

# Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

May 2016 - Praying for Law & Justice



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God Turns Evil Schemes Around for Your Greater Good

*"Whenever the devil throws something at us, we need not lose hope. In fact, we can be sure that God will turn it around for our greater blessing because He is for us."* **Johan Lourens**

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AUSTRALIAN PRAYER NETWORK NEWSLETTER - INTERNATIONAL NEWS 9th May 2016

Abortion is a Crime Against Humanity

*"All nations of the world where abortion is legal are guilty of crimes against humanity. ...they have withdrawn legal protection from a class of human beings, children in the womb."* **Allan E. Parker**

Gospel For Asia - An Education They Never Dreamed Of

*These articles reflect the opinion and witness of the respective authors, which may or may not align with your own; consider this with Ephesians 4:1-7 in mind.*

## From the National Coordinators

Dear friends,

My heart is grieving that some churches are not encouraging much the Baptism of the Holy Spirit so we need to continue running Pentecost Eve until the church wakes up and take awareness. Pentecost vigil night is not only about renewing the Ecumenical prayer movement it is also awakening to the need of the meaning of Pentecost and the role of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

I am praying to see every church next year celebrate the night vigil of Pentecost and Pentecost Sunday. there is a responsibility on the church pastors to explain the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives to the next generation. Why is the Holy Spirit neglected in our preaching and teaching?

How can you baptize your congregation and you don't preach about the meaning of Pentecost?

Fr. John Flader writes about the Holy Spirit:

*"When we are troubled, or feel in some way that God is distant, we can pray to the Holy Spirit to make us cry out "Abba! Father", remembering that God is never distant – he is a Father who loves us and sent his Son to die for us. We are his children. In the same eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans, St Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit also helps us in our prayer: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom 8:26-27).*

*There can be times when we find it difficult to pray, when we don't know what to say or we feel dry. It is the time to go to the Holy Spirit and ask him to intercede for us, so that the Father will know what is in our heart.*

*Always, the Holy Spirit is the Love between the Father and the Son, and "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Rom 5:5) We are all called to be saints, to be filled with love, but so often we content ourselves with merely fulfilling our duties and attending Mass on Sundays. We can ask the Holy Spirit, as we do in the prayer "Come, Holy Spirit", to "kindle in us the fire of thy love", to give us a vibrant spiritual life that will be reflected in our love for God and our neighbour."*

Blessings

Lilian Schmid

National Coordinator

Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

[prayerstrategy.org](http://prayerstrategy.org)    [businesswomenhealingministry.org](http://businesswomenhealingministry.org)    [transformingsydney.org](http://transformingsydney.org)



## Pentecost Eve 2016 Was Amazing!

On the 14th of this month of May, leaders from across Sydney and beyond came together to pray for you our brothers and sisters in Christ. It was an incredible evening of serious but also joyous worship and prayer, and we heard the heart of the Father spoken out through the voices of leaders from across the denominational and demographic spectrum. We looked like God's coat of many colours. Real family is so exciting.

Pentecost 2017 (see page 12) is shaping up to be another great gathering in Southern Sydney - details will be published as they are available, and people across the metropolitan area are contacting us to host Pentecost in following years.

Four things are essential to start preparing for a successful Pentecost Eve :

***Humility, inclusion, discernment, and agape love.***

*Sorry none of these are for sale anywhere, you have to obtain them direct from the manufacturer Himself. He is of course generous to those who ask.*

Read more on **pages 8-11** in this newsletter and on the website at

**[www.transformingsydney.org/TSEventsPentecost2016.html](http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSEventsPentecost2016.html)**



TRANSFORMING  
SYDNEY



## The Legal Profession Today

By Prof. Michael Adams

Here are some quick thoughts for comment and prayers.

Law is a challenging and complex profession:

I have been a “lawyer” for over 30 years and in that time so much has happened. When I completed my law and business degrees, at undergraduate level in 1984, I could have never imagined what the world of academic or practitioner law would look like in 2016. My own honours thesis was hand-written and then typed by a typist on a type-writer – how old fashioned. There were no computers and the library contained books and journals, with some microfiche for historical newspapers and documents.

In 2016, I watch my own daughter, finishing her law and communications degrees, with an honours thesis that can be done at her finger tips from her bedroom. Her ability to look up the law in the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand and any English speaking country is literally a few clicks away. This is both good and bad. It can make future lawyers think that everything is on the internet (certainly not true) and that all that is on the internet is good quality information and materials – even less accurate. Discerning the quality of information is absolutely critical to all lawyers from the 1980s to now (and much before).

The legal profession as a whole has developed in ways we could never have imagined. Solicitors and barristers are under more pressure to cost effectively deal with more and more complex matters. Judges at all levels of the system – from Federal Circuit judges to Local Court magistrates and up to the High Court justices and everyone between are under pressure to be quicker and more effective. Legal research that might have taken weeks or months, now has to be completed in days. In the world of academic lawyers, students have huge financial pressures (HECS/HELP loans that produce debts of between \$40,000-\$100,000 just for tuition).

There is a high level of anxiety in the legal profession, especially depression, and this often starts in law school and is much higher than in business schools or medical schools. In the current economic climate, there is even the basic fear that a law graduate will struggle to get an appropriate job. This is often exaggerated as a law job by the media is often working in a top 20 large law firm – which only create 300 jobs a year for the 10,000+ graduates. Of course, there are many jobs and careers that benefit from a law degree including in-house counsel, working for community law centres, legal aid, Aboriginal Legal service, commercial businesses, academia, local, state and federal governments (public service) all hire many lawyers and some politicians – to name a few career routes.

But at the heart of the matter, we pray that all those that actually enter the profession of law, are trained to think and behave ethically.

Many famous lawyers have been of the Christian faith and brought profound change by virtue of their roles. Two that spring to mind are Lord Atkins, of the House of Lords, who wrote the key judgment in the first major negligence case in 1932 called *Donoghue v Stevenson* (often called the “snail in the ginger beer bottle case”) – Lord Atkins used the “neighbour test” for the tort of negligence straight from the Bible of ‘who is my neighbour’. The other is Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls (law reports), who was head of the UK Court of Appeal and created many of the key 20th century judicial decisions, was a sincerely practising Christian man. Rev Nicky Gumbel, the developer of the Christianity course, Alpha, was a practising barrister before becoming a convert and mentions in the Alpha course the influence of Lord Denning as a judge and his life. There are many other examples, but it is the day to day work of every lawyer, who has faith, that can make a difference to their colleagues, their clients and their families.

My heart and prayers go out to all the Christian lawyers that they will use their positions and influence for good, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Professor Michael Adams, Dean of Law, Western Sydney University (writing in my personal capacity).  
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## LAW AND JUSTICE

By Rev. Dr Jeffrey Camm JP, MIEPR

The first thing to determine is what “Law” is, and what is “Justice”?

### Biblical Law

The laws clearly identified in the scriptures, which are mandatory to all Jews and all Christians Believers.

I know there have been many “interpretation and misinterpretation” of these laws, but the premise still remains that God Almighty gave laws to mankind to be followed by us, if we wish to receive His blessings.

If we knowingly rebel against these laws, then we are subject to God’s judgements, be they droughts, famines, floods, earthquakes, or volcanoes that is His choice!

### Laws of the Nations

Individual governments prepare their laws which are applicable for the people living within their borders. If these governments are wise, then these laws shall be based upon God’s laws identified above.

We have seen through history that when a nation is obedient and follows God’s laws, then the nation is blessed and peace reigns within its borders.

We have also seen that when nations do not follow God’s laws, or the laws of their own land, then the peace is destroyed, the land is attacked and even becomes subject to other empires, which put the people into subjection, for a period of time, to teach them a lesson. These are all righteous decisions, which God Almighty makes and justice prevails in these situations, and God’s punishment is consistent with the crime.

### Justice

The main aim of justice is to determine a punishment suitable for the crime committed. In the Old Testament, these are laid out for the Jewish people. An “eye for an eye” was the basis for punishment, but a monetary figure could be determined, or a time in prison could be substituted for the “eye for an eye” punishment.

However recent event have seen people being convicted of crimes and the penalty ordered by the court bears no relationship to the crime whatsoever.

The “justice systems” of the world have become distorted by clever lawyers and weak judges, who now administer justice based upon public opinion and monetary gain. They forget that the scriptures clearly say that judges who persecute the innocent to protect the guilty shall be judged by a higher court and their lives shall be shortened [Ed: Romans 14:12, Psalm 82, Proverbs 10:27]. God is watching and they forget that God is a “perfect” judge, and He expects people appointed to this office to do their jobs without political or financial interference.

Here in Australia we have seen laws passed by our Federal and State governments which are contrary to God’s laws, as laid down in scripture. Killing unborn babies is legal because we now call it abortion. Rape is legal if you are a Muslim, because it is part of their culture, Same-sex marriage is OK, because they want to be “equal” with everybody else. Pornography is illegal, unless it is called a “safe-schools” program and then it is Ok to show it and teach it in all public schools.

All of these laws are contrary to God’s Holy laws and therefore Australia has chosen to rebel against God Almighty, telling Him that we are going to do things our own way, the governments of our have decided to lead our nation away from God, when means away from His protect, His guidance and His blessings.

The Australian military forces are rated pretty highly around the world, but no matter how good they are - history clearly shows that when a nation decides to fight against God, they always lose!!!

Beware Australia! You are headed down the wrong path! If you refuse to change your attitude, repent and change your direction, then God’s mercy will cease and judgement shall follow!



IMOM

## Is your Prayer Life in the Winter or Spring Season?

In the Northwest of the United States, where we have four seasons the beautiful tulips are in full bloom reminding us of the new life that spring brings, the cherry trees are loaded with blossoms. It is a beautiful time of the year with the trees and plants that have lied dormant during the cold winter months are getting new life almost over night.



During the winter months, many of our areas experience harsh cold snowy weather. However, as spring approaches it gives us the hope of warmth, beautiful gardens, and landscapes. As it warms our spirit, we become alive and more energetic.

We often go through **seasons in our prayer lives** where we do not take the time to read and meditate on God's Word or pray intentionally for our families or ourselves. We pray but our prayers may become humdrum, repetitive, or seem pointless.

That was my experience a number of years ago, I felt the prayers for my children, and grandchildren were very general, superficial, and powerless. I prayed they would be safe, have a good day and I would be go on through my day since I didn't live near them, and didn't know their immediate need.

**However, that all changed after I asked God to give me wisdom and insight** about how I could pray for them intentionally. Praying intentionally means a determination to pray in a certain way, done by intention or design. Asking God for direction and reading several books about prayer, I was encouraged. I gained some tools to help me to pray intentionally and regularly for my children and grandchildren.

**The Bible, God's Word was the greatest resource** I discovered to help me with my praying, not only for my family but also for myself. We read in Hebrews 4:12 (in the Amplified version), "The Word of God is alive and full of power, making it active, operative, energizing, and effective." it was alive and full of power, bringing energy into my prayers. Personalizing God's Word in our prayers releases His supernatural power and His presence in my life.

**In praying scripture**, I not only find myself in intimate communication with God, **but my mind is being**

**renewed** to think His thoughts, about the situation I am praying for, instead of mine. Ultimately, God shrinks what I thought as impossible to a possibility and gives me peace as I wait for His answer.

As we start claiming God's promises and personalizing the scriptures, we will experience more confidence and boldness in our praying. Nothing threatens the ENEMY more than when **we are intentionally praying God's Word** for children, grandchildren, and ourselves.

As you experience the spring, season approaching in your area I hope your thoughts will turn to accessing your prayer life for your children, grandchildren, and yourself. If you are in a WINTER season in your prayer life and you have not been spending time with the Lord regularly or in prayer, **allow the spring season to bring new life to your prayers.**

I am going to give you several examples of Scriptures to Pray for your grandchildren.

### 1. **Accept Advice**

\_\_\_\_\_ will listen to constructive criticism and correction, and through it gain understanding. Proverbs 15:31, 32

### 2. **Anger**

\_\_\_\_\_ will be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19

### 3. **Anxiety**

\_\_\_\_\_ will cast all his/her anxieties and disappointments on You to experience your care for him/her. I Peter 5:7

## Prayer

*Dear Father, as I am reading your Word, show me the scriptures I can pray for my family and myself. Help me to set an appointment with you each day and show me how you would like me to be an intentional prayer warrior for my family.  
In Jesus' name.*

Lillian Penner  
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## Lillian's biographical sketch

Lillian Penner is the author of *Grandparenting with a Purpose: Effective Ways to Pray for your Grandchildren*, the National Prayer Coordinator for *Christian Grandparenting Network*, speaker, and blogger. She has been active in church ministry for over fifty seven years. Lillian and her husband, John, currently reside in Portland, Oregon; have three sons and nine grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their family, traveling and listening to Southern Gospel music. They both were raised in Christian homes and desire to pass on their godly heritage to their future generations.

## Bad Person

Posted on 26 May 2016 by Dr. John Yates - <http://cross-connect.net.au/bad-person/>

### Personal Matters

Last Friday one of the brothers who ministers to young adults was deeply disturbed about the scarcity of spiritual fathers/mothers in the Church. This led us to a key passage in Paul; "I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became *your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*" (1 Cor 4:14-15).

A famine of spiritual parenting indicates few older Christians are grasped by the gospel, a gospel which is shame free. This led us to pray into the spiritual meaning of words I'd heard a few days earlier from an emotionally distressed young woman; "I don't go to church but *I'm not a bad person.*" As we prayed we became persuaded that we were touching on a subject that will shape the future of the Western Church.

### Conscious of Sin

Hebrews states emphatically, "'I (God) will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'"; this new covenant promise brings freedom from "consciousness of sins" (Heb 10:2, 17). What has this got to do with spiritual parenting? Spiritual fathers and mothers express an initiative and authority to speak into others lives. Such authority is absent and abdicated when we are conscious of personal sin and failure; such a consciousness is carried in the conscience.

A healthy Christian conscience registers the difference between two very different kinds of sanctification or holiness. Our "*being* sanctified" is our personal growth as believers, a situation that can go up and down (10:14). But through Jesus' completed sacrifice we "*have been* sanctified"; this is a past and completed state (Heb 10:10). In Christ we have been wonderfully "*perfected* for all time" (10:14).

**in Hebrews the language of "perfection" does not mean moral blamelessness but ... complete access to God**

Importantly, in Hebrews the language of "perfection" does *not mean moral blamelessness* but grounded in the Old Testament sacrificial

system it means *complete access to God* (Ex 29:9; Lev 21:10 L.X.X.). In sharing in Jesus access to the Father we know our heavenly Father is not ashamed to have us as his children (Eph 2:18; Heb 2:11). Access to God brings experience of the glorious love between Father and Son so that anyone who experiences this revelation is released into confident spiritual fathering or mothering (John 17:26).

Spiritual maturity is not about being situated somewhere on a scale between goodness and badness, it is a state of relational intimacy with a holy and loving God (Eph 4:13 = Heb 10:14). Mature Christians are not self-conscious about their "goodness" but know sin lacks the power to block access to *Christ as their righteousness* (1 Cor 1:30). These men/women of God minister from a place free of shame and guilt and produce disciples who likewise produce disciples in a multi-generational succession of parenting in God (1 Cor 4:16).

What then is blocking the power of the gospel to release such spiritual parenting today?

### A Weak Conscience

Paul proclaims, "through the law we become conscious of our sin." (Rom 3:20). If consciousness of sin is the one thing that blocks authority to spiritually father/mother then it is religious legalism that has bred our current crop of spiritual orphans.

For centuries Christian societies (Christendom) have bred "good people and good citizens" through a socialising process that has emphasised morality above grace. To become a Christian has meant to become a "better person". (No wonder "Christianity" has long been labelled moralistic, judgemental and self-justifying.) Generations of believers with moralised minds have fallen prey to accusation, control, spiritual abuse and *an inability to spiritually discern good from evil in the Church* (Heb 5:11-14).

Where the power of the gospel is unknown the

**Spiritual maturity is not about being situated somewhere on a scale between goodness and badness**

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## Bad Person (...continued)

contemporary Church becomes plagued with what Paul calls "a weak conscience" (1 Cor 8:7ff). Those who lack a revelation of who they are in Christ have an inner fear that they might turn out to be a "bad person". Such folk are open to the satanic strategies of being shamed and guilted into conforming to the status quo; this has long happened within the Western Church, but now *it is happening big time as the Church faces the world*.

### Conscience Culture or Christ

**Without the Spirit, ethical transformation in the world must come through making people feel guilty**

Without the Spirit, ethical transformation in the world must come through making people feel guilty and ashamed of themselves. Anti-Christian secular culture has in recent years made the *followers of Jesus intensely aware of how society perceives us*. This is all about perceived moral status.

There are three classes of "bad people" in the eyes of progressive Westerners; "racists", particularly opponents of Islam, "paedophiles", especially Catholic priests, and "homophobes", namely conservative Christians. This three pronged attack on traditional Christianity leaves believers with three *natural* responses.

1. Avoidance; let's pretend it's not really happening, we can always hide behind the good feelings of Sunday's praise and worship.
2. Aggression; whilst an understandable reaction this is not the way of Christ (1 Pet 2:23).
3. Conformity to culture; this is to abandon the gospel.

The current debates over "equal marriage" have successfully jammed the Church into responses that are read as though we are saying that we are "good people" and gays and their advocates are "bad people". Secular culture has set the tone of moral conversation in a way that is catastrophic for the testimony of Jesus, because *Jesus was not a moral teacher and the gospel is not about becoming better people* but a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).

Satan has strategically snared the Bible-using

Church so that we have been led into a great deception. God however is using this attack to strip off a blanket of moralism which lies over our minds. He is stripping off the layers of a moral Christianity, Western "Christendom", which has long diminished our union with Christ. When the Lord has laid us bare a radical Christianity will emerge in the West like that which has not been seen since the days of persecution under Rome (Rev 3:17).

### Conclusion

The scandal of the gospel is that it does not discriminate between good and bad people; all equally need repentance and forgiveness (Luke 5:32; 1 Cor 1:23). Only a renewed revelation of the gospel can impart the strength of conscience that we need in the face of our countless moral failings to be those men and women God is calling us to be in fathering/mothering others.

The New Testament message takes us outside of both our own self-evaluation and the opinions of others so that we recognise Christ as our sole righteousness. Jesus delivers us from the "bad person" vs. "good person" division because he has become our identity (Gal 2:20). Since "*Jesus Christ has become my conscience*." (Bonhoeffer) my freedom of conscience in him is absolute; whatever any cultural force or law of the land may say.

**Jesus delivers us from the "bad person" vs. "good person" division because he has become our identity**

If the atoning blood of the cross has satisfied God's conscience then what can hold me back in testifying to Jesus both inside the Church and without (Rom 3:25)? It is time to stop allowing the dialogue about good and evil to be framed by anything other than the gospel and to turn back to the Word of Jesus alone. In him is perfect freedom (Augustine), the freedom of access to the Father from whom all things flow (1 Cor 8:6).

What then is left of the "bad person"? S/he was carried away into oblivion in the death and resurrection of the Son of God. "Behold, I make all things new," (Rev 21:5) is a word both Church and world desperately need to hear once again. When they do hear, true restoration and revival will come.

## Pentecost Eve 2016 in Parramatta

By Bjorn Schmid, Transforming Sydney - [transformingsydney.org](http://transformingsydney.org)



Worship at Parra Salvos

Dear friends of Christ.

Late in 2015 after prayer and discernment the Parramatta Pastors responded to our call for a prayer gathering on Pentecost Eve in 2016, and so on the 14th May we came together with around 150 leaders from across Sydney to pray for the people of the Parramatta Region, Sydney and NSW, and Australia and the Nations.



Maj. Grant

Our host Maj. Grant welcomed us to Parramatta Salvos and opened the evening with prayer.

Local indigenous leader Frederick (Fred) challenged us to understand that the Holy Spirit was already here when the Europeans arrived and that He was speaking to those who were willing to listen.

Fred quoted from 2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth...* to underline this point. Bringing the gospel helped the Aboriginal peoples to understand who is the God that many already believed in and to learn about Jesus.



Fred

Fred earnestly prayed for his people to find a deeper relationship with God.

Bjorn gave a brief overview of how the Pentecost Eve event started last year in 2015 at Newtown Mission, gave thanks for God's work in the churches of the Inner West since Pentecost Eve 2015, and then asked Ps. Andy to 'pass the baton' from the Inner West to Parramatta.



Ps. Andy and the Parramatta Pastors

Ps. Andy prayed for the Parramatta leaders and imparted a blessing to them.

Ps. Simon spoke on behalf of the Parramatta Pastors outlining the need for prayer in the region and then invited Ps. Alen to lead us in a prayer of repentance.

After a couple of songs, Sydney intercessor Trish led us in intercessory prayer for Fathers and leaders of Australia.



Ps. Alan



Bjorn



Ps. Simon



Trish

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## Pentecost Eve 2016 in Parramatta (...continued)

Australian Elder Des declared that we have three feasts that are important to the Church, and we celebrate Christmas and Easter, but Pentecost is often neglected.

He then led us in a prayer for a special Pentecost this year.



*Des*

### Prayers across the Parramatta Region

Jacqueline Donaldson, Deputy Mayor of Blacktown thanked God for the diversity of people and cultures that God had brought to Blacktown and she prayed for the breaking of enemy strongholds (poverty, bad reputation, etc.) that are oppressing the people and holding back the area.

Trevor and Pam prayed for the Parramatta region; for unity in the churches and the governing bodies, for souls to be won and for Parramatta to be known as a river of life for the thirsty and for those that are seeking for the truth, and that there will be a ripple effect across the region of Parramatta and beyond.



*Jacqueline, Trevor and Pam*



*Ben*

Youth leader Ben poured out his heart for the youth and youth groups in the Parramatta area, praying earnestly for them and for breakthroughs in leadership and a hunger for God's word.

After more worship, Maj. Peter delivered a stirring message on "Preparing for Pentecost", reminding us of the scriptures leading to the outpouring of Holy Spirit at Pentecost and challenging us to turn our focus away from 'Church' organisation and back to the Holy Spirit and being 'of one accord'.



*Maj. Peter*

### Prayers across Sydney and NSW

John and Magda briefed us on the amazing doors Good is opening in Lakemba through their prayer group and prayed for softening of hard areas around Sydney and for awakening in the church (returning to her first love).

Michael read to us the prayer of Jesus to the Father in John 17 and prayed into this for unity of the Body of Christ.



*John, Magda and Michael*

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## Pentecost Eve 2016 in Parramatta (...continued)

Daryl who works in Education prayed for the students and staff in our schools and in education across Sydney.

Ron prayed for John 17 unity in the Southern area of Sydney (St George and Sutherland Shire regions), for unity within the body and community involvement which is currently lacking, and for Pentecost Eve 2017 and in particular that God will provide a Holy Spirit empowered team to gather His leaders for this event.



*Daryl, Ron and Juanyk*

Juanyk prayed for the people of Sydney; that they would come alive to the knowledge that Jesus Christ has made a way for them to enter into relationship with the Father, that churches across Sydney would be filled with people, that churches have their arms stretched wide in acceptance to those being saved, and that we would extend the hand of grace and mercy. He read Isaiah 55:10-11 and prayed that the seed of faith (the spoken word of God) in every man, woman & child's heart in Sydney would grow into a crop of God's righteousness and produce fruit, and that as Isaiah 55 verse 11 declared, that this spoken word of God would accomplish all that God intends, that none would perish but all have eternal life.

### Prayers across Australia and the Nations

Gordon prayed that Lord would raise up more intercessors for Australia and possibly use the Watchman Schools of Intercession (run by the Australian Prayer Network) to do so, that He would humble us under His almighty hand and do in Christians first what He wants to do in the rest of Australia, giving thanks that media and politicians are currently doing is



*Gordon, Kristen and Rev. Kau*

what God has allowed them to do but that He would raise up Christians to speak with boldness and graciousness, that what is hidden in our society will be revealed and that truth will be seen, and that we will be given the grace and courage to continue to stand for what is righteous and true.

Kristen felt led to take off her shoes as she felt the Lord was saying that this is holy ground and she prayed for the Father's Heart anointing to be released on the body of Christ throughout Australia.

Rev. Kau spoke about the long history of Chinese in Australia and then prayed for revival of Chinese Christians to reach out the Chinese in Australia, unity of Chinese Churches to witness as the body of Christ, and a dedicated minority empowered by the Spirit and a witness to group solidarity.

Marita prayed for healing for those who have been hurt by the institutions in the name of religion and for those who caused abuse and those who suffered because of abuse to experience the mercy of God.

Rev. Peter prayed for children and young people, and the ministries bringing the gospel to them, and for our brothers and sisters struggling against fierce opposition to Scripture in schools in Victoria and Queensland.



*Marita, Rev. Peter and Ps. Beto*

*(Note: this was the third time in the evening that prayers for*

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## Pentecost Eve 2016 in Parramatta (...continued)

*youth and education were raised to the throne of God.*)

Our international guest of honour Ps. Beto asked all the women to stand and prayed a blessing on women; who are equally gifted with men to serve the Body of Christ and prayed against barriers preventing them to serve and be valued as equal partners in ministry.

### Small Group Prayer

Our MC Ps. Louis called everyone to break up into small groups for 15 minutes to pray for each other and any burdens for prayer that people received. Small Group Prayer

### Closing Prayer

After the Group Prayer, Lilian the Convenor of TS prayed for the peoples of Israel, Lebanon, Syria and IRAQ.



*Ps. Louis*

Our MC Ps Louis thanked everyone for coming and offered a closing prayer and blessing.

Our thanks to the Parramatta Pastors and the organising committee, especially:

- Maj. Peter and Majs. Grant and Sharon and the Salvation Army for hosting the event,
- Ps. Simon and the Servants of Jesus Community in Seven Hills for hosting our meetings and providing the discernment and worship teams
- Ps. Louis for organising many of the smaller details and being a fantastic MC for the evening,



*Lilian*

- Trish and her team of intercessors for holding in prayer the event and people involved,
- The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta who made us so welcome and supported us, advertising the event, and
- Everyone who came and contributed to a fantastic evening of unity and prayer!

### Where to Next Year?

Planning has already begun for Pentecost Eve 2017 in Southern Sydney - please contact us if you are interested to be involved or if you would like to run a Pentecost Eve event in your region.



*SOJ Worship Team*



## PENTECOST EVE 2017

By Ron Edwards, 28th April 2016 (prior to Pentecost Eve 2016)

Transforming Sydney put on the first Pentecost Eve prayer event in Inner Sydney in 2015. Pastor Andy Collins of Newtown Mission hosted this event. In the invitation sent out, he made the following comment:

*"It is amazingly encouraging to hear that so many of my brothers and sisters are also longing and praying to our Lord to do a new thing in our churches, denominations and ultimately this great city and beyond.*

*It is a great pleasure and honour to join with **Transforming Sydney** in inviting you to Newtown Mission chapel for a very special night of prayer and fellowship on May 23rd as we are brought together in unity to cry out to our God."*

It was a very special night (120 in attendance), in which the many prayers offered by Christian leaders across denominations, ages and cultures, included asking for a Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but as well asked the Father for what Jesus asked, that John 17 unity would be evident in His church: "so that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

**Pentecost Eve 2016** will be in the **Western Region of Sydney** (Parramatta) at the Salvation Army, 34 Smith St, Parramatta on May 14th from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. It is wonderful to be part of the organising committee for this event and to experience the passion, love and unity which is evident. If you want to see Sydney transformed by the love and power of God come join us on Pentecost Eve 2016.

Next year, **Pentecost Eve** will be held in the **Southern Region of Sydney** (St George and Sutherland Shire). I have been asked by Transforming Sydney to organise the event as I live in the Sutherland Shire and have lived most of my life in both regions.

I have been on the Advisory Committee for Transforming Sydney for many years. As a Board Member of the International Christian Chamber of Commerce, Australia, I was an advisor to Transforming Sydney on the marketplace and more specifically business.

For thirty years, I owned and managed Christian Press/Care & Share Products, wholesaler to Christian bookshops and now Greeting Cards and Gift Shops. My youngest son, Scott is now the CEO.

One notable occasion in the late 1990's was where I was able to get many of the churches and Christian Schools in the Sutherland Shire to work together in the community. I approached CMS (Christian Missionary Society) who had a Christian Bookshop in the Sutherland Shire to work with me to have a Christian presence in Miranda Fair in the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Our plan included getting the churches and Christian schools in the region to put Christmas events on the Miranda Fair Stage: Choirs singing carols, Christmas drama etc.

Southside Christian Fellowship put on stage some great drama, St Luke's Anglican Church Choir at Miranda were regulars, as were a number of the Catholic Schools particularly St Patrick's School Sutherland. The performances were coordinated by one of one of the pastor's wives and she filled most afternoon and evening time slots given to us.

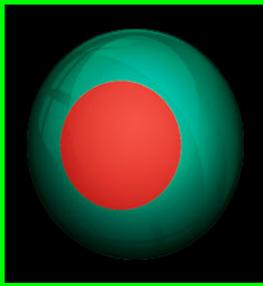
The organising team came under intense spiritual warfare. Westfield management had us take down a large sign, "*Jesus is the Reason for the Season*" we had erected next to our Christian Shop in the Mall. Every week, they moved our shop saying the retailers nearby complained our shop, which was busy, interfered with their trade. It was a major upset each time we moved and we lost staff over it, but God is faithful and doubled our sales every time.

I sincerely believe **Pentecost Eve 2017** will be another wonderful opportunity to get all the Christian Churches and other Christian organisations in the Sutherland Shire and St George regions to come together to pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to transform us and the communities we serve.

Following **Pentecost Eve 2016** we will be looking to form a committee of pastors and other Christian leaders in the **Southern Region of Sydney** to start praying and preparing for **Pentecost Eve 2017**. In addition, we seek intercessors who will pray for the event and those involved.

Anyone interested in seeing this event go forward in the Southern Region of Sydney in 2017 should contact me, **Ron Edwards on Ph 0414412740 or by email ron@bakb.com.au**





# BCC From Nepal



Friday, April-22, 2016  
BCC MINISTRY IN NEPAL  
Thamel • Kathmandu • Nepal.

## NEWS THIS MONTH

### Gospel reaching in Nepal.

Pastor Newton Sarkar from Bangladesh Community Center is arrived in Kathmandu International Air-port on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 at 2:30 pm Mr, Pasang was receive to Newton from the KTM Air-port.

After arrived meet with some Pastor's and Minister in Nepal and take their dinner at mid night 8:00 am.

#### Church Service in Nepal:

**23 April 2016:**

Morning 9:00 am Pastor Newton attend The Word for the World Churches in Nepal Bishop Ram and the church people are welcome him. Ps, Newton is Sharing that what God is doing for Bangladesh Ministry through BCC and was preaching in their Service.

Then visited other churches in Nepal is attended in Hope Churches. Pastor Ganesh and his church people are welcome him. We are really so glad that God is use us for Nepal. We are planning to do the Pastor's and Leadership Training from end of this year 2016.



**24 April-2016.**

Have great time with wonderful discussion with Nepali Pastor's and minister. Then we provide some good cloths for the church people. In future the Nepal will blessed through Gospel Training.

Visit Orphanage home. Every child getting gift from the us. The children was so happy to learn song and worship dance. It was so much joyful for the children. They are so happy.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

*Only 10% of all active full time workers in the Nepal have received any type of formal training? Our pastors and leaders, who are doing a wonderful job in the church, they have very little theological education. We have had a growing realization that in order to continue building more and healthier churches in the Nepal, there are a number of challenges standing in our way. Many of the pastors and leaders grew up in strong Hindu or Buddhist families. Many have only a limited education. They are scattered in many remote areas of the Nepal and don't have computers or internet access. Many are bi-vocational and have families they need to continue providing for. The greatest challenge I found among our people is the discouragement, lack of resources and training they have. Often church leaders are working in isolated environments. Opposition from non-Christians, and even sometimes from non-believing family members, is the greatest hindrance to their ministry. As Reach Nepal Ministries we are praying and training to bring the Gospel nonetheless.*

Will you please consider helping us to train pastors and leaders as well as raising up the youth of the region? Has the Lord been speaking to you about helping the growing church in the Nepal? Are you willing to equip the leaders of this vital ministry? Whether it is a monthly commitment or a one time gift, it will be such a great blessing and it would help us to know that you are supporting the Gospel's progress in this region.

That seems so little to provide such valuable training in the Gospel! As you sow into this ministry know that the Lord will see the generosity of your heart and reward you for your faithfulness. He will multiply your seed sown (2 Corinthians 9:10).

We thank you for joining with us in helping raise a new generation leaders in Nepal!

#### Correspondence Address

Flat-10NB2.  
Bashonti Building  
Lake City Concord. Khilketh.  
Dhaka-1229. Bangladesh  
HP: +880-1711-30-72-92

bccbangla@gmail.com

#### Banking Information

**Standard Chartered Bank.**  
Jibon Bima Bhaban, KDA Avenue. Khulna.  
Bangladesh.  
A/C Name: Newton Sarkar  
A/C No: 18-1072753-01  
Swift Code: SCBLBDDX

#### Prayer Request & Thanks Giving !!!

Pray- Prayer is the foundation on which REACH Nepal is being built. Whatever has been accomplished in this ministry so far is a result of Gods people praying.

Give-A vital way YOU can be transforming communities - and fulfilling the Great Commission - is through your giving. Your generosity today will see lives changed now and souls saved for eternity!

Introduce-Because of the work growing every year, we need more prayerful partners like you. Please introduce your friends, family and your church to the cause of reaching lost souls.

Be informed- Find out what is happening though REACH BCC Ministries.  
Amen.



## Field trip to the ISIS Frontline in the Middle East

Steve Chong Facebook Posts in April 2016

by Steve & Naomi Chong, leaders of the RICE movement in Sydney

### Into the Storm

#### Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders



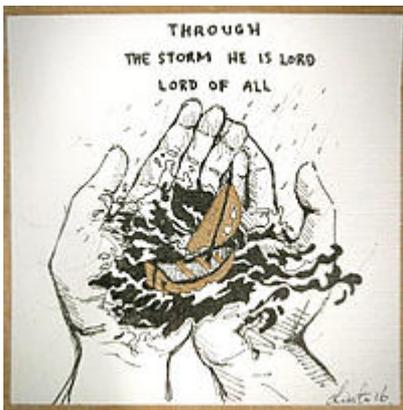
A very beautiful and teary Naomi and I are enroute to the airport about fly to the middle East (location sensitive) on what will be (&already is) the most confronting trip we've ever been on. It is safe to say our faith is being stretched to its limits. As we hugged our kids

goodbye and squeaked out the words 'we'll see you soon' we drew on every ounce of our understanding that the future truly is in His hands. Dependency on God: Just a small taste of what people we are about to visit live with as a daily reality and I am thankful already for that experience.

If you are in the know of details & name of locations/ organization we are going with.. NO MENTIONING please. But do drop a general note that you are praying and any encouraging words. We will pick those up when we next get online.

Thanks for your prayers!

#### The picture we took with us on the plane in:



Naomi Chong & I landed safely in middle east to transit but it's this next flight that feels like we are flying 'into the storm.' Good thing storms don't phase Jesus. I'll be taking this amazing drawing given to us by our RICE family (done by one of our #RICEgenesis artists, Lisa Tu) on the plane.

On the back are the names of many people who have committed to pray every day we are away as it helps me remember we are in His hands, safe from the storm.

Ready for God to do His work. Let's do this.

#whyareyouafraid #jesussaidbestill ... and they crossed to the other side (mark 4:3541)

Remember no comments or posts with locations (sensitive) or organisation names. General comments and commitments to pray are welcome

### The song we listened to as the plane prepared to land

*You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand  
And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine  
Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now  
So I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine  
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior*

Hillsong United - Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

### Jesus is Lord of both sides of that hill

On the other side of this hill, a mere 10km away, is the ISIS frontline. This is as far as they have advanced and it is on the other side of this hill that a resistance army is holding them at bay (for now).



Naomi & I have never been in a war zone so hearing 3 explosions in the space of 10 minutes was scary. Yet we're just visiting. I couldnt imagine what it would be like to be a Christian actually LIVING on these foothills knowing full well that they would be first to meet ISIS if they break through the defence and take this next town.

Our host tells us, 'of course they are scared, everyone on a daily basis asks the question 'what if they come today?' Yet they stay.

Like the bishop whose church is 4km from this front line who has decided to stay put. His church have

(continued next page)

## Field trip to the ISIS Frontline (...continued)

asked him 'what will happen to us when ISIS come and we stay?' He told them 'you they will shoot on the spot. As for me, they will burn me slowly, and I would gladly do so for the sake of Christ'

I don't believe we in the West have really grasped what it means to have a faith that causes us to suffer for the gospel (even though our Lord tells us to expect it) and I believe we are the poorer for it. More troubling is, if it did come, what would I do?

You know I came here hoping to encourage the persecuted church but each one of them that I meet encourages & rebukes me simply by living out a resilient faith under circumstances I cannot fathom. I guess they really believe that Jesus is Lord of both sides of that hill. But do I?

#ohyouoflittlefaith #pickupyourcrossandfollowme

(The organisation has helped write this post but no mention of its name or locations thank you.

Please keep the prayers coming)

### ISIS TOOK EVERYTHING //



It is hard to understand the persecuted church here until you wrap your head around the staggering exodus of Christians that has happened as a result of ISIS 'cleansing' town after town of Christians. To these extremists, their mission is a 'holy' order to 'kill the

infidels' so as they enter a town, the choice for Christians are to convert, pay a exorbitant tax to fund ISIS, be shot or leave everything they have ever owned to ISIS and run. I don't have the words to express the scale of this nor the psychological and societal flow on effects of this overwhelming crisis your brothers & sisters are facing.

Take this Christian family who has at times recieved an envelope with a bullet inside as a threat to leave their home or be killed. Scary but it wasn't till midnight one night that their town hears those daunting words 'they are coming. ISIS are coming for us now!' The man (in the middle of photo) wipes away his tears as he tells how they ran with whatever was in their hand, his father (next to him) says 'I only brought my pillow.'

As he tells the story my friend says a sentence strangely out of place 'but thanks be to God for this.' He continues and tells how he was a successful electrician living in a comfortable house with two cars and as many say here, 'in ten years you earn everything and in 1 minute it is all gone.' But then he says it again: 'but thanks be to God for this.' He continues to share how his islamic neighbors stay in the town and join ISIS, in return they acquire all the

property the Christians left and move into their homes. And there it is again 'but thanks be to God for this.' He tells of how many walked for 80km to find refuge in one or the many camps for 'Internally Displaced People' (IDPs) by organizations providing aid for fleeing Christians. And though they squash into small box rooms (like this one) with no income, no possessions and no future, he concludes 'so thanks be to God who never left us.'

How much does our comfortable western church understand what Paul means when he writes 'give thanks in all circumstances?' (1 Thess 5:18) Sure, we might exegete it perfectly. But this brother just lives it out.

Finally I ask him 'is your faith crumbling?' He cries and laughs at the same time and replies 'My faith will never be shaken.'

If you are moved by this story get your head around how many others there are. The SCALE is mind boggling. The Christians in the towns in their region that fled when ISIS came through numbered over 150,000 (all on one night). This is not a typo, 150,000 other stories of unshakeable faith. But that is just one region, they estimate it to be in the millions of people displaced across ISIS controlled territory. How many stories of faith, courage, hurt and pain of our brothers and sisters do we need to hear cry out for help and ask for our prayers before we actually do? Part of it is ignorance on our part. Part of it apathy. But for me, most of it has been a lack of love for my persecuted church family. None of these reasons are good enough to turn and look the other way.

So thank you for the prayers for @naomi & my protection but it's time to shift those prayers away from two relatively safe Sydney Christians merely passing through, and towards your brothers and sisters here whose lives, future and friends have been lost. The trauma clinic who offer biblical counseling to those raped and who have seen their family members tortured or killed for their faith tell me 'its all different stories, but the same hurt.' Stories that [are] our stories, hurt that is our hurt, because when one part of the body suffers.. EVERY part does. That's you.

Thats me.

(1 Corinthians 12.26) #myfaithwillnotbeshaken #thanksbetoGod #Iwillsufferwiththem

(If you are interested in 'meeting' more Christians whose stories of faith will shake yours, I'll introduce them to you on Instagram as there are too many for FB. Follow here: @steve.chong )

(No mention of locations/organisation names please. But general comments welcome)

### ISIS is a gift //

Today I met a hero.

Although he wanted me to, I will not show you his face

(continued next page)

## Field trip to the ISIS Frontline (...continued)

or his name because his statements are too provocative. My faith is so conditioned to be risk adverse that I double checked 'aren't you afraid for saying these things?' He laughs and says 'afraid? I am not afraid! They can try to hurt me but they can't take away what is most precious. My Jesus lives in my heart and they can't take Him'

This man was rich. When I say rich I mean he owned 3 houses, multiple cars, and 1km worth of undeveloped land. He managed an office of multiple staff which he ran with an Islamic man who was his best friend.

When ISIS swept through his town to cleanse it of Christians he picked up his wife and 5 kids and fled for fear of their lives. As they ran his best friend phoned and took pleasure in telling him; 'I have taken everything of yours. I have taken your house. I am actually calling you from inside your house which is now mine in the name of ISIS.' my friend replies 'i will come back one day!' only to hear this chilling reply 'no, I will chase you to the next town to which you run now and we will take everything again' The betrayal and emotional hurt added to fear for physical safety makes what ISIS do so pervasively sinister.

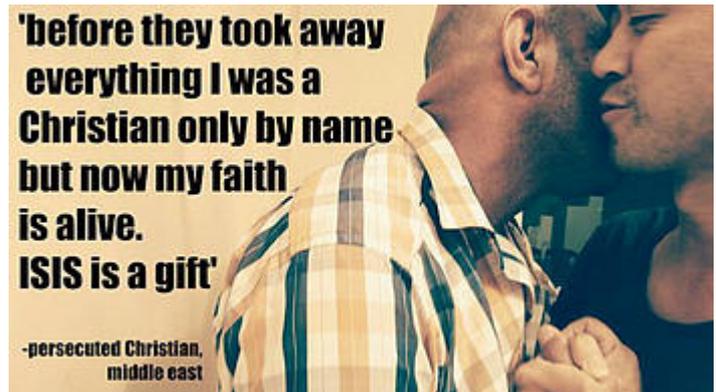
Yet my hero friend continues: 'they come in the name of ISIS but we will stand firm in the name of Jesus Christ and we will not be afraid of them. We leave our houses, but I know that if we leave our faith we lose everything. 'I asked him 'what will you do if you see your exbest friend again?' he smiles and says 'i will love him and I will leave him alone because my Lord teaches me to do that'

But nothing could have prepared me next for what I believe is a truly prophetic message to the western church. 'before they took away everything I was a Christian only by name but now my faith is alive. ISIS is a gift. If ISIS comes to the west it is a gift from the Lord. It will be a wake up call for a sleepy church. If you want to spend your time working for more money and more houses and just going along to church on Sundays you can lose it, but if you work for God (he points upwards), you can never lose it. So I say to the western church 'wake up. Wake up!'

I was cut to the heart when he concluded with this assessment of us: 'Christians in the West don't want to die because they are more in love with life than Jesus.' This statements rocked me not because I was offended but because deep down I know it is true of me.

And it's not like he couldn't leave. He recently got offered a visa to escape to the Czech Republic with his family but he refused it because he says 'it is God's will for me to be here. When you are a small child in the womb of your mother God already has a plan for you. He has a reason why you are alive and why you are created. God is working here and He wants me to stay' He says, 'the most important thing

in life is passing the message of Jesus to more and more people and since ISIS has come more Islamic people than ever are asking us about our faith. It is so amazing when they come and say 'tell me about this Jesus'. Clasp hands and sharing a holy kiss (middle eastern style) in this photo is hopefully just a symbol for what I pledge to continue to do. To tell their stories, to stand with my family, to love & learn from the persecuted church, to wake up and to love Jesus more than my life.



Today I met a hero. But he is only being like his Hero. Both of us have met that one. His name is Jesus. But perhaps only one of us really looks like him. And it's not me.

'if anyone were to follow me he should deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me' #heroesonthefrontline #tobelikeJesus #ISISisagift #wakeupchurch

More heroes on Instagram: @steve.chong

### WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE//

(a post for women written by Naomi Chong)

Many people, including myself, wondered why a mother of 4 young kids should go on a trip to the front lines of ISIS in the Middle East. But it was precisely because of my situation that I could appreciate some



of the unique challenges of living as a Christian woman in a place: Where a beautiful woman was taken from her husband (who has not been heard of again) by an ISIS prince claiming her as his possession as ISIS cleanses the city of Christians. She told her loved ones to forget her as she will never escape.

Where women lived lives much like ours. Peaceful prosperous lives. Until one night they fled certain death, torture and rape because they would not deny Christ.

Where a woman waited 6 years to fall pregnant only to lose the baby due to the stress of fleeing ISIS;

(continued next page)

## Field trip to the ISIS Frontline (...continued)

giving birth to the stillborn child along the roadside.

Where they now live in tents or tiny caravans crammed in camps with hundreds or even thousands of other persecuted Christians, having to share bathrooms and stoves with minimal facilities.

Where they do so with the added burdens of their own trauma & grief, the trauma of their husbands & children, unemployment, poverty, depression, anxiety, boredom of their family members, and the constant uncertainty of living in a war zone.

Where I got to embrace a woman whose husband and adult son were taken by ISIS and hasn't heard any news for over a year.

Where a woman came, despite the protests of all her family, to share the good news of Christ and teach the believers there, saying, 'if God wants me to live, no one can take my life. Jesus has come to me, he has done so much for me by dying on the cross and when I see hundreds of thousands of people fleeing I ask what would Jesus do. He wouldn't be sitting far away in a Parliament building. He would be with them. So I go too.'

God took me halfway around the world, to a war zone, to imminent danger to meet these incredible women; to be transformed by their witness; to hear their stories and share them with you.

So please pray for these sisters in Christ. Stand with them, cry for them and all they have endured for Christ. They desperately need your prayers and have asked for them. And pray for those who support them on the ground, without whom their plight would be even more dire.

For more stories to fuel your prayers and action, go to [www.opendoorsblog.org.au](http://www.opendoorsblog.org.au) and follow

Steve Chong FB or insta (@steve.chong)

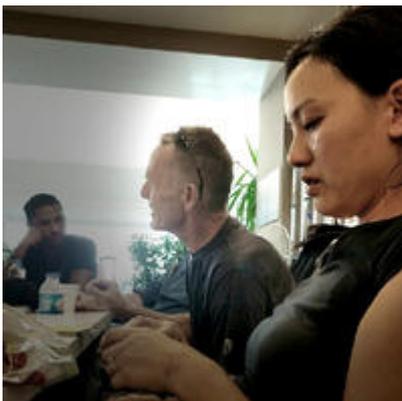
### BRINGING HOME DIFFERENT TEARS//

How one week can change so much.

If you saw my post 1 week ago it was of a very brave and beautiful Naomi, cheeks stained with tears as we said goodbye to all we know is familiar: our 4 kids, our safe city, our home as we stepped into the unknown

10km out from the ISIS frontline in the Middle East.

1 week later, Naomi (still brave and still beautiful) again has tears on her cheeks but these are very different ones as she begins to process the grief she has witnessed spending a week



with people who have given up so much more than us by refusing to deny Jesus in the face of ISIS.

Mike Gore asks us at the airport team debrief: 'what struck you from this trip?'

Most people go straight for the positives. Typically Naomi doesn't fake it and chooses this opening sentence: 'I really struggled on this trip.'

As she pauses we wonder, was it because she missed the kids? (she did)

Didn't like the food? (she loved it)

Found 40+degrees too hot? (she managed)

She explains:

'I struggled because through all the suffering we saw, I kept wanting to work out whose fault this mess is. Is it ISIS? Is it the West? Is it religion? Is it greedy self interest? It's all of these but ultimately it is sin. I struggled because I want to find a solution but I can't find one. I can't solve it.'

It's on that realization that very different tears start to roll down her cheeks and she manages just these words: 'I realised there is ONLY ONE solution. Come Lord Jesus. Come and solve this because you are the prince of PEACE'

If you let it (like Naomi has), the persecuted church will have a transformative effect on your faith and it is great to see that already beginning on social media. But don't sit back or it will be just an inspiring story you read the other day and it will pass as quickly as it came. Take hold of whatever it looks like to step towards the persecuted church and I promise you, there is blessing to be found there.

Tomorrow, I will post another story of people we met where I'll propose some ways for you to take these next steps so perhaps till then u might prayerfully prepare space in your heart that God might fill with these forgotten voices. As for me, as I fly off I'm with Naomi.

My prayer is #comeLordJesus  
#cryofthepersecutedsaints  
#howlongOLord  
#cominghome

I'll keep posting stories here and insta and snapchat (both @steve.chong) to keep the persecuted church having that transformative effect. For now, thanks for praying & following and we will see you back home. And if you missed the opportunity to read and share naomi's important post, 'women on the frontline' (particularly if you are a woman!) check out her page.

\*\*\*UPDATE: arrived home to many #chongkid cuddles. Thanks for your prayers! We are now back, comfortable and safe but now I'm home, I'm not so sure that is entirely a good thing.

#sleepychristian  
#wakeupchurch \*\*\*



## 5 WAYS TO PREVENT MONEY RUINING YOUR MARRIAGE

Written by Alex Cook, Wealth With Purpose - [www.wealthwithpurpose.com](http://www.wealthwithpurpose.com)

Marriage is the most exciting and challenging relationship that we're likely to experience in our lifetime. Two people come together with different personalities, upbringings, values & beliefs about money (even if not obvious at first) and a variety of habits. All of sudden, your financial future is directly linked with somebody else's. Is it any wonder that so many marriages struggle with personal finances? Actually, it remains the most common reason for divorce.

But there is good news! God has given us much wisdom in his word that can apply to our personal finances. In fact it surprises most Christians to find that there are more than 2300 verses in the Bible on money, wealth and possessions.

So here are 5 tips to help prevent money from ruining your marriage:

### No.1 - Have an Emergency Fund

*"A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks, and suffers the consequences".*

[Proverbs 22:3]

The one guarantee in life is uncertain events. Whether it is job loss, the passing of a loved one, or a family member becoming sick, most of us will experience a life event that can flow through to our financial situation. In the current global economic environment, redundancies are common. The loss of an income can put considerable stress on a couple.

There is a simple solution, an "emergency fund". This simply means setting aside cash in a bank account for a rainy day. How much is appropriate? Whilst it will vary based on circumstances, a rough rule of thumb is six months of living expenses. This is usually enough to allow time for you to get a new job or adjust to a new reality.

### No.2 - Seek to avoid or minimise Debt

*"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."*

[Proverbs 22:7]

Nothing causes stress like a mountain of debt that needs to be repaid. The pressure of missing repayments, dealing with creditor phone calls, or experiencing a default event, can place enormous pressure on a marriage.

Debt in our society has become so normalised that

few people stop to question it.

The Bible paints a different picture about debt. In fact, all the passages on debt could best be described as warning messages about the potential harm that it can do.

How much debt is appropriate? A good goal for Christians is to live a debt free life. However as most of us will have a mortgage at some point, a good rule of thumb is that the mortgage repayments should not exceed 30% of your net income. Any more than this and most people will struggle to save for the long-term, meet other lifestyle needs and most importantly, live the generous lifestyle to which Christians are called.

### No.3 – Don't Hide Money

Want to know the quickest way to lose the trust of your spouse? Hide money from them! This is an all too common occurrence and can cause profound damage to your relationship.

A survey conducted a few years ago in the United States showed that 1 in 3 couples admitted to hiding money from their spouse – what they called 'financial infidelity'. Unsurprisingly, 76% said that it had impacted their relationship. What was frightening though, was that a full 35% thought it was ok to have some secrets from your spouse.

Before spending any significant sum of money, or doing business deals that will put your family at risk, make sure you seek the counsel of your spouse. Not only is it the right thing to do, in the end, it will probably prevent big financial mistakes. God has blessed you with a spouse to complement you and bring balance to your decisions.

### No.4 - Talk Regularly!

It is often the unsaid in a marriage that leads to the biggest problems. An issue grows and grows and nothing is said until it explodes! Too often, this is the case with money. It frequently takes a crisis to face up to the reality of money problems that could probably have been mitigated much earlier had it been discussed.

How often should you talk about money? I believe that once a month, you and your spouse should sit down and go through the family finances. I would suggest going on a 'money date', where you set aside an hour and go to a location (could be a coffee shop) exclusively for that purpose.

(continued next page)

## Prevent Money Ruining Your Marriage (...continued)

What should we discuss? There are many areas you can discuss including budgeting, family goals, the vision for your finances, giving, debt, insurance, estate planning, retirement planning and more.

As times goes by, money discussions should become a normal relaxed part of life and part of everyday dialogue lessening the need for a money date! But you might like the date so much you keep doing it!

### No.5 – Put yourself in their shoes

As I alluded to at the beginning, when we get married, we are bringing together different upbringings, beliefs & values about money, habits and a different level of spiritual maturity. At first these may not be obvious, but they'll become more evident in the course of your relationship.

One of the greatest sources of conflict in marriage is the different perspective we have about 'needs' versus 'wants'. These differences need to be discussed calmly and openly, so that we can understand the other spouse's perspective and to

reach a resolution. Sometimes we need to face the reality that our perceived 'need' is really more a desired 'want', and we need to understand the financial implications of having that 'want' met.

Take the time to explore each other's backgrounds, how your parents handled money and to understand what is truly important to your spouse. The ability to understand where you and your spouse are coming from is a good starting point to build solid foundations when it comes to prayer and planning.

I trust that this material has given you a few ideas to help you prevent money from ruining your marriage.

*Alex Cook is the Founder of Wealth with Purpose, a provider of financial education courses based on the wisdom of the Bible, designed to help Churches lead their members to becoming God-honouring stewards. For more information on how [www.wealthwithpurpose.com](http://www.wealthwithpurpose.com) can help you or your Church, please call Alex on +61 414 416 575 or email Alex at [acook@wealthwithpurpose.com](mailto:acook@wealthwithpurpose.com)*



# Wealth with Purpose



## God Turns Evil Schemes Around for Your Greater Good

From Johan Lourens - [gebednet.com](http://gebednet.com)

Romans 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Whenever the devil throws something at us, we need not lose hope. In fact, we can be sure that God will turn it around for our greater blessing because He is for us.

When God first made man, He gave man dominion over everything on earth. (Genesis 1:26) But when Adam fell, sin and death entered the world, and man lost his authority to the devil.

So did the devil win? No, God executed His redemption plan by sending His Son Jesus to die for us. And He wants us to know that Jesus' death did more than just restore us to the same position that Adam had—it placed us in a much higher position!

When the Father raised Jesus from the dead, we who are in Christ were raised with Him. In other words, we are now seated with Him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, "far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:21) Adam never had this position. So through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have received so much more.

In the Old Testament, we read of how God brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey. The devil thought that he could foil God's plan by putting giants in the promised land to stop the Israelites from inheriting it. But God outsmarted the devil. He allowed the giants to build their homes and cities, dig wells and cultivate crops until the right time came. Then, He brought the Israelites into the land and evicted the giants!

So the Israelites ended up inheriting large beautiful cities which they did not build, houses full of all good things which they did not fill, hewn-out wells which they did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees which they did not plant! (Deuteronomy 6:10–11) Although the devil tried to prevent God's plan for His people from coming to pass, they ended up receiving so much more!

Beloved, the devil may throw obstacles and evil circumstances at you, but God will turn those evil schemes around for your greater blessing because He is for you!



## Always Laboring Fervently, Solomon Islands July/August Trip

From Rick Rupp

Hello Everyone! It's hard to believe that there are still people living in jungle villages without access to clean drinking water. As I prepare for my July/August 2016 trip back to the Solomon Islands there are many challenges. The majority of the villages, schools, and Churches in need of a clean water well frankly have little or no money. Many feel hopeless. Another challenge is they lack education concerning drinking from shallow hand dug wells which are usually around 10 feet deep. This week I made a list of the villages, schools, Churches, and hospitals in need of a water well and I came up with a total of 28. It's not OK with God and it's not OK with me that men, women, and children lack clean safe drinking water.

In just 8 weeks our Fa'arau Well Drilling Team and I will be working together pioneering this evangelistic outreach to people in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands and Lord willing on several other Islands. Plus during my recent trip in April I discovered that on the Island called Guadalcanal people along the Gold Ridge Mining River could desperately use our help too. There was a leak from the Gold Mine that has poisoned and destroyed there river. The Gold Mine has been shut down for over a year. And now the people are left to suffer. So all the villages along this poisoned river could use a clean safe water well. All's I know is that God has provided us the Tractor/Well Drill Rig for such a time as this and while I am in the Solomon Islands I want to help as many people as possible on this upcoming ministry trip in July & August of 2016.



Please take a look at the three photo's that I've attached. Because we are helping poor people in jungle villages where there is no electricity and I want everyone to understand that we will use PVC Hand Pumps like the one in the photo. Most of our water wells will be between 40-50 feet deep using 4 inch PVC pipe with a PVC Hand Pump. From start to finish these 40 -50 foot wells (if there is no rock) can be installed so that people are drinking safe clean water in three days time. I'm sharing these details in hopes that thousands of dollars will be contributed into our [www.CleanWater4Life.com](http://www.CleanWater4Life.com) and [www.CleanWater4Life.com.au](http://www.CleanWater4Life.com.au) over the coming weeks.

Would you prayerfully consider forwarding this e-newsletter to others? And join me in contending for these needy peoples ok?

If you would like to sow into my travel expenses for the Munda Project you may do so online at IHOPKC giving e-link or mailing a check to my home address made out to the National Christian Foundation. (Put Acct # 1121806 on memo) or PayPal using my email [rickrupp@ihopkc.org](mailto:rickrupp@ihopkc.org) I need to raise \$5,000.00 for my upcoming trip expenses! Thank you!

I'm asking God to provide the finances for 25 water wells. The average cost per water well will depend on the cost of transporting the tractor and team to the various Islands. So when traveling out to various Islands the per water well cost is approx \$2500.00 each. Maybe your Church or Business could sponsor a water well project?

Thank you partners for praying and sowing!

This link explains our goals for 2016 in the Solomon Islands. Click <http://www.rickrupp.com/newsletter/goals.php>

Online giving for these water wells projects use [www.Cleanwater4Life.com](http://www.Cleanwater4Life.com)

Please contact me if you are interested in joining me for a future trip to the Solomon Islands!

Thank you!

Please contact me if you are interested in having me come share my "Islands Slide Show Presentation." I promise anyone hearing these many wonderful testimonies of answered prayer, and listening to Fa'arau House of Prayer as they sing and worship Jesus will be deeply inspired!

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

*Oh Father God, Lord Jesus Christ, bring us to our knees. Find us contending in prayer until the breakthrough is birthed in Jesus name. Amen*

**God Establish Your Topeka House Of Prayer**

(continued next page)

## Always Laboring Fervently (...continued)

Meditation: 1 Samuel 17:20-27

*"Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.*

*Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."*

*David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

*They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him.""*

David saw the challenge that was causing Israel to tremble in fear as a glorious blessing from God. He had a righteous confidence based on God's covenant with Israel that this was somehow designed to work out for the nation's good. David began to point out that God had promised to be with them and deliver them and that the Philistines had no such covenant.

Eliab, David's older brother, seemed to take offense at David's faith. He began to ridicule his little brother and accuse him of less-than-pure motives.

*Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 1 Samuel 17:28*

King David was no stranger to opposition. When young David arrived being sent by his father to take supplies to his brothers, he witnessed Goliath's taunts. Full of faith in the Lord who had always proven Himself faithful, David had a fresh and hope filled view of the situation the army was facing. God is looking for this response in my heart as we face the many giants/challenges in getting clean water to the poor and needy ones in the Solomon Islands.

Instead of being drawn into a fist fight with his older brother or into a war of words with him, David responded by focusing on what was important: "Is there not a cause?" I certainly don't want to get caught up in the wrong fight. As we proceed with our Solomon Islands "Munda water well project" God is helping me see every challenge as opportunities for more miracles. I believe our Father is sending me/us to take supplies to His children who are desperate for a clean cup of drinking water. And many need Jesus the Living Water! God has called some of us to fight for the poor and oppressed for such a time as this! Though the giants may be there our way to hinder our God will surely give us the Victory! Will you join me in praying and sowing generously into this ministry [www.CleanWater4Life.com](http://www.CleanWater4Life.com) or [www.CleanWater4Life.com.au](http://www.CleanWater4Life.com.au) ?

**It is urgent that we return to covenant relationship with God and with one another in the Body of Christ. This is essential to provide security and protection from the spirit of this age that is destroying our children and youth, our marriages, families, congregations and communities. Why not Topeka! Why not NOW!**

*"What an unspeakable privilege united prayer is and what a power it can be...God rules the world by the prayers of His saints...prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered...by prayer the church on earth has at its disposal the powers of the heavenly world."*

Join us as we stand in the gap for Topeka and surrounding cities in worship and intercession. The Topeka HOP meets at the Open Way Church at 200 NW Gordon St. 66608. THOP meets every Friday night from 6:00- 9:00 pm, Also on Friday nights we offer soaking prayer for those needing healing. This is a city wide prayer meeting and all churches are welcome. For information on how you can become trained or involved in participating on a worship team simply email me at [rickrupp@ihopkc.org](mailto:rickrupp@ihopkc.org)

Rick Rupp | NightWatch Dad  
IHOPKC Intercessory Missionary  
Director Of Topeka House Of Prayer

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## Pray for the Persecuted Church



"The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters."  
Psalm 23:1-2

### UGANDA: Woman Beaten for Accusing Imam

Muslims in eastern Uganda beat and raped a young Christian woman for testifying that a mosque leader killed her father because of his faith, sources said.

#### Prayer Points

- Pray for this young woman's recovery from the attack physically, mentally and emotionally; pray also that her ordeal will draw her closer to the Lord and strengthen her faith as she depends fully on Him.
- Pray that the church will provide ongoing care and support for this young woman in the absence of any family.
- Pray that these events will cause many in the community to realise their need for salvation and to turn to Christ.

### PAKISTAN: Christian Boy Dies After Being Set on Fire

A 14-year-old Pakistani Christian boy who was beaten and set on fire by two Muslim men after answering truthfully that he was a Christian has died due to third degree burns over more than half his body inflicted during the attack.

#### Prayer Points

- Pray for Nouman's grieving family and friends; ask the Lord to comfort them and enable them to forgive.
- Ask God to use Nouman's testimony to give other Christians the courage to stand up for Christ even under terrible pressure.
- Pray for the church in Pakistan to remain faithful and hold on amidst strong opposition and frequent attacks (Revelation 2:25).

### VIETNAM: New Law to Control Religion

Vietnam's new "Law on Belief and Religion," scheduled to come into effect this year, will add another layer of governmental repression and control to an already pressurised Church, says Vo Tran Nhat, Executive Secretary of the Vietnam Committee on Human Rights.

#### Prayer Points

- Pray that no law will intimidate or inhibit the church in Vietnam, but that the church will follow the lead of its Head, Jesus Christ, in every situation.
- Ask God to give wisdom and understanding to the church in Vietnam in their dealings with authorities.
- Pray that government restrictions will create curiosity among Vietnamese about the Gospel rather than driving them away. Incident encourage others to be courageous for the Gospel.

Voice of the Martyrs  
PO Box 250 Lawson NSW 2783 Australia  
02 4759 7000  
[www.vom.com.au](http://www.vom.com.au)



## Prayer for Justice

Father, you have given all peoples one common origin.

It is your will that they be gathered together  
as one family in yourself.

Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love  
and with the desire to ensure justice for all.

By sharing the good things you give us,  
may we secure an equality for all

our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

May there be an end to division, strife and war.

May there be a dawning of a truly human society  
built on love and peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe into me Holy Spirit, That all my thoughts may be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity. Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation.

Amen.

## Prayer for Those with Legal Challenges

“God, you are just and you are merciful. You have given authority governments to establish and maintain justice in the affairs human relationships. Your justice is perfect; our interpretation and application of it is not.

We respect and submit to the decisions of our government, but we also can appeal for consideration and reconsideration. We can press and argue our case. When we do, we ask for truth to prevail, for sympathy and wisdom and discernment and impartiality on the part of those serving judgment. We do not ask for an avoidance of justice, but for truth, and in the end for mercy to balance truth. We are all in need of mercy.

For those struggling with legal issues, bring them peace and confidence. Let justice prevail in their case. And after justice, let mercy and pardon – in the right form and balance – shield them. If they need to pay the cost of a bad choice, give them the grace for this. If their charge can be dropped, and limited, then somehow let that mercy prevail. Teach them how to grow through this trial. Show them more of you and your ways. God, enter this case as judge, jury, and defence attorney.

We trust you now and always. In Jesus...”

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/prayerplainandsimple/2010/03/a-prayer-for-those-with-legal-challenges.html#i8YoiyaGzLwTQR4t.99>



## AUSTRALIAN PRAYER NETWORK NEWSLETTER - INTERNATIONAL NEWS 9th May 2016

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### WAR AND POVERTY FERTILE BREEDING GROUND FOR CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriages in Holland exist on a small scale mostly among migrant communities and asylum seekers. With the arrival of Syrian refugees the number of child brides has risen significantly, according to the report 'Just Married' from the University Maastricht and the Verwey-Jonker institute in December 2015. The main cause: the Syrian civil war. In July 2014 there were two cases of Syrian child brides among the asylum seekers in Holland. The number rose drastically to 55 requests of Syrian child brides in 2015. Most of the times the men are ten or twenty years older than the underage girls, while most marriages took place in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey.

One in 5 girls marry before their eighteenth birthday, according to Girls not Brides, a global partnership of more than 550 civil society organisations committed to ending child marriage. The main reason for child marriage is poverty. Parents with lack of money regard it as a way to collect the dowry early. The second reason is to 'protect' the girl, child marriage in this case is meant to safeguard the honour of the girl and with that the honour of the family. The family-honour in Middle Eastern societies is connected to the virginity of the daughter in question. That's why parents let their daughter marry young to make sure that she enters marriage as a virgin. In war situations the risk of rape is very high and early marriage is seen as protection.

The Syrian civil war strengthens the reasons for parents to marry their daughters off at a young age as is shown by the alarming increase of the number of child brides among Syrian refugees in Jordan. While before the civil war in 2011 the percentage amounted to 13% this doubled in 2014 to more than 30%, according to UNICEF reports in 2014. Also in Turkey this development is noticeable, the German newspaper Augsburg Allgemeine reports in an online-article of 7 March 2016 that the Syrian refugee girls in the Turkish border city of Killis are increasingly forced to marry Turkish men out of dire poverty. A growing number of these refugees are coming to ask asylum in the Netherlands, which caused the rise in number of child brides in Holland.

For most people in Europe it's quite shocking to realize that child marriage is not just a phenomenon in foreign countries, it's also an issue at our doorsteps. The Syrian refugee crisis has highlighted this matter, however it has been an issue long before that, for instance in England. There have been quite some cases reported of underage girls born and raised in England, who have been taken on a 'holiday' to their parent's home country, where they were 'sold off' as brides. Gabriella Gillespie's father took her from her home in the UK to Yemen in 1977 and

married her off when she was only 13. Soon after her marriage she became a mother. With the help of the British embassy in 1992 Gabriella escaped to England with her five children.

She shared her story on a blog of the NGO 'Too Young to Wed': "Some may think that because I was a child bride 20-odd years ago, things have improved and this practice no longer exists, but all we need to do is look at the photos of child brides to know otherwise. My heart breaks every time I see another picture of a child bride, read another story, or see the statistics on child marriage." Child marriage continues to be an issue because the breeding ground for child marriage still exists: poverty and war. Now it's unrealistic to ban poverty and war worldwide, but it is possible to make parents aware that child marriage is not the solution for their poverty problem or a way to 'protect' their daughter. Raising awareness is one of the most important tools to prevent child marriages.

Arab Vision, an international Christian organisation which produces Christian and social TV-productions for and about the Arab world, is currently in the preparation phase of a production about child marriage in the Middle East. "The production has as its goal to raise the awareness of the inhabitants of the Middle East that child marriage is a malicious practice. It violates the interests of the child and at the same time it doesn't offer a solution for poverty. On the contrary, it sustains poverty because the girl in question often is taken out of school and with that she's deprived of the possibility to develop her skills, skills which can actually lift her family out of poverty", according to the organisation.

Source: Arab Vision News via Australian Prayer Network

### HAITI IS IN REAL TROUBLE AS UNREST GROWS

Haiti has virtually vanished off the front page news. It is difficult finding any news on the government crisis, the flooding, or the doctor's strike in Haiti. Yet, Haiti is in real trouble. Two-and-a-half million Haitians live in extreme poverty in the poorest country in the northern hemisphere, according to the World Food Program. The government is in chaos. The United Nations is "deeply concerned" that the January date for holding elections in Haiti was not met. Lawmakers have not yet set an alternate date. January was followed by weeks of heavy rain and flooding in the North in February and March, and now this month in the West. Yet, few of these stories remain on the global consciousness. The only way details are getting out is through word-of-mouth communications from Haitians working to be part of the solution.

For Haiti With Love (FHWL) co-founder Eva DeHart says the government hasn't paid its doctors in so long,

*(continued next page)*

## APN NEWSLETTER - INTERNATIONAL NEWS (...continued)

they've gone on strike, effectively closing the main hospital. But, life goes on, and when people get hurt, there are few choices — except for the privately-run medical clinics, like the one FHWL runs. DeHart recently shared a picture on the ministry's Facebook page with the following caption: "This man went first to the hospital and then to FHL with a major cut – shaved his dreadlocks but still had difficult time getting the bleeding to stop. Got him stitched up and will see him tomorrow." She goes on to note that there is a lot of illness, because people don't have the money to see doctors or buy medication. "There are vendor strikes because the food is too expensive for them to buy, let alone be able to resell it."

For Haiti with Love is there, with a feeding program and a medical clinic that has already had more burn patients in 2016 than ever before. DeHart writes, "There are more seizure patients. Whether it is increasing from stress, or we are seeing them now because they don't have money for medications they had before, the numbers are climbing." People are desperate to find a way to survive. Haiti faces big challenges. For Haiti With Love is doing what it can to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs. They show God's love by following the Lord's commands in Matthew 25:35-40 to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and shelter the homeless. When their team meets the physical needs, it often gives them an opportunity to open the door to hope in a way that they've never known before.

Source: Mission Network News via Australian Prayer Network

### PHILIPPINES VILLAGE EMBRACES CHRIST AFTER VIEWING PASSION OF THE CHRIST

According to reports, a local Philippines ministry spent eight months building a relationship with the Manobo tribal peoples in northern Mindanao. During that time, mission leaders held Bible studies, teaching chronologically through the narratives of the Hebrew Scriptures to the New Testament. Men, women and children began attending these sessions and expressed a tremendous thirst for the Gospel. "The week before presenting the Gospel lesson was a week of suspense," said the director, whose name is withheld for security reasons. "Everyone was in anticipation as to what would happen to Jesus after He was arrested by the Jewish leaders. To make the teaching of the Gospel that night more vivid, the teacher inserted a brief video clip of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus from the movie, 'The Passion of Christ.'"

After viewing "The Passion," which depicts the final 12 hours in the life of Jesus, on the day of His crucifixion in Jerusalem, many of the villagers expressed anger at the mistreatment of Jesus by Jewish authorities and Roman soldiers. "One of the old men emotionally said, 'How I wish I could be by Jesus' side and help Him!'" But after the truth had been explained concerning the death and resurrection of Christ as God's only provision for man's salvation, a feeling of awe and amazement was felt.

Moved by the sacrifice of Jesus, many of the villagers professed faith in His death and resurrection, and embraced Christianity. "Finally, after teaching over the past eight months from Genesis onward, we were able to present the Gospel, and nearly the whole village responded and trusted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour," he said.

"It was a great joy for us to see them understand the saving grace of Jesus for salvation; some cried as they shared their testimony of faith." The next day, even more villagers shared how the Gospel had changed their lives. One elderly man who said he had put his trust in Jesus as the promised Messiah concluded, "He suffered so much for me. I'm glad He rose again from the dead." One particularly heart-warming story came from an 84-year-old woman who said that she was grateful to hear what Jesus had done on the cross for her. She said that while she had little time remaining in this world, she knew that Heaven was her sure home because of what Christ did for her. "Many more Manobo, both children and adult, expressed faith in Jesus," the ministry director said "Truly, God is at work in the lives of these people"

Source: Gospel Herald via Australian Prayer Network

### FREE SPEECH OUTLAWED WITHOUT A PERMIT ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

North Carolina State University is facing a lawsuit after requiring Christian students to have a permit before talking about Jesus. The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) filed the lawsuit after university officials forbade an on-campus Christian group called Grace Christian Life from handing out fliers and talking about Jesus without a permit. The university has a campus-wide policy that requires a permit for any kind of student speech anywhere on campus. However, ADF attorneys say the policy is unconstitutional and was used to discriminate against Grace Christian Life. Although Grace Christian Life followed school policy and obtained a permit, they were still prohibited from passing out fliers, and talking about Jesus. Meanwhile, other student organizations were able to speak freely without a permit.

"Grace members observed other groups freely speaking with students and handing out literature without a permit, sometimes in full view of the same officials that stopped them from doing the same," ADF said in a statement that the policy is unconstitutional. "The courts have established that a public university can't require permits in this manner for this kind of speech—and certainly can't enforce such rules selectively," explained ADF Senior Counsel David Hacker. "Unconstitutional censorship is bad enough, but giving university officials discretion to decide when and where to engage in silencing students makes the violation even worse," he said. "Public universities are supposed to be the marketplace of ideas. The only permit needed to engage in free speech is the First Amendment."

Source: CBN News via Australian Prayer Network

*Have you visited our Web site?* Australian Prayer Network - <http://www.ausprayernet.org.au/>

## Abortion is a Crime Against Humanity

By Allan E. Parker, Jr., J.D. President of The Justice Foundation, May 12, 2016 - [thejusticefoundation.org](http://thejusticefoundation.org)

While many in the international community are calling for the establishment of abortion as a fundamental human right, the exact opposite is true. (See *San Jose Articles*<sup>1</sup> at [EuropeanDignityWatch.org](http://EuropeanDignityWatch.org)).

Abortion is not only not a fundamental right, in fact; it is a crime against humanity. What is a crime against humanity? Here is the Wikipedia definition [Ed: under the heading "International Criminal Court"]:

*"Crimes against humanity, as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Explanatory Memorandum, "are particularly odious offenses in that they constitute a serious attack on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of human beings. They are not isolated or sporadic events, but are part either of a government policy (although the perpetrators need not identify themselves with this policy) or of a wide practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by a government or a de facto authority. Murder; extermination; torture; rape; political, racial, or religious persecution and other inhumane acts reach the threshold of crimes against humanity only if they are part of a widespread or systematic practice. Isolated inhumane acts of this nature may constitute grave infringements of human rights, or depending on the circumstances, war crimes, but may fall short of falling into the category of crimes under discussion.""*

Note that murder is one of the most basic and obvious crimes against humanity. Why? Because the right to life is one of the most basic human rights of all and has been widely recognized in international documents.

The United States Constitution, one of the oldest written constitutions in the world today, states that no person shall be deprived of life without due process of law, in both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

The International Declaration on the Rights of

Man, which established the United Nations, declares that there is an international right to life as a basic human right.

In order to be a crime against humanity, the crime must be widespread and supported by the government. Of course, in every nation where abortion is legal, it is the government that has made it so. In fact, in some countries such as the United States of America, it has been judicial institutions rather than the will of the majority of Americans that has made abortion legal.

**Withdrawing legal protection by the government from a class of human beings, thus allowing them to be killed without fear of punishment is a crime against humanity.** All the nations of the world where abortion is legal are guilty of crimes against humanity. Acting in a governmental capacity, they have withdrawn legal protection from a class of human beings, children in the womb. The first international tribunal which recognized this as a crime against humanity was the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal. See article by Dr. Jeffery Tuomala<sup>2</sup> at Liberty University School of Law ([liberty.edu](http://liberty.edu)), especially highlighted yellow sections.

Here are some of the most important excerpts:

*"The crime of abortion played prominently in two international trials held at Nuremberg following World War II-the Goering and Greifelt cases.*

*Allied prosecutors made the case that voluntary and involuntary abortion were war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Goering judgment identified the Political Leadership Corps of the Nazi Party as a criminal organization, in part because of its policies promoting abortion.*

*The Greifelt indictment charged ten defendants with voluntary and involuntary abortion. The prosecution's case focused in part on the Nazis' removal of the protection of law from unborn children in occupied Poland and unborn children of Eastern workers in Germany that the Nazis*

(continued next page)

<sup>1</sup> [http://europeandignitywatch.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/PDF/Day\\_to\\_Day\\_diverse/San\\_Jose\\_Articles\\_english.pdf](http://europeandignitywatch.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/Day_to_Day_diverse/San_Jose_Articles_english.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://files.ctctcdn.com/891f5977001/04ae6958-f437-4ef7-a420-e0b546f04749.pdf?ver=1462917390000>

## Abortion is a Crime Against Humanity (...continued)

considered racially non-valuable. The prosecution argued that voluntary abortion was punishable because it was a crime against the unborn child. The prosecution proceeded on the theory that Germany had a duty to afford protection of law to unborn children and that the deliberate failure of high-level officials to do so constituted crimes against humanity and genocide by acts of omission. After summarizing evidence of voluntary abortion policies in its judgment, the Greifelt tribunal found two defendants guilty and one not guilty of forcible abortion and seven not guilty simply of abortion.

*The Nuremberg tribunals generally limited their jurisdiction over crimes against humanity to offenses committed during wartime.”*

What is the defense to my argument that abortion is a crime against humanity? The normal defense is “Well, it is not a human being.” But this argument almost proves the very point. If the child is a human being, then even the other side would have to admit it is a crime against humanity because we cannot kill human beings on a mass scale and consider it justice.

Therefore, the question is: “What is a human being?” See the San Jose Articles.

*Allan Parker has served as the president of The Justice Foundation (formerly the Texas Justice Foundation) since 1993 when it was founded to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights essential to the preservation of American society. Under his leadership, the Foundation has represented clients free of charge in cases of limited government, private property, free markets, parental school choice, parental rights in education, and enforcing laws to protect women’s health.*

# SAN JOSE ARTICLES

- ARTICLE 1.** As a matter of scientific fact a new human life begins at conception.
- ARTICLE 2.** Each human life is a continuum that begins at conception and advances in stages until death. Science gives different names to these stages, including zygote, blastocyst, embryo, fetus, infant, child, adolescent and adult. This does not change the scientific consensus that at all points of development each individual is a living member of the human species.
- ARTICLE 3.** From conception each unborn child is by nature a human being.
- ARTICLE 4.** All human beings, as members of the human family, are entitled to recognition of their inherent dignity and to protection of their inalienable human rights. This is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international instruments.
- ARTICLE 5.** There exists no right to abortion under international law, either by way of treaty obligation or under customary international law. No United Nations treaty can accurately be cited as establishing or recognizing a right to abortion.
- ARTICLE 6.** The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee) and other treaty monitoring bodies have directed governments to change their laws on abortion. These bodies have explicitly or implicitly interpreted the treaties to which they are subject as including a right to abortion.
- Treaty monitoring bodies have no authority, either under the treaties that created them or under general international law, to interpret these treaties in ways that create new state obligations or that alter the substance of the treaties.
- Accordingly, any such body that interprets a treaty to include a right to abortion acts beyond its authority and contrary to its mandate. Such *ultra vires* acts do not create any legal obligations for states parties to the treaty, nor should states accept them as contributing to the formation of new customary international law.
- ARTICLE 7.** Assertions by international agencies or non-governmental actors that abortion is a human right are false and should be rejected.
- There is no international legal obligation to provide access to abortion based on any ground, including but not limited to health, privacy or sexual autonomy, or non-discrimination.
- ARTICLE 8.** Under basic principles of treaty interpretation in international law, consistent with the obligations of good faith and *pacta sunt servanda*, and in the exercise of their responsibility to defend the lives of their people, states may and should invoke treaty provisions guaranteeing the right to life as encompassing a state responsibility to protect the unborn child from abortion.
- ARTICLE 9.** Governments and members of society should ensure that national laws and policies protect the human right to life from conception. They should also reject and condemn pressure to adopt laws that legalize or depenalize abortion.
- Treaty monitoring bodies, United Nations agencies and officers, regional and national courts, and others should desist from implicit or explicit assertions of a right to abortion based upon international law.
- When such false assertions are made, or pressures exerted, member states should demand accountability from the United Nations system.
- Providers of development aid should not promote or fund abortions. They should not make aid conditional on a recipient’s acceptance of abortion.
- International maternal and child health care funding and programs should ensure a healthy outcome of pregnancy for both mother and child and should help mothers welcome new life in all circumstances.

*We — human rights lawyers and advocates, scholars, elected officials, diplomats, and medical and international policy experts — hereby affirm these Articles.*

San Jose, Costa Rica  
March 25, 2011



## An Education They Never Dreamed Of

May 2016

As Dayita hauled pile after pile of wood from the forest, she carried a different burden in her heart: the safety and well-being of her children. Each day, she went to work in the jungle, leaving her four children behind in the village with Kasni, her oldest, in charge.

Dayita worried about Kasni's future, but what else could she do as a poor laborer battling to provide for four children? She struggled just to supply food for them, and she never dreamed of sending 7-year-old Kasni to school; the thought didn't even enter her mind.



### Mother Fights to Provide

Kasni's father, like many men in the village, wasted his life on alcohol. Eventually, his addiction made him so sick he could not work or even get out of bed.

As a result, Dayita had to labor as the sole provider for the family. She, along with many other women in her mostly illiterate community, gathered firewood from the forest and sold it in the market. Dayita made very little money. Although many people in rural areas of Asia still use firewood for cooking, a growing number in Dayita's village started to use kerosene stoves instead. The market for Dayita's firewood was dwindling. With an unreliable family income, sometimes Kasni and her three siblings had to go to bed with empty stomachs.

While her mother worked in the forest during the day, Kasni looked after her younger siblings. The four children spent most of their time roaming around the village, occasionally receiving food from their neighbors. Meanwhile, anxiety and fear for her children's safety gripped Dayita's heart as she worked in the forest.

### Daughter Receives Education

One day, staff members from the local Gospel for Asia-supported Bridge of Hope center were visiting homes in the area and happened to meet Kasni's family. When they heard about the family's challenges, the staff invited Kasni to join Bridge of Hope, and her mother readily agreed.

As Kasni went to the Bridge of Hope center for the first time, her heart bubbled with excitement and happiness. She delighted in the chance to attend Bridge of Hope each day after taking care of her younger siblings in the morning.

God used Gospel for Asia's Bridge of Hope Program to reduce Dayita's financial burden, as it provided Kasni with a daily nutritious meal and school supplies, such as a schoolbag and notebook. Kasni thrived in Bridge of Hope. As she went to the center day by day, she grew into a well-mannered young lady with a zest for learning. She learned to speak politely and to respect older people, and she participated energetically in all of the Bridge of Hope activities. Additionally, Kasni heard Bible verses and stories that showed her and her family who Jesus is: the God who cares for them.

Seeing her daughter's character development and good manners filled Dayita with joy and pride. Dayita is also grateful Bridge of Hope has supported her and other parents by hosting parents' meetings and awareness activities.

"Through this program I am learning a lot," said Dayita. "Moreover, by seeing the changes in my daughter, I am proud of Bridge of Hope and its activities."

### Bridge of Hope Blesses Thousands of Children—and Mothers

Through Gospel for Asia's Bridge of Hope Program, God gave Dayita a priceless gift she never thought she would have: the privilege of sending her daughter to school. Now Dayita has joy, knowing her daughter is receiving an education that can help her break free from the grip of poverty.

Thousands of mothers in Asia are being offered the same opportunity as Dayita through GFA's Bridge of Hope Program. **By supporting Bridge of Hope and linking your life with a child in Asia, you can help bless another mother with the hope that her child will gain a promising future through God's grace.**

Sponsor a child today - 100% of what you give for sponsorship goes to the field - [www.gospelforasia.org.au](http://www.gospelforasia.org.au)

