



*"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

*John 1: 14 (NIV)*

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

### **Christmas: what's it all about.....**

*Well it's not* about those things that we usually associate with this time of year:

The presents, excitement, fun and food; or the amount of money that is spent; the tree, candles or decorations; nor carols, family and love.

It does however, start with the baby in the manger, but it's not about the angels, shepherds and wise men who travelled from afar to worship the baby; or the gifts they brought.

**IT'S ABOUT THE CROSS:** Jesus coming to earth so that we can be born again; Him rising up and taking away our sin. It's about God's love, nailed to a tree. It's about every drop of blood that flowed from Him so that you and I can have real life today.

The beginning of the story is beautiful, as a new life is born to doting parents and laid in a lowly manger to be worshipped by animals and people alike. As we picture the narrative that took place, we can feel overwhelming peace and praise, but it's the **ending** that can save us all and that's why we celebrate.

I want to remember that the joy of Christmas is more than the reminder that Mary had a baby boy. That amazing Child grew up and by His death and resurrection became the Redeemer of the world, opening for us the door to meaningful life on earth and everlasting life in heaven! So let us rejoice at the coming of the King!

Blessings and peace to you and your family this Christmas.

Dawn & the ACCESS ministries Team

### **December 1 - 2**

Pray for peace for all, amidst the busyness of the Christmas and end of year seasons.

### **December 3 - 4**

Give thanks for our recent Chaplaincy Regional Days; for the positive feedback from our suicide alertness training and for the great time of collegiality had by all.

### **December 5 - 6**

Give thanks for those schools that have confirmed the continuation of their Chaplaincy Program in 2017. Pray for those schools that are still undecided. Pray that they may see the value of the program and that they would be able to overcome any obstacles that are holding them back from continuing.

### **December 7 - 8**

Pray for our Christian Education Appeal that it would touch hearts and inspire people to get involved and give generously to support the growth and continuation of the program.

### **December 9 - 10**

Give thanks for the opportunity for students to understand the religious origins of the Christmas symbols that are displayed in many public places at this time of year.

### **December 11 - 12**

Give thanks for our Chair and Board Directors who give of their time and experience willingly and who are totally committed to the vision of the organisation.

### **December 13 - 14**

Pray for families that do it tough at Christmas. Pray that our Chaplains would be able to journey with and support these people during this time.

### **December 15 - 16**

Pray for strength and God's enabling for our Finance team as they finalise budgets for next year and prepare for our end of financial year audit.

## December 17 - 18

Give thanks for our partnership with Prayer Groups for Schools who support and pray for us.

## December 19 - 20

Pray for those Chaplains who are not continuing next year; that they would be able to finish well and leave a lasting impact. Pray for God's guidance and direction for their next steps.

## December 21 - 22

Pray that people would realise the true meaning of Christmas afresh this year.

## December 23 - 24

Pray for safety as people travel over the Advent season.

## December 25 - 26

Give thanks for God's wondrous gift, His son Jesus!

## December 27 - 28

Give thanks for our staff and the contribution they make to this organisation. Pray that they would have a restful break over the next few days.

## December 29 - 30

Give thanks for our wonderful SRI Volunteers who have hung in there despite the challenges of a new time slot, new material and competing activities this year.

## December 31 - January 1

Praise God for 2016! For all that He has done in and through the life of **ACCESS ministries**. Pray that God would be at the centre of all our plans for 2017 and that we would see Him work in new and marvellous ways!

## January 2 - 3

Pray for the timely publication and printing of SRI materials for 2017.

## January 4 - 5

Give thanks for those schools that have already committed to using our SRI materials in 2017. Pray for those who are undecided and for interstate schools as they make decisions regarding SRI resources for the new year.

## January 6 - 7

Pray for those we come in contact with through our work that are battling serious and long-term illnesses. Pray for God's miraculous intervention in their life.

## January 8 - 9

Pray for all those Chaplains who are feeling exhausted from a busy year. Pray that they would be re-energised over the holiday break ready for a new year.

## January 10 - 11

Give thanks for the tremendous support we receive from our partnering Churches and Church leaders which encourages us.

## January 12 - 13

Give thanks for our Chaplaincy and Wellbeing Support Groups who give tirelessly throughout the year to fundraise and support their local Chaplaincy Program. Pray for renewed vision and energy and that God would raise up new people to join their groups in 2017.

## January 14 - 15

Praise God that His mercies are new every morning.

## January 16 - 17

Pray that God would raise up people to fill the current chaplaincy vacancies in time for the start of the new school year. Pray particularly for regional areas where there are some long standing vacancies.

## January 18 - 19

Pray for a continued commitment by political and community leaders to the valuing of the Christian faith and its contribution to our society in small and big ways.

## January 20 - 21

Praise God for all those who continue to faithfully give of their finances so that HIS work can continue through our SRI Volunteers, Chaplains and administration.

## January 22 - 23

Praise God for those schools that recognise the positive contribution SRI makes to their school community.

## January 24 - 25

Pray for all the new Chaplains completing Orientation training. Pray that they will leave feeling well equipped for their new roles.

## January 26 - 27

Pray for the timely distribution of SRI materials to schools for the new year.

## January 28 - 29

Give thanks for those positively impacted through our programs.

## January 30 - 31

Pray for students as they return to school today for another year.

**Our new address: Level 1, 603 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127**