

Dear friends,

WHY GET OUT OF BED? IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)



The Alpha Course tagline, “is there more to life than this?”, is the question we are asking during our Hope25 series on the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Why get out of bed? Is there actually any meaning in the monotonous treadmill of life? What motivates us? What gives us hope? Where do we find our purpose?

Praise God for a wonderful start to this series by Bishop Paul Barker. During this series we invite you to be inviting! Invite your friends and family to join us and learn more about the hope that we have. It was an immense encouragement to me over Easter to see you doing just that- inviting people to join you, and sharing your hope.

Be encouraged, God is working in people’s hearts and minds by his Spirit. Did you know that the latest NCLS research shows that young people aged 18–34 are the most frequent attenders at religious services. People of all ages are looking for hope. Will we at GWAC be a community defined by our living hope?

‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.’ (2 Cor 5:17-20)





THIS SUNDAY

CHANGE4CHANGE: SUN 4 MAY

Please bring your Change4Change jars on Sunday 4 May. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS- MAY, JUNE

SATURDAY 31ST MAY, 6PM-9:30PM: TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR IGNITE YOUTH MINISTRY

31 MAY 6PM DOORS \$15 TICKETS ALL WELCOME

TRIVIA NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A BBQ, SILENT AUCTION, MINI GAMES AND TRIVIA

Glen Waverley Anglican Church
800 Waverley Road
Glen Waverley 3150 VIC

PH: 9560 7494
gwac.org.au/youth
@ignitesouthgwac

This fundraiser supports our youth and young adults to attend the Ignite youth camp coming up in September. It promises to be another fun-filled evening of trivia, games and a silent auction. Build your team, invite friends and family and reserve your table today. If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, please contact Brad, b.jackson@gwac.org.au.

Graham Stanton of Ridley College, highlights that statistically of all 11-year-olds in church, only 30% remain in church into their 20s. This is a

terribly sad number so praise God that GWAC prioritises our kids and youth ministry! Your attendance and support of our Trivia Night provides us with resources to share the Gospel with our youth, nurture them in faith and disciple them in the years ahead.





We are all excited for the Trivia Night! We hope you can free up your diaries to attend this important event in the life of our church.

Here's the link to get your tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1391408>

Here's the Facebook event invite to share and pass around to your social network:

https://www.facebook.com/events/1023938883010744/?active_tab=discussion

MONDAY 12th MAY: BIBLE OVERVIEW COURSE (From Genesis to Revelation)

In partnership with Ridley College, GWAC is offering a Bible Overview covering the whole message of the Bible in a single subject to deepen your faith and expand your Bible knowledge. The Bible Overview subject is part of the Ridley Certificate, designed and presented by Mike Raiter, a popular and esteemed Bible teacher.

Starting on [Monday 12th May](#) and running for six-weeks, it will help you grasp of the big story of the Bible, and to make more sense of the different Bible readings you may hear at church or read in your own devotions. It also will help you get a sense of how the Bible relates to the world around us. [The course is free of charge. For more information or to register, click **HERE**.](#)



WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE: 'PLANNING MY FUNERAL' SEMINAR

Schedule:

- 11am - Wednesday 10am Service's 'Fellowship Brunch' - all welcome!
- 11.45am - 'Planning my Funeral' Seminar in the auditorium

We encourage everyone to think about their funeral - What will it be like? Where will it happen? Hymns/worship songs, Bible readings, eulogies, participants, hospitality, burial or cremation... does my existing funeral plan need updating, etc? Many things to consider. Good preparation is a gift to your family.

Hosted by Maria Brand and John Harrower, this will be a chance to receive information, have your questions answered and learn what GWAC offers. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbour too.

RSVP by 10th June via Connect Card or Signup-sheet on the Fellowship Area noticeboard. Questions welcome - please send in any query via a Connect Card.





CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & FAMILIES- PLEASE REMEMBER:

- GLOW runs regularly on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month for kids aged 0-3yr (during school term only).
- Playgroup: do you know of a young child who could benefit from a mid-week activity? Ask us about what we do at GWAC!
- ZOOM Prayer sessions: ask Anthony for the monthly dates and link details.

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

[IGNITE Term-2:](#) Term 2 will be a big term for Ignite Youth! Programs have been posted so keep an eye out in your letter boxes. More programs are in the fellowship area notice boards so make sure you grab some to give to the grandkids, neighbours, family or friends.

This term our teaching will be on Genesis 1-11, "Origins" which should give our youth a great foundation for their faith and knowledge of God's big plan for them and the world. Through worship nights and community groups we look forward to unpacking all that God has revealed about himself in His Word. There're some fabulous social nights such as Laser Tag, MasterChef, and Campfire nights planned which as well would be great to invite friends along to.

[VCYC Weekend Convention:](#) A few of our youth have signed up for VCYC at Belgrave Heights on Fri 16th – Sun 18th May. Please pray for safe travels and a wonderful time of learning, friendship and faith at this conference. Please also pray for those from GWAC who are involved in the upfront aspects of the conference- Benny Bickerton, Rachel Hooker, Anthony Yong and Trinity Astley.

[IGNITE Trivia Night:](#) This term also sees our huge Ignite Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser! It's on Sat 31st May 6pm-9.30pm (new time). We're super excited for the Trivia Night and hope you can clear your schedule to be part of this fun and meaningful event.

[Amanth Lynchi, a.lynch@gwac.org.au](mailto:a.lynch@gwac.org.au)





DON'T MISS!

Saturday 3rd May: Train Your Brain (TYB)

- Topic of the Month: "Doodling", Speaker- Bethany Vaughan
- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)

EDI runs on Mondays at 1.30pm in the Hall (stadium).

Saturday 10th May - 'Crafts of Care' - Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoons

- 1.30 - 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies, scarves and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church noticeboard for more details. All welcome (including beginner knitters 😊)

Thursday 22nd May: Mothers Union & Friends

- Date & Time: 1.30pm, MR 1&2
- Enjoy afternoon tea and fellowship.

Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in [Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am](#) for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- SERVE GOD WITH YOUR GIFTS

WORSHIP MINISTRY NEEDS AUDIO VISUAL OPERATORS (TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED)

Are you interested in serving as a musician, audio operator, visuals operator or livestream operator? Would you like to learn more about these roles? If so, please contact our Worship Minister, Roger Nicholson: r.nicholson@gwac.org.au.

8AM SERVICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN HOSPITALITY OR AS A WELCOMER

Are you interested in serving as a Welcomer or Hospitality (serve tea/ coffee) for the 8am service (these roles are rostered)? If you are interested or would like to know more, please email the church office at admin@gwac.org.au.





JOIN OTHER MINISTRIES

As a community we encourage everyone to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ to the glory of God. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do in the building of God's kingdom at GWAC. [Details of ministries that you can serve in, and how to register is at this LINK.](#)

THANK YOU, GWAC!

EASTER BISCUIT BAKE 2025 (PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA)

The biscuits baked by people from GWAC were delivered to the Prison Fellowship office on Monday 7th April. They were mixed with the biscuits baked by other kind-hearted folk, and then put into plastic bags of ten biscuits, together with a small sheet with a typed Christian message.

Next, the bags of biscuits were put into groups of bags for each prison, one bag for each prisoner in that prison. Then they were delivered to the prison, in time to be distributed on the day before Good Friday, i.e., Thursday 17th April. The bags were distributed to the prisoners by Prison Fellowship volunteers.

The prisoners really appreciated receiving these biscuits, the only home-cooked food they receive for their entire sentence. One prisoner I know used to eat one biscuit each day, to make them last. Thanks so much to all of you who baked biscuits this year.

Don Reid

HOPE FOR MONASH LTD UPDATE

Hope for Monash Ltd is a Public Benevolent Institute (PBI) created and owned by GWAC and registered with the Australian Charities Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC). It was established nearly 4 years ago and has been responsible for an annual food drive and also creating the "Let's talk English" classes with our Mandarin Congregation.

Once the GWAC Strategic Plan is finalised for 2025/29, Hope for Monash Ltd will be seeking to identify ministries that will complement the overall mission of our Church.





We are seeking to expand the Board of Hope for Monash Ltd as we prepare for the challenges ahead. The current Board is:

1. Ian Nyholm (Chair and Public Officer)
2. Fiona Dunn
3. Mandy Dennehy
4. Howard Walker
5. Murray Outram
6. Maria Brand (Ex-officio)

We are particularly seeking a person with accounting skills as Hope for Monash Ltd is able to accept tax deductible donations in the future as this ministry expands.

If you feel called to this ministry speak to me or any of the Board members, please contact Ian Nyholm, 0419 103 318, or iannyholm@gmail.com

FINANCE UPDATE (OCT'24-MAR'25)

Income & Expenses:	
Oct24-Mar25	\$
Income	\$519,073
Expenses	\$524,624
Shortfall	(\$5,551)

The shortfall for the first half of the year is \$5,551. We are aiming to breakeven this financial year.

Gift Day will be held at all services on Sunday 29th June, and at the Wednesday service on 2nd July. Our Gift Day target this year is \$70,000. Further details about Gift Day will be available later in the month.

We recognise that some parishioners include their gift as part of their regular giving, and we are thankful for those gifts. We give





grateful thanks for all who contribute financially to the life of GWAC as we seek to support our ministries and missions.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

GWAC has a long history of supporting missions and the Missions Committee in partnership with the missions contact team are excited to develop and expand this ministry.

We are planning a Mission Focus Month in October with speakers at services, a prayer diary, and perhaps even an international dinner! We are also exploring ways to encourage every individual to regularly pray for one missionary and for every connect group to “adopt” one missionary.

The current members of the committee are:

1. Maria Brand
2. Rahul David-Chair
3. Menik Weliane- Secretary
4. Josh Canobi
5. Sue Collier
6. Don Reid

Harold Ratnayake has recently resigned from the committee. The committee will miss his wisdom and input and thank him for his contribution.

BISHOP JOHN HARROWER ON LEAVE

Bishop John is currently on leave and will return to office on Tuesday 3 June. Please pray that he and Gayelene will enjoy a restful & refreshing holiday.

UPDATES- MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Let's Learn English Class

- Every Sunday: 12.15 – 1.30pm, GWAC





Chinese Bible Study Fellowship (for new believers)

- Date & Time: Every First and Third Sunday, 1:30pm– 2.30pm
- Where: Meeting Room 3
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au if you're interested.

ALPHA Course Camp (Mandarin congregation only)

- Date & Time: Every Wednesday morning in May, 10am– 12pm
- Where: Meeting Room 3
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au if you're interested.

Joshua Life Group Bible Study

Every fortnight, the Joshua Life Group gathers to learn the Bible, encourage each other, and grow together in God. Everyone in the Mandarin congregation or community is welcome to join

- When: 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings, 10am–12pm
- Where: Meeting 1 & 2
- Contact: Wei Cheng and Sean Hsien

Chinese Brothers' Fellowship

- When: Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm
- Where: Meeting Room–3
- Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao

Chinese Sisters' Fellowship

- When: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, 7pm–9pm
- Where: Meeting Room–3
- Contact: Wei Cheng Foo, Joanna Zhou, Jing Liu

Chinese Translation Ministry

We now have a Chinese version of GWAC Happenings that is distributed to our Mandarin congregation and others who ask for it. Praise God for the service of our translation team.





UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

Sunday English Services

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series		
4 May	Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11	• Speaker: Brad Jackson
11 May	Ecclesiastes 3	• Speaker: Maria Brand
18 May	Ecclesiastes 7	• Guest Speaker: Michelle Jackson
25 May	Ecclesiastes 9	• Speaker: Maria Brand
1 June	Ecclesiastes 10	• Speaker: Brad Jackson
8 June	Ecclesiastes 11	• Speaker: Maria Brand

Wednesday English 10am Service

<u>'Stories of Hope'</u> from the Gospel according to Luke			
7 May	Luke 7: 36-50	Hope for the Rejected – the Sinful Woman	Speaker: Maria Brand
14 May	Luke 18: 9-17	Hope for the non-religious – the Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Speaker: Brad Jackson
21 May	Luke 18: 18-30	Hope for the Poor/Humble – the Rich Young Ruler	Speaker: Brad Jackson
28 May	Luke 15: 11-32	Hope for the Lost – the Two Sons	Speaker: Maria Brand

Reminder: The Wednesday Service's Bible reading and sermon is livestreamed weekly.

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

*A caring community making,
maturing and mobilizing disciples
of Jesus Christ, locally and globally*

