

SWOT REPORT

Message from Geoff Pittuck

Greetings Praying Friends,

I read recently that the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a 50% surge in online searches for prayers as people turn to faith to cope with anxiety and hopelessness. The Alpha online course (originally developed by the Holy Trinity Brompton in 1977 as a course to discover the Christian faith) has seen registrations triple in the UK since the pandemic. The pandemic reminds people of life's fragility. People are reaching out for help. It is in suffering that people seek God and what we might ask ourselves is, how are we as a body of believers in Christ responding to that need.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear... Psalm 46:1-2.

Consider how the Lord is calling you to listen and speak a comforting word, provide food or necessities to those who are lacking, to share other blessings with those who are struggling. Perhaps a phone call to someone isolated and alone. Even in these times of social distancing we can reach out in mercy and love.

What is SWOT?

The **South West Outreach Team (SWOT)** is a team of Christians who travel by car to our south-west agricultural towns once or twice a week to encourage and pray with local believers. SWOT began some seven years ago when Pastor Brian Whitehurst retired from pastoring churches and was "nudged" by God to ministry in the Great Southern. SWOT's vision is to light a small fire in each of the south west towns and then to call upon the Holy Spirit to fan these flames into one large flame, engulfing the south west in the fire of revival. The vision is reflected in the Team's logo.

Ps Brian Whitehurst
SWOT Founder

PINGELLY, Thursday, 9 July, 2020

It was a cold morning as the mist-shrouded the valleys fringed by rocky outcrops. The green lush fields blanketed in dew, glistened in the bright early morning sunshine. The vistas on the Williams Road to Pingelly were quite breathtaking. We were glad Geoff had chosen not go through Brookton but turn off the Brookton Highway onto the Williams Road. Before long we were driving into the driveway of the Pingelly Family Church. Once again, Helen Price was there to greet us when we arrived.



Brian Lowndes, Helen Price and Geoff Pittuck

Apology

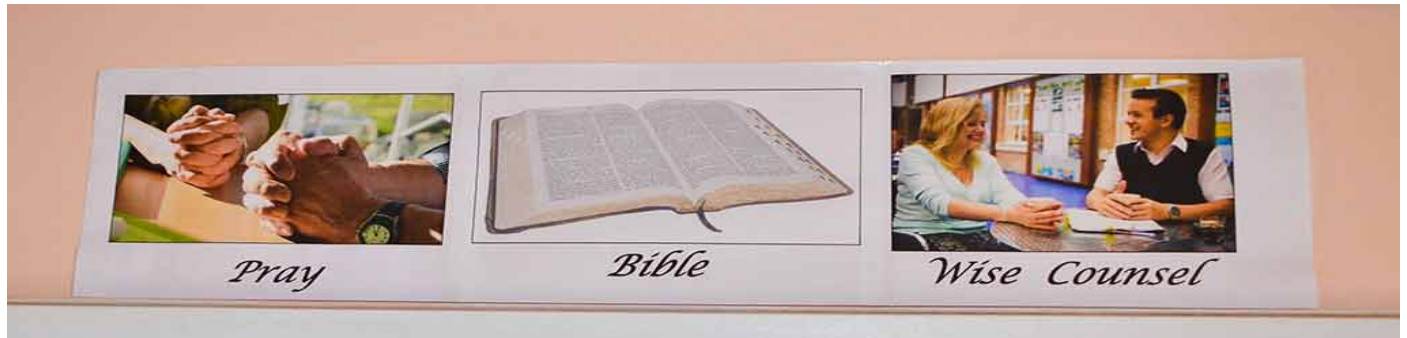
*In the May 2020 SWOT edition the Pingelly church in error was reported as the Pingelly Community Church. Please note that it should have been the reported as the **Pingelly Family Church**.*

PINGELLY, Thursday, 9 July, 2020 (Cont'd)

We learnt that Helen had family visiting and so we were grateful she had made the time to meet with us. On this occasion, as it was school holidays and other members of the church were busy, it was only us and Helen.

This proved to be a blessing. Helen was able to seek our counsel on a matter that was burning on her heart. I hope we were of encouragement.

Over piping hot refreshments we spoke at length about many matters. Afterwards we were blessed to be able to pray for Helen, the Pingelly community and the church. Pastor Brian spoke from Isaiah 54:5-17. All too soon we realised two hours had passed. As it was almost midday, we bid our farewells to Helen and headed the 25 kilometres over to Popanyinning.



POPANYINNING, Thursday, 9 July, 2020

All appeared quiet as we parked outside the Popanyinning General Store. How deceived we were. It was the lull before the storm. Within a very short time and perhaps because of the time of day, business picked up with customers unrelentingly and successively coming and going.



We had to go inside the shop to locate Sam and Jenny who were resting between customers. The first thing we noticed was their new addition, a nine week-old puppy called "Bushy". We were enthusiastically and affectionately greeted by Bushy. The puppy had bonded firmly with Sam,

so much so that whenever Sam disappeared out of view the puppy would whimper. Bushy was a talking point with the customers. He had huge feet, indicative that he was going to be a big dog when he grew.

POPANYINNING, Thursday, 21 May, 2020 (Cont'd)



We began to despair that we would get time with Sam and Jenny for fellowship. The stream of customers was unbroken. Sam was being kept very busy. We learnt later, that Tracey had gone. Sam was on his own again to manage the business.

Finally, praise God, the customers slowed and finally we got some quality time together with both Sam and Jenny. Sam divulged to us that he had been prompted by the Lord not to sell the business even though a buyer had come forward. Jenny confirmed to Sam, unprompted by him, that she felt the Lord was saying to her not to sell but to remain in Popanyinning. This was confirmation to Sam and between them both they had perfect peace about their decision to remain. This decision was not without its difficulties. Jenny would need to have surgery on her hip in the near future moving forward, Sam would need assistance to nurse Jenny and run the business. However, if we are obedient to the Lord's promptings and are about His business, he will take care of everything concerning us.

Sam was excited to inform us that Vision Radio would be installed on their premises in the week to follow and thereafter be broadcasting to the Popanyinning district.

Our prayer-time together was regarding these matters, the business, the Popanyinning community, and for the Lord to provide the Maughan's with a well earned rest in the holiday season at the conclusion of the year.

Geoff took the Wandering route home. En-route we passed the location on our previous trip (just before the turn off to the Albany Highway) where a person had lost their life. A shrine and a cross now marked the spot.

It was dark, cold and overcast in the forest. As soon as we emerged out of the canopy of the forest, the sky opened up to a cloudless blue sky. It was as if we had entered into a new dimension.

In prayer and fellowship our spirits had been lifted. We rejoiced in a day that gave us much to praise God for. From our going out until our coming home, the Lord had clothed us with His blessings, protection and provision.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT a devotional

Jesus said to be faithful in the little things:

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." Luke 16:10 NLT

I am quite a keen gardener, or I like growing things, particularly in pots. A number of years ago I purchased a kumquat tree with the sole purpose of being able to use its fruit to make kumquat marmalade. I've been making marmalade for the forty-five years I've been married. For a number of years, the tree was healthy and produced an abundance of fruit. It happened slowly, a little by little, the leaves began to yellow and then little by little those leaves would drop. Over time the tree began lose its healthy look. The new growth was dry and brittle. The tree was beginning to rot from the root. Unless steps were taken to address the problem that tree was going to die.

An unknown person said, *"He that despises little things shall fall little by little."*

Are we not like that kumquat tree? If our hearts, like the root of the tree, little by little, are not watchful to the little things of everyday life, the little bit of gossip, the confidence betrayed, the little white lies,

blaming others for our mistakes, the disobedience to the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit, the lack of desire to learn from God and others. If we ignore these little by little falls, soon our hearts will, like my kumquat tree, be in decay. We need to be watchful of the little things. When the cashier makes a mistake, and gives us too much change, or when the waiter understates the bill, are we honest?

Let's face it: It is the little everyday matters that form the greater part of our lives and form the bulk of our witness of Christ. They may be little inconsistencies but they are insidious. How deceitful is the heart?

Pastor Rick Warren said: *God uses little things to test your integrity — in the stuff that nobody sees, in the stuff behind the scenes, and in the small, unseen, unspectacular choices of life where you do the right thing even though nobody's ever going to see it.*

Let us seek the Lord to prick our consciences to those little inconsistencies, to weed out our sinful,

Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for :

A great move of the Holy Spirit across the country.

Pray that the churches would be wise and discerning how best to help and serve during the crisis, to be salt and light to the world in darkness.

Please pray that the pandemic would cause people to recognise their own mortality and their need for hope, that they would reflect, repent and turn to Christ.

Please pray for Jenny and Sam Maghan, their business, for protection both spiritually and physically, for good health and the Lord's blessings on their plans to travel in their caravan.

Pray the broadcasting of Vision Radio in the South-West will reap a profound harvest of souls.

**Faithfulness
requires integrity,
and God tests
your integrity in
the little things.**