

Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

Fourth 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

Dear family,
welcome to the fourth and final of the newsletters for 2017. It's no longer 2017 of course, but we wanted to round off 2017 and open 2018 with some encouraging words from your family.

There are some really lovely messages in this edition, I encourage you to read them all.

Pentecost Eve 2018 in Sydney

We are pleased to announce that a celebration of Pentecost Eve on **Saturday May 18th 2018** will be held in Minto at **The Word Christian Fellowship Church, 10 Redfern Rd, Minto NSW**.

The Proclaiming Pentecost initiative is a breath of fresh air for all those who join us in celebrating the birth of the Church across the world; Australia, USA, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, China, Philippines, India, Pakistan, and other places in Europe and Asia. There's nothing to buy, no special courses to be run, no special books or other materials. Just call together your fellow brothers and sisters from the churches around you and pray together in one accord for yourselves and your community on the night before Pentecost Sunday. Pray and act in faith.

We urge you to support the Proclaiming Pentecost initiative and be part of or attend or start a Pentecost unity celebration with your family, the Church, this year.

Prayer Letters

Finally we hope you have enjoyed and received blessing from these newsletters. This will be the last newsletter for now. You may have already received monthly Prayer Letters from us - these will replace this publication, for the time being. Great is your faithfulness O Lord, it's new every morning (Lam 3:22-23)!

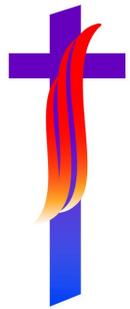
Grace and peace,

Bjorn Schmid

Public Officer for Transforming Sydney

Coordinator for the Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

prayerstrategy.org businesswomenhealingministry.org transformingsydney.org



TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY



Our Hearts His Birthplace

By Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn, Long Island, New York.

My latest book, From Surviving to Thriving – A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church, may be something some of your churches might consider reading. You can read about it and order it on Amazon. Type my name John Krahn in the search engine.

On Christmas Eve we hear and see beauty all around. Hearts are warmed at worship in the Father's house rejoicing over the Son's birth. Candles glow making a silent statement that light replaces darkness. Banners boldly proclaim mysteries already centuries unfurled. And a thousand stars remind us of that very special one brightly shining 2000 years ago.

Yet, it was another night which possessed an elegance unsurpassed... a starry, crisp night as young travelers bedded down in a borrowed barn. Ox and ass are soon disturbed by the painful groans of a young maiden laboring to bring forth her first born while feeling alone and abandoned. Her sole help was fumbling, inexperienced hands of a substitute father doing the best he could...trying to look reassuring as his young wife's face mirrors fear.

Finally, there was heard on earth a sound whose loveliness excelled that of the heavenly choirs soon to invade the lives of sleepy shepherds. Air began filling tiny lungs of an infant's flesh fathered by God. As the baby cried, tears moisten cheeks of mortals not yet fully comprehending the fullness of the night's meaning.

God had arrived as the Son of Man! Salvation now was as near as two lips sucking life from a mother's breast. Old promises were being fulfilled in the morning hours of sleepy Bethlehem.

On Christmas Eve sights and sounds of Jesus' first night mingle with present realities. As we celebrate we can open our pores to possibilities of life enhanced by better tomorrows. Yet Bethlehem's birth is only complete as Christ is born once again...our hearts must become His birthplace...our lives, His home.

Celebrating Christmas. Biblical or Heretical?

From Ps. Johan Lourens 25-Dec-2017

Answer: The birth of Christ... or *the doctrine of the incarnation* is significant and essential to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Should a Christian honor/celebrate the birth of Christ?

Lets look at actual moments of people in the Bible who actually celebrated the birth/incarnation of Christ. There were the angels who joyfully sounded the birth of the Christ (Luke 2:8,15). The shepherds witnessed Heaven's delivery of the Son of God and announced to all who would listen (Luke 2:16,20). There was Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25,37). Of course, there was Mary and Joseph.

God Celebrated The Birth of Christ. How?

God the Father eternally impressed His joy of the birth/incarnation of His Son Jesus Christ within the holy scriptures. The incarnation does not end with the four gospels. The apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit opened his letter to the believers in Rome concerning the incarnation of Christ (Romans 1:3) and admits the incarnation is the underlying reason for the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:4). Paul emphasized this with the church at Galatia (Gal.3:16). And again with Timothy (2 Tim.2:6,9). Note also Hebrews 2:16. Observing the birth of Christ is obvious throughout the New Testament by virtue of teaching it's significance.

As to the manner of celebrating the incarnation of Christ depends on one's purpose for living. I think it is very obvious that a born-again believer can celebrate the birth of Christ without getting caught up with all the pagan influences. Celebrate the birth of Christ with gratitude that God sent His only begotten Son into this world to be born of a virgin. Don't let the devil hi-jack the true meaning of the birth of Christ from your life.

Every Born-again believer should celebrate the incarnation of Christ. For He was the virgin born Son of God. It is His incarnation that makes the Gospel the power of God unto salvation. For if Jesus was not the virgin born Son of God... then no one can be saved. Use this time of the year to instruct others as to why you honor the incarnation of Christ for the sake of the Gospel.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Johan Lourens.

GOD, THERE IS NO GIFT LIKE, YOURS!!

Prayed by Apostle James R Winfree Sr,

HEAVENLY FATHER, YOU GAVE US THE BEST GIFT, EVER, Period!!!

Jesus Loving Lord and heavenly Father how we rejoice as we remember the wonder and joy of the birth of Christ into our fallen world on that first Christmas night when the Prince of Peace Himself came to tabernacle among men and in His Believers, as was promised to the Hebrews and Jews forefathers so many years before.

Thank You for the gift of Your Son Jesus who Name is The Mighty GOD. Thank You for the glorious gospel of peace that is shed abroad in our hearts when we trust in His Your Blessed and Holy Name heavenly Father. Thank You for the Person of Jesus Christ, Who laid aside His heavenly glory and was born to die so that we might be born-again and live with Him forever.

Amazing Father the glorious truth of the gospel of Christ is life and light to the children of men... it is peace and hope... it is love and joy ... it is forgiveness and salvation... but too often the Christmas story has lost its impact on a world that has rejected Your truth and adopted the trappings of a world system, that is doomed to fail.

Jesus, Forgive us, Lord, forgive us for the rebellious nature that is so often displayed at this time of the year and look down with compassion and mercy on us all this Christmas time.

Rekindle the light of truth in the hearts of men and women throughout the world as we once again focus our hearts on Your humble birth and the redemption it provides for all who will trust in You, by grace through faith... and give all who have been saved by Your precious blood an abiding peace as we celebrate the beautiful truth of the glorious gospel of grace, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.



Christmas Greeting from Transforming Sydney

Sent 22 December 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is a season of great joy: a time for remembering the past and hoping for the future. May the glorious message of peace and love fill you with joy during this wonderful season.

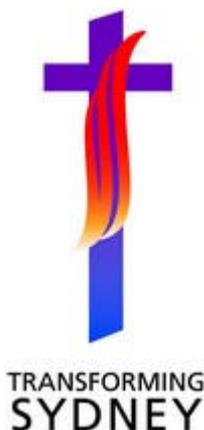


As the Conveners of Transforming Sydney and together with our Advisory Board, we pray that the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ brings us all a new rebirth to see our nation transformed to His glory.

Grace,
Bjorn and Lilian Schmid

Advisory Board

- Rachel and Adrian Dunwell
- Ron Edwards
- Gordon Griffith
- Desmond Higgs
- Dennis and Ann Outred
- Rev. Dr. Denis Plant
- Rev. Peter Robinson
- Ps. Gideon Sunindito
- Ps. Beto Beбето
- Bjorn and Lilian Schmid



Chairman's Greeting - Christmas 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It gives me great joy to share in the vision and impetus for Transforming Sydney which is to stir up those who belong to the people of God across this great metropolis of Sydney and beyond into the rest of New South Wales to pray and to encourage sustained prayer for our city and state and beyond, identifying with one another as those who belong to Christ by faith through his incarnation, sacrifice on the cross, resurrection and ascension. It is his doing and we are his people.

TS exists to encourage prayer and Kingdom initiatives by God's people for Sydney and beyond

whatever denominations and fellowships we belong to. We honour and respect the authority and leadership of each of these denominations and organisations and support their calling.

The thing that greatly motivates me in being invited to take up the role of chair of the board of TS is my own experience of working in ministry in state schools – as a pastor teaching SRE in Victoria and NSW, and then when at Bomaderry, with the Shoalhaven SRE board SECET from 1992-2008; then from 2008-2015 as the CEO of Generate Ministries employing high school SRE teachers as well as chaplains in state schools across NSW. It is seeing in action the commitment of local members of churches working together as the people of God to take up the opportunities to minister to young people whose parents want their children to learn about the Christian faith and what the Bible teaches. It is those who understand that this is a fundamental responsibility we have in our communities as the people of God. And that much more can and does flow from this demonstration of the power of God at work in us.

To see those who get it, who pray together, who identify as brothers and sisters across denominational boundaries has been of enormous encouragement and an increasing eye-opener to me in my experience over many years of significant spiritual experience and growth through various interdenominational organisations like Scripture Union, the Crusader Union (now CRU), the AFES (university and colleges Christian Unions) and other bodies I've had association with ever since school.

As we come to the end of this year and give thanks for the incarnation of our Lord, the Word made flesh, God with us - Emmanuel, as we humbly give thanks in joyful hope and the desire to share the good news with our neighbours, our friends and society: may they understand how radical this story is, the historical reality of God breaking in to our story in this way so that our story can become part of his story. The one through whom and for whom the whole universe was created has also become one of us, alongside us, taking our humanity into the Godhead (as the Orthodox so wonderfully express it.)

As we look forward to the coming year we are developing how TS seeks to serve the people of God. Having pioneered a remarkable network of people committed to praying for Sydney across a wider range of denominations and organisations than we have ever seen before in the history of NSW, Lilian and Bjorn have stepped back to allow the next stage of TS to unfold under the oversight of the advisory board. We are seeking God for the right couple called

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Christmas Greeting from Transforming Sydney (...continued)

and anointed to further the vision of TS.

So that's my encouragement to us all to seek every opportunity to identify with, to support and stand with our brothers and sisters for the people of our communities across Sydney and NSW, seeking first God's Kingdom and his righteousness, knowing that the things we need he will provide. We do not need to be anxious, we do not need to be obsessed with materialism, with lifestyle, or with security in the way our idolatrous society is. Let us do the work, let us do the business of being God's people and show this above all in how much we love one another. We love because he first loved us.

We take our cue from our Saviour whose birth we gratefully celebrate.

In his name we pray:
Amen!

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.
Peter Robinson (Rev.)

Our continuing mission of celebrating the gift of Jesus Christ with those around us.

December 25th, the day that we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, is almost upon us. Though for those of the Orthodox Church, it is a little further away in early January. We wish all a peaceful and joyful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with family and friends.

For a great number of people, the last weeks/days before Christmas are not as peaceful as they might, particularly if you are a parent, church leader or in a job where there are increased demands at this time. In our preparations - presents, food for any celebration meals, sermons; the hours in the day can seem to be miraculously shorter. If this is so, are we beginning to live out a "Martha experience" –

"But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:40-42 NRSV) We need to pull back and ensure that we do have those "Mary" moments so that we do not run past the Christ of Christmas.

The birth of Jesus was not exactly a peaceful or comfortable time for Joseph and Mary – Bethlehem was overcrowded because of the census being taken. Just imagine being Joseph searching for accommodation for his wife who was in labour!

The increased activity around us can give us great opportunities to witness, and to pour out the love of Christ (especially to those who are lonely and

hurting). We need to make sure that at this time our "light" as Christians is not dimmed, and we do not neglect what is important – our continuing mission of celebrating the gift of Jesus Christ with those around us – spouse, family, friends, strangers.

Dennis and Ann Outred

What is Transforming Sydney?

Transforming Sydney is a servant/catalyst movement dedicated to a three-fold mission:

1. To bring unity among the body of Christ in Sydney.
2. To see the Kingdom of God in Sydney as it is in Heaven.
3. To focus on transformation in three areas of society: Family, Church and Marketplace.

Transforming Sydney does not seek attention for itself as such, but lifts up Christ as our King and High Priest, and honours the many fellow-servants across Sydney and beyond who are transforming their spheres of influence through steadfast obedience to Christ's commands and the daily guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Transforming Sydney binds itself to the apostolic foundation laid in Canon Scripture (the Old and New Testaments) and Creeds (e.g. the Apostles and Nicene Creeds) as passed to us from the forefathers of the Church, and we agree with the Covenant, aims and principles of the Lausanne Movement.

Transforming Sydney seeks to be representative of all denominations in Sydney that adhere to the Creeds, and whilst recognising that we have many doctrinal differences, considers the basis of our redemption in Christ, His mandates to us to love God and one another, His Commission to preach the Gospel, and the wonderful variety of gifts given to God's people for His glory are of far greater importance.

The members of Transforming Sydney are always accountable to each other and to our church leaders; we do not operate alone but in submission to Christ and the ordained clergy of the church universal.

It is the prayer of Transforming Sydney that all people, church movements and organisations that love, honour and obey Christ will stand together to make a difference in our city. As fellow workers in Christ's vineyard (Matthew 20, John 15:5) we ask that you put aside doctrinal arguments and positions, apart from the fundamental elements described in the Creeds, the 10 Commandments received by Moses, and God's natural laws, and focus on the things that unite us as Christ's body, in fulfilment of His prayer to the Father (John 17).

To this end Transforming Sydney members connect

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Christmas Greeting from Transforming Sydney (...continued)

and pray with people from across the Body of Christ in Sydney. We also promote prayer and spiritual formation initiatives such as:

- Adopt a Senator / Member of Parliament
- Adopt a Street / Suburb
- Adopt a Business
- Adopt a Priest / Minister / Pastor
- Pentecost Eve annual prayer gathering in different regions across Sydney
- Praying for the Spheres of Influence
- Daily Prayer Calendars
- Training Programs (e.g. St. Ignatius retreats, APN Watchman School of Intercession, Healing Rooms Australia training, and so on.)
- Occasional and regular articles and letters

By servant/catalyst we mean that we are not the instigator or (usually) the recipient of transformational change in our society: only Christ can call people to Himself or apply His power to transform, but we can pray for and encourage (accelerate) the process by our living witness and confessions of faith.

What Transforming Sydney is Not

Transforming Sydney will not replace existing leaders or ministries established by God across Sydney, but seeks to serve them and pray for their growth and maturity. Therefore Transforming Sydney is not a church, organisation or personal ministry, and it is not a House of Prayer or a Charity or a Bible College.

Transforming Sydney does not have any facilities or property or 'valuable' assets.

Transforming Sydney will not ask you for donations and subsequently does not provide donations, however we do encourage you to support and donate to your churches and Christian organisations.

How Did Transforming Sydney Start?

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." [John 3:8]

Lilian Schmid the Convener of TS had a passion to see true unity in Sydney. Her experience in the civil war in Lebanon where Christians fought against Christians put passion and burden in her heart to see Christians united in the Holy Spirit under Christ Jesus. In September 2009 Lilian experienced an encounter with the Lord where she saw Jesus on the cross and His precious blood was dripping over the city of Sydney.

Around the same time her husband Bjorn experienced a vision of a pillar of fire over Sydney, not coming down from heaven as such, but formed by thousands of fires across Sydney joining together

and rising up to heaven.

After confirmation with several church and prayer leaders, they agreed together that the Lord was speaking to them to spark a new initiative for the transformation of Sydney, not from without but from within; starting with personal transformation through the power of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit, then outwards to our families, our greater family – the Church, and into the marketplace of our city (i.e. the places outside of our homes and churches).

Lilian and Bjorn knew it was imperative that this movement does not build a new hierarchy or structure, and must not compete with existing organisations, but instead support and initiate activities and events that create unity in the Body of Christ. They also wanted to honour and bear witness to the people and groups that have previously (and are still) reaching out to the world in obedience to the Holy Spirit and in unity with all Christians.

On the 12th December 2009, Bjorn and Lilian convened the first consultation meeting of Transforming Sydney at the St Andrews Healing Centre in Forbes St, Newtown. People came from different social demographics and different denominations (Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal) and joined in praying and sharing what was on their hearts for Sydney. Similar consultation meetings were subsequently held in various places across Sydney.

On 16 November 2011, Transforming Sydney held a lunch at the NSW Parliament House with the theme "New Wine and Fresh Skins" with a similar cross-denominational theme. This gathering established TS officially when the Hon. Marie Ficarra MLC moved a motion recognising Transforming Sydney in the NSW Parliament the following day.

Since then Transforming Sydney has been recognised and blessed by many church leaders, and appeared in several Christian publications including the Australian Catholic Weekly.

In 2016 after seven years, Bjorn and Lilian knew in their hearts that it was time to allow younger leaders to lead Transforming Sydney into the next phase. They established the Advisory Board which appointed a Chairman to assist them in this transition process.

How Can We Have Unity?

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." [Colossians 3:12-14]

Pornography

The effects of pornography are not always visible, also the 'user', whether a man or a woman will likely argue "what is the harm at looking at a few pictures?"

The word pornography did not appear in dictionaries until the 1850's, some 11 years after the first photograph, but I would suggest that the act of "viewing" was around long before that! I have often wondered the true purpose and intent of those stone masons of any age chipping out those forms of often naked men and women of unseen physical proportions! And maybe today the internet should be renamed the 'sexnet'. It has no boundaries, and can be taken right to your pocket through the mobile phone! It doesn't stop at photographs or movies, there are the anonymous chat rooms where fantasies are typed. All of this mounting to 'virtual infidelity' and all media hunts both genders.

To save, heal and protect our marriages and families from porn, we need to adopt the broader understanding that porn has no boundaries and seeks to ensnare all, no matter gender or age.

Whichever way one looks at it, pornography is a growing problem in the church. The following excerpt is from an open letter Chuck Swindoll posted on his 'Insight for Living' Website not long ago:

"The most recent studies available suggest that one out of every two people-that's 50 percent of the people sitting in our pews, are looking at and/or could be addicted to Internet pornography... Truth be told, that statistic could be even higher..."

According to neuropsychologist, Dr. Tim Jennings, "Any type of repetitive behaviour will create trails in our brain that are going to fire on an automatic sequence." The result is years of bondage. This is how 68% of Christian men can love the Lord with all their heart, but be trapped in sexual bondage. The repeated viewing of porn literally changes the physical structure of their brain.¹

The following stats are from one of the world's largest Internet porn providers:

- Nearly 4.5 billion hours of porn were watched worldwide in 2015
- Over 21 billion visits to this site or its network of websites.

Traditionally, men are associated with porn use, but the numbers show more women are consuming pornography than ever before. In the United States, 23 percent of this particular site's users are women, with 28 percent in Australia and 22 in the United Kingdom.²

Negative views to women are also stronger in particularly traditionally "masculine" contexts, such as sporting subcultures and the army, and evidence shows these attitudes are, in some ways, influenced by the media we consume, including pornography, television, music and film. **A new study in Australia has suggested that the glamorised violence of much modern heterosexual pornography available readily online is having a significant impact on the violence and submission expected in sex by young teenage boys with female partners.** There is evidence that in regional Australia, more rigid gender roles - combined with increased alcohol consumption - is a cause of increased domestic violence compared with cities.³

"Overall, 21 percent of youth pastors and 14 percent of pastors admit they currently struggle with using porn." That's according to an online study of nearly 3,000 adults, teenagers, and pastors by the Barna Group. The study included 432 pastors and 338 youth pastors, and was commissioned by Josh McDowell Ministry and Cru. And about 27 percent of Christian men and 6 percent of Christian women actively look for porn during that time.⁴

50 percent of men viewed pornography within one week of attending a Promise Keepers stadium event... 54 percent of pastors said they viewed porn within the past year in a Pastors.com survey... in a 2003 Focus on the Family poll 47 percent of respondents said porn is a problem in their home.⁵

We in the church need to talk sensitively and scripturally in this area and be ready to guide and equip others. There are good resources available, a starting place is "GUILTY PLEASURE" [<https://guiltypleasure.org/>], then check online Christian bookshops and for Christian organisations near to you who can help in this area.

Dennis & Ann Outred, Marriage Week Australia

¹ <https://conquerseries.com/why-68-percent-of-christian-men-watch-porn/>

² <http://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/2015-porn-stats-show-alarming-trends1>

³ https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms_docs/222951_Speech_on_domestic_violence_prevention.pdf

⁴ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2016/january/how-pastors-struggle-porn-phenomenon-josh-mcdowell-barna.html>

⁵ www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/how-many-porn-addicts-are-in-your-church-1336107.html



Evangelisation

Notes by Kevin Smith, from a talk by Tony Randazzo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Given to the SENt network, at the Francis Centre, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe on the evening of 2 November 2017

To be as opposed to *doing* ... Jesus' spirit in us ... opening our eyes, ears and heart to others.

How can the Word of God become a *'pulsating reality of the heart'*?

Many people are starving for happiness, and many stories lie behind a person.

The Word is ordered for the good of all. We are meant to impart JOY to others; deeper than the shallow pursuit of thrills, it is an encounter with a person who meets you where you are – not a list of *'dos and don'ts'*

Lk 19: 1-10 Zacchaeus seeks *'just a glimpse of Jesus'*. Notice how Jesus calls Zacchaeus by his name, the most important thing to a person being his/her name (it is who the person is). Jesus calls him down from the tree and goes on to enter into the house of Zacchaeus. This is a common theme in the gospel: Jesus meeting people where they are.

The heart of the gospel is a person, not an agenda. The gospel is an intimate meeting of persons, *'where they are'*. We often make the mistake of placing primary what is secondary...the gospel is meant to free us...

He meets me where I am *'for a reason'* ... a transformation / turn-around is the next step. Jesus loves us *'where we are'*, but he loves us *'too much'* to leave us *'where we are'*. The person who receives Christ goes on to be like Jesus – he/she becomes a disciple....We change from a passive recipient to an active missionary.

How did Jesus come into my life? [So that I became *'over-flowing'* with Christ]

Acts 5:32 talks about *'we were witnesses to these things'* ...The work of Christ is about our change of life as individuals and as a community.

A life in Christ leads to a life of freedom. ...John 10:10 tells us what it is about. 2 Timothy 2:9 tells us that the Word of God is not chained – it is meant to free us! ... Freed from our plan / desires ... How much energy have I spent on futile plans?

We become lead by the spirit to the unknown and to the unexpected.

The life of freedom comes from giving our lives over to the power of Jesus ... Paul: *"It is no longer I but Christ who lives in me"*

2 Timothy 2 tells us that if we die with Christ we also live with Christ.

We become free from the *'banality of life'*. The woman at the well was transformed in the daily ordinariness of her life. It's in the ordinary moments of our life that we are called to encounter Jesus ... Lamentations 3 tells us that *'The Love of God is renewed every day'*.

Being evangelisers changes us ... Relationship is primary, structure is secondary.

Pope Francis: *'A Culture of Encounter'*

Real: *'The Word Became Flesh and dwelt among us'*

Our fabric is interwoven with Christ and our Faith Community – the Body of Christ. The encounter changes us ... knocking us out of the boredom of routine. Paul: The Love of Christ urges us on.

The Encounter is *'Life in Action'*

This is Evangelisation

"It's true that (many) are praying for a worldwide revival. But it would be more timely, and more scriptural, for prayer to be made to the Lord of the harvest, that He would raise up and thrust forth laborers who would fearlessly and faithfully preach those truths which are calculated to bring about a revival."
Arthur W. Pink

Proclaiming Pentecost: An Act of Repentance

By Lilian Schmid, Convener, Proclaiming Pentecost City Movement, info@prayerstrategy.org

Proclaiming Pentecost is very important move of God not just for Sydney but also for Australia and the whole world. Pentecost celebration is not new of course, but the way we started running it since 2015 is very unique and brought unity according to John 17:20

The most significant part of Proclaiming Pentecost is that at each celebration, some of the clergy (Priests, Pastors and Ministers) from the region where the celebration was held in the previous year come to pass on the baton and bless the leaders in the next region. This is a very important act of humility, authority and love, and ensures that the fire of Pentecost is spread from region to region until all of Sydney is covered.



Pentecost Eve 2015 at Newtown, Sydney



Pentecost Eve 2016 at Parramatta, Sydney



Passing the baton from Newtown to Parramatta City



Pentecost Eve 2017 at Penshurst, Sydney



Passing the baton from Parramatta to South-East Sydney

With love and honour, we want to thank those who supported us and believed in what God has bestowed upon us to serve him in obedience. We also want to honour all the prayer movements in your city - we are praying for revival and transformation for our cities. With Proclaiming Pentecost God brought us together in prayer to glorify Jesus. You can read full reports for Sydney at

www.transformingsydney.org/TSEventsPentecost2015.html

www.transformingsydney.org/TSEventsPentecost2016.html

www.transformingsydney.org/files/PE2017_Report.pdf

We look forward to **Pentecost Eve 2018** on **May 19th** in the South West of Sydney at

The Word Christian Fellowship Church, 10 Redfern Rd, Minto NSW 2564

Contact: Rev. Dr. Denis Plant (02) 9603-2077



Sinner to Saint

By Rev. Howard Koyl, Bible Message 317, sent 29-Oct-2017

God, the Father created man for fellowship

God created the heavens and the earth and He created man in His own likeness and in His own image He created him. He created man to take dominion over the works of His hand. Man was not created to live without God but to partner with Him. God created man to work in His vineyard. God did not work by the sweat of His brow but He spoke and things were created, then He gave Man authority over all of God's creation.

The first man (Adam) blatantly disobeyed God in so doing he gave his authority over to the devil. Today we call it the world system. This left all of his descendants born into sin and alienated from God.

Hebrews 2:14-15 NLT

14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

Fear of dying

15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves (to sin) and the fear of dying.

- Can you remember what it was like before you came to Christ? I remember being afraid of dying. As I looked back over my life I knew I was guilty of sin. I knew I was going to hell. And there was no escape.

God sent His Son on the account of sin

John 3:16-17 NKJV

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Therefore God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to pay the price for original sin. Original sin is the rejection God.

- But then my brother told me that Jesus would forgive me and that I would have a new life in Christ Jesus. I got into the Word of God and my life began to change as I took the Word of God to heart.

Jesus' authority to the believer

Luke 9:1-2 NLT

1 One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

- This same authority has been given to all who believe. Just as Jesus was an example, so are the apostles. They showed forth the kingdom of God and healed the sick.

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

At the same time Jesus restored to the believer the authority that He had given to Adam. Jesus is our example in all things pertaining to this life, as children in God's kingdom. The kingdom of God starts the

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Sinner to Saint (...continued)

moment we believe and confess Jesus is Lord.

A TIME FOR CHANGE

It is a big change to go from sinner to saint. It is hard for us to comprehend in our natural mind. That is why God tells us to renew our mind with the Word of God. If you are still hanging around the same people and talking about the things in the world, you won't hear anything about the kingdom of God.

Romans 12:2

...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (by the Word of God), that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- It is hard for us to see ourselves as righteous after being in bondage to sin our whole life.

Jesus made us right with God

2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT

21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- If you are in Christ Jesus then you are right with God. You are the righteousness of God in Christ.

The New King James version says,

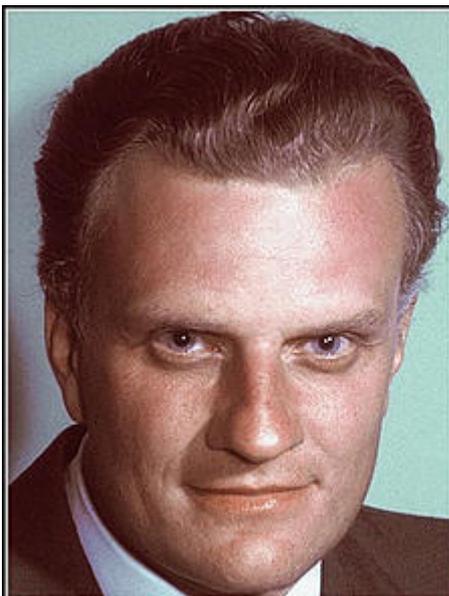
For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This should be our new attitude

Galatians 2:20

*20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

- If you are born again, you have died to the old man of sin and now you live in newness of life in Christ.
- To live by faith in the Son of God we have to do away with our own desires and passions. Now we live by following the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God and the Word of God are always the same. If it does not line up to the Word of God then it is not the Spirit of God.



Most of all, God has blessed us by giving us the privilege of knowing Him and walking with Him every day. He did this by sending His Son into the world to die for our sins.

— Billy Graham —

AZ QUOTES

(Quote provided from http://www.azquotes.com/author/5776-Billy_Graham)



Forget the Lunch: a prophetic recipe for revival

By John Yates - issued 26 December 2017

Introduction

On the 20th of December after a scintillating session of carols at Perth Prayer (<https://www.facebook.com/PerthPrayer>) the floor was opened for anyone to take the microphone. Few seemed hesitant, and the prayers of several zealous young men reminded me of my focus on revival when I first arrived here 30 years ago.

Revival however must come in God's way and his grace is always surprising. I had anticipated that the meeting would present an opportunity for prophetic praying, and after waiting on the Lord I sensed some things to speak out, which were seriously painful. But prophecy is meant to be a revelation of the heart of the Lord, and sometimes his "heart is filled with pain" (Gen 6:6). The below teaching is an expansion of what I prayed and observed on the 20th.

prophecy is meant to be a revelation of the heart of the Lord, and sometimes his "heart is filled with pain"

A Very Bad Year for God

It's hard to remember a year when Australia has given God so much anguish. The Spirit has been sorely grieved, the reputation of the name of Jesus dishonoured and the heart of the Father wounded (Eph 4:30; 5:3). *The Royal Commission into Institutionalised Child Sexual Abuse* has headlined the abominable behaviour of many pastors, priests, bishops and other Christian leaders. It's difficult to articulate the moral and spiritual impact of such abominations, but the old word "defilement", meaning to "make filthy", comes closest. There is something in the human psyche which instinctively recognises that perversion on the part of those who represent God is especially wicked. This pall will hang over the Church for generations. As if this scandal was not enough there was a huge amount of bad press mid-year about domestic violence in Bible believing churches. Whilst some of this was unjustified, the recent public apology to victims of abuse by the Anglican Diocese of Sydney keeps this scar on the Church alive in the public conscience. Worse was to come.

There is an ancient saying, *Vox Populi, Vox Dei*, "The voice of the people is the voice of God." In 2017 2/3rds of Australians showed we believe this saying to be true by voting for same-sex marriage. Understood spiritually, the mass of easy going Aussies have decided that they do not believe in a Heavenly Bridegroom. Recognising it or not, they have categorically rejected the intimate Lordship of Jesus in an unprecedented manner (cf. 1 Sam 8:7). If we were at all sensitive to the anguished heart of God we would already be broken people, crying out to the Lord with a deep sense of inner emptiness. Hunger for the glory of God would already be moving us to pray and pray. What happened at Perth Prayer after I spoke clearly indicated the direction the Spirit is leading Christ's

Aussies have decided that they do not believe in a Heavenly Bridegroom. Recognising it or not, they have categorically rejected the intimate Lordship of Jesus in an unprecedented manner

Church.

Forget the Lunch

One of the brothers rose to his feet and read aloud the Song of Mary, accenting the sections he saw as most compatible with the spirit of my praying; "He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty." (Luke 1:51-53). The lowliness and humility characteristic of those favoured by God is certainly in opposition to the prevalent independent spirit in nation and Church today. As the meeting proceeded things became even more prophetic.

A lady who had never been in our gathering before came to the front. She had been walking past the church, which is on one of the busiest intersections of the CBD, and was attracted to the singing inside. Putting her curiosity aside she initially decided to press on to get food, until the Spirit spoke to her to come and join us and she resolved to "forget the lunch". After sharing that part of her

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Forget the Lunch: a prophetic recipe for revival (...continued)

story she went on to encourage those who come weekly to worship and pray for the city to keep going because this is so important (Col 4:2).

If every believer resolved at least once a week to fast a midday meal and dedicate that time to call upon the Lord for the welfare and salvation of our city the spiritual atmosphere of our nation could be transformed

The testimony “forget the lunch” is a prophetic call. If every believer resolved at least once a week to fast a midday meal and dedicate that time to call upon the Lord for the welfare and salvation of our city the spiritual atmosphere of our nation could be transformed (Jer 29:7). A mass movement of such simple obedience would release the power of the Spirit. Why then hasn’t it already happened? An answer came as we broke up into small groups to pray.

Attuned to the “forget the lunch” message a city worker in our group began to intercede against the fear that stops so many from leaving their desk at lunchtime to come and pray. Can you trust God that if you leave your desk (or equivalent) to pray he will provide for your job security. This is a simple recipe for revival but a crucial ingredient is missing.

Starving

As I prayed I could sense the Spirit encouraging us to ask for an enlargement of the Word of God. We need to be interceding for a visitation of the Word as the Bridegroom of the Church (Rev 19:1-13).

Australian society rejects the tender approach of the Spirit not because they think Jesus is a bad person but because they see *Christianity* as polluted by perverts and people who don’t get the message that “love is love” whatever a person’s gender may be. Image is not reality, but loving spiritual intimacy with a heavenly Bridegroom will not be reflected in the Church until we are truly hungry for his Word in a way that vastly exceeds all other desires.

He will reward us too with his powerful presence if our prayer for intimacy with his Spirit-Word exceeds our longing for the delicacies of this world.

The Feeding of the 4,000 has a prophetic message for us. Jesus had “compassion” on the crowd because they had been without bread for “three days” and were in danger of fainting (Mark 8:1-2). Because the bread of Christ’s presence was more important than any number of lunches this mob saw the miraculous hand of God!

He will reward us too with his powerful presence if our prayer for intimacy with his Spirit-Word exceeds our longing for the delicacies of this world.

Conclusion

There are plenty of worthwhile prayer initiatives across Australia but they seem to lack a crucial commitment to a prerequisite for a major move of God. Mainstream networks are *always committed* to stability in the Church and the restoration of Christianity to a place of social honour. But heaven sent revival always begins with a new work of God being rejected by existing church powers and mocked by secular culture.

Mainstream networks are always committed to stability in the Church and the restoration of Christianity to a place of social honour. But heaven sent revival always begins with a new work of God being rejected by existing church powers and mocked by secular culture.

For example, even though it wasn’t even a revival, I remember just how disruptive the Charismatic Movement was to the churches a generation ago. And how tongues speakers were viewed by the newspapers as a sort of lunatic cult.

The ultimate crucial element in the recipe for revival, in enacting “Forget the Lunch” and “Leave the Desk”, is the way of the cross i.e. count the cost (Luke 14:28). Stuffed with physical blessings it’s time for fair dinkum Aussie Christians to realise that *our heavenly Father has been starving us of the Word* (Luke 11:11-13). Not to penalise us but to provoke us to the sort of actions I have outlined.

For the obedient 2018 will be a far more spiritually satisfying year in the Lord; “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Rev 3:20).



Where to Home?

By Bjorn Schmid

Over the part year I've outlined some topics for you to consider and examine in yourself (that goes for me too) in order to shift our attitudes from self-oriented to God-oriented. To recap:

Ego Buster #1: Your salvation is not irreversible

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

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

Ego Buster #4: Give unto God what is God's, privately

Ego Buster #5: God hears your heart - big words don't impress Him

Ego Buster #6: To be forgiven we must forgive

Ego Buster #7: Your fast is an offering that belongs to God alone

Ego Buster #8: You can't take your bank account or insurance policy to heaven

Ego Buster #9: There's only one King in your life

Ego Buster #10: You only need what God gives you

I'm not going to dwell on these again, you can go back to the previous articles to read on them, but if you haven't read them yet I seriously encourage you to do so before you continue this article...

...because I want to add two more that build on these.

Ego Buster #11: You can't love your neighbour and hate God

"Hey? What's this you're saying?" I hear you thinking "It's supposed to be the other way around..."

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." [1 John 4:20-21]

This is in fact a tautology of sorts: Love God <=> Love neighbour. This kind of love is indiscriminate and loves all equally. You probably agree with this and consider that you definitely love God and therefore you also love your neighbour. This is a good start but I want to ask you a serious question: have you *forgiven* God in your heart?

By now you are likely wondering why you should read any further and are considering what other articles are more interesting, either in this publication or another. For those who are willing to read further, let me explain my question (particularly in the light of what I have previously written).

Lets read part of Paul's letter to the Colossian church:

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." [Colossians 1:15-17]

So this clearly outlines that Christ is solely responsible for establishing heaven and earth, and also all created things that dwell therein. Satan and we (His creations) rebelled and tried to remanage things our way, which has spoilt the beautiful and bountiful world God intended for us humans to live in, but *why did he allow it?* Why didn't He stop it? Why is there so much suffering in the world? Why allow babies to suffer terrible diseases? Child abuse? And so on and so on.

Now, you may already have the answer for this and be reconciled to God's choices in regards to the big picture of creation, the fall of man, redemption by Christ, etc. Very good.

But...what about your stubborn wife/husband who always has to argue with you about the silliest things? Your idiot Greek neighbour who always, always leaves the stinking bins next to your fence so the smell drifts into the living room? Your greedy grumpy boss who loves to find fault in every document you write yet she writes absolute rubbish emails? The polliies who only listen to ordinary people when it's polling time and then make all the wrong decisions when in Government? Your colleague who loves to talk about his sex exploits with his boyfriend? The taxi driver who didn't stop for you, the policeman who gave you a ticket on the one and only time you went over the speed limit, the emo girl at the supermarket with the black nails and makeup that talks in a nasal trashy way and serves you like you're a convicted rapist, your priest/minister/pastor/deacon/worship-leader who can't preach/sing and obviously leads a double life...?

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Where to Home? (...continued)

Don't you complain about these people? Who allowed them to cross your path and interfere with your life in the first place? Who let these people into *your church*? Isn't it God who's ultimately responsible?

Yes He is.

'*Thy will be done*' is not just a request, it's acknowledgement of His dominion and perfect plan for us.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." [Romans 8:28]

"The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart." [Proverbs 17:3]

When we complain about people or circumstances we build resentment, resentment builds anger, anger if unrepented creates animosity, and this in turn builds hate. There's plenty of anecdotal and empirical evidence for this, but Christ gave us the solution: although He is blameless, He came to us to reconcile.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." [2 Corinthians 5:18-19]

When two friends have a falling out and won't speak to one another, the only way for reconciliation is for one to defeat pride and approach their friend seeking reconciliation. Christ took all our sins; past, present and future on himself, said 'Father forgive them' (Luke 23:34) on our behalf, and then said "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Revelation 3:20)

We have been given the ministry of reconciliation, the heart of reconciliation is forgiveness, and the power to forgive is love (agape). Since we have been forgiven much, how can we not forgive? If you do not let go of your resentments against God and people, you can't be fully reconciled nor minister reconciliation effectively. Read Matthew 18:21-36 and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Ego Buster #12: The depth of your love depends on how much you are forgiven

Let Christ our King speak first:

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman?"

I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown.

But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." [Luke 7:41-48]

I was a 'good kid' and generally didn't get into trouble. As I grew up and saw the boys around me (Christian and non-Christian) having girl-friends, going out, driving cars, and so on, I felt somewhat resentful that I - the 'good kid' - seemed to have no benefits, but I consoled myself that I was 'good', and therefore better than them. Aha, pride and arrogance: the worst sins (if I may be so bold) possessed me for many years until I reached a point where God showed me just how imperfect I was and that my every breath depended on His tender mercy.

This was my transition from love of self into His love. When I begged for His forgiveness for the way I looked at others as inferior, He was faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9) which reconciled me to Him (He had already been reconciled to me though Christ - I was the blockage), and the depth of His forgiveness enabled an eternal love of Him and those made in His image, i.e. you. I want to be like Him in loving .

Final questions. Do you really want Jesus to return? Why? Have you honestly asked yourself and are you ready for the answers? It's said 'Home is where the heart is' so where is Jesus' heart that we all seek?

May His peace that passes all understanding be with you now and forever. See you at Home. Amen.



Christmas Newsletter from David Lim

December 23, 2017

Dearest friends and partners in God's mission,

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR" to you! It's been a busy and historic year – and so full that it's almost Christmas Eve! I hope that you are in good health, as we end one more year in this age of big and rapid changes. This past year has been full of predictable trends, like the increasing fake news and wasted time in social media that cause more depression of millennials, USA's Pres. Trump's fascinating tweets, China's Pres. Xi's increased dominance, Phil.'s Pres. Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao (and its one-year extension), more "lone wolf" terrorist attacks, among others.

It's very uplifting to end the year with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) winning the Nobel Peace Prize, and the "Silence Breakers" (against sexual harassment) named Time's Person of the Year. We're reminded to keep on fighting for righteousness – to do small acts of kindness and contribute our small voices towards the upward spiral to help realize God's reign of justice, peace and joy in our complex postmodern world.

As we enter 2018, the next 3 years look brighter as we do effective missions by March 2021 (the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Phil.). Closure to the Great Commission is more realistic than ever! After so many years, I can consider 2017 as a breakthrough year as the shift in mission strategy from Christendom's *imperial* (with elaborate religious services) to transformational missions' *incarnational* approach (with simple community services) has finally become mainstream. In Asia, if the house church networks were one denomination (which they'll never become), their total constituency have become larger than the entirety of all denominations combined.

Amidst the natural disasters, refugee crisis (esp. of Rohingyas from Myanmar) and political turmoils in Asia, multitudes are being brought into the Kingdom through "disciple multiplication movements (DMMs)." I rejoice to see many more missionaries make the shift quite significantly this past year. As we pray and work for more "house church networks" (HCN) through DMMs, I'm quite sure that there

will be much multiplication and exponential growth hereafter!

1. As the President of *Asian School of Development and Cross-cultural Studies (ASDECS)*, I rejoice to see us go ASEAN this year and truly global next year. Through our Center for Transformational Development (CTD)'s certificate programs (led by Boyet Ongkiko), we're ready to launch training programs among the poor in U.S.A. Through our **PhD** programs (led by Dr. Timothy Hwang), we are in Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and Australia, in partnership with the Global School of International Development (GSID).

Our Asian Inst. of Social Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (AISEED, led by Mila Mercado-Bunker) will start our training programs in partnership with APPEND Micro-Enterprise Development, Inc. (AMED) to train their leaders formally to manage savings, cooperative and/or social enterprises for transformational impact in their communities. Our Asian Consultancy and Research Inst. (ACRI, led by Chot Velasquez) to empower and document any group's plan to transform their community holistically. Above all, through Bing Roncesvalles, we are working in partnership with **Tearfund-UK** to facilitate and coordinate "Church and Community Mobilization" programs in the ASEAN region.

2. For national transformation, the Philippine House Church Movement, called *Star Grass Coalition*, pursues our mission to multiply disciples and simple churches across the land. Our main campaign aims to turn this nation into a "land of cooperatives and social enterprises" through "Investment Clubs," where any group of 15 members can pool their savings together to develop a social enterprise. We lead the Phil. Community Supported Agriculture Network (PCSAN) with Dr. Ben Quiñones & Dr. Doy Nacpil, to empower our farmers to do Andry Lim's Natural Farming and trade their products cooperatively. Doy hosted our Luzon house church leaders' summit in his training center in Palayan, Nueva Ecija last Dec. 1-2. We will be joining the *3rd Global House Church Summit* to be held in Bali in June 29-July 1, 2018.



Representing ASDECS at Int'l Council of Higher Education, Singapore, June 6-8.



Luzon house church Summit, Palayan City, Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

3. And for global transformation, as Executive Chair of *Lausanne-Phil.*, I look forward with our Exec. Director Art Medina to preparing to co-host Lausanne's Global Workplace Forum from June 25-29, 2019, 1.5 years from now. We have monthly meetings facilitated by our local Global Diaspora Network chapter, and reorganized our Punlad Buhay

Multipurpose Cooperative. Meanwhile I'll be giving a paper at the Lausanne's Global Consultation on Nominalism in Rome from Mar. 15-18 2018. And I'll also be sharing my views on the DMM approach for mobilizing churches for community transformation at Tearfund's Global Forum on

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Christmas Newsletter from David Lim (...continued)

Church and Poverty in Kigali, Rwanda, from July 2-5, 2018.

The *Philippine Missions Association (PMA)*, with Rev. Nono Badoy at the helm, will continue to serve as a model for the Lausanne Movement and all mission movements, as we mobilize for 2 million trained in Tentmaker Missions, and 1 million Outstanding Faithful Witnesses/missionaries deployed to do DMM among the unreached by 2020. We're trying to set up an OFW Ministry Desk in every church, barangay, and town/city nationally, and in every Filipino embassy or consulate globally, so that we can maximize our opportunities to train OFWs to be tentmakers.



Philippine Missions Association's General Assembly, BGC-Taguig City, Mar. 22.

Our DMM model of ministry will continue to spread more and more as I also serve with the leaders of *China Ministries International*, *Asian Society of Frontier Missions*, *SEANET (global network to reach the Buddhists)*, *Asian Society of Missiology*, *Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition*, and *International Council of Higher Education*. May there be more transformational impact for the whole church to share the whole gospel with the whole world effectively! For all these, I've been blessed to travel abroad 11 times per year for the past 9 years.



SEANET'S Steering Group at our Planning meeting, Bangkok, May 3-4.

I've had 11 publications this year:

1. "Transformational Mission in Fear Cultures in the Buddhist World and Beyond." In Paul de Neui (ed.). *Restored to Freedom from Fear, Guilt and Shame: Lessons for the Buddhist World*. Pasadena: William Carey Library. Pp. 89-116.
2. "Transformational Missions Made Simple." In Timothy K. Park & Steve K. Eom (eds.). *Globalization and Mission*. Seoul: East-West Center for Missions Research and Development. Pp. 173-193.
3. "Understanding House Church Movements: Insights from 'Kingdom Kernels: 4 Stages of Movements.'" *Asian Missions Advance 54* (January 2017): 13-16.
4. "Effective Disciple-making Made Simple," *Compiled Documents and Reports of Urban CPM Summit 2017*, Hyderabad, India (February 15-18, 2017): 57-58.
5. "A Biblical Theology of the Kingdom of God as House (*Oikos*) Church Networks through Insider Movements." Paper presented at the Asian Society of Frontier Missions (Bangkok, Oct. 2-5, 2017). Published as "God's Kingdom as Oikos Church Networks: A Biblical Theology" in *International Journal of Frontiers Missiology*, Special Edition. Published in Korean in Korean Journal of Frontier Missions, 1.1 (July 2017): 235-264.
6. "Education for Economic Transformation." William Carey International Development Journal, Special Issue: Education. October 5, 2017. www.wciujournal.org/journal/article/2.-education.
7. "Strategic Missions Partnership with Churches for Christward Movements." *Asian Missions Advance 57* (October 2017): 2-6.
8. "Book Review: *Eastern Voices, Vol. 1: Insights*,

Perspectives, Visions from Kingdom Leaders in Asia." *Asian Missions Advance 57* (October 2017): 31-32.

9. (Brazilian/Portuguese) "Norway: the Best Model of a Transformed Nation Today." Noruega: o melhor modelo de uma nação transformada hoje.
10. "Contextualizing Merit Making and Grace for Christward Movements in the Buddhist World and Beyond." Paper presented at the 14th SEANET's Missiological Forum, Jan. 9-10, 2017 (to be published 2018).
11. "Six Mission Paradigms of the Church as Agent for Community Transformation." Paper presented at 13th Asian Theological Seminary Theological Forum, March 2 -3, 2017. (To be published 2019).

You may write me for a copy of any of these 11 articles. In all these, I've promoted what I believe is God's *simple* strategic plan to disciple all nations fastest – God wants to save all, doesn't He? We can disciple all nations by equipping all Christ-followers to exercise their calling to make disciples of their neighbors. Properly disciplined to make disciples (2 Tim.2:2), we can catalyze DMMs everywhere! Since spreading this is best done relationally, I've been mentoring some folks, including some in Africa, in doing this via texting and Facebook Messenger!

I thank God for your partnership with me and my family in the Gospel! May God bless you abundantly in the new year, so that you and your household will be channels of His blessings to all who He'll bring into your life!

With best wishes for you in 2018,

David S. Lim, Ph.D.

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Be Born in Me

Everything inside me cries for order.
Everything inside me wants to hide.
Is this shadow an angel or a warrior?
If God is pleased with me, why am I so terrified?

Someone tell me I am only dreaming.
Somehow help me see with heaven's eyes.
And before my head agrees,
My heart is on its knees
Holy is he. Blessed am I

Be born in me. Be born in me.
Trembling heart, somehow I believe
That You chose me.

I hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle,
Make my heart your Bethlehem
Be born in me.

All this time we've waited for the promise
All this time You've waited for my arms
Did you wrap yourself inside the unexpected
So we might know that love would go that far?

Be born in me. Be born in me.
Trembling heart, somehow I believe
That You chose me.

I hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle,
Make my heart your Bethlehem
Be born in me.

I am not brave I'll never be
The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy
I'm just a girl, nothing more
But I am willing, I am yours

Be born in me. Be born in me.

I hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle,
Make my heart your Bethlehem
Be born in me.

Official Lyric Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsXOP7aQeqQ>

Lyrics © O/B/O Apra Amcos

Artist: Francesca Battistelli

Album: Christmas

Released: 2012

*Image credit: Sheila B Ministries Inc Ministering To
Women In All, Razorplanet.com*

