





Encourage & Equip

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May- June 2023

Please pray...

Praise for:

- Our humble & gentle Lord who offers rest to our souls.
- The post Easter evangelistic event "From Death to Life" & those who attended.
- The BBQ picnic, "A day of joy for all children" & the Ukrainian families that joined us.
- The all clear from Luca's doctors.
- A year of learning & growth for Anna & Luca.
- Our partners in prayer from all over the world.

Prayer:

- That Holy Trinity & Pulse churches would collaborate well & encourage one another over the summer.
- For guidance & wisdom to know what therapy & supports we need to help Luca thrive.
- For direction & discernment as to how to best use & serve during this summer.
- God would continue to equip us to raise Anna & Luca to know & love the Lord.
- That our family would be grounded in God's life-giving Word.

Dear Friends and Family,

We all need rest. Not just a night off (although those are nice too), but deep soul restoring rest. So often we don't know what we really need and we look for rest in the wrong places, binge watching a tv series, endless scrolling on social media, window shopping or mindless eating (or maybe that's just me). But we need to stop and come to the author of rest to truly receive genuine rest. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30) Our prayer is that each of us can come to our gentle and humble Lord, who offers deep rest for our souls. A rest that is grounded in the peace we know when we trust in the gospel that assures us that we are forgiven through what Jesus has already done for us. May we know this rest through all the seasons of life.

Church challenges, collaborations and celebrations

As we have shared previously our local church has been making an effort to revitalise its vision and to put it into action. Whilst it may be slow going, we are encouraged that there has been progress. Most recently we have been a part of two collaborations with another local church, Puls (Pulse). Firstly, there was a post Easter evangelistic event "From Death to Life", addressing the significance of the resurrection in today's world. The second event was a BBQ picnic, "A day of joy for all children", where over 50 Ukrainians joined us for a day of fun, games, good food and fellowship. At both events, Adi and I coordinated children's activities along with helpful volunteers. It has been encouraging to see both churches looking outward, seeking to share and serve those in our community. We also enjoyed our end of year Sunday school celebration with interviews, a recap of some of our lessons, games and ice cream! Over the summer both churches have reduced numbers, so for the months of July and August we will be meeting together and sharing the load of planning and running the Sunday services as well as preaching. Keep Adi in your prayers as he preaches on 23rd July.



Another year draws to a close.....

Yes, it is that time of year again, school is out for the year and summer vacation has started. Whilst it still feels a little strange to be reflecting on the year that has passed at the end of June, it is beneficial to consider the challenges and successes of a season. The end of May marked Luca's final EEG and follow up consultation in relation to the traumatic head injury he sustained in September

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
PSALM 145:4

2022. We are thankful to God that he hasn't sustained any ongoing issues and we were able to cease medication and get the all clear from his neurologist and neurosurgeon. In other Luca related news, whilst he has completed three years of preschool and would normally start formal schooling in September, his preschool teachers expressed concern that Luca was not ready. We also had some concerns, so we followed this up with several evaluations which confirmed that he has various developmental delays. Pray that we would know what therapy and supports are needed to address these delays. He is able to have another year of preschool, but will be transitioning to another teacher. We pray that this transition will be beneficial to Luca and that in this coming year we will see improvements that will help him thrive. Whilst it hasn't always been smooth sailing with Anna's education also, we are very thankful that she has made considerable improvements in many areas over this past school year. Her teacher is very pleased with her progress and continues to encourage her to keep doing her best.



Summer surprises...

Over the past 4 summers, not one has been the same, and this year looks like it will be unique also. Whilst summer camps have been reintroduced, there are certainly less running than in pre-covid years and the same can be said about week long holiday programs. Organisations are running fewer camps and fewer churches are holding programs. There are many reasons due to this fall in summer activities, including the increasing cost of living which means that camps and programs cost more to put on and families have less disposable income to spend on sending kids to camps. Also, as we have reached out to organisations and churches that we are in contact with, they have informed us that they are able to do things 'in house'. Whilst this is greatly encouraging to know that churches and organisations have sufficient members to run their own camps and programs, it has left us asking God how He wants us to use our summer to serve him and bless those around us. We are continuing to talk with other contacts we have and are prayerfully seeking opportunities for this summer.

Partners in Prayer

We were very encouraged to be contacted by one of our supporting churches, Maclean Presbyterian, to have a live video call as a part of their annual mission dinner. It was wonderful to have the chance to talk about sharing the gospel in a cross-cultural context and some current prayer points. With technology at our fingertips, it makes all sorts of edifying partnerships possible. Another opportunity to join us in prayer, no matter where you are in the world, will be Tuesday 18th July at 6pm AEST. We will be joining online the monthly ECM "Partners in Prayer" event to share the joys and struggles of sharing the gospel in Romania and will be spending time in prayer together. If you would like to join us, please register by following this link- ecmaustralia.org/prayforromania. It is sure to be an encouraging evening, we would love to see you there.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing partnership, support, encouragement and prayers as we seek to love, serve and share the grace filled gospel to the community that God has placed us among.

In His Strength,

Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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