



Canaan Prayer Points

December 2022— February 2023



2022 Christmas Manger Scene at Parliament House, NSW, Australia

“Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.” Luke 1:78 NLT

What amazing love! The very Son of God humbled Himself to become a little child. What compelled Jesus to forsake the glory of heaven? What compelled the One through whom all worlds were made to leave the place of endless joy and enter this dark world, becoming one of us?

The answer is compassion. Jesus feels for us in our sinful weakness, the trials and temptations we face (Hebrews 2). His very nature is compassionate and merciful (James 5:11).

We live in an age such as the world has never seen. From day to day the news continues to grow worse, with one disaster swiftly following the next. Sometimes we don’t just see tragedy unfolding on our screens, it happens around us. It is easy to give in to sadness and despair. But Jesus knows all about our pain, and the challenges we face in our personal journey. This is why He wants to meet with us afresh – where we are. We need only pray: All-merciful Lord Jesus, I know You really care and in Your amazing love You can and will help us in our troubles.

Darkness and tragedy are not the final outcome. What a comfort! Are you suffering? One day your path of sorrow will end in the joy of heaven.

This is a joy that will never end, unlike our years on earth. Jesus really cares. If only we would believe it! His heart goes out to us when we suffer. He sees how much pain and fear we are enduring. But He also sees what will come of suffering if we accept it wholeheartedly from His hand. It brings us close to Him here and one day close to His side for ever in the City of God. All heaven awaits our arrival. Its gates will be flung open for those who hold fast to God amid pain and fear. Jesus is calling to us:

*“Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Come to me.
I will refresh your life...” (Matthew 11:28 TPT)*

So just as Jesus was born into adversity to learn about us – let us use our struggles to know Him better. God is with us! Take comfort in this truth and take note of the significance of those incredibly important moments when the Lord reveals Himself to us through the difficulties.

**Death and destruction reign everywhere.
Sing of heaven, and the horror,
hatred and conflict will fade away.
The golden city glows with light,
and there is no suffering there at all!**

Soon you will be there! All suffering will fade away forever!

Only one sound will ring in your heart: -

**“How pure and full of beauty Your countenance is, my Jesus!
That I may behold You forever!”**

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas. We will be praying that wherever you are you will experience a special Christmas as never before!

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Daily Expenses for Canaan

- From all the Sisters we would like to thank everyone for their generosity and faithfulness in supporting the Canaan ministry. We recognise that your giving is an act of worship, and we remain diligent stewards of all that has been entrusted to us, towards our continued commission to reach people and make disciples together.

As we place every bill we receive into the Lord's hands, please continue to pray with us that each expense will continue to be met.

Christmas Outreach

- The Christmas season is a key time of year for outreach and ministry. Please pray that the Lord would give us the ideas and inspiration for our Canaan outreach through our E-mailings, and on social media such as Facebook and our Website.

New Chairs for our Canaan Chapel

- Please pray with us that we can find the right chairs that will fit into our newly renovated chapel; that they will be suitable and comfortable for the different events we will be holding in the chapel.



Maintenance - Guest Accommodation Areas

- Please pray for the repainting & carpet replacement work required on some of our guest accommodation areas. Pray it can be completed before we fully open up again.

THANK POINTS

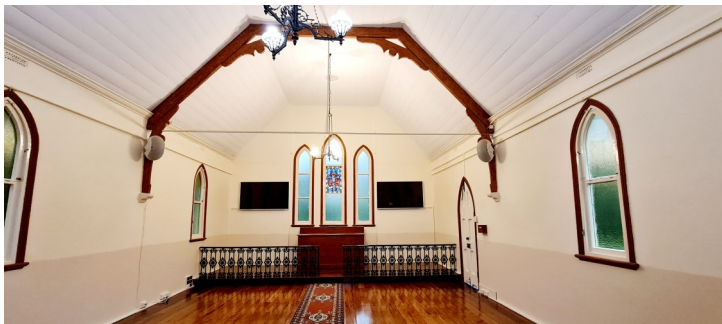
Chapel Renovation

As you may have seen from previous Prayer Point newsletters, we were able to give thanks for the external restoration of our chapel here at Canaan. We are happy to be able to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness in providing all the finances needed for the internal chapel restoration as well.

We would like to share an important testimony regarding the internal restoration of our chapel that was shared with us. *"God taught me over and over about His faithfulness and provision every time I visited Canaan. Whenever I needed some encouragement and my faith strengthened, He would send me to visit you all and then I went away stronger and able to believe for more.*

I have had to live by faith for his provision just as you all have and He never failed to provide. However, recently His provision was above anything I could ever have imagined.

I had been waiting to see how the Lord wanted me to use this money, and when I heard that His house needed repair, I just knew that was what He intended. I have a heart for His house. Oh what a great honour and blessing it is to be able to serve Him and His bride this way."



New Greenhouses

Sometime ago, we were given a donation to be able to purchase a greenhouse to assist us with growing our own vegetables at Canaan, and that we could do this with protection from the outdoor elements and wildlife.

We are happy to share that we have purchased two greenhouses that we were able to put together at Canaan. A concrete foundation border was made so that we could dynabolt the greenhouses to ensure they remained secure.

This has come at the very right time to meet our ongoing needs here at Canaan, and so that we can share with others in need, due to the increased expense in purchasing fresh produce!

FATHER WE THANK YOU!





Adapted from Open Doors

www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/india

The persecution of Christians in India is intensifying in many parts of the country as Hindu extremists aim to cleanse India of the presence and influence of believers.

The driving force behind this is Hindutva, an ideology that disregards Indian Christians and other religious minorities as true Indians because they have allegiances that lie outside India, and asserts the country should be purified of their presence.

This is leading to an often violent and carefully orchestrated targeting of Christians and other religious minorities in many parts of India, including use of social media to spread disinformation and stir up hatred. Increasing numbers of states are implementing anti-conversion laws, which seek to prevent coerced conversion, but are often abused to harass and intimidate Christians with false accusations.

Most church leaders are men, and being a pastor is understood to be one of the riskiest vocations in India. Hindu extremists target leaders and their families to instill fear among the local Christian community.

HOW TO PRAY FOR INDIA

- Give thanks to God that many people are coming to know Jesus after being healed of sickness; pray that this will continue.
- Pray that social media companies will do more to combat the spread of disinformation and hatred on their platforms.
- Pray for continued protection, strength and encouragement for Open Doors partners as they serve the church in India.
- Pray for the parcels of literature sent from Canaan to our contacts in India. Pray for their safe arrival, and honest free distribution of the bookmarks, leaflets and Christmas stars.

A PRAYER FOR INDIA

Lord Jesus,

Help our persecuted brothers and sisters in India to stand strong in their faith and shine as stars in their local communities. Continue to manifest Your love and power through healings and miracles. Guard Your children from harm and equip them for the challenges they face. Provoke social media companies to do more to combat the use of their platforms to spread disinformation and hatred. Soften the hearts of influential local leaders and officials towards Christians, so that greater protection is given to them. Amen.

*JESUS
IS VICTOR!*

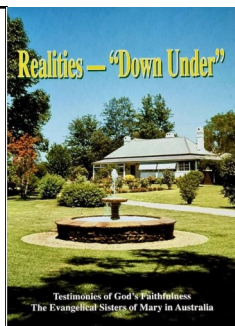
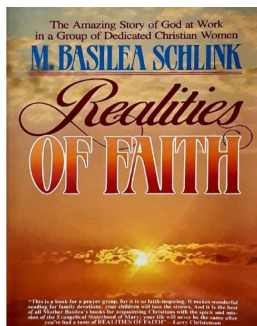
Faith into Practice

- Please pray that when we open up, the Lord will call those He wants to participate in the “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme at Canaan.
- Please pray for volunteers from a variety of countries, so that there is a good multicultural balance in the group.
- We are happy that many young people from overseas have previously taken part in our “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme. Please pray for the former participants, that the Lord would continue to bless them in their spiritual walk and make them a blessing for many others.
- For those former helpers who are praying about their future pathways, please pray that they will discern God’s guidance.

Outreach

- Please pray that the Lord continues to provide innovative ideas for outreach in the wider community during these Covid-19 times.
- Please pray that the Lord would continue to show us new ideas for outreach through our website and other social media avenues.
- We would be grateful if you would support us in prayer for our ongoing ministry of love and reconciliation—especially to the Jewish community, Aboriginals, and the various ethnic communities in the Sydney area.
- Please pray for the e-mailings, literature and DVDs being sent out from Canaan, that God will use them to bring much blessing to people.

- Pray that people will ask for the Canaan publications at their local Christian bookshops, as this helps to make the literature more widely known. Some of the things that Mother Basilea wrote prophetically more than 50 years ago have been dramatically fulfilled in the meantime, and friends are often “re-discovering” the books and finding them so relevant for today. Pray that God will continue to use Canaan’s legacy to change lives, and to help prepare the Bride of Christ.
- Please remember our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many of the countries we serve. We thank the Lord that our internet ministry enables us to have contact with many of them. They are so grateful for the contact, prayer support and literature when it can be sent safely or read online.
- Pray for all of us here at Canaan as we seek to put the Lord first and to be obedient to His leadings. Since our time and strength are limited, pray that we will always know what God wants us to take on and what He would have us say no to, especially moving forward when restrictions lift.
- Pray for continuing protection, strength, wisdom, and unity for everyone at Canaan, and also for the wider fellowship groups of Canaan.
- Please continue to pray for Sister Theophania, who is living in residential care off Canaan.
- Most of all, we pray that as Sisters and Friends of Canaan we will all love our Lord Jesus more day by day, helping to extend His kingdom and prepare His Bride.



GOD HEARS BELIEVING PRAYER

God seeks those who will pray.

In our times God, as a true Father, will show us His help and His wonders as never before—if we call out to Him in deepest need, trust Him, and in prayer *actually reckon upon His help*. For He stands ready to help those who believe in His love, who truly reckon upon His Almighty power, who truly reckon that He still works miracles today.

A whole complex of buildings on the grounds of the Canaan stands today as a testimony to how real God's help was in our business affairs, how literally He answered prayer. These buildings cost great sums of money. We had no savings, nor did we receive any subsidy from official sources. They were built and paid for only through prayer and belief in God's help.



Jesus

*He came not to a throne,
but to a manger.*

*He lived not as a king,
but as a servant.*

*He chose not a kingdom,
but a cross.*

*He gave not just a little,
but everything.*

Holley Gerth

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Text mainly from the writings of Mother Basilea Schlink.

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