to praise God with your heart this week.
- * As we enter a new year, please pray for the persecuted church worldwide. Pray that God will be with them and that they will follow Him, no matter the cost.
- * The Uzbekistan authorities have installed surveillance cameras in all places of worship. Pray for Christians feeling afraid when they gather.
- * Pray for Rod and Jan Acreman as they are still struggling with some long term health issues.
- * Pray for kids as they head back to school this week - for good friendships, wisdom, strength and knowledge.
- * Pray for our Christian Schools who are under attack from proposed legislation eroding their rights to teach and uphold the truth of the gospel.

LET ALL THAT I AM PRAISE THE LORD (BLESS THE LORD O MY SOUL)

*"Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me." (Psalm 103:1-2)*

Rich Mullins loved to sing praises to God and he loved to write music that focused on the awesomeness of God. Two of Rich's most famous worship songs were entitled *"Sing Your Praise To The Lord"* (sung and made famous by Amy Grant) and *"Our God Is An Awesome God"* (the most popular worship song in the late 80's to early 90's). On the weekend before his tragic death in a car accident, Rich and his close friend Eric Hauck attended a worship service in a small community church. Eric recalls that the music sounded awful and the singing was out of tune. But he also recalls how Rich was moved to tears by the worship and commented, *"I love to listen to people worship God with their hearts. In my profession we worry too much about being in tune and sounding good. But this is the worship that is the most pleasing to God, because it is so real, and it comes from the hearts of the children of God."*

David was another talented musician who encouraged us to, above all else, have a heart that is overflowing with praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done. He starts Psalm 103 with the declaration, *"Let all that I am praise the Lord. With all my heart I will praise his holy name."* The praise God deserves should never be half-hearted. Throughout the remainder of the psalm, David recounts the blessings of God. Forgiveness of sin, healing, redemption, teaching His ways, being merciful and gracious, being slow to anger and abounding in love. Today we live in a world where life is very busy. It is easy to fill every moment with something. We almost seem to be afraid of being still, reflective, thankful and joyful. But it is good to periodically get away from all of the distractions that surround us. To be still and reflect on your life and on God. What has God done in your life? In your family? The church you are a part of? Within the world around you? Rather than take for granted all that God has done, take the time to join with Rich and with David in praising the Lord for his blessings in your life. And learn to do this, not just occasionally, but by making it a part of your daily life.

God bless, Pastor John.

PROMISED LAND PLAZA

Our last Plaza will be happening in the hall next Sunday morning after the worship service. Kids - make sure you turn up to get your cash so you can go shopping.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Just a reminder to all our church family that we do have volunteers who are able to help with transport or meals in times of need. If you are aware of any help that is needed in this regard please contact Anneli Symons (transport), Annette Harper (meals) or Pastor John.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

One of the exciting new changes we are bringing in for 2023 is a youth aged study group during the last morning service of each month. We will also be looking for more ways in which our dedicated teens can get involved in our worship service and in the ministries of our church.

PLAN A : THE GREAT COMMISSION FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Starting from February 12th we will be doing a 6 week series on discipleship and evangelism which has been put together by Crossover Australia. This will be a preaching and Bible study series with a voluntary training program at the end of the series. More information available soon.

MINISTRY IN 2023

As we come into a new school term our ministries will be starting back up again.

- Wednesday weekly prayer meeting at 9am at the church next Wednesday 25th Jan
- Sunday School next Sunday morning 29th January.
- Monthly prayer meeting next Sunday 29th January.
- Playgroup on Tuesday 31st January and Friday 3rd February.
- Youth Group on Thursday 2nd February.
- Kid's Ignite on Friday 3rd February.

