

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Farewell for Pastor Dave Groenenboom
Gateway Community Church
2.00pm, Sunday 21 October, 2018

Good afternoon one and all.

I thank the Reverend Peter Abetz for his kind invitation to be here today.

My wife Patricia and I, together with Councillor Lara Kirkwood are delighted to acknowledge and to give our thanks to the service given to the Gateway Community Church and the wider community by Pastor David Groenenboom; and to be able to wish him well in his new role with the International Justice Mission Australia.

I have had the pleasure to be involved with David through the Cockburn Central Youthcare Committee for several years and have always valued his friendship and wisdom and know that in his new role with the International Justice Mission he will excel.

There continues to be an increasing need for professionals from all walks of life to contribute to the work of the International Justice Mission Australia, particularly to protect the poor and vulnerable from violence; whether it is in Australia or elsewhere.

Never before has there been the number of people from the four corners of the Earth on the move; displaced from their homes, forced to travel across one or more borders, separated from family and friends and in many cases living 'under the stars' wondering what the next day will bring.

While David's calling to the International Justice Mission Australia is another step for him we are blessed in the fact that David has been an outstanding contributor to God's work in our local community.

We should also be grateful for the pathway that he has followed and for the fact he has guided many people with similar values along that same path and helped so many others to improve their life.

David, on behalf of the Cockburn community I wish you well in all you do in the future – you are truly a great man with the capacity to continue to achieve and to bring your special flair to the table to help others in their hour of need.

Thank you and God bless.