

# MESSAGE ... How Do We Interpret These Times?

## Tim Costello

**Scripture: Acts 1.1-11 Jeremiah 29. 4-9 NIV**

Timothy Ewen Costello AO is an Australian Baptist minister who was the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Advocate of World Vision Australia. Costello worked as a lawyer and served as mayor of St Kilda. He has authored a number of books on faith and life.

*"We want the road map and to know the short cuts. But usually, we only have enough light for the next step. To get anywhere we must take that. While it was considered a risky move, I have always believed that faith and risk are synonymous."*



## The VIBE

19th November 2023

PRAYER ... the most important conversation of the day

### Dedicated Prayer for Our Building Plan

As you know, we kicked off our 'Building Plan' process 2 years ago and our 'Building Application' was submitted on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. At last Sunday's AGM, we decided to put aside a regular time to pray for the smooth and timely passage of our plan. The timeslot agreed on is **7.30pm** of a **Friday**, praying from wherever we may be at the time. This won't be convenient for everyone, so your prayers at any time will be welcome.

Remember that James 4:2 encourages us to continue on in prayer ....

*"You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it."* NLT

### Gympie Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

In October, the Combined Churches of Gympie held a Prayer Meeting in Nelson Reserve which was a great success - so much so, that the intention is to have monthly meetings for the foreseeable future.

This month, **Gympie Community Church** (corner of Pine and Myall Streets) will host the meeting. This **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 5.30pm to 6pm** with everyone welcome to stay on for fellowship.

Prayer topics will be: Praise and Thankfulness to God for recent Blessings; Salvation in Gympie and surrounding areas; Rain; Middle East peace.

## Speaking of Prayer ...

We meet in the CE Room for an hour from **8am** of a **Tuesday** to pray together and share in Communion. This Prayer Warrior group has expanded a little in recent times, which, in itself, has been an answer to prayer, and we hope to see it grow a lot more. It's a great opportunity for some mid-week fellowship and it is an integral part of the backbone of our church. We'd love to see you there - you don't need to stay for the full hour nor do you need to pray out loud. We all know what scripture has to say about "when two or three are gathered together ... "

### The Matthew Drama

The Story of Jesus told in 90 minutes. A Wycliffe Bible Translators initiative presented by local Christians - it's FREE! **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 6.45pm**, at Cooloola Christian college. Contact no. 0434 358 177

### Bible Society Christmas Carols

Christmas is just around the corner and the Gympie Branch of The Bible Society is having this one last fund-raiser ... **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 9.30am** in our Gympie Church. This has been advertised throughout Gympie's churches and other local organisations and you are invited to come along with your friends and family.

It would be a great help if you could bring some morning tea to share and some cash to donate towards the Society's amazing work.

### Celebrating Our Children

NOT TO BE MISSED! Sunday, **3<sup>rd</sup> December, 9am** in our Gympie Church ...

Celebrating another amazing year of Kidz Church along with Uniting Early Learning's (UEL's) Child Care Centre and Family Day Care who have twenty-eight children graduating to 'Big School' in 2024. We're planning a super fun morning with a special worship service, presentations, delicious food, photos and games.

Let's make the most of this opportunity to welcome families into our faith circle.

~ **There is no livestream message this week** ~

What's on?

- \* **Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, CE Room
- \* **Gympie Churches Prayer Meeting** - Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, 5.30pm, cnr Pine & Myall St
- \* **Matthew Drama** - Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 6.45pm, Cooloola Christian College, Free
- \* **'Simply Classical' at St Patrick's Church** - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm, \$15-
- \* **Bible Society Christmas Carols** - Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 9.30am, our Gympie Church
- \* **Kidz Church Presentations & Child Care/FDC Graduation** - Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 9am
- \* **Church Council Nominee Profiles** - to be published 3<sup>rd</sup> December
- \* **Church Council Voting** - Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December

**As followers of Jesus, we should model and promote mutual respect that leads to just transformation of conflict across boundaries of nation, tribe, and religion.**

**Please join with people of faith around the world in praying:**

1. *For a restoration of order and security throughout Israel and Gaza.*
2. *For the leaders of Hamas to cease any further terrorist attacks on Israel.*
3. *For the leaders of Israel to focus on defence of the Israeli people and not on revenge.*
4. *For the protection and safe return of all who are being held hostage.*
5. *For the healing and restoration of all who have been injured and traumatized by the senseless violence.*
6. *For comfort for all who have lost loved ones.*
7. *For those who feel that violence is their only option and for those who feel powerless and vulnerable.*
8. *For protection and strength for those providing vital treatment, care, and relief.*
9. *For guidance for all who are involved in diplomacy to end the immediate conflict and prevent any external efforts to provoke continued violence.*
10. *For the restoration of conditions in both Israel and Palestine in which the longer-term issues of sustainable peace and justice for all can be addressed.*
11. *For the strengthening and witness of the Church in Israel and Palestine.*
12. *For the world – that even today, people in this region and across the globe would choose to follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*



**In the midst of such suffering, grief, and devastation, we join with the Prophet Isaiah in looking toward the day that:**

***“He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore (Isaiah 2:4).”***

## Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling - the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!



**UNITING 4570**  
**Better Together**

## God's Goal

"God's overarching goal is to produce men and women who demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ.

God does not want a church filled with white robed saints.

He does not want a church filled with theological authorities or cultured clergy.

He wants a church filled with ordinary men and women who exemplify the extraordinary integrity, temperament, wholeness, compassion, individuality, boldness, righteousness, earnestness, love, forgiveness, selflessness, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ!" *Ray Steadman*

### Worship

**Worship Services...** **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)  
**Imbil:** 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

**Live-streaming...** Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

### Contact Us

**Church Office...** M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: [cherylie@gruc.org](mailto:cherylie@gruc.org)  
[www.gruc.org.au](http://www.gruc.org.au) F: [www.facebook.com/guchurch](http://www.facebook.com/guchurch)

**Office Hours...** Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

**Rev Orrell Battersby..** 0423 985 200 [orrell@gruc.org](mailto:orrell@gruc.org)

**Pastoral Care...** Please contact the office by phone or email

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Call Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Call Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Call Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... Call the office 0493 442 250

## Offering & Attendance Last Sunday

Attendance: Adults 65 • Children 10 • (no livestreamed message)

Total Week's Offering: \$2,507.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)