

Prayer Itinerary for 2017 Siassi Partnership Visit to Lae

Siassi Schools – Concordia College Partnership Vision Statement

The partnership between Siassi Schools and Concordia College, St John’s Campus is founded on the sharing of Christian faith and will encourage and support both parties in:

- The spiritual growth of staff and students
- The sharing of God’s gifts
- The professional growth of staff
- High standards of teaching, learning and leadership
- Intercultural understanding and respect
- The development of long-term relationships between our communities

Michael Paech, Mary Marker, Nancy Wells, Jane Graham and Nicolette McClure will travel to Lae in PNG from 29/9/17 – 6/10/17. Their visit will continue to develop the partnership that exists between Concordia College, St John’s Campus and the schools of the Siassi Islands. Concordia College staff will meet with 15 representatives from the schools of Siassi and leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG (ELC-PNG) to discuss future directions of the partnership. We invite you to be part of the broader Concordia College community who are praying for the many aspects of this visit.

Date	Activity	Prayer Points
Friday 29 Sept	Depart Adelaide for Brisbane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God for our partnership with the schools of the Siassi Islands in PNG and for His guidance in these relationships • A spirit of joyful anticipation for the week ahead • Peace as we leave families at home <p>The Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with peace. Psalm 29:11</p>
Saturday 30 Sept	Depart Brisbane for Port Moresby Depart Port Moresby for Lae Arrive Lae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God for bringing together a strong team, willing to step out in faith and service to His people • Safe travel • That luggage arrives together with us • For the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) <p>“I will never leave you; never forsake you”. So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Hebrews 13: 5b-6</p>
Sunday 1 October	Attend Church Time in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thankfulness that God allows us to join him in His mission in this world • God’s continuing protection on our travel on the roads and streets of Lae • That we acclimatise to the heat and environment <p>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8</p>

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<p>Monday 2 October</p>	<p>Purchase supplies from supermarket and stationery store Prepare for meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God for the support and friendship of the ELC-PNG • Safe travel on the roads and streets of Lae • Developing relationships with Siassi delegates at the Guest House • Peace in our preparations for the coming days • That we hear and see people and situations with God's eyes and ears • Protection from any misfortune (mosquito bites, tummy bugs) <p>Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deed for all people. Psalm 107:21</p>
<p>Tuesday 3 October</p>	<p>Day 1 meetings with Siassi delegates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God that we are able to gather together to strengthen relationships and work towards improving the education of children in Siassi schools • Cultural sensitivity and respect • That we are responsive to God's prompting and voice as we listen to and talk with Siassi delegates • Protection from any misfortune (mosquito bites, tummy bugs) <p>Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Psalm 127:1</p>
<p>Wednesday 4 October</p>	<p>Day 2 meetings with Siassi delegates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God for the support of our families who are back in Australia • Strengthening relationships with the teachers/leaders of the schools and Church • Motivation for teachers/leaders to remember what they learn and implement changes in their schools • Protection from any misfortune (mosquito bites, tummy bugs) <p>Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:2,3</p>

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Thursday 5 October	Day 3 meetings with Siassi delegates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God that we have been able to share in worship with the Siassi teachers and Church leaders. • Thankfulness that God is the strong foundation of our partnership • That we are responsive to God’s prompting and voice as we listen and talk with Siassi delegates • Protection from any misfortune (mosquito bites, tummy bugs) <p>For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2: 13</p>
Friday 6 October	Depart Lae for Port Moresby Depart Port Moresby for Brisbane Depart Brisbane for Adelaide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to God for His guidance throughout the week • Safe travel home to Adelaide • Safety for our partners as they travel home across the sea to the Siassi Islands • Peace as we process the experiences and outcomes from this visit and clarity to share this with family and our school community <p>For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4: 20</p>

One of the most difficult times in a journey outside of one’s own culture and comfort zone is the return. The people on the journey have changed and can no longer look at their own culture the same way. Some call this *reverse culture shock*. I like to call it God’s disturbing! Pray for those who return to Australia at this time.

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing that you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings out the best of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:1-3 MESSAGE

The people of the Siassi islands have had the good news of Jesus Christ for over a century. However, as is the case in many parts of PNG, some people are returning to the past cultural practices, which are not Christ focussed, and which include and invite the spirit powers back into their lives. Therefore, continual prayer covering during our journey is so important. We can stand on the truth of God’s word, which says **“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”. 1 John 4:4**