

Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

First Quarter 2017

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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



TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY

Dear family,
welcome to the first quarterly edition of the newsletter for 2017.

In past years, for the months of January, February and March we asked you to pray for Family, the Church, and Government and the Military. Please continue to do so - we have received and observed countless answers to pray and miraculous changes in each sphere usually during or shortly after the month in which we raised our prayers to the King.

Daily Prayer Calendar

In case you are not aware, there is also a day-by-day prayer calendar on both the Transforming Sydney and prayer Strategy websites which you may find useful to help you pray - a topic and scripture and offered for each day of the year and this will not take a lot of your time to include in your busy day.

Pentecost Eve 2017

For the last two years on Pentecost Eve, over 120 leaders came together to pray and intercede for you and us. These gatherings were in Newtown in 2015 and in Parramatta in 2016.

This year we are invited by the pastors and prayer leaders in Southern Sydney to pray in and for their region, and Christian leaders, pastors, ministers and intercessors from across Sydney will be joining us.

We are gathering at

**Penshurst Anglican Church (St. John the Evangelist), 2 Carrington St., Penshurst NSW 2222
from 7-9pm on Saturday 3rd June.**

Please keep this date clear in your calendars and join us if you are able.

Grace and peace,
Bjorn Schmid, Public Officer for Transforming Sydney

prayerstrategy.org businesswomenhealingministry.org transformingsydney.org



WHAT CAN I GIVE TO THE LORD?

Shivraj Mahendra, PhD candidate at Asbury Theological Seminary

"What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?" - Ps. 116:12

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce..." - Pv. 3:9.

As a Hindu I grew up celebrating the harvest festival year after year. One of the key features of this celebration was the worship of harvest, the tools and, yes, the cow! Much of what we did was mere ritual. Personally there was no sense of gratitude.

When I look back as a devotee of Lord Jesus, I am surprised to realize that we did not know the true God. The God of harvests, of animals, of nature, of people, and of the whole creation was unknown to us. So in our ignorance instead of worshipping the creator God we were offering our adoration to mere things and objects, to His creation! Thankfully, I now know God in Jesus and His gift of new life!

The Psalmist humbly asks: "What can I give to the Lord?" This is deep! All that I am is His. What truly is mine? The Preacher calls us to honor the LORD with our wealth and fruits. But what wealth can be found with a homeless? And what fruits will a landless produce? I have no money or gold! I have no land or harvest!

What can I give to the Lord? Apostle Paul rightly appeals us to present our bodies "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God," which is our "spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1). This is it! All that I could ever give to the Lord and his people is already His. Therefore I can pray with E. Stanley Jones: "O Lord Jesus, I offer to you all I am and all I possess. Cleanse both from selfishness and dedicate both to you and your Kingdom..." (*The Word Became Flesh*, 1963:174). May the Lord help us give ourselves everyday to Him and to His mission. Amen!



No, Not Nothing!

Gabriel said to Mary, *“Nothing is too hard for God!”* Mary replied, *“I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let everything happen to me, just as you have said!”* (Luke 1:37-38)

How astonishing! Mary apparently accepted calmly an apparent betrayal of her betrothal vows! Her serenity is remarkable when you recall that in those days a betrothal usually lasted for 12 months and was as legally binding as a marriage. It could be broken only by the death of one of the betrothed, or by a lawful “divorce”. That is why there are references in ancient Jewish literature to “a widow who was a virgin”.

So far more than in our time, Mary faced the probability, not only of bitter scandal and humiliation, but also of legal action. Indeed, violation of a betrothal vow could incur a death penalty – see *Deuteronomy 22:23-24*.

Nonetheless, without hesitation she yielded happily to the Lord’s command!

The story illustrates the truth that God seldom makes things easy! But, easy or not, the first key to an empowered life, where nothing is impossible in God, is submission to the will of God. We must echo Mary – *“I am the Lord’s servant!”*

Notice, too, what a hard thing she was asked to believe – vs. 30ff. This (a virgin birth) was something the world had never before seen! But she was encouraged by Gabriel – *“For not nothing will be impossible for every word God speaks!”* (literal); or, *“Not nothing is too hard for God!”*

Notice the double negative, which in English has the effect of creating a positive, but in Greek it was a device to emphasise something, or to intensify its meaning.

We get the same effect in English by using tautology, such as in the chorus —

“nothing is too difficult for thee, nothing is too difficult for thee, nothing, nothing, absolutely
nothing, nothing is too difficult for thee!”

That song contains a double tautology —

the repetition of “nothing”; and

the addition of the redundant adverb “absolutely”.

Mary responded with a declaration of faith – *“Let it happen to me as you have said!”* (vs. 38) Perhaps at that very moment the lovely promise was fulfilled – the Holy Spirit overshadowed her, the power of the Most High touched her, and she conceived the promised Child.

This twofold response by Mary – first, of submission, then of affirmation, enabled the birth of the Saviour. Without it, world history would have been startlingly different.

Here then are two sides of the one coin —

submission and faith

Each without the other is sterile. So let us surrender to the Lord, place all our trust in his promise, and see Christ reborn anew in our hearts. We too can bring his transforming dynamic into our lives and circumstances. Simply yield heartily to the Father’s sovereign will and express unwavering confidence in his promise.

For indeed, *“Nothing, not nothing, is too hard for God!”*

Ken Chant. Vision Colleges



30 Home Truths on Marriage

By Bill Muehlenberg, posted Jun 29, 2015 on Cultrewatch

<https://billmuehlenberg.com/2015/06/29/30-home-truths-on-marriage/>

With marriage so heavily under attack today, it is worth once again reminding ourselves just what marriage is, what its purpose is, and why it is important. It is also vital to get some clear thinking on what homosexual marriage entails. I have already written many articles and books on all this, but in an age of unreason and mass confusion, restating basic truths becomes a duty.

Here then in outline form (see the documentation for all this in my books) are some basic truths about marriage and family which we must always keep at the forefront of the debates raging all around us today.

Marriage (the union of a man and a woman) has been around throughout human history and throughout all human cultures. While various variations on the theme can be found, marriage has always been primarily about male-female pair bonding, recognised socially and legally because of any children which may proceed from such a union.

The state did not invent marriage. It simply recognised an already existing vitally important institution. Thus the state can no more redefine the essential nature of marriage than it can the law of gravity. The laws of nature which explain the complementary union of a man and a woman to become a husband and wife are inviolate.

A husband and wife are always potentially mothers and fathers, because of the male-female union. Marriage at its heart involves the conjugal act, where coitus marks genuine marriage apart from non-marriage, as our laws have recognised. Homosexual unions of course by their very nature do not and cannot entail the conjugal act.

It is exactly because human sexuality is fundamentally connected with the possibility of procreation that societies, and the state, have taken such an eager interest in marriage. All societies are built on the next generation, and no institution exists which does a better job of raising and rearing the next generation than heterosexual marriage.

That some heterosexual married couples cannot have children, or do not want children, does

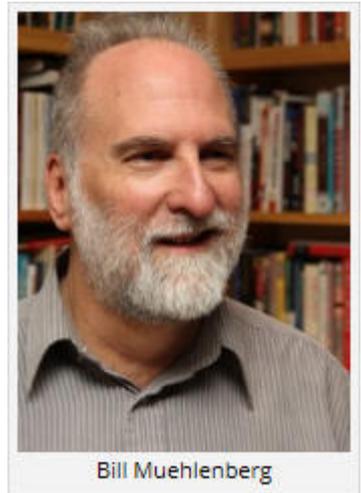
nothing to change the primary purpose and function of marriage. An unread book is still a book, regardless if its primary purpose is not being actualised. So too, marriage remains what it is, despite the exception of infertile couples.

Marriage has always existed to unite a man and a woman as a husband and a wife, and equip them to be a mother and a father if any children arise from their union. If children had nothing to do with marriage then the state would have nothing to do with marriage. But the state has a pressing interest in how the next generation is treated, since society itself is dependent on this.

Marriage is not companionship – many intense emotional relationships exist, but they are not necessarily marriage relationships. The state has no interest in many other sorts of relationships, even emotionally intensive ones. Two elderly sisters living together would have strong emotional attachments to each other, and a fond love for one another. But the state has no interest in legislating concerning such a relationship, primarily because it is non-marital in nature.

Close friendships are also another important type of relationship, but governments have no interest in legislating on their behalf, or extending to them special entitlements reserved for married couples. Societies extend benefits to heterosexual married couples because of all the great benefits such couples give to society.

Marriage carries with it the expectation of permanence and exclusivity. It is meant to last, and it is meant to exclude all others. That is again a safeguard for any children which come about from that union. The first major redefinition of marriage in the West occurred when no-fault divorce laws replaced fault-based legislation. These laws struck deeply at the heart of the



Bill Muehlenberg



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30 Home Truths on Marriage (...continued)

permanent and exclusive nature of marriage.

Not every marriage has children, but every child should have a mother and father, and marriage increases the likelihood of this. Marriage is what keeps a mother and father connected to any offspring that come about from the conjugal union. Children desperately need and have a right to their own biological mother and father as much as is possible.

The social science research is abundantly clear that children do best, on average and for the most part, when raised in an intact, two-parent heterosexual married family. Social pathologies such as increased risk of drug abuse, poor educational performance, suicide, and criminal activity all go up, as the research makes plain, when children are raised in other family structures.

As with any rule, there are exceptions to this, but generally speaking, children fare best by all social indicators when raised in the traditional two-parent family. Because children do thrive in this family structure, governments have – or should have – an interest in promoting that sort of family structure, while discouraging other types which are less conducive to child wellbeing.

Social science has demonstrated overwhelmingly that mothers and fathers matter, and that they differ greatly in parenting styles. Men are different than women, and mothers do not make good fathers, nor do fathers make good mothers. Children have a fundamental right to have both.

By seeking to include other types of relationships into the institution of marriage, we of course redefine it and of necessity destroy it. To include two men or two women violates the basic requirement of marriage. There are four such

requirements:

- only two people
- one from each gender
- of proper age
- not a close blood relative

Meet those four basic criteria, and anyone can marry. Thus everyone is now fully equal in terms of what marriage is. And also, those who fail to meet those criteria are equally discriminated against. I cannot marry, for the simple reason that I am already married. My dog cannot marry. A seven-year-old cannot marry. Three women cannot marry.

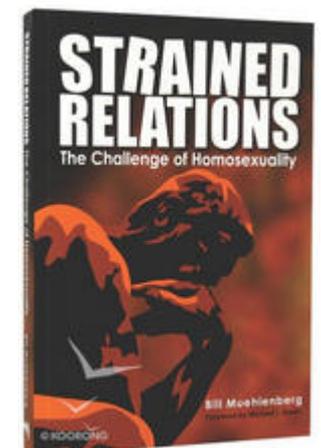
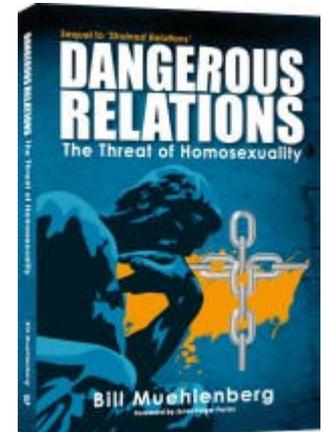
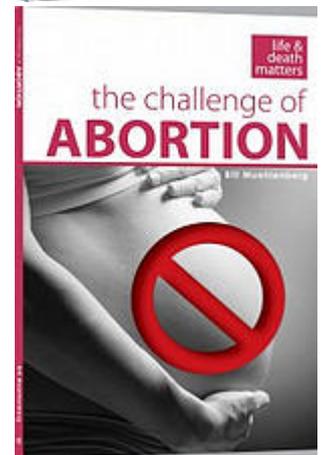
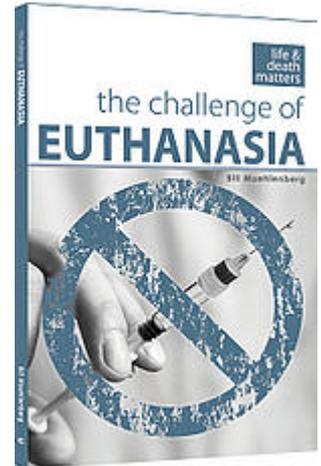
So full marriage equality already exists. It excludes no one, if they are willing to abide by its basic requirements. To change those requirements is to change the very nature of marriage, rendering it null and void. Similarly, to radically change the basic rules of chess would be to redefine it and render it no longer chess.

The very same arguments used by the homosexual activists for homosexual marriage (what adults do in private is no one else's business; it is consensual; it will harm no one else; it is about love; it is about equality; etc.) can and have been all used in the very same way by other groups seeking to redefine marriage out of existence, including the polyamorists (group marriage advocates), the “intergenerational sex” advocates (paedophiles) and so on. They are quite right in making this logical extension of the homosexual arguments.

Whenever governments grant special rights to homosexuals, including marriage and adoption rights, it of necessity must demand that everyone else respect, endorse, support and cater to those rights. Thus we all are impacted by such

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Latest Books



30 Home Truths on Marriage (...continued)

laws. All recalcitrants will be dealt with by the heavy hand of the law.

There are already many, many hundreds of cases of those who did not go along with the homosexual agenda, or simply stated that marriage involves a man and a woman, being fired from their jobs, fined, or even jailed. Homosexual marriage changes everything, and everyone is adversely impacted.

Homosexual activists once demanded that the state get out of their bedrooms. They wanted no government intrusion in their lifestyles. By demanding and getting homosexual marriage, they are doing the exact opposite: bringing the state directly in the bedroom. Now the intrusive and expanding state grows in power as it gets involved in the intimate details of our lives.

As many homosexuals admit, their understanding of marriage is often radically different from the traditional understanding. Many speak of the need for extra-marital outlets, non-monogamish arrangements, and so on. Some have even admitted that their push for homosexual marriage is really about destroying marriage as we know it.



Studies have made it quite clear that while promiscuity and unfaithfulness of course occurs in heterosexual unions and marriages, they are far greater and more frequent in homosexual ones. Entire books written by homosexuals themselves have documented these facts, and this inherently unstable and open-ended type of relationship is not exactly the stuff of marriage material. Again exceptions exist, but exceptions do not make the rule.

Homosexuals make up around two per cent of society, and many of them have no interest whatsoever in marriage. Thus a tiny minority is using their clout and inordinate power to destroy the most basic and fundamental of human institutions, simply to remake it in their own image. And where homosexual marriage has been enacted, there has not exactly been a stampede to get to the altar. And homosexual divorce also very quickly follows.

The recent Supreme Court decision about

marriage was an exercise in raw judicial power, finding a "right" that nowhere exists in the US Constitution. Five unelected and unrepresentative judges have declared war on the very meaning and nature of marriage, and have told 320 million Americans that they must all fall in line, or suffer the consequences.

When you mess with marriage, everything changes – and suffers. Marriage is the greatest institution in existence to help in the safe rearing of children. Healthy children make for a healthy society. What we do to family we end up doing to society. When we destroy marriage, we destroy society.

The most important reason to retain the universal and historic understanding of marriage is the wellbeing of children. Our children have a right to be born into a home where their biological mother and father exist. While this is not always possible in all circumstances – and contingencies exist for this – to deliberately bring a child into the world knowing he or she will not have two biological parents is in fact a form of child neglect, if not child abuse.

Reminder: All of these points are fully documented in my various books, so for those seeking to get all the references, statistics and evidence, I advise getting those volumes.

About CultureWatch

We live in an age where we see evidence of cultural decline, the erosion of values, the decline of civility, the denial of truth and the elevation of unreason. Many people are asking, "Where is our culture heading?"

This website is devoted to exploring the major cultural, social and political issues of the day. It offers reflection and commentary drawing upon the wealth of wisdom found in the Judeo-Christian tradition. It offers reflective and incisive commentary on a wide range of issues, helping to sort through the maze of competing opinions, worldviews, ideologies and value systems. It will discuss critically and soberly where our culture is heading.

Happy reading!

billmuehlenberg.com



Being salt & light in today's world

Has the church slowly and un-noticeably been put into maintenance mode through the impact of the world around us?

The need to implement and keep up to date the appropriate 'child protection policies', the annual returns required by the Australia Charities & Non-profits Commission, the BAS returns. Then there are the insurance declarations, making representation to MP's, Senators on proposed changes that go against scripture. Outside of all of these things we also seek plans/programs to equip the people of the church for their ministry and there are many out there. We need to make sure that we stay within our scriptural authority. Whilst the church's care of its people has importance in local church ministry and Jesus modelled the leadership of a loving shepherd, but he never allowed this to overshadow the mission.



Equipping the body of the church for ministry is more than for their ministry within the church. It is also for ministry in all stages of their lives, whether single or married, married with children at home or empty nesters etc. But there is more than this - it is for each member of the body of the church to be Kingdom people where-ever they are, and what-ever the day or time. It is not just when the people of the church meet together, but also when we are in the marketplace – our workplace, when shopping or participating in sport. Kingdom people who will shake off the world view and be known for whom they are, whether their workplace is in the legal system, media, education, sport etc. Kingdom people with such a passion loving the world back to LIFE, loving their city back to LIFE, being a part of the transformation of their city not just for the good of the city but for the bridegroom.



Ask these questions:

Are we prepared for the bridegroom?

Are our marriages, our families prepared for the bridegroom?

Is Sydney prepared for the bridegroom?

Looking to the nation, is Australia....?

We need to shake off being more-or-less in the permanent state of "Maintenance Mode", lift our vision and the vision of the body of the church to what is outside the church our city of Sydney.

For the church, as we are shown in the book of Acts, is not only to be known for its compassion, but also for the "many signs and wonders..." and "more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women," (Acts 5). The church being shapers of the community, the city/the nation rather than being shaped by them.

Dennis & Ann Outred, Marriage Week Australia



God's Army on the March

Prepared by Rev. Dr Jeffrey Camm, 29-Nov-2016

Introduction:

We are commanded in the Word of God to "go to all nations and preach/teach the Word of God, making **DISCIPLES** in the name of Jesus Christ, starting first in our home city, then the surrounding areas, the rest of the state, the rest of the nation & than to the rest of the world."

We are also told, to "earnestly seek the gift of Prophecy", yet in more and more churches today, the desire to "go out and preach the word" is diminishing and the "gift of prophecy" is being frowned upon.

The Aim of this Teaching:

The aim of this teaching is to bring the focus off "what the churches are saying", and to bring the focus **BACK** onto "**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**" about these topics.

The Secular Army:

We know that in the secular army there are two ways to join.

1. You can volunteer to become a member, or
2. You get conscripted, into the army, whether you want to be there or not.

Whichever way you join the army does not matter, because once you are a member, you must go to "boot camp" and be trained in the basics of weaponry, how to march, how to recognize people of different ranks, and how to obey those in authority over you.

You also see first-hand, the repercussions and punishments, if you do not obey those in authority over you.

There is a covenant made between you and the army.

1. You agree to serve them, in whatever capacity they choose for you, and wherever they want to send you. On the other hand;
2. The army covenants to feed you, train you, provide you with housing, (could some of those tent be called housing?) clothing, provide medical facilities, and if necessary, look after you family, in times of hardship and distress.
3. In the event that you are injured during your service, the army covenants to provide you with the best facilities and doctors available,

so that you recover from your injuries.

4. If you are unable to resume to your normal duties, then other duties are assigned to you.
5. If you are unable to perform any military duties, then the army covenants to give you a pension and to look after you and your family forever. There is more to this description, but you get the idea.

Spiritual Army of God:

The **Spiritual Army of God** is similar in some ways, and very different in others.

There are no Volunteers in God's Army.

You may be surprised by this statement, but it is true.

When you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you become conscripted into God's army, (whether you realise it or not), it is the truth and Jesus Christ is the Commander-in-Chief.

Romans 8:28 states: *And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his [divine] purpose.*

We are ALL called, there are no exceptions.

But many do not know what the divine plan and purpose is for their individual lives, hence they seem to live their Christian lives in a form of "spiritual limbo", not knowing what they should do, where they should go, and to whom they should relate.

Because of this situation, they cannot mature spiritually. This is confirmed in Hebrews 6:1-3, which states: *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God; of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.*

This is Apostle Paul's definition of "**Spiritual boot camp**".

Why would God not allow us to move on to perfection?

Simple answer: **we have not passed the tests**

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God's Army on the March (...continued)

that have been placed before us.

If we look then at this scripture piece by piece, then maybe you will get the revelation and the reason why people are still in "spiritual limbo".

This scripture starts with the word: "**Therefore**".

As Bible students, we all know that when we see the word "therefore", we must go back into the previous verses/chapters and see why the word is there – for.

Refer Hebrews 5:10-14

*Called of God a high priest, after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say and hard to be uttered, **seeing ye are dull of hearing.***

*For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you AGAIN** which be **the first principles of the oracles of God;** and are become such **as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.***

*For every one **that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

That is why the word is "*there-for*".

- You have become dull of hearing
- When you ought to be teaching others, you need teaching yourselves.
- And to be taught **ONCE AGAIN**, the first principles of the oracles of God.
- You should be eating the "meat of the Word" but instead, you are still "spiritual babies" relying of being "spoon fed" and drinking milk only.
- That is why you cannot discern the difference between good and evil and keep going around the same mountain, over and over again.

Paul, in his writing to the Hebrew Christians, identifies in these first three verses of Hebrews chapter 6, what he calls the "kindergarten classes" of Christianity.

1. Foundations of repentance from dead works
2. Faith towards God

3. The doctrine of baptism(s) (plural) – not one baptism, but more than one
4. The doctrine of "laying-on of hands", (when, why, who can & how.)
5. The resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal Judgement

Here Paul lists the six fundamental doctrines that all "kindergarten Christians" should know.

A wise general once said these words: "An army can never go farther than its leader." **THE SAME APPLIES TO CHURCH CONGREGATIONS!!!**

A church congregation cannot become more mature than its leader/senior pastor.

That is why there are so many "baby Christians" in churches today.

I have heard pastors say; "we are expecting miracles. We expect that we will see people raised from the dead".

That is impossible to achieve, **if the leader has not been there and done that!!!**

You don't believe me. Look at the Scriptures. It is confirmed in two or three places.

- Elisha was able to raise people from the dead, **because Elijah did it before him.**
- The early church Apostles, were able to raise people from the dead, because they saw Jesus do it.
- There are people in South America, who cannot read or write, but they can raise people from the dead, because they have faith in God and they have seen it happen with their own eyes.
- If you have not seen it, or done it, how can you expect it to happen?
- In a similar manner, you cannot lead a congregation into the throne room in worship, if you have never entered there yourself!

So what to do now?

- How do we move forward?
- How do we change our attitudes and our focus & concentrate on what God wants us to do – not what some church denomination

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God's Army on the March (...continued)

says we should do.

- How do we know that what the church is saying is for you, right here and now – today, as you read this teaching?

The only valid test is to get down on your knees before Jesus Christ and pray for the Holy Spirit to do the following:

1. Reveal (confirm) to you the real Calling/ Gifting upon your life. Remember God has given each person a gift, which is to be empowered and manifested by the Holy Spirit, for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ.
2. Check that your direction lines up with the word of God.
3. Connect with spiritually mature people within the congregation and talk to them about what their vision is and how you can be part of it.
4. This vision should also line up with the vision of your senior pastor for your church.
5. **If any of these things do not line up with the Word of God, then reject it, because you will already be on the wrong path.**

Why do I say this?

Apostle Paul was very clear in his statements: He said: ***If any man comes to you speaking another doctrine, which does not line up with the Word of God, reject it!*** [1 Tim 6:3-4]

He even goes further than that, to make sure that you really understand how important this is. He said: *Even if an angel comes speaking another doctrine (which does not line up with the Word of God) then reject the angel, because THAT ANGEL has not come from God!!!* [Gal 1:6-9]

So, we have identified/confirmed our calling; we have listened to the vision of the spiritually mature elders in the congregation; and reviewed the vision of the senior pastor; and of the church; and you now agree that all lines up with the word of God.

What do you do next?

THE ANSWER IS SO SIMPLE I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T FOLLOW IT!!! BE OBEDIENT TO THE CALLING ON YOUR LIFE & JUST DO IT!!!

When you are marching in the 100% submissive

will of God, then God has to:

1. Bless you
2. Protect You
3. Guide You
4. Make sure the Word(s) you speak, does all that it was sent out to do; it shall not return void!
5. Empower you with the Holy Spirit & manifest your gifts, to bring honour & glory to Jesus.
6. Add to the church daily.

However, there is a challenge here for all senior pastors.

If God added to the church daily, those who the Holy Spirit called, (as indicated in the Scriptures) have you trained up and equipped congregation members to deal with another 365 new converts in one year?

The answer without question should be "YES", but how many pastors/churches can truthfully claim this statement?

That is why the Body of Christ is crawling like a small child, instead of marching forward like a confident army, on "God's business", going about "**doing good**" and "**healing all those who are afflicted by the evil one**".

Now you notice I did not say, 'Talking' about doing good, or healing the sick. I actually said DOING IT! James commanded us to be "DOERS OF THE WORD" not just "hearers and speakers only". [James 1:22]

So the challenge of this teaching is this:

1. Which direction are you going?
2. Are you confidently marching, or just crawling along?
3. Are you really making an impact on the secular world, by being God's agent in your city?
4. Do people in your city know you are a Christian? - **by your actions, not your words**

If you have problem with any of these questions, then get into the Word, pray to the Holy Spirit for a revelation and become "an obedient servant" of the Lord, marching to the beat of the Holy Spirit drum, not the drum of this "secular", satanic world.



How You can Stand in the Gap with Prayer for your Grandchildren

As I look ahead into 2017, it looks like our **national and global situation is in turmoil**. A good friend focused my attention on Isaiah 60:1-2 as a word from the Lord for the New Year: *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”*



I can feel the invading darkness of evil that is like a heavy moral and spiritual fog is **infiltrating our nation at every level**. At the very same time that our nation is enveloped in thick darkness, **God commands us to arise, let our Light shine, and the distinctive glory of our Lord will be evident to all**. It is wonderful to know that God is in control and we read in his word in Psalms 46:1 *“God is our refuge and strength”*.

As grandparents let's not let the enemy dull our desires to intentionally pray for our grandchildren and their parents. Prayer is our most strategic weapon. The enemy wants to disintegrate and divide our families, rendering them chaotic, restless and unfruitful. **I believe it's our place to get on our knees**, humble ourselves, seek God's face, repent of our sin, and intercede for our nations, our children and grandchildren. **Then** having done all, **we stand firm in our faith** that God has heard and will answer our prayers according to His will.

Years ago, Esther stood in the gap for her people, the Jews when their lives were physically threatened. Today grandparents can stand in the gap with prayer for their grandchildren in the same way as their spiritual lives are threatened.

I would like to invite you to become a part of a prayer group for grandparents to pray together for each other's grandchildren and families. At this time there are 30 G@P groups meeting in the U.S and South Africa, and interested groups in Australia.

There is an urgency for the power of prayer to keep the hearts and minds of our grandchildren from falling captive to the enemy's deception and lies. We are engaged in a spiritual battle that requires the spiritual weapon of prayer.

As grandparents, we can make a significant difference in the world by praying regularly and intentionally for our grandchildren and their parents. We have an opportunity join together to powerfully touch the lives of another generation.



Grandparent @ Prayer (G@P) intercessory prayer groups consist of small or large groups of people meeting once or twice a month for approximately one hour at a designated location for prayer and fellowship. Groups are meeting in retirement centers, schools, churches, and homes weekly.

The beginning of 2017 would be a great time to get started, just ask a few grandparents to join you, try it for a few months, and see what you think. Many grandparents have told me that they appreciate a safe place to share their concerns for their grandchildren.

Please go to <https://www.christiangrandparenting.net/prayer/grandparents-prayer/participate-in-gap> to sign up to receive the eBook *“The Prayer Ministry of Christian Grandparenting Network”*. I will also send you some free prayer resources you can download free.

You may also email me at lpenner@christiangrandparenting.net indicating that you would like to receive the eBook *“The Prayer Ministry of Christian Grandparenting Network”*.

By Lillian Penner, Prayer Coordinator, Christian Grandparenting Network,
lpenner@christiangrandparenting.net



A TIME TO DANCE

From Christine Buckley, 1 January 2017

It is a freeing pleasure to have the opportunity to be given another year to live and breathe and experience the mysteries of life, in this beautiful world; and be able to write about it. Yet there is so much to write about, where do I begin?

In my mind it's like driving along random country roads, not knowing but exploring what is just around the corner. Looking for photographic opportunities; my senses delighted by the gifts of nature freely given for anyone who would take a moment to look for and appreciate them.

Could it be a family of ducks waddling frantically across the road; or the sunlight causing the papery leaves of the camphor laurel, a golden glow as it peers through them, while they stand in a row along the withered old fence-line; its posts covered in lichen. If only country roads could speak...

The expectation of the beginning of a new year is usually a time of fireworks, parties and fun; the reality for some is quite the opposite. I for one am very glad to see the end of 2016 due to its tireless efforts to knock me down every time I got up.

I am very grateful for the year past though, because it has been a great teacher to me. It gave me opportunity to experience loss on several levels and overcome them, while you may wonder why that would be something to be grateful for; in and of itself there is not a lot, however it gave me the opportunity to really put my faith to the test and command the wind and waves to be still.

Could it be possible for me to experience joy whilst the pleasures of life that give most of us

reason to feel secure, were eroding from under my feet like thin ice breaking apart on a frozen lake, with each step I took? Frantically looking for secure footings to stand, the once solid ice gradually melting and cracking beneath my trembling feet with every step caused me to feel like I was going to fall into the freezing water and drown all alone.

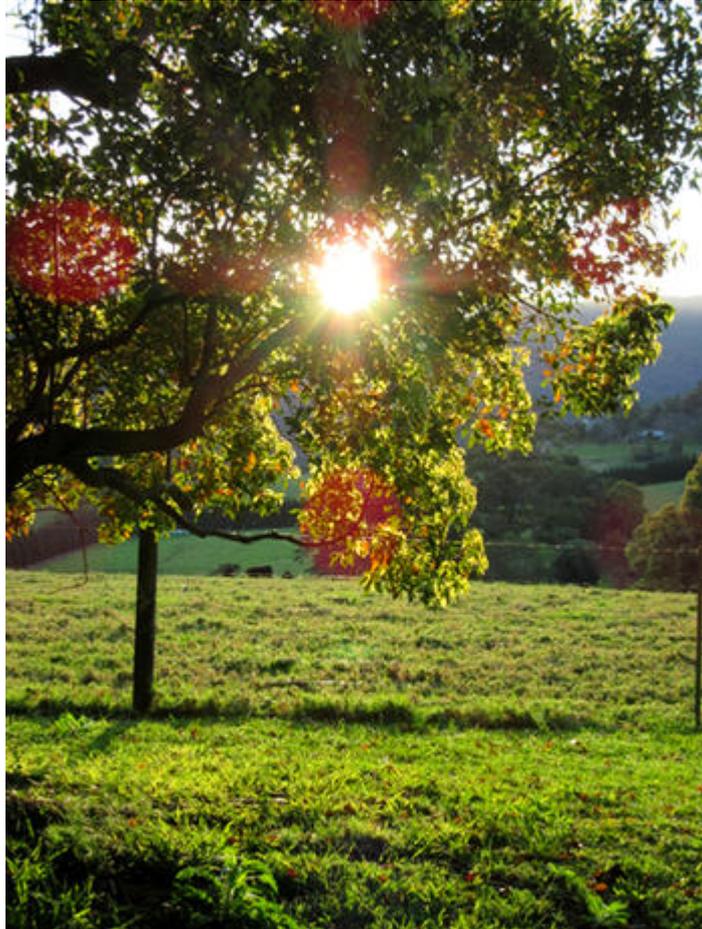
Clearly, I didn't drown, but at the time I felt like I was going to sink. Then I began to remind myself of all the things I say to other people and what God Himself promises. I am never alone and He is my Good Shepherd. As I thought about shepherds and their role to the lost and wandering sheep, it was a case of trust or kill myself with stress.

I chose to trust, because I was exhausted and my health was beginning to fail also; I was at the end of my rope. This

has been the hardest thing for me to learn in life since being rejected and abused so many times. Turning my eyes toward heaven and the beauty around me I began to realise that if my God was real, I needed to let Him show me and take my hands off the wheel; so I did; and years of hidden pain began to melt away like warming snow.

I began my day with "thanksgiving" instead of moaning and I listened to the song of the many birds around me; often being able to capture their beauty in a photograph. I figure if the creatures of the earth can give thanks to their maker morning, noon and night regardless of their often harsh and unpredictable circumstances, then I can too. It was the first thing I did before getting out of bed; I would open the large window beside my bed and give thanks for all that was and all that was on its

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A TIME TO DANCE (...continued)

way. I also made my requests known to God and then just left them with Him.

How best to describe the outcome? I'm not sure I can do it justice, suffice to say that literally, day by day I watched and was amazed at the providence and where it came from. Not hard for a God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, however the magic was the transformation within myself. Issues of rejection from childhood manifested in my daily goings about, and I knew; it was my time to deal with rejection once and for all, to cut the ties of the past and believe that God loves me whether I am rich or poor; and I do not need to prove myself to Him with a significant job title, overflowing bank balance or the latest branded wardrobe, as I stand before Him and others around me.

The beauty was two-fold, in relationships; though not all have proved to understand or join with me on the real journey of intimacy; for it



is quite confronting. Firstly grace turned up with skin on, clothed in smiles and hugs and real conversations and prayer and chicken soup and sometimes with raw hard earned cash. Learning to receive God's love in various ways is a humbling experience.

Secondly, being able to help others in the midst of my own struggles and difficult circumstances. There is a richness that money cannot buy, when experiencing hardship but still rocking up to serve or help other people in their time of need also. And since I love helping people I also had to deal with the dilemma of not being able to help others at times when I felt I should be able to and I sincerely wanted to; but I could not.

What have I learned? There is a time; and if I am genuinely going to help other people in the transitions of their life, I need to learn how to do transition well myself. The book of Ecclesiastes makes it very clear: there is a time to give and a time

to receive, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...

So my 2017 is a time for JOY despite some difficult circumstances. I can enter His courts with thanksgiving and it's also time to do some more dancing!

hope you will join with me, take your hands of the wheel and put your trust in a God who is alive and who is faithful.



Marriage at Work – 1. Failure at the Foundation

By John Yates - posted 29 April 2013 - <http://cross-connect.net.au/marriage-at-work1-failure-at-the-foundation/>

Where today is the reconciling power of the blood of the cross in its capacity to create astoundingly beautiful marriages to the glory of God?

Personal Matters

Recently I have found the pastoral counselling of disturbed Christian marriages has caused me great distress. To find vehemence, unforgiveness and accusation amongst *believers* holds no real excuse (Matt 5:43-48). To ignore the command, “be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV) is to deny the global reconciling power of the blood of Christ and acts as “enemies of the cross” (Phil 3:18).

I find that when I am dealing with immaturity in the marriages of believers my own marriage suffers strain; I become more demanding, needy, clingy and hypersensitive. Donna and I have been married a long time, and we fairly speedily bring these situations to prayer; but where today is the reconciling power of the blood of the cross in its capacity to create astoundingly beautiful marriages to the glory of God (Col 1:20)? This issue is much bigger than we first imagine.

I was praying [in the] middle of night about two seemingly unrelated subjects, marriage and the marketplace/workplace. Suddenly I saw an intimate and marvellous connection between the two. As Christians we are united to Jesus as Bride to Bridegroom (2 Cor 11:2) in a union which is all encompassing, “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills who fills all things everywhere with himself.” (Eph1:22-23).

In the Spirit’s power the ultimate purpose of employment is a calling to bring the glory of our Husband into the workplace for the praise of God’s glorious grace

Our marital relationship [with] Jesus encircles everything, including all our working lives. This means that in the Spirit’s power the ultimate purpose of employment is a calling to bring the glory of our Husband into the workplace for the praise of God’s glorious grace (Eph 1:6). Although this insight came to me suddenly it is a majestic theme so wide and deep that it needs to be expounded in several steps.

In the Beginning

Genesis 1 describes a life call that embraces men and women in their mutual responsibility to enact the divine likeness; “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ““Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”” (Gen 1:27-28 ESV).

In this unblemished picture of human beginnings no one would be left out and the divinely instituted covenant of marriage would have been the unifying foundation for the extension of the kingdom of God

The command to men and women to “multiply” tells us the covenant of marriage is in view, and the exercise of “dominion” extends to a worldwide call for husbands and wives to domesticate and civilise the planet. In this unblemished picture of human beginnings no one would be left out and the divinely instituted covenant of marriage would have been the unifying foundation for the extension of the kingdom of God.¹ Genesis 2 adds another layer to this glorious description.

Adam is commanded to “work and watch over” the Garden of Eden (2:15). The language used here is found elsewhere in the Old Testament of the priestly service of guarding the sanctuary of God

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¹ Jesus gave three reasons for singleness, ““there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.””(Matthew 19:12 ESV). In a world without sin and violence the kingdom of God would be everywhere, so none of the conditions for singleness would apply.

Marriage at Work – 1. Failure at the Foundation (...continued)

(Num 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6). Eden was a temple in which the presence of the LORD was found in the most intimate way as he walked and talked with humanity (Gen 2:15ff; 3:8); but it was a presence that needed protecting.

Added to this priestly call was the kingly ministry of ruling exhibited in tending the flora and fauna of the garden.

Finally and most climatically was the prophetic office entrusted to Adam. God spoke to him directly, ““You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 ESV). This word was not to be conveyed to the animals, who were unfit to partner with Adam in his call as prophet, priest and king, but were part of a holy vocation to be shared with a true working companion in the whole of life, the woman, Eve (Gen 2:24). Together as one in love this first married couple were to distribute God’s glory in all things over the earth (Gen 2:24).

The first marriage in Eden was not as yet perfected in the work of the LORD. If wisdom is the first and final characteristic of union with God and proceeds from holy fear, Adam and Eve needed a confrontation with the power of evil in order to spiritually mature in their married vocation (Prov 9:10; 2 Cor 7:1).

Adam and Eve needed a confrontation with the power of evil in order to spiritually mature in their married vocation. Spiritual warfare is a feature of co working with God in a world which knows the intrusion of evil powers

A Failed Marriage

Spiritual warfare is a feature of co working with God in a world which knows the intrusion of evil powers (2 Cor 6:1). When Satan confronted Eve it was evident that she knew the command of God concerning the tree of knowledge. This was something that Adam must have conveyed to her in fulfilment of his prophetic ministry in their marriage. Although “her husband was with her” at the time of the temptation he is entirely passive and silent (Gen 3:6).

God desired that Adam and Eve exercise faith together in their guarding of Eden, instead they mutually broke their covenant with God through unbelief (Hos 6:7). Their eyes were indeed opened through transgression (Gen 3:7), but instead of the heavenly wisdom God offered, “pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere” theirs became a demonic wisdom saturated by “jealousy and selfish ambition...disorder and every vile practice.” (James 3:15-17 ESV).

The evil force which drives men and women in the workplace to back stab, gossip and ruthlessly climb over others in fierce competition has its foundations in the failure of a married couple to work together in union with God by faith in his holy Word. The glory so often associated with achievement through promotion and enterprise is

The glory of a holy marriage embraced in a covenant with God was designed to overflow into all the spheres of work and culture. Eden represents an abysmal failure in marriage in this regard and its consequences flow down to the workplace today

simply an attempt to replace the lost glory of God with a cover up of more sophisticated fig leaves (Gen 3:7; Rom 3:23).

Conclusion

The foundation God laid in the beginning reveals that marriage and work are inseparable in the divine economy.² The glory of a holy marriage embraced in a covenant with God was designed to overflow into all the spheres of work and culture. Eden represents an abysmal failure in marriage in this regard and its consequences flow down to the workplace today.

However the basic structures God embedded in creation remain. The LORD’s work in history proceeds beyond Paradise through covenant and marriage, this time however not with a single couple but with a nation. Israel is a prophetic, priestly and kingly people married to the LORD called to bring his glorious light to the nations of the world. This is the second stage of the story of Marriage at Work. *[To be continued...]*

² Single believers are wedded to Christ, plus they can receive wise counsel and care from mature married people.



Who's in Charge?

By Bjorn Schmid

I hope all who read this have repented of their rebellion against Father God, i.e. not believing in His Son, and asked for forgiveness, only available by His Son, and are communing with Him through His Son.

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us." [Ephesians 1:4-8a]

"I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." [Isaiah 61:10]

And yet there is still our old man, the flesh, and in particular our ego that attempts time and time again to assert itself against the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Unless we continually put to death our rebellious self (Col 3:5-10), we will be in danger of sliding back into God-less thinking and part of the enemy's rebellion against God.

"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been set free from sin." [Romans 6:6-7]

Lets have a look at a few common ego-builders that need demolishing...

Ego Buster #1: Your salvation is not irreversible

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" [Matthew 7:21-23]

A pretty tough thing to say but unfortunately many do not really want God's will in their life and if they persist, will not enter into the eternal Kingdom. They are happy to receive the gifts of life and service that are offered, and may even work diligently in ministry, but are not truly repentant of their rebellious attitudes and fully accepting of the total authority of God over everything. Do not be like them, God is not mocked and sees what is in your heart (Galatians 6:7-8, 1 Samuel 16:7).

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." [Philippians 2:12-13]

I urge you to (continually) surrender fully to God - allow His Holy Spirit to re-make you into the person you are meant to be, truly in God's image, and not imaged according to the standards or expectations of the world or its oppressor, our enemy. In surrender you will have freedom as a child of the eternal King, now and forever. Read 1 John 4:7-21 every day until you breathe it by heart.

Ego Buster #2: Other people's salvation is not dependant on you

This is a nice piece of condemnation that has been used for decades to make people feel guilty and compel them to go to extremes in evangelising. It's even institutionalised in some denominations that their members must 'seek the lost' and help them 'make a decision for Christ'. It often has the reverse effect:

1. Many people feel paralysed by guilt and are ineffectual in their Christian walk because they feel they are inadequate to this task.
2. Other people go to extremes to push the Bible message onto 'the lost', e.g. putting Jesus stickers onto their computers, talking continually about being 'saved', pushing unbelievers away from us and God.

Heaven does indeed rejoice over every sinner that repents (Luke 15:7) and we should indeed be willing to spread the Gospel (Good News) of Life, but if we don't, people will not go to hell because of our failure to

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Who's in Charge? (...continued)

do so. He is not cruel to make His plans for others dependent on us. A preacher once said that "People go to hell over every obstacle that God puts in their way" (attrib. Dr. Monroe Parker?) You only have to read of God's patience with the Israelites to see the length that He goes to turn them back from destruction.

So why should we share the Gospel? Because we can't help it, because it leaks all over us, because we love our fellow humans (almost) as much as Christ loves them, because we are filled with the Spirit of life and "shine among them like stars in the sky" (Philippians 2:15, also Daniel 12:3). It is for our benefit that we reach out in love to our neighbours and workmates as this reinforces our commitment to Christ and to the fellowship of the whole church - we reveal ourselves as followers of Christ and in doing so strengthen our resolve and faith in His grace to sustain us in the attacks that are certain to come (which is why you need fellowship to pray for one another).

But reaching does not mean preaching. Your words will have little effect if they do not want to hear you. Your life needs to speak to them first, and then, with prayer, when the opportunity arises for you (or a fellow believer) to speak to them the Gospel, it will be received because of the life they see in you.

Read Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 3 verse 3, and pray to be a perfect 'letter of love'.

Ego Buster #3: God does not need your praise/worship/money/etc or even your life

"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me." [Job 41:11]

There are a number of ideas and expressions being circulated that are quite misleading, e.g. 'You should be prosperous so that you can be a blessing to others' or 'Repay God by doing good to others', 'Giving back to God', 'Bless so you will be blessed!', and so on. These have some basis in truth but are not themselves entirely correct.

- Favours (indulgences) can not be bought from God with anything we have (or hope to have) - he owns it already
- You can't actually give something back to the owner as if it is a gift - he owns it already

Children can be very charming when they have taken or are given some food item and offer some of it back to you. Our Father God also enjoys when we offer back to Him what we have been given, but, he does not need it. The joy we experience with kids when they share with us is that they are willing to share and acknowledge us. In the same way when we do not hold tightly that which we have been given and are willing to share or offer it back, it is a delight to Him and we mature. He refills cups that are poured out.

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" [John 6:9]

Do not be ashamed of what you have to offer the Lord - he gave it to you in the first place. The child that brought a basket with five loaves and two fish probably offered his own family's lunch, and look what Jesus did with it!

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. [verses 12-13]

What about praise, why praise God? Because it is good for YOU. God certainly is not vain and does not need our praise, but His concern is always what is best for us.

When we praise God we provide a space for us to humble ourselves and acknowledge our creator. It's also a positive space that lifts us above our daily troubles and worries and allows us to receive refreshment in His presence. It is also a good space to prepare for times of deep prayer and communion with Him. But to get the maximum benefit, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to praise.

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." [John 4:23-24]

Read Romans 11:33-36 out loud to get started!

More next edition. Grace and peace, Bjorn.



Welcoming the King of Glory in Washington DC 2017

From Pastor Geoff and Jenny Armitage, 28 January 2017

Our time together in Washington DC began by participating in part of a Jericho walk around the White House. As we met at this time the Lord revealed to us that USA was a daughter. This was made clear by an interaction with a woman who joined us as we stood on the street corner. Sue was her name and a word was received,

"...Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means." (Luke 8:3)

This woman's name was changed from Sue to Suzanna signifying God was confirming to the USA his calling upon the nation to bless the disciples of Jesus. (See Genesis 17:5)

During the Holy Convocation we met twice daily at David's Tent beginning and ending each day with worship and communion. There, on the first night,



we were welcomed by the leaders and intercessors following the protocol that we are welcomed to the land by people of the land and this gives us the right to be part of the intercession there. The marriage proclamation was read and those present were invited to sign the USA Covenant Agreement. This time of Holy Convocation was honored by many with an Esther fast or some other form of fast, in recognition of the importance of such an agreement. For some this was an extension to a fast during the period leading up to the inauguration.

Three assignments were recognized from Isaiah 33:22,

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.

This was proclaimed over the Supreme Court (judge), Capitol Hill (lawgiver) and the White House (King). Communion was taken to begin each day to mark our unity of purpose and again



to honor the Lord during the various proclamations and fulfilling of each assignment. The silver trumpets were blown in accordance with Numbers 10:1-10 as we began each assignment.

2 "Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out 9 When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your

God and rescued from your enemies. 10 Also at your times of rejoicing and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God."

The LORD is our judge.

At the Supreme Court we were able to sit in on a session for a time. One of the things that stood out about this building was the architecture that centered on pagan faiths and wisdom. Someone later shared that they had seen the angels of the Supreme Court still in the Capitol building. When they

enquired of the angels as to why they had not moved into the new Supreme Court the answer was, "We were not invited!" As we left the building we proclaimed Jesus as the Supreme Judge over all the earth. Later we assembled across the road, sounded the trumpets, took communion and proclaimed Psalm 82 over the Supreme Court.

Ps 82:8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.



The LORD is our lawgiver.

That afternoon we met with Nancy and Dick Schultz (a former congressman). In this capacity

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Welcoming the King of Glory in Washington DC 2017 (...continued)

he was able to fulfill the protocols of welcoming us to Capitol Hill and passing on authority to us to do God's will. The next day, on Capitol Hill, we met on the front steps for prayer and proclaimed Jesus as supreme lawgiver. We anointed the stairs with oil where President Obama would leave the building and authority would be passed to President Trump. As we looked onto Capitol Hill we prayed for the new congress and their responsibilities in lawmaking. We considered the words of Jesus in Matthew 5 where he repeatedly said,

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago But I tell you"

We proclaimed that the word of Jesus is the final authority in matters of the law for the USA. We sealed this time with trumpets, communion, and the testimony of the Blood (poured out wine), water (cleansing) and the oil (Holy Spirit). We anointed our shoes with oil to walk the paths of righteousness and two of the team circled the building pouring out the oil as they went.



The LORD is our king.

Our last assignment was at the White House. It was impossible to get close because of the inauguration preparations so we stood in a field that looked onto the building.

Here we considered John 8:1-11. The USA has been caught in an adulterous situation turning from her one true God and going after other things.

God is a forgiving God however and his desire is to forgive and lead USA back to himself. Here in front of the Whitehouse we buried a small inscription of the ten sayings (10 commandments) committing USA back to God. The trumpets were

sounded 7 times (3 for the Trinity and 4 for the proclamations). The time concluded with a joyous time of singing and triumphal marching all the way back to David's Tent.



Welcoming the King of Glory

January 20 2017 heralded the inauguration of President Donald Trump. A few of us were able to attend the ceremony and others continued in prayer at David's Tent.

In the afternoon we gathered together at David's Tent and welcomed the King of Glory. We used the same red cloth as had been used in Beulah (Europe) and Africa, unfurling it from East to West. This red cloth was firstly a representation of the protocol of welcoming the highest of dignitaries with the laying out of the red carpet. The trumpets were blown by first nation and current people's representatives and the cloth was lifted up representing the river of the blood of Jesus that flowed for the USA.



Amazingly in the morning, someone (not of our group and not knowing what we were going to do) had done a prophetic painting of the river of blood.

We concluded our time together with a Shabbat meal, a time of praise and teaching from a local Rabbi, each of us looking forward to welcoming the King of Glory in Jerusalem, October, 2017.

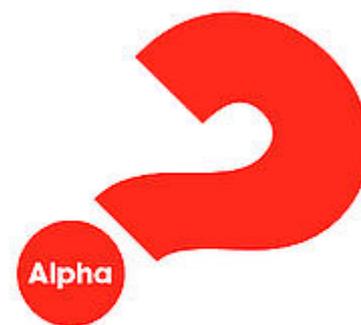
Blessings, Pastor Geoff and Jenny Armitage

I need to acknowledge that the First Nations people welcoming the King of Glory to the Americas in 2013 provided the foundation for all that was done in this convocation. Ps. Geoff



Everyone has questions.

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view; wherever they are in the world.



Invite Australia

For the first time ever, the church in Australia is coming together with Christians around the world to invite millions to try Alpha. To help bring awareness around this global campaign is renowned TV adventurer Bear Grylls. The best-selling author and survivalist is Alpha's Ambassador for 2017.

"Alpha is a chance to ask some of the big questions and, for me, that was really important," Bear says. "It's an amazing thing... I've seen it help so many people find that kind of quiet, simple, straightforward faith. For me it's easy to recommend because it has helped me."

The 'Join The Adventure' campaign has kicked off this year with the support of many organisations which already run Alpha, including churches, businesses and prison groups.

Alpha Australia is aiming for 1,000 courses to run in the first half of 2017 which is a great increase from the 1500 Alphas which ran in 2016.

Bear is thrilled to be the face of the latest Alpha campaign as he found his own Christian faith through Alpha. Grylls has become well known as the face of adventure and outdoor survival having climbed Mount Everest and ventured to Antarctica.

"I've crawled onto the roof of the world", says Grylls. "But finding a simple faith? That's been my greatest adventure yet."

Any church or organisation that would like to get involved and join the adventure can express their interest at inviteaustralia.com. All Alpha resources (including training



and promotional materials are free), through the official Alpha website, alpha.org.au.

Training Events

"Training is key to running a successful Alpha. We train our teams before each Alpha, the content is outstanding and the sense of team that is built during this time is invaluable". – Alpha leader, VIC

The impact of Alpha is only possible through willing leaders who take the spark and lead the conversation where guests feel loved, respected and heard. It's this very reason we encourage churches to not only run Alpha but also ensure that their leaders and key team are trained well.

These training events will definitely establish a great sense of team unity that always sets up Alpha in a strong way.

Head to the alpha.org.au/events to find a training event near you