

Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

March 2016 - Praying for Govt. & Military



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From the National Coordinators

Some time ago I worked at a major Australian bank in a small but innovative team.

One day, a new manager was introduced to us by our team leader as someone who would be working with us for a few months. I immediately sensed in the spirit that this person would betray us in some way and I mentioned to my colleague that I felt it best to be careful of them.

One week later our team leader came back from a meeting very upset - this person had apparently claimed to senior management that they themselves had created a new solution to a pressing problem; the same solution that we had been developing prior to him working with our team.

This person was quite new to the bank and was desperate for recognition, and tried to steal our work and claim it for their own. It backfired however as we had solid evidence of our earlier work.

This very sad scenario is also common within the body of Christ. We have seen an endemic lack of honouring others work and 'stepping on the heads of others' by some self-appointed leaders who are trying to impress people to follow them, and donate to their cause.

The Apostle Paul said it so well in his letter to the Ephesian church:

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. [Eph 4:28]

Paul is firmly instructing on how Christians and the Church must support each other with their gifts and with honesty. The world is starving for trust and we should demonstrate the trust that people are seeking.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. [Rom 12:10]

If we whose eyes are open to the truth do not engender a culture of honour, where can the people of the world turn to for trust?

"It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" [Mat 21:13, also Isa 56:7, Jer. 7:11]

Pray for us to be continually humble and acknowledge the work of others in all we do - we are here today and blessed by the steadfast efforts of so many brothers and sisters in the past and present, and other will build upon our work also and honour us - if we honour each other.

Also, we must, I repeat MUST be tolerant of one another and not take offence, even when it appears that some of our family are attacking us intentionally and not just being 'clumsy' or producing careless comments or actions.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [Eph 4:3-6]

The interesting epilogue to the above story is that the person in question was reprimanded by the management for trying to steal credit from our team and could have been kicked out of the bank, however our team leader in a true spirit of forgiveness intervened and asked for them to be given another chance. The last I knew of that person, they were a valuable employee of the bank and a good teamplayer.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. [Eph 4:16]

Dear fellow 'ligaments', we pray you have a blessed Easter and Pentecost!

Grace and peace,
Lilian & Bjorn Schmid



History repeats itself with the blessing of the Lord from the 14th of May 1606 to the 14th of May 2016

On this Day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606.....

de Quiros's actual proclamation was as follows: *"Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures and all those present witness that I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros.....in the name of Jesus Christ hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which His (Jesus Christ's) person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of all the human race.... on this Day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606..... I, take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus.... Which from now on shall be called the Southern land of the Holy Ghost"*

[Editor's note - the English words first came as "A note of Australia del Espiritu Santo. Written by Master Hakluyt." - published by Samuel Purchas in 1625 - Purchas, vol. iv, p. 1422-32.]

Read this Extract from "Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage" - Col Stringer

<http://www.swcs.com.au/aust2.htm>

Have you ever wondered why Australia was not colonised long before it was? Why didn't the Muslims colonise this place, after all they were visiting our shores for hundreds of years before the Europeans came? And what about the Hindus? They came and colonised Bali, which is but a few hundred kilometres across the Arafura Sea from Australia's north coast. Doesn't it seem strange that this huge, almost vacant continent was left untouched for thousands of years? It's almost as though this massive continent, situated in the most populated area on earth, was invisible. I believe, again like many of my ancestors, that God has kept this nation for Himself, for such a time as this.

Southland Of The Holy Spirit - An Honour Bestowed On No Other Nation

In the year 1606 Capt. Pedro Fernandez de Quiros gave this continent the name "Australia del Espiritu Santo" or literally "Southland of the Holy Spirit". In the Bible Hebrew names not only indicate character but also happenings and even the destiny of those granted that name. What does this suggest for the destiny of Australia? No other nation on earth has been blessed with the title "South Land of the Holy Spirit"!

Captain de Quiros's actual words had been "La Austrialia del Espiritu Santo" - believing he had reached the land he had been seeking - Terra Australis - he later stated that he'd had his Spanish monarch (from the house of Austria) in his mind as he dedicated this land of the South to the Holy Spirit. But quite ironically (for him), he was standing east of Australia in Vanuatu as he spoke - and Austria literally means "Eastern Kingdom". Still the Holy Spirit was doubtless involved in this irony (which we, somewhat like an audience, can also now see). Only one letter, the letter "i" needed to be removed to correct the focus - *Austrialia* to become *Australia* - and the English translation gets it right. "We do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Holy Spirit pleads our case for us." "... I must decrease " End note.

"... and this always and foreverand to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly." (Michael de Looper, Fernandez de Quiros, Understanding Our Christian Heritage).

This Pentecost the Church in Sydney is coming together to celebrate 2 historical events Pentecost and the Declaration of Australia as the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. It will be exactly 410 years since Capt. de Quiros made that remarkable proclamation and what we know now to be prophecy.

Join us at **The Salvation Army, 34 Smith St, Parramatta NSW 2150** on **Saturday 14th May from 7pm to 10pm**, and let's hear together what God has to say to us.

Transforming Sydney

The Parramatta Pastors

Leaders of churches, ministries and intercessors from across Sydney



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SYDNEY**

Healing and Strength through Prayer

By Marie Ficarra, 14 February 2016

This is my personal reflection on prayer and what it means to me.

I am and always have been a practising Roman Catholic, but I have been lucky enough to have met people of many faiths and some very good people who profess no faith, yet are spiritual and moral in their lives. In all, I recognise a capacity for prayer, which seems to me to be one of the essential attributes of a sensitive and spiritual human being. Without prayer, we are incomplete. In my view prayer is not conditional on belief – a person can humbly pray that they may receive the gift of faith.

In saying our Lord's Prayer we express the critical elements of all prayers, veneration of the Higher Being who we acknowledge as our Creator and expressions of hope. We hope for sustenance, asking to be given our daily bread. We hope for forgiveness, recognising that being human, we fail to be perfect. We have not always done what we knew was right and just. We hope for divine guidance in the future, to help us avoid temptation. We submit to God, acknowledging him as owner of kingly power and deserving of all glory forever.

To take the last one first, whenever praying to God, I prefer to state an expression of submission. In my last words of my last speech in Parliament, I included the words of the lovely Psalm 115 "Not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name give the glory." These are probably the words of King David, who could have claimed lots of glory for himself.

Shakespeare's King Henry V, after a great triumph at Agincourt, departs the stage encouraging his followers to sing that Psalm in Latin: "Non nobis Domine." I feel strongly that all who call themselves believers in God and even those who are unsure about Him and His place in our lives, should make this acknowledgement. We never achieve anything on our own and nor do we deserve unshared praise for what we have done, though we can and should be gracious in accepting any praise and thanks we are offered. Rather we can freely accept praise on behalf of our God and all of his creation. We will be better people for doing so.

This concept of submission to a higher power is not peculiar to Jewish and Christian faiths. The word Islam means submission to God. Chinese people who venerate their ancestors and sages are acknowledging the honour and glory that can be given them. I expect the same can be said for many religions. I personally believe that we have the freedom to do what we will in our lives and that God does



not predetermine our every action. I take my share of blame when things go badly and I expect fair personal reward for doing a good job that brings benefit to others. But I can only reap rewards because my God has given me the ability to do this and I will always acknowledge His part. Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.

Prayer for guidance is a smart idea. In this era, surveillance cameras are everywhere, our Facebook posts and tweets are widely read and our private space is very limited. We can't expect to get away with bad behavior and we should continually remind ourselves of this. But the ancient belief that an all knowing God will see and judge our actions can be bought to mind by a prayer for guidance. After pause for reflection, we generally know what is right and are discouraged from doing wrong. Acting in haste, impulsively, we often make mistakes that we repent at leisure. Prayer for guidance sets us on a straight path.

Prayer for forgiveness is closely coupled with

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acknowledgement of wrongdoing and sincere repentance. In the Eucharist rite which Roman Catholics call mass, the prayer for forgiveness follows the general confession. We acknowledge our faults and ask forgiveness from God, but also from our brothers and sisters. In repenting, we are inherently forgiving ourselves, as we should. This can be a deeply meaningful ritual for people of all faiths or, indeed, no faith. The prayer "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy" has carried the Greek form "Kyrie Eleison" from the early centuries of Christian worship to the present day, not just in Greek litany but also when the rite is said in Latin English and other languages. It is in the Coptic (Egyptian) Christian liturgy, which uses both the Coptic and the Greek language. It is very old and unique in its prevalence. In Greek, it survived in the western world after the split between Rome and Constantinople and it survived the Reformation, still in Greek, in the Church of England's communion rite and in Lutheran services. I personally hope it will long survive in its Greek form and that curious children will learn of its origin and significance to Christians.

Working back, we come to prayers for sustenance, noting that our Lord made this, the first prayer for personal help, a prayer for us, undoubtedly meaning all of us. Neither our worst enemies, nor any creatures we befriend, admire or use, should be deprived of adequate food and drink. We are not encouraged by current major religions to make prayers for betterment in our lives, but some religions have certainly done that. Fortuna, equivalent to the Greek goddess Tyche, was the Roman goddess of fortune and personification of luck. She might bring good or bad luck and had a cult following long before Christianity. Bargaining might be part of the prayer to Fortuna. "If you do this for me, I promise I will do something in your name for others." A number of New Age proponents have emphasised the use of spiritual techniques as a tool for attaining financial prosperity. Ayn Rand has had a wide cult following for her philosophy "the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute." To me, adopting these 20th century philosophies seems dangerously like transformation of greed into some sort of moral virtue. However we should distinguish commonplace wishes for luck from prayers. As I write this we are in Chinese New Year. An enormous gold lucky cat waves his paw in Sydney's Chinatown, a symbol of hope for fortune in the year ahead. Similar good luck symbols and gestures abound in our society, without overtly religious connotations. Lightheartedly we may cross ourselves, throw a coin in a fountain, touch wood or kiss dice before rolling them.

Of course, being human, I run with the pack in doing little superstitious acts and thoughts, hoping to get lucky. But I would never want my God to favour me over others in a way I do not deserve. Personally, I don't try bargaining with my God and I think I am well down the scale in making prayers for personal betterment. I pray for a just world where the gaps between rich and poor are diminished, even if that means the growth of my own personal wealth is restrained. I am a proud taxpayer. I also do what I can to limit my dependence on others, believing that as Euripides wrote in Ancient Greece: "Try first thyself, and after call in God; For to the worker God himself lends aid." In more recent times, this has become the axiom "God helps those who help themselves." Some might add "and God help those caught helping themselves to my stuff."

Whenever I think of people who believe they deserve their riches I think of Daffy Duck, gluttonously getting stuck into an enormous meal, "almost but not quite more than I deserve." The arrogant fool was being fattened for the Thanksgiving feast of Elmer Fudd. We should not pray for great riches, but accept with humility what comes our way through the grace of God. We can reasonably hope and pray for peace, for a simple personal contentment in life, free from worry and conflict, or for world peace, that all peoples may live in harmony. I always believe that a person is really rich if they are in reasonable health with a roof overhead, giving a dry warm, safe place to sleep each night, enough good food to eat each day and a relaxed mind, free from doubt about their personal wealth. A Jewish woman who had spent most of World War 2 struggling to survive in appalling misery once castigated her son for lamenting his temporary misfortune, when nothing but monetary wealth had diminished in his otherwise comfortable life. How right she was to do so.

Coming back to the beginning of our Lord's Prayer, He expects us to honour the name of the Father. Hallowed is old English, meaning to honor as holy; consider sacred; venerate. The Greek equivalent,

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Healing and Strength through Prayer (...continued)

hagiasthêtô, has the same stem as the designation of a saint. We can hallow ground, such as the battlefield of Lone Pine at Gallipoli, where so many young ANZACs, Turks and soldiers of other nations died. Giving honor to God is easy for me, as I explained before. Hallowing helps us remember sacrifice and noble deeds, those of saints and of simpler people who did their duty as they saw it.

What about intercession, a much contested theology? Can God be influenced by the representations of those who might lobby on our behalf? In some ways, it does make sense, for not everyone feels they can speak best when they speak for themselves. Advocacy is mainstream behavior in litigation and, like diplomacy, it facilitates resolution of conflict. For some, advocacy behavior crosses over into politics. In my political life, I always encouraged people to bring their problems direct to me, rather than engage lobbyists. But I would always encourage use of translators when people are not confident about getting their point across because of language difficulty. I also believe in advocacy when the rights and needs of children and infirm adults are being considered.

Perhaps some people can speak to God more comfortably through interceding persons like Mother Mary than directly. Certainly the representation of Mary as woman and mother, one who lost her Son and thereby suffered greatly, is one that helps me think about love and loss. During World Youth Week in Sydney we saw the portrayal of Our Lady Mary at the foot of the Holy Cross as her Son was taken down dead, the beautiful singing of Pia Jesu, the sun setting. This was a truly unforgettable moment in the lives of many. I would encourage all people who want to go on remembering a person who has lost a loved one to perform a little ritual: light a candle, look at the face of Mary and say a prayer. I have done this many times, all over the world and it always brings me peace. For those who are uncomfortable about seeking intercession, as Catholics so openly do when they pray the "Hail Mary," I suggest they try this ritual anyway. I expect they will discover that making a prayer before Our Lady Mary is a good way to focus their mind on what they want to think, in their moment of silent reflection.

We might pray for many other things in life, including recognition. Unless we are extremely humble, being told we are good, we are smart, we are lively, we are fun to be with, does lift our spirits. Recognition is not always about getting just monetary rewards and it is not unreasonable to expect it. Yet I am not comfortable praying to God for recognition by humans, or their admiration. I doubt that I deserve God's support for this. Rather than praying, I recommend to others strategies that, in my experience, almost guarantee that you will be recognised by those whose opinions you respect. These include generosity, sharing your fortune and your wisdom with others who have less than you. Also asking others to tell you things about them, rather than blowing your own horn. Resisting the temptation to say negative things about others, because even if the listener agrees, that person will have a lower opinion of you for saying what you did.



I also think that we should only appreciate the opinions about us that come from people we know, trust and respect. We should try to disregard the flattery of fools and the negative criticism of knaves.

We might also pray for the ability to love. In Dione Warwick's song "I say a little prayer for you" the woman in love was repeatedly asking her God to make that love everlasting - "for ever and ever I will love you." Today, as I write, it is Valentine's Day and this prayer, to be able to give love, will be mine.

As I end my thoughts on prayer, I turn again to the Kyrie Eleison, the prayer for the Lord's mercy. In the year of Mercy, the Holy Father Pope Francis has asked us to reflect on the image of the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, taking humanity upon himself. We are asked to reach out to the broken in body and spirit, with corporal and spiritual works of mercy including forgiving injuries and praying for the living and the dead. We too can be merciful and in so being, we are assuredly blessed. I pray for mercy to rise in me.

Dear reader, I am also praying for you and asking you to pray for others.



God's Ambassadors in a Wicked World

By Pastor Jeff Daly, National Day of Repentance - www.dayofrepentance.org

It's getting to be obvious: in nations with any Judeo-Christian roots the year after year influence of unbiblical secular thinking creeping its way into our laws, schools, and homes has increasingly poisoned our precious Christian roots. Many of our children are being robbed of our Christian heritage through cultural poison. That poison seems inconceivable to those unaware of, or repelled by, the concept of sin inherent in Biblical standards. But secular thinking is deadly to both persons and nations. Proverbs 14:12, repeated in Proverbs 16:25, tells us this Truth: *"There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the way of death."*

In nation after nation with earlier Christian roots most Christians have left "government" to other persons while we enjoyed our personal lives and families. With obvious exceptions, public service was often seen as not appropriate for Christians. Pastors and priests stayed largely silent in their pulpits about politics.

Silence and apathy are no longer options. Before our Christian roots are destroyed what are we to do? His eternal Holy Word in James 4:7 gives us one basic answer: submit to God, resist the devil and---it's a spiritual law---- the devil will flee. That's true for persons and for nations.

While we are to be in the world and not of it, fearing God not man, more and more it helps to see ourselves as connected to our government, boldly holding those in office accountable when they stray from Biblical standards. It's not enough to vote and leave it to someone else. Resisting the devil means humbly but publicly opposing his practices and policies whenever they spring up, locally and nationally.

But even before "resisting the devil" is "submitting to God." In the face of increased opposition to Christian standards one might wish to withdraw, to hide, to leave confrontation to someone else. But His Word urges us to take a different path thanks to His Holy Spirit within us. It's best to repent of our apathy first. But then you and I are to "come boldly" to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. [Hebrews 4:16]. "Come boldly" literally means "without reservation, with frankness, with full and open speech." In the face of increasing wickedness in our culture, we Christians are to be His public ambassadors for such a time as this, with full and open speech.

One definition of "ambassador" is "an authorized messenger or representative." He wishes to see us as His ambassadors to our families, our neighbors, our public servants. While there are different assignments from Christ, God is no respecter of persons. The work of ministry is the enterprise of each

member of the body of Christ and not the exclusive charge of select leaders. The Risen Christ "hated" the Nicolaitans because they claimed some type of superior status above lay people, leading them into immorality and idolatry. [Revelation 2:6 and 2:15].

Scripture shows us repeatedly that when we submit to God He goes to work on our behalf personally and nationally. Submitting to God is more than quiet piety. It also includes speaking out publicly about His Truths whenever possible. Without His Word being proclaimed publicly His light will flicker out. We have to speak His light into the darkness even at the risk of losing friends, losing jobs, and facing persecution. Those of us who have been silent in the past will now have to see ourselves as His Kingdom Ambassadors whatever the venue.

"Government " is more than elected officials. It's you and me speaking out. It's not enough to attend church, listen to a sermon and leave government policies to "politicians." By our words and actions in public we have to be seen as His salt and light, submitted to God, fearing God not man.

This is in keeping with those who wrote the Preamble to Australia's Constitution. The agreement of the people to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown and the Constitution was premised upon submission to God, on their "humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God." "Humble reliance on Almighty God" was proper submission to Him. That statement alone opened God's heart and gave promise of Australia's destiny as part of the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit.

Submitting to God, resisting the devil: this is God's path to drive satan out of our nations. I'm a bystander but I believe this may be happening as prayer leaders urge Christians in Australia to submit comments to a Senate Inquiry on the Impact of Porn on Kids even as the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program is being exposed for its devastating same sex agenda. [Please forgive us as so much of this trash comes from the United States].

It's time for the Bride of Christ to awaken in every nation. It's time to become God's Ambassadors in a wicked world. It's time to be bold for Christ as were many founders of our Christian nations.

May this submission to God and public resistance to the devil's plans grow in Australia. May it become a model for other nations, fulfilling God's destiny for your nation, all for His Glory.

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Jesus Plus...Tradition

St Mark's 6.3.16 zzPosted on 30-Jan- 2016 by Dr. John Yates - <http://cross-connect.net.au/signs-of-satan/>

Deut 6:4-7; Ps 78:1-8; Gal 1:11-14; Matt 15:1-9

"For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers." (Gal 1:11-14)

Introduction

Paul's letter to the Galatians is one long rebuke whose pitch is consistently high. Where he thanked God for the Corinthian church, though they had sins ranging from incest to denying the resurrection of the dead, he has no praise for the Galatian church because they were entertaining teaching that attacked the gospel message (1 Cor 1:4). This letter is a profound picture of the ongoing spiritual battle between the grace of God and the laws of man and between a religion of good works and one of faith.

But our passage today touches on a root problem that has constantly corrupted Christianity and is almost always very poorly dealt with. I have fought against this terrible problem in every church I have been a part of because it drains off the spiritual power of Christians to reach out into the world with the gospel. It is the "Jesus plus..." problem. The false teachers in Galatia were preaching Jesus plus the Jewish law, some churches today teach Jesus plus baptism for salvation, another teaches Jesus plus Mary. When I was younger I was thrown out of a church meeting for argument with a "Jesus plus speaking in tongues if you want to go to heaven" group.

I hear that last week Alison preached against trying to follow Jesus plus "other gods"; spiritualism, Hinduism, Buddhism and so on. This is important. But there is a dimension to the "Jesus plus..." problem that is so devious it is rarely recognised and confronted because it induces spiritual blindness to the presence of Jesus himself (Rom 2:19; Rev 3:17). The stubborn problem which Paul confronts in today's passage is *Jesus plus religious tradition*. This

problem hides in the most unlikely places.

As a new Christian I joined a dynamic new Pentecostal Church which was very conscious of being different to older traditional churches. I remember a preacher, they never preached for less than 45 minutes [why not?], describing the mainstream churches being like Lazarus; when Jesus raised him from the dead, he hopped out of the tomb like a mummy wrapped in the grave clothes of useless traditions, Jesus' word to the older churches was the same as that spoken to Lazarus, "Unbind him, and let him go." (John 11:44).

After a while I realised that this church's *condemnation of tradition was in fact part of their tradition* of spiritual superiority and it took our eyes off Jesus. When I raised with the pastor why he allowed speaking in tongues in public without interpretation his answer had nothing to do with Christ and I knew my time in that place was limited. The dividing line between godly traditions e.g. saying the creeds and reading the Bible in Church (John G's repeated comments) and useless human traditions has to do with the gospel.

Who's Gospel?

When Paul say to the Corinthians, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures," (1 Cor 15:3); he unapologetically uses the language of tradition because gospel tradition is all about Jesus. Thus when he says in Galatians, "I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel." he is making it crystal clear that no earthly authority was the source of his message. The gospel of Christ does not come out of Paul's head but out of God's heart (Piper). As such it was spoken with divine rather than human authority (Mark 1:22). As our passage makes clear for Paul to start preaching the gospel of Jesus as the Messiah involved a remarkable transforming conversion experience.

The Paul of Tradition

"For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and

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Jesus Plus...Tradition (...continued)

tried to destroy it." (Gal 1:13 cf. Acts 8:1ff; 9:1ff, 13ff; 16:9ff; 22:4ff). Before he met Jesus Paul/Saul was a Jewish terrorist. The book of Acts describes him leaving the stoning of Stephen "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord," (Acts 9:1).

Just this week (2/2/16) there a major article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz titled "Christians in Jerusalem Want Jews to Stop Spitting on Them." The article relates incidents of spitting, assault and intimidation. This is the type of attitude, though much worse, that Paul carried because he was absolutely convinced that the Jewish Law as it had been taught to him was utterly irreconcilable with the message that the crucified Jesus was Messiah. Christianity was a corrupt heretical version of Judaism polluting the faith by suggesting that Gentiles could be saved without keeping the Law of Moses.

The key to understanding this degree of fanaticism is wrapped up in the words, "I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for *the traditions of my fathers*." (1:14). Paul has more to say about the nature of such "fatherly tradition" in Acts.

Tradition

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus... brought up in Jerusalem...educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God..." (Acts 22:3). Gamaliel was a rabbi famous for his learning and his veneration of the Jewish law, a law which in Paul's day included hundreds of strict ritual and moral rules handed down by word of mouth. Whereas Jesus attributed his great authority to his heavenly Father (John 14:11) the rabbis looked to men like Gamaliel as father-figures to whom they were powerfully bound by ties of loyalty. The constant clash between Jesus and the Pharisees was ultimately a clash over fatherhood (Matt 5:21ff; 15:2; 23:2ff.). Christ made his Father wonderfully accessible; the "traditions of the fathers" in Judaism made getting to God seem impossible (Matt 23).

Paul had once been trapped in a father-son religious system that was a dead human tradition and hated the prospect that this would happen to his spiritual children in Galatia (4:19). From personal experience the apostle knew the

difference between being under a legalistic system of rules and the liberty which the gospel of Jesus brings. Jesus shares us the power of his own glorious life but following mere human traditions cuts us off from the life of God. Let me give a recent example.

When fighting broke out last year between different tribes in South Sudan it triggered off conflict amongst Anglican Sudanese in Perth that was so strong that the archbishop shut down one of their churches. After praying about this problem I went to their senior minister with a very counter-cultural message I believe was from God. Underneath the obvious idolatry of tribalism was a generations old tradition of accepting unquestioningly the authority of tribal *fathers* in their condemnation of other ethnic groups. It had never crossed the mind of the archdeacon that the root problem was a tradition of false fathering which had nothing to do with the Father of Jesus. *Jesus plus* our fathers' authority is far more common than we imagine.

Traditions which are not Christ-centred is that they never spiritually empower; they are merely *traditionalism*. Someone famously said, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And...it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name." (Pelikan). To test whether we as a church are following the gospel tradition or traditionalism let's look at a couple of real life contemporary examples:

Ros Appleby recently sent a letter to Church Council headed "Family Friendly Church" making an appeal that our All-Age Service be limited to an hour so she and others could feel comfortable in inviting friends with small children. Since Jesus said "'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 18:16) it is plain that anything which would stand in the way of the little ones coming to Christ through the Church should be removed. It is easy to have an All-Age Service in an hour if we drop communion and use a very simple form of liturgy. The fact that this issue needs to be raised at all shows that we have a tradition of allowing traditionalism to get in the way of bringing people to Christ.

Here is another example that disturbs me very much. When I heard that there was going to be a large amount of money flowing back to the parish

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Jesus Plus...Tradition (...continued)

from our property redevelopment I got quite excited, because I immediately began to see how we could up some sort of Christian presence in the midst of Bassendean somewhere on Old Perth Road. But when I found out Anglican headquarters had decreed that these funds must be used for the upkeep of buildings rather than outreach ministry into the needs of the community I became quite angry because this decree is a formula for death. People must have priority over buildings; today Jesus would be found amongst the poor, homeless, addicts, abused, struggling families and the mentally disturbed.

The unhealthy development of tradition has already turned the great cathedrals of Europe into "fossil museums" and the same is happening here. I was walking around Melbourne early in the morning a few weeks ago and went past St Paul's Cathedral. The steps and lawns of this beautiful building were covered with sleeping homeless people whilst all the doors were firmly bolted. The sort of tradition which has kept Jesus locked inside churches gives churchgoers some sense of security and significance but paralyzes mission.

The only thing can break the stranglehold of men's religious traditions is the revelation of Jesus Christ. The authentic Jesus tradition comes directly from heaven and it gives you the power to witness to Christ.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Paul says "I did not receive", the gospel, "from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it *through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*" (1:12). Paul spent years studying the Bible under those considered to be the best teachers in the world, but when he had an immediate supernatural visionary encounter with the heavenly Jesus on the road to Damascus his whole religious world was turned upside down. From being a persecutor of Christians and someone who despised the name of Jesus he became the greatest witness for Christ of all time (2 Cor 5:16; cf. Eighteen Benedictions etc.).

Here is how the Acts describes his transforming conversion experience; "immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this

purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" But he became *more and more powerful* and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ." (Acts 9:20-22). From a hater of the gospel message Paul became the most powerful evangelist of all time; the secret of how this happened is found in several other passages in Galatians. In 1:16 we read "God was pleased to reveal his Son in me" (1:16 cf. Matt 16:17). Traditionalism and legalism kills joy but the revelation of Jesus brings the blessing of God the Father and great joy (Matt 16:16-17; Rom 14:17; Gal 4:15). This is how Paul describes such an experience later in Galatians, "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."'" (Gal 4:4-6).

The traditionalism I see across the churches is like a dead hand choking the airway of the Spirit so that we people are unable to spontaneously cry out "'Father, our Father.'"

Any genuine *Christian* tradition will be filled with the presence of the life of Jesus himself (1Cor 7:10, 11:23; 15:3). A church that experiences the revelation of Jesus Christ will be bathed with something no human tradition can impart, the pleasure of knowing God as Father and the power this brings to live for God. This sort of tradition means people can't stop talking about Jesus and showing his love to the world.

Deep in their heart no real Christian wants to be bound by useless tradition, so why does this happen again and again? The *Jesus plus* problem is rooted in unbelief about God the Father's willingness to reveal his Son Jesus to us/to *me!* Unbelief over the revelation of Jesus is always a sign that we have forgotten the full and final revelation of the love of God in the cross and have become distracted by other things (Gal 3:1). Our faithfulness to following the way of Christ's cross is the test of everything (Gal 2:20; 5:11, 24; 6:14). Everyone who has had a life transforming revelation of the cross will have a heart to take the risk in reaching out into the community beyond the church with the message of the gospel.

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Jesus Plus...Tradition (...continued)

Conclusion

When I first became an Anglican I heard an expression I had never come across before, "Such and such is a "good churchman"." Someone who was as a regular attendee, a helper with the flowers, a lay pastoral assistant, a member of church council, handy around the property or assisting in the office, a member of MU.... All these things have their place but none of them can substitute for the power of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This sermon is being preached to an Anglican congregation but the problem of traditionalism is right across the Church. My old arrogant Pentecostal Church correctly discerned that there needed to be different ways of doing Church if we were to keep bringing lost Australians to Christ. They were right to pay heed to Paul's prophetic words, "in the last days there will come times of stress. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray

their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God 5 *holding the form of religion but denying its power.*" (2 Tim 3:1-5). Sadly, if you walk into the average Pentecostal Church (cf. Hillsong) today there may be great music and plenty of young people but the sort of things that first attracted me to that form of religion, healing the sick, casting out demons, reading and preaching the Bible and so on, all of which reveal the life of Christ, have disappeared. This is the triumph of traditionalism in our day.

The *Jesus plus* problem at times makes me feel angry, but much more deeply it makes me feel sad; the sort of spiritual sadness a genuine spiritual father/mother feels which made it impossible for Paul to give thanks for the Galatian church. If the revelation of Jesus makes God happy a powerless religious life bound by the laws and traditions made up by men saddens his Spirit of God.

Where is your life today? Are we willing as individuals and as a church to allow the power of the cross to strip us of any useless traditions whatever the cost and whatever the risk so others might have the revelation of Jesus? It is time to pray.



RISEN!
12 Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

A Mysterious Month:
A month that changed the world and
Our Month in Israel:
We walked where Jesus walked

To celebrate the new movie RISEN, and Easter, I've published "RISEN: 12 Resurrection Appearances".
See <https://renewaljournal.wordpress.com/2016/02/04/risen-12-resurrection-appearances/>
I'm happy to mail you a free paperback copy in thanks for your positive review comment on Amazon & Kindle. Give me your address in a comment at the bottom of this page after you add your review comment on Amazon & Kindle
Geoff Waugh

RISEN!
12 Resurrection Appearances
Geoff Waugh

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A Doctrinal Spiritual Warfare Prayer for the Safe Schools Coalition Australia

By David Rowsome

ADDRESS GOD

Eternal and Loving God,

WORSHIP

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour.¹

You are the Most High God who dwells in eternity - there is none beside You.

You are faithful to all Your promises and loving toward all You have made.²

You are not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance³ through faith in Your Son Jesus.

DECLARE

Today we bring before You the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** with what seems to be a social engineering agenda to normalize homosexuality and gender fluidity in our society.

We therefore declare that in the beginning You created man in Your image as male and female.⁴ You created the first man from the dust of the earth and the first woman from the man's flesh and bone. In so doing, You showed us Your design for marriage saying "**they will become one flesh**".⁵ This we acknowledge is the mystical union of a man and a woman that is ordained by You. The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union that is reserved only for marriage. You gave marriage as a gift and any sexual union outside the sacred bond of marriage is detestable in Your sight.

We are particularly grieved that the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** seems set to achieve their aims through the indoctrination of our children through officially sanctioned programs in our schools.

We therefore declare that children are gift from You.⁶ As such parents have the primary responsibility to love, cherish, discipline and nurture their children. They have a sacred calling to bring their children to Jesus and "**to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**"⁷

Your Word also admonishes children to honour their father and mother and obey their parents in the Lord^{8,9} that it may go well with them. We therefore take heed of the severe warning of Jesus that "**if anyone causes one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.**"¹⁰

PETITION

Your Word tells us that Satan, "**the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**"¹¹ And speaking to those who were ready to kill Him, Jesus said "**He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.**"¹²

O God draw to Yourself¹³ our political, civic and religious leaders who support the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program. For those who have not invited Your Son Jesus into their hearts bring them to repentance, faith and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. For those who are already believers reveal to them by Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, any matter where they have been misled or deceived. Have mercy on our leaders. Open their eyes and unblock their ears to the insidious and destructive dangers of the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** agenda. We bring before You

- Simon Birmingham the Liberal senator who is now Minister for Education and has defended the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program.
- Penny Wong the Labor senator who announced \$8 million funding over four years when she was minister for finance in 2013.
- Sally Richardson the national program director of **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** who works closely with the Department of Education.
- Principals and teachers in schools that have

(continued next page)

¹ 1 Chronicles 29:11

⁴ Genesis 1:27

⁷ Ephesians 6:4

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 4:4

² Psalm 145:13

⁵ Genesis 2:24

⁸ Ephesians 6:1

¹² John 8:47

³ 2 Peter 3:9

⁶ Psalm 127:3

⁹ Colossians 3:20

¹³ John 6:44

¹⁰ Mark 9:42

Prayer for Safe Schools Coalition Australia (...continued)

registered.

- (others as you feel led)

Use Christian ministries as instruments in Your hands to bring awareness to the Body of Christ and the general public. May they inspire us to boldly pray and to speak out against this flood of evil across our land. We bring before You

- Family Voice Australia
- Australian Christian Lobby
- Salt Shakers
- Australian Prayer Network
- Endeavour Forum
- Canberra Declaration
- Australian Family Association
- (others as you feel led)

CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS

Now we confess our part in supporting those things in our society that have made our children vulnerable to the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** agenda.

- We confess our part in **looking to the wisdom of man** and not *“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”* as set out in our Constitution.
- We confess our part in **acquiescing on unrighteous and unjust laws** that have legalised no-fault divorce, prostitution, gambling and abortion that have victimised our children and undermined the family.
- We confess our part in **allowing the early sexualisation of our children**. We are sorry for our lack of vigilance of what goes into our children’s minds through television, the internet and public advertising. We are sorry for something as simple though well-meaning as buying our daughters Barbie Dolls or our sons exciting video games. Such things have hastened the sexualisation of our children and robbed them of their childhood.
- We confess our part in **allowing the insidious pornification of our society** such that our children cannot avoid exposure.
- We confess our part in **accepting the teaching of atheistic evolution in our schools as truth** that convinces our children that they are just another animal and that life is all about the survival of the fittest.

- We confess our part in **acquiescing on the abortion issue** that has wiped out a third of our children’s generation and is showing them that they are the ‘survivors’ who their parent’s generation chose not to kill.

We now repent and turn from these sins and ask You Father to have mercy on us and forgive us. Give us wisdom, discernment and strength to resist the continuation of these sins that have made our children vulnerable. Burden our hearts in such a way that we take steps to overcome these evils. Please also help us to forgive and have compassion on those who are perpetrators of these things for in many cases they do not know what they are doing.

DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS

Though we are dismayed by all that is happening in the rolling out of the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program in hundreds of schools across Australia, we now take our stand. Your Word says that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood”*¹⁴ and that *“the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world”*.¹⁵ Thank You that these weapons *“have divine power to demolish strongholds”*¹⁶ and that we can *“demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*¹⁷ We now target, in the Name of Jesus, specific spiritual strongholds which argue and give pretense to the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia**.

We affirm that the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension has utterly defeated Satan, the enemy of our souls, who Jesus declared is *“a murderer from the beginning”* and *“a liar and the father of all lies”*.¹⁸ Now as Satan thrashes about in fury, causing as much damage as he can, *“because he knows his time is short”*¹⁹ we affirm that Your Word tells us to *“resist the devil, and he will flee from you”*.²⁰ We therefore humbly submit ourselves to You and appropriate and claim by faith the victory of the finished work of Jesus Christ. As we pray and demolish the strongholds of Satan we affirm our full authority and position of victory over Satan and all of his kingdom of darkness.

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¹⁴ Ephesians 6:12

¹⁸ John 8:44

¹⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:3

¹⁹ Revelation 12:12

¹⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:4

²⁰ James 4:7

¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:5

Prayer for Safe Schools Coalition Australia (...continued)

Stronghold 1 - Masquerading as an Anti-Bullying Program

In the Name of Jesus, who used the Word of God against the subtle lies and temptations of Satan²¹, we come against the clever deception used in promoting the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program. Knowing that Satan “**masquerades as an angel of light**”²² we pray that the hidden agenda of **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** will be exposed. As it does not address any of the main causes of bullying we pray that You will blow away the smoke screen of its claim to be an anti-bullying program and expose it for what it is - a program of indoctrination of our children that promotes homosexuality and gender fluidity. We pray against the grave injustice that takes place when children who are not comfortable with the indoctrination are labelled as homophobic. Open the eyes of politicians, educators and parents to see the tragic reality of this reverse bullying and bring this injustice to an end.

Stronghold 2 – Promoting Gender Confusion

In the Name of Jesus, who welcomed children and held them close to Himself, we ask You to deliver boys and girls from the confusion that they were born into the wrong bodies and that they are not really a boy or girl but something else. And so for the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia**, who validate and encourage thoughts of gender fluidity and confusion in children, we pray that You will throw them into total confusion. Expose the lies, falsehoods and inconsistencies of their teachings so that they will be totally discredited in the eyes of the Australian public.

Stronghold 3 – Usurping Parental Authority

In the Name of Jesus, who as a child came under the authority of his earthly parents Joseph and Mary, we come against the deception of the architects of the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program. Knowing that most parents would likely react to overt radical teaching on sexual and gender ideology **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** have kept parents in the dark. Parents have not been consulted because of their reasoning that “*students’ participation in the program does not require parental consent because it is not deemed to be sex education*”.²³ The national program director stated that “*the teacher knows their class best and what is right for them*”.²⁴ O God bring an end to this blatant

²¹ Luke 4:1-13

²² 2 Corinthians 11:14

usurping of parental authority.

Stronghold 4– Actively Denying Heterosexuality as Normal

In the Name of Jesus, who affirmed that heterosexuality is what God ordained from the very beginning, we come against and demolish the work of the **Safe School Coalition Australia** program to destroy and dismantle marriage. Quoting Your Word Jesus said “**at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate**”²⁵ Bring an end to their efforts to confuse children about the meaning of true marriage as You ordained.

Stronghold 5 – Actively Encouraging Sexual Experimentation

In the Name of Jesus, who is “**the image of the invisible God**”,²⁶ we bind Satan who wants to destroy mankind because men, women and children are made in Your image. We stand against the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program that instructs 11-year-old boys and girls to role-play gay teenagers, teaches chest-binding for girls who feel they are boys and penis-tucking for boys who feel they are girls - despite potential injury. We tear down all of Satan’s strategies to further sexualise and mar and tarnish Your image in them through the defilement of sexual experimentation. In the Name of Jesus, we bind Satan and all his powers of darkness and forbid them to work.

Stronghold 6 – The Influence of Atheistic Marxism

In the Name of Jesus, who came “**to destroy the devil’s work**”,²⁷ we pray that You would nullify any influence the belief system of atheistic Marxism has had on the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** program. For Marxism “*holds that belief in God obstructs people from shaping their*

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²³ The Weekend Australian, February 13-14 2016, Sexual politics in the Classroom, page 17

²⁴ The Weekend Australian, February 13-14 2016, Sexual Politics in the Classroom, page 17

²⁵ Mark 10:6-9

²⁶ Colossians 1:15

²⁷ 1 John 3:8

Prayer for Safe Schools Coalition Australia (...continued)

own lives and determining their own destinies”.²⁸ We therefore plead Your compassionate mercy on Roz Ward, the co-author of the ‘All of Us’ **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** guide who is a Marxist activist. She said “*Marxism offers hope and the strategy to create a world where human sexuality, gender and how we relate to our bodies can blossom in new and amazing ways that we can only try to imagine today*”.²⁹ We demolish any hidden Marxist campaign aiming to turn traditional Australian society away from its Judeo-Christian foundations.

We are grieved that the **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** is a massive open assault of Satan against the Judeo-Christian foundations that has made Australia a great place to live. In the mighty Name of Jesus, who You sent “**to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed**”³⁰ we demolish, tear down, smash and destroy every satanic stronghold active in **Safe Schools Coalition Australia** which targets our society through our most tender and vulnerable citizens – our children.

GIVE GLORY

We give glory to You the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Thank You that You are the Sovereign God whose kingdom rules over all.³¹ Your eternal plans and purposes cannot be thwarted.

Thank You that You have blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ³² and that You have chosen us for Yourself.

We delight in the privilege You have given us as Your sons and daughters in sharing Your love in the power of the Holy Spirit to a lost and dying world.

Help us to follow in the footsteps³³ of Your Son Jesus as we wait and pray for the day of His return.

Thank You for hearing this prayer. Grant us by Your Holy Spirit the grace to be persistent and faithful in fighting the good fight.

May You be glorified through a great deliverance.

In the most precious and glorious Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.³⁴

²⁸Lion Handbook of Christian Belief article on ‘Christianity and Marxism’ p. 199

²⁹Weekend Australian, February 13-14 2016, Seexual Politics in the Classroom, page 17

³⁰Luke 4:18

³¹Psalms 103:19

³²Ephesians 1:3

³³1 Peter 2:21

³⁴DISCLAIMER: David Rowsome has written this prayer in his individual and personal capacity only, and it should not be construed or interpreted in any way as the endorsement of the Canberra Declaration, the National Day of Prayer and Fasting, or any affiliated entity.

The Structure of a Doctrinal Spiritual Warfare Prayer Patterned on the Lord’s Prayer

No	PART	The Lord’s Prayer *	CONTENT
1	ADDRESS GOD	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>	Bring Yourself Before the One True God
2	WORSHIP	<i>hallowed be your name,</i>	Praise, Adore, Ascribe etc.
3	DECLARE	<i>your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	Declare God’s Will and Purpose based on the Truth of His Word
4	PETITION	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>	Bring Relevant Needs Before God
5	CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS	<i>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.</i>	Confess Sins of Commission and Omission, Sins of Identification etc., Repenting, Asking for Forgiveness and Forgiving Others
6	DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS	<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.[†]</i>	In the Name of Jesus Take Authority Over Every Work and Deception of the Enemy and Make it Obedient to Christ
7	GIVE GLORY	<i>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen</i>	Declaring God’s Kingdom Authority and Giving Thanks for the Victory

* Parts 1 to 6 are from Matthew 6:9-13 NIV and Part 7 is from a 1988 English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) version of the Lord’s Prayer



Isaiah 19 and Prayer for the Middle East

By John Robb, Chairman, International Prayer Connect - www.ipcprayer.org

(Issued 1 March 2016)

1. Prayer Initiative for the UAE, February 18-20

It was a blessing and joy to serve with 23 others on a large international ministry team for a national prayer initiative for the United Arab Emirates held in Dubai, February 18-20. Some were colleagues from the leadership of the IPC (International Prayer Council) and others were prayer leaders and intercessors that wanted to take part. About 250 local participants representing many of the 64 churches in the Emirates took part and the local organizers were so gracious and sensitive to the work of the Spirit in our midst.



The overall theme was “Uniting in Prayer, Transforming our Nation and Region”. A larger theme that under-laid and motivated the initiative was prayer for the fulfillment of Isaiah 19 and the prophesied highway that will one day link Assyria (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and the other nations that were once part of the Assyrian Empire), Egypt and Israel to be a “blessing on the earth” (Isaiah 19:24). *The highway must first be formed as a spiritual relationship, uniting the Body of Christ across the Middle East in prayer as we heard expounded by one of our team during the initiative.* Certainly the UAE is a very strategic place for His people to be and to pray together in order to contribute to the fulfillment of Isaiah 19! There are more than 8 million guest workers from up to 200 nationalities and only 1.4 million Emiratis (local Arabs). If God’s people there can unite in prayer and service, a great synergy for His Kingdom will be released that will impact the whole Middle East and beyond.

I felt from the beginning that through this prayer initiative we were sowing seeds that would spring into life, both there in the UAE while the Christian guest-workers are living and working there as well as for later on when they return to their many different countries. Other images I saw as we prayed were of God stirring a large pot that was full of different people groups being melded together, then poured out in His unique purposes. On the final day, I saw a glistening crystal fountain from which living water poured forth in all directions and felt that the Spirit was saying that the UAE could become a new Antioch for blessing the nations.

Various ministry team leaders and I led the following sessions interspersed with strong times of intercession:

- Isaiah 19
- Prayer and Social Transformation
- Reconciliation and Identificational Repentance
- Prayer and Prophetic Ministry
- Children and Youth in Prayer
- Prayer for the Middle East Region (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Israel and Turkey)
- Conflict with Spiritual Powers
- God’s Promise to the Arab World
- Compassion and Humanitarian Ministry (focus on Syrian refugees)
- Prayer for Revival and Renewal for the Nations
- Commissioning as Intercessors

Needs that were highlighted within the UAE were the serious problems of 90% of the expats being in debt, sexual immorality and drugs. There is also an ongoing economic downturn that is causing many to lose their jobs right now.

The Lord blessed and anointed our time together. Local pastors and elders were encouraged strongly to maintain the unity of the Spirit and to work and pray together as one for the future, which they committed

(continued next page)

Isaiah 19 and Prayer for the Middle East (...continued)

themselves to do. **Please do pray for them to be strong and united in ongoing prayer and to carry out the unique mission He has for them with great power, love and faith. May they indeed become another Antioch that the Lord will use far beyond all we can imagine to bless the UAE, the Middle East region and the nations of the world!**

2. Conferring with ministry leaders Israel, February 21-25

After the initiative in Dubai, Brian Mills, our IPC senior advisor, and I journeyed to Israel to confer with ministry leaders about a possible united prayer initiative to be held there in the future. On the one hand, it is encouraging to see all that the Lord is doing through His diverse Body of Messianic Jews, Israeli Arab Christians and Palestinian believers in the West Bank. There are many vital ministries with good numbers coming to the Lord. However, we heard from a number of ministry leaders about the lack of unity within Christ's movement due to differences of perspective on politics and prophetic interpretations. The land continues to be a very sensitive issue and seems to be a stumbling block to real unity as believers have tended to line up with their governments rather than with one another.

We can rejoice that there are some significant efforts being made to bring Christ-followers together such as a recent consultation in Cyprus that included both Messianic Jewish and Palestinian Christian leaders to deliberate together how to move towards reconciliation. A group of pastors, both Jewish and Arab, called "Sitting at Yeshua's feet" is going on as well as wonderful gatherings for youth that include participants from both ethnic groups. **Please pray for these ministries to further develop and involve many more in the country.**

Summary

If Isaiah 19 is to be fulfilled, the essential thing is to see real heart unity develop between the various niches and factions in the Body of Christ in the region. Israel occupies a central role in the creation of this spiritual highway that will bring great unity and blessing to the region and our world. Please pray with us for the effective building of a united prayer movement within Israel and the Middle East and that God will use such heart-connected prayer and action to bring about His agenda of revival and transformation to these nations.

John Robb
Chairman, International Prayer Connect
International Facilitator, World Prayer Assembly 2012
www.ipcprayer.org



UpRising: World Youth Prayer Assembly

Dear Prayer Network Leaders and Friends,

As you may already know, on July 26-30, 2016, we are calling for a global UPRISING-- that is, United Prayer Rising-- in Seoul, South Korea. With the global crisis this generation is facing and the attacks on them, we believe that it's time to gather, it's time to pray, and it's time to see change in our regions and our nations. We see the convergence of generations in united prayer can potentially reverse the crisis, and even potentially give birth to new prayer and missions movements and even a Jesus Movement all over the world. Also, on July 29, a worship-intercession will be held at the DMZ Peace Plaza (the border of North and South Korea) to pray against division, and agree with our Korean brothers in prayer for the unification of Korea.

To hear more about the vision, watch this: <http://unitedprayerrising.com/video/>

See www.ipcprayer.org for more information.



Global Reach With Local Touch

(From Anatoliy Glukhovskyy at lausanne.org on 5/03/2016)



Recon College is a new type of educational institution that provides an opportunity for students to obtain specialized education in the field of Christian mass media. The Cape Town Commitment is Recon's confession of faith and call to action document. It is taken as a united statement from evangelicals globally, calling for collaboration. The fundamental human problem is a lack of knowledge of God and His mandate for humankind: Creation Mandate (Gen. 1-2) and Redemption Mandate (Mtt. 28:16-20).

The Recon (<http://rec-on.tv/>) team personal statement of faith is based on the Theocratic Leadership of God. Authority of the Bible is the source of authority for spiritual as well as administrative leadership. From every orthodox perspective, the Bible is the Word of God. "Illumination as to the meaning and truth of the Bible is simply a special instance of God's activity in the general process of man's acquisition of knowledge." (Augustine De libero arbitrio 2. 34.)

Development of professional Christian education in Ukraine will unite a biblical triangle (home, church, school) and bring positive long-lasting fruit in national leadership development for the market place and society in general.

- First of all, Recon wants to see a growing awareness of the challenge in education among church leaders and invite their participation in changing the attitude of society toward the development of Christian institutions as an alternative to the government education system.
- Second, Recon wants to see a stronger national and international collaboration in the areas of evangelism and disciple making. This generation of college level students in government and private institutions needs to be reached and mentored. This generation of college level students in government and private institutions needs to be reached and mentored.
- Third, Recon wants to see personal growth of Recon College students (orphans in particular) with an emphasis on skills development in communication as well as accountability, decision making, problem solving, stewardship and management, team building and so on.



A methodological basis for professional education is seen in prioritizing Biblical/Christian and national values, in conjunction with a reorientation of personal development of the student's individuality during the educational process. A special word of appreciation to Olive Technology Inc., for with the help of Joseph Vijayan, Lori Nicholson, John Gupta and others, Olive is helping us to develop a website as well as setting up a Learning Management System, and developing of a new online curriculum. "We do want to see graduates of Recon College building healthy friendships and partnerships in the spirit of servant leadership with understanding of interpersonal relationships. "Let's do it together and do it globally," is a message to all from Dr. Anatoliy Glukhovskyy, the founder and CEO of this ministry.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, IMPROVEMENT AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT

Despite the fact that distance education will not replace a traditional one, because it cannot re-create the student atmosphere and replace live communication between teacher and students, in the experts' view, online education is the main development direction of education in future. Modern society is shifting its focus from diploma that comes from in-class study for a more available quality access to knowledge.

Currently, Media School "Recon" is working on a technological basis, development and implementation of distance education system that opens up new opportunities for those who wish to receive education in the field of media.

(continued next page)

Global Reach With Local Touch (...continued)

Virtual students that combine education with work and/or ministration are now able to acquire in-service knowledge and reduce the number of class hours without compromising quality. Online learning involves students' access to learning resources, including lectures by renowned national and international professionals, joint workshops and videoconferencing, as well as individual consultations with teachers.

Obvious advantages of distance education consist in the possibility of self-selection of the course, time, duration and pace of course work. It is not dependent on where you live or your health. In addition, what is very important is to create favorable conditions for creative self-expression of the student during studying.

WE ARE GOING TO CONGRATULATE MOTHERS ON THEIR HOLIDAY



THANKS

Heartfelt thanks to the Kiev local church "Skiniya" and pastor Sergey Flugrant for prayer and financial support of our ministry!



SMILE!!!
OUR CHILDREN TELLING:

Children during a walk in the forest see a pine tree trunk, Matveyka seeing resin on the bark, enthusiastically exclaims: "Look, it's honey!"



Meet our Olezhka:

Oleg is a boy from an educated family - his parents are professors at one of our leading universities, the Ukraine Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. They love their child and do everything possible to help their son. Oleg was diagnosed autism. He came to the center as a very timid and uncooperative child, who was afraid of others. A year later he is an open, friendly boy that has a very good memory, and is smart. We thank the Lord for the changes that have occurred in his life.

Ludmila, Olezhka mother:

We are very grateful for the opportunity to visit the "Stezhinka" school. Due to Olezhka's special needs, we refused to visit not only public but also private child care centers. We, as parents, have always had an understanding, that we didn't want our child to grow up in a closed environment with only children with special needs, without having communication with his peers, because he has to live in society. It is very important that he does not feel that he is different; Stezhinka staff and kids "refer to him as an equal." And, very significant is the spiritual component. While in "Stezhinka" Olezhka learned to pray--now he calls us to pray for the food, and speaks about God and the Bible. Stezhinka teaching staff is very friendly and they create an atmosphere of love and acceptance. We were attracted to this organization and their program of comprehensive development and the child care. Leaving a child in "Stezhinka" I am calm about him. And that is important. "Stezhinka" is always open for parents of children enrolled and everything is clear and transparent in it. Also Stezhinka's administration always listen to both parents and children. And even now, in cramped and restrictive conditions of rental property, without a children's playground and a music hall, our children are enjoying their time there and developing well.

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the Lausanne Movement is a global Movement that mobilizes evangelical leaders to collaborate for world evangelization.

Our mailing address is: Lausanne Movement - Eurasia, Gamarnika street, 57, Kiev 04075 Ukraine

Return to Faith

By Margaret Santone

I have just returned from a 5-month tour of India and I feel after my experiences and journey through 13 states I can report on the culture and people in a non-judgmental way. I went to 135 Hindu Temples visited Buddhist Temples as well as Mosques and Catholic Churches and I was amazed at the amount of devotion in all religious beliefs by the 1.3 billion people.

The main area of Christianity is in the South of India, Kerala with 1000's of Churches large and small and over the state.



I wanted to experience this on all levels because I knew that belief plays an important role in their daily life and they embrace it and demonstrate it with an unrelenting commitment to their faith by a never-ending stream of devotees to the thousands of temples built in India some over 1500 years ago.

I watched how millions of the pilgrims visit different states of India to reach a Temple that is considered a Holy Place and I made an effort to partake in these pilgrimages to witness just what it is that they feel so strongly about or to better understand just what drives them to do this and after speaking to many pilgrims I found it was for reaching the end of their life clean of all sin. This to me was outstanding as they queued for hours sometime more than 12 to get into their Temples to pray and give devotion. This showed a commitment far beyond anything I have witnessed following any other denomination by standing in the heat or cold for hours just to enter the altar or shrine of the Temple. In villages they have less ornate Temples but still worship daily.

The pilgrimages are to atone for their karma so that they will know full release or as they call it Moxsha and reach the end of their life without a need to be reincarnated again so they believe this is their life mission on earth to atone for any past generational Karma. Many walk over 100 kilometers to the Holy Place destinations in bare feet on hot roads to display their devotion to their God. It is a strange and beautiful thing to witness because it made me think of Jesus and the Disciples walking all over the

Middle East, Greece, Asia and beyond to Preach the Gospel.

To me this is a complex undertaking and requires supreme belief and devotion. and it is akin to repentance and communion in the Catholic Faith for the Hindu faith.

Hindu has a fundamental belief that it is your choice to practice the faith and there are no doctrines as such that compel you to fear anything it is all in your control. I like this as it proves that fear doesn't work.

There are many hundreds of Gods but only one supreme God and that is Bramhan. Interestingly there are three facets of Brahman. The Deities are housed in the temples, Shiva being the most important of them as it depicts the fire Ganesh, Krishna, Rama, Hanuman and all the wives of these Gods who are as important in the Hindu faith the same as is Jesus to the Christians.

I am not sure if I can come to terms with all of this worship of these Gods however the Hindu faith is old enough to trace back over 3000 years and so it is that these Gods were real in their leading civilizations of that time to follow them and do only good things.

Like all faiths they are persecuted; although India is secular they still have many problems with acceptance of each other, they tolerate the differences but there is an undercurrent in the social structure. Government is now trying to intervene in this and more trouble will follow if this happens. With 1.3 billion people it is the Hindu belief that has kept discipline and respect alive.

BHAGAVAD GITA is the scriptures of the Vedas and is like the bible to the Hindu faith.

I concluded that no matter how much one travels India there is a feeling of peace that surrounds the Temples and this is what matters to the people. They struggle with their daily life, they eat little and they are all using their life to expand their life journey for when the time comes to depart this life.

(continued next page)

Return to Faith (...continued)

I witnessed the cremation of many people in open air and it was a humbling experience witnessing a body wrapped in a cloth being burned on a stack of wood on the banks of the sacred Ganges River in Varanasi.

This experience taught me that a body is just flesh, blood and bone; it is the soul that is left and leaves our body without a doubt to dwell in eternal peace.

I now believe that Christians can learn from the Hindu faith with regard to having a love for their God.

We have Jesus, who sacrificed his life for us. This is our soul purpose of existence to recognize this fact and to uphold God laws so that we live on earth as it is in heaven. We need to feel connected to God like the Hindu's do on a daily basis. You don't need to be in Church or a Temple, what you need is to pray and be grateful for all you have in your daily life. Prayer like meditation is the key to making our life worthy of existence. It is that simple. Once you start to pray, change happens. It may be slow but it happens and in Gods time. We must also learn patience to know God.

If Christians can learn anything from Hindus it is that there is no more worthy thing in life than to give praise and thanks to Our God. Hindus respect Jesus as a God and they revere him in many ways more than we Christians do at times. They have respect for all life and although they battle everyday to even have food they never give up hope. Their ability to love and give thanks is what makes them unique in their quest for eternal peace and happiness. Christians need to get this hope and love back into their daily life because without it we cannot function, we cannot be alive in Christ, we cannot achieve anything. We need Gods omnipresence to make our life worthy and joyful.

The Brahmins met with St Thomas in Kerala India and some were baptized as they believed in the



Christian ethos and wanted to be connected to him, This act of reverence to Our God proves to me that we are all one on this great Earth we just need to believe that heaven exists for all. It is not absolutely clear how St Thomas did this however it is fact that Kerala is the Christian capital of India and faith abounds there just like the fervent faith of the Hindu's.

Some say that this conversion in Kerala by St Thomas changed the course of History for India and some say St Thomas was not there at all. History is a fickle thing.

I find it difficult to believe that St Thomas was not there as there are so many Church's and monuments devoted to him. It is not unreasonable to establish that a Roman Jew could have travelled to India in 52AD, it is also recorded that Jesus travelled to India, so St Thomas could have been retracing his path and I have seen and witnessed enough in India particularly, Kerala and Chennai to know that St Thomas was there, as St Paul and St Stephen were in Greece. This was the disciples mission; to spread the Gospel of the Lord.

In closing I would say we now have to become like Hindu's bringing praise to Our Lord and celebrating with love all he is to us and all he can be if we only allow him into our life without reservation. A Christian can only transform by recognizing how important God is and speaking the truth in his name. This is our duty as his ancestors, his new disciples of the New Era.

We cannot lose our faith because of others' misdeeds. We must never hold Jesus responsible for the sins of Men of the Cloth who chose the wrong path and need to be admonished for it. This and only this brings back the following. If the Church does not punish those who serve in the name of the Lord then how can we respect the Church? Jesus would want us to make sure that things were made right as he did in the Temple.

Jesus didn't show his fear not even in the face of death, he cried out to his Father yet he knew he was our Saviour. My question is this "why have we forsaken him"?

Let us all reunite in his name and his glory, AMEN.

REF

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakalomattom_family



Do you know what you will be doing the morning of April 17, 2033?

By Olivier Fleury

I FOR ONE KNOW WHAT I WILL BE DOING. NO, THIS IS NOT MY RETIREMENT DATE OR ANY BIRTHDAY IN THE FAMILY. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HISTORY. AND SO HAVE YOU! LET ME ROLL BACK THE YEARS A LITTLE.



Open Heavens

I received a grandiose gift in the form of a vision in 2007, along with a duty call. I had left my native Switzerland (where I was the French director of the Alpha Course) for a year of Biblical studies in Sydney. The vision started during a time of worship and went on for 3 more hours into class, which I finally had to leave as the open heavens made it impossible for me to properly attend. The experience left me wounded in a way similar to the Biblical patriarch Jacob after his night's struggle with the Angel of the Lord. It released me into spearheading a worldwide project with a finish line 26 years into the future. To get a Hollywood style glimpse depicting what I saw please checkout our 1-minute inspirational video at www.JC2033.world.

What I saw was the rotating Earth from outer space and a dividing line between the retreating darkness and the dawning light advancing through one time zone after another. Where the line advanced, flares of light burst forth and emanated into the sky. These bright flashes radiated joy, love, peace and pure spiritual power. Then I was gazing at the same event from solid ground: there was a vast crowd of people, diverse in all their colours and physical attributes. Millions were gathered in all nations and people groups and worshipping God. Within stadiums and parks and city centres, in rural areas, vast fields and plains, wherever there were people, there was worship. And I knew this moment to be resurrection morning. The occasion? The 2000 years mark since the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Knowing the outcome not the path

My evangelistic heart seems to always have a hundred projects bubbling in my mind, with more on my plate than I can say grace over. But launching a project of such a magnitude was and still is far beyond anything I can imagine. So for the first three years, I remained silent, like the young Mary, *treasuring up all these things and pondering them in my heart*. Nothing was shown to me about the **path** itself. And yet I had to start walking.

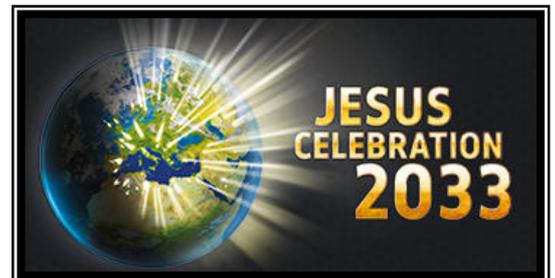
Gold digging into a vision

I began by digging into the vision itself to uncover and process the spiritual treasures that were part of its fabric. Resurrection? I thought I had it figured out. Yet I learnt to re-read my Bible with other lenses and a whole new picture of the beauty, the awesomeness and the transforming power of the resurrection emerged.

An example is in the realm of celebration. The majority of Christians in the western world are not known for their extravagant rejoicing. Our religious celebrations are often formal. The Bible describes how God commanded regular feasts and festivals to be a time of great joy for all, with eating and drinking, singing and dancing to his kindness, provision and dominion over history – actually some very down-to-earth and yet holy partying, like the Jewish tradition has maintained.

Ten times around the globe

Over the last six years, I have not simply walked with the vision but rather flown with it – literally, as I travelled the equivalent of ten times around the globe, visiting all five continents. My purpose was educational. I wanted to learn how different cultures celebrate to avoid tailoring and packaging Jesus Celebration for western audiences only. I have also managed to sneak into international leaders meetings packed with influential Christians with whom to share the vision. Cape Town 2010: The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation was one of these stops where I engaged with Elim Churches Superintendent Rev. John Glass whose allegiance has enabled this very article.



(continued next page)

Do you know what you will be doing April 17, 2033? (...continued)

Presently the Jesus Celebration 2033 office is just outside Geneva, Switzerland, with a growing staff and worldwide contacts.

Pope Francis, Patriarch Tawadros II and Justin Welby seeking Unity for Easter

Resurrection is the undisputed central conviction of all Christian churches and confessions. For Jesus Celebration 2033 to really have the greatest impact in history requires much greater unity between these families than there is now. This is no revelation from the vision rather from common sense and a bit of research into Church unity and Jesus' prayer in John 17. Our testimony to the world has power when we as a body of Christ demonstrate unity.

For this purpose, I went to the Vatican on February 29th, to discuss once more with the Catholic Cardinal Kurt Koch about a unified date for Easter and how could the catholic church would be involved. Mr Koch is the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU). The East and Western branches of Christianity have been celebrating Easter using different calendars to calculate the date since the 16th century. Consequently the dates most of the time are not in unison. But a very recent impulse by the Coptic Patriarch Tawadros II, and Pope Francis to unify the date of Easter is finding favour by global church leaders, most recently the Archbishop of Canterbury; Justin Welby.

Challenges in the path of a common resurrection celebration are still huge but we have another 17 years to try and find solutions. I draw hope from the fact that when I first met Cardinal Koch in 2014 and told him we should try and unite the churches on a common Easter date, he smiled as towards a child asking for a flight to the moon for his birthday present. Yet shortly after this first visit, Tawadros II wrote to Francis precisely about this topic. What seemed impossible then – mending an age-old divide – is currently on its way.

The killer reaction

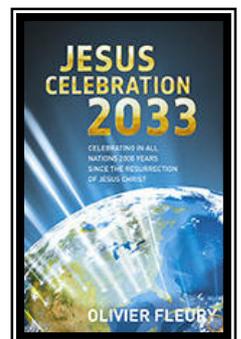
There is one killer reaction that I am often faced with. *Remind me in 2032*, many say. I do not expect people to join me on diplomatic visits to the Vatican city. But there are things which you can already do and prepare which will serve not only Jesus Celebration 2033 but the greater witness of the Church. Praying for and engaging five core Christian disciplines, namely: Evangelism, Prayer, Unity, Celebration and Love in action. A more focussed way of rehearsing and preparing, would be to create joyful gatherings on the dawn of resurrection morning each year. Why not find and join one in your area? Why not start one?

Finally, let me ask again. Do you know what you will be doing the morning of April 17, 2033? I will be worshipping God among a crowd of hundreds of thousands perhaps in London, or Geneva or wherever God leads me, just as millions of others everywhere else on Earth. The greatest celebration ever to happen, along with the most creative and generous outreaches to the impoverished, the weak, and the lowly. A great harvest of souls surely will accompany this celebration, as believers joyfully reach out to their neighbours to make the good news of Jesus' resurrection a tangible reality of hope for this suffering world.

Olivier Fleury, founder of "Jesus Celebration 2033" with Joël Reymond, freelance journalist.

References

- A video clip : <http://www.jc2033.world/en/news-media/video>
- A book: **JESUS CELEBRATION 2033, CELEBRATING IN ALL NATIONS 2000 YEARS SINCE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**, by Olivier Fleury
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- A newspaper article: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3402073/Archbishop-Canterbury-joins-calls-church-leaders-Easter-fixed-date.html>



After working for 10 years in graphic arts until 1995, Olivier Fleury was first trained by Youth with A Mission (YWAM), then attended two biblical institutes in Dallas, USA, and Sydney, Australia.

Since 1997, and for 13 years thereafter, Olivier was mandated by YWAM Switzerland, for promoting Alpha courses in the French speaking Switzerland. In 2008, Olivier became the new YWAM Executive Director for the French speaking Switzerland. And in 2012, he is taking the leadership of YWAM Switzerland (250 full time staff members).

His great motivation is to spread the gospel all over the world and to experience church revival.

Prophesy in Unison to the Dry Bones of Australia!

By Trisha Ellis, Intercessor - Mob: 0415 217 671 - Email: trishaellis@optusnet.com.au

There is a convergence taking place over Australia in the spiritual realms, through the Holy Spirit manifestations of fire, water, rain and wind. This convergence is colliding into a greater dimension of Holy spirit outpouring of God's power and presence in and through the people of God and non believers for the purpose of "HIS HARVEST". As this sweeps across our nation, this will ignite a greater hunger and passion for souls with an overflow of God's love to one another and particularly the unsaved.

Subsequently, a greater revelation of our heavenly Father's heart for the nation of Australia will also be revealed. Our heavenly Father has a great love for the country of Australia and pre-ordained its destiny as "The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit", her cities and population before the world was created. The diverse group of peoples and languages who have immigrated here over the years is no accident but all part of God's plan for reaching the nations as revival sweeps across this land.

A greater fervency of the Father's voice, through Jesus, will be heard through his people "making declarations" - "this land belongs to God as The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit". As his voice resonates through his body across Australia, this will begin to awaken the "Sleeping Giant" as once prophesied. **Therefore I call all prophets in Australia to stand up, "ARISE",** and prophesy in unison to the dry bones of Australia. Prophets, it is time for your voices to be heard both here in Australia and other nations of the world. Prophesy to the 4 winds to blow across this nation as Ezekiel 37v1-14 prophesied over Israel when it appeared the nation was completely dead in a spiritual and physical sense. In Ezekiel, God asks the question, can these dry bones live and he commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones, "hear the word of the Lord", and we now say, you shall live Australia. This is part of the outworking of the convergence as prophets prophesy "NOW" and call into being those things that are not as though they were. (Rom 4v17Amp). And the body will follow!

Let us, as members of Christ's body, come together as one to hasten this coming revival regardless of position, status or talents (Rom 12v4-51). It is not based on programs, systems or man's ideas but on the uniqueness of each individual fulfilling their part. It's now all hands on deck! Everyone has something to give and everyone is important! We need each other to function at our utmost capacity for God's glory and Christ to be lifted high in praise and worship over this nation. Only through this biblical approach will the full power of God be released through his body in unprecedented ways.

Following on from what I believe is also relevant to what God is doing in his body, I recently attended the National day of Prayer and Fasting in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra on Sunday 7th Feb 2016. Two events took place on this day which in particular impacted my spirit and therefore important enough to mention briefly. Leaders from Indigenous communities and various denominations repented publicly with one another and began washing each other's feet. Many in the audience wept as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Indigenous leaders with their communities were greatly honoured and given a voice at this event and post event, through video clips portraying the impact Jesus has had on their lives. What a blessing they have been! And the revelation has been nothing but astonishing!

The second event was a lady from the audience who was invited to pray for Australia out the front. Her simple prayer was "God, release the roar of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah over Australia". No sooner were these words released from her mouth, without man's intervention or encouragement, a spontaneous, powerful, loud and divinely inspired roar erupted from the audience. It felt like ripples of power/electricity emanating outwards from the Great Hall across this nation. I believe these ripples of power/electricity was for empowering the body of Christ. Several people who also attended this event, said they have seen an upgrade in their influence and voice. However I experienced a similar scenario at the Pentecost Prayer Event in 2015 at Newtown organised and facilitated by Lillian & Bjorn Schmid and colleagues.

As Jesus is the head of the church and his body, therefore I believe, he is recalibrating and realigning his body "RIGHT NOW" in a greater dimension for revival to take place. Jesus said, he will build his church. The fires are converging NOW. We, the body of Christ, have all been prepared for such a time as this and all the members are meant to do their part (Cor 12v27) as the harvest is upon us.

Transforming Sydney has faithfully played its part in bringing unity and repentance with various denominations and people groups to the city of Sydney thus preparing the way for a move of God. Father God loves Sydney, but he also loves Canberra, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Darwin and Adelaide, Tasmania & New Zealand. He loves cities and he loves the nation of Australia. Therefore he has prepared and placed his chess pieces strategically for this coming Holy Spirit revival. So I must ask the question, what is going to be released this coming Pentecost Eve Prayer event in Parramatta, for 2016? Let us all prepare our hearts in prayer and obedience with the help of the Holy Spirit, so that the new wine and fire can be poured out upon all of us. This revival is not only for Australia but for nations. This is Australia's destiny! A bigger wave is coming! Get ready! 

PRAYER FOR SYDNEY

P E N T E C O S T 2 0 1 6

Transforming Sydney and the Parramatta Pastors Network

Dear fellow servant of Christ,

We invite you to join together with Christian leaders, pastors, ministers and intercessors from across the Sydney region on the evening of 14th May at the Parramatta Salvation Army.

Last year on Pentecost, over 120 leaders came together in Newtown to pray and intercede for you and us.

This year we have been invited by the Parramatta Pastors to pray in and for their region.

Why at Pentecost?

According to Jewish tradition, seven weeks after Passover is the time of Shavu'ot ('Pentecost' in Greek – the 50th day), a commemoration of when the Law of God was given by the Lord God to Moses at Mt. Sinai for the people of Israel (and the entire world). On the night before Shavu'ot, many Jews stay up all night reading the scriptures and praying.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote of the promise that God made regarding His Law:

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (Jer. 31:33-34)

John the Baptist prophesied of the first Pentecost when Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Mt 3:11).

Jesus confirmed this prophecy with the promise of the Holy Spirit to the disciples (John 14:26). He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit, from whom they would receive power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:3-8).

On the Day of Pentecost “when it had fully come” (i.e. in the morning after a night of prayer and reading the scriptures), just as promised the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit and given the power of communication, which Peter used to begin the ministry for which Jesus had prepared them. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did not stay in the room basking in God's glory but burst out to tell the world. This was the beginning of the Church.

For Christians therefore, Pentecost is a celebration of the day the Church was truly born.

What are We Praying For?

We will stand together in faith and in the unity of the Holy Spirit and call out to God for:

- All people in our communities across Australia to receive a revelation of the glory of Christ
- Our homes and our churches to be known as places of prayer; our Father's house
- Brothers and sisters out in the marketplace: for courage, wisdom and love towards each other and towards those who do not yet know God

Where and When?

This prayer event will be at

The Salvation Army, 34 Smith St, Parramatta NSW 2150

Saturday 14th May from 7pm to 10pm.

Buses and limited street parking are available along Smith St and Phillip St.

Parramatta Station and the Horwood Place Council Car Park is nearby.

Let us know you are coming and bring your people; we look forward to seeing you.

Bjorn Schmid and Rev. Peter Robinson – info@transformingsydney.org – 0411 562-751

For the Parramatta Pastors: Ps. Gerald James, Ps. Simon Black and Ps. Lois Barron



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P E N T E C O S T 2 0 1 6