

BPC COMMUNITY CONNECT

BURWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Education, *not* Indoctrination

With education standards on the decline and NSW falling behind nations such as Singapore and China, many parents are rightly concerned about their children's future.

Recently, a panel of experts has been working to produce a National Curriculum for all students from K to Year 12.

But if you were hoping that the new curriculum will be the answer to our nation's education woes, you'll be sorely disappointed.



Local Council Elections in September

Did you know that an election for our local council members will be held later this year?

There are 128 local councils in NSW—of which 126 councils will be holding elections on Saturday, 4 September 2021.

In addition to electing new representatives, Burwood Council will also elect a new mayor. Burwood Council is composed of seven councillors, including the mayor, for a fixed 4-year term of office.

The mayor is directly elected while the six other Councillors are elected proportionally as one ward.

Aside from the fact that it's failing in even its most basic function, which is to teach numeracy and literacy (thanks largely to a stubborn attachment to progressive 'child directed' as opposed to 'teacher directed' learning) I believe the curriculum is, as a whole, morally unsound.

The main problem is that it presents an unrelentingly depressing worldview which is based upon identity politics.

Research from Dr Bella d'Abrera into the radical new National Curriculum found it will remove all references to Christianity from Australian schools, as well as all study of Ancient Greece and many other parts of the history of Western Civilisation.

Our children will instead be taught Australia's settlement was an "invasion" and be told that Australia Day and ANZAC Day are "contested."



Education results in NSW are dropping below global competitors.

Our government needs to ensure our schools educate, not indoctrinate, our children. Parents and citizens need to speak up now. The National Curriculum Review is currently inviting public responses, up until the end of July.

Jesus said, "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin." (Luke 17:1-3.)

The current makeup of Burwood Council is as follows:

- Australian Labor Party 4
- Liberal Party of Aust 2
- Ind. Community Voice 1

For more information about our councillors, see the Burwood Council website.

**Voting is compulsory
for people who are
enrolled to vote in the
Burwood local
government area.**

The Painful Truth

Starting on June 6 and continuing through to August 1, Rev David Maher, minister of Burwood Presbyterian church, will be teaching a series called 'The Painful Truth'—based on the book of Judges, from the Bible.

The book of Judges speaks honestly about many issues that confront us in this broken world of ours: fear and doubt, unfaithfulness, war, violence, parent-child relationships, human sexuality, power, religious confusion, and much more besides.

The painful truth is that even when we do our best, we still fall short. The desires of our hearts don't always work for the good—and we end up hurting the people we love.

What can be done about it?

The book of Judges forces us to confront the terrible cost of ignoring and rejecting God.

The good garden that God made in the beginning has become overrun by weeds. The Bible calls it 'sin'.

But the good news is that despite all this, hope still remains. God knows what we need and he is able to lift you up from the pit of despair.

'The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD ... but when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer...'
(Judges 3:7, 9)

Christians believe that Jesus is the Deliverer God who both judges and saves. Amidst all the messiness of life, he calls us to turn back to Him; and to find our peace, comfort, forgiveness and hope in Him.



Source:
Spectator
Magazine

Thinking About Freedom

One of the great privileges of living in a country like Australia is the freedom we enjoy.

But this freedom is fragile— and today it is under threat of being lost or surrendered in the name of 'public safety' and social control.

Historically, the freedom of an individual was largely assumed. That is, in Australia: "You were free—except for those serious vices that we wanted to limit or curtail for the good of our society."

This has been the genius of Australian freedom up to the present day: We have never needed a Bill of Rights. Instead, we have simply legislated against those evils which we wanted 'freedom from' – like murder, or theft, or perjury.

Everything else was regarded as a 'freedom for': Freedom of expression, freedom of thought, freedom for life.



This understanding of freedom arises out of a Judeo-Christian worldview in which freedom is a gift— not a right.

This is revolutionary! In the Bible, God's people experienced slavery in Egypt. They had no freedom. They had no rights. But they had the promise of God to sustain them. Then after 400 years God said, 'Let my people go!'

So the Exodus became the pattern that defined the life of God's people—and it leads us straight to Jesus, who said:

'He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
(Luke 4:18-19)

Such freedom is a gift to be treasured. It is very precious: our forebears fought in two World Wars to protect it.

Interested?

JOIN US AT CHURCH THIS SUNDAY AT 9:30AM TO FIND OUT MORE!

Sadly, today there are many people who think it would be better if governments (and lawyers) controlled every aspect of life from the cradle to the grave—all in the name of 'protecting' our freedoms.

They pretend that they are doing a good thing when they enshrine our freedoms (such as religious freedom) in law.

In fact what they are doing is putting freedom in a cage, to keep it under their control.

This is very dangerous to our democracy. For those who dare to disagree, the threat of being cancelled, sacked, and silenced is very frightening.



We need to defend the old idea of freedom as a gift. As the Apostle Paul would say, 'Against such things there is no law.'

(GALATIANS 5:23)

I believe there is wisdom here for our present times.

Christians Facing Persecution in Nigeria

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has warned of a "Christian genocide" if the government of Nigeria cannot protect Christians from Islamic terrorism.

"Nigeria is quickly becoming a 'killing field' for that nation's Christians," said committee member Gary L. Bauer. "Nigeria's government seems unable or unwilling to stop the growing carnage.

"In large swathes of the country, Christian parents fear for their children every day when they go to school. Those children are targeted by savage Islamists who kidnap and force them to renounce Christ or face death.

Every time a Nigerian Christian family worships at a church, they are painfully aware it may be the last thing they do on this earth.

"Radical Islamists are committing violence inspired by what they believe is a religious imperative to 'cleanse' Nigeria of its Christians. They must be stopped."

Since 2015 extremist violence has killed at least 8,400 Christians. Thousands of people have been maimed, kidnapped or had their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and more than two million have been displaced.

Source: Barnabas Fund



Armed gunmen raided a Sunday morning service on April 25 at Haske Baptist Church, killing one and kidnapping at least four others.



Easy English and Bible Classes

Our Easy English & Bible Class (EEB) meets in our church's Memorial Hall on Wednesdays during School terms from 10.00am to 11.30am.

Our teachers are all native English speakers, and all our classes are free to attend.

We have classes for beginners, to 'Beginners+' and Intermediate, with students of varying ages and skill levels enrolled.

It's the perfect way for you improve your English skills in a friendly, relaxed setting.

Each class covers 60 minutes of English instruction and practice, a 15 minute lesson from the Bible, followed by 15 minutes to complete student worksheets at the end.

Lessons include: greeting and introducing yourself to others; days and dates; letters and numbers; word recognition and pronunciation; and phonetics (speech sounds).

A word bank is built with new words introduced as the term and year progresses that allow students to add and practice their vocabulary.

New students are welcome to join at any time during the year and can register at the beginning of any class.

"Our teachers are all native English speakers, and all our classes are free to attend."

**WEDNESDAYS, 10AM - 11:30AM
(DURING SCHOOL TERM)**

esl.burwoodbpc@gmail.com

Would You Like Someone to Pray for You?

The habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian. There is one respect in which all God's children on earth are alike. They all pray.

The first sign of life in a newborn infant is that it breathes. In the same way the first act of the new-born Christian is to pray.

Just as it is part of a child's nature to cry, so it is part of the Christian's nature to pray. He sees his need of mercy and grace. He feels his emptiness and weakness. Therefore, he feels that he must pray.

At Burwood Presbyterian Church, we believe in the power of prayer. So please contact us if you would like someone to pray for you.

Anika's Angle

Being a first-year university student coming out of a small Christian high school, I didn't know what to expect when I went to campus.

It's funny walking down one of the main walkways on campus because in each direction, people are pulling you towards their different societies and groups.

Whether it is a Christian Bible study, political party, ethnic group or even a dog appreciation society, everyone is trying to persuade you to join because they either think what they believe in is important and the truth, or simply because they want to gain more followers.

One piece of advice many people gave me was to be open to try new things and immerse myself with the "uni culture". But I quickly found that the uni culture was quite one-sided and toxic.



It's easy to become bombarded with all of this Marxist Socialist ideology telling you that turtle lives are more important than unborn babies. And if you disagree, you risk being cancelled and labelled as "one of those Christians". It doesn't bother me though.

So, this is what I've been learning lately. It's important to be open to discover and experience new things: in school, university, work, or wherever your daily life takes you.

But if you're really looking for answers, the best place to start is the Bible. As Christians we are taught not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Then we will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).

If you're interested in finding out more about God's plan for your life, why not join us here at Burwood Presbyterian Church on Sunday 9:30am and engage with the truth of God's Word.

You won't be disappointed!

OUR MISSION

To God's glory, Burwood Presbyterian Church exists to equip Christians to worship God, and to reach Sydney's Inner West to reach the world for Christ.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a spiritual home to people from every tribe and tongue and nation under heaven. United in Christ, we seek to grow God's kingdom by serving God and one another with love, humility, and joy in believing.

Take your troubles to Jesus in prayer!

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'If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.'

(2 CHRONICLES 7:14)

FIND US ON

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