Public Bible Reading Role Description[1]

1. DPC Vision Statement

Darebin Presbyterian Church (DPC) exists *"to see the City of Darebin and beyond find deep satisfaction in knowing and serving Christ."* The ministry of public Bible reading is crucial in helping us to realise this vision, because deep satisfaction in Christ can only be found as we encounter him in God's Word. This is why Paul says to Timothy: "the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15) and therefore he should "Devote himself to the public reading of Scripture..." (1 Tim. 4:13).

2. Key Outcomes

Our main goal is to help people encounter God, by hearing him speak through his Word and through the subsequent preaching of his Word. That means we strive to:

- Read the Bible with clarity**,** so that everyone can hear God's Word and follow it with ease.
- Read the Bible with comprehension of its meaning, so that our hearers can begin to understand what the passage is about.

3. Specifics of Role

- We use the NIV (2011) translation.
- The Bible passage will be listed in the Elvanto service plan.
- You should read from a printed Bible.
    - If reading from a printed Bible is hard, you might like to copy and paste the NIV translation of the passage from BibleGateway.com and format it so that it is easy for you to read.

During the week...

- Identify any words in the passage that are hard to pronounce, or that you don't know how to pronounce, and ask Pastor Adam for help.
- If helpful, make notes on the passage - underlining key words, indicating appropriate places to pause or give emphasis, mark out the different sections, or scenes in the passage.
- You don't have to be an expert on the passage, but if you are going to help people begin to comprehend its meaning it is useful to have at least some sense of things like its purpose, genre, and emotional tone.
- Practice reading the passage out loud several times – maybe even record yourself, or read it to someone else. Practice looking up when you are reading.

On Sunday...

- Pray – especially that God would calm any nerves.
- When you stand up, take a deep breath and slow down.
- Introduce yourself and the passage and where to find it. For example: "*Hi, I'm Mary. Today's reading is from Acts chapter 6, verses 1 to 7. You can find it on the Welcome Card, in a church Bible, or just follow along on the screen behind me.*"
- Pause to allow people time to find the passage.
- Take a deep breath, and remind yourself to slow down.

5. Support and Accountability

If you have any questions or concerns about your role, please contact Pastor Adam Humphries (adam@darebinpc.com.au) who leads the Magnification team that oversees all our Sunday services.

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[1] Much of this content was taken from Simon Camilleri's document, "The Ministry of Public Bible Reading". http://www.simoncamilleri.com
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