

MINISTRY REFLECTIONS

from
Term 3, 2023

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**SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
growing followers of Jesus

Dear Church Family,

I can't believe another term has flown by so quickly! It's such a joy to collect and have the first read of the reflections from our various teams each term. It's so encouraging to see how our great God is at work across our church family.

Why not take a quiet moment to read through these reflections? 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 the final term of 2023!

Yours in Christ's service,

Peita

Ministry Coordinator



Leadership Team

REFLECTIONS ON TERM 3, 2023



How amazing it is that we have just celebrated 25 years of SCPC ministry in Lismore. Celebration Sunday was a great opportunity to share together and remember the great things that God has been doing in the life of our church family over this time. When the children were lining up on the field in age order, a group of us wondered what it would look like for the whole gathering to line up in order of when they started at SCPC. That would be interesting, but it wouldn't show the full picture of those who have come, had their lives changed, grown and served both here and in other locations.

This is a timely reminder that the mission goes on to bring the gospel to the people of Lismore and beyond. It is not a time to rest on what has happened over the last 25 years, as marvellous as that has been, but to be a part of continuing to bring Jesus to our community as we love each other, our neighbours, and our community in general while always standing firm in our faith.

One of the major considerations for the Leadership Team this year has been for the future of Southern Cross Goonellabah. There have been many conversations, expressions of uncertainty, grief and gratitude, but now that the decision to combine the two congregations has been made, we move into a different phase. We value your prayers for wisdom that this process of combining will be done well, that people will feel welcomed and accepted, and that the gospel mission to Goonellabah will continue.

In late October the Leadership Team will go on our annual extended weekend away. It gives us time to spend looking at the big picture when not surrounded by our usual day-to-day activities. It has been hard to focus too much on future planning over the last three years due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and floods. Just keeping things going became the priority. Please pray that we will work together to form a gospel-centred vision for ministry in Lismore over the next five years. We trust that God will continue to grow his kingdom here in Lismore and beyond and are thankful and humbled to be part of that.

Jon, 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 3, 2023



As a member of CoM, I enjoy being a part of a team where everyone wholeheartedly acknowledges that every blessing and possession originates from God.

Each meeting is full of numerical figures, profound decisions, and diligent contemplation on effectively managing the resources our church has been bestowed with by God.

As a committee, we continue to respond to the many needs of our properties. Our rental properties both continue to be in the hands of insurance companies. Please be praying for answers to our many unknowns, particularly in relation to timeframes, and that we would be patient as we wait for God's timing, particularly with 99 Brewster Street.

Our Park Ave building continues to be investigated as a possible insurance claim regarding the shade sails and interior leaking as a result of damage to the roof. The committee also approved the funding for the repair works to make the toilet block usable during wet weather again.

We spent time at our September meeting looking ahead and ensuring our compliance with future Human Resources and financial requirements. We also thanked God for his provision and the continued generosity of our church family.

Our budgeted weekly giving is \$9,344. As at 9 September 2023, weekly giving received had been an average of \$9292.99 per week. In total year to date, we are \$1836.39 behind budget. Please be praying for continued generosity and that our church would continue to reach the lost of Lismore and surrounds.

Much love (and on behalf of CoM)
Tim

CoM is made up of Leadership Team along with (pictured L-R above) Dani Braganca, Dylan Brooks, Louise Maxwell, Bronwyn Mitchell, Scott Patch and Tim Roberts.

REFLECTIONS FROM TERM 3, 2023

Safari

During the Winter holidays, the youth went on Safari (our annual youth camp).

It is always a highlight of the year and Safari 2023 was no different! As we spent time in Old Bonalbo, The Big Banana, and Scotts Head we had lots of fun. Also, as we looked through the book of Daniel, we learnt that God is with His people so we can take heart as we live in this world.



Year 6:

Year 6 will attend each week in Term 4 at our youth gatherings. This is a great transition for those in year 6 as they join us 'full time' before they start High School. Youth will provide opportunities to make friends, learn more about Jesus and have fun!

TO NOTE FOR TERM 4

Launch - 20 Oct

Parent & Carer Paddle Pop - 20 Oct

YC1 - 10 Nov in Lismore, 6:30 (pizza)



Prayer:

- Year 6 transitioning well as they join each week in Term 4.
- For the friends who were invited and joined us for Double Up Friday this past term!
- For Leaders to feel refreshed and re-energised over the holiday break.





FROM TERM 3, 2023

A time of Joy and Thankfulness

This term we held a World Cup event.

Goals were scored, tackles made, and goal celebrations were epic! Amongst the many soccer balls and zigzagging runs we were reminded that Jesus is the 'game changer' - he turned death to victory so that we can truly celebrate because our future is secure in Jesus Christ.



WOW! Moments...

We have been noticing many moments where an older child has just gone and helped a younger child (e.g., helping with craft or just sitting with them to help them focus). It is so amazing to see how these little humans have such big hearts for others.

And, how good was it to see the kids using words and actions to memorise 1 Thessalonians at Celebration Sunday!

Pray with us:

Continued enthusiasm for our leaders to faithfully teach.

For the hearts of the kids to be grounded in the knowledge of the Bible.

For the kids to be confident in talking about Jesus with their friends.



mum &
me time



About us

Mum and Me meet at Park Ave, 10-11:30am each Tuesday during the school term for Mums and their children aged 0- 5yrs. Please invite family and friends from the community. We'd love to share life and Jesus with them.

In term 3 at Mum and Me we spent 10 weeks looking at God's big world. We did a different country each week and had a few mums with different cultural links take part in creating a craft and reading a book for that week. It was great to see the kids enjoy the story and hear about different cultures. We finished off the term with an international morning tea with sushi, scones and fruit!



We have also been blessed to have Lyn and Sue as mentors this term and have appreciated the extra set of hands. We have had an influx of new community mums so please pray as we seek to show Jesus' love to them. Sue has unfortunately had to finish up as mentor this term and she will be missed!



PLEASE PRAY:

- Thanking God for the term of good weather.
- For the new mums coming through our gates that they will feel welcomed and loved.
- For our team as we plan term 4 and Christmas events.
- For our team as we continue to love and support the mums that come to Mum and Me each week.