

The events of 2020 should ... remind and empower all of God's people as essential workers

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

What stops you from seeing yourself as an essential worker in God's kingdom?

Worldly attitudes

Your life is too much of a mess to be useful

You have too much sin to serve

Church Family Prayers

Our Father in heaven, we praise your holy name. You are righteous and perfect, dwelling in absolute glory. Because you are holy, we know you will destroy all evil and wickedness. Sadly, that means you will destroy us too as we are sinners. But in your great mercy and abounding love, you sent Jesus, so by destroying his body in judgment, we can be saved. Now, when you make this world perfect and free from all evil and wickedness you will not destroy us too. Lord we praise and honour you. Father, we love and cherish you.

Gracious Lord, we continually thank you for the ease of certain restrictions in our state. As more businesses re-open and all students go back to school, please keep us safe from a second wave of Coronavirus. In your loving mercy please put a hedge of protection around us. Continue to help our church leadership in knowing how to best move forward with our various ministries and Sunday services, in wisdom and love. May we all be understanding of the complexities of working through something of this nature and be most patient and supportive.

Father, in times like this, we can find it hard. We think of those in very rural areas, finding it even harder. We bring before you faithful workers in the Bush Church Aid. Use them powerfully during this time to minister to and care for their communities. Please comfort and support them, and give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel as they feed your flock and speak to unbelievers.

Father, we remember our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. A prayer from Barnabas Fund, *"O Lord our God, we ask You to look in mercy on our brothers and sisters in Syria, struggling to resume their lives after war and persecution and now afflicted with the coronavirus too. May their faith burn brightly, may they be a source of peace, hope and stability in their troubled country. We ask for a lasting and just peace to be established in Syria. We ask for good relations between all the different communities to be restored as it once was. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Lord, please use us to grow your kingdom here in Cairns. May the glory of your name and the growth of your kingdom be the desire of our hearts. Help us to faithfully serve you with the work you call us to do. May you be our focus and joy.

Lord God Almighty, please give comfort, and healing to those amongst us who are not well. We especially pray for Fay, Lee, Katie, Monica, Helen, Aldo and Deeann and others known to us. May they know your love and presence. In Jesus name. Amen.