



Transforming Sydney Newsletter - March 2014

Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter for Transforming Sydney. This month we are focussed on the sphere of Government, and closely associated with Government is the Military or Armed Forces who (depending on the nation and culture) act either as or part of the Government, or as directed by the Government.

TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY

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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.

Godly Government Transforms a Nation

(By Ps Barbara Miller, Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace www.reconciliationandpeace.org)

We believe that, as God's government, the church, we are to legislate in heavenly places over our nation to usher in God's plans and purposes (Eph 2:6 & 3:10). We did this over Canberra and the Asia Pacific region through our July conference in Canberra in 2012. No doubt others legislate as God directs them. We believe a host of angels joined us at Parliament House Canberra in doing this. The Lord showed us to have a conference *right in Parliament House*, the heart of government in our nation, 3 years in a row, which we completed in 2012.

The Opening Prophetic Act

Apostle Norman Miller had been picking up for some time that we needed a prophetic act based on Ps 24:7 to open the conference to the King of Glory. As we continued to pray about it, we sensed that we needed to base it on Rev 21 and Ezek 48 and have 12 people to represent the 12 tribes of Israel standing in their gates. The Lord also showed us to have the 12 apostles, the foundations of the New Jerusalem to stand with them. We prayed for the 12 angels to join us. As we continued to pray, we sensed that the New Jerusalem needed to come down from heaven as part of the prophetic act. We made a banner of the New Jerusalem and, as we could not arrange for it to be lowered down from the ceiling, Norman unfurled it to a drum roll.



We really sensed that this brought heaven down over the Asia Pacific region and particularly over Parliament House Canberra. Not only did we open the gates to the King of Glory but I felt the Lord wanted us to have a coronation ceremony for Him and I prophetically crowned Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Norman had opened with blowing the shofar, we did a number of scripture readings and worship songs as part of the prophetic act, Barbara made a decree, the 24 elders knelt and laid their crowns before the throne and Hazel Morgan presented the prayers of the saints to the Lord representing the harp and bowl ministry. Norman also made declarations of our nations based on Isaiah 62 and

54, declaring Hephzibah and Beulah, that our nations were married to the Lord. He felt that this would change the atmosphere over our nation regarding the marriage debate.

(Continue reading on next page...)

Ps. Barbara Miller is a writer, teacher, psychologist and sociologist and her husband Ps. Norman Miller is an Aboriginal artist and businessman. Together they founded The Centre for International Reconciliation & Peace as a para-church ministry. The Millers planted a church in Cairns, Australia in 1996 & set the Centre up in 1997. They have held conferences on transformation and are working towards revival and transformation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Barbara has published the books "William Cooper, Gentle Warrior" and more recently "The European Quest to Find Terra Australis Incognita: Quiros, Torres and Janszoon".

March 2014

This month we are praying for the domain of Government. Please check our prayer Calendar for the month of March: <http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerCalendar.html>. Please pray for:

- ♥ Councils, state and Australian Parliaments, elected and appointed public officials, and supporting public servants
- ♥ Your state Premier, the Prime Minister, and their cabinets
- ♥ State and Federal Opposition Leaders and their shadow cabinet members
- ♥ Our state Governor, the Governor General, and their support staff
- ♥ Our Australian Defence Force leadership and people - especially those posted overseas
- ♥ Australian Diplomats and Embassy staff across the world, who represent our country, government and defence interests

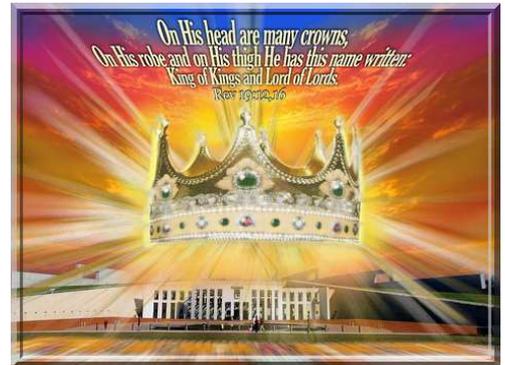
Have a look also at the TS initiative *Adopting a Senator and a Member of Parliament (MP)*:

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

Godly Government Transforms a Nation (...continued)

We had been picking up in the spirit for some months before the conference that we needed to find the rudder to turn the ship of our nation around, the game changer, and that we were the spiritual balance of power. What was the one thing we had to do that we were going into Parliament House for? I had a word just before the conference that we were the rudder. However I also sensed that the prophetic act itself was the rudder. When we had completed it, taking one and a half hours, we felt what needed to be accomplished in the spirit was done and that we could have gone home. We had a sense of “it is done” (Rev 21:6) even though it was the beginning of the conference.

When Norman shared in our church service 15 July 2012, he saw a crown come down over Parliament House confirming the coronation we had performed (artwork by David Jack).



Praying for International Relations

Praying for government also means praying for our international relations. We had speakers from Israel, Asia and the Pacific and prayed for our government’s relations with Israel and Arab nations after hearing messages on the Prophetic Destiny of the 12 Tribes of Israel by Ps Israel Pochtar and the Prophetic Destiny of the 12 Tribes of Ishmael by Rev George Fattal. Twelve (12) is the number of government. Rev Dr George Annadorai spoke on the importance of supporting Holocaust survivors and he hosted a banquet for Holocaust survivors on 12/12/12 in Israel.

My sessions at the conference dealt with, among other issues:

1. Healing Australia’s relationship with Indigenous Australians. Policies based on eugenics and “breeding out the colour” have led to major identity issues for Aboriginal people.
2. Healing of relationships between Australia and Pacific peoples e.g. Australia’s relationship with PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Zealand participants. Australia is sometimes seen as a policeman in the Pacific.
3. Healing Australia’s relationships with Asian Australians from the White Australia Policy and recognition of the changing face of Australia. The second most spoken language in Australia is Mandarin and the fourth most spoken language is Cantonese.



Prayer for Southland of the Holy Spirit over the whole Pacific

Apostle Raynold Bori of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu spoke of the Pacific region being a platform for a great move of God and we need to continue to pray that Australia and the Pacific will be the Southlands of the Holy Spirit.

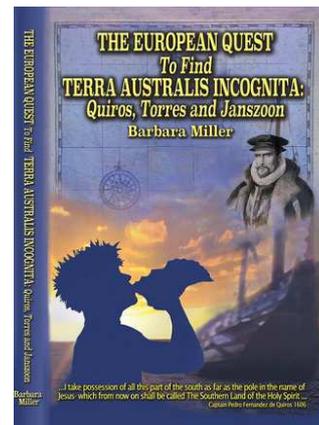
I have just written a book on this that gets the history clear and is a useful spiritual mapping and prayer resource. It is thoroughly researched so it could be used on history reading lists in schools and colleges. The book is called “*The European Quest to Find Terra Australis Incognita: Quiros, Torres and Janszoon*”.

For further information on this book see – www.barbara-miller-books.com.

On the same website, there is information on William Cooper, a Christian Aboriginal whose life was ground-breaking in working for his own people. He also led the only known private protest against Kristallnacht in 1938. I have written a book called “*William Cooper, Gentle Warrior: Standing Up for Australian Aborigines and Persecuted Jews*”. As well as a biography, it is a history of Aboriginal-white relations in Australia.

The decree made in the prophetic act at the opening

The decree that I declared as part of the opening prophetic act was as follows:



“Let the heavens and the earth and under the earth and the sea and all creatures therein hear the decree. We decree that every living creature will sing:

‘Holy, holy, holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come’

We decree and declare that Your throne in heaven, Jesus Christ, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, is established on earth and in the Parliament of Australia and of the nations gathered here. We crown you King of Kings and Lord of Lords in this coronation ceremony. We establish Your throne, Your government, your rulership in Israel, Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

We decree and declare that not only have the gates of our nations opened to the King of Glory but we invite you in, Lord Jesus, Yeshua, to enter in the gates, to sit on Your throne and take up Your kingship in Israel, Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

We decree and declare the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ. We decree and declare the fall of the city of Babylon that opposes the city of God, the New Jerusalem.

We decree and declare Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We decree it will be done in this Parliament House and the Parliament House (Knesset) of Israel and the nations as it is in heaven. We declare the government of our nations is on the shoulders of Jesus, Yeshua (Isaiah 9:6)

We decree and declare that worthy is the Lamb who was slain who has brought us salvation by His blood. We declare that the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed and is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.

We decree and declare the glory and honour of our nations will be brought into the holy city, the New Jerusalem and that our nations will stand with Israel and be sheep nations when the day of Judgement comes.

We declare hallelujah! We declare hallelujah! We declare hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad for the wedding of the Lamb has come.

In Jesus name, I release a spirit of repentance on our nations and we release a fear of the Lord upon us. I release a fear of God on the government of our nations.

We release and commission Your angels O God to their stations in this conference, in this government, in this nation, and in Israel, Asia and the Pacific. We release your warring angels, Your ministering and healing angels, Your messenger angels and all other angels You’ve assigned.

We release an anointing for the South Lands of the Holy Spirit, Australia and the Pacific, to be truly the Southlands of the Ruach Ha Kodesh and come into the fullness of that prophetic declaration.

We decree this conference will be the arrow that hits the target You have assigned for it Lord and that it will be the rudder that turns the ship of this nation around in Your Godly direction, that this conference would be a tipping point towards righteousness and justice in this nation, a game changer to turn these nations assembled to your divine purposes.

We declare and decree your protection over us and that Your angels on assignment will go to the bowels of this nation to disgorge all that is not of God, to expose what is hidden in the dark places and deal with it. We send Your angels to the festering sore at the heart of this nation to lance it and dislodge the sin and evil so that the light and glory of God can fill those places in Jesus name.

We declare and decree revival in our lands and the re-digging of the wells of revival. We decree that the river of life will flow from the throne of God into Australia, Israel, Asia and the Pacific and cleanse all before it. We decree that the tree of life will prevail over the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We declare that the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations.”

Global Prayer and Mission Summit 2016

Momentum is building for this Summit, notionally to be held in Sydney sometime in 2016. The Board of Reference is being cast with support from Christian denominations and organisations to show their desire for unity of the Body of Christ in Australia. The Summit must be hosted and run by the church for Christ's glory and for all Christians to celebrate and participate. It will be both a thanksgiving for God's grace over Australia and a celebration of the amazing and diverse gifts He has given to His people everywhere. Pray for this to be God's event and 'stay tuned!'

William Guthrie Spence

The crack as the first musket went off was like a clap of strange thunder.

'Gid doon, boyo! Thair feering...' A rough hand thrust Bill to the ground. He could hardly understand the Irishman's words. Then it registered: *Get down, boy! They're firing...*

A volley of muskets roared out. Bill poked his head up long enough to stare in disbelief as unarmed men fell in front of the soldiers' fire. There was screaming from somewhere in the distance. 'We don't have no weapons!'

But it didn't seem to matter. The officers ordered the soldiers to fire again.

The smoke, the violence, the blood and, above all, the stark injustice of the day imprinted itself on Bill's mind forever.

Bill was a young boy the day he witnessed events destined to become famous in Australian history: the Eureka Stockade. He was to grow up to become famous himself: William Guthrie Spence played an instrumental role in the Federation of Australia, transforming the country from individual colonies to one unified nation. He was also to become one of the greatest union organisers in Australia's history and the most vocal supporter of the fledgling Australian Labor Party.

The Eureka rebellion on the Victorian goldfields helped shape his thinking about justice for workers and fired him to work towards the creation of the Australian Worker's Union (AWU). However it wasn't the only thing that ignited his passion for fairness in the workplace. For William Guthrie Spence, there was only one real role model for justice and it wasn't Eureka. It was Jesus.

In 1892, he wrote: 'New Unionism was simply the teachings of that greatest of all social reformers, Him of Nazareth, whom all must revere.'

An architect of trade unionism in Australia and, ultimately, around the world, Spence was also a Methodist preacher and Presbyterian elder influenced by the words of the prophet Micah: 'He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8 NIV)

William Guthrie Spence constantly argued for the labour movement to be based on the values of Jesus. He was a Christian socialist, always stressing the need to negotiate and reconcile over conflict and confrontation. In 1891, he said he thought strikes were 'barbarous' and that he did not believe in them at all.

However he also knew working people had to organise themselves or be exploited. His strong Christian beliefs led him to decide that the use of force was never the best way forward. He hoped that employers would come to the unionists and say, 'We will go, mates, on this or that.'

Mates. That's the key.

In Bill's life – from the time he was a young boy to his leadership of workers – it was all about one of the things Australians most valued: *mateship*. But for Bill that could not truly be found outside Christian values and the ultimate act of mateship: the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for the sins of the world. 'Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.' (John 15:13 NIV)

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/spence-william-guthrie-4628>

<http://www.awu.net.au/opinions/william-guthrie-spence-nation-builder-labour-leader-worker>

Written by Annie Hamilton

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

Contact: Graham McDonald graham.mcdonald@ccca.org.au

Pope Francis' Address to New Cardinals

“The Church needs your courage, to proclaim the Gospel at all times, both in season and out of season, and to bear witness to the truth.”

Vatican City, February 22, 2014

At 11 am this morning in the Vatican Basilica, Pope Francis held his first Ordinary Public Consistory for the creation of 19 new cardinals.

"Jesus was walking ahead of them..." (Mk 10:32).

At this moment too, Jesus is walking ahead of us. He is always before us. He goes ahead of us and leads the way... This is the source of our confidence and our joy: to be his disciples, to remain with him, to walk behind him, to follow him...

When we joined to concelebrate the first Mass in the Sistine Chapel, the first word which the Lord proposed to us was "to walk", to journey with him: to journey, and then to build and to profess.

Today this same word is repeated, but now as an action, an action of Jesus which is ongoing: "Jesus was walking...". This is something striking about the Gospels: Jesus is often walking and he teaches his disciples along the way. This is important. Jesus did not come to teach a philosophy, an ideology... but rather "a way", a journey to be undertaken with him, and we learn the way as we go, by walking. Yes, dear brothers, this is our joy: to walk with Jesus. But this is not easy, or comfortable, because the way that Jesus chooses is the way of the Cross. As they journey together, he speaks to his disciples about what will happen in Jerusalem: he foretells his passion, death and resurrection. And they are "shocked" and "full of fear". They were shocked, certainly, because for them going up to Jerusalem meant sharing in the triumph of the Messiah, in his victory – we see this in the request made by James and John. But they were also full of fear for what was about to happen to Jesus, and for what they themselves might have to endure. Unlike the disciples in those days, we know that Jesus has won, and that we need not fear the Cross; indeed, the Cross is our hope. And yet, we are all too human, sinners, tempted to think as men do, not as God does. And once we follow the thinking of the world, what happens? "When the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John" (Mk 10:41). They were indignant. Whenever a worldly mentality predominates, the result is rivalry, jealousy, factions...

And so the word which Jesus speaks to us today is most salutary. It purifies us inwardly, it enlightens our consciences and helps us to unite ourselves fully with Jesus, and to do so together, at this time when the College of Cardinals is enlarged by the entrance of new members.

"And Jesus called them to himself..." (Mk 10:42). Here is the other action of Jesus. Along the way, he is aware that he needs to speak to the Twelve; he stops and calls them to himself. Brothers, let us allow Jesus to call us to himself! Let us be "con-voked" by him. And let us listen to him, with the joy that comes from receiving his word together, from letting ourselves be taught by that word and by the Holy Spirit, and to become ever more of one heart and soul, gathered around him. And as we are thus "con-voked", "called to himself" by our one Teacher, I too will tell you what the Church needs: she needs you, your cooperation, and even more your communion, communion with me and among yourselves. The Church needs your courage, to proclaim the Gospel at all times, both in season and out of season, and to bear witness to the truth. The Church needs your prayer for the progress of Christ's flock, the prayer which, together with the proclamation of the Word, is the primary task of the Bishop. The Church needs your compassion, especially at this time of pain and suffering for so many countries throughout the world. We want to express our spiritual closeness to the ecclesial communities and to all Christians suffering from discrimination and persecution. The Church needs our prayer for them, that they may be firm in faith and capable of responding to evil with good. And this prayer of ours extends to every man and women suffering injustice on account of their religious convictions. The Church needs us also to be peacemakers, building peace by our words, our hopes and our prayers: let us therefore invoke peace and reconciliation for those peoples presently experiencing violence and war.

Thank you, dear Brothers. Let us walk together behind the Lord, and let us always be called together by him, in the midst of his faithful people, our holy Mother the Church.

(February 22, 2014) © Innovative Media Inc.

Syria's children call for Peace

As world leaders meet to discuss Syria's future, children are sending a message to the leaders explaining what peace means to them. When all you hear about in Syria is war it's important to listen to the voices of children calling for peace. Please share this heartbreaking video below with your friends and give, pray and advocate in any way you can. Amplify the voice of Syria's children as global leaders and Syrian delegates meet for the first time in three years.

World Vision are inviting churches and prayer networks around the world to hold a prayer vigil with a candle or mobile phone on March 14th (the 3rd Year Anniversary) for the children of Syria. We ask the Lord to soften the hearts of leaders and to listen to the pleas of peace. <http://www.wvi.org/syria-crisis/video/starvation-war-crime>

Please post this and share this for your local church Calendar.

Prayer for Teachers, Parents, Families, Children and for Mentally Ill Patients.

(Prayer Requests from Rachael Jackson 26/2/2014)

Teachers are counselling, stepping in as parents at times, they are in between parents in family violence often left uncomfortable. They are always there for the children but the weight and efforts spent when a system doesn't support our teachers is slowly collapsing and we need to hold these amazing ppl in prayer.

- ♥ Pray for the family court it's the devils playground
- ♥ Pray for the divorce rate it's getting higher. I believe we need to make divorce harder and marriage more valuable. Unless its abuse or harm to children then every effort needs to be spend investing into marriages divorce as Christians should not be an option if God is love then love can come back into ones marriage. Praying for unity, values in society, respect and resolving conflict will have a greater impact on children and generation to come.
- ♥ Mental illness the rate is rapidly rising, we compromised our values and the enemy took root.
- ♥ Christ back into Christmas
- ♥ Scripture in all schools
- ♥ Nativity in shopping centres
- ♥ Prayer for homeless and housing crisis it's a 20 year wait on the northern beaches alone.

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

Adopting a Senator and MP

www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASenatorMP.html

Adopting A Suburb

www.transformingsydney.org/TSAadoptASuburb.html

National Prayer Strategy for the 10 Domains

www.tendoamins.org

Pray for HOPE

It's infectious! Transformation after the 'mind of Christ' not only changes us but also those around us! We're meant to be carriers; we're meant to 'infect' others!

But what about our culture and, more broadly, our society. How can we work to stop the 'progressive' agendas that are not of the mind of Christ (and are, therefore, ultimately destructive) and, at the same time, work to change the minds and hearts of people towards a better understanding. Both are essential.

HOPE: preventing euthanasia & assisted suicide Inc. takes both roles very seriously. Euthanasia legislation is raised repeatedly in Australian Parliaments and, to date, no attempts have been successful. Paul Russell, director of HOPE knows too well how close some of these battles have been. The HOPE network, in its fourth year of operation in Australia, is working to implement a 'cultural push-back' program.

"We've learnt a great deal in the past few years about campaigning and we've also learnt that Australian attitudes to euthanasia include a great deal of confusion about the issue," says Paul Russell. "Even though the underlying sense of compassion is laudable, it is nonetheless wrongly directed because of misinformation and confusion. We know that we can reach into the culture, particularly to our youth, and help to transform this thinking. Indeed, we feel a sense of responsibility to do precisely that."

HOPE is looking to increase its network throughout Australia. If you want to keep informed, go to www.no euthanasia.org.au and sign up for the regular free email service.

If you feel called to help HOPE in a particular way, email Paul at director@no euthanasia.org.au

Pray for Mission Australia

Leadership – as we farewell Toby Hall after 8 years as CEO and welcome Catherine Yeomans as our new CEO March 21, for positive transition, wisdom and grace. For our Board and leaders to support and encourage our team during this time of change.

Clients – that our clients will be empowered to take steps towards independence so they can stand for themselves

Love – that every person who interacts with Mission Australia will see our founding purpose at work 'Inspired by Jesus Christ, Mission Australia exists to meet human need and to share the knowledge of the love of God'.

Staff – protection for our staff who serve many marginalised and vulnerable people, for their strength and energy that they would not grow weary while doing good.

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>

Catholic Youth Service Sydney

City Silence is a new weekly Holy Hour for young adults (aged 18-35) hosted by *Catholic Youth Services*, the agency for young people in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Held every Tuesday at St Mary's Cathedral from 6.30-7.30pm, City Silence is led by a different priest and animated by different musicians each week; City Silence includes times of silence, reflection, scripture, and song; confessions are always available. Immediately following City Silence, all are invited 500m down the road for dinner at *Puntino Trattoria* (41 Crown Street, Woolloomooloo). Access to City Silence is via the eastern door of the Cathedral which is located at the top of the stairs across from Cathedral House. For more information on *City Silence* and events hosted by *Catholic Youth Services* 'like' www.facebook.com/catholicyouthservices

Archdiocesan Lenten Retreat for Young Adults (aged 18-35). A silent retreat will be held from 21-23 March at the new BXVI Retreat Centre in Grosevale. The retreat will be led by Fr David Callaghan from the Missionaries of God's Love. There are limited places. Email events@catholicyouthservices.org to register.

Academy of the Word Program for March 2014

DATE	SESSION
Wed 5 4.30-6pm	Bible Study An opportunity to become more deeply steeped in biblical wisdom and basing your life on it. (Acts of the Apostles). Led by: Jo de Groot. To be held at David's Place, 17 Little Albion St, Surry Hills. Followed by supper.
Fri 7 11am-12.30pm	Prayer-and-Share Learn, listen, pray and share with others in a group. To be held at Polding Centre, Level 10, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney. Tea/coffee.
Tue 11 6-7.30pm	Christian Scholarship Forum Topics for serious Catholic (all-inclusive) scholarship. Well-known speaker: Peter Abood. Excellent biblical teaching. Topic: The Virgin Birth. To be held at Polding Centre, level 10, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney. Followed by supper. Tea/coffee from 5.30pm.
Wed 19 4.30-6pm	Bible Study To be held at David's Place, 17 Little Albion St, Surry Hills. Followed by supper. (Acts of the Apostles). Led by: Jo de Groot.
Fri 21 11am-12.30pm	Prayer-and-Share Polding Centre. Tea/coffee.
Tue 25 6-7.30pm	State of the World Forum Seminal thinkers discuss global philosophies, politics, scientific endeavours, etc. Professor John Gascoigne of UNSW, Department of Humanities & Languages. Topic: Captain James Cook and the Mapping of the Pacific. Polding Centre. Followed by supper. Tea/coffee from 5.30pm.

For more information please contact Dr Jo De Groot on degrootjo@optusnet.com.au

Marriage Week AUSTRALIA

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>

A message from Ruth Bouij - Ipswich Transformation

Hi friends, I am writing because of a God experience I had two days ago. I am seeking confirmation or a response, as I believe that God is calling his people to a 3 Day Esther Fast from 13th March to 15th March. This may be just for us in Ipswich, but because of the intensity of what happened, I must send to a broader network, just in case it is relevant further abroad. This is the Jewish time for the Purim fast that was instigated in the book of Esther.

Bear with me – this is what happened:

In my devotion time as I was preparing for our Saturday National Day of Prayer and Fasting event in Ipswich, I went to open my Bible, and a split second before I did, I sensed God give me the word 'Esther'. Sure enough, the Bible opened at Esther chapters 8 and 9. Now, I did not remember what those chapters specifically contained – my eyes were first drawn to King Ahasuerus saying to Esther (Esther 9:12):

“Now, what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done.”

Then I began looking into the rest of the writings on those pages. I was next drawn to the date associated with the Purim fast - (not the initial fast that Esther proclaimed in Chapter 4). The one on the 13th of Adar. I decided to look up when that occurs in 2014, as it changes each year. It always must begin on a Thursday and end on Saturday. It was the 13th March. The Purim day itself is on the 16th.

There is more to this. My middle name is Esther (not an accident), and for about a decade or more now, God has from time to time tasked me to call a fast for different times – always out of the blue and unplanned by myself. My birthday happens to be (co-incidence??) on the 13th March, so by now God really had my attention.

This date – is only 1 ½ weeks away, not much time to plan or prepare, but that doesn't concern me, as I am just keen to flow with the Holy Spirit on this. So at least in Ipswich, we will be encouraging anyone who feels to join in to be a part of this fast.

I believe the fast is for BREAKTHROUGHS. Anyone who needs a breakthrough from the onslaught of the enemy in their personal, family, business, health, ministry, city -

Just as Esther and Mordecai achieved this breakthrough, God is going to come through for his people during this fast. I know that it is in the middle of the 40 day fast, but perhaps this little 3 days is a more intense, focussed one. I don't know. All I know is I did not plan it, but the whole thing became very clear to me very quickly, almost instantly.

The elements of this fast are:

What is your request? And even your 'further' request?

Write it down as a decree, just as Esther did.

Bring this decree to the foot of the cross for God to deal with. Do battle for it.

Fast and pray for Thursday and Friday and focus on the victory that is going to come.

On Saturday – celebrate - This is the Purim Party on the day of rest. Really praise and thank God for the victory, whether you see it in the natural or not.

To further facilitate this in our area, we are going to open up our Awakening room from Thursday to Saturday from 11am to 8pm, for people to come and pray, share together, have communion, and just spend time with God for any time that Suits. We will have copies of scriptures as God reveals more of his purposes in this. So it will be quite simple really.

On Saturday, people can bring something to share for the all day party. We will also supply some 'party food' for this day. It is going to be a joyous time.

Interestingly, I have mentioned this to a few people, who have instantly jumped in, saying they have just been thinking of fasting, or are in need of a breakthrough.

I would ask you to pray for confirmation, as to whether this is for you and your circle of contacts. It is no issue to me if not. I am just following what God is asking of me, and I have no idea if there is a broader agenda on God's heart. I will leave that to Him to work on if so. Who knows why He is wanting this fast??? Perhaps there are further keys out there. I would love your feedback all the same, whatever your personal response might be.

Perhaps if you have a moment, read Esther Chapters 8 and 9 and see if it speaks to you. You may also like to google Purim and discover just how much this means to the Jewish community, who continue to maintain its celebration.

Many blessings,

Ruth Booiij

News and Events

The Dark Frontier: Evangelising the Post Christian Western World

The Christian world has changed.

Though the evangelical church is growing in many parts of Africa, Asia and South America, it is in decline in much of the Western world.

Consequently, millions of people in traditionally Christian countries, including Australia, have never heard and understood the gospel of salvation.

So how can local churches help their people engage this dark frontier throughout the western world?

Join us on Tuesday March 11th for a delicious breakfast, fellowship with other Christian leaders and an inspiring keynote address from Michael Raiter on this important issue.

When **7:45-9:30am, Tuesday
March 11, 2014**

Where **SMBC, 43 Badminton
Rd, Croydon**

Cost **Please be our Guest!**

RSVP **By March 6th, 2014**

Contact **Tim Silberman
(mail@reachoutmissions.com.au or 0411 371 581)**

Michael Raiter – Director, Centre for Biblical Preaching.

Michael has served as a missionary in Pakistan, head of the Department of Missions at Moore Theological College and Principal of the Melbourne School of Theology. He is now the Director of the Centre for Biblical Preaching which he founded in 2012. Michael is also the author of Stirrings of the Soul, which won the 2004 SPCK Australian Christian Book of the Year Award.

Verbum Dei Easter 2014

The Joy of the Cross

Date: 17 to 19 April

Where: St Joseph's Rosebery

Run by:

Verbum Dei Missionaries

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

www.verbumdeiaustralia.com

Contact Kylie on 93137099

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

Reaching the Youth

**Generation Fire Retreat
28th-30th March 2014**

The Fire Hub

20 Attunga Rd Blaxland

Guest Speaker:

Rick Rupp (Ihop KC)

More info on the Generation Fire website

<http://www.generationfire.com.au/>

Stopping

Homelessness

"We see this as an exciting opportunity to improve housing supply, give people a practical way to help in the fight against homelessness, and gain access to the private rental market for many people who may otherwise be homeless"

Heather Holst, CEO

For more information call

Andrea Levey

Housing Options Coordinator

HomeGround Services

M 0414 469 518

www.homeground.org.au

27 Million Trafficked People Need Your Help To Fill in a 5 minute survey

Justin Pagotto has just launched the website I have linked below.

Social enterprises make profits which are distributed into changing the world.

It's all about making everyday purchases for everyday products and services that you would normally buy anyway but by making these purchases through this website you are **supporting the global effort to end Human Slavery/Trafficking.**

Please take the time to check out the link below and please **fill out the 5 minute survey**, which will help them to get this awesome work started and so they can serve your needs better while your proceeds go to work ending Human Trafficking.

<http://moneyforjam.launchrock.com/>

