

Thanksgiving to God

Message Mate

- Giving thanks for the good things in life has many benefits. Gratitude or thankfulness is good for your mental, emotional, physical and relational health. Giving thanks to God also honours God who is the giver of all good things.
- The Passover is a retelling of the story of how God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and took them on a journey towards the Promised Land. The Passover was also a time of giving thanks to God who is faithful, loving and powerful. In addition, the Passover was a prophetic revelation of how God would send his own Son as the Passover Lamb whose blood would be shed to set us free from slavery to sin and into the promises of God.
- Retelling the story of Rangeville has many parallels, as we retell the story of God fulfilling His promises to us, as we give thanks for His miraculous provision and as we believe for fulfilment of His prophetic words to us for the Next Stage of Rangeville to be completed.
- Rangeville Community Church has its origin from the establishment of Rangeville Methodist Church in High Street in 1912. That original building was outgrown and replaced with another building in 1962. When that building was outgrown, we prepared to move and build again, based on a prophetic word received by Herman Ruyters (Senior Pastor of Rangeville), that Rangeville would undertake a building program and the church would move into its new ministry centre free of debt.
- The land on Mackenzie Street was purchased through the prayers and gifts of many people and miraculous provision of a large anonymous donation. For seven years, Rangeville met in various locations around Toowoomba. Each time we stepped out in faith, more funds were provided. In addition, the church shared in significant events such as a Jericho March on the land where we prayed and praised as we walked around the land seven times. We also had a community sod-turning ceremony before any earthworks commenced. Even with many miracles, we also had to contend with difficulties such as when Rumours International was flooded in January 2011. Yet, we saw God confirm His prophetic word and we held our first service in the new building in March 2011, having moved in debt-free.
- As the church has grown, we continue to believe that God wants to fulfil the entire prophetic word for the remainder of the building to be completed. We are praying for revival at Rangeville where many people will be revitalized in their faith, re-engage with faith or be reborn into faith. We are praying for the release of the resources of heaven to provide all that is needed for the Next Stage of Rangeville to be finalized including the building and the resources that are needed to accommodate, care for and disciple many more people. We take hold of Romans 4:16,17 and give thanks to God for what is not yet, but what will be provided. Our heart is to be many more people to come into the Kingdom of God, and for God's name to be glorified in this church, city and beyond.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Having an attitude of thankfulness has many benefits for your mental, emotional, physical and relational health. What benefits have you observed for yourself or others when you have focused on being thankful?
2. The Passover included remembering and retelling the story of God's provision for Israel, a focus on giving thanks to God and a prophetic forthtelling of Jesus Christ who would come as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. Discuss how each of these were important for those celebrating the Passover, as they looked back to their past and forward to their future.
3. Ask if anyone in the group was part of the journey of Rangeville from 2000 to 2011. Ask them to share their memories and what they learnt during that time.
4. Discuss the parallels between the Passover and the journey of Rangeville as we retell the story, give thanks and look forward to the fulfilment of God's word with the Next Stage of the building and ministry.
5. Read Romans 4:16,17 and discuss what it means to give thanks for what God has promised, but has not yet been fulfilled.

Pray –

Pray with thanks for the many blessings that God has given us as Rangeville Community Church. Be specific in naming areas you are thankful for and pray with thanksgiving.

Pray for your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and others you don't yet know who you want to see come to know Jesus. Pray and ask God to prepare us at Rangeville to be ready for many more people to come into the Kingdom of God and to be discipled as followers of Jesus Christ. Pray that God will be glorified in this church, city and beyond.