MINISTRY REFLECTIONS

from
Term 1, 2023

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Dear Church Family,

It's such a joy to collect and have the first read of the reflections from our various teams from Term 1, 2023. It's so encouraging to see how our great God is at work across our church family.

Why not grab a cuppa and take some time to read through these reports. And I encourage you to pray - pray and give thanks for God's provision and faithfulness to us. And pray specifically for our ministries and leadership as we head into a new term.

Yours in Christ's service,

Peita

Ministry Coordinator

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Leadership Team

REFLECTIONS ON TERM 1, 2023

LT was thankful to have the opportunity to work with John Mark Extension from Tasmania as they conducted a consultancy with the church family at Southern Cross Goonellabah earlier in Term 1. The consultancy (completed by Tim Dyer and Luke Morgan) was done with thoughtfulness, care and incredible technological systems to gather data and reflections quickly and reflect the results live! We are pleased that one member of LT was able to be an inactive participant in the three cohorts from SCG who participated in the consultancy over the weekend. The LT member's inactivity was not due to a lack of interest, but rather to be a participant who simply listened to the feedback of the members of SCG. This was developed as an attempt to allow LT to have a clear window into the thinking of the church family at SCG. LT and Steve Tilley received an immediate reflection from Tim and Luke verbally on the Sunday afternoon at the end of the consultancy. However, at the time of printing, we await the full written report. We expect to have that material available to us for our first meeting in Term 2 to enable LT to explore with the SCG coordination team a future plan for Goonellabah. As you may have already heard, at this point SCG have made the decision to meet for the next phase of their life at our premises in Park Ave. Due to changes in the administrative governance and significant cost at Invercauld House, the last meeting of SCG was completed there on the 2nd of April. Please uphold the SCG coordination group and LT in your prayers as they meet over the coming term to determine the future of SCG.

The month of March proved to be one where I was consistently on the move. A short trip to Sydney to meet with the Moore College team, followed by a final intensive with Reach Australia in Surry Hills and then the hosting of the Moore Team in the final week of March. It was a frantic, but very fruitful month. Let me end with a reflection from a member of the Moore Team:

"*What joy it has been to share in gospel partnership and witness God at work in Lismore through Southern Cross! You have opened our eyes to a model of authentic intergenerational ministry and opened our hearts to regional community living. Thank you for blessing us by letting us visit you this past week. We are so excited to keep hearing about God's work in, through and for the church and will keep praying for gospel growth in Christ as you continue to labour in love for his glory!*"

Stew, on behalf of LT

(pictured above L-R: Ian Coutts, Stew Playsted, Scott Herd, Jon Mison, Wayne Brooks & James Ritchie)

Committee of Management

REFLECTIONS ON TERM 1, 2023

Hi Church Family,

I'm looking forward to spending time with you all in John's gospel for the rest of the year. I love walking with Jesus through it and being deeply challenged along the way. I love seeing how wonderful, amazing, genuine, caring, challenging, powerful, sacrificial, and loving Jesus is (amongst so many other things). I'm particularly impacted by Jesus' teaching to his disciples at the Last Supper (John 13-17) and Jesus' new commandment in John 13:34-35 is both wonderful and seems so difficult - *'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'*

Yet as I reflect on Term 1 in 2023, I can't help but think of the love we have for each other as a church family. We can always grow in our love because Jesus has set us the perfect example and we're all following Him together, but I've been encouraged as I have reflected on our love for each other. I've seen love demonstrated through serving, caring, supporting, praying, hard work and so many forms of generosity – both inside to our church family and outside to our community at large, as well as with the visiting Moore College team. This has been done both at SCG and at SCPC. We have so much to give thanks to our loving and great God, don't we?!

I've also been able to witness this more closely in the Committee of Management. This year the team is made up of Dani Braganca, Dylan Brooks, Louise Maxwell, Bronwyn Mitchell, Scott Patch and Tim Roberts, along with the members of Leadership Team. The CoM team have generous gospel hearts that continue to grow. They love our church family, our ministry workers, our leaders and our 'neighbours'. They continually desire to reach Lismore and the surrounds with the good news of Jesus. Last term they endorsed another bold budget that seeks to share out the good news of Jesus (which our church family also generously endorsed at the AGM), they've also sought to support our Vision Coordinators through mentoring support, help our church family be well resourced with The Word 1-to-1, exploring the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator to be readily available at all times and sought to practically love our neighbours around Park Ave with property upkeep and also better maintaining the land between Wyrallah Rd and Brewster St.

We're part of a loving church family seeking to love Jesus and follow Him! Looking forward to the rest of the year with you all brothers and sisters.

In Christ,
Ian (on behalf of Committee of Management)

YOUTH

ESTD 1998

REFLECTIONS FROM TERM 1, 2023

Friday Nights

Youth has been full of energy this last term! It can sometimes take a while for youth to heat up due to new leaders and new people around at the start of the year, however, this was not the case. The youth have been super energetic and welcoming. We have seen many new faces and each week we consistently see about 40 youth (plus leaders)! Everyone has had lots of fun playing games, growing friendships, and most of all talking about our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We also enjoyed the company of the Moore College team in the last week of term and were thoroughly encouraged by their presence! Some other highlights from the term include the big games night and the Zooper Doopers we ate for supper.

Youth Convention

This term we held our first Youth Convention since 2019. This weekend away for youth across the Northern Rivers was held in Ballina and was lots of fun. We worked our way through the book of 1 Peter and learned about how we are elect exiles here on Earth. God has chosen us, and we are to live differently from those around us. We also enjoyed some beach games, wide games, and a seminar on how to tell your friends about Jesus. Make sure you come next year!

Leaders

This year we had some new youth leaders join the crew. Amelia M and Ben C joined the team and have wonderfully contributed throughout the term forming great relationships with the youth. We are eager to watch them both continue to grow and serve as youth leaders.

Term 2

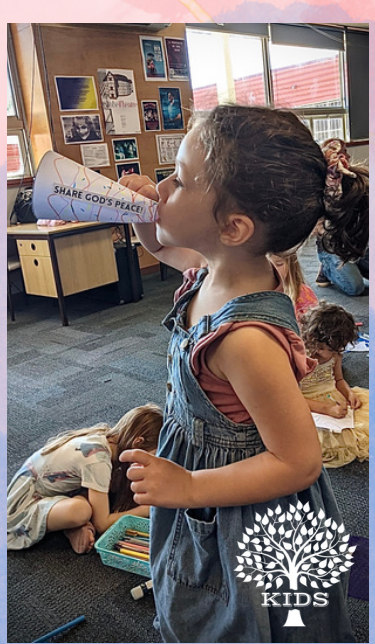
Next term many awesome experiences await us all, both youth and parents! We will be having a Pizza and Parent night on our second week back (12th of May). We have also begun planning our annual youth camp Safari and will be providing details for that throughout the term - the dates are the 8th-12th of July so please put it in your calendars!

SCPC and SCG Kids Reflections on Term 1, 2023

Jason has loved joining the kids team and seeing the joy in the kids at SCPC this term.
We took a dive into the book of 2 Corinthians and discovered that we, just like Paul, can find comfort in Jesus. We were reminded that the suffering and bad things that happen won't last forever but that Jesus and his kingdom will. We also saw that everything, even our bodies, will pass away in this world but God has a far better future prepared for us in heaven. Paul reminds the Corinthians that God has made peace with us through Jesus and we can share this good news to our friends and family so they too will join us in glory with Jesus!
We loved having the Moore College team along - hanging out with them across the week at soccer, within our GCs and in the Kids Program was a blast! They encouraged us to see Jesus as our friend, reminded us that God forgives and welcomes us back to him, and challenged us to speak about him even when it's hard.
Please pray and give thanks for:

- Our kids team - that they would be comforted and refreshed by the Spirit over the holidays.
- Our kids - that they would find comfort in Jesus and put their identity in Him, knowing he will last forever.
- Praise God for loving us unconditionally and giving us peace through Jesus. Pray that we would share this truth boldly with those around us.

In Christ, Jason and Eliza



mum &
me time

REFLECTIONS ON TERM 1

We meet at Park Ave, 10am each Tuesday during the school term for children aged 0-5yrs. Please invite family and friends from the community, we'd love to share life and Jesus with them!

This past term at Mum & Me Time we looked at The Very Hungry Caterpillar. I think by the end of the term all of the children could have told it in their sleep! We had the great opportunity to share the Easter story on our last week, make Easter baskets and do an Easter egg hunt. This term we have had regular community mums and multiple community grandmothers who are enjoying companionship for themselves and their grandkids.
It has been wonderful to have them and also for them to connect with our beautiful mentors, Sue and Lyn.

Please be praying for the Mums and children who heard the true story of Easter - that they would know the lengths that Jesus went to for their salvation and the joy it is to be part of God's family. Please also pray for A, as she is due to have her baby soon - that we, as SCPC mums, would love and support her well as their little family grows.

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