



**TRANSFORMING  
SYDNEY**

# Transforming Sydney Newsletter - February 2014

**Welcome to the first occasional newsletter for Transforming Sydney!**

**We intend to release a few of these throughout the year to keep you updated with the activities of the Body of Christ in Sydney and across the world.**

**God is hard at work, and His people are working with Him!**

Contact us: [info@transformingsydney.org](mailto:info@transformingsydney.org) or 0412 766-917

## Transforming Churches: “Sanctification Before Transformation”

(Written by Lilian Schmid)

Part of the whole transformation process that is going on today has to do with the transformation of churches.

Already in the '70s the environment was being created to prepare churches and leaders for radical change. One of the war cries of the early charismatic movement was “new wine in new wineskins” meaning that the church has to be changed or transformed in order to accept the ‘new wine’. New wine was interpreted to mean ‘the new thing that God is doing’. This is of course not what Jesus meant at all when He said those words as recorded in Matthew 9:17.



This emphasis on ‘new things’ suggested that the old things are obsolete and of no value. Leading this ‘new move’ are ‘prophets’ who are constantly trying to project the church into the future. This vision for the future church has no similarity to God’s design for the church and is contrary to the Bible’s predictions of what the church in the end times would look like.

Unfortunately, these people are also wilfully ignorant of the fact that the true ministry of prophets, both Old and New Testament, is not to focus on the future and new things. Yes, a small portion of the prophetic ministry has to do with the future, but this may be less than ten percent of their total function. The true function of prophets is to call people back to the Word. The prophets in the Old Testament were constantly calling Israel to return to her roots, to her God and to the Law. Isaiah said: *‘And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’* (Isaiah 8:19-20).

What the church needs today is not to be transformed into some seeker-sensitive, marketing driven, politically powerful business. It needs to return to its roots. It needs to seek out the old paths (ref. Jeremiah 6:16).

The true church does not need to be transformed. By definition it is made up of those who are true believers, walking in obedience to the Head of the Church (i.e. Christ). If that is true then each of those members will be doing what Christ expects of them and will be functioning in the Church according to His will. To say that the true Church needs to be transformed is to say that Christ is making a mess and is a bad workman. After all, it is He who is building the Church (Matthew 16:18).

But now we have become so arrogant to want to tell the Head of the Church that He did not know what He was doing throughout the last 2000 years, and that we are going to fix what He messed up and improve on the principles He established in His Word! May the Lord be merciful. The false church cannot be transformed. It is false and anti-Christ and will never, and can never be anything else.

The future of the pseudo religious system is not one of greatness but of calamity: *‘Therefore her plagues will come in one day – death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, “Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.” And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore.’* (Revelation 18:8-11).

**(Continue reading on next page...)**

## February 2014

This month we are praying for the Church, please check our prayer Calendar for the month of February:

<http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerCalendar.html>

Read also Rev Denis Plant's enlightening articles on the February page; *The Lost Sheep parts 1 & 2*, and *The (Blood) Covenant Lawyer* (Rev. Plant is CEO of Vision Colleges.)




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## Strategy for Transformation

Many of our young generation are not interested the way our beloved prayer coordinators prayed in the past - people are busy with their modern lives. We need to keep intercessory prayers alive. Transforming Sydney has come up with a strategy to help people establish prayer groups wherever they are.

Since 2008 we have praying with our on-line network for the spheres of influence of our society (10 domains). Many people now are establishing prayer groups in Sydney (and across Australia) to pray regularly and run forums. We have seen true breakthrough over these years and we want to encourage all churches across Sydney to adopt this strategy and encourage all members of the church to be witness to the gospel wherever they are at work, at home and in the marketplace: basically everywhere, and everyone (adults and children) to uphold our communities in prayer.

For example, in August 2013 we were praying for the domain of Education in Australia; we encouraged pastors to pray for teachers and other educators within their churches; commissioning them to pray at their schools, unis, colleges, to run prayer and study groups, and train disciples.

This year we are planning to run workshops and seminars to equip people to become ambassadors of the kingdom; to pray and be a living witness to the message of hope within their spheres of influence. We want to see every place becoming a house of prayer. Look at the website and let us know if you would like us to come and train your team:

<http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSTraining.html>

## Spiritual Mapping

Feel free to check the spiritual mapping of Sydney (and Australia), you may print it and distribute it to your prayer network; freely received - freely given:

<http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerMapping.html#Sydney>

## Pastors & Clergy Networks and Prayer Groups

Many groups and gatherings have published meetings on the TS website - contact us if you would like to add yours:

<http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerGroups.html>

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## “Sanctification Before Transformation” (...continued)

Our only hope for those who are true believers is that many will come out of the false systems and be separate and holy to the Lord. *‘And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”* (Revelation 18:4)

This does not mean that preachers should not call people to a deeper walk, more holiness, more commitment, etc., but to suggest that the true church needs to be transformed or that the false church can be transformed is simply not true. There certainly are many individual churches that need to be changed. But this change is not some new paradigm or any of the new formats, worship styles or worldviews that are often being promoted today. Those churches that are not where they ought to be, need to repent and to return to their first love, the pure doctrine, a simplicity of worship and a right relationship with one another and the Lord Jesus.

Read more on-line in the February entry for the TS Prayer Calendar (and also at [www.tendomains.org](http://www.tendomains.org)):

<http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerFebruary.html>

## News and Events

### What's a life for?

These retreats are designed for single people who are discerning their life direction: Married, Single, Religious, Priest...

It offers time to pray, reflect and discover more about yourself and God's call. Venue: (see website for 2014 details)

To find out more please contact **Fr. Peter Hendriks** msc on **0408 299 170**

### Centre for Public Christianity

[www.publicchristianity.org](http://www.publicchristianity.org)

CPX is holding in partnership with World Vision and Arrow Leadership: **Re: Thinking a Public Faith** from **18-20 March, 2014** at the Wesley Conference Centre.

Link for more information [www.rethinking.net.au](http://www.rethinking.net.au)

*How do we engage a post-Christian culture?*

*Attend RE:THINKING A Public Faith featuring renowned Yale theologian **Miroslav Volf**, author of *A Public Faith and Exclusion and Embrace*.*

*Join Tim Costello, John Dickson, Mark Sayers, Mark Scott, Melinda Tankard Reist and others to discuss ideas that have the potential to reshape our world.*

### Marriage Week AUSTRALIA

[www.marriageweek.org.au](http://www.marriageweek.org.au)

We have a 16-page "Resource Kit" bringing together resources and ideas to build a vibrant, effect marriage ministry that can reach out to the wider community. It contains simple ideas on how you might participate in Marriage Week. There are no costs involved – simply follow the link below to get the complete, printable, PDF Kit emailed to you.

<http://marriageweek.org.au/run/kitform.php>

### Blacktown Ministry Network

Blacktown – **Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting** 6am-7am, Unit 2/47 Fourth Avenue, Blacktown.

**Blacktown Pastors Network – Monday Night Prayer Meetings** at YWAM (usually every second Monday 7:30-9pm).

For dates please contact prayer leader and contact person **Ps. John Gear** on **0412 678 858**

### CITY TO CITY CONFERENCE

*with Tim Keller*

4 events - 1 week - March 2014

**Church Planters and Pastors** - 2.5 day Conference and Consultation - 26-28 March 2014.

**Citizens - for Young Adults** - 1 Day - 29 March 2014

**Flourishing Faith In Dangerous Places - for Women** - 1 Day - 29 March 2014

**The Reason for God - Public Night Event** 29 March 2014

*Are you looking for ways to turn deep doctrine into practical living?*

*Dr Keller is widely known for his deep gospel theology and thoughtful cultural engagement.*

*See the website for details and to register your interest:*

[www.citytocityconference.com](http://www.citytocityconference.com)



### Preventing Homelessness

*In order to end homelessness, we need to prevent people at risk of homelessness from losing their grip on housing in the first place.*

*This requires these people being identified early and effective strategies to divert them away from homelessness and into housing that is safe, secure, affordable and permanent.*

**Our work to prevent homelessness.**

*We prevent people from becoming homeless on a daily basis through many of our services. This involves helping people to sustain their public, private or community housing if it is under threat and assisting people to find alternative housing where necessary.*

*It is quite common for people to become homeless when they are discharged from hospital or to be refused bail due to having no fixed address. We work with government systems like hospitals, the justice system and mental health services to prevent people becoming homeless when they leave these systems.*

*We also do research and advocate for reforms to ensure that groups at risk of homelessness can be identified early in mainstream systems like education, health and child protection.*

*If we wait until people become homeless, we are not only exposing them to the damage of life without housing, but we also make it much harder and more expensive to help them out of homelessness and back into permanent housing.*

If you wish to help please contact Andrea Levey on:

[AndreaL@homeground.org.au](mailto:AndreaL@homeground.org.au)

<http://www.homeground.org.au/>

## Caroline Chisholm

(Contributed by Graham McDonald from Children of the World.)

Caroline Chisholm is to many in Australia a familiar name due to her face being on the back of the \$5 banknote from 1967 to the early 1990s. She is mostly remembered for her humanitarian work with female immigration welfare in Australia.



Carolyn was brought up a strong Christian home and as a child she would visit with her mother the poor and the sick. People who were in need were brought to the family home and looked after. The teachings of Jesus about "Love your neighbour" were very much a part of Carolyn's life style and she saw this lived out by her parents.

When she came to Australia as a married woman, Carolyn continued to live out that learned lifestyle of caring for others. It came to her notice that many single women were arriving in Australia without any money or prospects of employment. They were forced to live on the streets and were always in danger of being attacked. The government of the day showed no interest in trying to help these desperate women find shelter or jobs. Initially using her own resources she took single women into her home.

Carolyn realised that this problem was great and her efforts were but a drop in the ocean. On Easter Sunday 1841 she offered all she had to the Lord and told Him she would be devoted to the cause of helping these poor immigrants; "I felt my offering was accepted and that God's blessing was on my work" she recorded. Whilst there were still problems, the then Governor, gave her an old rat infested government building in which she could house more women.

Over a six year period she helped settle over 11,000 immigrants. Later on in her life she set up an organization in England to send skilled workers and their families to Australia. In the first four years some 3000 immigrants were sponsored. Carolyn was very aware that families should be strengthened and kept together. She organised free passage for many of the wives and children (75) who were left behind in England, to be united with their husbands and fathers in Australia.

## Prayers and Meditations

### Adopting a Senator and a Member of Parliament (MP)

*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*  
[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

You can get a current list of federal politicians from the Australian Parliament House website [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

### Adopting a Senator and MP

[www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASenatorMP.html](http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASenatorMP.html)

### Adopting A Suburb

[www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASuburb.html](http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASuburb.html)

### National Prayer Strategy for the 10 Domains

[www.tendoamins.org](http://www.tendoamins.org)

## ReachOut Missions Pastors' & Christian Leaders Breakfast

### 'The Dark Frontier: Evangelising the Post Christian Western World'

Reachout Missions Network extends a warm invitation to Pastors and Christian Leaders to Join us for a delicious breakfast, fellowship with other Christian leaders and an inspiring keynote address from speaker Michael Raiter, Director of the Centre for Biblical Preaching and author of *Stirrings of the Soul*, winner of the 2004 SPCK Australian Christian Book of the Year Award.

**Sydney Missionary & Bible College, Tuesday 11th March 2014 from 7:45-9:30 AM - Cost: Free RSVP by 6 March 2014 - register at <https://www.afes.org.au/events/ro-pastors-breakfast>**