



Transforming Sydney & National Prayer Strategy for the Ten Domains



TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY

This year, the Newsletter has a National focus and mission,
for Family, Church, and the Ten Domains of the Marketplace

Contact us: Bjorn & Lilian Schmid - info@transformingsydney.org

Note: articles in this Newsletter reflect the opinion and witness of the respective authors,
which may or may not align with your own; consider this with Ephesians 4:1-7 in mind.

Prayer Calendar 2015

Check our 2015 Prayer Calendar for daily prayer points - www.transformingsydney.org/TSPayerCalendar.html

Note also on the end page is a **Daily Prayer Calendar for March to pray for Government and the Military.**

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Pentecost Eve in Sydney

Transforming Sydney and Sydney Leaders

Invite you to join us on **Saturday 23 May 2015** at **Newtown Mission**

More details to follow soon - put this date in your diary!

Rediscovery of the Kingdom of God

By Derek Brown

Recently I presented a seminar called 'Rediscovering the Kingdom of God' to a group from my local church.

After listening to my presentation, a guy named Matt approached me, thanked me for my teaching, and then made a comment that has stuck with me ever since. He said, "I go to church every Sunday, I watch all that's going on, and I think 'there's got to be more to my Christian faith than this'."

To be clear, Matt wasn't bagging church, but he carried a desire to see his faith expressed in a meaningful way in the world in which he lives. Many Christians like Matt faithfully attend church each week, but are left with the feeling that only those who work within the church or on the mission field are serving the purposes of God. The rest are like bystanders whose role is to support and finance the work of the church and its outreaches. One of the primary reasons for this is that many Christians perceive the local church to be the Kingdom of God. In their minds, the Kingdom advances only through what the local church does.

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Here's a story that illustrates this very clearly. A young lawyer named Sarah was asked by a friend what her ministry was. Drawing on all of the teaching she had heard over years of attending church, Sarah answered, "I teach Sunday School on Sunday mornings." In her mind, nothing she did during the week in terms of her passion for justice, compassion and equity within her world counted. What a travesty!

Here is what she should have said: "God has given me a passion for justice, and I have the opportunity to express this every day in the work I do as a lawyer. I am so grateful for this avenue to express my faith and God's call on my life. Oh, by the way, I also help out on Sunday at my local church as a volunteer in teaching Sunday School."

To be able to respond like this, Sarah needs to see what the Kingdom really is. She needs to realize that being called to work as a lawyer is of equal value to being called to work in the church. Her work isn't secular; it's sacred.

How can we help Matt and Sarah realign their thinking so that what they do every day becomes a meaningful expression of God's purpose for their lives?

The key to this change of thinking is a rediscovery of the Kingdom of God. This isn't a new message – it is the Kingdom of God that lies at the heart of the teaching, life and action of Jesus, and it is the Kingdom that pervades His parables, miracles and passion. Jesus said the purpose for which He was sent to earth was to preach the Kingdom (Luke 4:42–44). Perhaps the most compelling point is that Jesus spent the last 40 days with His disciples speaking on one theme: the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:1–3).

If the Kingdom of God is the main message of Jesus, why is it we hear so little about the Kingdom in our churches? There are several reasons. Many evangelicals see the Kingdom message as part of a social gospel and have dismissed its relevance. Others have put the Kingdom off to the future, believing it will come when Jesus returns. Still others, as we have noted, believe the local church is the place where the Kingdom is expressed, so they focus on building the church, not the Kingdom.

Jesus said "Seek first the Kingdom" and "I will build the church." We've done the opposite – putting the Kingdom off to the future and focusing on building our local churches – so it's no wonder we're confused about the Kingdom.

E. Stanley Jones, the missionary statesman, put it succinctly: "If Jesus made the Kingdom of God the center of His message and the center of His endeavor, the greatest need of man, as I see it, is to rediscover the Kingdom of God."

As we realize the scope of the Kingdom and its potential to bring transformation to our communities, the question

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Rediscovery of the Kingdom of God (...continued)

arises: how is this going to happen? God is the Creator and sovereign Lord over all. His redemptive agenda encompasses all of creation. And by His grace, God has uniquely gifted each Christ-follower to participate with Him in this grand redemptive work in a particular domain of society.

I have become involved in the area of business through some interesting personal experiences. From my late teens I had worked in the church as a pastor and then spent many years working in a para-church organization. Up until my late 40s, my world centered on church and Christian organizational activity. Then, through some difficult personal circumstances, my focus changed and I found myself starting an Internet business out of necessity. My family and friends will tell you this was crazy on two accounts: first, I knew nothing about business; and second, I knew even less about the Internet.

Seven years later I'm still running this business, which in itself is a miracle. This experience has been very helpful for me in terms of understanding how different the business world is to the world of church and Christian organizations. It has helped me to grow a deeper appreciation for the amazing passion and skill God gives to people who build and develop successful and influential businesses. I recognize that this drive and ability comes from God, and that the results are an evidence of the Kingdom at work in the marketplace.

So, with my heart to promote the Kingdom message and my limited experience in business, I have become involved in developing a Business as Mission (BAM) course within our local context in Australia. Our goal is to inspire a new generation of business entrepreneurs to be about their Father's business (Luke 2:49).

God's expectation for your life is directly linked to the passion and gifting He has given you. In the parable of the talents, Jesus makes it very clear that our point of responsibility is how we use the talents God has given us.

The fact that someone else may have more or less talents than we have is irrelevant. We shall give an account for our portion of God's deposit and the return we have seen for this investment.

Based on this understanding, we can each develop our own vision for the place where God has called us to serve. The question to consider is: what would it mean for the Kingdom to come to this place? This vision will be specific and will relate directly to your sphere of influence. Whatever God has placed within your heart, go for it with all you have.

Let's be part of the answer to the prayer "Your Kingdom, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

This article contains excerpts from Derek's new book "There's Got to be More – Rediscovering the Kingdom". You can download an ebook copy of this book at <http://rediscoveringthekingdom.info/resources/purchase-ebook/>

or contact Derek at www.rediscoveringthekingdom.info

More information about Business as Mission can be found at www.businessasmission.com.au



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Generate is the premier provider of School Chaplains in NSW, managing over 150 Federal Government Funded School Chaplaincies.

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Transforming Sydney is partnering with Generate to bring awareness of the role of Chaplains and the great opportunity for local combined churches to place Generate-employed SRE (Scripture) teachers in NSW state secondary schools.

For more information and how to help please go to

www.generate.org.au

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

(by Ps Trevor Bartley)

While I was spending time with God in prayer and asking Him in what direction I should focus this year. He shared these words with me;

“Prepare for a new Spiritual Awakening”

Then God shared this profound statement with me;

“This Spiritual Awakening is not about warfare but a degree of Holiness.”

For us to expect an awakening with in our nation it has to start with us as individuals first.

What is meant by the statement ‘Spiritual Awakening’?

A vision of the spiritual renewal and awakening of individual Christians and of the church itself; we need to be ready for a spiritual awakening that stresses the transforming inner work of the Holy Spirit in the individual and a vision of the church in which the unity of the Body of Christ and the mutual indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an experience of fellowship so powerful that all divisions of our society and the world pale in comparison; we need to be striving for a spiritual awakening in which the gospel and its consequences for humanity are seen to be so vital that it is openly proclaimed as the God-given alternative to the many unhealthy and disruptive features with which society is riddled. We need a spiritual awakening which calls for preparation through the spiritual exercise of prayer, meditation and reflection.

In other words, each person must allow themselves to be placed by God in the correct spot within His church and each person must allow God to purify and refine their spirit to make it more receptive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

All we need to do is, accept that, as a member of God’s church, we each have a specific role or ministry, and that God has equipped us with special gifts and talents for this purpose – both “natural and spiritual gifts or talents” and specifically the spiritual gifts given to us when we became Christians (these are the ways in which the Holy Spirit manifests himself through us in our divinely appointed role in the church), and this should make us more receptive to the leading and guidance of God as He places us where He wants us to be and what He wants us to do.

To “live and move in a glorious sphere of usefulness for His glory” is God’s purpose for every one of us. Again this only comes as the Holy Spirit gains possession of all of us.

As we lay down our lives daily and say “not my will, but Yours, be done Lord” (Luke 22:42), and as the prayer goes “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done” (Matthew 6:10), as this becomes the focal point of our existence, as we continue to hunger for God’s plan to be worked out in our lives, then everything gives way to the Holy Spirit. He can begin to take charge of our thoughts, our emotions, and our bodies.

Remember, this is always voluntary, never forced, and a spiritual awakening does not come to anyone who does not want it. However, the one who wants to be really used of God, to “live in a glorious sphere of usefulness for His glory,” must come into this reality.

What society is crying out for (although it does not know it) is exactly the same as what the church is crying out for, and for which each and every Christian should be striving for, a great awakening of the spiritual depth and unity which God gives us in Christ.

What is desperately needed is a mighty awakening; not a preaching campaign, but a spiritual revelation of the glory of God breaking out throughout the population, necessarily accompanied by a revelation of how spiritually filthy we all are with out Christ – and the church is, and society is, we need to experience the cleansing of the spirit of God – in the glorious Light of Gods truth.

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SPIRITUAL AWAKENING (...continued)

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (AMP):

Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

Awake [from your drunken stupor and return] to sober sense and your right minds, and sin no more. For some of you have not the knowledge of God [you are utterly and willfully and disgracefully ignorant, and continue to be so, lacking the sense of God's presence and all true knowledge of Him]. I say this to your shame.

When I look around at the church I see a group of hurting people who are carrying pains and resentments from decisions of the past, broken relationships and broken promises. Who think and believe that God cannot or will not use them because of these types of thoughts and conditions at work in their lives?

God is referred to as a potter, He takes what was ugly reshapes it from the inside out and produces a new and living thing that radiates the love of God. This makes me think about King David, and the new thing God wanted to do with him and through him. Who were the people that gathered around and supported David in this new and great call of God?

1 Samuel 22:2

And everyone in distress or in debt or discontented gathered to him, and he became a commander over them. And there were with him about 400 men.

I say 'really God!' He said yes, it is what I see that is important, all things are possible to those who believe

This gives me great confidence in what God has called us as a church to fulfil, I look at the people in my congregation and I say 'really God!' He said yes, it is what I see that is important, all things are possible to those who believe. A willingness to follow is more important than ability. I heard a great saying one day, 'it is not your ability God seeks but your availability.'

This is what happened in Wales in 1904. From a few small but persistent prayer meetings there broke forth upon the population at large what can best be described as a wave of divine illumination. It was as if God opened the veil of Heaven and allowed Himself to be seen by the people; not with their physical eyes of course, but with the inner spiritual consciousness which most of us try to deny even exists. Virtually overnight, chapels were filled and bars emptied. Magistrates had no cases to try in the courts. Pit ponies in the coal mines that had previously only responded to swear words, needed retraining because the minors had ceased using profanities. Bible studies and prayer meetings were held in mines and hotels, and a tourist passing through one of the towns influenced by the revival at 3am commented on how all the houses had a light on, even at that hour and people were even seen on their knees in the streets praying.

The community in that part of Wales changed overnight to a degree that no human revolution could imitate.

Similar effects accompanied the Methodist revival and the Great Awakenings in America. The early Salvation Army saw changing society as part of its mission to evangelise the poor. A true awakening cannot do otherwise than impact upon our nation as a whole!

If society is to be changed into something more like the ideal, a spiritual awakening rather than revival and reform or revolution is the answer!

The process starts with us. It begins with those who call Jesus their Lord, surrendering their minds and will to the mind of Christ, yielding to the movement of the Holy Spirit and allowing themselves to be transformed little by little into the image of our Lord.

© Ps Trevor Bartley

www.trevorbartleyministries.org

If you would like a copy of my book 'The elementary teachings and doctrine of Jesus' mention this article and I will give you a 25% discount.



What Children at Risk Need and How the Church Can Help Them Best (part 2 of 3)

Lausanne Consultation on Children at Risk

Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 November, 2014

Contributing Paper by Ruslan Maliuta

The Guiding Principle: Give Me a Real Person with a Name Who Cares for Me

The situation of children at risk is a very complex one and demands a complex response. Without attempting to provide an overgeneralized and oversimplified solution, I do think that the issue of having safe, stable and nurturing relationships with loving and caring adults is one that is not given the attention it deserves in our quest to help children at risk. **The guiding principle of focusing efforts on helping children at risk should be either providing a child with these kinds of relationships with adults or strengthening relationships with existing caregivers as much as possible.**

Before exploring this principle further, let me first share the story of one of these children.

His mother became pregnant when she wasn't married. In modern time, she would be under a lot of pressure to have an abortion. In her context, the shame was much more overwhelming. The baby was at significant risk of growing up as a fatherless child, because his mother's fiancé wasn't responsible for his conception. But the man didn't give up on the baby and adopted him. He was born in a stable but was never abandoned, unlike many children today who are left behind in well-equipped birth hospitals. The most powerful authority in the country threatened his life, but he survived because his parents were willing to become refugees in order to save his life. His mother was there for him during the most difficult time of his life. As you probably guessed by now, his name was Jesus and the people who provided safe, stable, and nurturing relationships for him were Joseph and Mary.

As we are trying to develop solutions to deal with the multitude of challenges children in the whole world face, there are several questions, which should underpin all our efforts:

- Does this child have an adult or adults in his life who love and care for him and are able and willing to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing environment?
- What we can do to help parents or caregivers provide better care for their children?
- If there is no such person in the life of a child how can we help find at least one who will take on that responsibility?

All these questions appear to be very specific to an individual child's situation and a far cry from answering the need for profound, systemic changes that must take place on global, national, and community levels to increase the well being of families and children. If that's what we think and if we are not addressing these questions while trying to develop and implement systemic changes, we will fall short of serving the best interests of children in a better case scenario or create counterproductive interventions in the worst. Systems change slowly and in the meantime, children are harmed.

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There is no better example of this fact than the institutional system of care that was developed to help children deprived of parental care. At some point it almost became common sense that the best way to respond to this problem was to place a child in an institution and then make sure that the conditions in this institution are good and meet the child's needs for safety, food, clothes, accommodation, and education. The system seemed efficient and some people even began to think that the institutions could do a better job raising children than families.

It took a number of studies over the years and an unknown number of broken lives to realize that something is not working.⁸ It has become evident that even the best of institutions cannot replace a family for a child and many of them have become places for all kinds of abuse. Not every family is better than an institution, but any family that is

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⁸ See the following resources for more information on the subject of institutional and family-based approaches to orphan care:

<http://www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/46/348>

<http://faithtoaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Summary-of-Research.pdf>

What Children at Risk Need (...continued)

willing and capable of loving and caring for a child is better than the best institution we are capable of inventing. This compelling need for family-based care makes it especially difficult to see how much resource the global Christian community invests in the development and maintenance of the least effective and most costly system of care for orphans and vulnerable children, instead of directing it towards strengthening families.

There are many other examples of how the systems that were invented or accepted as normative are either failing or not leading to a long-term success. Governments, NGOs, and churches alike make this mistake. Subsidies for single mothers cause many of them not to register their marriages and eventually make their children fatherless.

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changes undertaken by governments and civil society that utilizes the principle of strengthening children's relationships with loving and caring adults, too. A paradigm shift from institutional toward family-based care for orphans and vulnerable children is among them. Many governments have adopted the goal of developing a child welfare system that supports families and more NGOs and churches are focusing their efforts both on strengthening families, and finding and supporting loving and caring homes for children who need them.

Another specific example of a systematic effort to prevent and reduce violence against children that takes into consideration this guiding principle is THRIVES, a multi-sector technical package of complementary interventions recently developed by the US Government's Center for Disease Control. The strategies in this package include training in parenting; household economic strengthening; reduced violence through protective policies; improved services; values and norms that protect children; education and life skills; and surveillance and evaluation. With regard to the first strategy, the document states the following: "Interventions that support the development of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between parents or caregivers and their children are a key evidence-based strategy for violence prevention for two reasons. First they can prevent violence towards children and, second, they may also prevent the early development of violent behavior in children. Emerging evidence suggests that by stemming the early development of violent behavior, such relationships can also reduce violence in adolescence and early adulthood, including, potentially, partner and self-directed violence".⁹

In sum, I'd like to stress that various programs and agencies are very important and in many ways indispensable. But all these efforts will only result in long-term sustainable improvement in the lives of individual children when we create systems that ultimately allow us to know the names of people who are their Josephs and Marys. It can't be simply a program, a project, or an institution. It should be a real person with a name, and the more of them the better. We can never hurt a child with one more person in her life who truly loves her and is committed to what is best for this child.

But if we are ever to see this principle realized on the global scale, there is, in my opinion, only one institution that is capable of both spearheading and implementing this movement – it is the Church, the Body of Christ.

The Secret Weapon: Awaking the Sleeping Giant.

Even a brief environmental scan reveals that in the present time the Whole World seems to be more concerned about the issue of children at risk than ever before. Governments declare their commitment to protect children's rights and improve their wellbeing, countless NGOs are involved in providing services for children, UNICEF has become an influential player in global politics, and we are gathered here for such a purpose. Without a doubt the Christian community globally makes a significant contribution in this area of work. Local churches are traditionally active in

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⁹ THRIVES: A Technical Package to Prevent Violence Against Children, a draft of the document provided by one of the authors, Dr. Susan Hillis, 2014

What Children at Risk Need (...continued)

helping the needy; faith-based organizations such as Compassion, Samaritan's Purse, World Vision and others reach millions of children; networks and movements like Viva, 4/14 Window, Global Children's Forum, and World Without Orphans further mobilize Christian community for children-related causes. The problem is not that the church is not doing much, but that the Body of Christ is capable of so much more. **The global Church is uniquely positioned to spearhead the movement toward transforming the world into a better place for children but falls short of realizing its potential.**

I wonder which answer would get the most responses if a poll was taken around the world: "What is the most prominent agency caring for children who live in adversity globally or in your country?" Would it be UNICEF? Save the Children? A government? My hope is that the day will come when most people around the world when responding to a question like that would say without thinking twice: "The Christian Church." There are good reasons for this aspiration so let's look at some of them.

First of all, what I mean by the Church is a global body of believers who identify themselves as the followers of Jesus and adhere to key foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. The Bible describes the Church as the Body of Christ, transcending denominations, organizations, countries, people groups etc. For those who call themselves Christians and mean it, this is our main identity: the family of God. The Church is uniquely positioned in the Whole World for the task of changing it into a better place for children. It has a clear mandate from the Word of God to champion the cause of those who need help and serve them.¹⁰ The Bible is very specific on what family life should look like, how children are to be treated, and what a high priority caring for vulnerable groups of society, especially children, is. The motivation does not just come in a way of command; it is a result of an internal transformation that a person experiences by turning to God and becoming a part of His family through Christ. As one adoptive parent put it, "God adopted us at profound cost to himself... so adopting an orphan, even when very difficult, is just a small retelling of the gospel"¹¹

The Church has a supernatural power that comes from the Holy Spirit who lives in the Body of Christ. The people who truly embrace their new identity as the children of God can rely not just on their intellect, strength, and collective capacity but humbly trust God to release His supernatural power in and through their lives. This gives much more solid reason to hope for real transformation both on micro (personal life) and macro (community and society) levels. This also points, from my perspective, to a major problem with the whole concept of secular social work as it has developed globally. Taking its origin from the teachings of the Bible, the idea of helping the needy had been cut off from its roots and its source of power, and has become a field of good intentions that constantly fails to deliver. The Church has both the concept and actual capacity to do what it takes, not necessarily in terms of material resources but in the ability to achieve the intended outcome of holistic transformation of a person and/or community.

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The Church has a true global presence and vast human and material resources. According to estimates, there are between 2.18 and 2.27 billion Christians in the world, representing about a quarter to a third of the whole population, and more than 5 million local churches.¹² Although distributed unevenly, Christian believers and congregations are present throughout the world, many of them in places where there is basically no infrastructure or any other institution at work on behalf of children.

The Church is already making a significant contribution to the global effort to help the vulnerable through various activities of local churches, faith-based groups, collaborative initiatives, etc. More than once, both in the past and in present time, Christian initiatives were pioneer efforts in responding to crisis, providing specific services, developing best practices, and paving the way for the government and secular NGOs. One example of this is the response to the problem of street children in Eastern Europe and specifically in Ukraine during the last decade of the 20th century and early 2000s. Christian groups were the first ones to begin to care for the children on the streets and developed programs that eventually helped several countries in the region to virtually eliminate this problem.

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¹⁰ James 1:27 and other

¹¹ Jedd Medefind. *Becoming Home*. 2014. p. 37.

¹² Pew Research. *Global Christianity*. <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-movements-anddenominations/>

What Children at Risk Need (...continued)

These and other examples allow us to assume that the Church might be a group that is best suited to spearhead the response to the issues of children at risk. This is especially true if we accept the notion of the ultimate importance for a child to have safe, stable, and nurturing relationships with loving and caring adults. The Church does need to be actively involved in all other components of caring for vulnerable children and families such as rescue and relief, economic development, educational opportunities etc., but while a lot of the above can be relatively effectively done

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by government, the private sector, and secular organizations, it seems to me that the Church is best positioned to make the most difference when it comes to such issues as strengthening families, supporting parenting, finding new families for children who need them, providing mentors, and as the family of God, offering love and nurture to the children among and near them.

If the Church will strategically focus on these goals, effectively mobilize its potential, and build its capacity, at the same time working in collaboration as much as possible with other key players, it can be a game changer, and result in significant improvement in the state of children and families globally.

Concluding next month: Part 3 - Taking the Initiative and Assuming Responsibility.

WATCHMEN SCHOOL OF INTERCESSION

The **Australian Prayer Network** has established a Watchmen School of Intercession for the purpose of training up Christians in how to pray for our Nation and the Nations of the world as well as for the Church in Australia and beyond.

The School begins with a Foundational Course spread over 6 sessions which is usually held as a 2 day intensive. This course is suitable for both experienced prayers and/or those wanting to simply know more about the discipline of prayer and how it relates beyond our personal relationship with God, as a tool that God uses to change the world around us.

The topics of the Foundational Course are:

- Session 1 - How prayer works**
- Session 2 - Intercession – a lifestyle that changes your world**
- Session 3 - Understanding the spiritual DNA of your community**
- Session 4 - Spiritual Authority the key to spiritual breakthrough**
- Session 5 - Principals of small group leadership and participation**
- Session 6 - How to hear God's voice**

The course is being made available to Churches, other Christian ministries and established prayer groups/networks across Australia. There is no cost for the Course although we ask that a free will offering towards the ministry of the Australian Prayer Network be allowed to be taken at each School held.

After completion of the Foundational Course participants, should they so choose, will be able to undertake further Intermediate and Advanced courses which will be offered over the following two years. Each of those courses will also be of 6 to 8 sessions duration. Whereas the Foundational Courses will be held locally, the Intermediate and Advanced courses will be centralised to State and National level to enable participants to learn with other praying people from across their State and the nation as a whole.

Local Pastors or other ministry leaders who would like to host a Foundation Level Course should make contact with us to discuss your needs and how we may be able to assist in meeting these needs.

Yours in Christ,

Brian Pickering, National Coordinator, Australian Prayer Network - prayer@bigpond.net.au

Unbreakable Net

(By Dr. John Yates, February 2015)

Personal Matters

In the midst of a dynamic meeting of marketplace and church leaders remarkable testimonies of the grace of God were abounding. Then I sensed I needed to step aside from the sound of the people and listen attentively to the voice of the Lord. The more I listened the more I knew I needed to bring a prophetic word in the biblical wholeness of promise and warning. For the first time however a new dimension of prophetic ministry seemed accentuated, prophets are *called to protect the Church*. The Church needs to be *protected from itself*. While Jesus ascended above the heavens so his Body might “attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...*mature manhood*...the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children”, the heart of the Father is pained because rarely does his earthly family reach maturity (Eph 4:13-14). The way to a full-grown Church is the purpose of this message.

Remember

When someone at the conference cited Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation I recalled how Luther’s refusal to fellowship with Zwingli divided Protestantism at its roots, when the Welsh revival came up I recalled how accusations crept in between key leaders so that the movement evaporated, when the Azusa street revival came up I recalled how early Pentecostal unity soon fractured over doctrinal differences concerning holiness. I will never forget the words of a pastor in Argentina who spoke of how 40, 000 people came to the Lord during a city revival but a year later there were only a 1,000 in the Church. “There were *too many holes in the net*.”, he said. By “the net” he was referring to the relationships between the Christian leaders. Given the general lack of unity across the Australian Church a tearing of nets with a great loss of fish is the *probable future* of any significant move of God.

Given the general lack of unity across the Australian Church a tearing of nets with a great loss of fish is the probable future of any significant move of God.

Intensity

“She’ll be right mate.” summarises the general easy going mood both inside and outside the Church. The times however are changing and an intensity is coming in the realm of spiritual warfare that will stretch every relational strain to breaking point. Revelation 12 is a key passage for what is about to come. When Satan is cast out of heaven he pursues the Church with great wrath and a flood of water pours from his mouth. This flood is a flood of lies, blasphemies and particularly *a torrent of accusation*. Only one strategy can thwart the devil, “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” (Rev 12:10-11 ESV). When the *people of God suffer together under satanic attack and refuse to accuse one another*, no matter what, the victory of the kingdom of God is assured. Such maturity requires a new vision of Jesus.

Looking To Jesus

“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:2). When Jesus ascended to the throne of God his own faith reached a point of perfection. Today *Christ no longer operates by faith but simply by knowledge*. He knows and speaks into being all the acts of God’s kingdom. (Similarly, the early apostles were so intimate with the Lord they simply declared healing and forgiveness (Acts 3:6; 9:34 etc.)). With perfected faith *Jesus is completely rested* with his Father beyond the reach of any evil contending force. As he and the Father *share the one heavenly throne* any competition between them for power or position is impossible (Rev 22:1, 3). This shared reign of God and “the man Christ Jesus” was reached only by the terrible suffering of the cross (1 Tim 2:5).

When Christ cried out in sheer agony, ““My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?””, it felt to Jesus as if the relational connection between him and the Father was at breaking point (Mark 15:34). Yet he endured to the end and has conquered (Heb 13:13). Christ calls us to share this unbreakable relationship with his Father, a relationship which is ours only when we are consciously seated at rest with him in the heavenlies (Eph 2:6). When we sit down with Jesus upon his throne of judgement-and-grace *his seat bears all the weight of responsibility* concerning his kingdom and leads us into perfect peace (Isa 26:3; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 4:16)

(continued next page)

Unbreakable Net (...continued)

Supernatural Nets

In prophetic images the “net” is the relationships between believers and the fish are converts Christ sends into our midst. The importance of the state of the relationships that make up the net is illustrated by two stories of miraculous catches. In Luke 5 Jesus is in Peter’s boat and the catch is so great that “their nets were breaking” (v.6). In John 21 the nets are filled with 153 large fish, symbolic of the nations of the earth, “And although there were so many, the net was not torn.” (v.11). Foundational differences exist between the two episodes. Before the glorification of Jesus the disciples “argued with one another as to who was the greatest” i.e. the net was not whole (Mark 9:34). John 21 however is a post-resurrection story, by this time the cross had taught the apostles that greatness with God only

The network of relationships where brothers and sisters resolve to suffer together without striving for superiority is unbreakable.

comes through mutual sacrificial service. The *network of relationships where brothers and sisters resolve to suffer together without striving for superiority is unbreakable.* “When the net is at rest in the love of the Father it will never break.”

Conclusion

The only striving we need to be committed to is the striving to enter God’s rest (Heb 4:11). Such perfect rest comes only as “we look to Jesus” (Heb 12:2). Only a supernatural vision of the perfected humanity of Christ resting at the right hand of power can rid us of our drive to compare, compete and contend with one another. *Only such a Christ-centred vision can halt a coming flood of mutual accusation IN THE CHURCH.* Only a Church with a vision of the immeasurable greatness of the Son of God can understand the measure of our calling in Christ and become committed to suffer together for his sake. The context of such coming suffering will be the subject of my next article.

If the above prophetic claims are true we urgently need to pray for the release of a specific ministry in the Church. The word for “*mending nets*” is the same as that for “*equipping the saints*” (Mark 1:19; Eph 4:12*). The web of misunderstanding and accusation entangling the Church requires the release of net-mending ministries to bring wholeness to the Body of Christ. May the gracious Lord empower such people, lest we fall into temptation and division and the great catch of souls be lost.

* From Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament:

Mark 1:19 - καταρτίζω (katartizō) - to adjust thoroughly; to knit together, unite completely,

Eph. 4:12 - καταρτισμός (katartismos) - a perfectly adjusted adaptation; complete qualification for a specific purpose.

BLOW THE TRUMPET...



Join together across the denominations in
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PRAYER & WORSHIP
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

The Nature of Transformation

By Andre Van Eymeren

What do you think about when you hear the word transformation? Where do your thoughts and images take you? The concept is usually associated with some kind of significant change, something visible, tangible and is applied to fields as broad as maths to automotive, biology to linguistics.

Most mornings I go for about a 3km walk around our city block in Fitzroy near the heart of Melbourne. It's an ever-changing landscape! I particularly like noting if there is a new shop going in and discovering how the owners take on décor, style, general look might change the streetscape or the look of an individual shop front. Our neighbourhood also has many feature walls, depicting all kinds of street art and occasionally these change and you could say that the wall and even the surrounding area is transformed. My walk is also creating another transformation, at least my wife tells me it is, as every now and again I hear that wonderful question... 'have you lost weight?' By no stretch of the imagination am I a health nut, but I wouldn't mind it if my belly became a little flatter and the jeans a little baggier.

Perhaps in the context of Transforming Sydney and organisations with a similar vision, we think of transformation in terms of our lived experience, reflecting to a greater extent, the reality of the Kingdom's current presence with us, whilst holding onto a hope that we will soon see its fulfilment. Friends of mine in the North East of Melbourne run a missional café called Now and Not Yet, symbolising the reality that because of Jesus' death and particularly his resurrection God's Kingdom, his enterprise has broken into our world. But of course the full impact of this in-breaking is yet to be felt.

... because of Jesus' death and particularly his resurrection God's Kingdom, his enterprise has broken into our world

Tom Wright in his book *Surprised by Hope* argues that generally we have a narrow understanding when it comes to the work of God's Kingdom, namely we see that its all about going to heaven when we die.¹ We have predominantly seen its presence as an inner spiritual reality (affecting the spiritual life of the believer) with a future outworking (God's Kingdom will only be a reality when Jesus comes again) to borrow Howard Snyder's classifications.² Unfortunately this has left many in the western church cold to any form of mission beyond evangelism and any purpose outside the growing of the church.

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying evangelism and growing the church are wrong or somehow not tied up with God's purposes, they are. However as a Church we have majored on these things often to the detriment of God's broader agenda. When God raised Jesus from death he broke into our reality in a new way. Jesus was the first fruit of the new creation. With this event the establishing of the new earth and the new heaven had begun. So inherently that means that God has an investment in this world now and calls us to work with him on its renewal or transformation.

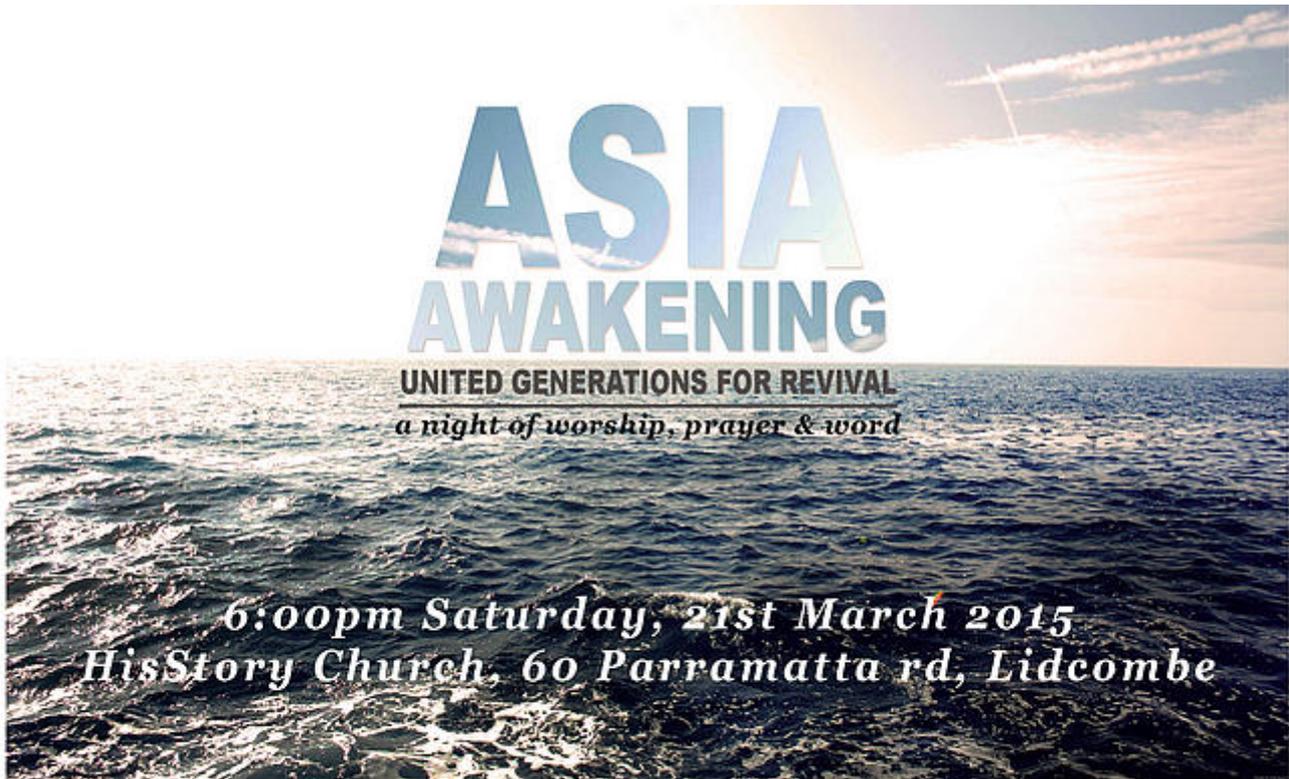
From our perspective, the future hope we hold has an intermediate or present component that as we partner with God, we believe that the world can be different now, which in fact is the essence of the good news to those who are suffering. And we begin to live Jesus' Luke 4 manifesto to those around us, no matter our sphere of influence. It's a relief to realise that any component of this mission is as valuable as any other. So if my work is to alleviate poverty with a particular community or to bring comfort to the sick, or to teach in some form then this is as valuable from a Kingdom perspective as the one who verbally shares the message or preaches on a Sunday.

Perhaps then for all of us as we play our part we are in fact lifting the name of Jesus higher. To the ancient Hebrews a name was to embody a set of characteristics, a holistic description of what the person stood for, who they were. As we embody the idea of transformation over all of society, as we work to see our spheres of influence changed, we recognise that we are in fact partnering with Jesus, living to see his character, his personhood become more widely realised, his name lifted higher, his full life become a lived reality in our midst.

Andre is an experienced community development consultant, trainer and practitioner. Over the past 20 years he has been part of building community from the inside. This has seen him and his family live and work in marginalised and hurting communities in South Australia and Victoria. Added to this Andre has been involved in projects across Australia, working extensively with local councils, schools, faith groups and the not for profit sector. He holds an undergraduate in Ministry and an MA focused on faith and community development.

¹ Tom Wright, *Surprised by Hope* (London: SPCK, 2007). 210, 211, 215.

² Howard Snyder, *Models of the Kingdom*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1991)



**HOSTED TOGETHER
BY UNITED CHURCHES**

Indonesian 0410 540 273
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Filipino 0424 602 972
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Asia Awakening is a night of worship and prayer where two generations (from youngest to oldest) are coming together to hunger for revival. It is an awakening call to all generations in this very important hour to rise up and stand together for spiritual resurrection and to fulfil their destiny.

This event is hosted jointly by united churches from different denominations and nationalities (Australian, Korean, Nepali, Filipino, Indonesian).

In the past two years, every third Monday of the month God has brought together pastors and leaders from different national backgrounds and church denominations to worship, pray and fellowship with one another. As we honoured one another in humility, God started to unite our hearts. We have seen many wonderful works of God through this unity.

Why is this gathering important for such a time as this, especially for those who have an Asian background? The reasons for that are.

1. Many children who are part of the 1.5 Generation (referring to people who immigrated to Australia before or during their early teens) and the 2.0 Generation (Second Generation - those who were born in Australia) are having difficulties to identifying themselves.
2. Younger generation is becoming more self-centred and less interested to identify themselves with their parent's faith.
3. Separation between Christians Denominations and the many different nationalities in Australia make it more difficult to unite as one body of Christ.

These days, we are facing the reality that we are losing the young generation: they have become less interested in the things of God. In Malachi 4 it says that in the last day "he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." God is going to restore the fathers generation and sons generation.

Today God is calling all "fathers" including parents, fathers, mothers, senior pastors, leaders and He also calling all "sons" including young generation, young pastors, young leaders to run together for His purpose and His Kingdom. The fathers generation shall pass on to the sons generation a solid legacy of faith and Godly values. The fathers will love, support, mentor and bless the sons. There will be fathers and sons working together for the last-day revival!

We are calling Fathers and Sons Generations to be united in worship and prayer in

Asia Awakening, Saturday 21st of March 6pm at HisStory church, 60 Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe.

A Childrens program will be provided. The service will be in English.

We are also inviting all Pastors and leaders to join the Pastors prayer meeting at 5pm for praying and connecting time.

The GRACETHROUGH Experience !!

By Pastor Peter Rahme

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2: 8-10)

Grace – Its magical in its wonder but not mystical in its working!

As soon as grace takes care of your heart, growth will take hold of your soul, and change will take place in your life, bringing with it an irresistible refreshing aroma that others will find inspiring and attractive and will easily be drawn to you

In John chapter 4 we read about one woman's GRACETHROUGH Experience. She experienced firsthand the transforming power of God how his rich grace will pick you up from the highway to hell and place you on the freeway to heaven if you only repent and believe the Gospel. No wonder we call it AMAZING.

When the woman of Samaria experienced the Amazing Grace of Jesus Christ, it was more than a breakthrough for her, it was her GRACETHROUGH !

Let's now follow her GRACETHROUGH journey from the guilt of the 'shame-on-you' to the grace of the 'shame-off-you'.

I. The Woman of Samaria

There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: John 4:7a.....

The woman of Samaria came to draw water from the well so she can take care of her physical thirst. But underneath that hardened surface and aging physical exterior, there was a deeper thirst for life and love.

Nameless and seemingly shameless, she tried to quench that deep thirst by exchanging the only asset she thought she had - her body.

Sadly, like the silly characters of 'Sex in the City', this woman of 'some area' was a wild cougar with a devil may care attitude. She sought and found those who would help her make it through the night. Her misdirected passion led her in and out of superficial relationships, looking for love in all the wrong places.

Madly, like a desperate housewife, this bad Samaritan was willing to trade her permanent emptiness for temporary happiness, She did that by sleeping around with a number of deceptive men in a numerous dysfunctional relationships (we know of at least 6) after all what's love got to do with it.

While she thought that she was exploring her options, the reality was that she was exploited by others, and , she was getting tired of being treated like a piece of meat and a mere product with a limited shelf life – discarded once expired. The deep well of her precious soul had dried up completely .

Hopeless and helpless, she'd given up on the thought of ever finding that feeling of being loved for the person she is and not for the pleasure she brings.

Then she met JESUS !!! And her life turned around for good, from the inside out, and her world changed forever, from downside up.

II. The Way of the Saviour

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. John 4:10

Jesus quietly answers all of her unanswered queries. He begins by dealing with the important over the urgent and draws her attention to - 'THE GIFT OF GRACE NOT (HER) GENDER, MORALS or RACE'

This lonely and vulnerable soul quickly learns that Jesus does not reject or turn away the socially outcast nor demonises or puts down the spiritually confused. Jesus didn't beat around the bush with her; neither did he beat her on the head.

He was sure of her listening ear once he secured her trusting heart! He first presented the eternal living water and in the light of that, he pointed out her earthly life style.

Jesus used dialogue not monologue:

- He asked not demanded
- He discussed not debated
- He answered not argued
- He responded not reacted

Jesus didn't beat around the bush with her; neither did he beat her on the head ... Jesus used dialogue not monologue

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The GRACETHROUGH Experience !! (...continued)

Jesus was patient but not passive, firm but not aggressive.

He was concerned about her heart's trust more than her human tendency.

His words were compassionate without compromise.

His way was instructive not intrusive.

Jesus was respectful not rude towards her:

- Jesus was respectful not rude towards her: His posture - he sat down not stood over her.
- Her personhood -he lifted her up not looked down on her.
- Her point of view - he let her finish her sentence and complete her statement.

He took the necessary steps to build a relationship:

- He talked with her.
- He treated her with dignity (he called woman the same that he called his own mother).
- He taught her by explaining things clearly.
- He told All ever she did (vs 29, 39b).

The more Jesus spoke to her heart and mind, she more she realized who He was: from a Jew in vs 9; to a greater than Jacob in vs 12;to a prophet in vs 19,to The Messiah in vs 22, 29.

In Closing

Although nothing really seemed to change on the outside of her world (hot, weary, thirsty, lonely, broke, etc..), yet everything truly changed on the inside!! So much so that she - **then left her waterpot (vs 28)** - that very symbol of her old manipulative lifestyle (and what most likely got her into trouble in the past), because she was no longer that kind of a person, she is now a changed woman, transformed by the power of God's amazing grace.

After she opened the door of her sincere heart to Jesus, she went on to open the door of Samaria for Him.

Set free from her dark and miserable past, she set out to set others free from theirs. After she opened the door of her sincere heart to Jesus, she went on to open the door of Samaria for Him.

Vs 28 – and SAITH to the men

Vs 39 –The SAYING of the woman...

Vs 42 -..Thy SAYING...

Initially her talk was controlling and her theology was confused, but after just one meeting with Jesus -the God of all grace, her trust was real and her testifying was powerful. God took her awful matrimony and turned into an awesome testimony.

The gift of grace that Jesus brought to her dead spirit and the difference that He made to her dried heart is still available today and just as easily accessible. The good news is this wonderful gift From God is also FREE, FOR ALL and FOREVER. Take it up. Do it NOW!

Living under GRACE is not about doing and working LESS, but being and living MORE; Being MORE - Relational, Rational, Real, Reasonable & Resilient (i.e God's design); and Living MORE - Truthful, Peaceful, Loving, Merciful & Joyful (i.e God's desire)!!

The Bible says:

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the TRUE grace of God wherein ye stand.' 1 Peter 5:10-12

With the love of Christ, Peter

© Peter Rahme J.P.; B.Th.; PO Box 5296 Chullora NSW 2190 Australia ; Tel 61 418 249 989

Lebanese by birth, Pastor Peter Rahme has lived in Australia since 1970. He is the founder of Inner West Baptist Church, Strathfield. NSW.

A popular conference speaker, Pastor Peter is also an accomplished singer /songwriter and the author of “ Mr Eternity , Amazing Grace & Y -Jesus. His Facebook inspirational posts are followed by thousands around the world.

Peter can be contacted by e-mail at peterrahme@optusnet.com.au

The Power of Prayer & Fasting

By Ps. Matt Prater

When I was a youth group kid, we did the World Vision 40-hour famine. I thought I was going to die. I was so hungry! It was a challenging experiment to go without food to raise money for the poor. But it taught me some lessons. It taught me to toughen up, and that it's ok to go without food. It taught me to consider others, and that God will help me when I commit to a fast.

I remember at our Bible college graduation that our principal told us that there was four things we should focus on as we followed Christ: prayer, the Bible, church and fasting. I was surprised he'd included fasting in this list, but I now see that it's meant to be a part of the normal Christian life. Fast forward a few years. I was asked to pastor a church at the age of 30. I knew that now was the time for me to set aside time to pray and fast and so understand the will of the Lord regarding this position. So I set out to do a one week fast. No food, just fluids. It was a powerful time of seeking the will of the Lord. It was so fruitful, for I knew the Lord gave me the answers I was seeking. I accepted the role as pastor.

I remember at that time I had been reading some of Billy Graham's comments on fasting. He said

Fasting can be a wonderful spiritual experience. Believers who never practice fasting and prayer are missing a spiritual discipline that has blessed many throughout the ages. A person in good health may choose not to eat occasional meals in order to focus their devotion to God. Not only are there spiritual benefits, but some doctors believe that there are also health benefits. The early church found prayer and fasting valuable when seeking the guidance of God for making important decisions, such as choosing spiritual leader (Acts 13:2-3;). God will honour and bless anyone who fasts and prays in the right spirit.

At that time I would do the occasional fast, sometimes 3 days, other times 7. I'd heard of great men & women of God fasting for 21 days & 40 days, and of course I knew that Jesus undertook a 40-day fast before his temptation. But a 40-day fast seemed too long for me to embark on.

Then in 2008 I went on a trip to the USA. I attended an event called "The Call". There were 15,000 people gathered in a stadium to pray and fast for America for 12 hours. I was so inspired. These crazy Christians were praying to end abortion; praying for biblical marriage to be upheld; and to terminate sex trafficking around the world. I myself am passionate about these issues, and I think there is an appropriate way to speak out about them. But I believe if we pray and fast God will hear our prayers, and we have a much better chance of success than if we tried to change things by our own efforts. At the conference I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to do a 40-day fast while I was there. The first few days are always the worst; then it get's easier as your body adjusts and your heart becomes fixed on doing what the Lord has induced you to do.

When I came back to Australia, I went to Canberra for a meeting of prayer leaders and pastors from around the nation. We felt the need to call a National Day of Prayer and Fasting for the marriage debate. We heard from a few politicians about how the definition of marriage may be changed if we

Christians didn't speak up about it. We also felt that praying and fasting was the best thing we could do. So when it was decided we should build a team to make it happen, someone in the room suggested I should lead it because we needed a new generation of prayer leaders raised up within our own nation. I think I was chosen because of my age (I was the youngest person in the room). I felt that the Lord had prepared me for this role during my 40-day fast, so I hesitantly accepted the role as Chairman of the National Day of Prayer.

At the start of each year we call a 40-day fast leading up to the National Day of Prayer, which this year (2015) is on Sunday, 15th February. It's a great way to start the year, and to seek the Lord for the year to come. The location is in the Great Hall of Parliament, Canberra. People from all over Australia will gather. There will be times of worship, prayer and short words of encouragement from many politicians, pastors, and leaders. We've made a DVD

The first few days are always the worst; then it get's easier as your body adjusts and your heart becomes fixed on doing what the Lord has induced you to do.

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The Power of Prayer & Fasting (...continued)

documentary and we have many YouTube clips. Our Facebook page is www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au

I've done different types of fasting over the years:

- fasting food, and just having liquids;
- a Daniel Fast, which is no meats or sweets;
- I've tried fasting from the washing up and mowing the lawn, but my wife wasn't happy with that one;
- Facebook fasts;
- TV fasts;
- Overnight fasts: I start at bedtime, and finish when I wake up.

The purpose of fasting is to make a sacrifice to the Lord, not out of legalism but from your heart. You promise that you will lay down something for a season to seek the Lord. I find that when I do this I am dying to myself and living for Christ.

In Ezra 8:21, 23 there's an example of God's people fasting:

. . . I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

I believe it's great to have a day of prayer and fasting, as these verses describe, but our lifestyles should also be based on regularly fasting, both private and corporate (church).

I've also been chewing over Psalm 127, a psalm of Solomon:

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain (v. 1).

Just praying at church, or at home group, or at bedtime is not good enough: we must be praying all day long.

I love the saying, "We don't want to do good things, we want to do God things". When we pray and fast, we are saying, "Lord, let your kingdom come. Not my will but yours be done!" Let's keep on the front foot in prayer: we must seek his kingdom and ensure it is the Lord building the house! We need to be a people who pray and fast regularly, who connect with God all day long.

Just praying at church, or at home group, or at bedtime is not good enough: we must be praying all day long. Someone once said that we can make history when we pray. I believe now is the time for us to pray for a shift in our nation to return to God. Will you answer the call?

Pastor Matt Prater is the Chairman of the National Day of Prayer. He is also Senior Pastor at New Hope Brisbane, and host of the Afternoon Show on the Vision Radio Network.



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The **Centre for Public Christianity** (CPX) is a not-for-profit media company that offers a Christian perspective on contemporary life. We seek to promote the public understanding of the Christian faith by engaging mainstream media and the general public with high quality and well-researched print, video and audio material about the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century.

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Papua New Guinea World Mission

P.O. Box 2456 Lae 411 Morobe Province,
Papua New Guinea

PNGWM FEBRUARY 2015

Dear Friends and Partners in God's Mission,

Greetings in the Name that is above all names, He is Jesus. And Jesus said; *"And I, when I am lifted from the earth, will draw all people to myself."* (John 12:32).

Where ever we may be and what we are doing, our prime purpose is that the Name of Jesus be lifted higher and higher. When Jesus Christ is lifted higher or demonstrated through our lives, there is light, life, healing and all the works of the darkness expels.

Let's continue to lift the Name of Jesus and give Him that place He deserves in our entire lives.

Thank you all for your tireless prayers and support to see one soul find hope in Christ.

MISSION LEONORA-WA

Mission Teams are engage more in prayer and worship and by doing so doors began to open and changed tensions in the atmosphere. The Indigenous People started opening up to come and share their prayer needs with us to pray for them. Our main prayers are that, the mind sets of the people be renewed and they receive their Salvation in Christ Jesus. We believe that through fervent prayers and intimate hearts of worship, walls can be crumbled and chains be broken to set the captives free for the glory of God's Kingdom.

The work has just begun in Leonora, WA and we continue to covet your prayers and support. It is ongoing where our mission partners and missionaries will be rotating on one to two months intervals with our missionary Sandra Main on the ground in Leonora, WA as the Team Leader.



MINISTRIES COMING UP THIS MONTH

PRAY with us;

- **SIL Tok Pisin Lotu – Sunday 8th February 2015**

PNGWM Team will be leading the service at the SIL Tok Pisin Lotu. Pray for God's blessing upon the service, for the leading of the Holy Spirit as I lead the service and for the missionaries as they share testimonies and presentations and most important for God's anointing upon the Word.

Pray for protection and traveling mercies as we travel on Saturday morning by road up to SIL Ukarumpa in Kainantu (EHP) and for provision of fuel for the vehicles. A Team of 12 will be travelling on this mission trip and will return back to Lae on Sunday evening.

- **Missionaries and Intercessors Retreat – 25th – 28th February 2015.**

(continued next page)

PNGWM FEBRUARY 2015 (...continued)

Our missionaries and intercessors are very important to us. Most of our intercessors are illiterate village mothers and all are not from the same location, but they have a heart to pray God impacting lives through PNGWM.

Pray for protection upon our missionaries and intercessors traveling to Lae for our Retreat. Pray also for provision to provide accommodation and meals for our missionaries and intercessors during the three (3) days Retreat. This is one time of the year that we bring them together to value and appreciate their commitment to intercession.

• Mission Team to Leonora-WA

Sandra Main and two (2) other missionaries will travel back to Leonora-WA in the first week of March 2015. That is almost three (3) weeks from now. All visas have been granted. Praise God.

Please stand with us in prayer and support for their airfares from Port Moresby-Perth, WA transiting through Brisbane, Australia. We continue to walk in obedience to God's calling to "go and make disciples of all nations..." God has been faithful to us by providing for the airfares through you, our faithful partners in advancing God's Kingdom Business.

URGENT PRAYER NEED FOR THIS WEEK:

The Ministry vehicle; Mitsubishi Pajero's engine was ripped off this week for a full engine over-haul after the engine ceased a month ago and vehicle was grounded. This is a faith project! PRAY for provision to purchase the right parts and wisdom for the mechanic to rebuild the engine and get the vehicle back on the road to assist with logistics for our upcoming Retreat at the end of this month.

Every blessing in Christ,

Ms TEMA MANKO

PNG World Mission

LAE, PNG

Mobile: (675) 71564657

Email: pngworldmission@gmail.com / temspngwm@gmail.com

PrayNetwork.org

A Community of Prayer Champions, Praying Churches, Prayed-for Communities



PrayNetwork.org is a learning community for prayer champions (leaders-intercessors-beginnings), praying churches (pastors-coordinators) and prayer-for communities (teams-citywide).

Nearing 5000 members (membership is free but protected), the site offers over 100 groups, upcoming events/conferences from dozens of ministry organizations, over 1900 blog postings, 20 and growing roundtable discussions, 1257 photos and 257prayer-prompting video clips. Over 100 members who have a global, national and/or regional influence are identified as Featured Members and can be followed as "friends," as can be any of the other network members.

PrayNetwork.org is a place to search and research, read and review, comment on prior posts and contribute new articles.

My paraphrase of Romans 12:2 gives you an idea of what you'll experience ~ Do not be limited to the prayer styles and traditions you've learned up to now. Let your praying be transformed by the renewing of your mind (ie, change the way you think about prayer). Then your prayers will be in line with God's good, and pleasing and perfect will.

Connect to our learning community. Start a group for your prayer team or ministry (Group+ functions allow you to have a 2nd website for your organization). Let a few thousand of your closest friends know about PrayNetwork.org!

Invitation Link for the Pray! Network: <http://praynetwork.ning.com/?xgi=18a3Pmc4CBBqIR>

Your servant,

Phil Miglioratti

phil@missionamerica.org

Pebbles and Stones

"I'm your child right?" my four-year-old son asked frowning his brow.

"Yes. I answered."

Crinkling his brow even more he then asked, "And you're grandma's child, right?"

"Yes!" I answered.

Stepping back, with his hands on his hips, he exclaimed, "Great! Then we are both children."

I smiled thinking, so it is in the kingdom of God. There is only one God, one Lord, and one Father of us all.

Growing-up, I did not know that my relationship with God was father/daughter. I thought I had to do good and be good in order to get His attention. The many stories I heard and Bible verses I memorized taught me about His character. I had heard that He was all powerful and all knowing, healed the sick, made the crippled walk, and the blind to see. I heard He raised a little girl and Lazarus from the dead, cleansed the lepers with only one returning to thank Him, and He loved children. There was the day He reprimanded His disciples, saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I longed to be one of those children who came to Jesus and experienced His love. Jesus called a man named Zacchaeus down from a tree and said, "I am going to your house today," gave me a warm feeling. I too wanted Jesus to come to my house.

The violence that shook the walls of our house also jolted the core of my being. Would I wake up and find my mother dead? Every night, I feared it as a child. My father shared with us how he planned to kill my mother.

Adoption became my greatest dream as a child. I just wanted to belong. In school, I often day-dreamed about being my teacher's child and wondered what life was like without fear.

Maratha, our elderly next door neighbor, whom I believed laid the foundation of Pebbles and Stones touched our family with God's love in tangible ways.

After physical and verbal explosions at home, the phone often rang. It would be Maratha calling to see if my sisters, brother and I could come over to help her. We would run out our back door and over to Martha's house. She often had small projects for us to do such as helping her weed her small garden. We never worked long. Maratha would tell us that she was tired and that we should go into her house to rest for a bit. When we opened the door, the smell of freshly baked cookies greeted us.

Maratha would also tell my mother how much she liked to sew and mend, and ask her if she had anything that needed mending. Of course, we did.

Maratha loved to read. Many evenings, Maratha would invite us over to read to her saying her eyes were too tired. I only remember there being one book in her house—the Bible.

In all the years growing up next door to Maratha, I never felt like I was her ministry or project. Being with her, I felt like a treasure.

My childhood reflects God's redemptive love. I believe it is not an isolated story. Children you see daily hide stories of betrayal, abuse, and neglect in their hearts; children who long to know that they treasured and loved.

The Holy Spirit showed me through a powerful encounter at the age of twenty-eight with tears flowing down my face, what it meant to be God's child and to call Him Father; to recognize His voice and know that He wanted the best for me. I knew I danced in the twinkle of His eyes. Understanding and forgiveness began to flow from my heart to my father, and over the years I would see the Lord touch his heart, too!



My life was never the same. I was loved and accepted, and knew God had plans for me, and all of them were good.

Looking back into the eyes of my son nearly 40 years ago, I realized I wanted him to know God as his Father, not just about Him. I wanted the same for my daughter.

(continued next page)

Pebbles and Stones (...continued)

I began to ask God how I could do this. Slowly, a vision emerged of an intergenerational meeting with children and adults gathered together to experience God's love in the context of community. I would teach as Jesus did through the telling of stories, allowing the Holy Spirit to be the teacher.

I called several of my friends and asked if they would be interested in getting together with our children and having something like a Bible Study with them. They were, and our first Pebbles and Stones meeting came to be, although it didn't have a name. That would come much later. It was simply a humble attempt to create a place for my own children and others to fall in love with God and experience His love in the context of community. We began with praise and worship, and I told a Bible story. After the story, we listened to see how God might speak to each of us. Next, we shared what we heard and prayed for each other.

We were astounded in what was happening with our children. They were sharing their hearts and we were, too. God was changing our hearts. Together, we learned to be vulnerable and become like children. The following week, more children came; some of them brought their parents. The group continued to grow, and in a short time, we had around 60 children and adults coming to our meetings.

This intergenerational model of listening to a Bible story, sharing and praying has continued to grow. Partnering with other organizations such as World Vision, One Hope and Children in Prayer, Children in Christ Pebbles and Stones is in over 40 countries.

As I have had the privilege of being with children and adults from around the world, I have observed that children and adults:

- ♥ Can know they are God's children.
- ♥ Can talk with God. This is called prayer.
- ♥ Thrive in community with others who know and love God

Thousands of children have been impacted by this simple model and those children have impacted the lives of others. Let me tell about some of those stories and about the children who experienced them.

The first story begins at the Global 4-14 Window and Children In Prayer summit in New York City. Teams of children and adults from around the world were invited to attend. I was asked to attend and to bring a team of children with me. The focus of the summit was prayer. Teams prayed at the UN building with some of the ambassadors present over the Millennium Developmental Goals for the United Nations, we also prayer walked around Ground Zero and Wall Street. On the last day, we toured Staten Island. While on the boat, we were to pray for leaders from the different countries that had come to participate. The children who were with me were eager to pray for the leaders. Before beginning, I suggested that we first pray and ask God to show us who to pray for and what to pray. We did. The children thought we should pray for a leader from one of the restricted countries, which we did. While praying, the Lord gave the children words of encouragement for him. And He gave me specific words for him that confirmed and expanded the vision that God had already put on his heart. We exchanged a few emails, and as emails go, they fell into the black hole of cyberspace.

Four years later during a One Hope Celebration, I heard how that prayer had changed his life and the lives of others especially those of children in that restricted country. You see, his father-in-law was head of a seminary and also oversaw many other Christian churches and organizations. This young leader was being schooled to take over the seminary and in overseeing the Christian churches in this country, but his heart was turned towards the children. When he returned home to his country with full courage, he shared with others what had happened. His father-in-law agreed that this young leader would become a leader of children.

Recently, this young man shared the following with me: In one month, 4,000 children have been reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This summer, 800 leaders will be trained and are expected to reach 300,000 children in his country.

A little girl named Susie, rescued from sex trafficking, experienced the joy of



(continued on Page 22)

Pebbles and Stones (...continued)

knowing God as her Father and that He has a perfect plan for her. According to the US Department of State, over a million children are either sold or exploited by the \$32,000,000,000 international sex trafficking trade each year. I met Susie last year in Costa Rica. After listening to the story of creation, she asked God to show her the thoughts that He had about her. She used clay to express them. Susie shared, "God is holding me. Not only is He holding me, but He is holding my heart." What a powerful truth for her to experience as God's child.

Another child prayed and saw God change her father's heart. I met her before her fourth birthday, when I taught a group of children about prayer. I called her journal page "lines and dots," because that was how it looked. Holding her paper, she pointed to some lines and said, "This is my house and this is the road in front of my house and this is my daddy coming home in time for my birthday." After she shared, we prayed that her father would come home.

When the meeting ended, her mother came to me with her little girl in tow saying, "You don't understand. This is my little girl. Her father left us before she was born. She has never seen his face. He was living a terrible life of drugs and alcohol. I am not sure if he is even alive. Her birthday is Wednesday."

On Thursday, a very happy little girl burst into the room exclaiming, "It happened! It happened! Just like Jesus said it would. It was my birthday and my daddy came home. He asked me if I was surprised to see him. I said no. Jesus said you would come home in time for my birthday. I told him everything I know about Jesus, but I don't know a lot. Could you come to my home and tell him more?"

That night after sharing with her father about God's grace love and mercy, God touched His heart and I heard him ask his wife and children to forgive him for leaving them. Over the next ten years, I would return to this area and learn how he was showing other men in his village what it meant to love God, his wife and family.

Another example of how God works through children's prayers is during a Pebbles and Stones meeting, the leader told the story of Hannah who cried out to God for a child. God heard her prayer and she gave birth to Samuel.

After hearing the story of Hannah, a young boy asked if his aunt, who had not been able to have a baby, could come the following week for prayer. She came, the group prayed for her, and within nine months she delivered her first child.

One young boy named Eduardo gained confidence to continue following God through the adults that supported and prayed for him. After listening to one of God's stories from the Bible, Eduardo began to journal about what was going on in his life and drew this picture.

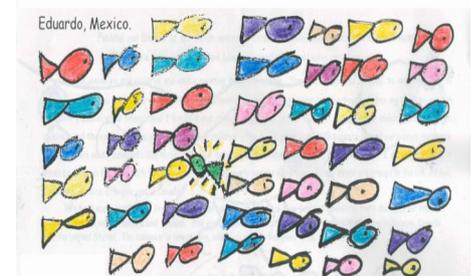
After drawing his picture, Eduardo began a conversation with God saying, "Is this fish me, and if it is, am I swimming in the right direction or the wrong direction?"

From within, Eduardo sensed the Lord saying, "That fish is you and I have asked you to follow me even if your friends are not."

One of the older men in the group shared about a time when he too felt like he was the only one. How easy it had been to follow God as a young boy, but when he became a teenager, it became harder. The group then prayed for Eduardo. That was years ago, and today Eduardo is a youth leader. This is an example of how children and adults thrive in community with others who know and love God.

I have shared my story and the stories of these children with you in the hopes that we would all be encouraged, continue to learn what it is to be God's child, and all grow old together and proclaim God's glory and majesty to the generations to come. When asked who we are, we would exclaim: We are all children.

Kathleen Trock-Molhoek, founder and director of Pebbles And Stones - Ktrock@PebblesandStones.com



Kathleen Trock-Molhoek P.O. Box 625; Ada, MI 49301 www.pebblesandstones.com

Opinion Piece: Being 'Strayan means being able to enjoy freedom

(By Andrea Tokaji JD LLM International Human Rights Advocate,
Founding Executive Director of Fighting For Justice Foundation)

I am a proud Aussie. I love being Australian.

I am very grateful to Australia for accepting my family and I as humanitarian refugees. My family and I fled a Communist Dictatorship under Ceausescu where we were persecuted for our ethnicity and our faith. We were Hungarians living in Romania, and we were Christians living in a Communist State. We experienced much persecution and much injustice.

That's probably one of the reasons why I became a human rights lawyer and advocate.

One of the reasons why I love living in Australia, is the freedoms it has afforded me as a refugee kid from Romania. I am grateful for the opportunities to work and study I have had here, that, I do not think I would have had otherwise. I am also grateful that in Australia, my freedom of conscience, freedom of belief, my freedom of religion is not being restricted as it was under a Communist Dictatorship.

I am grateful, that, in a free country like Australia, I can believe what I want to believe, I can express those beliefs in my worship, practice, both privately and publically, and that I am not forced into acting against those beliefs, but rather, being able to practice freedom of conscience. This is in line with the international standards set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 18 of this Covenant states:

'Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.'

The rights to religious freedom are reinforced in a similar way in the ACT Human Rights Act (2004) and the Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006). It is only in the ACT and Victorian jurisdictions that we find the freedom of religion, as set out in international standards reinforced in our legislation. Why don't we have the right to freedom of religion reinforced in all jurisdictions in Australia? Perhaps this needs consideration.

Of course, the freedom of religion is also subject to limitations, and Article 18 of the ICCPR goes on to state that the;

'freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.'

Any freedom comes at a cost, and every time that a right or a freedom is extended, there is another right or freedom that has to take a secondary position. Our legislators and courts have a duty to balance our rights and freedoms.

In fact, it is in the Victorian jurisdiction that the Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal has considered the dilemma of striking a balance between freedom from discrimination and freedom of religion, in the *Christian Youth Camps Limited v Cobaw Community Health Services Limited* [2014] VSCA 75* case, in which the Victorian Court found in favour of freedom from discrimination over and above freedom of religion. In this case, the owners of a business were ultimately asked to act against their conscience, their beliefs, compromising their freedom of religion, for the sake of anti discrimination standards.

My issue with this is that if you allow discrimination, or someone getting offended take precedent over the freedom of religion, many of our freedoms become under threat of being eroded. The freedoms of religion, belief and conscience are fundamental to many of our other freedoms, including freedom of association and our freedom of speech. So, it is imperative that the freedom of religion is protected and upheld in our society. The only exception to this should be the limitations of protecting public safety, order, health or morals as stated above. In Victoria, it appears that both legislators and the courts have given the freedom from discrimination precedent over and above the freedom of religion, with all of its associated rights.

To a refugee kid from Romania, whose family risked their lives to experience freedom of religion in a new country, this sounds crazy. Is my freedom of religion, my freedom of belief, conscience, expression, and associated freedoms of association and speech coming under threat in Australia too? I really hope not.

* Special leave for Appeal to the High Court of Australia for this matter was refused by the High Court in mid December last year. This means that the highest court in the land has not commented on this matter, and the precedent set in the Cobaw case is subject to the Victorian Jurisdiction alone.

Share Good News

By Geoff Waugh

We can now share good news widely and freely – like this newsletter, and this article.

You have amazing resources available to you right now to multiply what you do and share your good news – most of that at no cost to you. Here are a few examples:

- Newsletters and articles like this one.
- Your web page and church's web page and group's web page.
- Blogs on your web site.
- Your Facebook page, and church's or group's Facebook, including a Facebook group.
- Your digital communications such as Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, etc.
- Your church's and home group's digital projections such as images and videos to enhance song lyrics and message outlines.
- Your publications.

Remember when we used typewriters, Gestetner stencils, and OHP transparencies! Now we use computers, photocopying, digital projection and the internet.

Let's look at the publication revolution available to you. You can publish Print-on-demand (POD) and Digital books (eg Kindle) for free.

You only pay for what you order, from 1 to 1,000 or more.

See the book: **You can Publish for Free** on the Renewal Journals web site

We are now living through a powerful revolution for Christian publishing, resources, and mission:

- Free
- Any language
- Free airmail worldwide available

Many people publish digital books for free, and don't bother with a printed version. You can do both, or either – for free. One huge advantage of uploading your digital publication to Kindle is that you can make it available to everyone for \$1 or less – immediately! Amazon now sells more Kindle books than printed books.

I can illustrate these comments from my experience.

The *Renewal Journal* began traditionally as an Australian ecumenical resource over 20 years ago in 1993. It cost a lot to print hundreds of copies, and cost more to mail them. Now it's all done for free.

Look at the **Renewal Journals web page** - <https://renewaljournal.wordpress.com/renewal-journals/>

All those 20 journals originally cost hundreds of dollars to print and mail. We needed subscription lists – a big job. Now the updated second editions cost nothing to print and are available with free airmail worldwide, and no subscriptions needed. The

Renewal Journals and books are published on Amazon and Kindle for free (no cost to upload), and are immediately available with their Free App for PC/Laptop/Tablet/Smartphone.

You can do that – for free.

Your youth group can do that – for free

Your society can do that – for free

Your church can do that – for free

Your college can do that – for free

Your mission can do that in any language – for free

You set the price per copy for digital and printed books (eg \$1, \$5, \$10). You also get authors/publishers discount. You can make them available for free as I do with a book weekend.

How?

You can upload your Word file to Kindle and have it available almost immediately worldwide. Then you inform people through your newsletters, or web pages, or Facebook, etc. Digital eBooks are easiest to do now. Just upload your Word file to Kindle! Add a free cover that you create with their Cover Creator. One huge advantage is that you can then upload new editions, or corrections, also for free.

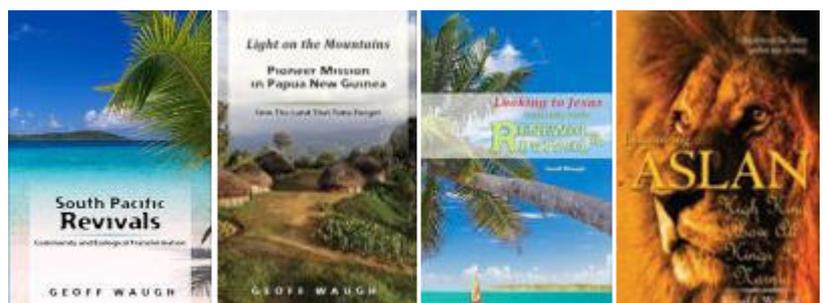
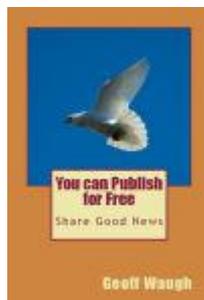
Here are some ideas for publishing your book or resource both digitally and in print.

Just go to CreateSpace.com (an Amazon company) and follow the links. What you publish there goes on Amazon and Kindle for free. Expanded distribution adds your books to The Book Depository with free airmail worldwide, and your books or resources are listed on other distributors as well as Amazon.

You can start small. For example, King of the Granny Flat (a biography – Look inside) was a Grade 7, primary school assignment by my grandson, including the layout and photo selections. So his Grandpa just published it – for free. There's an idea for parents and grandparents!

The main disadvantage is that all your errors get published (in print or digitally) just as you upload them! But it's easy to then upload a corrected version for free. If you have a spouse or friend good at editing, you're home and hosed. CreateSpace now provides a brilliant digital proof of your book that you can examine before publishing.

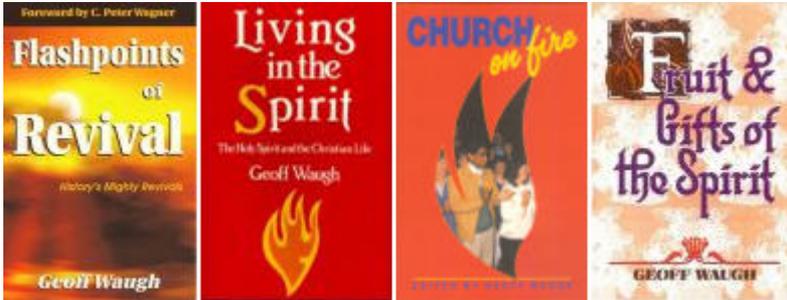
You can pay for services, such as covers, layout, editing, marketing. But these are all optional extras. At first I used



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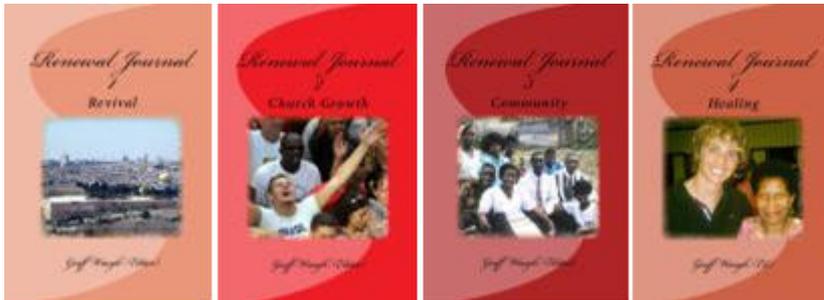
Share Good News (...continued)

their services for layout and covers. Here are examples of their cover designs I paid for [I'm still working on Discovering Aslan!]: Below are examples of cover designs done previously that we reproduced:



Most of the rest were done by the CreateSpace cover creator for free.

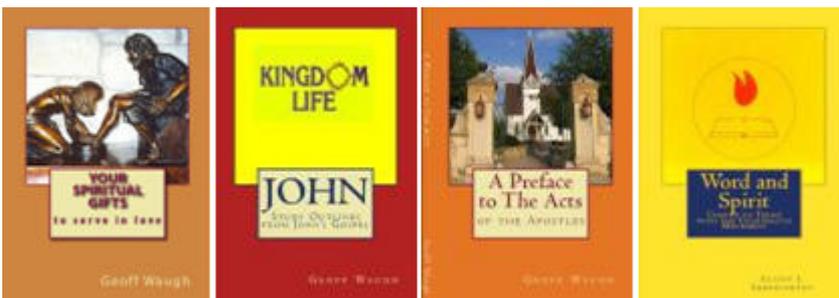
For example, the 20 issues of Renewal Journal have the same cover design and fonts, but different colours and photos:



You will see many books with the same cover design but different colours and photos on the Books and Welcome pages of the Renewal Journal website, all done for free, such as these in the Lion of Judah series I am now producing:



Other books, including the digital versions, have a range of free cover designs:



What?

What can you publish? Possibilities are endless!

We used to photocopy resources for church and study groups. Now we just put them on the web page or upload to Kindle.

What about a personal publication?

An easy way to start would be by using your family or holiday photos. Many people have albums on web pages such as on Facebook but books are still popular and welcome, especially as gifts.

Perhaps you could consider fiction or non-fiction. Most of my books are non-fiction, but I have included fiction stories that a pre-school grandson told me when he was 3 and 4. Uploading many edited copies to the publisher cost nothing as I gradually improved the layout of the book. There's a holiday idea for you with your children or grandchildren

An older grandson wrote a biography for a primary school assignment so I published that and it became a welcome and popular gift. He did the layout himself. You could help your children or grandchildren make a small book of around 24 pages.

Your children or grandchildren may appreciate your autobiography, or part of your life story. The world has changed so much since the twentieth century that your story could be really interesting especially if you illustrate it with some photos. You could start with some small books and then combine them into one larger volume later.

I have published various essays written by my students and made them available in a book. If you do that you become the editor of that book. Students often gave their work to me with better formatting than I can do myself. I have encouraged students to publish their work, for free.

Maybe you lead or speak in a study group and could gather your material into a small resource book. You can have that published and in your hands within a month, or have it available on Kindle tomorrow! I often use my books as resources for my speaking or teaching.

Why not try something to begin? You may find yourself enjoying this hobby and helping or blessing others in the process.

Rev Dr Geoff Waugh from Brisbane is the founding editor of the Renewal Journal, now a digital resource. Geoff, a Baptist minister, taught Uniting, Anglican, Catholic and Pentecostal students at Trinity Theological College in Brisbane, and also taught at the School of Ministries of Christian Heritage College in Brisbane. Now retired (refired) he continues to lead short term missions and produce renewal and revival resources.

LET LOVE RULE: IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A HEART CHECK

By Phil Miglioratti

Whenever a particular colleague would call me on the phone, I would immediately freeze up. Our ministry was suffering from his seemingly self-serving decision-making and destructive actions. When confronted, he refused to repent or resign.

Somehow I survived that situation. But when he called, more than a decade after he finally moved on, I hesitated to pick up the phone.

But I'm glad I did. This time he was calling to confess that he was taking responsibility for the failure of our ministry relationship. And he recognized that I had sought reconciliation. That surprising call led to a few more calls, a few emails and, eventually, an invitation from him to lead his members in a prayer weekend.

I was ready to respond positively to him because, from the beginning of that troubled time, I had done my best to resist the urge for revenge and the feelings of resentment. I had resolved to love him in my heart by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every day multitudes of Christians are praying for revival by petitioning the Lord to change hearts, forgive sins, cleanse lives, and fill churches. God calls us to pray this way. But perhaps we have failed to anticipate that when the Lord answers those prayers, He also expects something else to change—the heart of how and why the Church prays.

In his epistle, Jude wrote, “Dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life” (1:20–21).

Every renewed relationship requires a change of communication patterns. Jude makes it clear that for Christ followers to keep their revived relationship with the Lord, prayer is an essential component.

“Praying in the Holy Spirit” enables us to stay “right at the center of God’s love” (Jude 1:20–21, MSG). Our call to pray is a call to experience and express God’s love. He wants His love to reign—to be central at the core of our praying—now and always.

Love Motivates a Revived Church to Pray

If it is true (and it is!) that without love, we are nothing (1 Cor. 13:1–3), then it may also be true that loveless prayers produce precisely nothing.

Few of us would admit to “loveless” praying, but our need for sweeping revival in the Church is an indication we have “abandoned the love [we] had at first” (Rev. 2:4, ESV). If praying is a sign of staying in love with God, then abandoned prayer meetings reveal a Church that has grown cold, content with the status quo.

If a sign of love is caring more about the one you love than yourself, then our “heal me, help me” prayer lists reveal a self-centered Church. Is our longing for revival actually a response to our Lord wooing us, warning us that the love we had at first is gone?

Love Shapes the Way a Revived Church Prays

Loving our Savior—easy. Loving a changing and crumbling culture—not so easy. In fact, many of us are becoming alienated from and fearful of our postmodern, increasingly anti-Christian, society. What was once an “in God we trust” nation seems to have become antagonistic toward Christianity. Sometimes society feels like our enemy.

For some, this takes away the motivation to pray with love. Others interpret it as permission to pray with anger and judgment. But we know our Lord’s command: “I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). Love and prayer are inextricably linked—even in difficult situations. Especially in difficult situations.



Action Step:

Ensure that love is the motivating factor in every spoken or silent prayer. Instruct those you lead in prayer to include phrases such as these:

- ♥ Because of Your great love . . .
- ♥ With gratitude for Your love to us through Christ . . .
- ♥ Grant us the Father’s heart of love as we pray . . .
- ♥ Break our hearts over the people and problems that break your heart, Lord

Action Step:

- ♥ Encourage others to join you in praying that your praises and petitions will become saturated with love—authentic love for Almighty God.
- ♥ Pray you will grow in love for others in the Body of Christ, as well as in redeeming love for the hard to love.
- ♥ Pray with love for those who are lost (that they will not perish), those with the least (the poor and the powerless), and those who lead others (often easily deceived by the enemy or deluded by the evil dark enticements of greed or power).

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LET LOVE RULE (...continued)

God gave us His love as the ultimate weapon of warfare. So when He calls us by His Spirit into prayer, He calls us to extol His love in praise and to declare His love as the ultimate purpose of our petitions. Being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2) is more than a cerebral absorption of Bible information. It is a transformation of all we are and all we do, including how and why we pray.

The Apostle Paul's prayer becomes our model: "That your love may abound more and more" (Phil. 1:9). And as our love for God abounds, our love will also abound for what God longs for: "For the earth [to] be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). Now that's love!

Love Portrays the Message of a Revived Church

If we pray for the spreading of God's love to all the nations but outwardly express a lack of love for individuals or a lack of compassion on relevant issues, we are only making noise (1 Cor. 13:1). In fact, worse than noise, our culture perceives us as hypocritical and judgmental, like twenty-first century Pharisees.

The Church has not so much become irrelevant as we have been exposed as irreverent, unable to practice what we preach—and thereby disproving the gospel in the minds of those who need Christ. Great-Commission praying requires a Great-Commandment lifestyle of love.

For instance, in many areas our children's schools have become off limits to the gospel, and Christians are often considered *persona non grata*. But that did not deter a pastors prayer group in Southern California. Having heard that the nearby high school had a serious dropout problem, they began praying together for the school and the students.

Their concern became a burden, which led them to pray on site, knowing that the best insight comes only from seeing and feeling the burden of the situation firsthand. They were careful to stay on public property and did not behave in an offensive manner (preaching or waving Bibles). They simply prayed silently or quietly as they walked the campus. Soon, students who attended their congregations began to engage them in conversation, asking "Why are you here? What are you doing?"

This gave the pastors opportunities to explain their purpose (to ask God to help the students succeed at their studies) and their motive (because they truly cared about all the children at the school). Coinciding with the time frame of their on-site prayers, the dropout rate drastically declined. And the school district, to the pastors' surprise, asked them to pray at other troubled schools in their district.

"Make love your aim" (1 Cor. 14:1, RSV) refers not only to God-focused praying but also to outward-focused living. Christ's love compels us to love one another in the Body of Christ (1 Thess. 4:9) and to love our neighbors (Matt. 22:39) who are not yet part of God's family.

Jesus prayed that we, His Church, would be proof to the world that God loves them (John 17:23). Actually, loving them—through our love-motivated prayers—is the only way to accomplish that.

Everyone is created in God's image and desperately needs at least one saved-by-grace, filled-with-the-Spirit person to pray for them, show them love, and tell them the gospel truth. And that means picking up the phone when you dread talking to the person on the other end! God loves the world through those who love Christ. You and I are those ambassadors of God's love.

PHIL MIGLIORATTI is COO of Mission America and national coordinator of Loving Your Communities to Christ. His passion is to network pastors, prayer, and city transformation movements. He blogs at Philsblog.net

Love Help Center

Here are some resources to help you pray with love as your heart motivation:

- ♥ An email reminder to pray for lost persons: www.praycareshare.com
- ♥ A website stocked with stories and resources devoted to the prayer-care-share lifestyle: www.LOVE2020.com
- ♥ Video clips to help you cast vision and train Christ followers in loving their neighbors and their communities for and with and to Christ: www.youtube.com/LoveGodOthers
- ♥ Scriptures and links to articles: [#Love2020](https://twitter.com/Love2020)
- ♥ Podcasts and commentary: www.facebook.com/makeloveyouraim

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Action Step:

- ♥ Ask the Holy Spirit to identify the individuals He wants to reveal His truth to through your words and deeds of love.
- ♥ Create a list at praycareshare.com to receive an automatic weekly reminder to pray.
- ♥ Ask the Lord to show you how to demonstrate your love in ways each person will best appreciate—an act of mercy or hospitality, or problem-solving resources.
- ♥ As Paul instructs us, "Pray also . . . that whenever [you] speak, words may be given [you] so that [you] will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which [you are] an ambassador" (Eph. 6:19–20).



National Day of Prayer for Defence 2015

(Issued 5-February 2015)

The Military Christian Fellowship of Australia is hosting a National Day of Prayer for Defence on **Saturday, 28 March 2015**.

Additional information is available on the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia website (www.mcf-a.org.au).

Contact Officer: Mrs Lisa Thomas
 Military Christian Fellowship National Staff Worker
 Telephone: 02 6266 4950
 Email: mcf.office@defence.gov.au

(From the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia website - www.mcf-a.org.au)

Background

In 2011 MCF sponsored a National Day of Prayer for Defence, which was supported around Australia. In 2012 a prayer for Defence Reconciliation was included at the Canberra events. 31 regional or international groups prayed for the ADF in 2014.

Why prayer is needed

Australia has experienced unprecedented losses of some of its finest young men fighting in the Middle East for the security of Australia. Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends." Many families have been impacted by these tragic losses, and we have a duty to support them and uphold them in prayer. Like all human systems, political systems have strengths and weaknesses. We need to pray that our senior policy and decision-makers bring a selfless approach to their responsibilities like those who have given their own lives in service to Australia.



The vision

The National Day of Prayer for Defence is on Saturday 28 March 2015. All who have a heart to pray for Defence are welcome to join us in Canberra at the Duntroon Chapel, or remotely in the regions either on the day or in the week preceding. Please join with us at this challenging time in Australian history and uplift the Australian Defence Force to God.

The format

Download a prayer book from www.mcf-a.org.au

Structure and facilitate a prayer session suited to your group or arrange for some of the prayer points from the booklet to be included in your regular weekly bible study group. It is that easy. Adapt the prayer booklet to your local setting.

Themes

- Defence culture and training settings;
- Deployed personnel, Defence members and families and injuries;
- Senior leadership, chaplains, and Faith Under Fire Course;
- Defence Christian military ministries.

Download a prayer book from the website. Structure and facilitate a prayer session suited to your group or arrange for some of the prayer points from the booklet to be included in your regular weekly bible study group. It is that easy. Adapt the prayer booklet to your local setting.

Praying for Government

By Lilian Schmid

In 2014 the Lord put in our hearts to start these initiatives: "Adopt a Senator" and "Adopt an MP". Choose one federal MP (House of Representatives) and One Senator in the Australian parliament to pray for each day.

The transformational changes taking place through the kingdom of God on earth should be kept in the perspective of "already - not yet." Transformation will be completed when God announces "I am making everything new!" from his throne at the return of Christ (Revelation 21:5). In the meantime, we are urged to live transformed lives and look forward to the day of God and speed its coming (2 Peter 3:11-13). Only then will there be "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness." As the first coming of Christ has motivated his disciples to witness and serve (2 Corinthians 5:14) so the second coming of Christ gives urgency to living transformed lives and doing transformational mission (2 Peter 3:14, 2 Corinthians 5:11). [Adapted from Transform World Global Challenge Summit 2012]

The Kingdom of God advances as individuals hear and accept the Gospel by faith, are born again, and experience inward regeneration and transformation expressed in obedience to "all I have commanded" (John 3:3, 16, Acts 2:21, and Romans 1:16-17). However, God's concern goes beyond the salvation of individual people. His redemptive plan encompasses the healing and transformation of entire nations (Genesis 12:1-2 and Matthew 28:19-20). Nations are discipled as the church makes the invisible Kingdom visible by faithful obedience to God's Word throughout culture - in every area of life and every realm of society including the family, the community, the arts, sciences, media, law, government, schools, business, etc. (Genesis 1:26-28, 22:18, Deuteronomy 4:5-8, 30:11-20, and Colossians 1:18b).

The Bible is the inspired, infallible, powerful, and authoritative Word of God (John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). It represents a comprehensive worldview, revealing God's truth to all peoples about the nature of ultimate reality, the source of evil, the origin and nature of the physical universe, the meaning and purpose of human life and the goal of history (Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:15-18). Christ's disciples must have their minds renewed by actively putting off false worldviews - distortions of the truth used by Satan to enslave individuals and nations - and be transformed by the Biblical worldview (Matthew 22:37, Romans 1:18-23, 12:2, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Colossians 2:6-8, and 1 Peter 1:13).

God is Lord of all, and therefore, His redemptive concern is comprehensive - seeking to bring healing and restoration to "all things" by means of Christ's blood shed on the cross (Genesis 1:31a, Romans 8:18-23, Colossians 1:19-20). The Kingdom of God advances to the extent that local churches reflect God's comprehensive, redemptive concern for the whole of creation (Matthew 4:23, Luke 4:18-21). Therefore, the ministry of the church must be holistic - encompassing the whole person (spiritual, physical, and social), and all of their relationships (with God, with others, and with the environment, Genesis 1:26-28). The answers to these questions should set the agenda for the local church: What would our town look like if Christ were mayor? What would our nation look like if Christ were president?

Empower through acknowledgement of ministry gifts, calling, and service:

"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word ...and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:3-7)

"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward even forever." Isaiah 9:7

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

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| Please remember members of the Abbott Coalition Government Ministry | www.liberal.org.au/our-team |
| The Labor party Shadow Ministry | www.alp.org.au/shadowministry |
| Also pray for the Australian Federal Police | www.afp.gov.au |
| Adopt a Politician to pray for | www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASenatorMP.html |
| Parliament of Australia | www.aph.gov.au |
| Parliament of NSW | www.parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Parliament of Victoria | www.parliament.vic.gov.au |
| Parliament of South Australia | www.parliament.sa.gov.au |
| Parliament of Tasmania | www.parliament.tas.gov.au |
| Parliament of Western Australia | www.parliament.wa.gov.au |
| Queensland Parliament | www.parliament.qld.gov.au |
| Northern Territory Parliament | www.nt.gov.au |
| ACT Government | www.act.gov.au |

Daily Prayer Calendar for March - Government & Military

By Lilian Schmid, www.tendomains.org www.transformingsydney.org

Every year we dedicate the whole month of March, in prayer for Government and the Military.

In 2014 the Lord put in our hearts to start initiatives: "Adopt a Senator" and "Adopt an MP". Choose one federal MP (House of Representatives) and One Senator to pray for each day. For more information click on the Transforming Sydney website

www.transformingsydney.org/TSPayerCalendar.html & www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASenatorMP.html

Praying for our Government

[Reproduced from 'PRAYING IN VICTORY' ISBN 0974715603 ©1993-2013

Carol A (Hon) Kononova prayinginvictory.com and praying scriptures.com.]

- 1 1 Tim 2:1 Heavenly Father, I give thanks for our government.
- 2 1 Tim 2:2 I pray for all men and women having authority over us in any way.
- 3 Pro 1:23 Pour out Your Spirit upon them and make Your Word known to them.
- 4 Ps 25:21 Cause them to be men and women of integrity, obedient concerning us,
- 5 1 Tim 2:2 that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty.
- 6 Pro 2:10 Let wisdom enter their hearts, and let knowledge be pleasant to them.
- 7 Pro 2:11 Let discretion preserve them and understanding keep them,
- 8 Pro 2:12 to deliver them from the way of evil and from evil men.
- 9 Ps 1:1 Make their hearts and ears attentive to godly counsel,
- 10 2 Chr 20:32 doing what is right in your sight.
- 11 Pro 2:21 Let the upright dwell in our government.
- 12 Heb 12:27 Cause there to be a shaking in all areas.
- 13 Pro 2:21 Let those complete and blameless before You stay.
- 14 Pro 2:22 and cut off the wicked. Let the unfaithful be rooted out.
- 15 1 Cor 4:5 Bring to light what is hidden in darkness, and expose the secret aims of the hearts.
- 16 Rev 2:5 Let this nation remember from where they have fallen,
- 17 Rev 2:5 repenting, and returning to doing their first works,
- 18 1 Chr 22:19 setting their hearts and their souls to seek the Lord,
- 19 2 Chr 7:14 humbling themselves, praying, and turning from their wicked ways.
- 20 2 Chr 7:14 Then hear them, O Lord, and forgive their sins and heal our land.
- 21 Acts 26:18 Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light.
- 22 Heb 3:13 Soften the hearts that are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
- 23 Ps 107:20 Deliver them from their destructions.
- 24 2 Pet 3:9 Father, You have been longsuffering toward us,
- 25 2 Pet 3:9 not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- 26 Isa 49:22 Raise up a standard in this nation.
- 27 Zec 10:1 Cause the rains of Your Spirit to flood this land
- 28 Hab 3:2 and revive Your work in the midst of us.
- 29 Isa 59:16 Raise up intercessors for this nation
- 30 2 Cor 10:4 to pull down strongholds over this land.
- 31 Isa 40:5 And let the glory of the Lord be revealed!

Praying for our Defence Force:

Psalm 91 describes the security of the one who trusts in the Lord. Not only was it prayed by the psalmist thousands of years ago, but by countless men and women throughout history. For example, during World War I, the 91st Brigade of the Army prayed Psalm 91 together every day. Although they were engaged in three of the bloodiest battles in the war, these soldiers had no combat-related casualties. Not because the passage was a good luck charm or mantra, but because God's word has power. When we pray His word, we are paving the way for His grace, power and protection to come in our lives and the lives of those we intercede for.

As Hebrews 4:12 says, *The word of God is living and powerful!*" powerful because all the power of God's inherent nature stands behind His word.

Pray for our military men and women who are striving to do what is right for this country, also that our national leaders are sending them out on a task that is from God. That is what we have to pray for: that there is a plan, and that that plan is God's plan. So bless them with your prayers.