



# Transforming Sydney Newsletter June 2014

Welcome to this the fifth edition of the newsletter for Transforming Sydney. The focus for prayer this month is on the sphere or domain of Religion & Philosophy.

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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.

TRANSFORMING  
SYDNEY

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## Where are the Visionaries within the Church?

(By Rev. Dr Jeffrey David Camm JP MIEPR)

Throughout history we have seen men and women elevated by God, to give visionary pictures of what God wants to happen within the Body of Christ. These people have been just ordinary people, **until God selected them and raised them up to a position of significance within the Body of Christ.** In Joel 2:28 it clearly says that God will pour out His Holy Spirit upon ALL flesh in these last days. So where are they?

Where are the people who have received visions from the Holy Spirit which will change the direction of the Body of Christ (and their respective nations) and re-direct their focus back to Jesus Christ and away from things of this world, which have been allowed to infiltrate the churches?

Things like lower moral standards, ordination of gay and lesbian priests, support for abortion and other “trendy” issues, which focus more on issues about “ME, and MY rights” than issues which relate to “Me and My relationship to Jesus Christ”. Christianity is not a set of rules, but a living, working relationship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Over the last 50 years we have seen a watering down of the religious values within the church and within governments around the world and their laws, which means that the “average child” now has little or no understanding of “Christian values”, and of right and wrong, because many are not taught these basic precepts in their homes, nor at school.

In many schools these days it is unlawful to have prayer, read a Bible or have religious education on school property. This is sad really because in many countries it was “the church” which started schools and then handed them over to the government to administer at a later stage.

Philosophy is now starting to come in and dominate our school and university curriculums and the government of the day is just letting it happen, because the church, (the body of Christ) is remaining silent.

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## Where are the Visionaries within the Church? (...continued)

When we go to the churches these days what is it that the majority of the people pray for? Do they pray for a revelation to follow after God and His laws, or is it to receive prosperity; plenty of money, a good job, and a wife who is loyal for the rest of your life?

Matthew 6:33 says that we should “seek FIRST the kingdom” and “His righteousness” and all the other things shall be added unto us. When was the last time you heard a sermon teaching you how to go about “seeking first the kingdom of God”? Do you realise that “seeking first the kingdom” is different from “learning how to pray”?

2 Chronicles 7:14 makes a clear distinction between these two subjects.

***“If my people, who are called by MY name, will:***

***(a) humble themselves, and (b) seek my face, and (c) pray, and (d) turn from their wicked ways,”***

**THEN** (and only then) God says He will respond as follows:

***“(a) I will hear their prayers from heaven, (b) I will forgive their sins and (c) I will heal their land.”***

⇒ Do you realise that God will not even listen to your prayers if you don't fulfil these 4 basic requirements?

⇒ Have you ever wondered why it seems that God does not answer your prayers?

**Here is the secret.**

⇒ If we don't fulfil the 4 requirements that God Himself sets out in His word, then He has promised that: He won't hear our prayers, Nor will He forgive our sins, Nor will He heal our land.

This is why we have droughts, floods, and bushfires in our land. God is trying to tell us to get back to basics and follow His word, IF we want to get His blessings. Now that we have got that all sorted out, let's go back to the basic topic: *Where have all the visionaries gone?*

Firstly, have we had many visionaries and what was the response of the Body of Christ to their visionary statements?

If we look back into the Old Testament we see that Joseph was a visionary, but when he told his brothers that he saw their sheaves of wheat bowing down to his sheaf of wheat they were not too impressed, in fact they plotted to kill Him. [Genesis 37] Throughout the Old Testament, kings and the people at large hated prophets, who were seers, whom God had blessed with the gift of visions? They beat them, they imprisoned them, and they even killed some of them.

So what about the early church? Luke recounts in the Book of Acts that Apostle Peter saw a vision on the roof of a house when the sheet came down three times out of heaven and a voice from heaven commanded him to eat unclean foods. Each time he refused until finally God's voice told Him, ***“if God says it is ok to eat it, then who are you to decide it is unclean?”*** [Acts 10:15] In another report Luke indicates that Apostle Paul saw a man standing beckoning him to “come over to Macedonia and help us”. [Acts 16:9] As a result Paul re-directed his missionary journey and planted several more churches for Jesus Christ.

But who are the visionaries today, some 2,000 years after Christ's resurrection? Who is the Holy Spirit choosing to reveal Himself to this dying world?

In 2005 God chose a person who did not even believe in Jesus (at that time) and showed him the tribulation period to wake him up. For those people who have access to connect to the internet the link is

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwDw0veDnyk>**

It takes 1 and a half hours to tell his story and vision and it is a must see video, but how many people have watched it and then done absolutely nothing; they have just gone on about their normal lives as if they had not watched it at all?

What about you?

Are you so engrossed in the philosophy or other “worldly views” that you ignore clear signs from God of the impending disaster which are to befall all who refuse to acknowledge Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

When tribulation comes where will you be standing? In the boat with Noah, or still outside claiming this will never happen, but then realising too late that the end is now upon us?

It is time for the Christians in Australia to wake up and be counted worthy of their salvation.

Rev. Dr Jeffrey David Camm JP MIEPR

## Prayer to Break the Power & Influence of the Religious Spirit

*Father God we come to you boldly in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We just take a few moments to worship and praise You, for You are the mighty King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We know that You have highly exalted our Lord Jesus and given Him a name, which is above every name, and that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of beings in Heaven and beings in Earth and beings under the earth.*

*We thank you that all demonic powers, and Satan himself, have been stripped of their power and reduced to 0 by the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And Jesus has taken away the keys to death, hell and the grave from the devil. And we thank you Father that all authority and power in Heaven and Earth has been given to our Lord Jesus who is the head of His body, the Church. And that since we have been raised with Him to sit in heavenly places with Him, far above all principality, power, might, dominion, all things are now under His feet.*

*We understand that all things are now under our feet, as the body of Christ. All things are ours. We have already been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. We are joint heirs with the Anointed One. We are sons of God. We are kings and priests, and we shall rule and reign with Christ forever. Because of these great truths Lord, we obey your Word that says, "Whatsoever we bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever we shall loose on Earth shall be loosed in Heaven." And the fact that Jesus said, "Behold, I give unto you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means harm you." And Jesus also said, "These signs shall follow the believing ones of which I am one." In the name of Jesus we should cast out devils.*

*Lord, we know we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. They are the spirits that now work in the children of disobedience. They blind the minds of them who don't believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them.*

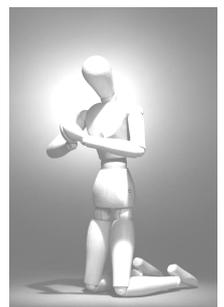
*Lord, if I am bound up or have been influenced in any way by an anti-Christ spirit, doctrine of devils, religious man-made tradition of men, I want it exposed and I want to be free from it. You said everything that is in darkness shall be brought to light. I am free and shall know the truth and the truth shall set me free!! Lord, if I find out my church is operating in religious traditions; I will leave and find one that's not. Lord, I will do whatever You tell me to do. Send me good teachers, and leaders in Jesus' name. Lord, I ask You to forgive me for any religious, untrue doctrine or ideas I may have knowingly or unknowingly peddled or sowed into someone's life. Please forgive me for influencing my family with any of these ideas. I repent.*

*Now Lord, we present to You all people in all lands that are in any way being bound up and influenced by a religious spirit in any ways. WE intercede for them and ask You to send the perfect laborers into their path with the gospel in Jesus' name. We come against the Spirits of Blindness and Religion that are influencing them. We break your power, your influence and your ideas over them. Stop your influence now in Jesus' name. We break the strongman in charge of all religions in all lands, in all areas and in our area and family in Jesus' name. Your power is broken now.*

*We demonstrate and initiate what Jesus has already done. We free our nations, lands, cities, towns and communities now in Jesus' name. And now we spoil the Religious Spirits goods. Lord, send these people into Your great God-ordained churches. Send the Word to them and deliver them from their destructions. Lord send Your angels to rout the religious spirits out of their lives and the churches lives. Let Your angels influence them into Your perfect will and church. Let the churches who will not compromise with a religious spirit receive the harvest of all those you have set free, now in Jesus' name.*

*Lord, we pray, send your rain. Send a massive hunger and revival to Your people. Let whole lands and cities and towns once controlled by religious churches and spirits be drenched by the rain and flood of spiritual revival. Let true revelation be preached like never before, and the true church rise to its prominence and glory in the Lord.*

*We thank You for it now, in Jesus' name.*



## TRANSFORMING AS YOU GO

(By John W. Boland - © copyright 2014 John W. Boland, all rights reserved, pictures by John W. Boland)

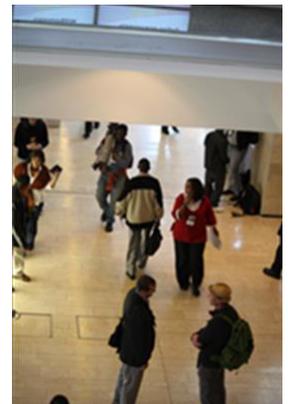
Can family, friends and co-workers see a marked change in your character for the better<sup>1</sup> by the power of your relation to Jesus Christ? Can the church you attend claim to be a church revolutionized by people committed to Jesus? Has the town you live in been transformed by energized believers in Christ? Have people of other faiths or no faith seen the changes that have taken place in you, in that church you attend, or in the community because of Christ? If not, why not? As believers, we have a calling to share what we know with others, baptize new converts, and help them understand the difference between worldly values and those of Jesus Christ! It is a command, not a suggestion.

Look with me please at Matthew 28:19. Most of us are familiar with the King James translation, which reads: "Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost". However, if we go back to the original Greek translation, it states it a little different. What is the difference and what does it mean for us? In English, we say, "Go", but the Greek word used is πορευθέντες (poreuthentes)<sup>2</sup> which literally interpreted means "having made their way" and it means, "having gone". What does that really mean? As we look at the situation surrounding this scripture, Jesus was obviously talking to His disciples (those who were standing right there). In understanding the verb, and how it was used, we must look at the tense and the context. The verb tense tells us things are occurring. They were to go on with life without Jesus by their side. The idea of "having gone", meant it was a completed action. In this verb context, Jesus is commanding His disciples (both them and us today) to go on with life as normal and "as they (and we) are going (through life)" baptize (converts) and teach them about their new faith.

Then I have to ask you to look at Acts 1:8. It is here that Jesus declares, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The only Greek difference here, which makes a major importance, is where Jesus says, "You will be for me witnesses". The root word for witnesses comes from the Greek word μάρτυρες (martyres) which we get the English word "martyr". It is when we get away from the original translation that we lose the real idea behind Jesus call to commitment! He wants us so sold out to the idea of sharing our faith with others so that they see the difference, convert, submit to baptism and want to know how to act and think according to scripture.

So what is the point? The point is two-fold: one, we are commanded by Christ to make believers as we go through life and not leave it to the "hired help", set it aside for a designated evening, or save it for a "church" approved programs. You could say it should become a natural part of our lifestyle. Two, Jesus was talking and teaching His disciples and followers. They were fisherman, merchants, government officials, and normal everyday people. He was not talking to pastors, ministers, and church staff! He was talking to the common people whom He expected to do the "heavy lifting" of the Christian faith. He expected them to accomplish ministry to others and share what they experienced in Him while they went about whatever they found to do during the normal day. So, what do you do other than Sunday? What fills those times during the 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days in a year that God gives you? Are you a homemaker, work on an assembly line, construction worker, plumber, fire fighter, teacher, secretary, etc.? What ministry opportunities have you found while going through your day?

Ministry opportunities abound in the home / workplace / marketplace / neighborhood / community if a person will only seek them out. Are you aware how to scripturally deal with trials, tribulations and conflict when it arises (Psalm 41:1, 50:15, Isaiah 43:2, Romans 8:35, I Corinthians 10:13, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9)? Those outside the faith need to see how those with faith handle the tuff times with Christ and how that is different (2 Corinthians 1:4). Do we understand how to read other people (Proverbs 6:13)? Being able to read the nonverbal signs of others opens doors to personal ministry. These signs allow us to see into others. Are they sick and need prayer? Are they upset and need counsel? Are they angry and need a friendly ear? In that same vain, we need to be cautious and know when others are lying trying to lead us in the wrong direction!



Ministry should be creative for the Christian, the church, the denomination and the whole body of Christ, because we have the most creative God (Genesis 1:1)! As Christ followers, we should set a standard for being different, upbeat and passionate for the cause of Christ! In our work environment, have we identified other Christians in which we can network, pray with and encourage each other (Ecclesiastes 4:12)? Finally, as a Christian we must understand our responsibilities in the workplace, as an employee or employer (Ecclesiastes 3:22, 5:12, Colossians 3:22-25)!

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/transformation>

<sup>2</sup> <http://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/28-19.htm>

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## NAIDOC and the Christian Connection

### William Cooper - Another in the series of “and the Christian Connection.”

NAIDOC represents the National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee and is celebrated each year. The celebration in 2014 will be from the 6th-13th July. NAIDOC WEEK is a very significant event in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders calendar. It is the time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions, both past and present that Indigenous Australians have made and continue to make to our country and society.

One such person is William Cooper. He was not only an advocate for his people but is remembered and celebrated in Israel in the Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. His public opposition to the initial Nazi attack on Jews was the only known non-government protest. For this the Jewish nation have established the Chair for the Study of Resistance during the Holocaust in tribute to William Cooper.

Before the 1960s, Australia's indigenous people were not Australian citizens even though they had been born in Australia and their ancestors had lived here for generations. They were not allowed to vote, not counted in the census figures and didn't have the same rights as white people. They were like nobodies in their own country. That's something that's very hard for those who are part of the majority to imagine. But one man, William Cooper understood it well.

William was an Aboriginal who grew up in the early 1900s in NSW. He was taught to read and write by missionaries who ran a school for aboriginal children. From the Bible he learned that all people are created by God and are children of God. William also learned the words of Jesus 'Treat other people the way you want them to treat you.' He became a Christian and accepted these truths.

As he grew older he realised that Aboriginal people were not being treated this way. He wrote letters to government leaders protesting the inequality he saw around him and formed the Australian Aborigines League. On one occasion he gathered over 1800 signatures on a petition to King George V and VI of England to improve the rights of Aboriginals but the Australian Government did not forward it on because the Australian Government and its laws did not accept them as Australian citizens.

William persuaded some church leaders to recognise an Aboriginal Sunday starting in 1940 on the day before Australia Day. This became National Aborigines Day, which was changed to July and became a celebration of aboriginal culture, which we now know as NAIDOC Week.

On 9 November 1938 Nazis in Germany terrorized Jewish people, burning synagogues and smashing their homes and businesses. Ninety one Jews were killed and 30,000 deported to concentration camps. People around the world were shocked, but William knew that he needed to protest the injustice that was happening. As someone who had experienced oppression himself, he spoke passionately against it and led a deputation to the German consulate in Melbourne. The resolution they left there voiced “on behalf of the Aborigines of Australia, a strong protest at the cruel persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi Government of Germany”. It asked that this persecution be brought to an end.

This was the only known non-government protest worldwide against the initial Nazi attack on the Jews. In recent years, Jewish communities in Israel and Australia have honoured William Cooper, whose Christian beliefs led him to action on behalf of those who were oppressed. (<http://www.foiwa.org.au/node/101>)

What a legacy! What a challenge! How active are we in speaking up for those who are unable to speak for themselves?

Written by Sally Smith

for Children of the World a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ Australia

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Suggested reading:

William Cooper Gentle Warrior: Author Barbara Miller [www.barbara-miller-books.com](http://www.barbara-miller-books.com)



## The Privilege of Prayer

(By Ps. Ian Weeks)

Have you ever stopped to wonder about the privilege of prayer?

How is it that mere human beings can talk with the Creator of the heavens and the earth?

How is it that the God who owns and controls the universe is interested in our daily life and delights to hear our meagre prayers?

Prayer is truly a wondrous and mysterious thing! Yet Jesus encourages us, even commands us, to pray!

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus talks about prayer as a normal and vital part of living out our faith. Accordingly, he teaches his disciples about the Dos and Don'ts of prayer (Matthew chapter 6).

- Don't behave like the attention-seeking hypocrites; but Do pray secretly, seeking God's reward.
- Don't behave like the babbling pagans; but Do pray with confidence in God's attentiveness.
- Don't behave like spoilt ungrateful children; but Do be grateful for God's mercy by showing mercy to others!

In the "Lord's prayer" we are given a model of how to pray; not a magic formula to be recited, but a pattern of focus for our praise and petition.

We pray **To the Father**: prayer is relational, not ritualistic; familiar, not formal. We are to seek the Father's Honour, Kingdom, and Will. We are then encouraged to bring our needs of provision, pardon & protection to our loving Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9-14). We pray **Through the Spirit** " ... pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:18). We pray **In the Name of the Son** "Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 16:23).

Furthermore, we also have a living Lord and Saviour, Jesus, interceding for us! Because Jesus is alive, we have the greatest High Priest acting for us: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin". So we can " ... approach God's throne of grace with confidence, ...(and) receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:15,16). Because Jesus is alive we have a living, real and personal relationship with this Mighty and Holy God, whom we can call "Our Father". (Matthew 6:9). Because Jesus is alive, we need " ...not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6). What a privilege and a blessing it is that we can pray – anywhere, at anytime!

***"People are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better people...What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but people whom the Holy Ghost can use – people of prayer, mighty in prayer." E. M. Bounds, The Power of Prayer***

The history of the church is littered with stories of powerful pray-ers. Revivals, evangelistic explosions, social transformations, healing, miracles, and amazing episodes of church growth are linked to people praying with power. Yet, if we were ask these people what the secret of their powerful praying was, most I'm sure would say that it was not their own power at work, but the power of a God for whom nothing is impossible!

Andrew Murray (1828 - 1917), once said, *The power of prayer depends almost entirely upon our apprehension of who it is with whom we speak.*" We can be powerful in prayer because we pray to a powerful God. And through prayer we become empowered. What an encouragement to pray! What an encouragement to be persistent, faithful and fervent in prayer.

James writes: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16). He then goes on to cite the example of Elijah: an ordinary man called to be a prophet and called to pray. The characteristic of Elijah's praying was his fervency. When he prayed he got down to business. He laboured in prayer. He persisted in prayer. The prayer of the righteous is of great force when energized not only by the Holy Spirit, as every effectual prayer must be; but also by the effort that we put into it. So goes the saying, "No Prayer - No Power; Little Prayer - Little Power; Much Prayer - Much Power!"

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## The Privilege of Prayer (...continued)

It would be well to remember the more we pray, the more power we have in prayer. Faith is not like petrol, in danger of running out if we go too far. It is more like a muscle which strengthens from practice. So let's keep practicing and exercising our prayer muscles!

In his classic book, *The Power of Prayer*, E. M. Bounds writes

*"People are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better people...What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but people whom the Holy Ghost can use – people of prayer, mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through people. He does not fall on machinery, but on people. He does not anoint plans, but people – people of prayer."*

What a privilege it is to engage in powerful prayer – prayer to a powerful God!

*"Lord, teach us to pray!"* (Luke 11:1).

*Ian Weeks is Pastor of Belrose Uniting Church.*

*Ian is married to Anne and they have two adult children, one of whom is currently training for full-time Gospel ministry.*

*This article is an extract from a series of sermons: The Privilege of Prayer preached at Belrose UC in May 2014*

## What is the Spirit saying to the church?

(By Justin Pagotto, Jireh Financial)

As I look around the body of Christ and listen to what the Spirit is emphasizing in this season two things come to mind:

### 1. That our Father is really serious about building the house of prayer in each city.

It seems that everywhere you look, a new expression of prayer is being birthed. Worship, intercession and creative arts are exploding across Australia and it is such a beautiful display of the body of Christ.

Acts 15:16-17 will be fulfilled in this generation.

*"I will build David's house again (prayer and worship). It has fallen down..... I will make his house new."*

This type of enjoyable prayer combines gazing at the beauty of Jesus and from this place, releasing powerful intercession that changing the spiritual atmosphere of the cities we live.

The incredible by-product of building the house of prayer is that v17 promises "that the rest of the world will look for the Lord God." What an amazing by-product of intimacy.

### 2. That our Father is really serious about building John 17 unity in each area.

Over the 20 years I have followed Jesus, I have never stopped longing for our generation to answer Jesus' prayer for unity. There is a divine order of his prayer:

- a) That we are loved with the same love the Father has for the Son
- b) That this love transforms us to love one another in the same
- c) That we have already been given the same glory the Father and Son have to be one with each other. This unity is meant to be across the body of Christ between Sunday leaders (Paid church leaders), Monday leaders (Marketplace Leaders) and Intercessors. It requires tremendous humility to serve one another in love. Unity can never be built on agreeing on the same set of doctrines. Unity is birthed from a person- Jesus Christ who qualifies all who believe in his name through the finished work of the cross to be members of the church in a city.
- d) That this glory is meant to demonstrate to the world that the Father sent the Son. Wow this is astonishing- that the level of unity in a city determines the degree to which the Holy Spirit can open up the eyes of unbelievers to see the truth about Jesus! This is tremendously sobering in a city where there is much division in the body of Christ. I wonder whether the lack of Kingdom transformation in our cities is a result of the disunity in the body of Christ which hinders God's glory being released.

One generation will answer Jesus prayer- It may as well be us!

## The Story of Global Prayer Connections

(By Major Annie Cathcart)

When the Lord first called me to follow Him it was with the words *“Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and all his righteousness, and EVERYTHING ELSE will be added unto you”*, and that has been so true of my story.

I came to Australia as an 18 year old girl in 1957, and found the Lord through working for the Salvation Army in 1962. In that year my parents went back to Denmark, and I was naturalised as an Australian, gave my heart to the Lord for full time service, and became a “Salvation Army Soldier for life.” I married a very “Aussie” husband in 1964, and after completing 2 years of training in Sydney we became Officers (pastors) of the “Defenders of the Faith Session” in 1965. For 20 years we ministered in various Corps (Churches) while raising our family of 5 children, (4 boys and one girl) and in 1986 we were sent to Toowoomba to look after the Army’s home for “Intellectually Challenged Adults”. I fell in love with this city, but I did not know then that it was here the Lord would give me “My heart’s desire”.

I was only a little girl in Denmark through the Second World War, but the horror of those years stayed with me for ever. It made me dream of a place where people could live together in peace and harmony, and when we migrated to Australia, I hoped this could happen here. However I soon found that there were still many divisions, so through my ministry I always tried to bring people from different denominations and backgrounds together in some kind of unity.

I saw this work in a practical way when we were stationed in Kingaroy in 1973. We had a wonderful working relationship between the different churches, and as the Body of Christ we ministered to the outlying country areas by holding cottage meetings on different farms as far as 50 km

*I saw firsthand the amazing “Power of prayer” when The Body of Christ is working together.*

away. We had a Radio Sunday school operating, prayer meetings at the public schools, as well as a “Prayer Clock” where intercessors covered the many combined initiatives in the city, and our centre was the Christian Bookshop.

The secret behind the success of this amazing venture was a weekly Intercessors meeting, where we were able to “Bathe each event and need in prayer”. People were being transformed, and I saw firsthand the amazing “Power of prayer” when The Body of Christ is working together.

It was not until I retired to Toowoomba in 1998 that I saw this pattern working out again on a bigger scale.

I found out that Toowoomba was on a “Journey of Transformation”, and they had a special prayer cover by people praying at home on a roster system to cover the city 24/7. Prayer points were sent out by the leader of the City intercessors group, that meet weekly, and amazing things were happening in answer to those prayers. I was invited to join this group in 2001 and I learned for myself the secret of Max Lucado’s words: ‘GOD’S POWER IS UNLEASHED - WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE PRAY’.

I documented the journey of the Toowoomba intercessors, and our leader, Colin Shaw, wrote a book about our journey called: ‘A HOUSE for HIS GLORY’, which has now been translated in 3 other languages.

In 2008 Colin became so busy traveling to other nations to share the Toowoomba story that he asked me to take over leadership of the prayer network, and since we had just become a Region, it also became a regional, so the Toowoomba Regional Prayer network (TRPN) was born.

By this time I had already started a “Computer House of Prayer”, where I sent out requests for intercessor friends to pray into, so now a monthly newsletter with prayer requests were also sent out to the original 24/7 prayer chain by email as well as letter. Our prayers covered everything that had to do with the welfare of our City and region, and soon all sections of the community started to send request to me for prayer.

I was already linked to the Australian and Indigenes Prayer networks, and after a little while I linked up with all the major prayer networks in Australia, and we shared our concerns and stood together in prayer on important national issues. When the Canberra declaration was born in 2010 my network became a strong supporter and we became VERY INVOLVED in all the major national prayer calls especially the National Day of prayer and fasting.

(continued next page)



## The Story of Global Prayer Connections (...continued)

In 2010 I was introduced to Lillian and Bjorn Schmid and I stood with them in prayer through the birth of “Transform Sydney”, and in 2012 I was honoured to become the prayer coordinator for the first Sydney Transformation Conference “Only Believe”. In that same year my network also became Global as I was introduced to a Nigerian prayer network “Jesus Assembly”, who prayed and fasted for 5 days in Lagos for that conference. They now support my network with all our requests, and often fast for especially important issues.

During 2013 many nations in the world stood together in prayer for USA, and we became specially connected to Jeff Daly from “The National Day of Repentance”, and he even came to visit us here in Toowoomba. Many more prayer movements became connected through the Billion Souls prayer call, so my network is now truly a Global one.

The aim behind the Toowoomba Regional Prayer Network has always been to bring communities together, but now that aim has broadened to BRINGING THE NATIONS TOGETHER IN PRAYER.

When I had to retire 10 year early from active Salvation Army service because of my husband’s ill health the Lord just gave me two words: PRAYER NET. I realized that this had to be on the computer as I would have to stay home and care for him, but I had no computer knowledge and I am also mildly dyslexic. By God’s grace and leading I now have a Global Prayer Network with 500 members. I am connected to 16 other Australian networks and 9 overseas, and new members are added every month. When you look at this emblem you will see the world covered by a RED NET signifying the blood of Jesus, and it is only by His sacrifice on the cross that we can find UNITY.



**GLOBAL PRAYER CONNECTIONS**  
*Bringing the Nations together*

### Global Prayer Connections is Bringing the Nations together.

Aim: To bring people, Communities and Nations together in prayer.

In a ‘Global Prayer Net.’  
Providing help and training for Intercessors.  
Sharing teachings and prophecies  
Sharing Prayer requests and answers to prayer  
Linking with and supporting other prayer ministries

God changed my email last year to **anniesprayernet@gmail.com**, so now he has fulfilled my heart’s desire to help to make this world a better place wherever and however I can by HIS HELP.



With your help, people can also realise that donating their unwanted but reusable items can go a long way to helping those in need – and all with a simple click of a button! So please help spread the word about what we do by sharing news about us or getting them to visit **[www.heartforthehomeless.org](http://www.heartforthehomeless.org)**.

With much excitement –  
The Heart for the Homeless team

## Praying for the Persecuted Church



*"To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world - right up to this moment." [1 Corinthians 4:11-13 NIV]*

### **NIGERIA: VOM Volunteer Killed**

Boko Haram militants murdered a VOM volunteer in Gwoza, Borno state, in late April as he was delivering hundreds of VOM-Nigeria newsletters. "His death shocked almost all the Christian community," said a VOM worker in Nigeria.

In his work with VOM, the volunteer had used his own vehicle to transport attack victims to hospitals as part of our VOMedical work; served as a contact person between VOM staff and widows, attack victims, and Christian leaders and pastors in his community; and distributed VOM newsletters. His killers reportedly stole 500 newsletters from his car, and pastors in the area are praying that the newsletters will minister to the militants.

Christians in Gwoza, only about eight kilometres from the Cameroon border, have experienced repeated attacks from Boko Haram insurgents. Thousands have fled the city, and hundreds of homes, churches and businesses have been razed.

*Source: Voice of the Martyrs USA*

- ♥ Join with VOM staff and the church in Gwoza in praying for the perpetrators. Pray for all members of Boko Haram, that the Lord will bring conviction and repentance to many.
- ♥ Pray for the staff of Voice of the Christian Martyrs in Nigeria and the family, friends and contacts of the volunteer, pray that God would be glorified as they steadfastly fix their eyes on what is eternal (2 Corinthians 4).
- ♥ Ask the Lord to grant wisdom to the authorities, military and police in Nigeria as they attempt to halt the efforts of Islamic militants throughout Northern Nigeria.

### **PAKISTAN: Some 700 Christian Girls Stolen/Trafficked Annually**

The Movement for Solidarity and Peace (MSP) in Pakistan has released a report entitled 'Forced Marriages & Forced Conversions in the Christian Community of Pakistan' (published April 2014). According to this report, around 1000 minority girls – some 300 Hindus and 700 Christians – are forced to marry Muslim men in Pakistan every year. Furthermore, the MSP acknowledged that this is just the tip of the iceberg, as most cases either go unreported or fail to progress.

According to MSP, the forced marriages follow a distinct pattern: a Christian girl aged between 12 and 25 is abducted, 'converted' and married to the abductor or a third party. The victim's family files a report with the police, accusing the abductor. The abductor files a report with the police accusing the Christian family. The case goes to court where the girl – who normally remains in the custody of her abductors – is asked to testify whether or not she left home, converted and was married of her own free will. When the girl testifies that she acted of her own free will (making a false testimony to protect her family) the case is settled. These girls are subjected to violence, rape, forced prostitution, trafficking and sale. The same pattern exists in Egypt where Coptic girls are routinely abducted, 'converted' and married to Muslim men.

This is human trafficking across religious lines. Such large scale systematic abuse could not endure without the tacit consent and overt co-operation of Islamic clerics, law enforcement officers and government officials.

*Source: Assist New Service, Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

- ♥ Ask the Lord to intervene in the lives of those young women to deliver them from their captors.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will raise up leaders in Pakistan and Egypt to act justly to bring about change in attitudes and judicial process.

(continued next page)

## Praying for the Persecuted Church (...continued)

### MIDDLE EAST: Christian Women Killed by Family Members

Three Christian women were killed by their Muslim family members in separate incidents on 30 April and 1 May.

A 38-year-old woman was shot to death by her two brothers shortly after they learned that she had been talking with a missionary over Skype and that she had a Bible. In a second incident, a man stabbed his 22-year-old sister to death when he caught her with a Christian CD. The Christian woman had previously talked with her brother about Jesus. The brother left her body in front of a hospital before seeking treatment for his own hand wound.

In the third incident, a man beat his daughter to death by hitting her on the head with a stone. He turned himself over to police and confessed to the killing, knowing that he would likely not face serious punishment. He reportedly told police that his daughter had continued to attend church despite his warnings.

Source: *Voice of the Martyrs USA*

- ♥ Please pray for those impacted by the loss of these sisters in Christ. May God surround those who are mourning with His love and peace.
- ♥ Pray, too, that He will use the legacy of these women in a powerful way, inspiring many others to learn more about Him.
- ♥ Ask especially that the family members who so tragically ended these lives will repent, turn to Jesus and, in time, become bold disciples of our Lord.



*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

## SMBC Open Evening

WHAT: A great opportunity to check out SMBC

WHERE: SMBC Croydon Campus,  
43 Badminton Road, Croydon

WHEN: 7pm Monday 19 June 2014

WHO: Anyone who is curious about what it's like to study at Bible College Everyone is welcome to come to our Open Evening to hear all about studying at SMBC, chat with faculty and tour the campus. The 'Study at SMBC' presentation commences at 7.15pm. Learn about our full-time, part-time and intensive study options - graduate or postgraduate. Supper will be served. No RSVP required - just come along, we'd love to see you. Bring a friend!

See more at: <https://www.smbc.com.au/events/open-evening>



**SMBC**  
Sydney Missionary & Bible College

## Transforming Sydney - Spiritual Formation Program

### For the Youth (18-26 years)

Transforming Sydney is running a Spiritual Formation Program to equip Young Adult between 18 and 26 to be ambassadors for the kingdom within their spheres of influence. If you wish to start this program next year at your church or youth group let us know.

This course consist of 3 levels of spirituality:

- ♥ Discipline in prayer, devotion, bible reading
- ♥ Introducing the Supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit with evaluation for each candidate regarding their gifts
- ♥ Developing Christ-like leaders

More information is available at <http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSFormation.html>

To run this program with your church, please contact Bjorn and Lilian Schmid [info@transformingsydney.org](mailto:info@transformingsydney.org)

## Slavyansk, Ukraine: An Epicenter of Charity and War

(by Karen Springs )

Slavyansk, a city in eastern Ukraine with about 130,000 resident, has suddenly gained international notoriety, as it has become one of the epicenters of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. A gateway city to the eastern regions of Donetsk, Lugansk, and Kharkiv, it is a strategic location for pro-Russian separatists. However, prior to the international attention the city has gained in recent months, Slavyansk was the epicenter of another revolution, a revolution surrounding adoption.

### Adoption in Ukraine

Since 2004 a national adoption and orphan care movement has been on the rise in Ukraine. A country where adoption was once considered taboo or strange has experienced a dramatic shift in embracing the fatherless--so much so that in 2013 Ukraine was recognized by UNICEF as the nation showing the most progress in child protection and welfare reform in Eastern Europe. Much of this success can be attributed to the activity of the Christian community and to an alliance of like-minded individuals, organizations, and churches that banded together in 2010 to launch Ukraine without Orphans. Its vision can be traced back to a movement that began 11 years ago in Slavyansk, the very same Slavyansk that today is making international headlines.

### A Movement Begins

Good News Church, a congregation of 600 members and five daughter churches in Slavyansk, has been at the forefront in promoting national adoption in Ukraine and Russia for the last decade. Thanks to its campaigns and promotion of adoption and foster care, over 100 Ukrainian children have been placed with families in the Slavyansk area alone. The Good News Church's example has served as an inspiration to hundreds of churches across Ukraine and Russia, and as a result the adoption movement has continued to grow.

### The Current Situation

But today Slavyansk is recognized by the world, not for its transformational work in adoption, but because of the pro-Russian separatists who have taken control of the city and because of the violence taking place there. By early May, active fighting intensified in Slavyansk, and it was apparent that proactive steps needed to be taken to ensure safety for adopted children and their families. Safety for Sails of Hope Children's Home that Good News Church supports became a top priority for this congregation's pastors, Sergey Demidovich and Pyotr Dudnik.



Damage at Slavyansk Children's Home



### Evacuating Children and Families

Getting the children out of what had become a war zone was critical. "I know what a traumatized child is," said Pastor Pyotr Dudnik, "And we don't want kids to see what is going on here. We do not want these kids to go through more trauma than they already have." In May, 17 children from Sails of Hope were evacuated to a Christian camp near Kyiv. Since the evacuation of the orphans, Pastor Pyotr Dudnik and his wife Tamara have helped coordinate the departure of other foster and adoptive families as well as other families in need. With the city completely shut down and no forms of public transit running, coordinating transportation for families to leave the city has become a challenging, daily task for Pastor Pyotr.

### Just in Time

As it turned out, the evacuation of the children's home happened just in time. Within a day, separatists occupied the territory, and only several days later the orphanage became the site of a battle, which caused extensive damage to the outside of the building and shattered many windows. Those who evacuated could only thank God for his provision of a safe place at the right time.

(continued next page)

## Slavyansk, Ukraine: An Epicenter of Charity and War (...continued)

### Evacuations Continue

But the efforts in Slavyansk have not stopped with the evacuations. After seeing his own family to safety, Pastor Pyotr chose to remain in Slavyansk to see that the needs of those who are not able to evacuate are met. Food supplies are short and most stores in Slavyansk are now closed, so Pastor Pyotr and his team are regularly visiting families in need and providing them with groceries and other essentials. Supplying food and meeting basic needs has been an opening for Pastor Pyotr and his helpers to pray with people and share the Gospel. "Everyone is living in fear. We are able to give out prayer booklets, prayers that contain the Psalms." People are open to listening and are turning to God in prayer like they never have before.



Pastor Peter delivering food

Pastor Pyotr does not want to talk politics or sides. For him the crisis is an opportunity for the church to be the church and to remain as a light in a very dark time. "We as the church need to be higher than this situation. We need to rise higher than the flags that are being waved. We cannot focus on politics. We are serving everyone – the injured and the hungry on both sides...that is our calling." So he continues distributing food and making house calls to those who label themselves pro-Russian and to those who are patriots of Ukraine. For Pastor Pyotr it is a chance to share the love of Christ, and he says he will remain in Slavyansk as long as he possibly can, doing what he has always done, serving the people of his city.

*Karen Springs serves with Orphan's Promise, a ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network-CIS, Kyiv, Ukraine (Karen.Springs@cbn-cis.org).*



## "The Great Aussie Date Night"



During May **Marriage Week Australia** launched, 'Date Night Australia' or, if you prefer 'THE GREAT AUSSIE DATE NIGHT'.

Do you want to see marriage transformed and strengthened in your congregation? Then participate in 'The Great Aussie Date Night' taking place nationally on the 20th September the last Saturday of Marriage Week.

Help strengthen marriages, rekindling the romance in a fun, enjoyable way. Be part of this national event presenting a united front in support of strong biblical marriages.

The vision/aim of this evening is to provide a quality fun evening for married couples in a safe, friendly environment where marriages are affirmed, celebrated and honoured. A time when couples feel loved and can relax away from the calls of "life".

Where possible an evening where the wider community is invited and made welcome. Consider inviting local politicians, mayors, business people and of course their spouse!

Venue & Set-up - A romantic, welcoming venue, use the hospitality industry (yes, in the market place) or run it 'in house'. Suggestions include: a restaurant or cafe (e.g. do you have a local Gloria Jeans franchise that will host a private function?), a function room, a well presented hall, or the family home for a smaller group which is non-community based.

For more information and details of resources being made available go to the web site

## Business as Mission: An Expression of Biblical Integrity

The word “integrity” has been bandied about so much over the last decade or so that it has practically become meaningless. Politicians are described in their self-serving advertisements as men or women of “integrity.” We like the word. It’s right up there with “tolerant” - another empty term. In fact, who could argue with someone who was tolerant and had integrity. He or she would be a postmodern super hero.

Unfortunately, we don’t think about words much any more. We don’t dwell on what they mean. As a result, we lose the richness and power of a great concept. So, in this article, I want to spend a few moments unpacking two dimensions of integrity, especially in the context of Business as Mission.



### Integrity and Ethics

When I first began teaching business in the Former Soviet Union twenty years ago, the first hurdle I had to overcome was establishing that business was legitimate in the first place. Most people viewed business as inherently corrupt and dishonest. Today’s America has very much the same opinion. And why not? We hear constant news flashes of another scandal in Apple’s China factory or fraud in CitiGroup’s financial products or theft on Wall Street, or...ad nauseum. It is erroneous to confuse business with the business person. The person is corrupt but business is not. Nevertheless, few think that deeply and so they condemn all things business as dark, greedy and devilish.

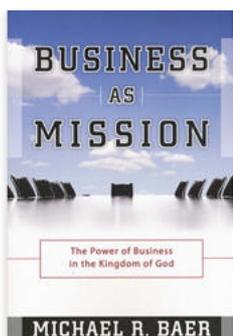
On the other hand, Paul instructed the Philippian believers to “be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” [Philippians 2: 15 ESV] What better place to do that than in the context of business. How different, how starkly distinct are those who apply the simple Kingdom Principles of truth, honesty, generosity, quality and compassion to their calling in the world of commerce! Jesus said “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” [Matthew 5: 7 ESV] Be men and women of your word. Be men and women of integrity...regardless of the cost.

### Integrity and the Kingdom

There is a second and deeper dimension to the concept of integrity. It is more than just being an honest business person - although that reality alone could change lives. Integrity at its root means “whole” and “undivided” and “without separation.” To be a person of integrity means to be wholly linked in every way to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It means to live in and for the Kingdom of God. It means to see all of life and every sphere or sector as under the rule of God, equally sacred and fully blessed.

We in the West live disintegrated lives. We compartmentalize our existence into separate boxes that seem to have no relation to each other. Sunday is disconnected from Monday. Family is distinct from church. Business and other pillars of society have no interaction with each other. Consequently, the principles of the Kingdom never impact the various parts of our lives.

Business as Mission is the tip of the sword in breaking down these false dichotomies. It represents a wonderful opportunity to understand and live out the reality that business, as with all things, is a special part of the Kingdom - instituted by God and therefore inherently good. As business people who love Jesus learn that God has not given them a secondary vocation but a high and holy calling on par with every other and that they can intentionally connect their career or company to God’s grand eternal purpose of redemption the false boundaries begin to disappear. Integration, seamless integration, is the result and the Kingdom expands and becomes clearer to those who are watching.



### Conclusion

So I challenge you. First, to be an individual of integrity - truth, transparency, honesty. Learn the power of David’s words in Psalm 15 as he describes the person who will walk in fellowship with God. And second, to live an integrated life. Repel the lies and false thinking that separates your life into sacred and secular categories. Embrace your high and holy calling and walk in it with joyful abandon.

Michael Baer, Chief People Officer, EmployBridge LLC

## THE BIBLE MOVIE - THE PROPHET JOB

One morning, while lying in bed I had been “crying out” to God for purpose and direction...for a mission in life to fill that aching space inside that KNOWS God has a plan and that there are souls to be saved.

As a whisper that filled my being God said “Film the Book of Job”. At once I knew that it was God, because it was a request that touched the creative side of my heart, but was so totally foreign as I was NOT a film-maker and did not know the first thing about making films.

Over the next 2 years I wrote a script for the film (which was easy as the book is basically written for film) and started to organise people, places, makeup, equipment and logistics. To those who know filmmaking this is called “pre-production” and this is where I learnt the first big lesson. Pre-production came easily as a process, in fact it was great...all that organising, all those forms, sheets and plans. The only problem was that, because I was “afraid and I hid” from the actual responsibility of directing the film.

Through fear my solution was to take the funds that God had so generously provided and “hire” a range of friends who were “industry professionals”. The result was a disaster. The main actor “Job” wanted to be the director and had a vision that conflicted with my (very simple) instructions and the (Director of Photography) DOP then fought with the director continually as both time and money quickly ran out.

I had started a new job and decided to start work just when the shoot was booked to start (to impress my new boss with my commitment). In that week everything that could go wrong went wrong and eventually I quit my job and decided to re-shoot everything!!!!



Having run out of funds the next 6 months was a lesson on how to make films, on every level! Because I had used every cent I “owed” the generous donor a film and had to work out sound, lighting, makeup, editing, sound, stock footage, everything without a budget. But it was the best lesson ever!!! As I not only learnt how to make a film “with no money” but I learnt that you can do amazing things with film once you own it!

The results are a thoroughly faithful “word-for-word” translation of the book of Job into film.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYv6up\\_-h0E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYv6up_-h0E) or [http://youtu.be/iYv6up\\_-h0E](http://youtu.be/iYv6up_-h0E)

(or type in THE BIBLE MOVIE THE PROPHET JOB into the search box on YouTube)

In the film a highlight that you will see is a “fire tornado” at the end of the film where God “speaks”. This amazing footage was miraculously provided by Chris Tangey and was a sequence that he provided to us free because he is a committed Christian.

We are thankful for the journey for this program and are launching into the next film: “*The book of Ruth*”.

It is one “word” that will likely direct the rest of our life!

Enjoy the film!

Jason Blaiklock, Phoenix Blue Pty Ltd M: 0403456518 E: [jasonblaiklock@gmail.com](mailto:jasonblaiklock@gmail.com)



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 here <http://publicchristianity.org/about>

## Our World Standards

(By Ian Cooke: LivingStone Media)

Standards in the media have been gradually declining over decades as people drive new content where language, sex, drugs have taken over on our screens and the definition of the God created family has been greatly diminished.

Media executives look for programming, not for its moral standards, or content, rather whether it will bring an audience to their channel, whether it is online or in the mainstream media. The adage that sex and violence sells are very much what drives those that commission or buy programs, unless there are laws that prevent it.

As our nation moves away from a Christian centre and culture, moral standards decline more and more, and as the media drives content that is less moral, then gradually our population will go down the same path. Many times in the bible Gods people moved away from Him, and as they did that they worshipped idols and other things, and moral decadence became the norm. The cities of Sodom & Gomorrah are examples in the Old Testament where the society had stooped to a point where anything goes. Finally God judged the cities for what they had become.

This is where we are headed in our modern world as our moral structure is dismantled; our media is taking us down that road, leading the charge of moral and social decline as we see more and more immoral activity and themes on our screens. What message does it show when the nation watches two of our most senior media barons brawling in the street, or people meet and 5 minutes later they are in bed together in every sense of the word, portraying that is what love represents...therein lies the very problem that we have in our society...it is OK for them then it is OK for the rest of us!

Even in the church, our younger generations watch shows where morality has declined rapidly, such as Modern Family think they are fun to watch and that the moral standards on the show are the norm, which will conflict with those set by the Word of God...young people will watch a lot more TV than read their bibles, so they will follow what they are fed!

They don't want to watch Christian TV as the shows are often clichéd and not interesting, so they will gravitate back often to watching mainstream TV as it is entertaining along with the rest of society, thus sharing in the decline of our moral standards which media is driving.

So how do we change this? Although those who control the content we see on TV or film think that the lower the moral content the more popular the program will be, the facts actually tell us something else. Through their studies in the US, Movieguide run by Ted Baehr has proven that the highest box office films are in fact those with the higher moral code, and the higher the level of sex, violence or language, the lower the average box office becomes.

Parents are crying out for content they can watch with their children and feel safe. The problem is that even the themes in many children's TV programs have moral content that is on the decline, and which goes against what the Bible preaches.

We need to establish a generation of TV makers that are History Makers, who are prepared to create content that starts to take our moral standards higher, and promote a Judeo Christian culture, not just in the church, but also mainstream media. To do that we need to educate a younger generation not just how to hold a camera, or edit a show, but about Christian and moral ethics and leadership so they can rise and become people that make decisions that will start to turn this ship around. They also need to learn the power of good storytelling so that we are no longer telling stories that are clichés!



I believe that when people have the opportunity to view content that has strong, biblically based and morally true, they will want to watch it. The networks and media producers will realise that is what they need to run on their platform.

For example, The Voice (whether you like the show or not) has rated well here in Australia because it is a show where the talent however good or bad are not berated, put down or ostracized; rather they are lifted up and always given a positive word for what they have done. That I believe is the main reason for its success.

(continued next page)

## Our World Standards (...continued)



We at LivingStone Media want to be a part of the answer, not the problem by training and equipping film & TV makers with both the practical skills as well as the ethical and leadership skills they will need to create content that will make a difference, whether that is here in Australia or throughout Asia Pacific.

Our first project is to work with poor people in Indonesia to equip a TV studio, as well as train them to make TV with good production and a strong moral base. For more information on this project go to [www.livingstonemedia.org.au/indonesia](http://www.livingstonemedia.org.au/indonesia)

We are also looking to develop training for Schools and Churches in media production, leadership and storytelling to equip them to make a difference, as media creation is where the mission field lies in today's world



*About the author: Ian Cooke is part of the team at Transforming Sydney in the domain of Media, and has working in media for many years...his vision is to develop future leaders who can transform our nation through media. For more information go to [www.livingstonemedia.org.au](http://www.livingstonemedia.org.au)*

## News and Events



### Pastors Network & Prayer Groups Across Sydney

We encourage you to contact and attend a group that is close to you - join together and be strengthened.

**NOTE: the contacts in the below link have been given to Transforming Sydney by the people concerned for the express purpose of inviting others to attend their prayer group - the details are not provided for any other purpose and we ask that you do not copy these details onto other websites and social media without the permission of the respective owners.**

Please go to Transforming Sydney Website

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

to find the list of all Prayer Ministries and Groups in Sydney

### What is CRADIO?

CRADIO is Australia's new Catholic media service, providing free access to a growing variety of Catholic programs, talks and music. Listen in via our 24-hour stream, subscribe to our podcasts or access new content online when and where you want it. - See more at:

<http://cradio.org.au/about/>



**Genr8** is the premier provider of School Chaplains in NSW, managing over 150 Federal Government Funded School Chaplaincies.

Genr8 partners with schools in the recruitment, training, supervision and ongoing professional development of School Chaplains.

This ensures the placement of high quality Chaplains who are well equipped to support young people and strengthen local communities.

Transforming Sydney is partnering with Genr8 to bring awareness of the role of Chaplains and the need for SRE teachers.

For more information how to help please go to <http://www.genr8.org.au/>

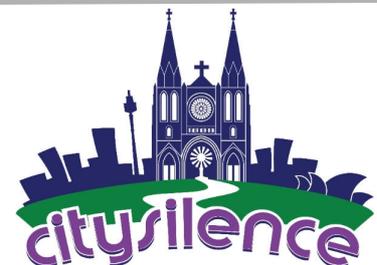


Anne Weeks, Uniting Church Belrose writes: **Soul Survivor** is the best movement I've ever seen, that is strong on three things - together and equally, it emphasises:

- **The Bible as God's Word**
- **The Holy Spirit as the Christian's source of strength, guidance and power; and**
- **Social action**

The young people from our church have really grown in their faith as they have been heavily involved in Soul Survivor since it came to Australia in 1999. I praise God for this cutting-edge ministry across many denominations and look forward to how it develops in the future. For more information please go to the website

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



City Silence is a weekly Holy Hour for young adults (aged 18-35) at St Mary's Cathedral every Tuesday from 6.30-7.30pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicYouthServices>

## What is Proclaim 2014?

PROCLAIM 2014 is a conference on the New Evangelisation organised on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference by the National Office for Evangelisation. The first conference, PROCLAIM 2012, attracted over 400 participants each day and PROCLAIM 2014 promises to attract even more.

PROCLAIM  
2014



PROCLAIM 2014 is about helping Catholics respond to the call to the new evangelisation, helping to build our parishes as faith communities full of disciples and missionary in outlook. PROCLAIM 2014 will draw upon Pope Francis' encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* with its theme being 'Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parishes' and uses the practical suggestions in *Rebuilt* to help those involved in parishes across Australia to Awaken to the Challenges facing the Church, Live their Missionary Call and Transform the Parish.

### Keynote Speakers

The keynote speakers are Fr Michael White & Tom Corcoran, authors of the book *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making Church Matter*. Over a number of years these two men have worked together to rebuild the parish of Church of the Nativity, at Timonium, North Baltimore (USA). In *Rebuilt* they share what they learnt along the way: successes and failures.

*Whatever kind of parish you're in, whatever style of Church you're leading, whatever the culture of your community, you can grow a healthy parish.* (*Rebuilt*, Preface, pxviii - for more on *Rebuilt*, visit: [www.rebuiltparish.com](http://www.rebuiltparish.com))

**When?** 21-23 August 2014

**Where?** The Concourse, Chatswood (business district in northern Sydney)

**Who for?** This conference is for people who are interested in the new evangelisation in parishes. It is for those who are already actively engaged and those who desire to be part of the new evangelisation. It is for those who are passionate about sharing faith through witness, proclamation and service to others.

PROCLAIM 2014 will bring together over 500 Catholics over a period of three days in Sydney and is for clergy, religious, diocesan and parish staff and volunteers; married and single people, young and old.

**Why?** PROCLAIM 2014 is about helping Catholics respond to the call to engage in the new evangelisation. It is about helping to build parishes as faith communities, full of disciples and missionary in outlook.

Pope Francis tells us in *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) that "parishes play an essential role in evangelisation" (n28). PROCLAIM 2014 is also responding to this call from the Pope "to review and renew our parishes . . . to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented." (n28)

**How?** PROCLAIM 2014 draws upon *Evangelii Gaudium* and has as its theme 'Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parishes'. Over three days participants will be encouraged to Awaken to the Challenges facing the Church, Live their Missionary Call and Transform the Parish.

The structure of the conference allows for participants to network extensively with leaders in parish communities, members of groups and movements, personnel from diocesan agencies and to share practical ideas for making healthy and evangelising parishes.

PROCLAIM 2014 keynote speakers have successfully responded to the call to evangelisation and through their missionary efforts have rebuilt their dying Parish and brought back Catholics to a living faith. Their personal experience will provide invaluable support, ideas and pastoral initiatives for Parishes around Australia. Complementing the keynotes, specialists in a wide variety of fields from all over Australia will conduct practical workshops specifically designed to build evangelising parishes.

For more information please go to the website [www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au)