PrayerMatters: Summer 2026-2027
November to February

Welcome to the latest edition of our prayer letter for all the ET congregations, covering the summer period, November 26 to end of February 27. You can use this personally in your time with God, with each other, with your prayer partner, in your groups or in your congregations.

Prayer thoughts…

God said to Solomon when he was praying for his people, '***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 v 14)

Jesus said, '**I am the light of the world, He who believes in me shall not remain in darkness but will have the light of life**.' As we move towards another advent and Christmas season it is worth considering the impact Jesus, as the Light has had on our lives and can do on others. If we carry His light as God's people, we can never underestimate the impact our presence and lives might be having on those around us and those we meet every day. His light is living within us by the Holy Spirit, let us leave His light wherever we go and whatever we do this summer time let's not forget Him. Being in and knowing His presence wherever we find ourselves is communion indeed with Jesus, the Light of the world. Let us pray that this Christmas time Jesus will become real to all the people open to receive Him and who are facing struggles. As we pray let us remember the impact His light can have as we push back the forces of darkness simply by living in the Light of our Saviour.

From the Elders - *Annie*

'*Pray for God's spirit to be working in each of our lives so our faith is real where we are placed, it isn't about only doing- it's about walking with Jesus. For help not to get trapped in busyness of life/work/church. To serve faithfully for Jesus where we are placed in the world and for the times to be still before Jesus*.'



Christmas Outreach from Jo…

Jo writes…'This year's theme is 'Christmas Chaos' - there will be a walk through (we will be reconstructing Christmas with a focus on Jesus) and a short performance. Two session times: Saturday 19 Dec 10am-1pm & Sunday 20 Dec 1pm-3pm. Lots of prayer needed for the planning to come together, for an inspiring reminder of the vision of the outreach (to impact and bless our community), for plenty of volunteers and for good weather!'

Pray that lives will be impacted, people will ask questions and seeds will be sown for the gospel.



Christmas Market 22nd November from Chris Jones…'Heavenly Father, we pray for our Christmas Market on Sunday, November 22. Thank You for the opportunity to sell our crafts and knitting to raise funds for our building fund. Lord, bless our efforts. May we have plenty to sell, an inviting table, and many willing buyers throughout the day. Give us energy and joy during the eight hours and help us to be a witness for You through our smiles, kindness, and fellowship. May everything we do bring glory to Your name and bless our building fund. In Jesus' name, Amen. '🙏



Church Building Project & Synod Grant, from Leeanne…

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." — *Psalm 127:1*

Please join us in prayer for our church building project as we seek God's wisdom, grace, and favour in two crucial areas:

- **Favour with the Dunedin City Council Heritage Department:**

Pray for open communication, mutual understanding, and a favourable resolution regarding our project requirements—specifically surrounding the preservation and plans for our flooring and pews. Pray that God gives our planning team wisdom and grants us favour with the heritage officers so that we can honour the history of our church building while making it fit for purpose for current and future generations.

- **Provision through the Synod Grant Application:**

Lift up our upcoming grant application before Synod. Pray that the committee members will clearly see the vision, heart, and future impact of our church community. Ask God to touch their hearts with generosity and approve a full, generous grant to support the work needed.

- **Unity & Steadfastness:**

Pray that our congregation remains united, patient, and full of faith as we navigate these administrative and financial steps together.



Global Missions

Please pray for the missionaries and mission partners we support, including:

General prayers for our missionary partners.

- Good health

- Sound friendships with the people of their communities - fellow missionaries, local Christians and non- Christians
- May their personal spiritual life be established on God built firm foundations that will withstand any storms of life.
- That God's call to their area of service remains sure and true
- That their financial situation will be sufficient to meet their missionary call
- Good communication between themselves and their supporters and that it goes both ways.
- That they can see God at work where they are serving
- That the approaching Christmas season can be used to bring the Good News to the unreached



SHFT/YET (Youth East Taieri)…

Pray for a new term of Challenge for our Year 9 participants and leaders on Wednesday nights; as Miciah leads this program for the first time. Pray for safety and good connections and learning in leadership. Pray for our camp in the Catlins 20-22 November.

Pray for our Friday night program; for deepening spiritual discussions in our final term of the year. Pray for opportunities to talk about our faith as leaders. Pray that we will finish the year well with faith developing challenges at our YET camp 27-29 Nov at Camp Columba.

Give thanks for the "What about God?" group that meets on Tuesday at Taieri College. Give thanks that a couple of students have applied to have a Jesus Club at Taieri College in 2027, and that they will continue to take leadership in that process. Give thanks that TC are open to us being there.

Pray for the Vible life group meeting on Sunday evenings, that the youth would continue through the busy term 4, and continue to develop in their faith.

Staff team- Pray for Renee as she takes up further responsibility for leading on Friday nights alongside Emma; and in preparation for leading the program in 2027. Pray for Ethan and Emma as they prepare for their marriage in early December. Give thanks for the appointment of our new Youth & Community Director, Kate Nicacio; who will begin her role with SHFT on 16 November. Pray that we will be a blessing to her and her family, and that she will settle well into the role.

Give thanks for our volunteer leaders. Pray that they will be blessed as they serve all who come along to our programs, Wednesday and Friday nights, and for great relationships all around.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please keep in your prayers the next year, the plans the different core ministries might have and for a sense of us all being involved in God's work and seeking Him about what we do and what not to do.
A few things to remember:

- Community Carnival
- Prayer days and events
- MSB and the future
- All building projects
- Rest and re-visioning for the various ministries
- Children, families, people alone, those struggling and lonely
- For people to walk into gifts that God has given them and for them to have space to grow in Him for the glory of God and for the extension of His Kingdom.



COMMUNITY

- Please pray for safety, care and protection for all of us and our families and friends as we enter the summer period.
- Please pray that the road toll for accidents and deaths would decrease this summer.
- Christmas can be a challenging time for people, not only financial and societal pressures but this time can bring back painful memories for some and previous losses. Please pray all will find His peace and Light afresh this Christmas and New year.

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus…'
1 Thessalonians 5 v 17-18