

# Transforming Sydney & Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence



This year, the Newsletter has a National & Global focus and mission for the spheres of influence in Family, Church, and the Marketplace.

TRANSFORMING SYDNEY

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

## Prayer Calendar 2015

See the daily prayer points on the 2015 Prayer Calendar - [www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerCalendar.html](http://www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerCalendar.html)

Note also on pages 28 and 29 is a **Daily Prayer Calendar for August to pray for the sphere of Education.**

(In the June newsletter is a Daily Prayer Calendar for July to pray for the Arts - see also [prayerstrategy.org](http://prayerstrategy.org))

## Marriage Equality?

There is a lot of noise at present from all sides of the issue on so-called 'Marriage Equality'. Bypassing all the antagonism and religious issues, a set of practical questions can be asked: **Should 1% of any population ...**

- ◆ Be allowed to viciously gag 99% from voicing any opinion that is different to their own?
- ◆ Be allowed to have inordinate media coverage that largely ignores the opinions of 99%?
- ◆ Be allowed to rewrite our school curriculums and our laws to disadvantage the 99%?
- ◆ Be empowered by our elected representatives to redefine what is male and female in the name of 'progress'?

If this 1% can change the definition of 'marriage', and impose the incredible costs that are required to enact this across Australia - for no improvement in our physical welfare - then what is to stop other 1% from doing the same according to their desires? Make no mistake - we love the people who have identified themselves on the national census as belonging to this 1% equally to the 99%, but their desire for the 99% to accept their moral standards and language as being normal and inoffensive is really too much. **Go to [www.acl.org.au](http://www.acl.org.au) and speak up for our children.**

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number;" [Genesis 1:27-28a NIV]*

## In the July edition - focus on the Arts

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## The creative arts – a biblical Christian perspective

*(An excerpt from “Rubber on the Road Christian Thinking - An exploration of a Biblical Christian worldview and its application to contemporary Christian thought” by Ray Tiller, Equipping Christian Schools - [equipping.com.au](http://equipping.com.au))*

Christians may ask the following questions about the creative arts and their place in community:

*What is the source and nature of human creativity and what effect has sin and the fall had on it? How can we define what is beautiful? Is the definition entirely relative, or are there biblical Christian aesthetic standards? Does God care what our creativity produces? Is a perception of beauty changed by a religious position or focus of worship? What are the purposes of artistic expression? What effect will artistic expression have on society and culture? Should Christian artists represent ideals or reality? If reality should be represented in art, why and under what constraints? Does a Christian artist have any responsibilities towards his audience and society? Is it legitimate for an artist to be self-serving in his expression, and/or should his expression be seen as service or ministry to others?*

Written with view to a biblical Christian perspective, the following thoughts may be helpful to readers, especially those who are involved in teaching young people:

The creative arts, in the forms of the performing arts, music, and visual arts, are an expression of creativity with which God has endowed man. This creativity is a part of the ‘image of God’ in mankind. Through sin, creativity has been corrupted, but through the regeneration of Christ in Christian artists, it can be redeemed. For a Christian teacher, creative arts education should involve training students to understand, appreciate, and apply godly aesthetics; understand the functions of creative arts in society; and be committed, as Christian artists, to bear responsibility for the effects on society of their artistic activities.

### Christian aesthetics—what is considered beautiful?

The aesthetics of a culture is the set of mental or affective ‘rules’ for what is considered tasteful or beautiful. These rules are dependent on the worldview (and its focus of worship) of the culture.

For example, a culture that worships demons will have ugliness, distortion, terror and treachery as the centre of its aesthetics. Similarly, a culture that has man at its centre will generate an aesthetic that falsely and idealistically glorifies the form and perfection of humanity; or it will display the disillusionment of a disfigured, hopeless humanity and existence.

In contrast, a culture placing God as the centre of worship will have an aesthetic based on the qualities of God—beauty, proportion, peace, reality, love, etc.

Christian aesthetics, then, judges the expression of beauty of an artistic work by comparing it to the qualities of God expressed in His Word and in His creation. We need to be aware, however, that the created beauty that we and our students see around us is marred to varying degrees by the cosmic effects of the fall and the sinfulness of man (See *Rubber on the Road Christian Thinking* statement #32 - *Disasters & Suffering*). As a consequence, much of the artistic expression that surrounds us reflects a “normality” of brokenness, horror, deception, disillusionment, etc. Although our students will need to process this material, there is a danger that they will be overwhelmed by it and conform their aesthetic perceptions and preferences to the world’s brokenness rather than God’s beauty. If we allow them to be so conformed, they will be incapable of bringing the transforming life of God’s grace, wisdom and beauty to their artistic expression. You might like to read Romans 12 v 1-2 in the light of transforming the aesthetics of artistic expression:

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

The Christian creative arts teacher’s response to this concern ought to include two components:

1. Use the “broken” aspects of the aesthetic that we see around us to help your students to identify the terrible effects of human sinfulness on people, their culture, and their environment. Art, after all, provides an affective view of the reality of the society around us, and a Christian arts student should be philosophically equipped to understand, critique, rise above, then bring God’s transforming grace, wisdom, truth, and beauty to it.
2. Expose students to artistic expression which demonstrates wholeness and beauty coming out of people and societies which have (relatively speaking) been more aligned to God’s wisdom, grace, and beauty. Their

(continued next page)

## The creative arts – a biblical Christian perspective (...continued)

aesthetic perceptions and preferences will thus be realigned and they will be equipped to bring the transforming influence of God's beauty and truth through their artistic expression.

### The purposes of artistic expression

Christian artists will see that their creative gifts come from God, who gives them for the same reason that He gives us any gift—for the service of God and fellow man.

Christian creative arts expression, then, is not for gratuitous expression of the self, or an attempt to gain recognition for the artist, but it is for God's glory and the enrichment and blessing of others. In particular we should teach our students to see their artistic gifts as being purposed to:

1. Enhance the quality of human life of both the artist and the audience by portraying in art form something that arouses a sense of pleasure or adds meaning to life. In this function, a Christian aesthetic will positively enhance the emotional, physical, moral, and spiritual life of the community.
2. Represent a view of the reality of the current social and physical environment—in this function, an art form will inform our understanding and appreciation of life by portraying the current manifestations of the prevailing worldview of the culture. Viewing reality through God's perspectives, a Christian artist will seek to portray reality in a way that shows the good and evil of the society for what it is. A Christian artistic representation of good and evil will thus point to truth and will enhance the wholeness of society. On the other hand, a depraved artist (for example, one whose worldview and aesthetic has a demonic centre) will express his art in a way that sees as normal and glories in the ugliness and distortion of life. Such art will contribute to the acceleration of the spiritual, moral, and physical demise of the society.
3. Represent ideals for the social and physical environment—in the face of current reality, art may portray what ought to be. In this function, the Christian artist will encourage us to strive for better or higher things in life, and seek to influence the society towards wholeness. In contrast, a depraved artistic expression will influence society towards depravity.

### The responsibility of the Christian artist

Given the nature of aesthetics and the purpose of artistic expression, Christian artists are responsible, in personal obedience to God and diligent personal development to:

- understand and apply God's beauty, wisdom, grace and truth to their artistic expression.
- learn to critique and avoid being seduced by the ungodly aesthetics of the culture around them.
- diligently develop their artistic gifts so that they are competent and skilled in their artistic expressions.

**Like any other gift, ability, or resource that God gives us, we have to make choices about whether we use our artistic gifts to glorify, indulge, or enrich ourselves, or to serve others.**

### The artist as Prima Donna or servant minister?

Like any other gift, ability, or resource that God gives us, we have to make choices about whether we use our artistic gifts to glorify, indulge, or enrich ourselves, or to serve others. Those gifted in the creative arts face an enormous temptation to use their gift to draw attention to themselves and see their audiences as "consumer goods" to indulge their own egos. Our fashion, Hollywood, and media driven culture saturates our young people with such a self-indulging "prima donna" mentality.

As Christian arts teachers, we should seek to train our students to:

- recognise that God is the giver of the gift, so having an artistic gift does not make the artist better than other people.
- view their artistic expression through the value of humility.
- avoid the self-centred "Prima Donna" attitude in their artistic expression; for example, a performer going on stage should not be thinking, "I hope everybody out there thinks I am great! - after all, it's all about me!!"
- seek to use their artistic gifts to serve God and their fellow man; for example, a performer going on stage should be thinking, "I hope everyone out there benefits from what I do - after all, it is all about them!"

### Conclusion

In the bigger picture, Christian artists should be aware of and take responsibility for the effect of their artistic expression on the individual and societies to whom they minister.

## Theology of the Body?

“Have you searched for God and felt that you only have part of the answers? Have you ever wondered WHY the Catholic Church teaches what it does? Do you feel the separation between your head and your heart in your faith? Are you curious about what makes Catholics so different from other faith traditions?”

St John Paul II provides the most profound and spirit-filled insights into the hunger and yearning of the human heart for God. He does this most obviously in his work, 'Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body'. Join us with Eva Tarchichi, a student taught by Christopher West at the Theology of the Body Institute Pennsylvania USA, who will help to introduce this major work. There will be opportunities to learn with other like-minded people through presentations, discussions, question time and reflection.

"TOB covers the essentials of what makes us human, what gives our life meaning. We explore masculinity, femininity, what it means to be incarnate beings and our origins before original sin. We uncover our desires and yearnings and place them where they belong in our faith. We look into responding to God's call to each of us to enter into a deeper relationship with him. We come to understand how to set our eyes on heaven. We discuss our struggles and reflect on our personal wounds and how these bring us closer to Christ not further. We focus on specific scripture that reveal God to us such as Genesis, Ephesians, Song of Songs and Tobit."

Website: [www.tobaustralia.com.au](http://www.tobaustralia.com.au)



IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY MAN

TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF EVERY WOMAN

ST. JOHN PAUL II

## THEOLOGY FOR EVERYONE

Theology of the Body is a theology for everyone. All human beings, by our common humanity and dignity, are capable of living and understanding the theology. You can be single, married, divorced, separated, consecrated, a teenager, a child, male or female.

Any body can find value in the messages contained in the theology.

If you are capable of giving and receiving love then you are already living the theology. Everyone is capable of giving and receiving love, therefore, the theology of the body applies to you. You do not need to have a theology degree. All you need is to have an open heart and mind to the messages contained in the theology.

All aspects in the theology are based on the words of Jesus of Nazareth. He then shows us the meaning of our lives through his very existence and his reference to the beginning of time. We exist on purpose – we are not accidents of nature. Give yourself time to journey through the theology that St Pope John Paul II spent years writing. It is a great resource for assisting all people to a deeper understanding of who we are. With this theology we say, “*I am, therefore I think*”.

## Theology of the Body with Eva Tarchichi

With great pleasure we invite you to a free introductory talk about **Theology of the Body** presented by **Eva Tarchichi** on **Tuesday night 8th September 2015 from 7.30~9:15pm** at **Our Lady of Good Counsel, 9 Currie Rd Forestville, Sydney** - in the **Parish Centre** behind the church building.

*On-street parking is available, tea and coffee provided, there will a time for questions and answers.*

## Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body by St John Paul II

This major work of St John Paul II is only being recognised in recent time for what it is... an antidote to the culture of death of our time. It is also known by Michael Waldstein as a “theological time bomb”. The Theology of the Body is one way of understanding the whole of Catholic faith. It can be used as a tool for understanding the Church’s tradition for the last 2000 years.

This theology provides one of the most in-depth explanation for the reasons why the Catholic Church teaches as it does in the area of human identity and sexuality. Rarely does a work hit a person where it hurts most – their heart. Theology of the Body is not only one interpretation of Christ’s words that pull us back to the beginning, to God’s original plan for humans but a way of discovering who we are.

The Theology of the Body allows every person to be touched in a personal way. It does teach about the faith but it does so much more. It invites every person to stop, to take stock and to reflect on what the experiences in their life mean in the greater scheme of creation. The meaning of our lives can be summed up as an invitation to participate in the eternal exchange of love that is the Trinity. We are made to give and receive love. The Church has always upheld the important place of love – true love in society and inside individuals.

The author, St John Paul II, places Christ at the source of the revelations of our faith. He takes us on a journey from our origins, to our present state and to our destiny. He shows us how Christ’s words point to our very depths, to our very hearts.

St John Paul II explains how the analogy of the two becoming one flesh is the closest analogy we have that attempts to point us to the very mystery of the Trinity. This analogy and all it entails does make some people

uncomfortable. It is this very discomfort that the saint indicates is the place where conversion needs to occur. Spousal union is only an analogy of the Trinitarian mystery but JP II himself stated that there “is no other human reality which corresponds more, humanly speaking, to that divine mystery” (Homily, Dec. 30, 1988). No amount of human words can ever truly express the divine mystery of the Trinity.

The Theology of the Body attempts to answer two fundamental questions.

- 1) What does it mean to be human? (which St John Paul II calls an “adequate anthropology”)
- 2) How do I live my life in a way that will bring true happiness? (vocation and ethics)

It attempts to unfold in us the very meaning of life through emphasising that our sexuality as male and female is crucial to understanding ourselves and our relationship with God, each other and creation. St John Paul II offers insights into the mystery of God. He is adamant that the closest reality of God is closely shown in family. The theology makes us confront our own interior selves through an honest look into our hearts.

St John Paul II is unequivocal about the primordial place of the Trinity in all things. God’s words in scripture reveal many truths to us about who we are and who we were created to be from the very beginning.

Its 532 pages cannot be understood in the depths of the heart completely in one lifetime. There is so much beauty in the mystery presented. The reflections on the Song of Songs and the marriage of Tobias and Sarah are unique and irreplaceable.

Opportunities to begin the unpacking of this great work by a great pope should not be disregarded.

### Eva Tarchichi - My Testimony (in brief)

I first heard of Theology the Body while studying at the Australian Catholic University in 2001. One of my professors briefly mentioned it and I was enthralled. I was struck by the idea that the Church has in existence beautiful, open and candid teachings about life, love, sex and marriage.

It was at a time in my life (early 20s) when I had questions. I wanted facts, answers and opportunities to determine what the truth is. I wanted to make conscious decisions about what was morally right and wrong. I was eager to find inspiration and material of interest relevant to my life and the official Church teachings.

I researched the term and came upon an American theologian named Christopher West. I read that he had made it his life’s work to unpack the Theology and make it accessible to the ordinary lay person. Copies of his talks were available and shipped to me.

For the first time in my life I began to understand why the Church teaches what She does on major issues to do with human sexuality (such as contraception, abortion, divorce and homosexuality) and why these have not changed “with the times.” A wonderful aspect of Theology of the Body is that it is a non-judgmental and inclusive of all persons – a closer picture of how I believe the original and authentic Jesus would have been.

It is my hope that the Theology of the Body will inform marriage preparation programs, marriage counselling and general education opportunities especially regarding choice in a healthy sexuality. This theology is not only for married people. It is for anyone who searches for truth, for the meaning of their life and answers regarding the reasons why certain beliefs are valued.

Find out more! You will never see the world the same way again.

## The Importance of Marriage

2 Timothy 3 v 16:17. "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."(HCSB)

From these words:

- We understand we need all the words of God's written revelation, nothing more and nothing less.
- We see they speak to every part of thought and action.
- We are shown the sufficiency of His word for all that we do – our ministry and mission in the world. All of us are in ministry and have a mission. Genesis 1 28 "God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." Those words that God gave to Adam and Eve in that verse clearly set out His plan and then there is 'The Great Commission' as recorded in Matthew 28 verses 18:20. Every day we have many opportunities to do these things in our roles whether we are children, spouses, parents, employees, employers, volunteers, or church leaders.

His Word can make you complete and thoroughly equip you, to be complete as a person, spouse, parent – that person that God intended you to be.

God's plan has at its centre man and woman as husband and wife, that is marriage (family), Genesis 1 26:28, after these verses there is the appearance of Satan who was quick to catch on to God's plan. He saw that in marriage, family, God had created the core for world evangelization through the power of multi-generational faithfulness and thus since that time marriage has been under attack. Biblical history shows that humanity's rebellion against the Creator's purposes led to at least seven major negative consequences: (1) polygamy; (2) fornication; (3) divorce; (4) adultery; (5) homosexuality; (6) sterility; and (7) gender role confusion. Not only has the state and status of marriage and family been under attack but there is attack within individual marriages and family. But scripture is sufficient for us and we know that we are on the winning side!

The first part of verse 4 of Hebrews 13 says "Marriage must be respected by all,..." and regrettably we cannot say that this is the case – do we see and talk of marriage being precious, as of great value or being held in honour whether across the church in Australia or in the nation. It seems that marriage is often viewed as a legal contract either with a get out clause or can be broken, rather than a covenant/sacrament. How many on getting married understand what a covenant is? There are many marriage preparation programs and psychometric inventories all seeking to build strong marriages, which is good, but how many of them inform and teach on what marriage really is? Similarly there are many good marriage building programs around dealing with communication skills, conflict resolution, forgiveness and more but again is there discussion on the covenant, the sacrament of marriage; are the scriptural roles of husbands and wives, parents explained?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer tells us much in his famous 'marriage sermon', here is just a short, insightful extract: "Marriage is more than your love for each other. It has a higher dignity and power, for it is God's holy ordinance, through which he wills to perpetuate the human race till the end of time. In your love you see only your two selves in the world, but in marriage you are a link in the chain of the generations, which God causes to come and to pass away to his glory, and calls into his kingdom."

We in the church need to look to see whether we are undertaking the role that God has set out for us. We are that 'Training or Equipping Centre' (Eph 4.11) - "for the training of the saints in the work of ministry to build up the body of Christ." (HCSB) or "is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."(NLT). We need to intentionally and systematically seek to train/equip married couples and families for them to take their rightful place in the church and the nation; and then those outside the church will see that marriages and families within the church are different and something they want.

In honouring marriage we need to:

- Continually petition the Lord for the definition of marriage within the law of our nation to remain as it is "one man and one woman...."
- Pray for our own marriage, if we are married, and pray for the marriages of others around us
- Pray that husbands and wives, parents will receive revelation on the fullness of their roles as shown in scripture.

Many are focusing on prayer for the 'status' of marriage at this time, before the next session of Parliament sits and this together with sermons/homilies preached can serve as a wonderful prelude to the honouring and celebrations of "Marriage Week" in the second week of September (13th -19th)

*Dennis & Ann Outred, Marriage Week ~ Australia, 13-19 September 2015 - [marriageweek.org.au](http://marriageweek.org.au)*

## New Book: I Only Want to Dance with You

*I Only Want to Dance with You* is the story of how an accident of birth brings together a man and a woman from the opposite ends of the earth. If Ricardo Schmidt had been born in Spain where his parents lived, and not in Germany where they had been for a brief period, he would never have experienced the hardship and danger he endured in war-torn Europe before he migrated to Australia. It is in Australia that his path crosses with that of Jo Anderson. After a romance that almost costs Ricardo his life and Jo her peace of mind, they wonder if they can find love and happiness together.

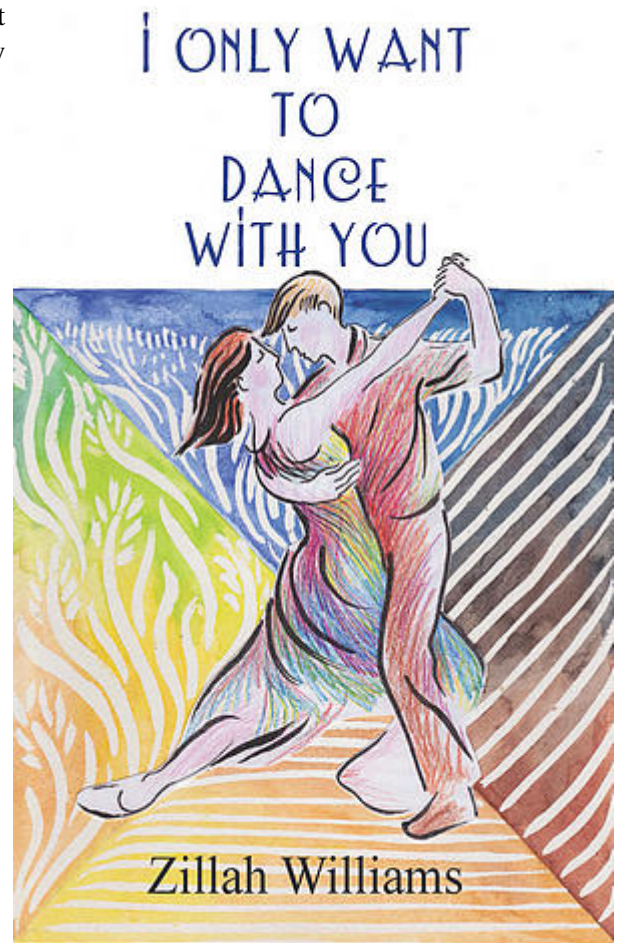
*Having previously published five novels for young adults, Canberra-based author, Zillah Williams, has released her first novel. It is a gripping story and one's attention is kept captive as we share the incredible journey in life of Ric Schmidt and Jo Anderson. Perhaps this is partly because these main characters are based on the lives of two people known to the author.*

*The central character, Ricardo, was born to an English mother and a German father and spent most of his youth in Spain. Part of the story is set against the background of World War II when he is forced to join the German Army.*

*After migrating to Australia he becomes a house painter but he also has remarkable artistic abilities. In Sydney he meets Jo, a warm-hearted country girl who helps her aunt manage a boarding house. However, Ric's past life proves to be a distressing legacy, not only to romance, but especially in his being confronted by Australians still reeling from the grief of loss of loved ones at the hands of the Germans. For those familiar with Sydney and the Blue Mountains there is a sense of a trip down Memory Lane back to life in the 1950s! Emotions run through all spectrums as this adventure story, and an unusual romance, unfolds. The reader is captivated by Zillah Williams' ability to create an atmosphere of expectancy and surprise while injecting dramatic tension at times and the occasional touch of humour. Each chapter touches one or more issues including deception, prejudice, war, adventure, depression, isolation, romance and Christian faith, leaving the reader with a continual desire to read further to find what happens next.*

*I Only Want To Dance With You is a recommended read for people aged from mid-teens to adults who enjoy an absorbing and wholesome novella.*

*Eric and Patricia Frith (Canberra)*



*"I really enjoyed the book and I found the characters came to life very vividly . . . what an amazing story! . . . when it all came good in the end I was in tears!"*

*Robert Bedloe (Spain)*

Available from Amazon in print form and in Kindle e-book format, or from bookshops in Australia.

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Elk Lake Publishing (April 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1942513224

ISBN-13: 978-1942513223

### Biography

*Zillah was born in England (and well remembers wearing old socks over her shoes to avoid slipping on the ice and snow in winter) but now lives in Canberra, capital of Australia (where snow rarely falls and summers can be very hot).*

*Apart from her new book, 'I Only Want to Dance With You,' she has written five books for young adults, one of which, 'Yesterday's Enemy - Tomadachi,' was commended in the 1995 Children's Peace Literature Award of the Australian Psychological Society.*

# LausanneARTS Newsletter



June 2015 Newsletter  
(reproduced with permission)

“Connecting influencers and ideas for global mission ”

*Uday Balasundaram*

*Thanking God for His Faithfulness*

End of 2014 to end of May 2015

A pilot project of the Academy for Creativity, Research, & Design in collaboration with Asbury Theological Seminary has been launched.

Our activity included casting the vision for and sowing the seed for church planting "through the arts" via the following initiatives:

**The Order of Bezalel** - an ecclesial community of artisans learning to build the church for mission through the adoption of a rule and rhythm for creativity that is fruitful and multiplicative. The focus is to invite participants to a robust theological understanding and practice of creativity (identity and vocation) for mission.

**The New Song project** - working with artisans from a variety of ethnicities and histories to develop new works; the next step is to multiply these creative hub communities.

**Our Story** - creating intentional spaces for dialogue, inclusion, and partnership with the "other." We had a

great time simply focusing on the diversity present in our immediate North American context and what it means to be the "church" in the context of diaspora.

**Please Pray:**

- Thank the Lord for raising leaders and the possibility of fresh partners for mission
- The promise of multiplying creative hub communities for mission elsewhere
- Resources to carry out the above
- For my family and I as we relocate to Houston to teach at Fuller, Houston and at Houston Graduate School of Theology in Summer 2015.
- Summer 2015 marks the transition from a "crawl" stage in the process of launching the Academy for Creativity, Research, & Design to the "walk" stage.
- For discernment and wisdom.

*Thank you for prayers!*



## JP-João Pedro

After a wonderful and blessed 9 months home assignment, JP arrived back in Tokyo on May 22nd.

Commissioning services were at his home church on May 17th.

JP writes, "Thank you very much for helping me in prayer and support, you are also part of this, I'm so happy to be able to continue my calling where God called me to be!

From my heart thank you very much and my next news will be from Tokyo!

God gave me the chance to travel to the U.S. for church conference, seminar, and training about "doing church creatively" led by Fellowship church in Dallas and also visited other ministries and churches in Miami and Chicago. It was such a huge blessing!

My church is celebrating 25 years of ministry and they asked me to write a booklet about my story and missionary life and calling to Japan. I did praise the Lord, and thanks to you because you are part of this project! The church printed and gave me 300 copies. The book is called "Quem?" which means "Who?" It was released at the leaders convention of my church. This was a gathering of all Pastors and leaders from my home church, not only from my city but for all congregations around Brazil. It was a great opportunity to celebrate together. In the future I will translate the book into English and Japanese. We sold more than 150 copies already. Praise the Lord!

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)."

Mega blessing, JP



(continued next page)

## LausanneARTS Newsletter – June 2015 (...continued)

*every music, every voice, every heart*  
 ทุกเสียงเพลง, ทุกเสียงร้อง, ทุกหัวใจด้วยศาสตร์แห่งศิลป์



**July 6 - 9, 2015**  
**The Empress Hotel**  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
 6-9 กรกฎาคม 2558  
 โรงแรมดิเอ็มเพรส จ. เชียงใหม่ ประเทศไทย



### Keynote speakers:

**Samuel Chiang**

**Anne Zaki**

- **Join** with music makers and Christian mission leaders from around the world.
- **Learn** how to use culturally relevant music to reach and encourage others with the good news.
- **Share** knowledge and experiences with like-minded believers from both similar and diverse geographic areas.
- **Celebrate** God's manifold wisdom through multi-ethnic praise.



### Dan Marginean Crescendo Suisse Romande is official!

Crescendo Suisse Romande, as Crescendo International, is a Campus for Christ Suisse Romande ministry and is designed to connect Christian professional musicians in the French Part of Switzerland (for the moment mainly in Lausanne, but God's willing, soon elsewhere as well).

Amongst the activities that we organize can be counted:

- A weekly student's group taking place every Thursday, starting with 1pm, in the Conservatory's Conference Room
- Church concerts, recitals, house concerts, special event concerts (e.g. Christmas, Easter)
- Creative Church services (coming soon), Crescendo Forums (coming soon)
- Participation actively (in different ways) or passively in local festivals such as "La nuit des églises", "Night of Faith" or international ones such as the Crescendo Summer Institute (Hungary or South Africa)
- Offering the opportunity to Christian professional musicians to get involved in humanitarian work abroad (Music Road South Africa)

Also, if you know of any Christian professional musicians living in the French Part of Switzerland who would be interested to know more about Crescendo, we would be more than happy to contact them.

[dan.marginean88@gmail.com](mailto:dan.marginean88@gmail.com)

  
 Lausanne  
 Arts Network

UN PROJET DE L'ÉGLISE ÉVANGÉLIQUE MÉTHODISTE  
 EN COLLABORATION AVEC CRESCENDO SUISSE ROMANDE

ENTRÉE LIBRE

**CRESCENDO  
 ARTISTS' PIANO TRIO  
 & FRIENDS**

12 JUIN 2015  
 7 PM

AU PROGRAMME:  
 PIÈCES DE W.A. MOZART ET D. SHOSTAKOVICH

@ÉGLISE ÉVANGÉLIQUE MÉTHODISTE  
 PLACE DE LA RIPONNE 7, 1005 LAUSANNE

(continued next page)

## lausanneARTS Newsletter – June 2015 (...continued)

### *Ad Deum Dance-Be Still My Soul*

Ad Deum dancers Shizu Yasuda and Daniel Cossette perform Randall Flinn's *Be Still My Soul* for Project Dance Times Square . Ad Deum Dance Company is committed to washing the feet of humanity with the grace and love of God through the servitude of the art of professional dance.

An Amazing Video - <http://youtu.be/aa8SPGRVKFI>

### ***New Record on May 30!***

After waiting six months for editing and finalization of production, the new record is ready for release.

CDs and DVDs are to

- Help the expansion project of our church
- To better serve the community of our neighborhood, and Children Action Education Project.

*Gleydice Belchior Bernardes dos Santos*



### **Roger Lowther**

Grace City Church is blessed to have a very talented worship team! Some of the songs we do are written or translated by us and found nowhere else in the country.



Last month, we had another recording session to make a mini-CD celebrating the 5th anniversary of the church and distribute the music so others can use it.

For years we have been praying for deeper connections with our children's schools. The Pre-school finally allowed me to give an organ concert.



### **Praise!**

1. Praise for growth at Grace-City Church! More and more young men want to serve, and there are non-Christians at every event.
2. Praise for progress on resource creation for worship: writing new songs, recording new songs, new translations, etc.

### **Prayer Requests**

1. Pray for space for Grace City. With 150 adult attenders every Sunday, we have maxed out our current space but do not have the finances to move to a bigger space or go to two services.
2. Pray for our friends who are part of gospel choir and other events that we do, that they would also join bible studies.
3. Pray for decisions regarding our children's education. We have to decide in the next few months where to send them.

Church: <http://www.gracecitychurch.jp/>  
 Art: <http://communityarts.jp/>  
 Blog: <http://rogerlowther.blogspot.com/>

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## lausanneARTS Newsletter – June 2015 (...continued)

The 2 *Criminals* film crew is pleased to release  
*Finding Beauty in the Rubble*  
 a short documentary featuring Mrs. Fukuoka, a remarkable lady who survived the huge tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 - Paul Nethercott

**Check Out This Link!**

<http://www.2criminals.com/>

Mrs. Fukuoka's home and most of her neighborhood was washed away by the tsunami. Many of her neighbors died. After the disaster, Mrs. Fukuoka found meaning and hope by making jewelry from "sea glass" debris found on the beach.

Inspired by an ancient biblical prophesy that The Creator God would "give beauty instead of ashes" the theme of *Finding Beauty in the Rubble* relates to the 2Criminals story.



I'm deeply grateful to the many people who were part of making this project happen. We could not have created this film without the help of many supporters including those who backed the project on Kickstarter.

Mika Takana introduced us to Mrs. Fukuoka and helped with production. And the core 2 Criminals film crew-Matthew T. Burns, Atsuko Tateishi, Todd Fong, Andrew Benton, Esther Yomoah, and Nancy Nethercott-were a joy to work with and did fabulous work.



## VISUAL STORY NETWORK

### Story Seminar in Dallas

We are partnering with Hormoz Shariat and Iran Alive to host our one day story seminar in Dallas on June 6. Presenters include Brian Bird, Dr. Drew Sams, Linda Seger and Jeremy Casper.

#### Why is it critical to integrate story into my ministry?

- If we don't tell our own story well, others will tell it for us.
- Learning the art of story will change how we tell our organization's story and the Great God-Story of scripture.
- For the sake of the Great Commission, the body of Christ must learn the art of story as it relates to evangelism, discipleship, scripture engagement and church planting.
- Story is at our core. We are created for story. It is hardwired into our DNA.
- Learning the art of story will change how we live stories, tell stories, write stories, film stories.

Clyde Taber  
[visualstory.org](http://visualstory.org)



### Story and Production Courses

Tom Khazoyan has developed two courses to help people get started in visual story.

#### Storytelling Basics for Short Films

and

#### Camera, Audio, & Lighting

Four-week courses available without charge.

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## LausanneARTS Newsletter – June 2015 (...continued)

# IMAGINATIONS

### imagiNATIONS International Summer Art Festival

#### Cesis, Latvia July 13 –19 2015

What happens when excellent Christian artists from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and the US come together for five days? Here are just a few words: Excitement. Creativity. Plein air painting. Swimming in a lake. Mosquito bites. Soul care. Panel discussions. Film Reviews. Worship. Prayer. Exhibition. Workshops. Master classes for children. Happy children and parents. Late night discussions around campfires. New friendships. Encouraged artists. Laughter. Above all, an unforgettable, creative, culturally relevant Christ-honoring event! The Festival joyfully brings artists and musicians from four nations to come together for relationship, creativity, worship, discovery, evangelism and vision casting.

ImagiNATIONS is week long International Summer Art Festival in the 13th Century Latvian city of Cesis, one of Latvia's most important cultural centers. The dates are July 13 – 19, 2015.

The timing of this festival is very interesting in that it coincides the wonderful Baptist Choir Festival, which will take place July 17 – 20. Festival participants will be able to enjoy the choir festival. Other pre-choir events will take place in Cesis concurrently with the IMAGINATIONS festival – for children and youth.

The imagiNATIONS festival is initiated by Bridge Builders International, its Latvian affiliate, "Nodibinajums Partneri" and LausanneARTS. Key partners may possibly include Cesis Baptist Church, Art to Save the Heart, M –Studio, the Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian Baptist Unions, City Church of Klaipeda, Lithuania and more.

#### Activities will include

- Daily group worship, devotions and prayer, led by a different artist each day.
- Plein air painting in and around the picturesque city of Cesis.
- Master-classes for locals, especially children, taught by some of our artists.
- Workshops and discussions of topics rated art to faith, creativity, beauty, cultural relevance and best practices led by various participating artists.
- Discussions and critiques of important films related to art and artists.
- Last night discussions and worship around campfires.
- Swimming in a nearby lake.
- Exhibition of select pieces created during the week at the Cesis Cultural Center and during the Choir Festival.

\* Financial assistance is available upon request as needed.

#### Prayer Requests

- BBI has always been about bringing people together for friendship, encouragement, outreach and ministry. This event brings Christian artists from different countries together. Pray for deep new friendships to be established that truly encourage each artist toward greater love and good deeds.
- Most artists have heavy and sensitive hearts and are in need for the kind of inner healing that only comes from the Lord. Pray that they will be encouraged, accepted and even honored as they respond to the artistic calling that God has created them with.
- Pray that as relationships are built, dreams are shared that future

creative ways of ministering to and with artists

- There will be many art lovers who don't know the Lord Jesus observing and/or participating in the painting sessions, master classes, discussions, film reviews and worship. Pray that this bridge for artists will result in Jesus meeting many on the bridge.

For more information contact:

- Naomi Strauser, Vice President, Bridge Builders International, Naomi@bridgebuildersint.com, +1-541-602- 6968 (Salem, OR Office)
- Charles Kelley, President, Bridge Builders International. charleskelley@mac.com, +1-541-231-7380 (US mobile) or +371-2-9230509 (Latvian mobile)
- Vineta Zale, Office Manager, Partners Association Latvia. Vineta.zale@partneri.lv ; + 371-29481892



The Lausanne Arts issue network exists to catalyze and connect artistic Christians and evangelical influencers concerning the role of artists and the arts for global mission—through gatherings focused on biblical prayer, reflection, training, and ministry action.

lausanne.org - Lausanne ARTS Network Facebook - [facebook.com/pages/Lausanne-ARTS-Network/698109576870922](https://facebook.com/pages/Lausanne-ARTS-Network/698109576870922)



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## lausanneARTS Newsletter – June 2015 (...continued)

### Dario the Clown

I work with different church denominations, but my great desire is to use the arts to share the gospel and to teach in creative ways.

#### Present Projects

- Connecting with kids in Dominican Republic and Italian Sunday Schools. We did a little teaching with balloons. On our next trip we hope to work in an orphanage and among the churches.
- Connecting with the pediatric units in the hospital and praying to expand to the entire hospital

#### Past Projects

- Involved for the projection of the documentary "Nefarious" in Rome against Human Trafficking
- Training and performing with people with mental disabilities.



Praying to train, equip and perform with teenagers, youth, and children



Dario and wife Ana

#### Future Projects

- Prison Ministry
- To redecorate a caravan as a moving theater and serve hot drinks in the winter on the street.
- Outreach through different camps
- Organize a Christian artist event.
- More ministry in Dominican Republic

#### Prayer Points

- Finances
- Caravan project

[darioclown@email.com](mailto:darioclown@email.com)

**Generate** is the premier provider of School Chaplains in NSW, managing over 150 Federal Government Funded School Chaplaincies.

Generate partners with schools in the recruitment, training, supervision and ongoing professional development of School Chaplains. This ensures the placement of high quality Christian Chaplains who are well equipped to support young people and strengthen local communities.

Transforming Sydney is partnering with Generate to bring awareness of the role of Chaplains and the great opportunity for local combined churches to place Generate-employed SRE (Scripture) teachers in NSW state secondary schools.

For more information and how to help please go to

[www.generate.org.au](http://www.generate.org.au)



## An Untapped Source for Transformation: Mobilizing Children to Pray for their Community and Nation with Suggested Guidelines

By John Robb and Audrey Tse

It is the clear testimony of Scripture that God has chosen to work in human history through the intercessory prayers of His people. Virtually all the great socio-political transformations of our time and all the spiritual revivals and mission breakthroughs in the history of the Church can be traced to bands of Christian believers praying unitedly and specifically for these very things.

God's purpose is no less than the holistic transformation of communities and nations, with every sphere of society eventually reflecting the values of His kingdom. This is a daunting objective requiring the intervention and involvement of the Lord himself in all aspects of our ministry, especially because of the fierce spiritual conflict in which we are engaged with the powers of this fallen world. Truly, without united intercession there is no holistic transformation. Prayer is the way God's kingdom comes, as Jesus clearly taught. For these reasons prayer is too important to be left to spontaneity or whim. Instead it needs to be intentionally mobilized, nourished and integrated into all we do as Christian workers. We are increasingly realizing that youth and children need to be involved in this process.

Globally, most of Christ's Church has not yet begun to explore what may be the most powerful source of prayer for community and national transformation, the children in our care. Jesus, after describing the downfall of Satan and the authority over the demonic realm he was giving to his disciples, rejoiced and said that his Father had "hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children" (Luke 10:18-21). In other words, it is the children (also childlike adults) who are able to receive and use the authority of God "to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy". This is probably because of their innocence, openness and lack of worldly sophistication and faith-spoiling cynicism. They are better able to depend on God, receiving and acting on the things He reveals and directs them to pray without doubt or questioning.

Psalms 8:2 declares that it is "from the lips of children and infants [God] has ordained praise because of [his] enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger" (NIV). Another translation puts it "out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes" (NRSV). Here the idea of children's prayers providing a fortress of protection for a community or nation against the enemy is implied. This is consistent with other passages of Scripture such as Isaiah 62:6-7 and Ezekiel 22:30 which speak of the wall of protection around a city or nation that prayer erects and how God uses our prayers to bring about social and political transformation.

How can we begin to mobilize children to become agents of transformation through prayer? You will have your own creative ideas that come to you as you prayerfully start the process. The children themselves will probably have the best ideas, and at the beginning and as you proceed, it is wise to ask them what they think. Here are some initial suggestions that come from CiP practitioners around the world that may be helpful:

1. Initially children may need to be "coached and liberated" in prayer by being given basic prayer vocabulary (often encouraged through "repeat after me prayers" or prayer games); however, once the children have the basic concepts, they need to be released to pray as equals with their adult counterparts. (The same Holy Spirit working in adults is present with children). Emphasize the importance of children as "transformational prayers" through verbal encouragement and actions.
2. At each meeting have the children pray for you as their leader. Not only does this affirm in action the importance children have in prayer, it also gives an opportunity to watch the Lord work in your life from week to week). This is an especially important tool for children from non-Christian backgrounds.
3. Prayer needs to happen with "clean hands and hearts." Just as we wash our hands before we eat, we need to ask God to wash our hearts before we begin prayer. This time of confession should be introspective, focusing on the transformation of the child.

**... it is the children (also childlike adults) who are able to receive and use the authority of God "to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy"**

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## An Untapped Source: Mobilizing Children to Pray (...continued)

4. Encourage the children to talk simply and directly with God about everything in their lives and communities, bringing to Him every concern, problem and need their families and others face. Remind them that they can talk to God any time, anywhere.
5. Practice conversational prayer with them (praying specifically in clear, brief sentences, agreeing with each other in faith and listening to God quietly for what He may say through insights or thoughts that come). Encourage them to share what they are feeling or receiving as they pray together. Realize that when praying aloud, children are likely to pray very short prayers, but will often pray multiple times in one prayer session. The shortness of these prayers often leads to longer times of silence than we are accustomed to in groups of adults. This should be expected and fostered as time to listen to God.
6. Use stories of prayer from the Bible to share God's promises and build their faith.
7. Do not criticize the children for their prayers. Often a child says or does creative things in prayer that are different from what we adults expect (this often brings fresh insights that adults miss). If a child is saying/doing something really disruptive, heretical, or offensive, deal with them in a one-on-one context, emphasizing constructive criticism.
8. Share national problems and concerns in a simple manner. Watch the headlines and share with the children what is happening. You may want to bring in newspapers, photos, or other visual aids to make these concerns tangible for the children. Encourage them to pray concretely for the problem (ex: pray for all the children who like math and are displaced because of flooding in the country, or all the children who live with their grandmas because mommy and daddy died of HIV/AIDS).
9. Keep a journal of what the children have asked God for and write down how God answers their prayers, reporting back to them to increase their faith and expectation.
10. Encourage prayer in pairs or triplets so the children learn to partner with others as Jesus teaches us to do (Matthew 18:19-20).

**Often a child says or does creative things in prayer that are different from what we adults expect**

Here are some prayer activities that may be useful in group sessions.

1. Word of God Lessons: These should focus on a praying person/people in the Bible, reiterating that God listened to these people and wants to listen to you (ex: prayers of Paul or Jesus).
2. Silent Prayer (short)
3. Call and Response Prayer (i.e. repeat after me). This acculturates kids to praying out loud and gives them prayer vocabulary.
4. Memorized Prayer (the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, etc.). Make games out of this to help children memorize and/or give rewards for correct recitation. Books of prayers are an excellent resource for this.
5. Individual prayer out loud (in a group or one by one). This should be used after children are already comfortable with Call and Response prayer.
6. Prayer Circle. Have children stand in a circle holding hands to pray for something specific. If a child is not comfortable with speaking their prayer out loud, they can squeeze the hand of the person next to pass on their turn to pray aloud.
7. Praying for children around the world who: are born on your birthday, have a family just like yours, have the same favorite subject in school you do, have the same name meaning you do, etc... Use these concrete ideas to help children connect with the concept of praying with children in far away nations.
8. Prayer walks around the communities (praying in front of each child's home, local churches, etc). This is a very good tool with children!
9. Praying for the world through letters of the alphabet. (Ex: leader calls out letter "C" and child goes to map and selects a nation or city that begins with the letter "C" and then prays for the children in that place).
10. Praying through points of the compass. 1) Have the children face East and pray for what is directly in front of them (people in the neighboring house, the farmer whose field they can see, etc.) 2) Then ask what is farther

## An Untapped Source: Mobilizing Children to Pray (...continued)

away in that direction (another village, a city, etc) and have them pray for this. 3) Ask what is farther still in that direction (a neighboring country, etc). 4) Repeat this for all 4 points of the compass.

11. Brainstorm a list of people, places, needs, etc., in the local community. Have the children then pray for these.
12. 50/50 prayer: have the children pray for something that is concerning them (ex: healing from illness) and then have them give the other half of the prayer away as a "gift" to other children in the same circumstance.
13. Prayer songs with actions.
14. Use "prayer tools" like maps, globes, colorful lists of prayer requests, pictures of children being prayed for in other countries, etc. Even very simple use of such materials can really help children grasp what it is they are praying for in a concrete way.

### The Following Sources Were Consulted in the Writing of the Article

Children in Prayer movement colleagues from around the world were consulted and shared their practical suggestions for procedures and activities they have found useful in starting CiP programs in their churches and communities.

Graf, Jonathan, Sandra Higley, Lani Hinkle, and Nancy Sutton.

*Growing Up Prayerful: A Leader's Kit to Get Kids Started*, Colorado Springs: Navpress, 2002.

Harris, Jill (Student Mobilization Specialist, Caleb Project). Telephone Interview with Rachel Criswell. 12 May 2003.

Ilinsky, Esther. *Let The Children Pray*. Ventura: Regal Books, 2000.

*Revised in 2008*

## TURNING JACOBS TROUBLE INTO BLESSING

*(Issued by Ian Johnson on 28 January 2013)*

Today is International Holocaust remembrance day - this article looks at the hope of the restoration of all things, and challenges some of the thinking in the body of messiah.

Recently I was confronted with a Messianic Jewish believer teaching a doctrine of destruction and judgment based around Jeremiah 30:7 known as Jacobs's trouble. He taught that soon the people of Israel are going to be destroyed down to only a handful or remnant. It seems to me that his teaching was based on Scofield's dispensational doctrine, which takes portions of the written word but largely ignores the Character and nature of YHVH.

It's not just an error in Messianic/Christian belief, but also in extreme branches of Orthodox Judaism. In Israel in 2011 while in the wilderness of Zin in the Negev, I came across a group of Orthodox Jews from the USA who were praying "Against" the land of Israel. In their belief system YHVH would not set up a "land" of Israel until Messiah had come. So they felt it was their role to pray for the dismantling of the secular state of Israel. How could you not see the miracle of the reformed land of Israel?

How is it possible, that in the light of the miracle of the restoration of Israel happening before our eyes that this sort of teaching even exists? The key to unlocking the truth of the scripture is not understood because the heart of YHVH is not understood.

YHVH is not bound by our interpretation of his word, but he is bound by his own character and nature and this and this alone must be used in understanding scripture. Otherwise it

could be said that the doctrines held by Mormons or Jehovah witness folk are true because they use the word of God to justify a faulty belief system.

Ezk36:22-30 also makes it clear that YHVH is restoring Israel for his own names sake. He also states I am going to clean you and deliver you from all your sins and idols, Then he says I am going to put my spirit in you and change your hearts. This is the heart of YHVH. That's all HIS work there is nothing of mans work in there at all. Romans 11 makes it clear that Jews have paid an enormous price so that the Gentiles can partake of salvation, but Paul goes on in Romans 11 to say that it is YHVH that will restore the Jews to their rightful place and that restoration, I like to call "Resurrection glory" or as Paul puts it "Life from the dead"

### THE SHOAH AS JACOB'S TROUBLE

Anne Frank the famous Jewish Shoah victim, who died in Auschwitz after being hidden in Holland for most of the war. In 1944 wrote: Who has afflicted us? Who has made us Jews different to all other people? Who has allowed us to suffer so terribly up till now? it is G\_d that has made us as we are, but it will be G\_d, too, who will raise us up again. If we bear all this suffering and if there still be Jews left, when it is all over, the Jews, instead of being doomed will be held up as an example.

Anne Frank perhaps without realizing it, was actually echoing the words of Hosea 6:1-2: Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but He will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he

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## TURNING JACOBS TROUBLE INTO BLESSING (...continued)

will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

Although this scripture is most often quoted as relating to the resurrection of Yeshua, as is common with Hebrew prophecy it has a dual meaning. An examination of the text makes it clear I think. The terms "he has torn US" and "he will heal US" is plural rather than being recorded in the singular. I suggest that this represents the days of Israel since or just before Messiah Yeshua was born.

The short lived independent nation of Israel won by Judas Maccabee or in the Hebrew Y'hudhah Ha Makabi ended with the Roman invasion 150 odd years before Yeshua's birth. 2000 years (or two days) later The restoration of Israel started with Theodore Hertzls first Zionist congress in 1897, Israel has been miraculously resurrected and now we are in the third day of both Israel and Judah. Gentiles are grafted into Israel therefore we share her joy, and Judah is restored again to the land and soon as one new man in Messiah Jew & Gentile, Israel & Judah will rejoice to see their king.

The Rabbis during and around the second world war saw the sufferings they were experiencing as a sign that "The Age of redemption" was approaching, that is the coming (or for followers of Yeshua the return of Messiah) Rabbi Levin of Warsaw, actually recorded much of the suffering as a record; he described the birth pains of Jacobs trouble as "the pains before the coming of Messiah"

Jacobs trouble is fairly easy to see in the Shoah. Any one who doubts this MUST spend a whole day reflecting at Yad Vashem Shoah memorial

There is a time of trouble coming for the nations called the great tribulation which will of course affect Israel but this is not the time of Jacobs trouble. Jeremiah 30:7 actually says He (Jacob) will be saved out of it.

No one can doubt that the restoration of the land of Israel is indeed the result of the birth pains of Jacobs trouble, and the good news is that Abba says Jacob will be saved out of it. This is YHVH's heart.

The Jewish population has not yet recovered from the day of Jacobs trouble, in 1939 there were 16,728,000 Jews; today 74 years later, The Jewish population is still only 13,085,000, however Zechariah says as a promise, "I will call for them (as a Shepherd calls his sheep) and gather them in. THEN I will redeem them and they will be as numerous as before" (ZEc 10:8)

I spoke to a young British Jewish girl who didn't want to make Aliyah because she still carried Jacobs trouble in her heart, she felt as a Jew she was safer outside of Israel rather than all being in one place.

But is G\_d rounding up the Jews so he can destroy them?.. NO NO NO!!! He is rounding them up so he can show forth his glory in them and show them tender mercy and great loving kindness and lead them to see Messiah. The Gentiles role in all of this is to show forth the resurrection power and glory of Yeshua to such an extent that our Jewish brothers

will become jealous and return. No amount of theological nonsense from the Gentiles or mis-informed Jews is going to touch the hearts of Israel. Martin Luther made the same mistake in his word based message, which became hatred towards the Jews and ultimately led to the Shoah. Only a demonstration of the resurrection glory of Messiah will turn Jewish hearts toward Messiah.

Many teachers understanding of the Character and nature of G\_d is not redemptive, rather it is restrictive and religious, the very things that made Yeshua angry. Moses was able to turn YHVH's heart regarding the sons of Jacob when he was going to destroy them. That's the redemptive nature of G\_d. "He is Willing that none should perish". This is the heart of YHVH.

Psalm 102:16 says "For I will rebuild Zion and appear as its glory" The Hebrew context here (means end or last) indicates that this promise is given for the end generation. Joel refers to the end thus: Joel 3:1 In those days and at that time I will restore the fortunes of JUDAH and Jerusalem. There is no mention of being destroyed, the constant theme is restored. Restoration is the heart of YHVH.

Amos 9:15 says "I will again plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them says the LORD your G\_d"

Abba's heart is to restore Israel into the glory of her Messiah and we must remember that the G\_d of Israel is a supernatural G\_d who lives in a supernatural place and does supernatural things.

My personal experience in talking to secular Jews in Israel and in New Zealand is that they are not interested in religious words, but they do respond to the power of the Spirit of YHVH. Many friends in Israel who love and know messiah had their encounters not through words but through the action and workings of Rauch ha Kodesh.

It is now time to see Jacobs trouble turned into Jacobs redemption, this is the heart of YHVH and we need to say as Ezekiel said when YHVH asks us can these bones live? He said "You know Lord" by saying Lord you know. That was a smart answer from Ezekiel and it would be smart of us too to yield to His heart for Israels redemption. As it says in Acts 3:20-21; Messiah will remain in heaven until the restoration of all things, As Bishop Bierman puts it, The restoration of all things is, the Gentiles back to their Jewish roots and the Jews back to their land and their Messiah.

The teaching that says God is rounding up the Jews to destroy all but a remnant is designed by the enemy to stop Jacob returning to the land out of fear. Abbas heart is fear not for I am with you. Jacobs trouble will become Jacobs blessing.

IAN W JOHNSON

HIS AMAZING GLORY MINISTRIES

[www.hisamazinggloryministries.org](http://www.hisamazinggloryministries.org)

[www.israelstours.co.nz](http://www.israelstours.co.nz)

[www.horizon.org.nz](http://www.horizon.org.nz)

# Leadership Keys

By Peter Irvine

## A leader leads - IS ANYONE FOLLOWING?

People look for leadership. Even though they criticize and often put leaders down they WANT someone to stand up and take the lead. We see it in politics and sport all the time - a good leader won't always be popular but will have a strong following because people look for someone prepared to take responsibility. God looked for leaders who would stand up and be counted to lead his people.

In the Bible we see examples of good and bad leaders. If Josiah at eight years of age could become one of the better kings, we all have the opportunity to lead in the church, in business, politics, community and family.

## What separates leaders from followers?

### DESIRE:

Leaders develop a real passion for what they want to achieve. The desire to do something of worth and value will inspire you to take the lead and see it realised.

Ask yourself:

- ◆ **What do I want?**
- ◆ **Why do I want it?**
- ◆ **How badly do I want it?**

### VISION:

The things that really inspire great achievements are visionary, they're not superficial. This applies with individuals, churches, businesses, partnerships and even sporting teams.

When I first took on the job of managing director of a large advertising agency in Sydney, the leadership team of working directors were in a slump. I realised I was now in charge so I had better get on with the job & learn along the way, make decisions and take the lead. Clients had been lost and others were reviewing their options. A series of poor decisions had left the staff with low morale. As a team we needed to show positive leadership so we reviewed where we were going –

**First we set the vision for the company** – What did we want to be known for? What did we want to achieve?

*People started to get excited! The journey had just started.*

**Next we set in place short and long term goals towards that vision** –

*The goals were achievable and the vision came to life, we could DO this!*

**Then the steps needed to grow the business**, retain old clients and attract new ones were outlined. Who would do what and by when? The details became clearer. Everyone had a part to play.

*Not only could we do this, but now each person in the agency could say 'I'm important to its success'!*

Very quickly the tide began to turn, people responded to positive leadership and vision. During the following two years the agency had record growth.

**John Maxwell in his book 'Leadership Gold' lists several points that define leadership**

- ◆ *The willingness to put oneself at risk*

(continued next page)

## Leadership Keys (...continued)

- ◆ *The passion to make a difference with others*
- ◆ *Being dissatisfied with the current reality*
- ◆ *Taking responsibility while others are making excuses*
- ◆ *Seeing the possibilities in a situation while others are seeing the limitations*
- ◆ *The readiness to stand out in a crowd*
- ◆ *An open mind and an open heart*
- ◆ *The ability to submerge your ego for the sake of what is best*
- ◆ *Evoking in others the capacity to dream*
- ◆ *Inspiring others with a vision of what they can contribute*
- ◆ *The power of one harnessing the power of many*
- ◆ *Your heart speaking to the hearts of others*
- ◆ *The integration of heart, head and soul*
- ◆ *The capacity to care and in caring, to liberate the ideas, energy and capacities of others*
- ◆ *The dream made reality*
- ◆ *Above all, courageous*

## MATURITY (WISDOM):

There is no such thing as instant maturity or leadership. Remember you are leading people, not robots.

You don't get there by knowing lots of THINGS, you have to know how to inspire others – they will often know more things than you do!

You need plenty of good old-fashioned wisdom, which takes experience to develop - remember

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*  
Proverbs 9:10

*“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”* Proverbs 15:22

*“A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.”* Proverbs 17:24

It takes time, effort and many mistakes to learn what works with people.

It also takes time for others to trust your leadership and follow you.

Search it out:

- ◆ Learn from leaders you respect – watch how they deal with circumstances, how they inspire others, how they handle criticism or difficult issues.
- ◆ Learn how NOT to lead from the mistakes of others (rather than your own!). Work out how they could have done better.
- ◆ Listen to good leadership teaching from people who have been successful. The best leadership teaching is found in God's word – try John Maxwell's 'Leadership Bible'.
- ◆ Keep open to change – be open to genuine criticism, don't close your mind or think you know enough to get by.
- ◆ Learn to bounce ideas off others for input - have mentors (those you respect) to share your plans with and be encouraged or challenged by.

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## Leadership Keys (...continued)

When I was given leadership roles early in my career, each step was a challenge. Leadership resources and encouragement were not easily available. I learned by trial and error what worked with people and what didn't. I was very thankful for a Managing Director who had absolute confidence in me. So I learned to build the confidence of people in my department.

Through my own mistakes, I learned how NOT to solve disputes between staff members by trying to keep them apart and happy (far better to have them confront each other and sort out the problems). By trial and error I found out what I needed to prioritise and what could wait. I also very quickly found out that a negative attitude did not generate good responses from people work-wise! It also took time for others to accept me as the department head and to earn their respect.

*“The purpose of leadership is to take people where they couldn't go on their own; to inspire and equip to do what they thought they could not do and accomplish what can only be done by a group working together”*  
John Maxwell

Again, John Maxwell likes to equate leadership to Crock Pot cooking. It takes time, but the product is worth the wait.

## Leadership keys:

### GET THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON BOARD

They might look like a bunch of misfits (Jesus' disciples sure looked this way!) as long as they are the *right* bunch of misfits – motivated, capable, open to learn and ready to do whatever it takes.

At times people will need to move on, and if they don't make the change themselves, you will need to do something. Learn to recognise when someone is holding back an area of the business (church, or organization). There are times we wait for people we shouldn't have waited for, they continually cause conflict or stress for those around them and don't seem ready or willing to change. Pastor Joel Osteen is quoted as saying

*“Your identity is not tied to those who walk away from you”*

One of our franchisees shared with me the problems he was having with a staff member at his store. This person seemed to cause constant conflict with her workmates, the other staff were unhappy working with her – he was in danger of losing some good people. Yet our franchisee could not face letting her go, this was something he had never done before – the stress was giving him sleepless nights. After encouragement and advice he finally made the change. He shared that now he was able to sleep like a baby and the other staff members were very happy and relieved. The tone of the store changed dramatically. When I looked at his sales figures following this change they had grown substantially – One person had been holding his business back!

There will be times when others join the team to take you to the next level, times when existing people grow into leadership roles or are trained to take on different areas of responsibility - as a leader you need to be constantly identifying the right people for the right roles at the right time.

### LEARN TO LET GO

#### YOU can't do everything!

That's what leadership is about – if you insist on doing everything or making every decision yourself, the team will never grow, in fact potential leaders will become frustrated, critical and leave. You will end up with a group of 'yes-men' (or women) - people who are incapable of decision making and simply process what you tell them. I have met quite a few people with this leadership style and it certainly puts limits on how far they can grow – whether this is in business, as a department head or even a church.

#### **Delegate:**

If you can't delegate you can only grow to the limits of your own time and capability, if you want a holiday, get too busy, or are ill, work piles up and nothing moves forward. In Exodus 18 Jethro, Moses' father in law challenges him

(continued next page)

## Leadership Keys (...continued)

to delegate his overwhelming responsibilities to capable men. Jethro says - Vs23-24

*“If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied. Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.”*

### **Learn to step back:**

Step back! When you give others responsibility, let them make their own decisions without constantly butting in. No one will do the job the same way as you do – think about it - this could be a good thing! There will be some mistakes made, even with the best people – allow these people to learn without undue interference.

It not only frees you to move forward, it makes room for good people to grow to the next level – you will keep them rather than lose them to another employer.

### **KEEP IT SIMPLE**

We complicate everything! – keep it simple.

Giving staff or family a long list of rules only frustrates decision-making. When your people ‘share’ and ‘own’ the vision, they want to do the right thing and know that failure is only a step towards success.

Marketing companies often create promotions with prizes that are so difficult and complex very few participate. You want many to engage – learn to make life and business as simple as you can.

### **TAKING CRITICISM**

In a race the attention is on the Leaders, not on those at the end.

A leader attracts attention so get used to it!

Criticism, media challenge, internal disputes will all come to the top so learn how to handle these.

- ◆ Think before you respond
- ◆ Don't respond in anger or frustration
- ◆ If possible - Wait before you respond
- ◆ Speak the positive messages not the problems
- ◆ If Incorrect – change and correct the story
- ◆ Don't over-react - make sure there is balance
- ◆ Listen to all sides – and listen rather than speak!
- ◆ Have a realistic view of yourself – you are not perfect!
- ◆ See the experience as an opportunity to grow

Highly visible leaders are also highly targeted. Good leaders learn how to function in difficult environments and not lose focus.

### **Wise Leaders Prioritise:**

The following are extracts from ‘The Word for Today’ by Bob Gas which impacted me and I believe will really make you think how to prioritise as a leader and in life.

### **WHAT REALLY MATTERS?**

One of life's greatest challenges is thinking and doing the things that ultimately matter and bring success. A life in which anything goes, is a life in which nothing goes. Wisdom means having the discipline to prioritise and the ability to work toward a stated goal.

(continued next page)

## Leadership Keys (...continued)

The question is not,

'Will my calendar be full?' but

'Who will fill it?' and

'What will it be filled with?'

*The story is told of a lighthouse keeper on a rocky stretch of coastline who received a new supply of oil each month to keep the light burning.*

*Being close to the shore he had lots of guests. A woman from the village needed some oil to keep her family warm; a farmer requested some for his tractor; a mechanic wanted some to lubricate a wheel. All the requests seemed legitimate so the lighthouse keeper tried to please everybody. Before the month was over his oil was gone and the beacon went out. As a result several ships were wrecked and lives were lost.*

*When the authorities investigated, the man was very repentant. But to his excuses and pleading their reply was, 'You were given oil for one purpose - to keep the light burning.'*

*Be wise - prioritise!*

### Life priorities

In a survey, people over 90 were asked, 'If you had your life to live over what would you do differently?'

Three answers constantly re-emerged:

- ◆ I'd spend more time with my family and friends
- ◆ I'd take more risks
- ◆ I'd do things that would live on after I'm gone.

### Wisdom is the art of knowing what to overlook

Petty things steal too much of our time and we finish up living for the wrong reasons.

When an Olympic gold medallist was asked the secret of his success he replied, 'Planned neglect - until my training period is completed, I deliberately neglect everything else.'

If you react to every situation and say, 'yes' to every request, you'll never succeed in what you're called to do.

*Several years ago 300 whales died mysteriously. Why? Because they pursued a school of sardines and ended up marooned in a bay. The little ones lured the big ones to their deaths. By chasing small ends they wasted their vast powers and got insignificant results.*

The apostle Paul had it figured out:

*"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me"*  
(Acts 20:24 NCV)

### What's your 'most important thing'?

*One of the most interesting stories to come from the Titanic disaster was of a wealthy woman who had a place in one of the lifeboats. Asking if she could return to her stateroom for something, she was given three minutes. Stepping over money and precious gems littering her cabin floor, she grabbed three oranges and returned to the lifeboat.*

Circumstances transformed her values; tragedy clarified her priorities. Learn from her; be wise - prioritise!

Peter Irvine

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

*Peter is Co-Founder of Gloria Jean's Coffees Australia, author of 'Win In Business' and 'Building your Business, your People, your Life' and keynote speaker.*

## Presidential Prayer Team - July 2015 Update

Attached is our latest update. Thank you for sharing this with your members and thank you for keeping the United States in your prayers. We are grateful and thankful. May God bless you and your ministry abundantly!

Your brother in Christ!  
Roy C Patterson  
The Presidential Prayer Team  
(866) 433-7729 x209

### ***Can God be found in Washington DC today?***

We are often asked “what is the most common prayer from our members?” It is that God would reveal truth and shed light upon the deceit and secrets of our leadership in Washington DC. The truth is God is answering those prayers nearly every week. News headlines that say “missing emails found” and “IRS caught colluding with DOJ and FBI” give us hope. But these headlines may also leave you wondering, “Have we passed the point of no return?”

***The answer to that question is an emphatic “NO!” Please read on for an intimate look at what God is doing behind the scenes in Washington DC.***

There’s a subtle but obvious change occurring in the United States and it became apparent to the Prayer Team during recent personal meetings with more than thirty newly-elected Representatives and Senators. In short, God is sending more of His warriors into Washington DC who are willing to fight this battle for the soul of our nation. Many of them are Representatives and Senators but also significant staff members and other non-political people of faith.

As we met with them and heard their stories of how God has called them, they also expressed their gratefulness that the Prayer Team has consistently supported them in prayer.

We were thrilled to learn about weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings these leaders and staff members attend in their own offices, in their places of residence and, even, within the Capitol Building itself. In fact, we were invited to attend a once-a-week, after-hours meeting in the basement of the Capitol Building that can only be described as a true worship service and Bible teaching.

***We are very excited about these revelations of faith and integrity from our leaders!*** God seems to be laying a foundation for eventually turning our country from her wicked ways. Things move slowly in DC, however, so patience is our virtue. “Let us not grow weary of doing good.” (Gal 6:9 ESV)

Right now, we are less than 500 days away from the next election. We must continue praying that God will send more of His faithful warriors into Washington DC. The Prayer Team is working diligently to improve communications with these courageous leaders in an effort to provide our members with better, more-timely information and prayer points.

We urge you to continue praying with us and watch the hand of God move across America.

*The Prayer Team!*

*P.S. Now you can see why we’re so excited about God moving in our capital. Let’s keep praying!*

Mobilizing America to pray ... [www.presidentialprayerteam.org](http://www.presidentialprayerteam.org)

Since 2001, The Presidential Prayer Team has been the source millions of Americans turn to for encouragement and inspiration to pray for America, our President, our national leaders, and our Armed Forces.

*"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:1-2*



## A Spiritual Work

(By Fr. Yuhanna Azize)



### 3 January 2015 (The Prophets Micah and Malachi)

Every work can be a spiritual work, no matter how dull, routine, or even overwhelming it may seem. The connection between our work and the spiritual life is us – ourselves. So, to spiritualise our work, we have to remember ourselves. And that means to remember ourselves as souls engaged in his world, journeying down an un-known path of uncertain duration to the inevitable end, discharging our duties because they are our God-given moorings in the sea of human life. What would a person be without duties? Or without an aim, purpose and destination? Flotsam on the sea.

Too often, lawyers feel just like that: as if there has been a shipwreck somewhere, and it's our job to strike out in rough waters, retrieving everything of value for people who are quite likely to have little gratitude, with too little time and too few resources to really do as good a job as we could. It is in just this situation that a spiritual perspective can make all the difference: *the difficulties can call us to seek a higher perspective.*

I will take the law as my example, because I practised as a solicitor for many years. However, what I say can be applied to every other walk of life: the principles are precisely the same.

### This Day Is Unique

“Think that this day will never dawn again!” (Dante, *Purgatorio* 12:8)

The first step to spiritualising our work is surely to value each day as a God-given day, never to recur. The chances which are offered for making a contribution to the lives of people around us, for achieving in *both* our inner and outer lives, are always unique – and precious.

If we can call to mind each morning the nobility of our calling as human beings, children of God, souls in the material world, there is a chance we can remember this

during the day. This is why morning prayer and meditation is so important: it gives us a chance to establish a vivid sense of the presence of God in our lives and in our world. The clearer this sense, and it grows the more we pray, the better the chance of making the connection, of receiving the influence of a moment of grace, while we are engaged in our work. We cannot have the state of a meditative mind while working, *but we can have the influence of prayer and meditation.*

Lawyers are often like gamblers. They have to take chances: on the personality of the bench, with how witnesses will perform, and, not least, the personalities on the other side. It has to be this way: events in the large world are not predictable. Together with the laws or observed regularities of physics and chemistry, there is *accident*: the random intersection of two different lines of causation. We do not and cannot have control all over all accidents, although we can take steps to minimise them and their effects.

What we can plan for – in fact, the only thing we can really be responsible for, is *ourselves*. We are responsible for the efforts we make, how hard we try, the attitudes we adopt, and how well we learn to analyse and amend our own attitudes. *Most of all, no one can ever make us deny our own consciences.* No accident can ever make our consciences go mute. Conscience is the voice of God in us. Nothing defines us as people quite as much as our consciousness and our conscience. They are the ground of our spiritual answerability and freedom.

**So this is step one: prepare for our day with prayer and meditation, even five minutes is better than nothing.**

### A Race to ... what?

“... what I have said to you, you will repeat, as you teach to those who live that life which is merely a race to death.” (Dante, *Purgatorio* 33:52-54).

What really is the point of all the frantic laps we run as lawyers? On the material level, that life is and only can be a race to death, but a race which all must finish, and which none can abjure. How to not be pulled into the vortex of the legal day? If we have made a good preparation (prayer, meditation and adopting a sane attitude to our lives) then the next step is to make a connection between that preparation and our working day, between that sensible outlook and the tendency to get pulled into frenetic activity. It can help to make appointments during the day, for example, if I decide in the morning that during the lunch hour I will shut my eyes and say one particular prayer with intention.

If I knew I would be in the office all day, I might decide beforehand that at say, 9.00a.m., 12 noon and 3.00 p.m.,

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## A Spiritual Work (...continued)

I would – unless I was speaking with someone, or it was otherwise impossible – position my chair so that I attract no attention, and close my eyes for sixty seconds, recalling the morning meditation, and maybe saying a silent prayer.

In monastic life, the divine office has this function of interrupting the treadmill. In a quieter age, the Angelus said at 12 noon and 6.00 p.m. each day had the same effect. It is not impossible to make good habits: one only has to expend a fraction of the ingenuity we spend on our files. I can place a small holy picture or icon on my desk or in a drawer to serve as a focus when needed, or say a decade of the rosary. People will go for a walk around the block, or duck out for a coffee, because they know that a change of pace and attention can help them clear their heads. These are good ideas. But I can remember my God while doing so.

**Step two: make a connection between my morning preparation and certain moments in the day, when I will remember God and my soul.**

### Purpose and Perspective

“Be like a solid tower whose brave height remains unmoved by all the winds that blow; the man who lets his thoughts be turned aside by one thing or another, will lose sight of his true goal, his mind sapped of its strength.” (Dante, *Purgatorio* 5:14-18)

Remember your aim: to live today as a good Christian should, praising God, thanking Him for your life, growing in faith, hope and love, and performing, to the best of your ability, good works.

I strive to perform my duty as a lawyer not because I have to, or am contractually bound, but because I love to do my duty, knowing that my duties are hierarchically arranged, with God at the climax, the guarantor and justification of all action. My duties are to God and my soul, to my family, and then to others. If I perform my duties with a clear conscience, nothing more can be asked of me.

Too often we forget about all this because our work overwhelms us: we lose perspective and identify with whatever is before us. It’s as if life will end if we lose the next case. It’s as if the future would close in on us if we looked stupid in court, or we would go bankrupt if we lost one client.

But hope, as Chesterton once remarked, is the one great gift which is denied to the young. The young imagine that each setback is the end. They do not yet have enough experience to know that life goes on. And part of the problem with us is that we don’t learn the lesson as quickly as we might, simply because we somehow imagine – even subliminally – that things can and should

go perfectly for us.

This means that we have been identifying too much with material and worldly factors. We identify with our looks, our wealth, car, house, status, firm, the work we do, how other people treat us (especially people we consider “in”), and so on.

Again, the key is to remember God and the essentials: consciousness and conscience. We should, as Christians, judge ourselves not so much by our successes and failures in material terms, as by our soul qualities: our virtues and vices.

This brings me to step three, the final one for this short broadsheet: examine your conscience at the end of the day. Have I thought, done and said what is right? If not, why not? What happened? How can I avoid falling into the same trap? It would often help to have a spiritual director: someone with whom one can speak, whether once a week or once a month, so long as it is regular.

We need the perspective of informed consciences: our own and someone else’s. Think that this day will never dawn again, and make the most of it – for your soul, for your family and for those with whom we journey through life.

*All quotations from Dante were taken from Mark Musa’s translation for Penguin Classics.*



This was written by a Maronite priest. Of your mercy, please pray for him.

## REAL, RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY

*Real, Radical and Revolutionary - Building Kingdom Relationships with God, with Each Other and with the World* is the latest book by Lynn B. Fowler. In it, Lynn challenges her readers to a kind of Christianity that is very different from that which is seen in much of the Church today.

This kind of Christianity is first of all real, because it is based in the spirit, rather than being the product of the human mind, emotions or will. It is radical, both in the original meaning of the word, returning to the root - in this case, firmly grounded in the Word of God - and in the modern sense of being radically different from the norm. It is revolutionary, overthrowing the government of self, sin and Satan in individual lives and seeking to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

Like all radical and revolutionary ideas, this kind of Christianity is dangerous. It is dangerous to that within each of us that would prefer a comfortable, easy existence. It is dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. It is dangerous to those who embrace it, for it confronts both ourselves and those around us, not to mention the predominant spiritual forces in the world.

This real, radical and revolutionary Christianity works through our kingdom relationships with God, with each other and with the world. In this book Lynn looks at how we develop those relationships, in each case using a series of concepts that take the reader progressively deeper.

Reviewing the book, Yanger Longkumer, Principal of Antioch School of Missions, Kathmandu, Nepal, writes, “Real, Radical and Revolutionary! It is as practical as it is Biblical and theological. This is one of the most interesting and very sensible book I have ever read on the topic of kingdom building. Indeed, it is very insightful, profound but in the meantime, very simple and easy to understand. Lynn sticks closely to the text and focuses in on the centre of the Bible, Jesus Christ nevertheless, try to be innovative.

This book calls us to rediscover the wonder of relationship and challenges us to consider some questions: How can we have deeper relationship with God? How can we develop right relationship with each other? Why do we need to reflect our relationship with God to the world? Lynn’s examines foundational, developmental, implementational, transitional, and pastoral issues to help us experience the power of this fundamental element of our faith. The author strongly emphasizes and concluded that the follower of Christ must be modelled on Jesus’ example. Jesus is the only ultimately worthy of our model. This book challenged us to be continuously ask question, are the people following me looking more like Jesus or not. It challenges me to look beyond the values of this world, and gives me a mandate for making multiplying disciples who in turn will make other multiplying disciples.

Real, Radical and Revolutionary is a desperate call for churches, pastors, and all who claim the name of Christ to return to a true, Biblical understanding of what it means to follow Christ: personal transformation into the likeness of Christ. Lynn reminds the reader that it’s not enough to know about Jesus and His commands, Christians must live out those commands and mature in faith. This book is an inclusive and well-exemplified guidebook that gives a detail process for building kingdom. This interactive book seeks to help to go beyond that to reach the hearts of the people where we work with. I found this book to be exceptionally useful in understanding the ground rules of how to live a true and radical disciple of Jesus Christ. It’s well organized and fascinating manual. It gives great illustrations to help the reader understand the holistic relationship with God, other and how this relationship has to be reflected in the world.”

In another review, Peter Sweeny from the Salvation Army in Whyalla writes, “Lynn Fowler has written something that needs to be listened to. Much of what we call “The Church” today has become something that man has built.

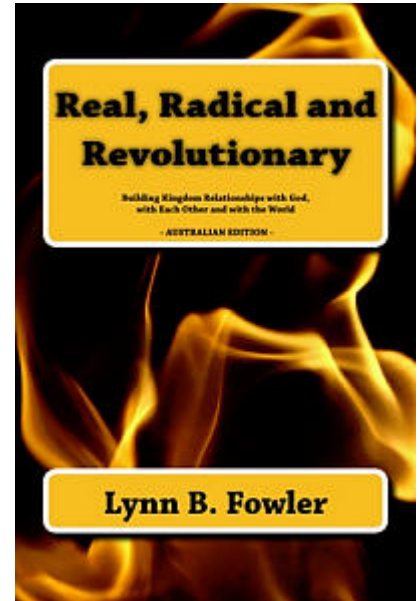
I believe this is a must read, it’s one of those books that you know what is being spoken is true but you didn’t have the words to express what’s been put on paper. I believe as any one reads this book, The Holy Spirit will bring the truth to life. This book is about radical revolutionary love affair with Jesus. It’s time to put our religious mindsets to death and live for Jesus as a kingdom minded people, who are surrendered in his love to see the coming harvest.

This is one of those must read books.”

You can get a free “sneak peek” at this book, plus a free copy of Lynn’s spiritual warfare book, *Called to Battle*, by subscribing to Lynn’s free newsletter at <http://signup.lynnbfowler.com>

To order Real, Radical and Revolutionary, email [writer@lynnbfowler.com](mailto:writer@lynnbfowler.com)

The recommended retail price is \$24.95, however as a special for readers of this newsletter, if you mention *Transforming Sydney* you will be able to buy it for \$22.00, including postage (in Australia only).



SAVE THE DATE  
**GLOBAL FORUM  
 FOR A WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS**



**FEB 11-14, 2016**  
 CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

More than 1 billion children are exposed to violence every year and 152 million are considered orphans. At least 7 million of them literally have no one in their lives and need a new permanent family. Research demonstrates that institutional care is not the best solution for the development of children and can even be damaging to a child's ability to lead a healthy, productive life. A cultural and infrastructural shift to family-based care (strengthening biological families, kinship and foster care, and adoption) must take place.

Thankfully God's people are rising to respond to the plight of the fatherless. I

n many countries churches are joining efforts with governments, NGOs, and businesses to bring sustainable transformation to the way orphans and vulnerable children are being cared for in their societies. We believe the Body of Christ has the capacity to provide every child with permanent family connections and end the orphan crisis. God is a Father of the fatherless and he sets the lonely in families (Ps. 68:5-6).

In light of this growing movement, the first **Global Forum for a World Without Orphans** will be held on **February 11-14, 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand**.

This will be a strategic time to activate, connect, and equip the Christian community worldwide to address the orphan crisis. Leaders from around the world will be gathering to develop and share solutions that provide every child with a safe, stable, and nurturing family.

For more information and to fill out the application to attend please visit [www.wwoforum.org](http://www.wwoforum.org)



A STRATEGIC TIME  
 TO ACTIVATE, CONNECT,  
 AND EQUIP THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
 WORLDWIDE TO ADDRESS THE ORPHAN CRISIS

/ cooperative networks



/ organizations involved



## Daily Prayer Calendar for August - Education

(Compiled by Di McRae )

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR EASE OF READING I HAVE USED THE WORD 'SCHOOLS' TO COVER ALL LEARNING INSTITUTIONS FROM PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH TO TERTIARY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS OF EDUCATION.

### Day in August

- 1 Declare Thy kingdom come thy will be done in our schools as it is in heaven!  
Luke 11:2 *"So He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"*
- 2 Pray for all those who are in authority in Government positions; Federal minister for Education Christopher Pyne and State ministers for Education.  
1 Timothy 2:1-2 *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."*
- 3 Praise God for His faithfulness in the past in opening doors for Christian influence in our schools. Pray that the doors stay open and for all Christian influences into schools to be protected and to increase. These Christian influences include but are not limited to, Chaplaincy programmes, SRE teachers, Scripture Union, local church holiday programmes etc.  
Psalm 119:90 *"Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides."*
- 4 Pray for Christian teachers.  
Pray for their relationship with the Lord to be strengthened that they be shining lights for Him, bold, full of wisdom with miracles confirming the Word of God that is spoken.  
Isaiah 61:1-3 *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*
- 5 Pray for labourers to be raised up for the harvest: More Christian classroom teachers, scripture teachers, Chaplains, youth workers etc.  
Matthew 9:38 *"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."*
- 6 Pray for Christian students; that they be bold and not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for their relationship with the Lord to be strong so that their faith is not compromised. Pray that they have courage to witness to peers and to teachers. Pray that Christian students initiate prayer groups and Bible studies.  
Romans 1:16 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*
- 7 Pray protection over our schools; for ministering angels to be stationed at schools and for all ungodly influences to be bound by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fear proof our schools by praying for the love of God to be known and to be shed abroad in hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
1 John 4:18 *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."*
- 8 Pray for all those who make decisions on curriculums and text books that the content presented to students be honouring to the Lord.  
2 Corinthians 10:5 *"casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"*
- 9 Pray for Christian parents to be full of the love of God, bold and full of wisdom, ministering the love of Jesus Christ to the school community. Pray that they choose to be in significant positions e.g. on school boards and committees where they can influence decisions in a Godly way.  
Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*
- 10 Pray for teachers, school principals, university lecturers to have wisdom from the Lord.  
Ephesians 1:17 *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,"*
- 11 Pray for the fear of the Lord to fall upon all those involved in Education.  
Proverbs 3:7 *"Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from evil."*  
Psalm 111:10 *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*
- 12 Praise the Lord for all Christian places of learning. Pray that these institutions increase in influence across the nation and that they continue to find favour from government bodies.  
Proverbs 29:25 *"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept."*
- 13 Pray for all Christian workers in schools, (e.g. youth workers and scripture teachers) for the love of God to have flow out of them and for them to abound with Godly wisdom and boldness .  
2 Corinthians 4:7 *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God"*

(continued next page)

## Daily Prayer Calendar for August - Education (...continued)

and not of us.”

- 14 Pray for the salvation of students and teachers.  
John 3:16 *“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.”*
- 15 Pray for protection over hearts and minds of students, that they will discern truth and be protected from the spirit of the world.  
Philippians 4:8 *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is s any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”*
- 16 Pray that the celebration of Easter and Christmas will be upheld at all schools.  
Psalm 148:13 *“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted!”*
- 17 Pray for prayer groups to be raised up in all schools.
- 18 Declare **Jesus Christ is Lord!** over the schools of our nation.
- 19 Pray that all content taught aligns with the truth of God’s word. E.g. that the history syllabus accurately reflects the Christian heritage that Australia is blessed with; that in science, creation is taught as truth.  
John 16:13 *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;”*
- 20 Pray for the future of all students. That they will follow the plan that the Lord has for them.  
Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*
- 21 Praise God that He is our comforter.  
Pray that the Holy Spirit permeates all schools bringing comfort to teachers, and students and the entire school community wherever it is needed.  
John 14:16 (AMP) *“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor or, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever”*
- 22 Declare Psalm 24:7-10 over the schools of our nation.  
*Lift up your heads, O you gates!  
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of Glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord mighty in battle  
Lift up your heads, O you gates!  
And lift them up, you everlasting doors!  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.*
- 23 Pray that all aspects of life at our schools reflect the truth and love of our Heavenly Father.
- John 14:21 *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”*
- 24 Praise God that He is our Father.  
Pray that He is a Father to the father-less in our schools.  
1 John 3:1 *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God!”*
- 25 Praise the Lord that He is our healer!  
Pray that the Lord will be manifest as the healer in our schools bringing healing to those who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities, illnesses and allergies.  
Psalm 103:1-3 *“Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”*
- 26 Declare FREEDOM over our schools. Freedom from all forms of evil addictions.  
John 3:36 *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*
- 27 Praise God for His wisdom. Pray that all decisions made by educators will be wise ones.  
Ephesians 1:17 *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,”*
- 28 Pray for the light of God’s word to permeate every aspect of the education system, exposing and flushing out all forms, plans and schemes of evil and darkness.  
John 8:12 *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”*
- 29 Praise God that He is our Hope and that we are not without hope in this world. Pray that a spirit of Hope will come upon our schools and students.  
Romans 15:13 *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*
- 30 Praise God that we are equipped and able to enforce the victory that He purchased for us at Calvary.  
2 Corinthians 10:4-6 *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”*
- 31 Pray for all those involved in Education to have a revelation regarding the Glory of God.  
Habakkuk 2:14 *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”*

Next month - September - Charity and Not for Profit Welfare

## Praying for the Persecuted Church



“I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.” Psalm 119:60

Read more and how you can help at [www.vom.com.au](http://www.vom.com.au)

### IRAN: Christian Prisoner Informed of Early Release Date

Iranian Christians rejoice in a positive development in the case of Farshid Fathi, in prison since December 2010, who has been informed that he is due for early release. Farshid was among 22 believers arrested in Tehran on 26 December 2010 as part of a wider wave of arrests. By the end of April 2011 all had been released except Farshid.

In April 2012, Farshid was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, charged with “acting against national security through membership of a Christian organisation, collection of funds, and propaganda against the Islamic Regime by helping spread Christianity in the country.” Originally held in Evin Prison, Farshid was transferred to Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj in August 2014. An additional year was added to his sentence following claims by the authorities that alcohol had been discovered during a raid on Evin Prison in April 2014. On 4 July, prison authorities in Rajai Shahr notified Farshid in writing that he is due for early release in December 2015 (rather than December 2017 if he were to serve his full sentence).

There have also been developments in other cases. Pastor Behnam Irani, serving a six year sentence since April 2010, has been allowed a 15-day furlough from Ghezal Hesar prison on payment of bail equivalent to \$50,000.

Eskandar Rezai and Bijan Haghighi, members of a fellowship raided in Shiraz in October 2012, have been summoned to serve their sentences. Along with five others, Eskandar and Bijan were given sentences ranging from one to six years for crimes of “action against national security” and “propaganda against the order of the system.” In 2014 the other five were summoned to serve their sentences in Shiraz, but Eskandar and Bijan remained free on bail. Following the recent summons, Eskandar is now in Adelabad Prison, Shiraz, serving a one year sentence, and Bijan will soon start serving a three year prison sentence.

Source: *Middle East Concern*

- ♥ Thank the Lord for the answered prayer for Farshid's early release, pray the Iranian authorities will stand by their commitment.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will open further opportunities to share the Gospel with others during these last months of imprisonment.
- ♥ Pray prisoners in Iran will be treated with respect and dignity. Pray Behnam, Eskandar and Bijan and their associates will be strengthened by the Lord and soon released.

### NIGERIA: Boko Haram Members Convert to Christianity

Members of Boko Haram have reportedly come to faith in Christ after missionaries fearlessly preached the Gospel in north-eastern Nigeria. A Nigerian ministry affiliated with Christian Aid has aggressively sought to plant churches in some of the most dangerous parts of Nigeria, paving the way for many Nigerians to convert to Christianity.

The road is rarely easy for these converts, as one former Boko Haram member was sent a video of Boko Haram militants killing his family after his conversion. Even after these immense hardships, these brothers and sisters in Christ are remaining faithful, while the Nigerian ministry is reaping the fruits of serving God in extremely difficult parts of the world.

Meanwhile, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari says that the end of Boko Haram is in sight and that the terror group will be defeated soon. Buhari's statements come after several weeks of intensified Boko Haram violence on civilians.

Since the beginning of the Muslim holiday month of Ramadan, Boko Haram has increased the scale and frequency of its attacks, killing numerous Christians and Muslims in recent weeks.

Sources: *International Christian Concern, Christian Today, Daily Trust*

- ♥ Thank the Lord for the extraordinary courage and faithfulness of those fearlessly preaching the Gospel.
- ♥ Praise God for the conversion of Boko Haram members who have learned the truth of the Gospel; pray that there would be great revival amongst Boko Haram's leaders.
- ♥ Pray for President Buhari's commitment to bring an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror in Nigeria; pray for all Nigerians who lost relatives in the latest terrorist attacks.



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