

**Our Prayer for 2026:** Dear Father, Help us to gather to proclaim Christ, and please use every LMAP member to play a part in bringing 20 people to faith in Jesus in each of our ministries and congregations across the year. To your glory. AMEN.

## Bible Talk Series Break-up – Acts 1-6:7

**Marketing Title of Series:** Acts: Risen. Reigning. Reaching.

**Overview of the Series:** Acts 1–6:7 shows the risen and ascended Jesus launching an unstoppable gospel movement by giving his Spirit to ordinary believers, empowering them to witness to him, form a devoted gospel community, stand firm under pressure, and see the word of God spread despite opposition.

**Purpose of the Series:** This series aims to move God’s people at LMAP to take up Jesus’ commission with confidence — praying expectantly, witnessing boldly, living as a devoted and honest gospel community, serving wisely, and trusting that the risen and reigning Jesus continues to grow his church by his Spirit.

Info for the Future. The plan is that we work our way through the *Acts of the Apostles*, looking at sections Acts 6:7-12:24 (2027), Acts 13.4-20.38 (2028) and Acts 21-28 (2029).

**Series Champion** (*Ministry Team point person to oversee this series*): Ken Noakes

### The Purpose of this Document:

- To instruct the **Gathering Leader, Kids Spot Speaker, Band Leader, Song Chooser** and **Preacher** in shaping each church gathering as whole – so that we intentionally draw out what we are looking at in the Bible each week. It will also mean, that particular features which complement what we do as a church, are addressed.
- To assist **Growth Group Leaders** and **Friday Youth Leaders** (and other ministry leaders) to arrange their program most logically and effectively to work in with the Bible Talk Series. And further to point to resources which can be used to lead groups well.
- To help the **Gathering Planners** (i.e. those who organise the rosters), **AV Ministry Team, Social Media**, and **Office** to have the information that they need to do the roles that they do most fruitfully and efficiently.



Talk No.	Preachers <i>(note: Master is the Google Drive Version)</i>	Passage	Reading	Talk Title <i>(marketing friendly)</i>	Talk Topic/Focus/Purpose	Comment/Outline	Gathering Googly <i>(feature/consideration)</i>
1. 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>NL</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>PH</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>NL</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>PH</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>NL</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	<p>Acts 1:1-11</p> <p>May be helpful to consider Luke 24:36-53</p>	<p>NT: Luke 1:1-4</p> <p>NT: Acts 1:1-11</p>	<p>A Job to Do.</p>	<p>The risen Jesus sends ordinary believers into an extraordinary mission — starting right where they are and reaching to the ends of the earth.</p> <p>Central Theme: The risen and ascended Jesus promises his Holy Spirit so that his apostles can bear witness to him from where they are to the ends of the earth.</p> <p><i>Purpose: To a) set up this Acts series and b) challenge and encourage believers to take up Jesus' commission by befriending, praying for, and inviting others to encounter him.</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For other LMAP Gatherings</li> <li>● Progress on Mt Riv Renovations</li> <li>● That we intentionally befriend, pray and invite those around to share in the faith of Jesus</li> </ul>	<p>Promote Square One (Regos open 1/8) (RC)</p> <p>Kid's Church Term 3 starts</p>
2. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug  <b>Moore College Mission Sunday</b>	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>NL</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>MTC Mission Spot</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>KDN</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>MTC Mission Spot</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>NL</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>NL</b></p>	<p>Acts 1:12-26</p> <p>In order to teach this passage, you might need to return over 1:1-11.</p>	<p>OT: Psalm 69:19-36</p> <p>NT: Acts 1:12-26</p>	<p>What Never to Forget</p>	<p>Jesus reigns right now, so his people don't look back in nostalgia but live forward in prayer, trust, and bold witness.</p> <p>Central Theme: The ascended Jesus reigns as Lord – and the apostles get ready to be the witnesses of the resurrection.</p> <p><i>Purpose: To move hearers from looking back at Jesus' ascension to living under his present rule — praying, trusting, and witnessing until he returns.</i></p> <p>Trigger warning: Acts 1:18 – Judas' suicide and his body bursting open and guts spilling out.</p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore College</li> <li>● Those appointed into positions of Mission/Ministry leadership</li> <li>● Our witness of Jesus around Lower Mountains and out into the World</li> </ul>	<p>Lord's Supper (BL &gt; Kevin Russell)</p> <p>Mission Focus: MTC Mission (GB9/ GB10.30/ BL4.30/ GB6 &gt; NA)</p>

	<i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i>						
3. 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>NA</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>NA</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>Lord's Supper</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>NA</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>KDN</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	Acts 2:1-13	OT: Genesis 11:1-9 NT: Acts 2:1-13	The Pentecost	<p>At Pentecost, God gives his Spirit so the good news of Jesus can be heard clearly by every nation under heaven.</p> <p>Central Theme: Pentecost shows that God gives his Spirit so the good news of Christ can go to all nations.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want people to see that Pentecost gives believers confidence: God has given his Spirit, made Christ known clearly, and sent his people to speak of him to the world.</i></p> <p>Notice the reversal of Babel (Gen 11) – it is not that everyone spoke the same language, but they understood one another clearly in their own language (c.f. Gen 11:6). Is this a picture of a future heaven?</p>	<p>It would be good to a Creed used in this gathering – this is a proclamation for what God has done in Jesus.</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Progress on Mt Riv Renovations</li> <li>● For the Nations – that all would know the name of Jesus.</li> </ul>	<p>BBQ B/fast (GB9am)</p> <p>Lord's Supper (GB10.30 &gt;NA)</p>
4. 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>NL</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>Lords's Supper</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>KDN</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>NL</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>NL</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	Acts 2:14-41  c.f. 2:21 w. Rom 10:13 And 2:25-28 w. Ps 16:8-11 And 2:34-35 w. Ps 110:1	OT: Joel 2:28-32 NT: Acts 2:14-41	What does this Mean?	<p>The Spirit reveals Jesus as God's promised, risen Lord — calling every person to turn, trust, and find life in his name.</p> <p>Central Theme: The Pentecost event shows that Jesus is the promised, risen and exalted Lord, whose saving death fulfils God's plan and calls everyone to respond by calling on his name.</p> <p><i>Evangelistic Purpose: To move the hearers from asking "What does this mean?" to recognising Jesus as both Lord and Messiah, responding to him in repentance and faith, and living gratefully in light of his saving sacrifice.</i></p> <p>Notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that Jesus was handed over by God's deliberate plan and</li> </ul>	<p>It would be good to have a confession in this gathering – there is a call to repentance in this passage.</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Give Thanks for the LMAP Women's Retreat</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	Lord's Supper (GB9 >NA)

					<p>foreknowledge (2:23) and raised (2:24, 32).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First 'growth formula: 3000 added to their number (2:41)</li> <li>- the change from Joel to Acts – v17 'In the last days' and v20 'glorious day'.</li> </ul>		
<p>5. 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug</p> <p><b>BCA Mission Sunday</b></p>	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>KDN (livestreamed)</b> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>BCA Mission</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>NL</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>BCA Mission</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>NL</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>KDN (Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</b></p>	Acts 2:42-47	<p>OT: Deuteronomy 4:1-14 NT: Acts 2:42-47</p>	<p>Grow Deep and Wide</p>	<p>Jesus saves people and gives a devoted, joyful, deep-and-wide gospel community that grows as the Lord adds to their number.</p> <p>Central Theme: Jesus saves, and so his people gather as a devoted gospel community—deepening in God's Word, serving with one another, sharing meals, praying to God, and growing wide as the Lord adds others.</p> <p><i>Purpose: To encourage LMAP to see itself not as spectators or consumers, but as a three-dimensional gospel family devoted to Jesus: listening to God's Word, serving one another in costly fellowship, praying to God, and joining in his work of growing together - deep and wide in faith and number.</i></p> <p>2:42 has been used as a description of what the necessary elements of what church should be (it is descriptive, not prescriptive c.f. 6:4) Notice: - Second 'growth formula': (2:47)</p>	<p>As this is BCA Sunday it would be appropriate to either start the gathering or include in the prayer the First Nations Recognition prayer (see below)</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bush Church Aid – and for country believers who gather to hear the word, have fellowship, break bread and pray.</li> <li>● BCA Mission (see prayer below)</li> <li>● First Nations Prayer (see below)</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Spot: BCA All gatherings &gt; David Thompson)</p>
<p>6. 30<sup>th</sup> Aug</p>	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>NA (livestreamed)</b> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p>	Acts 3:1-4:4	<p>OT: Deut 18:14-22 NT: Acts 3:1-4:4</p>	<p>Walking and Jumping and Praising God</p>	<p>The risen Jesus brings real restoration through his name — calling all people to repent, believe, and be made new.</p> <p>Central Theme: God glorifies the risen Jesus by bringing restoration through</p>	<p>It would be good to have a confession in this gathering – there is a call to repentance in this passage.</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p>	<p>Mission Focus: Youth Camp (NL)</p>

	<p>GB10:30: <b>KDN</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>BL10:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>NA</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>KDN</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	c.f. 3:22-23 w. Deut 18:15, 18			<p>his name, calling people to repent and believe even as the gospel advances through opposition.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to trust the risen Jesus for restoration and salvation, respond in repentance and faith, and be encouraged that God grows his church even through opposition.</i></p> <p>This is the first that we see of the apostles going out – they proclaim the resurrection, heal, and call people to repent</p> <p>Notice: - Third 'growth formula': 5000 (4:4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> <li>● Walking and Leaping – a kids song which would work well for GBam gatherings and includes the line: 'Walking and Jumping and praising God'</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LMAP Youth Camp Opportunities</li> <li>● Progress on Mt Riv Renovations</li> <li>● For those know to us who are sick – that they might find a gospel comfort in their burden.</li> </ul>	
<p>7. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept</p> <p><b>Fathers Day</b></p> <p><b>Baptism Sunday (BL)</b></p>	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>KDN (livestreamed)</b> GB9 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>GB10:30: <b>Dave Catto</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>BL10:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>Dave Catto</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>KDN</b></p>	<p>Acts 4:5-31</p> <p>c.f. 4:11 w. Ps 118:22 and 1 Pet 2:7 and 4:20 w. Rom 10:9-10 and 2 Cor 4:13 and 4:25-26 w. Ps 2:1-2</p>	<p>OT: Psalm 118:22-29 NT: Acts 4:5-31</p>	No Other Name	<p>Salvation is found in Jesus alone, his people can stand firm and speak boldly even when pressured to be silent.</p> <p>Central Theme: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humanity by which we must be saved.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to know that they stand on firm ground, even before authorities, when it comes to proclaiming the risen Jesus – and as a result see the importance of taking up opportunities to share Jesus with others.</i></p>	<p>This passage works very well for a Baptism service (BL4.30pm) – for salvation is declared in Jesus alone.</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No Other Name</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fathers, Grand Fathers, Foster Fathers, God-Fathers and those men or brothers who have played the role of spiritual father to us.</li> </ul>	<p>Lords Supper (BL10.30 &gt; KDN)</p> <p>Mission Focus: Baptisms (BL4.30&gt;PH)</p>

	<i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those getting Baptised (this week and next week)</li> </ul>	
8. 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept  <b>Baptism Sunday (GB)</b>	<b>MR9: Closed for Renos</b>  <b>GB9: NL (livestreamed)</b> <b>GB9 Kids Spot: Baptism</b>  <b>GB10:30: NL</b> <b>GB10.30 Kids Spot: ??</b>  <b>BL10:30: KDN</b>  <b>BL4:30: KDN</b>  <b>GB6: NL (Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</b>	Acts 4:32-5:16	OT: Deut 15:1-11 NT: Acts 4:32-5:16	Encouragement Together	<p>The risen Jesus grows his church through a united, generous, truth-telling community which he guards with holy seriousness.</p> <p>Central Theme: The risen Jesus grows his church through a united, generous and witnessing community, while also guarding it with holy seriousness against hypocrisy and deception.</p> <p><i>Purpose: To encourage believers to embrace life together as Jesus' people — proclaiming him boldly, caring for one another sacrificially, walking honestly before God, and trusting him to keep adding people to his church.</i></p> <p>This section shows life together for the first Christian church – united, proclaiming Jesus, sharing, signs, wonders healings and more and more people coming to faith. It is not perfect – Ananias and Sapphira caught in deception. An exciting yet nervous time.</p> <p>Notice: - Fourth 'growth formula' (5:14)</p> <p>Trigger warning: Acts 5:5 and 10 see the sudden death of Ananias and Sapphira.</p>	<p>Note: Baptism happens in a congregational setting – and this passage speaks of what a committed church looks like.</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBA</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those getting baptised</li> <li>Our life together as an LMAP family</li> <li></li> </ul>	<p>Mission Focus: Baptisms (GB)</p> <p>BBQ B/Fast (GB9)</p>
9. 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>MR9: Closed for Renos</b>	Acts 5:17-42	OT: Daniel 3:13-18	In His Name	The Spirit strengthens believers to stand openly for Jesus — obeying God,	Song Suggestions:	NCLS Survey Day <i>(Note: This will take around 10</i>

	<p>GB9: <b>JE</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>NCLS Survey</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>NL</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>NL</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>JE</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>NL</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>		NT: Acts 5:17-42		<p>speaking boldly, and rejoicing even under pressure.</p> <p>Central Theme: Stand up for Christ for by the Spirit you do the work of God – that repentance and forgiveness of sin occur</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to be strengthened to stand openly for Jesus – trusting that his name brings repentance and forgiveness, obeying God when pressured to be silent, and finding courage and joy in sharing Jesus with others.</i></p> <p>Yet again (each chapter so far) we see the Apostles proclaiming a risen Jesus and laying the blame of the Jewish leadership. The apostles are doing what they were commissioned to do (c.f. 5:32)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Progress on Mt Riv Renovations</li> <li>● School Leavers finishing to prepare for Final exams</li> <li>● Refugees</li> <li>● Sydney Synod</li> </ul>	<p><i>mins for everyone to fill out in the gatherings!)</i></p>
10. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<p>MR9: <b>Closed for Renos</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>Phil Coglan</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>Phil Coglan</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>KDN</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>Phil Coglan</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>KDN</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	Acts 6:1-7	OT: Deut 1:9-18 NT: Acts 6:1-7	Service, Prayer & Ministry of the Word	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>God’s people honour both practical service and the ministry of the word and prayer, resulting in members being cared for, united in faith, and the gospel spreading.</p> <p>Central Theme: The growing church of Christ needs both fruitful service and faithful word ministry, ordered wisely so that people are cared for, unity is preserved, and the word of God spreads.</p> <p><i>Purpose: To encourage believers to honour both practical service and the ministry of prayer and the word, and to joyfully play their part in the body so that Christ’s church is built up and his gospel advances.</i></p> <p>Key – Ministry of the Word and Prayer.</p>	<p>Perhaps a good time to talk about serving opportunities in our church.</p> <p>Song Suggestions: <i>(Given it is school holidays it would be good to have a kid’s song in addition to a kids spot):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TBA</b></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LMAP Youth Camp, for those attending for the first time, and for the leaders.</li> <li>● Give thanks for those who serve in numerous behind the scenes roles in our church – our administry</li> </ul>	<p>Note: No Kid’s Church (GBam) – Holiday Activity Packs + Tables in Auditorium</p> <p>Lord’s Supper (BL4.30 &gt; Phil Coglan, GB6 &gt; KDN)</p> <p>Note: LMAP Youth Camp this Weekend</p>

					<p>Note that all the names listed in 6:5 have Greek origins – significant because the issue at hand is that Hellenistic/Greek Jewish widows were being overlooked by the Hebraic/ Aramaic Jewish widows. That is, the community at large is putting their trust in these Greek-speaking spirit-filled members to act rightly for them.</p> <p>Notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fifth 'growth formula' (6:7 c.f. 6:1)</li> </ul>	<p>team, catering, maintenance, Parish Council, gardening, follow-up, visiting, cleaning, visuals and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Progress on Mt Riv Renovations</li> <li>● Sydney Synod</li> </ul>	
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**Key:** MR = LMAP Mt Riv; BL = LMAP Blaxland; GB = LMAP Glenbrook; KDN = Ken Noakes; RC = Rachael Connor; PH = Paul Hallam; NL = Nick Lindeback; JH = Julie Haddon; GO = Gail Oakey; NA = Neil Atwood; TO = Trevor Oakley; JSh = Josh Schroder; OB = Olivia Bush; JB = Jared Bartlett; JE = Jake Evans; GBH = Gary Haddon; AC = Andrew Cox; DSw = Dave Swan; PC = Phil Coghlan; JLav = John Lavender; DC = Dave Catto; BCA = Bush Church Aid; MTC = Moore Theological College; CMS = Church Missionary Society; DLS = Daylight Savings; YA = Young Adults; MARS = Mountains Anglican Refugee Support; CBM = Western Sydney Uni AFES Group.

### Gathering Leader & Preacher:

- To help make your role as the Gathering Leader as effective as possible - go to **'LMAP Gathering Support'** (<https://sites.google.com/lmap.org.au/gathering-support>). This is a one stop shop to help you with resources to construct a meaningful and organised Sunday Gathering.
- Take special note of the suggestions in the 'Gathering Googly' column. This detail should be kept in mind as you lead or preach. Gathering leaders, *if scheduled into the elvanto plan*, you will need to make arrangements to incorporate this aspect into the gathering.
- Please note there is a visual Powerpoint template which we would prefer that you used so that we have some consistency across what we display (and so that we avoid some traps e.g. colours that cannot be seen, text too small, fonts too difficult, text which covers set logos, livestream split screen requirements etc.). This template exists on the LMAP Gathering Support Site (as mentioned above) - and can be emailed to you on request ([admin@lmap.org.au](mailto:admin@lmap.org.au)).

### Devotionals or Bible Study (for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders):

- Julie Haddon, *Acts 1-6 (6 Studies)* – available on Church Central Online (<https://churchcentralonline.com/bible-studies/bible-studies/new-testament/>)
- Peter Bolt, *Proclaiming the Risen Lord (Luke 24-Acts 2)*. Kingsford: Matthias Media, 2004. (6 Studies)

- Bryson Smith, *Mission Unstoppable*. Kingsford: Matthais Media, 2003. (10 Studies) – Note: These 10 studies cover the whole of Acts – the first two and half studies cover what we will look at in this series. Keep in mind that it is the intention that LMAP look at progressive sections of Acts over the coming years.
- David Mulready, *World Changing Sermons – from the Book of Acts*. South Sydney: Anglican Press Australia, 2009. (Bible Studies for personal devotion)

**Commentary suggestions** *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders and Preachers):*

- J.R.W.Stott, *The Message of Acts*. BST, Leicester: IVP, 1990.
- I. Howard Marshall, *Acts*. Tyndale, Leicester: IVP, 1980.
- David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*. Pillar, Grand Rapids: Eerdmanns, 2009.
- Bruce Milne, *Acts – witnesses to him*. Focus on the Bible, Great Britain: Christian Focus Pub,

Note: A key and popular scholar who has done a lot of work on the *Acts of the Apostles* is R. Albert Mohler Jnr. He is a reformed Southern Baptist and his work is excellent. He has received some recent flack and push back for his comments on the roles of women in leadership and vocational ministry. Whilst that topic is not specifically addressed in Acts, it might be helpful to be aware of this background if you choose to use some of his resources.

**Song suggestions** *(for the benefit of Gathering Leaders & Song Choosers):*

*In the Song Selections above – Josh Schroder should have been consulted as we have limited the range of songs that make up our LMAP Song list.*

*Band Leaders: Vincent Willard (MR9am); Michael Webb (BL10.30am); Jason Bryne (GB9am); Callum Beaton (BL4.30pm); Josh Schroder (GB6pm)*

Copyright questions should be directed to Liz Thornton.

**Prayer in Acknowledgement of Country** *(to use at the beginning of our Gathering or to include in the Prayer on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug – which is BCA Sunday)*

*Our Lord and loving heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are Creator of all that is. We acknowledge that in your Providence you gave custodianship of the land upon which we meet to the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We acknowledge with sorrow the painful history between the Aboriginal people and the later settlers of this land, and we pray that you may work between us for the reconciliation that is the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

**A Prayer for BCA** *(to use on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug - which is BCA Sunday)*

*Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land.*

*We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society. Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.*

*Grant that, through the ministry of the Word, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming gospel may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Notes** (for the benefit of preachers):

These texts may be helpful for your reading in prep for preaching:

- Chris Green, *The Word of His Grace – a guide to teaching and preaching from Acts*. BST, Leicester: IVP, 2005.
- David Cook, *Teaching Acts – unlocking the book of Acts for the Bible Teacher*. London: Proclamation Trust Media, 2007.
- Alan J. Thompson, *The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus – Luke’s account of God’s unfolding plan*. NSBT, Nottingham: Apollos/IVP, 2011
- David Gooding, *True to the Faith – The Acts of the Apostles: Defining and Defending the Gospel*. Ireland: Myrtlefield Trust, 1990.
- R. Kent Hughes, *Acts – the Church Afire*. Preach the Word, Wheaton: Crossway,