

Hi church fam!

It's Tess from the 'Wednesday Night Connect Group' here!

This week we would like to pray for 'Gratefulness' in our Whyalla Community. With all the worry, negative media and restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 it's so easy to get caught up in negative thinking, cynicism and complaining at the moment. This only breeds hopelessness, discontentment, discouragement and steals our joy. But our town is a resilient one and we have proven time and time again that we can overcome hardship!.....but not without hope, unity and focussing on the positives.

It has been so great to see so much positivity amongst our community on social media lately – from thankful people receiving flowers and baked goods to creative pursuits that benefit the wider community, such as The Front Porch Project (where a local photographer is taking photos of people on their front porches and providing to people as a keep sake in this crazy time)!

In order to maintain high spirits in our community here are some ideas of what we could pray for:

- That people express their gratitude and appreciation to others (eg. shop assistants, teachers, health care and other essential workers, co-workers, family members etc)
 - That there continue to be acts of kindness and gestures of love
 - For positivity in workplaces (despite current fears and uncertainty)
 - For people to focus on what they have rather than what they don't have – a roof over their head; food on the table; contact with loved ones.
 - That people will see the opportunities and not just the problems.
 - For creativity and innovation to be born in this town
 - For positive family interactions and ways of relating
 - That the town (and individuals within it) thrive and not just survive
 - For ongoing resilience and a sense that we are "in it together"
 - For graciousness towards leaders and decision makers in these stressful and unprecedented times
 - For generosity and an 'others first' mentality
 - That people share the good/ positive things that are happening in their lives
 - For the Church/ Christian community to shine God's light and demonstrate Jesus' character in this time, to draw others to Him and so that others experience his love, joy and peace.
 - The Bible instructs us to *"Be content whatever the circumstance....."I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:11-13)*
- Perhaps spend some time thinking about what you are grateful for at the moment – praise God for these blessings!
 - See below for some of the things the members of our Connect Group are thankful for!
 - What opportunities is God presenting to you to be a positive influence 'where you are planted'? ie. At home, in the community, at work.

- What can we do as a church to be light in the darkness?

***** Feel free to share your thoughts and prayers in the comments section on the church webpage.***