

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 pages 36 and 37 is a Daily Prayer Calendar for June to pray for Religion & Philosophy.

(In the April newsletter is a Daily Prayer Calendar for May to pray for Law & Justice.)

In the May edition - focus on Law & Justice

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| ♥ Transforming Sydney and Newtown Mission; <i>Pray for Sydney – Pentecost 2015</i> | 2-3 |
| ♥ Jack de Groot; <i>Euthanasia with 2015 Angle</i> | 4-5 |
| ♥ Christine Hohmann-Andrasch; <i>A Word About Your Children</i> | 5 |
| ♥ Dr. John Yates; <i>Andrew Chan and The Meaning of Life</i> | 6-7 |
| ♥ Hilarie Roseman; <i>A Christian discussion about human life</i> | 8 |
| ♥ Monica Doumit; <i>Challenges for the Corporate Christian Lawyer</i> | 9 |
| ♥ Lorelee Colley; <i>Prophetic Integrity</i> | 10-12 |
| ♥ Sydney Homecoming Gathering Team; <i>Homecoming Gathering Night & Pastors Fellowship Lunch</i> | 13-14 |
| ♥ Peter Irvine; <i>Nepal Earthquake Crisis</i> | 14 |
| ♥ Rick Rupp; <i>Houses of Prayer Link Arms - Clean Water 4 Life</i> | 15 |
| ♥ Jane Johnson; <i>21 Paradigms to move towards in Western Churches</i> | 16-17 |
| ♥ Andre Van Eymeren; <i>Shalom and Human Flourishing in the City</i> | 18-19 |
| ♥ Australian Prayer Network; <i>WATCHMEN SCHOOL OF INTERCESSION</i> | 19 |
| ♥ Mark Mudri; <i>BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY THROUGH THE LEGAL PROFESSION</i> | 20-24 |
| ♥ Rev. Dr Jeffrey Camm ; <i>Law and Justice</i> | 25 |
| ♥ Brett Ryan; <i>Back to the Table</i> | 26-27 |
| ♥ Peter Irvine; <i>Steps to setting your Vision & Plan</i> | 28-31 |
| ♥ Aussie Christian Gigs; <i>AUSSIE ARTISTS BRING HOPE</i> | 32 |
| ♥ GOFEST Sydney; <i>Refresh the Vision</i> | 33 |
| ♥ Mark Kinbacher and Michael Johnstone; <i>I-AM Ministries Brief - Mar/Apr 2015</i> | 34-35 |
| ♥ Bjorn Schmid; <i>Daily Prayer Calendar for June - Religion & Philosophy</i> | 36-37 |
| ♥ Voice of the Martyrs; <i>Praying for the Persecuted Church</i> | 38 |

Pentecost Eve in Sydney - THIS MONTH

Transforming Sydney and Sydney Leaders

Join us 6pm Saturday 23 May 2015 at Newtown Mission

Pray for us and with us - more details over...

Pray for Sydney – Pentecost 2015

Transforming Sydney and Newtown Mission

Date & Time: 23rd May 2015 from 6pm to 8:30pm

Location: Newtown Mission, 280A King Street, Newtown NSW

Transport: A few minutes walk from Newtown Railway Station, there are also plenty of buses that stop along King St (from Central). *The use of public transport is recommended as Newtown is very busy on Saturday night.*

Parking: No parking at Newtown Mission itself, parking in the streets around Newtown, and there may be spots at Newtown Central, 330 King Street.

Schedule: Following the general sequence of Family, Church, Marketplace:

- 5:30pm Church doors open.
- 6:00pm Opening remarks, welcome and opening prayer by Newtown Mission, First Peoples, and prayer for NSW and the nation.
- 6:10pm Worship to our eternal lover the Father.
Prayers for generations: children, youth, families, and seniors.
- 6:20pm Worship to our eternal friend the Son.
Prayers for church denominations and ethnic communities:
Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Salvation Army, Uniting, Pentecostal, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Philippino, Middle Eastern, African,
Prayer for Unity of the Church
- 7:15pm Worship to our eternal counsellor the Holy Spirit.
Prayers for Sydney regions:
Sydney East, Sydney, Sydney Inner-West, Parramatta, Penrith, Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Sydney South-West, Sydney North-West, Central Coast, Hornsby, Northern Beaches, Sydney North, Rockdale/Sutherland, Illawarra
- 8:00pm Lift up written petitions and a time of open worship and prayer
- 8:30pm Prayer for our sister city Melbourne, and closing prayer.

Important Notes:

- Keeping in mind that we are many parts one body, be respectful of your brothers and sisters who may not appreciate certain activities and minimise the chance for offence or distraction. Therefore as much as some of us appreciate banners, shofars, and loud praying in tongues, we do ask that you are sensitive to the Spirit and your conservative brethren who will be present with you. Likewise we ask that those who believe it is important to be more private in their joy, allow your gentle love of your more exuberant fellow Christians to shine and do not condemn them for their outward expressions of their passion for Jesus.
- This is a gathering of like-hearted people from across greater Sydney, it seeks to be representative but may not be complete or in some cases 'official'. Also some of the people who pray will not be ordained ministers as such, however all have a burden for their community to be completely reconciled to the Father through Christ.
- We are praying for the spiritual needs of each community and are not focusing on their physical needs or activities (which are of course many).
- In the open time we will allow some time for open prayer, but please be very brief to allow others to pray also. If God lays something specific on your heart, put it in writing and give it to Bjorn Schmid on the night - we will hold up all the prayer petitions to God at the start of the open time as our collective prayers (please include your name and leave a contact email or phone if you want to be acknowledged in the list of contributors).
- This evening is about all of Sydney, and NSW, and Australia, and all the ends of the Earth being reconciled to Him. Amen.
- Newtown is full of cafes and restaurants that need His light, why not fellowship with a coffee or meal somewhere nearby afterwards?

(continued next page)

Pray for Sydney – Pentecost 2015 (...continued)

Pray for Yourself and Pray for Sydney

Lord, teach us to pray.

As we draw near to you in thought, our spirits long for your Spirit, and reach out for you, longing to feel you near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts.

In these moments, we have no polished phrases with which to impress one another, no finely moulded, delicately turned clauses to present to you. Nor would we be confined to conventional petitions and repeat our prayers like the unwinding of a much-exposed film. We know, our Father, that we are closest to you when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long

We would not be ignorant in prayer and, like children, make want lists for you. Rather, we pray that you will give unto us only what we really need.

We would not make our prayers the importuning of you, an omnipotent God, to do what we want you to do. Rather, give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking your loving will for our lives.

We thank you that you are hearing us even now. We thank you for the grace of prayer. We thank you for yourself. Amen. (Peter Marshall)

For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer)

Even if you can't be present, join us in prayer with Christians from across the greater Sydney region for fervent prayer to our Lord for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of our beloved city.

We need to be what God wants us to be
 For His Kingdom,
 For the people of our city,
 For the people of our state and nation,
 And for His Glory to and in the World.

Contact:

Newtown Mission: (02) 9519-9000

www.newtownmission.org.au

Transforming Sydney: 0411 562-751

bjorn@transformingsydney.org

We look forward to seeing you, sincerely

Rev. Graeme Tutt (Senior Minister, Newtown Mission) and Bjorn Schmid (Facilitator, Transforming Sydney)

Euthanasia with 2015 Angle

By Jack de Groot via Toby Hall

The hijacking of the term ‘dying with dignity’ by today’s supporters of euthanasia and assisted suicide is an insult to the dedicated doctors, nurses and pastoral carers who daily provide compassionate care, pain alleviation and spiritual comfort to the sick, the dying and their families.

When the first hospitals were founded, the medical model of care was yet to be developed. The care offered was pastoral for that was all that was possible. In the early Christian hospitals the dying were accompanied and comforted. As medical developments occurred in pain management the pastoral care continued and was strengthened. And so it continues today. Our hospitals are leaders in research, the offering of excellence in medical care and compassion. It is in such a setting that some of the best practice in palliative care is developed and offered daily.

In our facilities where we care for those who are dying and their loved ones, we constantly and overwhelmingly hear the gratitude for the care the patient and the family receives at the end of life. Yes, there is often the call for the “relief” of pain and suffering. The call though is not so often about actively “ending” life. The call can often be heard about “letting go” of life.

The fear of dying held by many in the community today diverts attention from the conversation about providing the dying with the innovative medical and health care they need in homes, hospitals and aged care facilities.

Today, the community sometimes has an overstated expectation of what hospitals and medicine can do. We cannot cure everything. We cannot manage all pain. We can however offer a quality of care that means that on the whole pain is managed, that life is respected; that the dying are accompanied and that when the medical model of care is exhausted that the original human accompaniment, love and respect continues as foundational and dependable.

Debates about euthanasia and assisted suicide are emotionally harrowing. However what is scandalous is that the funding for end of life palliative care by governments and private health insurers is inadequate and under-valued.

The initial step in public policy in regard to death and dying is to guarantee that those who need palliative care services can access them. For those people in our community who are poor or vulnerable, who are mentally ill or incarcerated, who live in rural and remote communities, it is crucial that they can access the palliative care services that we are all entitled to. Overseas experience shows that where euthanasia legislation has been enacted, pressure has been applied to the frail aged, disabled and mentally ill to follow the now “normal” path of physician assisted death. That path has little to do with dignity.

It is crucial that the community look to such cases as in Belgium in 2014, where euthanasia for children was legalised and in September a prisoner, without a terminal illness, was granted by the courts his request to euthanized. In 2012, in the Netherlands a third of those who were euthanized had a mental illness. These are truly disturbing developments where the “normalisation” of assisted suicide has now widened its impact to the most vulnerable. What is branded “dying with dignity” has the reek of something potentially far more sinister.

If palliative care is underfunded by both the state and private insurers, we must make sure that no economic model is an acceptable driver for legalising assisted suicide or euthanasia .

Usually the most terrible stories of suffering are told to advance a change to law that will allow Euthanasia and decriminalise assisted suicide. This is understandable but hardly a credible and rigorous presentation of the realities of care for those who are dying. Many thoughtful people in our society support the notion that we should be able to die with dignity, yet still oppose the proposed euthanasia legislation because it’s bad law. We all accept that people should not have to suffer unnecessarily. The proponents of euthanasia law reform equate a refusal to support the legislation as forcing the dying into interminable suffering. But the risk is real that a change to the legislation simply forces the suffering into the additional and equally interminable dilemma of choosing their moment of death. Making it possible for people to end their life legally is not about dying with dignity.

Overseas experience shows that where euthanasia legislation has been enacted, pressure has been applied to the frail aged, disabled and mentally ill to follow the now “normal” path of physician assisted death. That path has little to do with dignity

(continued next page)

Euthanasia with 2015 Angle (...continued)

With developments in the provision of palliative care in the home and innovations in pain management, the prospect of an ever improving quality of life at the end stages is something to be very hope-filled about because the evidence for it and experience of it is strong. A 2014 Grattan Institute study showed that the majority of Australians want to die at home. There is a very understandable desire for each one of us to die in the places where we have loved and been loved. It also makes economic sense for those enacting good public policy. It will mean less time in hospital and that is a saving. It may also be a lot less expensive than seeking a new legal process of multiple safeguards for someone to either suicide or be euthanized.

For those who die in the care of a hospital there are positive and loving care options available that can be further expanded. St Vincent's and other healthcare providers will continue to provide such dignity based care. Dignity is not a new thing that those promoting Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide have discovered. At Sacred Heart and in our provision of high quality person centred palliative care it has been a daily experience for tens of thousands of families for over 75 years that a death with dignity is experienced. We accompany people and their loved ones each day of the year as they go through their own processes of dying over months, weeks and days; as they die and as their loved ones grieve and mourn for their loss. It is more the norm than the exception that we hear and see the most beautiful expressions of love, human affection, reconciliation and alleviation of suffering. It is dignified.

It is on the back of inaction on funding and investment in palliative care and a lack of education of the community about dying and death as well as some false premises that all death is undignified and that suffering must be avoided at all costs that Euthanasia and "Assisted Suicide" are proposed now as "rights".

Dying, death and dignity are worthy topics of our public conversation. They should not be manipulated. The truly compassionate response to our dying family members is the highest quality evidence-based palliative care. It needs to be well funded and researched, valued by governments and insurers and promoted so as to always be innovative to meet the needs of our community.

Jack de Groot, Group Mission Leader, St Vincent's Health Australia

***Dignity is not a new thing
that those promoting
Euthanasia and Assisted
Suicide have discovered***

A Word About Your Children

*By Christine Hohmann-Andrasch, Business Women
Healing Ministry Melbourne*

The world has much to say about your children these days – and most of it is bad.

We're being told their economic futures are bleak, their ethics are waning and, for the most part, they're on a downward slide.

But if you've made Jesus Lord of your life, God has something very different to say about your children. He says they're headed for heaven, not hell. For a blessing, not a curse. So ignore the world and trust the Word. It has the power to turn your children's lives around! Here are some scriptures that will help you stay focused on God's promises regarding your children.

"Thus saith the Lord, retrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord, and they (your children) shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border." (Jeremiah 31:16-16)

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:13)

"...The seed of the righteous shall be delivered." (Proverbs 11:21)

"...Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commandments. His children will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed." (Psalm 112:1-2)

"...I will contend with those who content with you and your children I will save." (Isaiah 49:25)

"The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works." (Psalm 145:9)

"... I will pour my spirit upon thy seed and my blessing upon thine offspring." (Isaiah 44:3)

"As for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord. My Spirit who is on you and my words that I have put in thy mouth, will not depart from your mouth or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever, says the Lord." (Isaiah 59:21)

Andrew Chan and *The Meaning of Life*

(by Dr. John Yates, issued 30 April 2015 - for more articles see <http://cross-connect.net.au/author/johnyates/>)

The *Meaning of Life* is the title of a privately distributed communication from Andrew Chan to the Indonesian Church a few months ago. (Excerpts below retain the original wording.)

Personal Matters

I have a sense of deep *sadness about the world with which God must deal*. The case of the recently executed drug smuggler and confessing Christian Andrew Chan is difficult to process with impartiality. With great rarity across the political divide Australia's parliamentarians are firmly united in condemning as "cruel and unnecessary" and "senseless and futile" (Tony Abbott/Bill Shorten) the killing of two prisoners who by common consensus were reformed and a positive influence on other prisoners. Was their Australian lawyer correct then to protest, "To execute these prisoners now will not achieve anything.", or has a deeper divine purpose been at work? Since we worship a predestinating God "who works all things....for good.... according to the purpose of his will" *Christians cannot believe in any ultimate uselessness* (Rom 8:28 – 29; Eph 1:11). God's purposes through the execution of Andrew Chan can be discerned in his message distributed amongst the Indonesian churches. The message of our brother his to the Church in the nation of his condemnation also contains a lesson for us. To hear what the Spirit is saying to the Australian Church we must think outside the limits of justice and mercy normally applicable to situations of daily life. We must see through the lens of the cross the eternal purposes of the Father of spirits who in this sort of world must often deal very painfully with those he loves (Heb 12:9).

Conversion

Various accounts of Chan's Bible inspired conversion can be found online; but it was hearing the *judgement of the death penalty* that seems to have opened up something deeper in his heart, "When I got back to my cell, I said, 'God, I asked you to set me free, not kill me.' God spoke to me and said, 'Andrew, I have set you free from the inside out, I have given you life!' From that moment on I haven't stopped worshipping Him. I had never sung before, never led worship, until Jesus set me free." Subsequent to this transformation Chan became the worship leader of the English service in his Bali jail. This spirit of true worship remained upon Chan who led other prisoners in singing "Bless The Lord O My Soul" at the moment of execution. Near the end he testified to one of those he brought to Christ; "Fear not, you can kill the body, but you cannot kill the soul." Andrew Chan's spirit has passed into the presence of his Father (Luke 24:46). Despite the wrath Chan's death has incited amongst us our response should not be measured out in the realms of trade, aid, holidays or defence cooperation but must be about the *glory of relationships*. Chan's legacy is about the pure love that remains in a relationship when judgement has been taken away. This is the heart of his letter to the Indonesian Church.

Chan: "When I got back to my cell, I said, 'God, I asked you to set me free, not kill me.' God spoke to me and said, 'Andrew, I have set you free from the inside out, I have given you life!' From that moment on I haven't stopped worshipping Him."

The Message

Chan's letter, "The Meaning of Life", has as its foundational text Ephesians 2:10, which speaks of the powerful transition from a lost state of sin and death and judgement to being graciously raised up and seated with Jesus in the heavenly places. Chan no doubt saw this text as a mirror of his own life transformation. Why though is his message to the Church not request for prayer but an exhortation about Christian Unity?

Speaking to believers in the nation who judged him worthy of death Chan links spiritual growth with our unity in Christ; "*growth only comes through unity* and about being in one". We can hear him praying that trusting one another means not judging each other and that this is how we mature spiritually. Here are a few other excerpts; "Pray for a revival, pray for a breakthrough....like you never prayed before. Push on and persevere....for me it took a while to build unity in the church here [Kerobokan Prison] now today the church has united into such a way that great love for one another...a community that was once divided, but now we are a community talking with one another, sharing, praying and even playing one own lives in front of each trend." (John 15:13)... "I became a Christian in prison but the

(continued next page)

Andrew Chan and *The Meaning of Life* (...continued)

good news cannot be imprisoned but will live within him forever.”

The Spirit revealed to Chan that Jesus didn't die to save a mob of self interested criminals herded together in a prison against their will, but to create a community held together in the purity of an all forgiving love. Men and women imprisoned for their sins have a great advantage over a respectful society skilled at denying transgression and used to judging each other from a higher moral ground. The walls of Kerobokan Prison are temporary but *the walls of self-righteousness will imprison multitudes forever*. The Spirit used the unavoidability of his impending judgement to crystallise to Chan that ultimate reality is filled with a single family walking in pure love knowing that through Jesus nothing is beyond forgiveness.

Chan the Martyr

In Greek “martyr” simply means “witness”; only after the New Testament writings did it develop the sense of being killed for one's testimony. Andrew Chan told one of his Indonesian pastor friends he believed he would die as a seed for revival into an Indonesia that he had come to love deeply. Wherever his testimony has been shared many Indonesian Christians have repented of their anger at foreign criminals and have *started to cry out to the Lord for forgiveness....and for unity*. Since Andrew Chan continued to the end to testify to Jesus' great prayer for a family where “the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26) he is indeed a martyr of Christ and a martyr of Christ can never die an “unnecessary” death. Jesus repeatedly told his closest followers that as part of the predestinated plan of God he “must” die a cruel and unjust death (Mark 8:31; Luke 24:26; John 3:14; Acts 2:23; 4:28). He knew that *in this sort of world such a mode of death was the indispensable way for grace to come beyond judgement*. Suffering for the greater glory of God is at the heart of the gospel (Eph 3:13). Anyone who understands this, as Andrew Chan progressively did, will move beyond that self-righteous anger which underlies human judgements against others and into the purity of a love for which Christ prayed and died. This was his message to the Indonesian Church in their anger against people like him, and it his legacy to the Australian Church in its anger against the Indonesian nation.

Since Andrew Chan continued to the end to testify to Jesus' great prayer for a family where “the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them” he is indeed a martyr of Christ and a martyr of Christ can never die an “unnecessary” death.

Conclusion

Andrew Chan is neither an anti-hero slaughtered by an unjust system nor a drug dealer who got his just desserts but someone who in the saving purposes of God was predestined to die. His voice is a prophetic voice from the grave of a man who has now passed beyond completely beyond all human judgements. But in Christ this is true of you and I; “whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me...does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24). Whilst the death of Andrew Chan and others has laid bare the heart of our nation in a huge cloud of self-righteous judgement a unique opportunity presents itself for the Australian Church (Luke 2:34-35). The Spirit of Jesus who inspired “The Meaning of Life” can inspire us to die to all our petty judgements to enter into the unity of pure love for which Christ died. As it was said long ago, “See how these Christians love one another.” may it now be said of us (John 13:33-34; Tertullian).



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.

Check latest events at <http://publicchristianity.org/about>

A Christian discussion about human life

Cleaning up my books and writings, I find that the research that I took for my BA 32 years ago has gone on to become a topic both feared, but also energising many scientists into what they call *transhumanism*. I have written about it below, showing the evil outcomes of a late night passing of legislation in the Victorian Parliament allowing research on embryos.

Here is the link https://www.academia.edu/11282508/Reproducing_the_Human_race

The issues at stake are “what is a soul”, “how do you think?” “how do you describe consciousness?” what is it to be human?”, “what is it to be holy?” “where are the limits to be put regarding human and animal genetic material being grown together?”, “who owns the genetic material of homo sapiens?” and as the Parliaments of the world have written the legalisation, and the politicians have received this legalisation and ratified it,” what training do public officers have to have to make such important moral decisions?” and finally, and sadly, “who is to restore the moral imperatives to whole families in the realm of genetic material?”

Surely a whole family, who has kept its history and knows its members are better prepared to learn and make decisions about their own genetic material. This brings up the subject of invitro fertilisation and the many children who have been born who do not know their birth mother or father, and have no access to their own genetic material. What can be done to reverse this major rupture of human rights.

If you would like to join this conversation about human life, please contact hilarieroseman@gmail.com

Copyright Hilarie Roseman PhD, Easter 2015

Soul Searching

Soul searching are the words that describe a situation when we are trying to make a very difficult decision. What do they mean?

Are we really looking into the centre of our being, the spiritual spark that is hope, love, caring, all the good reasons for living. The media presents the views of Australian politicians on abortion and obtaining stem cells from human embryos. At no time have we heard anything about the "soul" of the human person. Let us do some soul searching together.

The Hebrew, when speaking of man, by implication means man in the presence of God...he is always flesh.."flesh" in this sense is not a part of him, it is his very being, and never is he to forget that he is flesh for his whole life and in all his deeds and experiences. At the same time he is always "soul". Again "soul" is not a part of him; he has no soul, he is soul. He exists because God created him as a living soul. God's sticking to him is his very life. For Aristotle, the soul was simply the form of the body, i.e. the way the body behaved, and thus not capable of existing separately from it. For Plato, most Christian theologians of the first millennium AD, Descartes, and many others, the soul was the essential immaterial part of a human, temporarily united with its body. Most modern philosophers deny the existence of an immaterial soul. Do you agree with them?

St. Augustine soul searched looking for God. He asked the deep, the moving breezes, the sky, the sun, the moon and the stars and they all said, we are not God, He made us. St. Augustine asked of himself: 'Who are you?' He replied "A man." And look, in my person are body and soul, one without, and the other within. He talks about his inner self. "For to it all the body's messengers made report, as though to a president and judge, about the replies of heaven, earth and all the rest which contain, saying: "We are not God, he made us." These things did my inner self know by the service of the outer self. I, the inner man, understood these things, I the soul. Through the body's sense. I asked the whole mass of the world about my God and it replied "It is not I, he made me." (Confessions of St. Augustine"

The Australian Pocket Dictionary contains the following definition of soul: "soul is the immaterial part of man regarded as immortal or as subject to salvation or damnation...the true self, or as the organ of emotion of thought and will, the essence or inspiration of life." I am concerned about the beginnings of human life being used for experimentation. Please do some soul searching (if you believe you have a soul) that the embryo is human and should be afforded the most basic of human rights - the right to grow and live and prosper.

Copyright Hilarie Roseman January 07

A cutting ethical question:

“Should society have automatic rights to access or control my DNA?” Bjorn Schmid

Challenges for the Corporate Christian Lawyer

By *Monica Doumit*

A little while ago, I was invited to give a talk to a group of university students on the challenges of being a Catholic in a secular workplace.

I had spent almost 10 years as a corporate lawyer before making the switch to full-time ministry, and so the students were keen to hear from someone who had struggled with living out their faith in a very secular environment.

And while I don't for a moment suggest that we should abandon the corporate world and look for roles within the Church, there were definitely a number of struggles I was ready to speak to them about.

There is the struggle of the hours you spend in the office, and the hours you spend doing work at home. On an average day, I would probably switch off at about 11pm, and there was always work to do on the weekends. After a while, you start wondering if the amount of time and energy you pour in to your work should be spent serving the Lord in a way which seems more directly linked to the building up of the Kingdom. There is always that persistent voice suggesting that your talents could be used for more than increasing the wealth of already wealthy people and companies.

And apart from your own hours, there is also the challenge of seeing how hard the people around you work - often at your behest. I recall sitting in a meeting with a number of external advisers one evening at around 9pm. We had been having nightly meetings while trying to get a deal across the line. At one point, I noticed that all except one of them were wearing wedding rings and I realised that these meetings - necessary as they were for the transaction to proceed - had meant these men and women hadn't eaten dinner with their spouses or children in two weeks.

There were also so many times when I would be surviving on a couple of hours of sleep a night - again, usually when working towards a deadline. At those times, your relationship with God suffers immensely. Weeks would go by and my daily prayer life consisted of nothing more than "God, please just help me get through today".

All of these are very real challenges for the corporate Christian. While working hard and devoting minimal time to prayer are not necessarily sinful acts, they are hardly ingredients of the ideal Christian life, nor are they conducive to fostering virtue. Indeed, when your prayer life and your sleep are fairly non-existent, sin is usually close at hand because your physical and spiritual defences are down!

But despite these difficulties, the main message I wanted to convey to these young people was the significant privilege and blessing of being a Christian in the corporate world.

When I look back at my corporate career, I think of all of the wonderful opportunities available to me to witness to my faith amongst my colleagues.

I didn't set out to let people know that I was Catholic, but it was a difficult thing to hide. I began to become more actively involved in Church life in the years leading up to Sydney's World Youth Day and so my Catholic-ness became evident when people asked me what I was doing after work or during my annual leave.

I can't remember my faith ever being a cause for conflict, even amongst colleagues who really disliked the Church.

Instead, it was the reason for countless moments of grace.

Colleagues would often confide in me when a family member was sick or going through a difficult time and ask for prayers, because they were not really people of prayer themselves but wanted to do everything possible for their loved one.

Other times people would go on holidays and bring me back a postcard or a trinket from a Church they had visited, because "being in a Church reminded me of you."

I remember fondly the excitement of another work friend encountering the Gospels for the first time, long conversations about same-sex marriage or contraception over Friday night drinks, and many questions about whatever news meant the Church was in the headlines that day.

I realised that most people aren't antagonistic when it comes to Christianity – they are generally people of goodwill who were just not raised in the practice of any faith, and so it is completely foreign to them.

For so many, I was the only person they had met who was actively involved in the life of the Church. It made me think often of the saying: "you may be the only Bible other people ever read."

It is a heavy responsibility, no doubt, but also a great privilege.

Being known as a Christian in a secular workplace meant that I was invited in to the parts of people's lives which they do not often share with their colleagues. I was blessed with being able to watch people encounter Christ or at least take tentative steps towards Him, to listen to their questions about faith and stand by them in their struggles.

Being in full-time ministry is a wonderful gift and an immense blessing. Even so, I still am and always will be grateful for the time I spent as a Catholic in corporate life. I would do it again in a heartbeat!

I didn't set out to let people know that I was Catholic, but it was a difficult thing to hide

Prophetic Integrity



By Lorelee Colley, Director of Destiny Strategies - www.destinystrategies.com.au
and Author of the book "Revealing"

When people hear the word "prophetic", they can have very different understandings of what the word means based on their background, teaching and beliefs. Some people have had very good experiences with prophetic ministry. They have experienced encouragement and empowerment. They have seen prophetic ministry used as an effective way to equip, train and develop the body of Christ.

However, some people have seen the prophetic used in an ungodly manner and have, therefore, not had the best experience(s). This has led to some uncertainty and even fear. They have either developed reservations about prophetic ministry or they now prefer to avoid it altogether.

In addition, people who have not seen a lot of prophetic ministry in action may have very little idea what prophecy is about or what to expect. They may have a limited understanding of whether or not it is relevant for the world we live in today. Also, they may have doubts about what the Bible actually teaches about the prophetic, except maybe what their denomination has taught about end time prophecy.

Promoting People in Ministry

Over the past 15 years, our ministry, Destiny Strategies has provided prophetic training through what is known as "Prophetic Activation Schools (PAS)". Our schools have had students from many different Christian denominations, at various times. This has included Seventh Day Adventists, Anglicans, Uniting, Roman Catholics, Baptists and Pentecostals. I have been personally involved with and in prophetic ministry for over 20 years. In this time, I have seen the prophetic used well and also misused.

On more than one occasion, I've seen people prophesied over by prophetic ministers who have declared that person as a prophet either prematurely or falsely. God may have indeed been calling that person to become a prophet. However, at the time that they were being prayed over, they were not yet ready to move into that role. They were commissioned well before their time.

Inappropriate prophecy has caused many reactions. This may include causing a person to stumble in pride by developing a false sense of their own importance, because they have just been given a title. It can also lead to a pressure of unbearable responsibility or a spiritual dynamic in the person's life that leads them to confusion. This person being "commissioned" can develop a fear of disappointing God. It can also cause the person to be overwhelmed and restricted under this pressure since God was not actually behind what was being prophesied over them.

Often in these instances, there has been very little guidance given from anyone in a position of leadership. Unfortunately, the individual has been left to work it out alone. This type of pressure can cause devastation for the person prematurely or incorrectly commissioned. It can seem like a curse rather than a blessing. Illness, marriage breakdown and family disunity may follow.

Prophecy has the power to bring about spiritual life or death.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit" (Proverbs 8:21, NKJV).

When these incidents occur, they happen at the hands of very immature prophet(s) or prophetic ministry that has gone terribly wrong. This bad reputation is due to people using the label "prophetic" while doing things that don't line up with the Word or with the nature of God. This discredits genuine prophetic gifts and, therefore, discredits God Himself.

As a result of these mistakes and the damage done by them, the prophetic really carries a stigma. Understandably, churches of many denominations have shut down the prophetic and refused to allow it in their meetings because it has been so misused. In fact, in many circles, when anything to do with the prophetic is mentioned it is followed by

Often in these instances, there has been very little guidance given from anyone in a position of leadership. Unfortunately, the individual has been left to work it out alone. This type of pressure can cause devastation for the person prematurely or incorrectly commissioned.

(continued next page)

Prophetic Integrity (...continued)

discussions on how bad it is, how wrong it is, how weird it is and how ungodly “those” people are.

In actuality, it takes time for God to build the potential within us, even decades. Consider the story of David. In 1 Samuel 16 God directs Samuel to go and anoint David as King. This is the point of David’s call but it wasn’t until many years later that David was appointed or commissioned and actually stepped into the role.

In some instances, people get caught up in the title of "prophet" because they feel that it carries a lot of glory and importance. If this is the reason a person wants to be a prophet and if they think it is a quick, easy thing to do, they have no understanding of the role at all.

“If a man walking in a spirit [of vanity] and in falsehood should lie and say, I will prophesy to you of wine and strong drink, O Israel, he would even be the acceptable prophet of this people!” (Micah 2:11, AMP)

We Live in a Time like never Before

I believe the Body of Christ is in a time where we need to outgrow this stigma that clings to the prophetic. We live in a time like never before. There is a rampant spiritual hunger in the world around us. Within shopping centres, malls and markets it is commonplace to see vendors offering psychic readings, spiritual healing through crystals or invitations to have your tarot cards read. People are searching for spirituality to explain the pain, fear and confusion they are witnessing in both local and international events around them. Prophetic people can recognise the incredible opportunity that sits within this heightened spiritual awareness. We can offer a pure alternative to the psychic’s and mystics of this day by functioning correctly and with wholeness. In this time **God is saying, "Be prophetic, but do so with integrity and do so while representing my nature, understand My ways."**

Some feel that the prophetic should expose sin, tell people their weaknesses and/or tell them how bad they are. This too is totally unbiblical. God does confront our sin and relieve people of their guilt and shame, but he does so gracefully and with love. In addition, some people have used the prophetic to excuse themselves from the body of Christ. They isolate themselves as though this is God's will. They use “God says” to excuse themselves from being accountable to others.

As prophetic people, we have a responsibility to put ourselves in a safe place, to create and establish strong relationships around us and to encourage peers and mentors that help keep us accountable ... We need to ask God to provide the right mentors and the right relationships for us so that we can learn to submit.

As prophetic people, we have a responsibility to put ourselves in a safe place, to create and establish strong relationships around us and to encourage peers and mentors that help keep us accountable. Many prophetic people have been wounded and misunderstood. Regardless, prophetic people should remain strong and whole. Part of maturity is to be healed and to choose to trust again. We need to ask God to provide the right mentors and the right relationships for us so that we can learn to submit. God is very faithful.

“Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.” (Psalm 36:5 NKJV)

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV)

If we truly want the right relationships, God will provide them. Seek what is good, and God will be there waiting for you. He has certainly proven this for us in our journey in the prophetic.

Practice and Exercise

“Solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14 NKJV).

This scripture suggests a person needs a lot of practice to mature and be effective in the gifts. My experience in running Prophetic Activation Schools in many different places and with many different denominations supports this. The people who come to multiple schools and practice the gift for many, many hours are the ones who start to mature in their gift.

God is looking for faithfulness. He wants us to mature in the gift. More importantly, He wants us to mature in our character.

(continued next page)

Prophetic Integrity (...continued)

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own” (Luke 16:10-12, NKJV)

God is also looking for *integrity*.

“The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them” (Proverbs 11:3, NKJV).

Modern Day Prophetic People

What do New Testament Prophets look like in this modern day?

Let me present **8 distinguishing marks of healthy prophetic ministers:**

- 1. They are humble; they want all the glory to go to God.**
- 2. They are team players; they are not isolated, but recognise they need other people.**
- 3. They are accountable; they have strong structures of accountability around them.**
- 4. They are submitted to their local leadership.**
- 5. They know that they prophesy in part; they don't presume to have all the answers.**
- 6. They encourage prophetic people to come together without competition or comparison.**
- 7. They are sensitive to others' protocols, beliefs and understandings.**
- 8. They are careful to deliver the Word of the Lord according to God's nature, even though the Word may bring correction and direction.**

Prophets and prophecy

It is a common misconception that because a person prophesies well, they must be a prophet. This is far from the truth. One may cook well and not be a chef. One may sing well and not be a performing artist. There is a realm of difference between one and the other. Prophecy is a gift for everyone (like cooking and singing!)

Consider 1 Corinthians 14:1 *“Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts but especially that you may prophesy.”* (NKJV) It is clear that all should prophesy. Paul is talking about spiritual gifts and the gift of prophecy, not the role of the prophet. A person can operate very accurately and effectively at this level of prophetic gifting but not be a called, appointed or commissioned as a prophet.

There is a huge distance between the authority of someone who functions in the gift of prophecy as described in 1 Corinthians 14 and the role of the prophet as described in Ephesians 4:11. For people in ministry and for churches that are endeavouring to bring back the prophetic, this distinction is important.

God is Raising up Prophetic People

God will entrust His powerful gifts to those with integrity. He will continue to build integrity in us by dealing with the things in our lives that are holding us back. Sometimes that can be very uncomfortable, but God wants to establish prophetic people who are credible, trustworthy and effective.

Prophecy is for the individual to bring encouragement, for the church to build the body of Christ and for those with spiritual hunger to have an encounter with the One True God. God is calling forth prophetic people who are willing to stand for integrity and honour him. People who are willing to submit to one another, to submit to leadership and to be accountable with the gift He has given them - people who will step forward and raise a new standard. I believe we will see this company of people raised up in this day and for this hour, who are effective ministers within the body of Christ as well as relevant to the modern marketplace.

In the body of Christ we have seen some small examples of this but there is going to be a substantial and a credible voice.

I encourage you to be part of this!

It is a common misconception that because a person prophesies well, they must be a prophet.

Homecoming Gathering Night & Pastors Fellowship Lunch

Invitations from the Sydney Homecoming Gathering Team

Dear Pastors/Brothers/Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We hope you and your family are well in His grace.

We would like to let you know about the upcoming **Homecoming Gathering in Sydney**. This will be held on **Tuesday, 9th June 2015, 7.30pm at HisStory Church**, 1/56-60 Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe NSW (Next to KFC).

This Gathering is to see people of God, Pastors, leaders from all nations, denominations and generations (youngest to oldest) seeking the Lord's heart through united worship and prayer.

Jesus prayed "that they may be one as You are in Me and I am in You. Let them be one in us, so that the world might believe..." Our Father's heart is longing to see His children gather so He can reveal His heart to them. God is working in every individual but there is so much that He wants to do through the unity of His children. We remember the wall of Jericho was broken down through the unity of the people of Israel who walked together. The wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt by various people according to their skills in the year of Nehemiah; they worked as one team and the wall finished in 52 days!

We are grateful that through this Homecoming Gathering we have the opportunity to meet and to fellowship with one another. The Gathering is open for the Body of Christ to walk together as family.

We welcome you and your church to the Homecoming Gathering in Sydney and our prayer is that all will feel at home as we worship together in His presence. The meeting will be conducted by the Homecoming team from Canada, Hong Kong and China. Rev. Dr. Gideon Chiu* from Canada is one of the Homecoming leaders who is coming.

We love to meet family and look forward to seeing you all on the 9th of June!

Thank you for your heart and prayer.

In Christ and for His glory,

Host team for the Sydney Homecoming Gathering

* Information regarding the Homecoming Gathering and Ps. Gideon was given in the April 2015 edition of this newsletter.

Dear Pastors/Brothers/Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We would like to invite you to join us for a **Pastors lunch on Wednesday, 10th June 2015, 12.30pm at HisStory Church**, 1/56-60 Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe NSW (Next to KFC).

This is a wonderful opportunity for Pastors and leaders to meet, sharing hearts and fellowship together over meal and following up from the Homecoming Gathering on Tuesday night prior. Our desire for this gathering is that God will reveal His heart and bring our hearts together for His Kingdom purpose.

The Homecoming team from Canada, Hong Kong and China will be joining us also. Rev. Dr. Gideon Chiu* from Canada is one of the Homecoming leader who is coming.

We really hope that you can come.

Kindly contact one of the people below to confirm you will be attending and the number of people coming with you. This will help us to organize the lunch.

Thank you very much and we are looking forward to fellowship with you. May the Lord bless you!

In Christ and for His glory,

Host team for the Sydney Homecoming Gathering
(Transforming Sydney, All Nations Prayer Gathering, Glory Kingdom Ministries)

Contacts

To register for the Pastors Lunch or if you have any questions regarding the Homecoming Gathering please contact one of the people below:

(English) – David Hadi 0414 641 567

(Korean) – John Kim 0410 120 170

(Chinese) – Paul Shen 0425 323 282

Note that there is also a Homecoming Gathering in Chinese at Bread of Life Church, 7:15pm on Wednesday 10th June (see next page for details).

2015 Asia Homecoming Gathering

Full details of the 2015 Asia Homecoming Gathering in Hong Kong, July 7-10, 2015. are available at

<http://www.asiagathering.hk/?lang=en>



Homecoming Gathering
回家聚集
One Heart & One Way
同心同道

Time & Address:
聚会时间及地点:

1. 7:30pm Tuesday, 9th June 2015 (English / 英文)
 HisStory Church
 1/ 56-60 Parramatta Rd , Lidcombe (Next to KFC)
2. 7:15pm Wednesday, 10th June 2015 (Chinese / 中文)
 Bread of Life Christian Church in Sydney
 2A Holden St , Ashfield NSW



[Transforming Sydney] [All Nations Prayer Gathering] [Glory Kingdom Ministries]
 HOSTED TOGETHER BY SYDNEY CHURCHES David Hadi (English) 0414 641 567 John Kim (Korean) 0410 120 170 Paul Shen (Chinese) 0425 323 282
 For more information about [Home Coming], you can find: <http://www.asiagathering.hk/>

Nepal Earthquake Crisis

From Peter Irvine

The story is going to get worse rather than better. There is no water, no electricity and limited communication but we are starting to get information. Can you send to your network for prayer and if anyone wants to help then there is a link is below.

Transform the Nations is working with Hosanna church who have Christian Schools ,8 Refuges for girls being trafficked to India and their own church building, plus many pastor in outlying villages across the western region.

Help Nepal by Donating to Transform The Nations, an Australian managed NGO based in Nepal which is currently supporting the Earthquake Crisis.

On Saturday 25th of April 2015, Nepal experienced it's deadliest earthquake in 80 years. It registered 7.8 on the Richter scale and occurred nearby to the capital of Kathmandu, causing widespread damage - flattening homes, businesses and temples. The death toll is in the thousands. Authorities are struggling to cope with the vast number of injured and deceased. As the enormity of the disaster continues to emerge, there is a rapidly growing need for donations from abroad. Transform The Nations is a well-established NGO in Nepal ready to provide support and care for people in need. Your donations will help immediate requirements such as medical aid, emergency accommodation, food, clothing and counseling. Thousands of people are hopelessly wandering the streets, as even those whose houses still stand are afraid to reenter their homes for fear of structural damage or further tremors. Newly orphaned children are in dire need of care. Please donate funds to Transform The Nations to assist with crisis relief in Nepal today.

Your Support Will Help Us With....

Medical Aid For The Injured

Food & Clothing For People

Shelter For The Homeless

Building & Reconstruction

Money will be collected through MyCause.com.au which is a trusted payment system for Australian Charities.

Go to www.helpnepal.com.au to watch the video & make your donation today!



Transform The Nations has;

- 100% Tax Deductability Status with the ATO
- Team on the ground in Nepal
- Australian management board

Houses of Prayer Link Arms - Clean Water 4 Life

Houses of Prayer are rising up all over the world.

**Now IHOPKC-Kansas City (founded in 1999)
and the Australian House of Prayer For All Nations (founded in 1992)
have been drawn closer together and are teaming in prayer with
the Fa'arau House Of Prayer in the Solomon Islands (founded in 2008)
to see remote communities in the Solomon Islands develop skills to
dig wells, build clean water supplies and community facilities, and generate income.**

Communities Transformed

Since the founding of the HOP (House Of Prayer) in the remote village of F'Araru on the island of Malaita in the Solomons, God has provided ways and means for F'Araru to be transformed as villagers have gained drilling and building skills that mean clean water, better health, jobs and income for the community. The Fa'arau well drill team has dug 30 wells for clean water in villages on Malaita and a few other Islands. The Fa'arau men are building their own visitor centre and orphanage, and are building a business that supplies concrete blocks and generates jobs and income.

Rick Rupp from IHOPKC and his support teams have spent time getting to know, training and encouraging the Fa'arau community, and the results are so appreciated in the Solomon Islands it is clear that God is wanting to multiply the work so the benefits seen on Malaita can be reproduced on more islands in the Solomons.

Mission World Aid, Inc (MWA) is the mercy ministry established in Adelaide Australia in 1992 by Jenny Hagger as part of the Australian House Of Prayer For All Nations (AHOPFAN).

With the intercessory prayer support of AHOPFAN, MWA has provided humanitarian aid to 25 countries.

Clean Water 4 Life

MWA, Rick Rupp and representatives of the Fa'arau community have together signed a partnership agreement that in prayer will lead to much joy in the Solomon Islands. The partnership draws together prayer support across the Pacific, and will apply donations towards the proven programme of relevant skills development in remote island communities that deliver clean accessible water, community facilities and services, better health, with jobs and ongoing income generation.

Support also extends to the provision of health clinics, as Dr Rick Bass teams up with Rick Rupp to meet immediate medical needs in remote communities totally lacking healthcare facilities.

MWA is blessed to partner with Rick Rupp and the Solomon Islands community as God brings 3 Houses Of Prayer into a strategic alliance.

More information and the opportunity to donate is now available at

www.cleanwater4life.com - for tax deductible donations in the USA

www.cleanwater4life.com.au - for tax deductible donations in Australia

www.missionworldaid.org

Leviticus 6:12 The Fire on the altar shall never go out!



From Rick Rupp - www.rickrup.com

This photo came from my friend David Gahare from Goroka, Papua New Guinea. Back in 2013 we empowered & trained David with a Hydra Fab Well Drilling machine to install water wells in PNG. My heart explodes with JOY to see our model working to bring clean water to entire villages that are desperately in need of drinking water in PNG.

I received an urgent appeal from the Vanuatu Islands asking me to send a Hydra Fab well drilling machine and supplies to rescue the victims of Cyclone Pam which devastated this tiny nation approx 700 miles from the Solomon Islands.

From Pastor Glenn who is from the Solomon Islands but is now in Vanuatu:

"I could not reach you over the passing weeks, due to the devastation, communication and electricity were badly destroyed, homes including their food gardens were all lost, the Port Vila Central Market was closed. Vanuatu was declared a state of emergency, however out in the remote islands where I have been ministering things are even far more worse situations. The dug out wells where they normally fetched water for drinking are destroyed. So villagers are just only relieved by the Red Cross who supplied them bottle water. I'm asking if Pastor Aaron Lagani at Fa'hop, if it would be possible to have their well drilling team to come over to Vanuatu for a rescue to help with drinking water for the next few months?"



On left, the hand dug well they have been drinking from. The sanitary water well just installed April 2, 2015

21 Paradigms to move towards in Western Churches

We all realise that western churches need to mature and change, but what are some of the most important areas we need to address? The following list is a collection of biblical principles that must be addressed in order for the western church to move forward. Some of the themes are repeated in slightly different contexts.

1. Acknowledging the calling of every believer (1 Cor 12:14)

The most dominant theme in the western church is that people no longer wish to be spectators and see the drawbacks. Many churches have dysfunctional leadership models that fail to recognise the calling of every believer.

2. Addressing issues and taking risks (Acts 6:1-7; 2 Tim 1:7; Eph 4:15)

Often leadership teams know what they need to change, but are afraid to try anything different, or upset anyone. Examples include: moving location, starting a second service, removing people from leadership, changing the service format or planting a new church.

3. Increased understanding of pastoral and leadership roles (Acts 20:28; Eph 4:12; 1 Pet 5:2)

The senior pastor doesn't have to be the most gifted leader and he certainly isn't the only one with a pastoral gift in a congregation. The entire congregation are responsible for the outcomes of the church. Leaders are "facilitators" not owners or the most knowledgeable.

4. Ministry based upon gifting rather than proving ones faithfulness (Rom 12:4-8; 1 Pet 4:10)

In traditional leadership models, the pastor receives the vision, and the congregation faithfully serves. As a result, we have thousands of Christians serving outside of their gifting. Equip people in the use of their gifts, doing what they love, and you will notice a big difference.

5. Sending capacity rather than seating capacity (Mk 3:14; 6:7; Acts 15:22; 1 Cor 4:17)

Traditional models measure the success of a congregation or a leader by how big the building is, or how many members there are. Discipleship models measure the maturity of congregations by the capacity to send. Students become teachers who train others.

6. Valuing the input of every person (Eph 4:16; 1 Cor 14:26; 1 Pet 4:10)

We are all Priests, Sons and Kings. It is Gods church and the people are the church. It is not the pastor's church so providing mechanisms to allow people input and influence is crucial in leading a church. One business in Latin America provides a monthly forum for employees to share and discuss ideas for future products. The company has a turnover of more than 100 million dollars, all generated through ideas provided by their employees in open forums.

7. Allowing God to work supernaturally (Acts 2:43)

If we look at the parts of the world where the church is growing; healings, miracles and supernatural signs are very common. Western churches often have very predictable service structures with no expectation for the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally.

8. Daily contact instead of just weekly (Heb 3:13; Acts 2:46; 5:42)

The biggest impact of small groups is the opportunity for daily contact with other believers. In the early church, relationships were established on a daily basis. Prayer, fellowship, and eating together kept the disciples encouraged in the midst of persecution.

9. Personal transformation rather than membership (Rom 12:2; Gal 5:22-24)

Research has shown that Churches around the world are full of people that may be committed to attend a church service, but during the week their lifestyle is no different to that of their friends. There should be a clear distinction between Christians and Non-believers.

10. Complementary gifts rather than competitive agendas (1 Cor 1:12, 13; 3:3-5)

Competition is based on feelings of insecurity. When Pastors acknowledge their own strengths, stop comparing themselves with others, and look for ways to complement one another, we will see amazing breakthroughs.

11. Values-based networks rather than just denominational (Acts 18:2, 3, 18)

For many years Christians have attended events based on common interests and values. One of the best known examples is the Sydney Hillsong Conference that attracts more than 30,000 Christians from every major Church denomination.

(continued next page)

21 Paradigms to move towards in Western Churches (...continued)

12. Interaction rather than monologue (Acts 17:2; 19:8)

Traditional teaching models have the expert at the front of the classroom with learners remaining silent. Coaching, mentoring, serving and discipleship models encourage interactive learning that increases retention. No question is off limits.

13. A focus on homes and not just church buildings (Acts 5:42; 20:20; Rom 16:5)

Many western churches have been slow to acknowledge the impact that small groups can have. Building community, hospitality, and loving relationships were central themes in the New Testament church.

14. Apostolic teams working alongside pastoral models (Eph 4:11, 12; Acts 13:1)

Pastoral gifts were never intended to work in isolation from the other gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist and teacher. Although we have seen great progress in recent years, do we need to increase understanding of the role of the apostle and not confusing a teacher or a pastor with an Apostle?

15. Balance between organisation and divine inspiration

For greater fruitfulness in leadership meetings, community outreaches, or any gathering of believers, churches may want to embrace the spontaneous leading of the Holy Spirit while continuing to develop structure and organisation. Many churches think they must choose between the two.

16. Ministry partnerships rather than individual vision (1 Cor 12:12)

Not everyone has the ability to initiate a project, but when people with the same interests come together, everyone can use their unique gift and get involved. Empowering leaders gather together people with common interests.

17. Multiplication not just addition (2 Tim 2:2, Jn 12:24; Mt 13:23; Tit 1:5; Acts 14:23)

The fruit of an apple tree is not just more apples, but more apple trees. The New Testament Church multiplied as elders were ordained in every city, not only by the Apostle Paul, but by his spiritual sons Timothy and Titus.

18. Raising up spiritual sons (1 Tim 1:2; Tit 1:4; 1 Pet 5:13; 1 Cor 4:15-17; Gal 4:19)

Paul told the Corinthian church that they had 10000 instructors in Christ, but not many fathers. Timothy, Titus, and Marcus, were three of Paul's sons in the faith. If you are a senior leader, do you invest time into the younger generation?

19. Magnetic disciples rather than just attracting people to programs (1 Thess 1:6-8; Col 1:9)

Churches love to attract people through various programs and events. Programs are great if they are fruitful, but we need more emphasis on discipleship that encourages people to live an authentic 'Christian lifestyle'. Christians should be a magnetic influence in their community.

20. Prayer as a lifestyle rather than just an event (Acts 1:14; 6:4; 16:13)

Prayer networks and combined prayer rallies are all very good, but they often delegate prayer to intercessors. In the New Testament church, prayer played a much bigger part of the Christian lifestyle than we currently see in our western churches.

21. Empowering leadership rather than controlling leadership (Eph 4:11, 12; 1 Pet 5:2, 3)

Empowering leaders will help believers grow in maturity, equip them for service, and then celebrate as they are released into ministry roles. They send people out to bless the body of Christ, rather than just attracting and holding onto people.

Is there anything you would add to this list? Anything you would change? Let us know.

Peter Sewell has over 25 years of ministry experience, training church leadership teams, business and government leaders, and community groups. He is a passionate supporter of the local church and served as an associate pastor for 15 years. During this time he was involved in planting new churches, and coordinating cell groups, pastoral care, and discipleship. He has qualifications in biblical studies, business, counselling, coaching, and adult education, and is currently involved in training future leaders across Europe.

Copyright 2015 Peter Sewell <http://www.churchexcellenceframework.com> Permission is granted to copy, forward, or distribute this article for non-commercial use only, as long as this copyright byline, in totality, is maintained in all duplications, copies, and link references. For reprint permission for any commercial use, in any form of media, please contact orchard.j.johnson@gmail.com

Shalom and Human Flourishing in the City

By Andre Van Eymeren

Can cities be places where people flourish and where Shalom can be experienced? The UN predict that by 2050, two-thirds of the world's population (around 6.4 billion people with the world's population at approximately 9.6 billion) will be living in cities. The majority of the growth will take place in Asia and Africa. Currently there are 28 mega cities with over 10 million people, by 2050 there will be 41 with Tokyo having the largest population.

But what will the quality of life be like for those 6.4 billion people? And should we even care?

I often ask my students what they think is important to God. We usually generate quite a long list on the whiteboard. I then acknowledge that we will each answer this question from where we sit. We will each have a different perspective depending on our upbringing, our church's understanding of these things, the nature of our personal encounter with God, how we are wired and so forth. The interesting thing is that what we think is important to God will shape our soteriology (understanding of how salvation works) and our eschatology (perspective on how God will wrap everything up). This in turn will determine what we are prepared to put our time and effort into.

Let me see if I can explain. If we believe the most important thing to God is the personal relationship he has with each one of us, then we will see salvation in an individualistic way, that is we are each saved for a personal connection with God. This personal connection then goes beyond the grave to a point where we are with him in the heavenly realm. If this is our belief then we are likely to put our energy into evangelism, we are less likely to put our effort into social justice or community engagement and if we do, we will see it as a means to an end, ie so we can encourage more people to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Now there is nothing wrong about a personal relationship with Jesus and in fact for many of us it is our source of life and hope, joy and peace. Personally I don't know where I'd be with out that relationship. However as a church, as the people of God in the world I believe we have been too focused on 'my relationship with Jesus' and the building up of our particular expression of the faith to the detriment of God's broader agenda in the world.

There are plenty of hints to this broader agenda in the Old and New Testaments. Jesus' command to seek first the Kingdom, the prayer he taught his disciples... may your Kingdom come. His manifesto that starts 'the Spirit of the Lord is upon me,' the Sermon On The Mount and Revelations where John writes about heaven coming to earth, the reign of God seen fully amongst us. The Old Testament points to God's plan for the nations, encouraging Israel to be a model amongst them, that model includes looking after the poor, the orphan and welcoming the stranger. In Isaiah God encourages His people to create the type of environment where all are seen and valued, each have their needs met and each have the opportunity to discover meaning and purpose, this in the dual context of a relationship with God and the creating of an urban environment.

If the majority of the world's population live and will continue to live in urban environments and if God cares about urban environments and human flourishing in that context, how is the church preparing to partner with God to create cities where people not only exist, but live life to the full?

Cities are often seen as negative places, devoid of natural environment, without a soul and so forth. I don't buy it! I see incredible potential for cities to be places of light, hope, of new beginnings and endless possibilities. However we need to ensure they are places where EVERYBODY can experience those things. This will involve some major re-thinking about how our cities develop and what we see as important as we experience growth. Perhaps even the economic agenda needs to be displaced from its position of privilege and replaced with the relational or community agenda as the central guiding principle.

Cities have tended to be developed in silos. The silo mentality is still alive and well in many of our institutions. Through my work with local councils in Melbourne I have discovered that quite often it is difficult to get the planning department to talk to the community department and vice versa. Yet these types of conversations and the relationships behind them are vital if municipalities and cities are to be well developed. Going further, if we were to break a city down into its constituent drivers (sectors), for example; politics, health, education, sport and recreation, business, community service organisations (not for profits including churches), media, Arts, Justice and Law.*

How could genuine relationships be fostered between the sectors? What would be the affect of creating more effective dialogue between them? In this way could the planning of cities reflect what it means to be more fully human? Is it possible

(continued next page)

* The drivers of society borrowed from Dr David Wilson, developed through his work with Sophia Think Tank <http://goo.gl/tNHjjl>

Shalom and Human Flourishing in the City (...continued)

for cities to become places where everyone could thrive and flourish? Could this approach to developing cities more represent God's intent? Would helping to foster more holistic dialogue between divergent parts of cities actually lead to a God breathed transformation, an answer to the prayers we have been praying for so long?

In all of this the church has an opportunity to engage meaningfully in the questions generated around the creation of cities. We have depth, perspective and history to bring to the table. Will we recognise where God is at work in the creation of cities? Will we do the work to lift our heads up from the daily grind and to broaden our paradigms to recognise the validity of God's work in cities?

Will we take our place with Him in the creation of places and spaces where people can flourish and shalom can be more evident?

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.

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

BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY THROUGH THE LEGAL PROFESSION:

A DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION ON THE MISSION & VISION OF ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL

by Mark Mudri, Esq.,¹

Member, GLOBAL COUNCIL, ADVOCATES OCEANIA

1ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL COUNCIL

[Refer to Mark Mudri & Associates www.markmudri.com for a professional profile and engagement.]

OCTOBER 5, 2008

Some thoughts on the vision and mission of Advocates International (AI) and its relationship with Revelation Chapters 5 & 6, mostly written immediately prior to the Global Council Meeting of Advocates International in Malaysia in 2007 and subsequently updated in preparation for the 2008 Global Convocation.²

During our time in Malaysia we visited the church where our Advocates Asia Global Council member, Min Choon Lee, serves as an elder. One of the first bible readings was from Revelation 5 and this gave me great comfort.³

The first thing that is striking about this scripture is that there were twenty-four elders which is almost exactly the number of representatives invited to the global council meeting.

Chapter 5 speaks of the following things:

1. The centrality, supremacy and sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ; and
2. The adoration for one whom through suffering gained all authority, power and praise.

(continued next page)

¹ The author is grateful for each of the advocates who encouraged, enabled and enhanced this devotion, particularly Sam Casey, AI's Vice-Chair, who will soon be joining AI's staff as its General Counsel responsible for assisting the development of AI's Task Forces.

² The FORTY REASONS TO PRAY FOR THE GLOBAL CONVOCATION and the 40 DAY PRAYER GUIDE recommended for use in spiritual preparation for the Convocation are found at <http://www.globalconvocation.org/40reasons.htm>

³ Revelation 5:1-14 (NKJV)

1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

5 But one of the elders said to me, Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

12 saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

14 Then the four living creatures said, Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY (...continued)

Verse 8 - the four living creatures and the angels about the thrones speak of the divine ministry of angels, who join us in worship to the Lord.

Each of the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. I sense a calling to repentance and adoration before we do anything else. Each one had a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. We come to this meeting each one with a song and with tears of intercession from those nations that we represent.

The harp speaks of ministering to the King as David did. It speaks to the casting away of all demonic powers and strongholds as David did in the presence of King Saul. It speaks of heavenly worship, of gentleness, of simplicity, of the beauty of the harp.

The bowls of incense are full, speaking of the culmination of centuries of prayer and tears which are as incense, brought together in this meeting of the elders.

A new song was sung. The outcome of this meeting will be a new celebration, a new adoration and a new unity.

It reaffirms to us that it is through patient tribulation and submission, through various trials, that authority is gained in the kingdom, that we have been redeemed by His blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and He has given us, and is about to give us more authority to reign in the earth as kings and priests to our God, as servants to our neighbors as God gives us grace for such loving obedience

We are also but tokens and there are thousands and tens of thousands

that we are representing, and all of creation will honor the precious Lamb who sits upon the throne and who lives forever and ever.

The seven seals that can only be opened and redeemed by our crucified and risen Lamb of God are then described in Revelation Chapter 6.⁴

(continued next page)

⁴ Revelation 6:1-17 (NKJV)

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, 'Come and see.'

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, 'Come and see.'

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come and see.'

8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

16 and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!'

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'

BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY (...continued)

Revelation Chapter 6

Revelation Chapter 6 recalls to our attention Isaiah 59:19 wherein the author, who himself was an advocate and an advisor to the king, admonished us never to forget that:

When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him."

The first six seals of judgment (and the corresponding AI task force being established to resist and redeem each judgment) are as follows:

1. World domination (rule of law-integrity)
2. Conflict on earth (peace and reconciliation)
3. Scarcity, poverty & famine (justice for poor and needy)
4. Wide spread death on earth (law of life and family & community)
5. Cry of the martyrs (religious freedom)
6. Cosmic disturbances

Advocates International is a significant part of the standard that the Lord is raising in the earth. It is already actively engaged in most of the counter balances to these six seals. Whilst the 6 seals are a judgment from God, these forces are unmistakably active in the earth today and we are called to be part of our Heavenly Father's redemptive purposes in the earth, before these judgments come.

FIRST SEAL "WORLD DOMINATION"

Commentators disagree on whether this is the establishment of righteous authority or evil authority. The leaning is towards world domination by unjust governments.

Adopting the Good Samaritan model (Luke 10:21-37), Advocates International has "gone and done likewise" being instrumental in establishing righteous authority in the earth through its Rule of Law Institutes in Bulgaria and Romania, and the establishment of its Rule of Law/Governmental Integrity Global Task Force. A tremendous example of this is Albania, once the most atheistic country in the world, now a nation with religious freedom, where judges have been trained in ethics and integrity.

This rule of law (not "by law") focus resembles a partial fulfilment of Isaiah 1:26:

I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, a faithful city."

Let us pray for the establishment and growth of AI's Global Rule of Law/Integrity Task Force, initially being facilitated through Advocates Europe by its co-chairs Latch Popov and Roger Sherrard, who will be developing AI's efforts to champion the rule of law and integrity and the end of government sponsored or advantaged corruption.

SECOND SEAL "CONFLICT ON THE EARTH"

Both directly and through its affiliation with the Peacemaker Ministries, "ambassadors of reconciliation"⁵ are being raised in the midst of the adversarial system. Teresa Conradie, Chip Zimmer, Dickson Ogwang, Sam Casey, and many others are being used at high levels of international reconciliation.

Many of us on the global council have expressed our sense of awe and wonder of how the Lord has taken lawyers from many nations, cultures, denominations and backgrounds and has created a global tapestry of covenantal

(continued next page)

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY (...continued)

relationships which breathe unity, grace and peace. The global council itself bears testimony to the power of unity and God's commanded blessing. And so we joyfully greet one another with that biblical greeting first fashioned for us by the first "Christian lawyer", St. Paul, who included his salutary "Grace and Peace" in most of his epistles to the Church.⁶

Let us pray that one of the outcomes of the global convocation will be the formal establishment of AI's Global Peace and Reconciliation Task Force, as being facilitated by Advocates Africa through its co-chairs Dickson Ogwang (President, Peace and Reconciliation Ministries of Africa) and Chip Zimmer (International Director, Peacemaker Ministries) to champion conflict resolution based on biblical principles, particularly in post-conflict settings like Northern Uganda and Liberia.

THIRD SEAL "SCARCITY, POVERTY AND FAMINE"

Advocates International has been actively engaged in dealing with the issues of poverty, both by re-establishing righteous authority in the Nations and protecting the defenseless. For one example, identity cards have been created to enable people in Africa to work and have access to Health Care, which otherwise would have been denied because they simply did not exist according to the laws of the land. For a second example, Christian lawyers, acting through national Christian law fellowships affiliated with Advocates International (e.g. the UGANDA CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FRATERNITY represented at the Convocation by Mike Chibita and Annet Ttendo, the KENYA CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP represented by Josue Tchimou, Amie Osinya Hatego, Anne Mbugua, Joyce Kabaki – Kageche, Judy Kalinga, Caroline Karugu, Loise Wambui Gakumo and Paul Ndemo, and the CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY represented by its Christian Legal Aid Director, Brent McBurney) are acting pro bono (actually "pro Deo" [for God]) for those who are in prison, the oppressed, the injured, the voiceless, those being denied equal access to justice)

Let us pray that another outcome of the global convocation will be the formal establishment of AI's Justice for the Poor and Needy Global Task Force, as facilitated by Advocates Latin America through its chair Global Council Member, Professor Nina Balmaceda.

THE FOURTH SEAL OF DEATH

Advocates International speaks and brings life to individuals, organizations and nations. Its advocates represent widows and orphans, and parents and children whose families are being disintegrated by addictions, disaffections and abuse and divorce. It brings hope and teaching to Christian lawyers whose disintegration of work and faith has robbed them of life and peace.

Advocates International's on-going LAW OF LIFE PROJECT is already strongly linked with other pro-life collaborators like the Christian Legal Society, Americans United for Life, the Justice Foundation, the Law of Life Legal Group, Operation Outcry, Heartbeat International, CareNET, PNCI (Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues), C-Fam (Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute), and ALAFA (Alliance of Latin Americans for the Family) redefining the broad spectrum of pro-life issues from the fact that abortion harms women to the fact palliative care, not physician-assisted suicide, is the key to so many end-of life concerns. There have already been tremendous breakthroughs in United States Supreme Court (partial birth abortion banned)⁷ and in America's 8th Circuit Court of Appeals (upholding informed consent law requiring physician to personally advise mother at least 2 hours before an abortion that as a matter of scientific fact her abortion terminates the existing life of "a whole, separate living human being who is her child."⁷

The Bible says that the family is formed by the "one flesh" consummation of man and wife in the covenant of marriage. Sadly, particularly in the West (Canada, U.S. and Europe), marital "death" through co-habitation, divorce

(continued next page)

⁶ For example, Romans 1:7 (NKJV):

7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, __U.S.__, 127 S. Ct 1610 (2007). Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority in *Gonzales* in the face of a critical dissent from Justice Ginsberg, wrote with passion about the beauty of the bond between mother and child and for the first time recognized that abortion harms women: "Respect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child." Id at 1634 (2007).

BEARING WITNESS OF JESUS GLOBALLY (...continued)

or legal redefinition now calls for our resistance through AI's Global Family and Community Task Force even as, by Godly example and spiritual encouragement, we seek to preserve biblical marriage and the civil society in which such marriages flourish.

Let us pray that another outcome of the global convocation will be the formal establishment of AI's synergistic Law of Life and Family & Community Global Task Forces, as each is respectively facilitated by Advocates North America (ANA) through its co-chairs, ANA Global Council members, Sam Casey (Law of Life) and Ruth Ross (Family & Community).

THE FIFTH SEAL - "CRY OF THE MARTYRS"

Advocates International, directly and through its members such as Anne Buwalda of the Jubilee Campaign, Latcho Popov (President of Advocates Europe), and Lynn Buzzard and Min Choon Lee (working through Advocates Asia) actively fight for the rights of those who are the subjects of religious oppression and the threat of death, particularly in nations such as Pakistan where the blasphemy laws have been used to oppress, vilify and execute Christians.

Let us pray that another outcome of the global convocation will be the formal establishment of the Religious Freedom Global Task Force, as facilitated by Advocates Asia through its chair, AI Global Council Member, Professor Lynn Buzzard.

THE SIXTH SEAL - "COSMIC DISTURBANCES"

The environmental agenda is squarely on the forefront of world politics and Advocates International has the opportunity to sensibly deal with the wisdom and stewardship issues facing us. It can also appropriately challenge those who are exploiting the current mood to develop their own godless power agendas.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

It is not clear what the seventh seal is.

However, it has been revealed to Sam Casey and some others that the seventh global taskforce is prayer. Without prayer, all of our efforts and all of our strategies and all of our resources cannot accomplish the Father's will, for we may begin well, but will inevitably default to using our own strength and our own devices. Conversely, without action, our prayer will be meaningless, for as Sam Ericsson points out as well as James, faith without works is dead. Prayer has been described as finding out what the Lord is doing and joining in with him. It is also a dialogue between two persons who love each other God and us. Let an alarm be sounded in the earth. Let men and women humble themselves and pray, seek the Father's face and turn from their wicked ways, then the Lord may hear from heaven, forgive our sin and heal our lands.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is encouraging to see how the ministry of Advocates International is so intricately woven with our Heavenly Father's redemptive purposes in the earth and how aligned we, as Christian lawyers, can be to His heart and plans in this hour.

Advocates International is a key global movement in the raising up of a community of people committed to faithfully implementing counter-balancing strategies to the work of the enemy in these days of unprecedented opposition to and unprecedented advancement of the Kingdom of our God and his Christ.

ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL VISION

A worldwide fellowship of advocates bearing witness of Jesus Christ through the legal profession.

ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Encouraging and enabling advocates to meet locally, organize nationally, cooperate regionally and link globally to promote justice, rule of law, religious freedom, reconciliation and integrity.

www.advocatesinternational.org

'Doing Justice with Compassion'



Around 500 lawyers from 108 nations on the steps of Capitol Hill in Washington DC in October 2008

Law and Justice

By Rev. Dr Jeffrey Camm JP, MIEPR

We read in the Old Testament that the **Law** was given to make us aware of our sins and to help us to be “good citizens” – in God’s eyes. On the other hand **Justice** was the administration of that law, tempered with mercy, compassion and righteous anger, so that the sentence was appropriate for the crime, as defined by God Almighty.

In early society, we adopted these rules and values fairly well. And the laws were written and lined up with the word of God. Depending upon the judge hearing the case, some, (or all) of the pre-requisites of justice were applied, and the sentence given and the punishment were deemed appropriate to the crime.

However, as society developed and mankind adopted a different set of values, this is now being reflected in our legal systems as well. The result is that now we have laws on our books which are in direct conflict with the “original laws” defined by God Almighty in the scriptures. This raises a whole series of problems, for our state and nation.

If our laws are no longer lining up with God’s word, why do we still expect God to bless our nation, when we have effectively turned our back upon His ways, by rebelling against “His Laws” and “His Justice” systems?

The scriptures are very clear: **RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION**. If we have rejected His laws, we are (in God’s eyes) no longer righteous in His sight and therefore we have His blessings withheld from us. This also means that judges are now making judgements without the wisdom of God being present in the court rooms.

The hypocrisy of it all is that the judges still insist that witnesses make an oath on a Bible, inferring that there is a higher power in the court than the judge, or the justice system, but the judgements and the punishments will be made on laws which are contradictory to God’s laws and therefore are unjust and an abomination in the sight of God.

The laws about abortion and same sex marriage are two major areas to be highlighted here.

ABORTION

God says: *I knew you in the womb, before you were even born*, so in God’s eyes, it is a human being from

conception, not a foetus.

Laws which allow women to legally murder their children is not going to get God’s approval, no matter what “media spin” you want to put upon it.

Yet the parliaments of this nation have passed laws that allow this to happen.

If the child is less than one day old you will be allowed to murder it. If the baby is one day old and you murder the child, you will be charged with murder.

The law is clear: **“You shall not murder.”**

The same law should apply to both situations if you want to honour God and expect to receive His blessings.

Laws relating to Homosexuality

God’s word again is very clear. Homosexual acts are an abomination in the sight of God.

It does not matter again what media spin you try to put upon this situation, God’s word is unchanging. You either accept it, and obey it, and receive God’s approval and blessings, or you ignore it, rebel against it, and suffer the consequences, which can come in many forms, namely sickness & diseases, removal of God’s blessings for the individuals, and/or for the whole nation, if the national laws make this an acceptable way of life.

God did not include the incidents with Abraham with the angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah just to make the bible a fatter book. They were included as a warning as to what will happen to any society who turns away from God in this manner.

Abraham pleads with God to save the city if there be 10 righteous people within the city and God agrees – for 10 righteous people within the city God promised he would not destroy it.

As we move into the 21st century and we reflect on the way our society is changing, with lower moral values and unrighteous behaviour in almost every business and profession, the challenge comes.

When God looks at your city, are you sure that He will find 10 righteous people living there, which will prevent Him from totally destroying your city?

Are you sure? Really sure?

Back to the Table

(by Brett Ryan, CEO Focus on the Family Australia - www.families.org.au)

In our fast paced, highly connected world, many have actually become isolated without even realising it. One solution is as easy as getting back to the table, where families can talk, listen and learn, discovering unconditional love, support and understanding.

It may be hard at first but it's a simple decision that can change your whole world. Get back to the table and connect with your family.

One of the most powerful traditions in family life is the family meal time. Unfortunately, this simple activity is becoming less and less common. I speak to a number of students every year and often ask for a show of hands of "how many of (them) have regular meals together with their family"? It would not be uncommon to see the majority, as many as 70% do not. Parents are missing this incredible opportunity to build healthy relationships with their kids and vice versa.

As home sizes increased, the opportunities to communicate with one another 'face to face' have decreased. We are the most technologically connected we have ever been but the most relationally disconnected.

Down through the ages, the meal around a table has represented safety. If you were invited to dine at someone's table you would be protected. The table also represented that you belonged, were valued and accepted.

There is a story in the Bible, 2 Samuel 9 about King David. He wants to show kindness to any ancestors of King Saul. It speaks of him welcoming the son of Jonathan to his home, a crippled boy, a stranger and he welcomed him as one of his own. It concludes with a line that I love, (v7)

"You will always eat at my table".

Jesus invites himself to an outcast's home, a tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus for dinner. We don't know what was said around that table, but we do know the result. Luke 19: 1-8

When we first married, our table was two card tables joined together, every time we knocked the table leg everything spilt, but it brings great memories that my wife and I cherish. We made every effort to not just eat in front of the TV but rather used that opportunity to connect, share and have a conversation.

Around our table now, with our 3 sons (21, 18 and 16) we aim to have a meal at least 3-5 times a week. I know that the schedules can get very busy but we have made this a priority. It is a chance for everyone to have a say and share their ups and downs.

Everyone has a voice and a chance for relationships to be built. My eldest has a friend, who is not a Christian, who has a standard invitation for dinner every Sunday evening. She loves the fun and banter of a family sitting together. She tells our boys, "Never take this for granted".

The table should not be a place of lecturing, or feel like a 'Spanish inquisition', many parents can fall into this trap. There is a time and place for that but would recommend it not to be around the dinner table. Our tone and volume will determine the level of trust in the conversation.

The table can also be a great place for questions to be asked about anything? Your kids need to know that you will not react, even to the more sensitive and potentially embarrassing ones. I recall a story of a 6-year-old boy who asked his father, "Where did I come from"? The father initially quite shocked by the question gave a very honest and possibly too much detailed explanation. The boy, looked stunned by his fathers' response. The father, being sensitive to his son's dazed state, enquired. "Why did you want to know?" For which the boy replied, "Well Sam said he came from Manly, Tom comes from Newcastle.....I just wanted to know where I came from?" The lesson, always clarify the question before you give a response. All jokes aside, kids should be able to ask their parents any questions. It is far better for you to be a little uncomfortable and provide accurate and honest answers rather than them researching the internet for information or receiving ill advice from their peers.

(continued next page)

We made every effort to not just eat in front of the TV but rather used that opportunity to connect, share and have a conversation

Back to the Table (...continued)

Studies show* that children who have regular meal times, with good conversation and technology free will do better:

- ♥ Academically
- ♥ Socially
- ♥ Psychologically
- ♥ Be less likely to be involved in risky behavior; drugs, alcohol and sexual promiscuity
- ♥ Have a healthier diet and less chance of body image issues

Family devotions around a table are a great opportunity for you to share your faith story, for kids to share their doubts, discuss, debate and ultimately have them build their own faith

Finally, one of the greatest benefits of regular meal times is an opportunity to help build your child's spiritual foundation.

Deuteronomy 6, the greatest parenting chapter in the Bible in how to help your child grow in their faith. It speaks of the importance for parents to impress upon their children about how to love God with all their heart, soul and strength. Talk to them when you rise up, when you are walking along the road, when you are at the table. (paraphrased) when you are driving to soccer, music classes.....include God in your conversation.

Family devotions around a table are a great opportunity for you to share your faith story, for kids to share their doubts, discuss, debate and ultimately have them build their own faith.

Focus on the Family Australia is committed to the importance of this 'dying' tradition and have produced a series of 4 commercials and a developed a website www.backtothetable.org.au to encourage families to turn technology off and return to the tradition of the mealtime.

How is your table – is it welcoming? Do people feel safe? Do they feel heard and valued?

* *References:*

<http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/upload/Family-Mealtimes-2.pdf>

<http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/uncategorized/family-dinner-references/>

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/eatsmart/eat-smart.-play-hard.-magazines-1/2009-eat-smart-play-hard-magazine/test-item>

<http://www.casacolumbia.org/newsroom/press-releases/2010-family-dinners-report-finds>



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

Generate partners with schools in the recruitment, training, supervision and ongoing professional development of School Chaplains. This ensures the placement of high quality Christian Chaplains who are well equipped to support young people and strengthen local communities.

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



Steps to setting your Vision & Plan

By Peter Irvine

Setting the Vision – (even in tough times)

HAVE A VISION!

If you don't have a long-term vision of where you are going you are on the road to nowhere – especially in trying times! Anything will put you off - with predictions of economic doom all around, you will be easily dragged under.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” or “cast off restraint” or “they stumble all over themselves” - Proverbs 29:18

if you want to climb a ladder, ride a bike or walk a tightrope the key is simple – DON'T LOOK DOWN!! If you keep your eyes on where you want to go, your confidence rises and you move forward, so:

Don't focus on where you are today, look up and look forward.

TIP: Stop watching the media news reports – these are often filled with mis-information or skewed information, written by reporters eager to get ratings.

WRITE IT DOWN

A **Vision Statement** is a short, one or two line statement that says who you are and where you are going. It's why you exist. It's clear and enduring. It's about being great, and it touches the heart and spirit of those who are on your team.

A **Mission Statement** or 'Statement of Purpose' explains how you are going to get there – from your customers viewpoint.

A **Statement of Values** provides guidelines on how you want your business to operate and deal with people

One example from Gloria Jean's Coffees

Our Vision

Gloria Jean's Coffees will be the most loved & respected coffee company worldwide

Our Mission

Gloria Jean's Coffees is committed to building a unified family who consistently serve the highest quality coffee and provide outstanding and personalized service in a vibrant store atmosphere.

Our Values

Partnerships based on integrity and trust Commitment to excellence and innovation a culture of joy and passion Belief in people, building & changing lives for the better.

SET GOALS

Long term

- ♥ If you don't have a long term overall vision, set one!
- ♥ If you do - take it out and dust it off.
- ♥ Make sure it is succinct, straightforward and to the point. Make sure it is short, easy to understand and up to date.
- ♥ Don't be daunted by the current climate, this is a long-term project.

Short term

- ♥ Set achievable short-term goals to head towards your vision
- ♥ Think differently about your marketing. Don't stop marketing!
- ♥ Look at savings in your business. Savings on things such as telephone costs, insurance premiums, loans etc

DON'T LOSE FOCUS

Don't knee-jerk

A few companies have advised me they are cutting staff, marketing and whatever else they can. I responded, “You are closing up then?” – “No!” they exclaimed, “Well”, I said, “You're acting like you are.”

(continued next page)

Steps to setting your Vision & Plan (...continued)

Customers do have money, but will be more selective where they spend.

One client I advise 'Computer Support Partners' offer a \$49 service for your computer (\$69 for service under 3 days or \$169 for 24hr service). Over 70% of customers spend much more than \$49 on such things as extra RAM, hard drives, virus protection etc. The company does well in a very competitive field and their customers see the service as a great deal so they are willing to spend more.

There is still a market and available money for you to tap into even in tough economic conditions.

If you overreact when times seem hard you will pull back in the wrong areas. Think, plan and strategise with your team - keep in line with where you are heading.

Think differently about your business but stay within your long-term 3 – 5 year goals.

BRING YOUR TEAM (& FAMILY) ALONG

Live it out

This is the dream everyone should be a part of, paint the picture for them, involve them in the planning and celebrate every win along the way.

- ♥ Be passionate - Make it genuine, not just words
- ♥ Display the vision and mission where everyone can see
- ♥ Make small copies for the whole team
- ♥ Re-enforce it at every staff meeting
- ♥ Make it fun. Be creative - have competitions, quizzes & prizes for those who come up with an idea that works, achieve the goals set or simply have the most positive input.

Making the vision CONTAGIOUS

We're OK – we have a vision!

Somewhere on the bulletin board – or maybe in the company's business plan.

In fact we even have long term and short term plans with action points!

You think you're OK – or could you do better?

Can your vision be contagious?

Can it not only inspire your team, but also make your customers feel good?

What about your suppliers?

The banks or financiers you deal with?

Your insurance providers, tax consultants and other stakeholders?

What makes a vision contagious?

1. It's infectious

True vision is infectious. The words that come to mind are –

Transmittable

Catching

Communicable

Contractible

Think about it for a minute –

What does it take for your vision to be transmitted?

Note: An infectious disease is most easily transmitted when it is alive and active in the host.

2. It comes from within

...it isn't forced or phony

Just posting the vision up in the lunch room, or titling your letterhead (although they are good things to do) won't change people's attitudes. A good vision comes from the heart, it is tied to the real passions and desires of those in leadership.

(continued next page)

Steps to setting your Vision & Plan (...continued)

When your values in life – your heartfelt desires for your business line up with your vision and purpose the ‘infection’ cannot help but spread.

“There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart. Pursue these.”
– Michael Nolan

Just mouthing the words, going through the motions, will sooner or later be seen as hypocrisy – and people tend to ridicule hypocrisy.

TIP: Ask some of your team members what the vision is sometime. The results might surprise you. Listen to their answers - the exact words are not essential, it’s the heart of the vision that matters.

3. It goes beyond your 4 walls

Something that is contagious tends to spread, even to places you didn’t expect. In your business when you set in place a heartfelt vision you may be surprised at the response.

At Gloria Jean’s Coffees’ Conventions over the years we see the enthusiasm of staff and franchisees to new initiatives driving the vision forward, but you would expect that! After all this is what conventions are all about – motivation, excitement and celebration. What we also found was the unforced almost emotional response from our suppliers, bank representatives, insurance companies and other stakeholders. People who had not experienced contagious, heartfelt vision and purpose before. Customers actually notice it and respond in kind.

In a retail business the ‘customer connection’ is vital - when customers feel genuinely welcomed they become devoted fans, they come back again and again and even recommend your company to others.

The fallout from genuine vision will benefit your business – developing goodwill and positive attitudes in places you didn’t actually expect.

How do I make my vision contagious?

It starts with you

Get your thinking right on the inside

- ♥ Make sure your vision is something you feel genuinely passionate about.
- ♥ Feed your mind with things that are positive, not depressive.
- ♥ Get encouragement from others doing the journey in business or leadership.
- ♥ Don’t neglect your spirit – don’t overlook the real purposes in life *“The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps”*. Proverbs 16:9
“People are changed, not by coercion or intimidation, but by example.”
“People buy into the leader before they buy into the leader’s vision. If you want to lead, you must sell yourself.” – John C. Maxwell

Setting the plan in place

HAVE A PLAN THAT WORKS!

“Refuse good advice and watch your plans fail; take good counsel and watch them succeed.” - Proverbs 15:22

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. There is no focus! I often say - if you chase two rabbits, they will both escape.

When I assist businesses (and not-for-profit organizations) these days, I take them through a 4 to 5 hour planning process that asks these questions. From their answers we develop an actionable plan.

Here is the process you can apply:

Where do you want to be in three years?

Do you want to start a new business, move ahead in your current job, to grow by 10%, 30%, double your size, expand nationally or Internationally, even sell?

I will not accept “I want to stay where I am” - why?

1. You will soon move backwards or go out of business due to inevitable cost increases and loss of customers.
2. You will not action the plan anyway.
3. There will be no momentum, leading to complacency and eventually your dreams will die.

(continued next page)

Steps to setting your Vision & Plan (...continued)

What are the barriers to achieving where you want to be in three years?

When you can list the barriers, then you will be able to start writing actions to address these. Later in this article we will deal with actioning these.

Vision – what is your vision?

We have already covered this, just remember - **Vision keeps you focussed - both good things and bad things will come along to take you away from where you want to go.**

Note: The higher and larger the vision the more creative you need to become to achieving it.

Under Vision set your **Mission Statement** and your **Values**.

Tip: Look up other websites for their vision, mission and values statements.

Do your S.W.O.T. Analysis

Divide an A4 sheet into four quarters. Title each section with the four categories and complete for your organisation, or yourself if you are starting out - ask valued staff, clients and external friends for input. Good counsel here really helps.

| | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Strengths | Weaknesses |
| | Opportunities | Threats |

Look at your Marketing

Get all examples of the marketing you do now including stationery. Have a look at how your company or brand is looking to the market. If you are starting out decide how you want this to be consistent and reflect your vision and mission.

Look at your Structure

Draw up the current structure of your company. Who reports to who? Warehousing, office space, location etc. (as it applies). Keep in mind what this might look like when the plan is achieved. If you are starting out remember that your suppliers, your bank or financial backers, your accountant and others are also part of the team so use them to advantage.

Now to the Actions

Draw up a list of actions with these headings:

| ITEM | DETAIL | BY WHO? | BY WHEN? |
|------|--------|---------|----------|
| | | | |

Review all previous headings and the information you have listed under each. What needs to change to achieve the vision set? Brainstorm creative solutions for the obstacles, weaknesses and threats. Assign tasks and dates.

LOOK AT EVERYTHING

- Staff Structure** Training, Reviews, Future employment needs
- Warehouse** Stock, Buy Prices
- Pricing** Sell Prices
- Marketing** All Materials inc. websites and stationery.
- Review Costs** Telephones, loans, travel, insurance etc.

- ♥ You may want to get an outside person to help with planning – they can bring out crucial things you might miss.
- ♥ Make sure you are not nominated to do most items on the list. Involve your staff - or employ outside help in specific areas.
- ♥ Some items may involve several steps to achieve.

The Future is Out There!

Once you start actioning your plan, you will start to see focus and momentum. There will be bottom line savings, improved cashflow and many other benefits. The key to this process is making sure your staff (in business or not-for-profit) buy into the vision. Make sure you employ people who want to be part of the journey, not just do the job.

A business or organisation run with real purpose by people who believe in what they are doing can go places never dreamed possible.

Peter Irvine - www.peterirvine.com

Peter is Co-Founder of Gloria Jean's Coffees Australia, author of 'Win In Business' and 'Building your Business, your People, your Life' and keynote speaker.

MEDIA RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****AUSSIE ARTISTS BRING HOPE**

Aussie Christian Gigs is celebrating the upcoming album launch of *Aussie Hope* featuring 13 fresh Christian artists from across Australia, with all profits from the album sales to support not-for-profit organisation, Live Connection.

Released through Unleashed Music, Aussie Hope, showcases a collection of contemporary Christian songs from Australian Christian artists, which will be released on iTunes from 11 May 2015.

The profits from album sales directly support Live Connection, an Australian-based partnership program helping local rural communities in developing nations by providing financial assistance and leadership training for pastors in rural areas within 12 developing nations across Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines.

All artists featured on Aussie Hope are part of the Aussie Christian Gigs network, which supports and links Christian musicians, bands, gigs, venues and radio stations across Australia. Aussie Hope artists include Whitefield, Elisa Kate, Luke Robinson, Bel Thomson, Elizabeth Scott, Jade Diary, Katie de Veau, Erica Bronwyn, Toni Jordan, John Newsome, Simone Waddell, Chrissie Pearce and Bec Laughton.

Aussie Christian Gigs Founder John Grinsell says the Aussie Hope album is all about Australian artists uniting together to bring hope to people in third world countries.

“Aussie Christian Gigs is proud to bring together such a unique blend of talented Christian artists from across Australia together for this special album, *Aussie Hope*.”

“We are also excited that all profits from the album will go to Live Connection, who partner with pastors and support aid projects in third world countries, through their aid arm (Live Connection Aid),” says Grinsell.

Live Connection Director and Founder, Pastor Paul Ravesteyn, says every purchase of the Aussie Hope album directly supports the community of Zambia, Africa, as part of Live Connection Aid’s latest aid project.

“The funds raised from the sale of this album will be directly used for the establishment of a Skills Training Centre in Zambia, providing a way of breaking the poverty and hopelessness cycle in this community,” says Ravesteyn.

Aussie Hope CDs may be produced in coming months and made available to all organisations that wish to purchase the album and use sale profits to support their own charity or initiatives.

For further information on Aussie Christian Gigs see www.facebook.com/acglive ;
Unleashed Music www.unleashed-music.net ;
Live Connection and Live Connection Aid see www.liveconnection.org and
www.liveconnectionaid.org

Launch of **Aussie Hope** on iTunes from Monday 11 May, and Pre release now available

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/album/aussie-hope/id989746472>

Radio Interviews and Media Interviews available, which can include artists.

For media enquiries, contact:

John Grinsell
Aussie Christian Gigs
Email: info@aussiechristiangigs.com.au
www.facebook.com/acglive



**GO
FEST**
sydney
WITH GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN DAWSON



**GET
TOGETHER**
PRAY & WORSHIP WITH
OTHER PASTORS & LEADERS

**GET
INSPIRED**
SHARE & HEAR WHAT
GOD IS DOING IN SYDNEY

**GET
REFRESHED**
BE ENCOURAGED TO
CARRY OUT YOUR VISION

Refresh the Vision for Pastors and Leaders

We believe that pastors and Christian leaders in Australia have been given wonderful vision from God that often comes with challenges in carrying out that vision.

These sessions are designed to give leaders the opportunity to share their needs, hopes, and dreams, to pray for one another, and to be refreshed.

We're excited to have international speaker and author John Dawson available to facilitate what promises to be an encouraging, interactive, and unifying experience.

Please pass along this invite to other pastors and Christian leaders in the Greater Sydney region whom you think may be interested, whatever sphere they may be involved in: business, education, media, arts, etc...

GO Fest Sydney

is a missions gathering with a twist, taking place June 24-27 at Parkside Church, Sydney. We're inviting the young (and young at heart) to hear inspiring speakers and to engage in passionate worship - and then follow that up with a short-term missions outreach. GO Fest has a rich history in Youth With a Mission (YWAM), but this is the first GO Fest that will be held in Sydney in over 20 years.

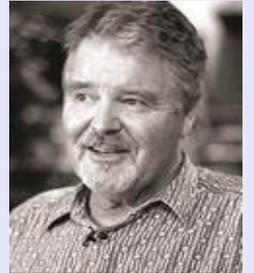
We believe God has a call on the lives of young Aussies, and now is the time for them to discover that calling.

For more information or questions contact:

ken@gofest2015.com

HOSTED BY YOUTH WITH A MISSION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHURCHES, MISSION GROUPS, BUSINESSES, AND CHARITIES.

John Dawson



will be speaking on the story of the land and the Church in Australia, as well as the works of Jesus happening globally in our day, putting these stories into the context of the times we're currently living in.

John Dawson, originally from New Zealand, is the author of the bestselling book *Healing America's Wounds* and founder of International Reconciliation Coalition (IRC), John has spoken at hundreds of citywide gatherings in the US and around the world. He is a leading visionary at the forefront of a rapidly growing reconciliation movement. He is also President Emeritus of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), one of the world's largest mission societies.

PARKSIDE CHURCH, EDENSOR PARK, SYDNEY

26-27 JUNE 2015

COST: FREE • FRIDAY LUNCH PROVIDED

Friday 9 AM - 3:30 PM • Saturday 9 AM - 12:30 PM

I-AM MINISTRIES

Mar/Apr 2015

BRIEF

I-AM Ministries Brief - Mar/Apr 2015



Teachers: Ruth Mani, Susan Mani and Jill Lucas



Children who attend school

To all our Partners, Co-workers and Supporters

God's blessing and grace be to you

Well, we have had an exciting start to the year. God has moved us all progressively forward.

We are excited about the development and progress of our little school. Starting the second term, there should be a continuing student population of about 40+ Elementary pupils. The teachers are strengthened and encouraged by the support given.

We are still battling against the unwillingness of parents to support financially and practically their children in their learning development. The Government has informed the people that education is the Governments responsibility, not the parents, so it is a struggle to encourage parents to support their children by school fee contributions. However, the children are excited about their schooling and the parents are very pleased with their progress.

We have now begun in earnest the slow collection of resources and materials to begin the building of the permanent classrooms. The local people were very excited to see the proposed plan of a simple two classroom building.

We are now cutting a block of timber that will significantly contribute to the materials for the building project. A slow collection of the hardware resources that cost money will slowly be done over the rest of the year.

Although it has been a very difficult concept for myself to grasp regarding becoming more involved in the establishment of a learning program, regardless of my reluctance, God has continued forward with His plans. Many other regions have asked us to come and do a similar program, however until we have a beginning of permanent classrooms at the Alisu school and a training opportunity for the teachers, we will not embark upon an attempt to open up any new schools. The next priority is to see our teachers undergo some formal training and achieve recognised formal certifications.

The teachers are deeply grateful for those who have supported them financially. They have made great commitments and sacrifices and the support has greatly encouraged them that God is with them in their efforts:

One testimony that I must share, some weeks ago, my father and sister in-law were travelling at about midnight

(continued next page)

I-AM Ministries Brief - Mar/Apr 2015 (...continued)

along the road that overlooks the school area. The school is located right next to a church building. They saw that the school area was on fire. There was no fire in the church but the school only. He came to me the following morning to go to Alisu village to check out what had happened as he believed the school had been burnt down. Upon arriving there, there was no sign of any damage or nearby fires. The whole village was intact. Many other people testified of seeing the fire. One woman, upon seeing the fire went and hid under the blankets in her bed grieving the burning of our little bush material school. The fire being seen a long way away is still a mystery today. But we know our God is a consuming fire. God's presence is with us.

God's provision over the last couple of months has been significant. I cannot talk of the things, small and great that our heavenly Father has done to encourage us and strengthen us to keep moving forward. We have seen a clean plan now unfold as to where and how the Kingdom project will be undertaken with a survey of the resource region and routes that the roads will take including access into the mountains. Significant support has been given to us by the Wihun and Kuminim peoples. It has been estimated that with the road access into the mountains put through via the project, possibly up to 20,000 people will return to their remote customary lands and abandoned villages. We are on the move. None of this could have been achieved without the unseen support of our partners who have contributed prayerfully, spiritually, relationally and financially to keep us on site and on course with God's plans and purposes. It has been a real team effort of which we are deeply thankful. We might be the cutting edge but you guys have given us the strength to drive in Christ to push forward.

With all our love, appreciation and thanks
From the team of A.M. Forest Industries PNG
Mark and Carol Kinbacher

From Michael – A.M. Forest Industries

I send my greetings to you all. It is an exciting journey that our Lord is leading us on in Papua New Guinea.

I am currently looking forward to my next visit to Papua New Guinea on the 13 May. While in Port Moresby I will be meeting with three Government Ministers to discuss the potential for Government funding of the project. Along with this I will be meeting with the Forestry Department to continue finalising all the required licences needed for the commencement of the work. I need to have all this completed by the 30th of July so as to meet application requirements set down by the Government. This will get our feet firmly on the ground and the project can, after much work and prayer, finally commence.

I will be travelling up to the Kuminin village to meet with, and continue establishing, a partnership with the large group of Christians that live there. I am also looking forward to catching up with Donatos at But, Francis and Maryanne and the Wingei Mission Station. Of course it is always awesome to be with Mark and Carol Kinbacher and family along with Ronnie Milio. While in Port Moresby I will enjoy spending time with Herea Lohia and family.

Please continue to pray for this project and the work that the Lord is establishing amongst the people. It has been and will continue to be a privilege to be able to encourage others to move into the destiny and calling that God has on their lives. It takes time and patience while breaking the ground for a new work to commence and I am continually aware that the enemy will do all he can to hold up, discourage and even destroy the work that the Lord is establishing if he could. Your prayers and support are vital to us all and we never take for granted those of you who are investing both spiritually and practically in this work, you are all a tremendous blessing.

Till the next time, may our Lord richly bless you

Michael

Prayer Requests

1. For the conclusion and release of finance for the development of the project
2. Finalisation and consolidation of land and resource agreements
3. Shifting and transformation of mindset of the people to embrace and move with change and development
4. Clear manifestation of grace and power of God through the outworking of this divinely inspired project
5. For Michaels upcoming trip to Papua New Guinea
6. For Godly wisdom when in discussions with Government officials

Daily Prayer Calendar for June - Religion & Philosophy

(by Bjorn Schmid)

Broadly speaking; religion is man searching for the divine and philosophy is man seeking for answers to his existence, whereas Jesus is God's answer to all of the above as He came to Earth Himself to give us all that we seek:

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' (Jeremiah 33:3)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7-11)

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:20-24)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6b)

(Some prayers below are from the Book of Common Prayer.)

Day in June

- 1 "O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 2 Repent for our lack of unity; the chief hindrance to the gospel and effectiveness of our mission in and to the world. Pray for the unity of the Church per 1 Corinthians 12 - many parts but one body.
- 3 Repent for our lack of charity to our own brothers and sisters, either ignoring or choosing to be unaware of their needs and thereby demonstrating a lack of love for each other (in contradiction to Christ's command in John 13).
- 4 "Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."
- 5 Repent for our lack of dedication to Holy Scripture, for allowing materials which seek justification by intellectual and emotional analysis to become more important and consume our time rather than reading the scriptures and seeking God's opinion first.
- 6 Repent for our discretionary use of scripture; favouring some parts of the Bible and either ignoring or even denigrating other parts. Pray for a hunger in all Christians to become familiar with the whole of canon scripture.
- 7 "O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 8 Repent for the lies that we have as a society accepted, rooted in man's original sin of questioning the sincerity of God's love for us in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and putting knowledge and power above our relationship with God.
- 9 Repent for our habit of blaming everyone else for our sins (shifting blame), for accusing Christian leaders of weakness to justify our sins, and for encouraging others to join us in accusation so that we feel superior and do not have to be accountable for our errors.
- 10 Repent for the jealousy and rivalry that humans are so reluctant to surrender even when they have chosen to follow Jesus; this attitude of unhealthy competition for God's favour that led Cain to kill his brother Able (Genesis 4)
- 11 "Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."
- 12 Repent for our arrogant misuse of the earth and all its resources in the name of 'dominion' (Genesis 2) instead of being the caretakers that you intended us to be.
- 13 "O gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen."

(continued next page)

Daily Prayer Calendar for June - Religion & Philosophy

- 14 "Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 15 "O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 16 Ask forgiveness for our nation for its obsession with fame, fortune and material gain, and for leaders in the church who have espoused doctrines that encourage and recognise earthly prosperity in order to 'give back to God' whereas God wants us, not our money (Mat. 6:33).
- 17 Ask forgiveness for our nation for venerating Tribal, Folk and Pagan beliefs of local and foreign indigenous peoples in favour of and whilst denigrating our Christian foundations. Pray also for the exposure of the New Age movement and the many deceptions within it, especially where it has penetrated into the church.
- 18 Ask forgiveness for our nation for unbelief in the one true God and Christ Jesus; unbelief which erodes faith when catastrophes and human disasters arise causing many to become Atheists or worse Agnostics (Revelation 3:16). Pray for wisdom, spiritual gifts, abundant love, and faithfulness in Christians so they remain in total trust in God and are a witness to those whose faith is weak.
- 19 Confront and ask Jesus to rebuke the spirits of The Enlightenment that arose to corrupt faith in God with relativism and pluralism, which has led to God-less schools of thought and produced Humanism, Modernism and Post-Modernism Ask God for forgiveness for the acceptance of these waves of lies and permissiveness, even in the church.
- 20 Pray for those in our community who have been attracted to sources of power promised by Theosophy, witchcraft, sorcery, devil worship and other occult practices. Repent for the resistance of the church to encourage and demonstrate the power of the Spirit in our lives and in the miraculous.
- 21 Pray for those in our community who have been deceived into believing that there are many gods and spirits that require their servitude (e.g. Polytheism, Hinduism). Pray that Jesus will show himself to them as the one true God, that His yoke is easy and his burden is light (Matthew 11:30).
- 22 "O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 23 Pray for members of our society that are bound (hand and foot) by Freemasonry and its derivatives. Ask for forgiveness for the curses accepted by participants on themselves and their families and pray for breakthrough repentance so that lodges become empty and vestments and regalia are burned, and families are healed. Ask also for forgiveness for churches that turned a blind eye to Freemasonry and allowed their members to become seduced and trapped by it.
- 24 Repent for blind acceptance of Ecumenism in the church, which seeks to reduce Christianity to *another* "World Religion". Ask Christ to rebuke the religious spirit dwelling in this movement and pray for the Holy Spirit to empower Christians involved so they shine with God's wisdom and love to people of other faiths.
- 25 Pray for people who believe in ancestral worship and other forms of elevating humans to god-hood (e.g. Buddhism). Pray for revelation that the only one who died that can help them defeated death with His own resurrection from the grave.
- 26 Pray that Christ will continue to visit adherent of Islam in our society with dreams and visions so that they seek out Christians and the bible. Pray that our brothers and sisters in the church reach out in love and no condemnation when we encounter Muslims and have the wisdom of God to share of the Father's love to them.
- 27 "Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 28 "O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 29 "O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
- 30 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:2-6)

Praying for the Persecuted Church

UGANDA: Pray for Pastor's Daughter, Attacked and Traumatized



Five Muslims attacked a pastor's teenage daughter because the pastor ignored their warnings to stop worship services.

The men sexually abused the girl, leaving her severely traumatized and in need of medical attention. 'We are in too much pain,' the pastor said. The pastor and his family live in a predominantly Muslim part of Uganda.

Source: *The Voice of the Martyrs USA*

- ♥ Uphold this young girl and her family; ask the Lord to help them during their time of grief. Pray they will be aware of the Lord's presence, comforting and directing them. Pray they will receive much support from their community.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will minister to this young girl to give her complete physical, emotional and spiritual healing.
- ♥ Pray the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Ask the Lord to build the church in this area of Uganda.

INDIA: Government Claims it will 'Protect' Religious Minorities with Biased Law

The Indian government claimed it would start protecting religious minorities and took the occasion to pitch for a national anti-conversion law.

Hindu nationalists have been advocating for a national anti-conversion law, claiming that it would ease tensions between religious groups. Unfortunately, when these laws have been implemented at the state level, they have often been used to discriminate against religious minorities. Radicals use the law to falsely accuse Christian pastors of forced conversions to stop these pastors from evangelising.

Sources: *International Christian Concern, Business Standard*

- ♥ Pray that India would cease its persecution of Christians in India and begin to protect religious rights of minorities.
- ♥ Pray that those in authority and those who falsely accuse believers of forcible conversion will see that the message of the Gospel is one of a free gift, not coercion, and respond in faith to Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- ♥ Pray that God would encourage the believers who are persecuted, that they would be strong in Him and never lose hope in Him.

NIGERIA: Boko Haram Freed Women Tell of Captivity Horror

Former hostages held by Boko Haram militants in northern Nigeria say some fellow captives were stoned to death as the army approached to rescue them. According to the BBC, the women said Boko Haram fighters started pelting them when they refused to run away as the army came nearer.

The military says it has rescued more than 700 people in the past week in an offensive against the Islamist group. Over 200 girls are feared to be pregnant. Reports followed that women and girls kidnapped by the insurgents were routinely raped and forced to marry their abductors.

The survivors said that when they were initially captured, the militants had killed men and older boys in front of their families before taking women and children into the forest.

They said the Islamists never let them out of their sight - not even when they went to the toilet. One woman described how they were fed just one meal a day.

'Every day, we witnessed the death of one of us and waited for our turn,' Umaru, a 24-year-old mother of two, told Reuters.

'It does not appear that any of those released are from the group of nearly 300 Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram a year ago in a mass abduction that led to worldwide protests calling for the girls' release,' stated the BBC.

Thousands have been killed in northern Nigeria since Boko Haram began its insurgency in 2009 to create an Islamic state.

In February, Nigeria's military, backed by troops from neighbouring countries, launched a major offensive against the Islamist fighters, recapturing Boko Haram territory taken in the previous year.

Sources: *Assist News Service, BBC, Reuters, news.com.au*

- ♥ Pray those who have been rescued will be know the Lord's healing, and experience His strength and enabling, as they overcome their trauma and adapt to their new circumstances.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will bring great cultural change to this nation so that feelings of shame and ostracisation associated with rape will no longer occur.
- ♥ Pray all captives will be rescued; ask the Lord to protect those who are attempting to break the stronghold of Boko Haram.



Voice of the Martyrs Australia PO Box 250 Lawson NSW 2783 Australia
phone +61 2 4759 3700 fax +61 2 4759 3711 www.vom.com.au