

Cell Groups at Penshurst Anglican Church

Our church calls itself a 'cell church', built upon the Biblical idea that the primary way that God's people can truly live out the Gospel is through small, intentional communities (called 'cells'). It is here where Jesus is given a far more intimate opportunity to do His work of transformation.

English-Speaking Cell Groups/	Day/time/frequency
Bart VandenHengel	Tuesday/ 7:30pm/weekly
Gaye Bishop	Tuesday/ 7:30pm/ fortnightly
Cliff Seeto	Weds / 7:30pm/ fortnightly
Megan & Jeff Powys	Thursday/ 7:30pm/ weekly
ReCharge! (University+ group)	Thursday/ 7:30pm/ weekly
PAC Youth Group	Friday/ 7:30-9:30 pm/ weekly
'The Quiet Place' prayer meeting	Sunday/7pm/weekly

If you are interested in joining one of these cells, you can either talk directly to one of the group leaders or to Bart for more guidance on which cell will fit you best. You may even want to start your own!

Sunday School:

Our Sunday School program runs during the 10:30am services, and only during school term. There are four classes available, based roughly on a child's age:

- Ages 3-5 Coordinators: Karen Fu (in upper hall classroom 1)
- Ages 6-7 Coordinator: Hua (Nancy) Feng (in basement of hall)
- Ages 8-10 Coordinator: Bart VandenHengel (in library)
- Years 11-12+ Coordinator: George Chan (in upper hall classroom 2)



Penshurst Anglican Church

2 Carrington St, Penshurst, NSW 2222

Pastors: Bart VandenHengel (English speaking congregations)

Aisen Ju (Mandarin speaking congregation)

Sunday Services: (8am) Prayer Book Service w/ Holy Communion

(10:30am) Bi-lingual Celebration service in English and Mandarin

Contact details:

Bart: 9580-1217 or 0400-282-848

Aisen: 9585-2943 or 0433-315-745

Website: www.penshurstanglican.org

Internet Banking details: Westpac

Penshurst Anglican Parish St Johns

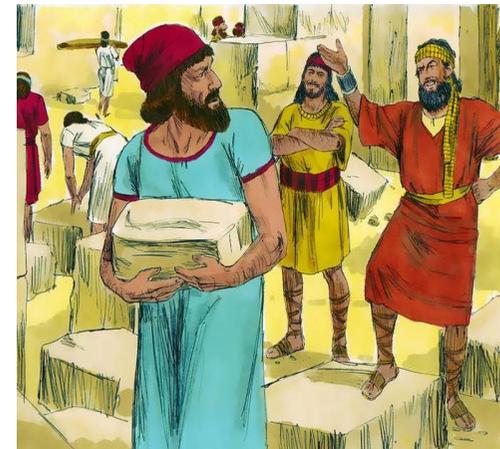
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The Voice

Penshurst Anglican Church

We welcome you to our celebrations this morning! If you are a visitor here today, we pray that the Triune God of grace will richly meet you where you are, in the fellowship of His people here at PAC. We also invite you to make yourself known to us through the visitor forms found in the pew holders.



Lessons for Today's Church from Ezra and Nehemiah

Lesson Four: "Standing Firm on the Essentials"



Sunday, 19 July, 2015

Preaching program

New Sermon Series:

"The Church in Today's World– Lessons from Ezra and Nehemiah"

The purpose of this new series is to reflect on the dangers, challenges and struggles faced by God's people back in the 5th century BC and apply it to our life as God's people in today's world.

July 19	<i>Lesson Four Standing firm on the Essentials</i>	Ezra 4:1-5, 24 Matthew 5:13-16
July 26	<i>Lesson Five: Celebrations and Ceremonies</i>	Ezra 6:14-22
Aug 2	<i>Lesson Six: Ezra brings the Law of Life</i>	Ezra 7:1-12

Our new Bishop, Peter Lin, will be formally 'Welcomed' in a ceremony at Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown on Thursday, July 30 (7:30pm). The Archbishop invites all the churches in the Georges River Region to attend.

The image is a promotional poster for the SIMWORLD CONFERENCE. It features a central illustration of a mountain range. Text on the left includes 'SIMWORLD CONFERENCE', 'Sydney - 25 July', 'Melbourne - 1 August', and 'REGISTER ONLINE www.sim.org.au'. Text on the right includes 'UNREACHED BUT NOT UNREACHABLE' and a quote: 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...' Isaiah 52:7.

10:30 Combined Worship Roster

Date	Welcome	Music Team	Prayer Leaders	Bible Reader	Counters
Jul-19	Andrew U., Kim	Team 5- Emily, Byron, Aisen, Bart, Cici, Lucy Z, Gaye, Louise	Holy Communion	Michelle	Doris, Geoff
Jul-26	Steve, Peter	Team 1- Joy, Bing, Sam, James, Lucy, Millie, Michelle H.		Kat	Geoff, Marilyn
Aug-02	Margaret, Marilyn	Team 2- Stephen, Bart, Aisen, Jennifer, George, Tina, Selina	Holy Communion	Bing	Marilyn, Cliff

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sat., July 25	SIMWorld Missions Conference
Thurs., July 30	Welcome to Peter Lin- Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown (7:30pm)

Pray for 'Muslim-Background Believers'

In Western China, anyone who converts to Christianity from Islam faces strong persecution from their families and communities. For this reason, many remain silent and live as secret believers. In spite of the danger, sisters Amanda and Bella (names changed for security) decided to step out and share Christ with their family and community.

"Our father passed away when we were little. Our mother shouldered the family burden until she got really sick," Bella said. "A neighbouring couple was kind enough to visit my mom regularly and spend time with us. We found out that they were Christians." This couple shared the good news with them and their mother decided to follow Jesus. "She got better and better. I never saw her so alive. She dyed her hair and took some fun trips with her friends," Amanda said. "But one day she never woke up. We believe the Lord provided an eternal place for her to rest. She sacrificed so much for us."

According to Muslim culture in China, Amanda and Bella came under the protection of their uncles after both of their parents died. "My mother has five brothers. If we had told them what happened, they would have definitely blamed her death on our new faith. This is especially true of our oldest uncle who used to be the head of the local Islamic association." And so, the sisters agreed to remain silent and attended church in secret.

As years went by and their faith grew stronger, they felt increasingly convicted to share the gospel with their uncles. They knew the cost might be high, but they knew they could no longer remain silent. When they went to visit their third uncle in a neighbouring city, they greeted and hugged him as usual. Everything was normal until near the end of their visit. During dinner, their uncle unexpectedly asked: "Do you still hang out with those Christians?" Amanda looked at Bella before replying, "Yes." Silence filled the dining room, and then Amanda began to share how Jesus had changed their lives. Their uncle immediately stood up and waved the knife at us. "He accused us of being deceived by the Christians and complained about all the shame we had brought to the family," Bella said.

The news of their faith spread quickly. Not only did all of their relatives know, but also their neighbours. Amanda and Bella went home after visiting their uncles, relieved that their faith is no longer a secret. "They have scolded us. They might hit us next," Amanda said, "but we are glad that we finally told them." "Please pray for us; pray that we will be courageous to face what's coming next," Bella said.

Among the estimated 85 million Christians in China, there are only a few thousand Muslim-background believers (MBBs) living in western China. They face intense persecution from their own family, friends, and neighbours. Conversion to Christianity is seen as a disgrace to one's family and betrayal of the community. If Christians are discovered, they run the risk of being disowned by their families and thrown out.

Prayer: Father, we do not know what Amanda and Bella are facing today, but You do and we lift our hearts in prayer on their behalf. Thank You for the courage Your Spirit has granted them. May You continue to give them faith and strength to "stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." (Philippians 1:27) Soften the hearts of their family and neighbours to turn to You, see Your glory and praise the name of Christ! In the name of Jesus who is preparing a place for these precious ones in glory, Amen!