

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

The issue of suffering is the most frequently raised objection to the Christian faith. There is global suffering through natural disasters, community suffering through mass incidents and individual suffering through personal losses. Suffering is an acute problem for the Christian because we believe in a good and powerful God.

Suffering was not part of God's created order (Genesis 1-2). Suffering only began after man rebelled against God. God could have stopped the sin, but He loves us and wanted to give us free will. Love is not love if it is forced—it can only be true love if there is a choice. Suffering continues because of the disobedience of men and women.

Suffering is never good in itself but God uses it for good, it draws us to Jesus. People often share that it was only through their fear and pain that they came to Christ. We also mature as Christians as we experience trials, God prunes us to be more fruitful. God uses suffering to bring about good purposes even though, at the time it is hard to see it clearly.

We abused our God-given freedom yet God used that to give His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins, once and for all. The cross is ultimately a victory because it holds the key to salvation. And this leads to eternal life where there will be no more suffering. Even though the world seems a tangled web, GOD IS LOVE.

And we celebrate this love, at this time of year—CHRISTMAS, when we rejoice in the gift of God's Son JESUS CHRIST.

The Pastor Is In

You can catch me at the Church on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
OR phone my mobile on 0423 375 714
to make a suitable time to get together.



Latest News

Prayer Points: Please pray for God's healing presence upon:
Jan and Keith, Jean, Lesley, The Rose Family, Helen and Andrew.

Invitation to our Sunday Family Christmas Service.

Sunday 21st December. Please help to promote this service. We are going to sing great carols, have a good Australian story where the children (and keen adults) can use the hand puppets to assist and then a segment of a good Children's DVD called "Silent Night" about the colt that carried Mary.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Prayer Group—Plan to start up a small prayer group possibly Monday or Friday mornings, on a monthly basis. To start in February. Those interested, please let Judi know.

Weekly Single Parents Group —to be held in the hall Monday afternoon from 1pm—3pm. This will be a combined effort supported by interchurch group. Children will be catered for. Starting date to be confirmed. Gold coin donation to cover costs

Games Afternoon—Friday afternoons from 1-3.00pm in the Hall. Commencing February 6th, \$4.00 per session.

Monthly Family Night —From March 28th 2015 (last Saturday every month) all are welcome outside under the Pergola, to share with others in a light meal, meet new friends, chat about life, faith or managing in today's busy world. This will be open to all, and children will be catered for. This is an alternative opportunity for those who may not be as comfortable attending our traditional Sunday service. Gold coin donation to cover costs.

Chelsea Church of Christ Services

CHURCH SERVICES 10 am Sunday

21 December 2014

SPECIAL ALL AGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

All welcome to actively participate, carol singing, story telling with hand puppets and short DVD about the colt who carried Mary.



28 December 2014

Speaker: Judi

Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Theme: Jesus goes to the Temple

1 January 2015

Speaker: Judi

Reading: John 1:10-18

Theme: The Word—from the beginning

CHILDREN'S SERVICES 10 am Sunday

Sunday School will recommence on February 1st for out Special Back to School Service.

Children will share in this Family Service as we render Special Blessings for the start of their new School Year.



CHelsea CHURCH OF CHRIST & CARE WORKS PROGRAMS

Free Breakfast

(In partnership with Chelsea Uniting Church)

Wednesdays: 8.00 a.m.—10.00 a.m.

Come and enjoy a hot breakfast with lots of friendly people
A restaurant-style experience and a great place to meet people
Small donations are most welcome

Chat and Chew

Thursdays: 11.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m.

Visitors can meet over a cuppa and snacks in the foyer.

Donations welcome.

Ladies in the Shed

Every Monday 9.30am — 12.00pm

Cost: \$4.00 per session (\$30 annual membership)

For more information please contact the CareWorks office on
9773 0301 (9am — 12pm Monday — Thursday)

Children's Holiday Programs

Various themes offered throughout school holidays. Morning and afternoon sessions. Gold coin donation.

Bookings essential as numbers capped at 20.

Topics include: games, art/craft, the environment..

Copy and Go Printing

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.00am—2.00pm

Chelsea CareWorks can do your photocopying and printing of newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, flyers, posters and business cards.

Contact the office for a quote on 9773 0301

Blantyre Computer Cafe

Tuesdays and Thursday 1.30pm—3.00pm

A program for people to meet, socialise and share brickwalls and how to break through.

Cost: \$5.00 per session (contact office to book in)

Enquiries: 9773 0301 or visit www.chelseacareworks.org.au

REGULAR WHAT'S ON

MONDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladies Day Single Parents Group 	Ladies in the Shed 9.30-12.30pm Hall—1.30-3pm— starting Starts in March
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS Mornington in the Mens Shed Music for Mommies 	Men's Shed 9-12 noon 9-12noon
WEDNESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Breakfast Men's Shed 	8-10am 9-2pm
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Shed AA in the Chapel 	9-2pm 11am
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study for Women CS Aust Afternoon Games 	10-11am Annexe Men's Shed 9-12noon Hall 1-3.30pm Starts Feb 6th 2015
SATURDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Night 	Hall and Pergola 6-8pm Starts March 28th 2015
SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Service Childrens Program 	10-11am followed by cuppa

Church and Careworks office 3-5 Blantyre Ave Chelsea

Office: 03 9773 0301

Minister: Judi Turnham 0423 375 714

Shed Ministry: Keith Holt

See phone list for contact details

Website: www.chelseachurchofchrist.org.au