

Matters for Prayer

- Lael and Laura Luxford, South Sudan
- Australian Christian Lobby
- Jacob Damkani, Trumpet of Salvation, Israel
- Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
- Island Gospel Ministries, Bohol, Philippines
- Maranatha Christian School, Talibon, Philippines
- Creation Ministries International
- Herald of Hope
- Sri Lankan Fellowship
- Korean Fellowship
- Those sick amongst the fellowship
- That the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed through Capital Bible Church
- Matthew Khanzadeh with his ministry into Afghanistan and Iran using Zoom
- CBC people street witnessing each Saturday morning

Contacts

Elders - Karl Irving
- Ian Daley

Public Officer - John Miller

Deacon – Steve Hilly

Church Office 6278 3059
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Web: www.cbc.asn.au - The CBC website includes:

- CBC Statement of faith
- Links to missions supported
- Online Sunday morning messages

Free will offerings can be made at
NAB Belconnen BSB 082 906 Account 515019659

Welcome to Capital Bible Church

80 Murrarji Street, Hawker
www.cbc.asn.au

Proclaiming Christ, Teaching and Living in
the Word of God

Newsletter – December 2023



*Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher
of our faith*

Hebrews 12:2

Please join us on Sunday for the service

**A question that has arisen in the church is:
Should Christians celebrate Christmas?
From GotQuestions.org**

The debate about whether or not Christians should celebrate Christmas has been raging for centuries. Does the Bible give clear direction as to whether Christmas is a holiday to be celebrated by Christians?

One argument against Christmas is that the traditions surrounding the holiday have origins in paganism. Bells, candles, holly, and [yuletide/yule](#) decorations are mentioned in the history of pagan worship, but the use of such in one's home certainly does not indicate a return to paganism.

While there are definitely pagan roots to some traditions, there are many more traditions associated with the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of the Savior of the world in Bethlehem. Bells are played to ring out the joyous news, candles are lit to remind us that Christ is the Light of the world ([John 1:4-9](#)), a star is placed on the top of a Christmas tree to remember the Star of Bethlehem, and gifts are exchanged to remind us of the gifts of the Magi to Jesus, the greatest gift of God to mankind.

Another argument against Christmas, especially having a Christmas tree, is that the Bible forbids bringing trees into our homes and decorating them. The passage often cited is [Jeremiah 10:1-16](#), but this passage refers to cutting down trees, chiseling the wood to make an idol, and then decorating the idol with silver and gold for the purpose of bowing down before it to worship it (see also [Isaiah 44:9-18](#)). The passage in Jeremiah cannot be taken out of its context and used to make a legitimate argument against Christmas trees.

Christians who choose to ignore Christmas point to the fact that the Bible doesn't give us the date of Christ's birth, which is certainly true. December 25 may not be even close to the time Jesus was born, and arguments on both sides are legion, some relating to climate in Israel, the practices of shepherds in winter, and the dates of Roman census-taking.

Some Christians say that since the world celebrates Christmas—although it is becoming more and more politically correct to refer to it as “the holidays” or “Xmas” — Christians should avoid it. Those Christians who do celebrate Christmas often see the occasion as an opportunity to proclaim Christ as “the reason for the season” among the nations and to those trapped in false religions.

There is no legitimate scriptural reason not to celebrate Christmas. At the same time, there is no biblical mandate to celebrate it, either. In the end, of course, whether or not to celebrate Christmas is a personal decision. Whatever Christians decide to do regarding Christmas, their views should not be used as a club with which to beat down or denigrate those with opposing views, nor should either view be used as a badge of honour inducing pride over celebrating or not celebrating. As in all things, we seek wisdom from Him who gives it liberally to all who ask ([James 1:5](#)) and accept one another in Christian love and grace, regardless of our views on Christmas.

December 2023, at Capital Bible Church

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 3 rd December	9.30 am	Family Prayer November
	10 am	Family Worship Service Speaker: Steve Hilly Speaking on Mark 4:1-20 The Parable of the Sower
Tuesday, 7 th December	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting at the church
Sunday, 10 th December	9.30 am	Family Prayer
	10am	Family Worship Service Speaker: Ian Daley Speaking on Mark 4:21-41 Lamps, Seeds and Nature
Tuesday, 14 th December	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting at the church
Sunday, 17 th December	9.30 am	Family Prayer
	10am	Family Worship Service Speaker: Karl Irving Speaking on Mark 5:1-20 A demon Possessed Man Healed
Tuesday, 21 st ovember	7.30pm	Creation Meeting at the church
Sunday 24 th December	10am	Family Worship Service Speaker: Matthew Speaking on TBA
Tuesday, 28 th December	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting at the church
Sunday, 31 st December	10am	Family Worship Service Speaker: Karl Irving Speaking on TBA A New Year's Story

See also: www.cbc.sn.au/calendar

- * Tuesday & Thursday Night Bible Studies – See Karl Irving for Details
- * Women's Bible Study- Thursday mornings – See Judy Irving for details.