

FROM OPEN DOORS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE: <https://www.opendoors.org.au/>

Ivory Coast: Motorbikes take ministry to remote believers.

On 29 March 2024, Open Doors' local partners on the Ivory Coast provided seven local pastors with motorcycles to support them in serving remote churches across the country. For many of these pastors, the motorcycles have been an answer to ongoing prayer.

"I had difficulties in reaching these churches," says Pastor Tahe Alexis, a beneficiary. "To make a pastoral visit was very difficult because to have a car to move around in this area is difficult. Since 2022, it has been a prayer point for which we kept bothering the Lord to do something about."

Pastors, like Tahe Alexis, serve isolated believers in distant parts of the Ivory Coast. Many in the country's west, east, and south have come to Christ from traditional religious backgrounds. Those in the north come from a Muslim background and face a growing jihadist threat.

"Tiredness will be less and moving will be easy now thanks to this motorbike," says Pastor Emmanuel Hein. "I really don't know what to say. This dream became reality thanks to my brothers and sisters. I can just say thank you. May God bless you. May God bless you abundantly."

Persecution in the Ivory Coast

Much like other countries in West Africa, the Ivory Coast faces escalating threats from Islamic extremists. In the northern regions, the growing influence of Muslims in politics and economics is palpable. Key investment projects are increasingly controlled by entities such as the Moroccan monarchy and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Christians increasingly feel marginalised and insecure, particularly as jihadist activity expands to remote regions.

Familial and societal tensions often flare up against individuals who convert to Christianity. Despite a largely Christian (35.2%) and Muslim (42.6%) populace, a significant number of people adhere to African traditional religions (21.6%).

Additionally, syncretism is common, blending Christian or Muslim faith with elements of traditional religions. When Christian groups oppose this mixing, they often encounter resistance from ethnic and clan leaders, especially in rural areas. Incidents like church vandalism and the forced seclusion of Christians during animist celebrations in the western regions further indicate the level of hostility.

Because of these motorcycles, believers in isolated areas will be visited more often and reminded that they are never alone. "It was a real need, and this bike will help us to be near the believers, our brethren who really need our support," says Pastor Alexis. "It's a relief for us. May the Lord bless you. May God return it to you a hundredfold."

Pray for the Ivory Coast

Join us in giving thanks to God for answered prayer. Pray for the pastors' ministries, that the Lord will prosper their work. Pray for believers who live in isolated areas. Ask God to increase their faith and give them strength to follow Him no matter the circumstances.

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Wagin Group

CONGREGATIONS OF
DARKAN, DUMBLEYUNG AND WAGIN



OUR VISION

To honour God through purposeful loving.

Pentecost 20
29 October 2024

Members of

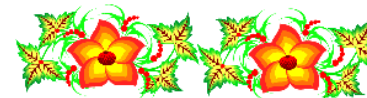


OUR MISSION

*To be a prayerful,
Spirit-filled people,
encouraging one another
to Christ-like maturity,
reaching out and
affirming all people
with the love of God.*

**What are
human beings
that you are
mindful of them,
or mortals,
that you
care for them?**

Hebrews 2.6



Sunday, 6 October 2024 Darkan 9.00 am Wagin 10.15 am	Pentecost 20 Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley Paul Whitfield	Bible Readings Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16
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Sunday, 13 October 2024 Waratah 9.15 am Wagin 10.15 am Dumbleyung 11.00 am	Pentecost 21 Arthur Pederick Arthur & Wendy Pederick Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley	Job 23: 1-9,16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31
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Sunday, 20 October 2024 Darkan 9.00 am Wagin 10.15 am	Pentecost 22 Arthur Pederick Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley	Job 38:1-7, 34-41 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45
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Sunday, 27 October Waratah 9.15 am Wagin 10.15 am	Pentecost 23 Arthur Pederick Arthur Pederick	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52
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DATES, MEETINGS, INFORMATION:

THE SOCK APPEAL is continuing. Socks are the number one requested item at homelessness services, and there's never enough of them. Everyone deserves to have cosy toes this winter. Bring new pairs of socks to the Wagin Church and put them in the "sock box" in the back of the Wagin Church. We will pass them on to those who minister to the homeless.

CommuniTEA Hub, Wesley Hall, Ranford Street, Wagin. Every Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm. A place for a cuppa, chat and connection. For more information contact Wendy Pederick on 0429 171 676, Ann-Britt & Graham Wasley on 9861 1724.

**He who wants to
enjoy the glory
of the sunrise
must live
through the night.**




COMMUNION

Dumbleyung	13 October 2024
Darkan	20 October 2024
Wagin	27 October 2024



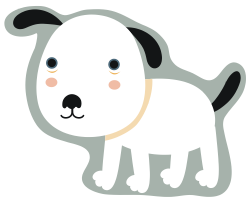
Darkan Flower Roster

6 October 2024	S Blake
20 October 2024	tba



THIS WEEK'S WAGIN ROSTERS	NEXT SUNDAY
Door: Ian Pederick	John Thomas
Morning Tea: Wendy Steels	Sharon Diver
Reader: Joan Johansson	Service in Hub Area

While taking a walk, a minister came upon a group of young neighbourhood boys standing around a dog. He curiously asked them what they were doing. The oldest boy explained how the dog was a stray and they all wanted to take him home. So, to determine who got him they were seeing who could tell the best lie.



The minister immediately reprimanded them for lying and then tagged on an impromptu ten-minute sermon. He finally concluded his remarks by stating, "When I was your age, I never even dreamed of telling a lie."

After a few moments of silence, the youngest boy turned to his friends, gave a big sigh and said, "OK, give him the dog!"

WAGIN REGULAR FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

TUESDAY HOME FELLOWSHIP. For information, contact Ann-Britt and Graham Wasley on 0428 611 724 or 98 611724

WhatsApp PRAYER GROUP. Wednesdays 6 am to 8 am. For information please contact Robyn Willey on 0417 924 823

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