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Pastor Connect

17th June, 2009

Speaking Out

So much happens around our world doesn't it? In one week there is so much to capture our attention. I was struck today however by the below picture. It is of Naghshe Jahan Square in Iran and shows the demonstrations that are going on there after the election. Thousands of people are meeting to raise their voices in protest. There is nothing really abnormal about such a scene in most western countries. However, for a country like Iran it is quite extraordinary, as is the fact that through the internet word of it has been able to get out to the world. Whatever your political views, we sometimes do take for granted the right to protest here in Australia, forgetting those who cannot do so without serious threat to life or liberty. Let us keep in prayer those around the world, including in Iran, who cannot speak out for risk of physical harm, remembering that everyone's voice is important enough to be heard.



In the LGBTi community there have been many such voices over the years, and tomorrow is the launch of the Sydney Pride festival, which is a commemoration of the Stonewall riots 40 years ago and a celebration of the community we have now. It is a time to remember those who are no longer with us whose voices spoke up loudly and with pride to the whole world. Details of the festival can be found at www.sydneypride.org and there are lots of events to go along to. So please support this festival. As part of this on Sunday night we will be having a Pride service at 6:30pm.

On Sunday morning there is a service to remember those who come to this country as refugees. This is being held as part of refugee week, which runs June 14-20. This year the theme for the week is "Freedom From Fear" and it not only raises awareness of those people who are forced to flee where they call home, but also it celebrates those who make Australia their home and enrich us with their diversity and culture. More details of the week can be found at www.refugeecouncil.org.au

And if all that isn't enough, we also have our Go Concert on Saturday night from 6:30pm. This concert unites worship, media and powerful speakers into one event to make a world of impact. It looks at the fact that we all have a mission! It will be a great night so spread the word. Entry cost

will be \$15 and more details about the concert can be seen at www.thegoconcert.com

Finally, a quick reminder about the bible study group on at 7pm Thursday night (tomorrow!). We will be meeting in the worship space with the heating on, so don't worry if it's a cold night. Hope to see you there.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Rev Gavin Ward

Metropolitan Community Church Sydney
Sunday 21st June
10am Traditional
Refugee Week Service

Metropolitan Community Church Sydney
Sunday 21st June
6:30pm Crave
Pride Week Service

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