



SMITHFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

O'Connell Street,
Smithfield

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Neighbour,

The New Year has arrived and with it comes new beginnings. We hope that 2015 is a year of blessing for you. If your resolution is to come to church you are most welcome: our morning service begins at 10:30am.

This upcoming term we will be starting a Bible Study in *Galatians* on **Tuesday nights at 7:30pm**. We will explore how we are made right (justified) by God. We would love to have you join us as the format is more of a discussion and questions are invited.

At the commencement of the next school term, we will resume our Homework Club which goes from 3 – 4:45pm every Thursday afternoon.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Chris Athavle
Pastor
Email: office.smithfieldbaptist@gmail.com
Mobile: 0401-661-810

What's Coming Up

Church Services (every Sunday at 10:30am) - we will be continuing our series in *Genesis* (the life of Abraham).

Men's Breakfast: 14th of February, 2015, at 8:00am
Speaker: Michael Prodigalidad (Pastor) – *Training Men*

Monthly Fellowship Dinner: 22nd of February, 2015, at 6:00pm
Speaker: Michael Wilson (Missionary) – *Multicultural Churches*

Website: <http://www.smithfieldbaptist.org.au>

The Shock of Death

Last year, the cricketer, Phillip Hughes sadly and accidentally died when a cricket ball struck his neck. A few days' later 132 children were brutally murdered in Pakistan. In the same month, in Sydney, 2 hostages and a gunman were killed following the siege of the Lindt café. Whilst in Cairns a woman was charged with the murder of 8 of her own children. So many people dying at such a young age brought the shock and sadness of death very close to home.

These tragedies remind us that death can take any one of us at any time. We can be alive and real one minute and then gone the next. In an instant we can become mere memories in our loved ones' minds. Sadly, our culture rarely thinks of death. We generally try to avoid the topic. Rather we spend endless resources trying to escape it.

The Bible says that death is inescapable because we have rejected God's good rule over our lives ("*sin*"). The result of this disobedience is described in Genesis 3:19, God says we will "*return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return*". Death makes all of life's pursuits meaningless and robs us of hope. After it we all face God in judgement. This is worrying news, because everlasting torment follows for those who remain in disobedience.

However, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die and take the punishment for unworthy sinners. No longer does death have a nasty sting because Jesus was raised from death. We no longer need to fear death because Jesus defeated death. Those who put their trust in Him will enjoy eternal life! (John 3:36: "*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*") If you believe in Jesus then you are in the safest hands possible.

Death is meant to cause sober reflection, but only the good news of Jesus brings hope. After physical death there is eternal life only for those who are saved by Jesus Christ.

Contact Us

Chris Athavle Tel 0401 661 810

Cnr O'Connell Street & Horsley Dr

Smithfield NSW 2164