

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
4TH MAY 2014

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

SANTINO DIMARCO

🕒 Executive Pastor

Many of you will know that John has been on leave for the last 2 weeks. Fortunately, the first week was an opportunity for John, Buff and the family to enjoy some time away on the Central Coast. John wasn't so fortunate during his second week of leave; a looming book publishing deadline has meant that he locked himself away putting the finishing touches on the book, titled, *A Doubter's Introduction to the Bible*. The book will not be on the shelves until early next year but we are privy to a sneak-peak of the opening paragraphs.

The book promises to be a valuable resource for anyone who struggles with doubt in areas of their Christian faith.

Enjoy the entrée,

Santino Dimarco

The Bible is history's number one bestseller by a factor of about ten. Six billion copies have been sold. Admittedly, it had a head start on other books; it was the first item off the modern printing press. But it has been No.1 every year since records have been kept – except for 2007 when Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows topped the list, with 44 million sales. Unlike most bestsellers, however, the Bible actually increases sales

each year. Harry Potter's 44 million in a year is spectacular, but no doubt it dropped to about 10 million the following year, one million the next, and now Deathly Hallows probably sells in the mere 100s of 1000s.

The latest figures for the Bible are hard to fathom. It sold 30 million copies in 2009 alone. That is 82,000 copies a day, 3,400 copies an hour. That means someone gets a Bible every second – perhaps 60 copies have changed hands since you started reading this page. If we were to include the sales of individual portions of the Bible, such as books containing just the Gospels (the biographies of Jesus), you have to multiply these numbers by a factor of 12. The Bible is available in 2500 languages, Harry Potter in just 55.

Why is the Bible so popular?

One explanation is that the Bible's popularity is linked to the Church's power. Some people think of a domineering Vatican or some dark right-wing lobby imposing the Bible wherever it goes. I think that gets things the wrong way around. The Church does not create the Bible; the Bible creates the Church. Proof of this in the modern world is the situation in China. No one argues the Bible is being imposed on the Chinese, who have been under atheistic communist rule for decades. However, just recently, Amity Press in Nanjing had a public celebration for the 100 millionth

Bible published in China. Today this monumental printing company, which I recently had the pleasure of visiting, produces 12 million Bibles a year, making up one third of all Bibles published in the world. Such figures make it difficult to sustain the argument that the Church is imposing its Holy Book. The Bible has its own life, its own uncanny attraction.

I believe the Bible is so popular and influential because it tells a story we recognize as true. I don't just mean it tells an accurate story—though it is telling that the Bible stands tall even after 200 years of secular criticism. What I mean is that its account of humanity and the world we live in rings true. Reading the Bible can be like meeting someone you don't know who, oddly, somehow seems to know you deeply. It is uncanny. Sometimes when you read the Bible you find yourself asking, "How does this book know that about me? How does it know that about our world—especially when it was written so long ago?"

When you read the Bible, it is as though it reads you. And it is my hope that as you dip your toe into the Bible's story and viewpoint, you will find yourself feeling that the Good Book knows more about the world—and about you—than any normal book would.

This little book is an ambitious attempt to unpack the whole Bible or, perhaps more

accurately, to give a sense of the whole biblical narrative and of the "theology" that emerges from it. More than that, I want to offer a snapshot of the worldview and lifestyle the Bible inspires.

This is probably more than anyone should attempt in so slim a book. The Bible itself, in most editions, runs to about 1000 pages. The walls of my office are lined with hundreds of commentaries on the biblical texts, literally hundreds of thousands of pages devoted to exploring the history and meaning of the Scriptures. As for giving insight into what it means to live in the light of the Bible, greater minds and better human beings than I have written about authentic Christian living.

Assuming these confessions haven't put you off, the value of this book, I hope, is that it offers something of a "biblical primer" for those who aren't quite sure what to make of the Bible. Whatever our beliefs, there is still enormous value in getting our heads around why this book, like no other, has shaped the lives of millions of people for thousands of years (with no sign of letting up). This is not really an exercise in "apologetics"—the art of trying to prove the truth of the Bible—but an outline for curious doubters of what it might mean for life today if the Bible happened to be true.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

FOR THE DIARY

☛ **Life of Jesus**

Tue 13th May – 7.30pm

John and Buff Dickson's home

A 4-week course on the life he lived and the life he gives; for people curious to find out about the basics of the world's largest faith.

Contact the Church Office or email

lifeofjesus@standrews.net.au

☛ **Belonging Course**

Wed 14th May – 7.30pm

Matt Stedman's home

3 week fast-track course for newcomers to get to know St Andrew's and meet others.

Contact James Smith for details.

james.smith@standrews.net.au

☛ **Anglicare Community Collection Sunday**

Sun 1st June

nb. *Sign up to help during refreshments after church on Sunday 11 May.*

We will be partnering with twelve other local churches to collect food and other grocery items for Anglicare. This provides vital support for 3,000 families in need in Western

Sydney. We need your help to deliver brochures and bags in the week commencing 25 May, and we need a team to visit the same houses in the early afternoon of Sunday 1 June to collect the filled bags. The streets we intend to collect from are those closest to the church. How far our reach is will depend on how many volunteers sign up. Each volunteer will deliver to and/or collect from approx. 25 houses.

☛ **Men's Wine Tasting Evening**

Thu 5th June – 7.30pm

Roseville Memorial Club

Special Guest: Nick Farr-Jones

Cost: TBA

Contact the Church Office or email

mens-events@standrews.net.au

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COMMUNITY WATCH

PLEASE PRAY

☞ **Churchwide Prayer**

Please pray for the staff who are away on the annual retreat from Sunday night until Tuesday this week. Pray that God will encourage and direct them in unity of purpose and that their relationships with one another and with Christ would be strengthened.

☞ **8:30am Prayer**

Please pray for a quick and complete recovery for Myree Pullen after a recent fall and subsequent knee surgery.

☞ **10am Prayer**

Praise God for successful surgery for Andrew Wong and for Nigel Gorham last week and for their improvement so far. Pray for ongoing healing and renewed strength for them both.

☞ **5pm Prayer**

Please pray for Lowen Sutton's father David, who is in rehab after another fall and for Lowen and the family as they seek suitable accommodation for him. Pray that David might respond to Christ's love and the hope we have in him.

☞ **St Andrew's Ministries**

Thank God for the opportunity to run Scripture classes in the Public Schools, and for Cath as she coordinates the team of helpers each week. Pray for God's blessing on them as Term 2 begins and pray that the students respond with enthusiasm to learn more about Jesus and come to know him personally.

*All that our missionaries
do in and around their communities*

MISSION & AID

JENNY FALLON



🕒 **SIM (Serving In Mission) Australia**

Pray for Jenny Fallon working as Pastoral Care and Development Coordinator with SIM in Australia.

Thank God for Jenny's recent Pastoral Care Visit to South Asia with her husband Dale, and for the encouragement to those they visited.

Pray for the Member Care Network event being held this weekend which is a re-entry retreat for those permanently returned to Australia.

Pray for Jenny as she coordinates the annual Missionary Enrichment Retreat from 15-21 June at Tahlee for those on home assignment from a variety of missions. Pray for refreshment, renewal and encouragement for

all attending. Pray that the facilitators will connect well with participants.

Pray for wisdom and clarity of thought as Jenny and other colleagues continue to work on a comprehensive Member Care plan for SIM Australia.

Pray that Jenny and Dale would grow in sensitivity to the Lord's leading and take time to listen to him.

*Words you'll need for
today's contemporary services*

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that
 we need your help.
We confess that we have
 wandered from your way:
we have done wrong,
and we have failed to do
 what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us
 to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit
 of the Spirit
that we may live as
 disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name
 of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

KEY CONTACTS

➤ Senior Leadership Team

John Dickson – Senior Minister
T. (02) 9412 2553
john.dickson@standrews.net.au

Santino Dimarco – Executive Pastor
T. (02) 9412 2553
santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

Matt Stedman – Senior Associate Minister
M. 0403 860 501
matt.stedman@standrews.net.au

Cath Ahern – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)
M. 0407 152 995
cath.ahern@standrews.net.au

➤ Pastoral

Suz Gorham – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
10am and 7pm Congregations
M. 0478 040 773
suz.gorham@standrews.net.au

Mike Hastie – Assist. Minister (7pm Congregation & Youth)
M. 0421 014 977
mike.hastie@standrews.net.au

Meredith Hatcher – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
8:30am, 10am and 5pm Congregations
M. 0403 154 160
meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au

Jean Rixon – Senior's Ministry Worker (*Honorary*)
T. (02) 9416 5436
jean.rixon@standrews.net.au

James Smith – Assist. Minister (10am Congregation)
M. 0438 669 530
james.smith@standrews.net.au

Peter Watson – Minister for Seniors (*Part Time*)
T. (02) 9412 2553
peter.watson@standrews.net.au

➤ Children's Ministry

Cath Ahern – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)
M. 0407 152 995
cath.ahern@standrews.net.au

➤ Community Service Project

David Morris – Coordinator of Volunteers
(*Part Time, Honorary*)
T. (02) 9412 2553
david.morris@standrews.net.au

➤ Administration / Church Office

T. (02) 9412 2553
office@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➤ Supporting the General Ministry

To support the general work of St Andrew's, electronic banking details for regular direct credit are:

Anglican Parish St Andrew's
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 005 413

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

If you prefer to make cash/cheque contributions, there is a gifts and donations box attached to the church's rear pew.

➤ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew's Property Development, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made to the following account:

St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville Donation Fund
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 010 195

Please include your surname and the initials "PV" (for Property Vision) in the reference field.

Donations by cheque should be made to St Andrew's Roseville Donation Fund.

Please mark the envelope with your surname and "PV".

A receipt for tax purposes will be forwarded to you upon receiving your electronic or cheque donation.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact Santino Dimarco for specific instructions:
santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

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IN THE COMMUNITY

St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville
1 Bancroft Avenue
Roseville NSW 2069, Australia
T. (02) 9412 2553
office@standrews.net.au
www.standrews.net.au