



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

PROSPER – NEW STAN SERIES LAUNCHED THIS WEEK

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Prosper is a new series on Stan, and tells the story of the family and the mega-church they lead.

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Australia is known for exporting coal and steel, but it turns out we are pretty good as exporting religion.

Hillsong, C3 and Planet Shakers are multi-national organisations reaching dozens of countries. Behind each of these churches sits a family dynasty – the Houstons, the Pringles and the Evans.

The script-writers for Prosper interviewed present and former members of these churches. There are obvious parts of the plot that shadow the life of Brian (Houston that is!). Having said that, the series claims to be not against religion, but rather seeks to acknowledge the deep faith and desire to reach for the heavens. But this faith and drive for growth is juxtaposed against the brokenness of individuals and families, and the corrupting influence of power and wealth.

Drama series like Prosper invite you to reflect and critique. They claim to lift the hood and show what is really going under the bonnet. But they also revolve around a series of unresolvable dichotomies. Is my family a subset of God's family? Can our best intentions become a road paved to hell? Can you serve both God and money? Is the church a corporation or a family? Are people basically good, or does absolute power corrupt absolutely?

Given this is a secular produced series, one anticipates the dice are loaded against us. Prosper will not be against individual faith as a positive sentiment, but it will likely lampoon mega-churches as thinly veiled personal empires of megalomaniacs who misuse God's name for personal gain.

What might we make of series as Christians? A few thoughts.

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This is not the first (or the last) time powerful individuals and families have sought to use the umbrella of the church for personal gain. Powerful Italian families like the Medicis did so in the middle ages, as did the Rockefellers in New York in the 19th Century. The church was not mortally wounded then.

Mega-churches can do somethings well, like inspirational preaching and music, multi-media, compassion ministry and marketing. But they are ill suited to pastoral care, mutual accountability, lamenting through suffering, and remaining grounded. In short, they are unlike Jesus and his disciples, or the early church.

Does a bigger church beget bigger problems? Maybe, but smaller churches have their weaknesses too. There is little virtue in being contemptuous about the sins of others. Shared contempt drives the critique of mega churches, and multi-nationals alike. Instead, ask where is the log in your own eye.

Prayer and Praise Night

Please join us on Thursday, the 1st of February, from 7pm in the **Auditorium**, as we launch our year singing praises to God and coming before Him in prayer.

Psalm 95:1-2; "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."



Growth Group Sign Up

Each week, men and women of our church meet together to share in the joys and heartaches of life, open God's word and discuss how we might follow Jesus better, and pray together. Growth Groups are a highlight for so many people here at DAC!

This Sunday, we will have a signup opportunity for you to join a growth group. We ask that you pray about what Growth Groups might look like for you. We hope you may take this opportunity to foster a deeper relationship with God and connect with our awesome church community.

Growth Groups will return from Monday the 5th of February.

A form is available on the last page of the newsletter for you to use, or you can **scan the QR code here!**



DAC SUMMER DIARY

It's official! We are now going into our final week of DAC Summer. It has been such a joy sharing life with many of you as you have attended different events. A huge thank you to our ministry leaders, congregation members and staff who have been busy organising and planning, so that DAC Summer could be as awesome as it is!

But remember, it doesn't stop just yet! We have three events to go. Which one will we be seeing you at?

Outdoor Games



Night Markets



Train Trip to Berry

Go to dapto.church/events to find out more!

Safe Ministry

Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, as those who seek to be your witnesses in a minority situation, where your claims are so largely ignored or denied, we pray that we may bear our Christian witness by what we are and not simply by what we profess or preach.

Give us true holiness of character, a deeper understanding of people and their needs, and a love that is humble, outgoing and open.

So may our lives reflect something of your grace made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Lisa and Matt G.

MOURNING

Please pray for Denise B-A (10am) following the recent death of her husband, Brian. Please also pray for Nelson S (2pm) and Jeanette R (10am) following the recent death of their sister-in-law, Sandra S.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Allan C (8am) who recently had a fall and broke his hip while visiting Oberon with his son. He is in Orange Hospital and has had surgery. Please pray for Ruth F (10am) who is in hospital awaiting surgery. Please continue to pray for Ivy E (8am), who is still in St. George Hospital.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Gordon M, Beth W, Betty B (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendye C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM

Please pray for Deb P's brother, who is very unwell.

10AM

Please continue to pray for Ruby D, for mobility and pain control; Also, please continue to pray for Andrew W and Phillip P who both have health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N and her family with health problems.

GROWTH GROUPS 2024

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

1. Are you currently in a Growth Group?	Yes (go to 2 and 3)	No (go to 4)
2. If you are, who's Growth Group are you in:	_____	
3. Would you like to stay or move on to a new Growth Group?	Stay (thanks you're done!)	Move On (go to 4 and continue)
4. Which Service do you attend?	8am, 2pm, 10am, 6pm or Cafe Church	
5. Would you prefer a day or night Growth Group?	Day	Night
6. Would you prefer a single sex or mixed group?	Single Sex	Mixed
7. Which are your preferred days? <small>Circle your preferences</small>	Mon Tues Weds Thurs Fri	

Thank you!

*Hand back to Connect Desk, the Front Office
or DAC Staff.*

*Fill out the
form online here.*



**GROWTH GROUPS START
FROM MONDAY 5TH OF FEBRUARY**