



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.

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Prayer Calendar 2015

See the daily prayer points on the 2015 Prayer Calendar - www.transformingsydney.org/TSPrayerCalendar.html

On pages 36 and 37 is a **Daily Prayer Calendar for December to pray for the sphere of Sports & Recreation**

(In the October newsletter is a Daily Prayer Calendar for November to pray for Media & Entertainment - see also prayerstrategy.org)

Upcoming Events

5 December - Conference: Same Sex Marriage and the Church of the Future (Perth, p19)

25 December - Celebration of Christ's birth!

11-14 Feb 2016 - Global Forum for a World Without Orphans (Thailand, p35)

14 May 2016 - Pentecost Eve Prayer for Sydney (details TBA)

From the Convenor

Pentecost 2016—Be Ready!

Dear friends,

God brought Sydney together at Pentecost Eve 2015, the Holy Spirit's presence was so powerful.

In year 2016 Pentecost Eve is going to be even bigger. Keep this date in your diary and please share this event with all your network.

We are going to see our city united in prayer. We would like to invite leaders from other cities across Australia to join us to celebrate Pentecost Eve together and to represent their cities. Come along and let us be united and crying out together to our Heavenly Father for our cities.

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR SYDNEY TO SEE HIS KINGDOM COME TO OUR CITY!!

Transforming Sydney is a Movement established by the call of God to bring Churches and Ministries together as ONE BODY to reach our City of Sydney: we are responding to our Lord's Prayer in John 17 'That we may be one' by facilitating Interdenominational Prayer & Worship Meetings, and believing for all denominations to participate and host these meetings in their places of gathering.

We are coming together from every denomination with selfless love and fellowship, and 'By this' Unity we truly become Jesus' disciples. 'By this' we obey our Lord and He can release His full blessing over us. 'By this' we will see the Holy Spirit transform our Families, Churches and Communities across all the Suburbs of Sydney.

We invite you to pray and ask our Father in Heaven if you should attend yourself or send representatives from your Church or Ministry. We are ONE BODY and ONE CHURCH with CHRIST AS OUR HEAD: called to be ONE BRIDE!

May HIS Kingdom Come!

Pentecost Eve 2016, Sat the 14th of May

Location TBA

God bless you, Lilian Schmid

www.prayerstrategy.org

www.businesswomenhealingministry.org

www.transformingsydney.org

From the Editor

I would like to share with you my perspectives on leadership.

I am a leader within my spheres of influence, accountable to:

1. God Almighty first as my Lord and Saviour
2. My wife as my lifelong partner under God
3. My elders above me who are those leaders that God has appointed to go before me, provide an example to me, and cover me with their prayers and guidance
4. All others as the leaders they will become in Christ within their spheres of influence, to whom I must be an example, and cover them with prayer and guidance as the Holy Spirit guides me

The implication of this is that we are all leaders, yes that's correct; ALL leaders without exception. I rely daily on the leadership of my bus or train driver (when I'm not driving my car), on the leadership of the greengrocer to buy good and wholesome fruit and vegetables for me to buy, on the leadership of my son's teachers to train him well, on my barista to make coffee skilfully with proper ingredients, on my son to help his mother when she has problems with her smartphone or notebook PC; wherever you go you are dependant on others to provide leadership within their capabilities, knowledge and skills.

The key for successful working relationships between leaders is trust and delegation. I don't watch my barista with an eagle eye to make sure they prepare my coffee correctly, I trust them to do that and subsequently I hand over \$3.50 before they have even made it knowing that I will shortly receive an excellent coffee in return for my trust in them.

We who grow up and grow old in Western culture innately value individualism. Though we become adults, in many ways we are like perpetual two-year-olds shouting, "I want to do it myself!"

The truths of Christianity stand in opposition to this natural culture of ours. God designed us to become something more together than any of us can possibly become alone—his "fellow workers," his "field," his "building."

John Stott, Basic Christian Leadership.

Grace, Bjorn Schmid

Born For Such a Time as This

By Annette Spurr, Blue Box Media - also published in Christian Woman, autumn 2015 - christianwomanmag.com

It's a book that reads more like Hollywood screenplay than a bible story. Each page filled with opulence, intrigue and romance. The setting is an exotic Kingdom, resplendent with silver and gold couches on a pavement of marble and mother-of-pearl, the atmosphere drenched in aromatic spices and perfumes.

But this page turner wasn't written by a Hollywood playwright, it was written by God himself. This is the story of Esther.

For centuries, scholars have debated whether her story even belongs in the bible. It's the only book of the bible Martin Luther King refused to preach on because of God's apparent absence.

But delve a little deeper and you'll see God's unmistakable hand throughout Esther's story.

She was an orphan who entered a beauty pageant... and won! Her prize was to marry the King of Persia. It's every girl's dream, right? But this dream-come-true came at a price and it nearly cost her life.

Studying this twisted fairy tale, I recently had a fresh revelation and it blew my mind.

When I first became a Christian, it seemed everyone at the church I attended was heading off to Bible College or some kind of 'full time ministry.' I remember feeling guilty about working in mainstream media... a seemingly shallow world of bright lights and beautiful people. I spoke to my pastor's wife about it and her response was unsettling: 'Well, someone has to fund these people in full time ministry, so that's your purpose in life.'

For a while I actually believed that my *raison d'etre* was to donate my income to people actually doing God's work, since I clearly was not.

But I've come to realise that couldn't be further from the truth.

Doing some freelance work for a mainstream radio station recently, a friend sent me this message: 'I can't believe you're working at that place. I had to turn it off last week because they were so rude!'

And she's right. Mainstream media is renowned for its vulgarity and barrage of offensive song lyrics. But imagine, just for a moment, if the music director of your local radio station became a Christian; if the editor of your city's newspaper came to church?

My response to my friend was simple: 'I'm just happy to be shining my light in this place.'

Years ago, her comment would have sent me plummeting into an ocean of guilt, but now I know I've been called to this industry for such a time as this; To influence the influencers! The people who create culture and tell our children what they should believe; how they should treat women; how they should view their own worth; what matters... and what doesn't.

As I pondered my friend's message, the on air announcer spoke into his microphone... 'I love this next track... It's Hozier's 'Take Me to Church...'' Then he added: 'Said no one ever!'

Hozier's dark, soulless voice floods the airwaves, chanting the cry of a generation:

*Every Sunday's getting more bleak
A fresh poison each week
'We were born sick, '
you heard them say it
My Church offers no absolutes
She tells me,
'Worship in the bedroom.'
The only heaven I'll be sent to
Is when I'm alone with you—
I was born sick,
But I love it
Command me to be well
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

*'...someone has to fund
these people in full time
ministry, so that's your
purpose in life.'*
**For a while I actually
believed that my *raison
d'etre* was to donate my
income to people actually
doing God's work, since I
clearly was not.**

'Great song,' one of the tech guys smiles and starts nodding his head.

And there I am, in a room full of people who will probably never set foot inside a church. But we chat at the coffee machine, on our lunch breaks, in the car park. I speak life at every opportunity. I don't have a microphone... but I have a voice.

Like Esther, I've been called to a seemingly Godless place. But like Esther, God is writing my story.

Music artist Lecrae has often been criticized for breaking into the mainstream music scene but his mission his clear; during his acceptance speech this this year's Grammy awards, Lecrae boldly declared: 'You can't celebrate gifts without celebrating the giver of all gifts.'

Whether you're the Pastor of a mega church, or an accountant in a city office, you, too, have been called for such a time as this. Live purposefully and embrace your gifts and your mission field, wherever it is. God's favour rests on you, as long as you show up for Him and like Esther, reveal your true identity (Esther 4:12-14).

DO NOT FALL FOR THE “SCIENCE VERSUS RELIGION” LINE

By Simon Manchester, St Thomas' Anglican Church North Sydney - from their weekly church bulletin.

At the Home Houseparty Phillip Jensen avoided the ‘evolution’ question to concentrate on other things. Borrowing some advice from John Lennox I want you to know that I tell people I believe in micro evolution not macro.

This is a simple but important answer to the question of whether creation and evolution disagree. If we mean micro evolution (that there is change within species) we have no reason to disagree — it is patently obvious that things change or evolve. If we mean macro evolution (that we are here by chance, on par with the animals and even morally improving) we have every reason to disagree. First there is no proof for these macro things — in fact the evidence is against such conclusions — and secondly the Biblical position is stronger.

Of all the many, many books on this debate I’ve been helped mostly by *40 Questions about Creation and Evolution* written by Kenneth Keathley and Mark Rooker. Both these men are theologians but they have summarised the theological and scientific positions on 40 major questions in a very clear and helpful way — suitable for the average Christian.

Here are some of the issues raised by the book:

Creation is an important subject declaring the truth about God and His long term plan for a new creation centred around Christ. It also saves us from idolatry and despair, from polytheism and pantheism etc. — no wonder it is attacked.

Some think that there is a major gap between Genesis 1:1 which announces the creation of everything and Genesis 1:2ff which describes the forming and filling of the world. This gap may explain the fossil record and even the question for animal death before the Fall.

There are 4–5 short chapters on the age of the earth (one editor is an old earth proponent and one is a young earth proponent) with interesting evidence on both sides. For example, the time that light takes to reach the earth (case for old earth) and the shallow moon dust (case for young earth).

The writers carefully establish the case for a historical Adam and Eve — realistically they are the original parents and they are theologically significant for the Fall (Acts 17:26 and Romans 5:12ff and 1 Corinthians 13:20ff).

The flood gets good treatment in this book. Interestingly, 68 nations have a great flood built into their national history. Was it a global or local flood? Here our presuppositions play a crucial part — some question the details of the ark but what can a very great God do?

The great clash is really philosophical. When macro evolution is driven by secularism it becomes a very convenient worldview for avoiding God, then Christianity and Darwinism become competing religions.

It’s important to remember that many who advocate an Intelligent Designer are not believers. They just recognise that leaving everything to chance is impossible. Remember Fred Hoyle’s famous comment that the likelihood of us being here by chance is the same as a tornado going through a junk yard and leaving behind a fully functioning 747 jet. And he was an unbeliever.

Here are some interesting scientific realities to reinforce your faith as a Christian (A, B, C, D, E to help you remember):

- A) The Anthropic principle. The fine tuning of the earth has been calculated at 10¹²³ — that is the perfect conditions for life on earth.
- B) The Big Bang is now the recognised position and the idea of an eternally existing universe discarded. Science has caught up to Scripture.
- C) Cosmological exploration (via the Hubble telescope) continues to show the emptiness of the universe for life except on earth.
- D) DNA has revealed a complexity that baffles and dazzles those who reckon with it. The famous atheist Anthony Flew became a believer in face of DNA.
- E) Empty fossils record. Darwin assumed that the fossil record would prove his position. But transitional fossils are woefully lacking.

It’s in the interests of unbelievers to pit religion against science — as if one is fantasy and one is fact. I hope you won’t fall for it.

All truth is God’s truth.

Yours in fellowship,
Simon Manchester
AUGUST 2

It’s in the interests of unbelievers to pit religion against science - as if one is fantasy and one is fact. I hope you won’t fall for it.

Introduction to the Bible Movie App

By Bella Blaiklock

A labour of love, a small team in Sydney Australia, has been working on creating a Multi-Media experience for the everyday bible reader over the last 2 years.

The work of love is now complete, and is now available to everyone who has a smart device, i.e. mobile phone, iPad, tablet etc.

check it out at www.biblemovie.com.au

For the first time ever! All 66 books of the Bible have been produced as word-for-word Bible Movies! Available to everyone who has a smart device.

Something happens when you watch the Bible as a 'Movie'. It brings understanding and clarity like never before. It creates interest in chapters that are perhaps harder to understand and read for the younger generation and someone could 'watch' a whole Bible book together with family which they would never 'read' a book in one sitting. Or use in a connect group or church bible reading session.

The Bible Movie is in form of an app, gives you over 80 hours of Movie files...Adam & Eve, Noah, Moses, Abraham and of course Jesus and the disciples are all presented by combining over 2,000 movie titles and 1,000 stock footage clips in one massive "mash-up".

This is a media translation for a media generation. With 50 language translations in the pipeline our aim is to equip and empower those in the 3rd world to learn English while studying a text that is a foundation of Western civilisation.

The Bible movie App has been developed by a Sydney team who have used the "mash-up" process to solve a problem that has plagued Christian Bible movie makers for years.....how to transform the whole Bible into a movie.

Many astonishingly good film makers have made unforgettable Bible movies from Cecil B De Mille's "10 Commandments" to Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" but with each Bible movie there is a noticeable omission of major parts of the text. While this is acceptable as a cinematic portrayal it is not helpful as a teaching text.

The creators of the Bible Movie App wanted to create a Movie that could be used as a source study "movie+audio+text".

The only plausible way to use bible movies as "textbooks" is to make them 'word-for-word' visual representations of the original bible text, and, because the end product is over 80 hours long the only way to do this is through a 'mash-up'.

This will give the Bible to many 3rd world language groups as a teaching tool potentially empowering millions with powerful tools to equip them in their journey to learn the English language.

The video format for teaching is becoming recognised as one of the most powerful methods for learning and education.

This method empowers the student to learn at their own pace combining the use of Movies in their language, in English, then text and audio in multiple languages to further enhance the learning experience.

This is a language university in an App

The www.biblemovie.com.au website has dedicated a significant amount of time to presenting the legal case for mashups. This is an emerging area of copyright law that is a result of the iPhone revolution where millions globally prefer to actively create their own content rather than passively absorb incoming data.

There is a clear case for the defensibility of the Bible "mash-up". It is transformative, educational, a new and innovative use as well as a culturally important work, which lies at the foundation of international US law.

Being segmented into an App as a 'partitioned' delivery of a movie product, no single rights-holder could make the claim "we were going to do that". The simple fact is no-one has ever made a word-for-word movie version of the bible ever!

For more information see: www.biblemovie.com.au

Become a fan on Facebook, and share with your friends, family and church

<https://www.facebook.com/app.biblemovie>

Lots of languages to watch in as well, besides English we provide Bible Movies in, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesian, Chinese, Czech, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Nepali, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Macedonian all available in the one app.



Now Available On



The Next Temptation Of Churches

By Mark Joseph, January 30th, 2006 (via Byron Spradlin from Lausanne Arts)

Recently, the latest installment in the Left Behind film series opened on 3,000 plus screens across the U.S., a notable opening that would have produced a tsunami of media interest had it occurred in theaters instead of church sanctuaries. But since it occurred outside of the mainstream of American cultural life in venues only accessible to some, the film's content wasn't debated on talk radio, featured on the cover of Time Magazine or debated on All Things Considered, The O'Reilly Factor or Hardball. In pop culture terms, it was as if it had never happened.

In the wake of the success of The Passion Of The Christ it was only a matter of time before marketers seized on the idea of turning churches into first run movie theaters. While some are heralding this as an innovative idea, it's actually a rerun of a bad movie that once played in the music world. Beginning in 1969, many devout Americans similarly pulled out of the music industry, forming a separatist musical genre which over time came to be known as Contemporary Christian Music or CCM for short. For the next 25 years or so CCM became the place to go for artists who wanted to make expressions of faith.

Artists who felt constrained by the demands of "secular" record labels which wanted them to keep religion out of their music often used CCM labels to express themselves spiritually, and then returned to the "secular" labels when they wanted to make "secular" music. So it wasn't uncommon to hear artists like Philip Bailey of Earth, Wind & Fire express his "secular" side on his album "Chinese Wall" hit the charts with a song like "Easy Lover," and then turn around the very next year and make a "religious record" "The Wonders Of His Love." Countless artists from Al Green to B.J. Thomas were forced by economic realities to play this game which was a byproduct of the separation of pop music into two industries: the secular and sacred.

Both sides appeared pleased with the arrangement. The religious got to express themselves without any market constraints that might have been imposed upon them by being a part of the "secular" industry and the "secular" side freed itself from the constraints that had been imposed by the demands of moralist consumers who tended to frown on music they deemed offensive.

Many executives who populated the music industry in the '70's and '80's were all too willing to have devout artists leave their industry and make their statements of faith in the cultural gulag of Christian rock, where they would be sentenced to the cultural obscurity. It was the pop culture equivalent of being shipped off to Siberia and being put to work breaking up rocks, a tactic effectively used to shut up freedom-loving Russian intellectuals in the former Soviet Union.

What resulted was two decades of nearly unbroken absence of serious religious faith from the mainstream of pop music. But in the late 1990's the picture began to change when many devout artists, tired of being bit players in pop culture, rebelled and began to leave the CCM industry in favor of mainstream labels. That great exodus produced a rush of rock bands like Switchfoot, P.O.D., Chevelle, Lifehouse, Creed, MxPx, Sufjan Stevens and others who insisted on being a part of the cultural mainstream and refused to disappear quietly into the religious subculture.

The current movement on the part of some religious film producers to abandon theaters and turn churches into movie houses is a move wrought with danger for a number of reasons other than the uncomfortable prospect of finding popcorn in one's seat in church come Sunday morning. For secular Americans who are annoyed by pop culture expressions of faith like The Passion Of The Christ, Bruce Almighty and The Chronicles of Narnia, such a retreat would be a dream come true for the current market pressures which are being brought to bear on Hollywood by traditionalists would disappear as they flocked to their local churches for first run movies. The absence of such market pressure would leave multiplexes free to run films that would cater almost exclusively to the cinematic interests of non-churchgoers, allowing Hollywood to create movies on two tracks: religious fare to be shown in churches and secular fare for theaters. The result would likely be religious films with no mainstream appeal and mainstream films that are offensive to churchgoers, with the latter getting all of the media and pop culture attention.

The producers of the Left Behind series were likely not thinking about such long term consequences however. They simply wanted to get their movie seen by as many people as possible and were willing to take them any way they wanted to come—in theaters or churches. But driving devout Americans out of the public square and into churches to watch movies (American pop culture's version of the Madras wherein important religious ideas are debated only in the hothouse of agreement among those who see eye to eye with no outside critical adjustments allowed) is ultimately detrimental to both the religious and the irreligious since it shuts off dialogue and denies a shared cinematic experience. Instead devout film producers will need to make better quality films and studios will need to give them the same theatrical distribution they were able to provide for such cinematic masterpieces as "Dude Where's My Car?," and "The Pope Must Diet."

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Hollywood's Blind Side

By Mark Joseph, August 27th, 2012

Various writers are publicly kvetching about the decision by a Baptist-owned bookstore chain called Lifeway to stop carrying *The Blind Side* DVD because, according to the Southern Baptist Convention it contains "explicit profanity," takes "God's name in vain" and contains a "racial slur."

Breakpoint, the daily radio commentary started by former Watergate figure Chuck Colson weighed in with a piece by its star contributor Eric Metaxas decrying the move by Lifeway as "insane," and many other Christian-related sites also complained about alleged shortsightedness.

I watched *The Blindside* when it first hit theaters and though generally unimpressed with the film, was nonetheless pleased that such a nice story was getting so much attention. I certainly don't remember any bad words, but then again, maybe I'm getting used to it. I work in Hollywood after all.

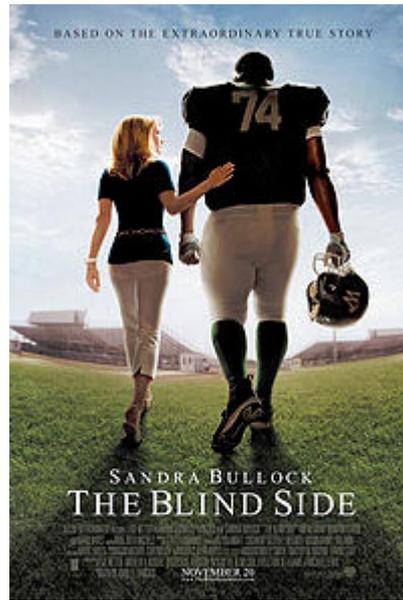
But are the Baptists really at fault here? Aren't they entitled to carry whatever product they want for whatever reason they want? And who are we as non-Baptists to castigate them for what they decide to stock in their stores, especially those products which offend their deepest religious sensitivities?

If a Jewish-owned deli refuses to sell pork, should it be held up for public ridicule and bullied until it gives in? If a Mormon-run retail outlet refuses to carry caffeine products are they to be criticized? And what about Chick-Fil-A with its policy of staying closed on Sundays as an expression of its owner's deeply held religious beliefs? Should we browbeat them all until they give up their religion and conform?

But I digress. The real issue here isn't whether Baptists should be shamed into carrying things that violate their moral code, but rather why corporations like Warner Brothers, which produced *The Blindside*, keep filling their movies with words that millions of American filmgoers say they don't want to hear at the movies and don't want their kids to hear and emulate. As I point out in my book, *The Lion, The Professor & The Movies: Narnia's Journey To The Big Screen*, early drafts of the the screenplay for the first Narnia film included numerous profanities uttered by the children, inserted by writers who somehow thought that adding words that rhymed with "luck" and "bit" would somehow enhance this children's classic.

When "artists" indulge in such bizarre behavior, its

THE HUFFINGTON POST



precisely the kind of market forces like Lifeway's recent action that serves to check that behavior for the knowledge that a retail giant like Lifeway, not to mention a Walmart, may not carry a product has tremendous impact on what is ultimately greenlit. There's no censorship involved here, it's just a business decision made by the artist and the company that owns the work. They have the freedom to insert whatever words they want into a film, but they do so knowing that the film may lose millions of dollars in business.

There's also another way to deal with the problem as well, which is for studios to make available edited

versions such as those used on airlines to outlets like Lifeway. If the studios were run by capitalists intent on selling more product, they'd make two versions of the film available to both theaters and retail outlets: the original version and the airline version and see which outsells the other. Take a wild guess at which one would sell better in the American heartland.

Beating up on Baptists is the easiest and cheapest way of addressing this controversy, but they're merely behaving as good moralists should be expected to. The real question isn't why Baptists are behaving like Baptists but rather why Hollywood studios aren't behaving like capitalists, selling more product by either getting rid of the bad words to begin with or making alternative versions available to consumers like those represented by Lifeway who want great stories without the words that offend their deeply held religious beliefs.

Perhaps they should take their cues from one of their own, a certain former president of the Screen Actors Guild named Ronald Reagan who, upon reading a script penned by former aide and current member of Congress Dana Rohrabacher gave his protege these notes: "Clean up the language -- a few h--l's & d--n's yes; but I'd drop all the words ending in -itch, -it or -uck."

Mark Joseph is founder of MJM Entertainment Group and a film producer and marketing expert who has worked in development and/or marketing of 21 films including "The Chronicles of Narnia," "Holes," "Because of Winn-Dixie" "I Am David," and others and produced the rock soundtrack for "The Passion of the Christ." He is currently producing Doonby, Reagan and IX.



WHY I PRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD AND CHALLENGE OTHERS TO PRAY AS WELL

by Karen Covell, Founding Director, Hollywood Prayer Network

www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org

As a TV producer in the Hollywood Entertainment Industry, and as a Christian, I found it very difficult, when I first started in Hollywood, to live out my faith and pursue my career without a body of solid, believing friends around me. So, in 1983 eight of us, all very young Christian professionals, started praying together. That group became *Premise*, which met monthly for 30 years to pray for one another and to intercede for the entertainment industry. We have grown to hundreds of Christian Hollywood creative professionals who see ourselves as marketplace ministers, sharing our faith, praying, doing works of truth, beauty and grace and keeping our eyes on Jesus all along the way.



In 2001, I realized another need - the church outside of Hollywood had to stop misunderstanding and judging our community. I felt a passion to help the church understand what God was doing here and to support the Christians in this mission field - the world's most influential mission field! Most of the "Church" at large hated Hollywood, boycotted it's films and kept young creative people away. That's when I started The *Hollywood Prayer Network* (HPN). I felt the need to bridge the gap between the Church and Hollywood through prayer and to challenge Christians to invite God to come in and do a miraculous work here!

HPN has three goals:

- to pray for the Christians here
- to acting as "Entertainment Missionaries" and pray for the non-believers as children of God who just don't know Him yet.
- to encourage talented Christians to come to Hollywood to live out their lives as creative people who also love God.

My husband, Jim, and I learned in our pre-marriage counseling over 28 years ago, that when you pray for someone you can't hate them. So, I realized that if I could encourage Christians to pray for Hollywood, the entire attitude coming out of the church, toward the people who shape culture, would become one of love.

Oh, what a dream!

Here are the five main reasons why we need Christians all over the world to pray for Hollywood:

1. Hollywood is the world's most influential mission field. Hollywood is in Los Angeles, which means "The city of Angels" and angels are messengers. We are sending out messages 24 hours a day, all across the globe, through our TV shows, films, music, video games and inter-net projects. These messages impact every people group in every country on the planet. And they can be positive or negative messages, depending on the prayers of the Saints asking God to come in and touch the hearts of the people here. Prayer is the #1 most effective tool to touch the people in this mission field.
2. Hollywood creates or shapes culture – not only in America, but also around the world. Artists create media, art and entertainment, and artists are prophets – telling the world what to believe by our work. So, Christians should be praying for the people who are creating and/or shaping our culture.
3. The people who work in Hollywood are broken and need our prayers. It is extremely difficult to be an artist in our country and in our world. Artists, on average, are the lowest paid craftsmen in America. It is extremely difficult to make a living as an artist. So, we need to pray for the people who are struggling to pay their rent, dealing with depression, discouragement and even despair. They are misunderstood by the church and they often scare their parents because of their insecure career choice, so they need support by those of us who understand the importance of art in our world and who believe that we should be in this field as professionals.
4. Too many Christians hate Hollywood, are angry at the type of product that comes out of here and even believe

(continued next page)

WHY I PRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD (...continued)

that Christians shouldn't be here. As one of over 10,000 known Christian professionals in Hollywood, I can say that we should be here, we are making an eternal difference every time we show up on the set, in the production company, at the agency, and as friends of non-believers who work here. We need the prayers of the Saints to encourage us, lift us up and support our efforts here. Prayer will also change the hearts of the people praying, for if you pray for someone, you can't hate them!

- Entertainment professionals are a hidden people group right here in Hollywood. We fit the description of people groups to which churches send missionaries. We are closed to outside influence, we have our own language that we speak, our own traditions in our own unique culture and we have our own gods that we worship. We need prayer so that God can reach the hearts of the people who may never meet a Christian in their careers in Hollywood. Your prayers make an eternal difference in the lives of people who may not otherwise be touched by the unconditional and life changing love of Jesus.

Today HPN offers many opportunities for prayer:

- a monthly email that is sent to thousands of Christians around the world
- our "I to I" Prayer Partnerships where we match an intercessor on the outside of Hollywood to pray for a Christian who is working in the entertainment industry
- a monthly Kids and Teen prayer calendar where youth pastors and parents and especially young people, can download a new list of celebrities to pray for each month who are known on the shows they watch, the movies they go to and the music they're listening to.
- Local Chapters around the world where artists and/or prayer warriors from any city across the globe gather locally and pray for the media and entertainment industries in their part of the world or pray corporately for Hollywood from wherever they are.



God is doing miraculous things in our mission field. We're seeing more people become Christians, we're seeing an incredible growth of committed Christians in our entertainment community and we're seeing more and more Christians outside of Hollywood catch the vision that Hollywood is not Sodom and Gomorrah, but Nineveh – and it is being redeemed.



Please join us in praying for Hollywood at
www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org

We have five HPN chapters in Australia! In Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Queensland, and Sydney

Just click on the local links under Chapters/International to connect with the Chapter Leader.

We look forward to having you JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

“The man who mobilizes the church to pray will have a greater impact on world evangelization than anyone in history.” Andrew Murray

6 minute HPN video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrCctEdCrgs>

KAREN COVELL'S BIO

As Founding Director of Hollywood Prayer Network, Karen speaks and teaches around the country and internationally on how people of faith can pray for the people in the entertainment industry. She is also a published

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WHY I PRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD (...continued)

co-author of three books: "How to Talk About Jesus Without Freaking Out," "The J Bomb" and "The Day I Met God."

In addition to her leadership at HPN, Karen is Co-Founder and Producer for JC Productions, an independent TV and music production company. She has had extensive experience producing TV specials, documentaries and children's programming. Karen is a member of the Producer's Guild of America, a founding member of PREMISE, and a board member of the Biola University Entertainment Task Force. She is a graduate of USC with a BA in Producing.

Her passion is to encourage Christians to pray for the Hollywood Entertainment Industry because only changed hearts will change content. She also is passionate about telling stories and helping others know how to tell stories. She loves capturing the heart of people in all walks of life and letting others be inspired by them. Karen is married to her best pal, Jim, a composer. They are the proud parents of two boys: Christopher, a Chapman University graduate, and Cameron, a student at USC Film School.

2 MINUTE PRAYER TIP FOR HOLLYWOOD: THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MISSION FIELD

Why should Christians pray for the entertainment industry?

There are four myths in the Christian church about Hollywood that I hope to dispel, for I believe each one is a part of a larger Spiritual battle that our enemy has created in order to keep Christians from having an eternal influence on the Hollywood Entertainment Industry. If we can break through the blindness that the church has about Hollywood, we can see miracles happening here, people becoming Christians, the Christians affecting content of films, TV shows, music, video games, news and webisodes, and ultimately seeing God touching the world through the media. Here are the four myths that the church in America still believes about Hollywood:

1. God is not present in Hollywood
2. Christians can't make a difference in Hollywood
3. Hollywood isn't a mission field
4. Hollywood doesn't need prayer

None of these is true!

What we are seeing in our industry is amazing. There are now over 10,000 Christians in Hollywood and the number grows every day. I meet Christians every week who have come here from some city around the country, or the world, who want to not only pursue a career here, but they want to be market place missionaries!

We have prayer gatherings now where hundreds of people show up to pray and worship. In fact, in June 2015, for the first time ever, 3,000 women gathered at a Christian conference at the Dolby Theatre, home of the Academy Awards, and praised and worshiped God and heard Bible teachings at the first Christian event ever in that theatre.

God is moving in Hollywood and I challenge you to spread the word and pray for more people to know that Hollywood is the world's most influential mission field and God is here with His people, getting ready for the harvest!

"For God sent His son into the world, not to condemn Hollywood but that Hollywood might be saved through Him." John 3:17

Karen Covell
 Founding Director, Hollywood Prayer Network
www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org

NATIONS LIGHT MINISTRIES

By Revds. Syd & Liz Doyle

We are in our 40th year in ministry, not 'spring chickens' but believe we have a lot of life left in us, after 42 years of marriage!

After 25 years of church planting and pastoring in Kent, England we have begun, unexpectedly in the USA, to focus on the world's unreached people groups who are coming, in large numbers especially from the Muslim world to Western nations. We live near the largest concentration of Arabs outside the Middle East and actually enjoy working amongst them! We are stimulated by conversations, questions and their hunger to hear of Jesus the Mediator, whom they know little or nothing about and the powerful compassion which the Creator God of the Holy Bible has for them.

WHO'S MY NEIGHBOR?

One of the initiatives developed since 2012 has been the festival approach of www.whosmyneighbor.org which is really throwing a party and seeing who turns up.

We have had 40 nations represented, most of which we have been to and all living in our area, including Australia!

Up to 4000 people of all ages and in their national costumes, have taken part annually. The Mayor of the city or another dignitary will welcome everyone to America to start the whole day off. This can be quite an emotional time for those who have never been welcomed before, even after so many years of living here.

Amongst the all age events, Bibles, literature and Jesus DVD's are given out to many in their languages with personal engagement of volunteers from at least 20 local churches. Our steering group is largely from several African, Hispanic, Chinese, American, Arab and hopefully soon Korean Churches.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We have gone door to door with some 200 believers for the past 9 years. It's always a fine introduction for 'nervous newcomers' to reach this open harvest field. Last Christmas was fantastic, with answers to prayer for breakthrough. We went out on the doors in the afternoon for the first time as well as the evening. We also use this opportunity to train people from other towns and encourage them to begin repeating this in their own areas.

Many homes we visited have relatives still in the Middle East having suffered horrific treatment from ISIS. I exhorted around 20 teams of about 10 people each, to really pray for the people this time. To engage, holding hands or laying hands on them (men to men and women to women), empathizing with them in their needs. Some are invited inside but also on the doorsteps, we just leave our usual bags of goodies with families; Christmas

candy, DVD's and scripture booklets in English and Arabic. How thrilling to return, count the candy canes and estimate that some 800 individuals were personally prayed for meaningfully! Where in America or the world for that matter, were that number of Arab Muslims prayed for in one night? This year we also invited everyone to the Nativity play by our children the next night. 100 Arab families came, unknown in the Pastor's 26 years of ministry there!



MOBILIZING OTHERS

Our heart is to communicate to other Christians globally of this Harvest Field being brought to us by God!

In John 4:19-35 we see the transformation of a Samaritan woman's reputation when she met Christ! Not only that, but she brought her village, the harvest field, to see Him, v30!! We are expected to go where the harvest fields are ready, but see that God can also bring those harvest fields to us? Would that not be a reasonable part of God's End Time strategy Matt 24:14? Time is short, it is difficult to share the Gospel in Afghanistan or the Yemen where we have been, but God is capable of speeding up the process by bringing these Christless souls to us in the 'Christian nations.' We therefore have our part to complete it!

We see these remarkable God given opportunities, completely in harmony with what Paul perceived in Acts 17:25-27. 'God has determined where people live' for a reason, whether refugees, students or professionals in our business and medical worlds. They are here to find Christ and we simply make sure they do! At the very least, all of us can share the love of God with them, pray with them and perhaps even win them to Christ. Yes, it is a challenge where most have no knowledge of the God of the Bible and quite likely never heard the Good News, but more Muslims are coming to Christ now than in any other time in history.

May the Lord mightily bless you all as you see that huge city and your nation of 'Australia Fair' become a wonderful light in the darkness and win many tens of thousands to Christ, including all my relatives and friends!

'God is not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.' 2 Peter 3:9

www.nationslight.org

Leadership and Accountability

By Michael Huggins

A leader has to be someone others follow towards clear destinations or goals.

In the Bible there is rich teaching in both the Old and New Testament concerning the shepherd role of a leader. Apart from the fact that Israel's two greatest Old Testament leaders, Moses and David, both had years of practical shepherding experience before being given the mantle of leadership responsibility, we have Jesus' strong teaching about Himself in John 10, the prophesied Good Shepherd of Ezekiel 34.

With such the Bible brings other important dimensions into leadership, including those of accountability and caring properly for the people you lead..

When I was an agricultural trainee during the early 1960s I served a number of years on farms before full time study. At Great Park Farm I had to experience the skills and responsibilities of shepherding as well as other husbandries, yet shepherding was the most demanding and exacting.

I recall how the owner, *the Governor*, as we called him, would sometimes go away for a few weeks and I would be left in charge of his large flock of sheep. It was an important responsibility, so much so, that as soon as the governor returned his priority was to walk the flock with me. I would want to draw his attention to the most prolific ewes or to the lambs that were in the best fattening condition, perhaps almost ready for market.

But as we walked carefully through the flock, he would question me;

"Why has that ewe no lamb?"

"Why is that lamb behind the others in growth?"

"Why is that sheep on its own and not grazing?"

"Why is that gimmer limping?"

"Where is the old Dorset Ram?"

I was answerable to the governor for each sheep. He was the owner and they were precious to him and he knew each one far far better than I did.

Years later, when leading a small fellowship, I could likewise imagine Jesus, the Good Shepherd, walking through the "flock" with me. I would of course want to point out those keen Christians, enthusiastic and growing in the faith, but then I could imagine our Lord asking me questions like:

"Why is John alone?"

"Why is that seat now empty?"

"Where and how have the young people grown in the faith and service this year?"

"Why is that man, who belongs to another fellowship, coming here?"

I realised that in reality I was, like all pastors, an under-shepherd answerable to the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd, for each member of the fellowship, each person of Calvary worth to Him; and He knew and loved each one far far better than I did, and wanted, like the Governor, each to be cared for, to grow and be productive..

John 21:15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Tend My lambs." Jesus said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Shepherd My sheep. The third time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep"...

I have had no real experience of higher academic level TEE.¹ My service has been focused on popular level TEE like SEAN², TEXT, BEE³ and others, because I firmly believe that within such are tools - tools that have to be kept sharp

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¹ TEE - Theological Education by Extension—see <http://oxenministries.com/id7.html> for a detailed explanation

² SEAN - Seminary Education for All Nations ; an international foundation dedicated to writing courses for TEE
- see <http://www.seaninternational.com/>

³ BEE - Biblical Education by Extension - see <http://www.beeworld.org/>

Leadership and Accountability (...continued)

- for a Matthew 9:37-38 vision for every believer, however busy, to be an effective disciplined worker for Jesus:

Seeing the people, Jesus felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. 'Matt 9:37-38

As a one-time farmer I would not dare send out un-skilled workers into my harvest field. They have to be trained first, and that takes time.

Sadly serious discipleship for all God's people seems to be historically the Great Omission in the West. One of the hallmarks of effective discipleship must surely be that of producing skilled workers for Jesus in all walks of life. The challenge for leadership is to have a vision as to how skilled and effective their people could become like Jesus' example with fishermen, a tax collector, a freedom fighter....

A renewed Biblical understanding is perhaps needed in that the equipping for service for God within the church and to the world outside also includes a cost factor.

Some of the most effective TEE discipleship programs I have witnessed in churches have been where the church leadership has a truly 1 Chron 12:23-38 style vision for Jesus, coupled with a real and contagious passion, yes passion, for responsible discipleship through TEE as a major part of church life; and, furthermore, where the leadership is able to actively communicate that vision and passion repeatedly .

The priority life-style requirements and cost of discipleship therefore needs to be understood and explained to each believer in such a way that demands a serious response from each rather than a cosy expectation. With discipleship comes cost.

Alfredo Cooper, a Chilean pastor, wrote one of the most helpful, challenging and practical TEE papers in this respect a few years ago. – Entitled PROGROMIN, in his most engaging style Alf, In his conviction that the whole church must be trained and mobilized to do the major work of ministry, stresses the importance within his church ministry to have:

1. A vision for growth
2. A structure for growth
3. Tools for growth

Over a number of years Alf has used the SEAN TEE material very effectively . Within a very disciplined and effective 6 year discipleship he defines four clear stages of church training each with clear *knowing*, *being* and *doing* goals that:

- Gives purpose and direction to Church discipleship
- Trains and mobilises most of the people
- Trains, mobilises, proves and produces leaders.
- Balances study and ministry in discipleship
- Gives a gauge to growth for life in the church

The Church needs the input of scholars. We in the TEE movement have so much reason to thank God for such men and women who, over the years, have brought together their scholastic skills to produce that amazing and effective international range of TEE courses available today. Perhaps, though, we need to re-think theological educational classification into “appropriate theological training” that demonstrate the value and urgent need for the service of all God's people, however humble, however busy.

The acid test of accreditation has surely to be the value that the actual churches place on the trained worker.
(Darryl Davis, *URBACAD*⁴)

Working in those early days with Tony Barratt was such an immense privilege for me. Remembering his passion and example, my concern is that the TEE movement is not drawn into an in-balance of academic requirement/expectancy/focus for pastoring and leadership that disqualifies the majority people, including those of more humble and artisan background, the kind of people that Jesus called originally and disciplined into such responsibility.

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⁴ URBACAD - URBan ACADemy, a training program for leadership development in local urban churches
- see <http://www.urbacad.org/>

Leadership and Accountability (...continued)

I have been so fortunate these last 25 years or so to have visited and witnessed some immensely effective TEE programmes and groups around the world . The people involved have taught me so much. I have witnessed at first hand exciting and imaginative cultural icing on the TEE cake in countries such as Nepal, Korea, Pakistan, Chile and Russia itself or other initiatives that strengthened the effectiveness of the TEE programme.

For example, among the latter Pauline and myself visited the URBACAD programme in New York and later the Portland, Oregon with the then director, Darryl Davis. Using the SEAN material URBACAD was not only strong on the elements of *home study*, *group dynamics* coupled with *practical assignments*, but furthermore, after completing LOC⁵ book 3 the URBACAD student, together with both his or her pastor and URBACAD group leader, undertook some carefully chosen ministry project as an additional and valuable component to his TEE training. Such projects could last up to three years.

It was great witnessing a group of Afro-Americans excitingly updating each other on their projects at a LOC 6 group meeting – then praying for each other in their project responsibilities before the “normal” group meeting began.

As you may be aware the first Chinese script translation of SEAN’s Abundant Life was one such URBACAD project.

I have also witnessed in Chile the rather well-healed congregation of Alf’ Cooper Los Condes church excitingly crowding around the large extended church notice board after a service to see which SEAN groups they would be assigned to at the start of their TEE academic year.

But, always, immensely precious to me are those TEE-linked testimonies that I sent Graham, especially those of the Russian street cleaner, that Korean general, the Turkish pastors’ group assignment, John Ivinson’s Cockney lady group leader and Zareena, that courageous Uighur girl .

Matt 28 19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

TEE and the Scythe

When seeking for grant aid from the West to help TEE development in the East., I have experienced a continuing problem where very few Western church advisers to grant trust understood the methodology, aims and objectives of popular-level TEE, or had any working experience of such.

It seems that most Western Bible Colleges, and even missionary colleges, have until recently failed to provide training or experience in grass root TEE – mainly because the academic board and potential trainers did not understand the goals and are themselves untrained in the methodology . .

Whilst Stephen Cho was with us a few years ago I proudly showed him my scythe, a so-called “simple” or “primitive” agricultural tool . I was mentored in its use by

“experts “ in the late 1950s - experienced farm workers with gnarled hands who knew how to bend their backs during the heat of the day. My scythe is my pride and joy. Until recently I could cut long grass with it faster and better than someone using an electric trimmer

However, if anyone wished to borrow my beloved scythe my question would be, “do you really know how to use one?”

Any reply such as, “Don’t worry, I have a degree on agriculture” or claims to a doctorate or even being principal of an agricultural college would not satisfy me . I would need to be assured that the potential borrower had good sound practical experience in both using a scythe and keeping it sharp.

I have sadly witness TEE fail in churches because the leaders assume that because they have accredited theological training and qualifications, they are qualified to introduce and lead basic TEE groups.



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⁵ LOC - SEAN's flagship program, The Life of Christ, a six-part series of studies based on Matthew's Gospel

Leadership and Accountability (...continued)

I do so hope that in the near future Bible colleges and seminaries will include within their curriculum the vision and good practical experience in grass-root TEE - especially in one particular country that desperately needs the passion, the understanding, the need for effective discipleship within its churches - the UK .

Too many young people, including from reputed “live churches” are dropping away from the faith when at university through lack of effective preparation and discipleship.

The Bishop’s Plea

A few years ago in England I was invited to be a delegate at a consultation on the problems facing rural areas; the pastoral needs associated Christian responsibility. During the working lunch I found myself seated next to a senior Bishop of the Church of England. . I was a little uneasy finding myself seated next to such a leading cleric, but he seemed happy to want to engage me in conversation. I have a feeling that he mistook me for a fellow bishop. I have been mistaken for many different people in my time, but this was a first (and only) as a bishop

“Do you know,” he observed, “I am finding it harder and harder to understand and accommodate the new ordinands for the pastoral ministry in my diocese. How do you cope!”

I paused, about to carefully explain that in the wisdom and providence of God I was not a bishop; but he immediately continued, for his question had been rhetorical.

“For example,” he continued, “their immediate priorities seem to be that they must have computers, data bases, mobiles and travel allowance in order to do undertake their parochial responsibilities.. Whatever happened to good old fashioned shoe-leather in visiting and knowing your flock?”

Again, the question was still rhetorical~

“The in-thing is for all to expect me to send them on some special additional training to supplement their time at university and seminary,” he continued, “I am meant to produce some advanced course for them out of my hat (or mitre). If you were in my place, what sort of course would you insist on them having before being let loose on their unsuspecting flocks?”

This time the question was direct and required an answer.

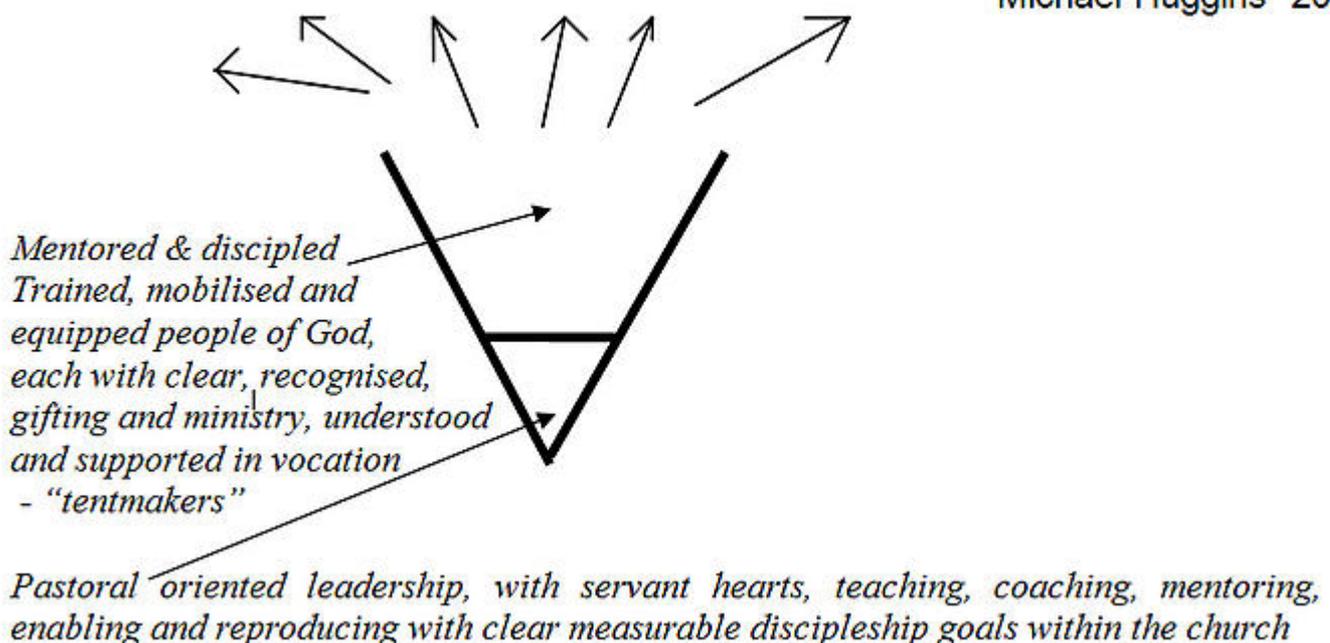
I looked at that good man, with his firm craggy jaw and the lines of years of responsibility etched across his face, and I remembered my own dear father and then Jim Miller, the governor and master-shepherd.

“I would insist that they work for a season on a farm with sheep under an experienced full-time shepherd, ” I replied.

He looked at me, at first surprised, but then realized that I was serious.

After some moments of silence he thoughtfully responded. “You are right, absolutely right. You have hit the nail on the head. The church today lacks “shepherds”. If only I could persuade my Diocesan Board of Education if only....”

Michael Huggins 2015



Cry Mercy

Posted on 9/08/2005 by Dr. John Yates - <http://cross-connect.net.au/cry-mercy-2/>

Introduction

Whilst I am aware of various groups starting up to pray for revival in Australia, I see an essential ingredient missing in the prayer life of the Church; I am not hearing deep cries to God for mercy. This deep spiritual lack first came to my notice when I was working on the beatitudes, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matt 5:7). I was forcefully struck by the fact that whenever needy people were around Jesus they feely cried to him for mercy, and were always delivered.

A pagan mother comes, "crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."", Christ sets her daughter free (Matthew 15:22 ESV); a distressed father appeals, ""Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.", the boy is delivered of the demonic presence (Matt 17:15); a blind beggar cannot be restrained, "he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!""; straightaway Christ restores his sight (Mark 10:47-48).

It is easy to ask God for help, it is humbling to cry out for mercy. Of the various people I have discussed this with only two friends immediately replied that they had cried out to God for mercy. One when he was in danger of death through cancer and the other when she broke her neck and faced the prospect of paraplegia. Faced with great misery a natural human response is to cry out to God for mercy. Our nation desperately needs cries to God for mercy.

At a drug seminar the other week the CEO of the Australian Crime Commission mentioned that 7% of Australian population over 14 have used amphetamines.

The "Ice" epidemic is impacting everywhere. I ran into a lawyer with front line services in the South West and they are seeing teenage boys who travel down there to take drugs and get so affected by crystal meth that they don't even know where they are. The newspaper yesterday cites a UWA revealing that half a million Australian children (10% of total age group) are suffering from mental health problems (Weekend Australian 8-9/8/15 p.12). Despite our culture's addiction to happiness, seeds of misery are deeply rooted in our mainstream way of life.

Then we have the crisis of sexual sin in the Church. The front page of The West Australian for the 30th July had a huge heading EVIL 8, at the centre of the page was the

photo of a discredited pastor, preacher and head of Prison Fellowship in W.A. exposed as a member of the paedophile ring. With so much sin and need about us there must be some deep spiritual problem amongst God's people holding them back from crying out for mercy. This sermon is an attempt to address this question and provoke cries for mercy across the Church.

A God of Mercy

Throughout the Bible God defines himself as merciful; This mercy is especially available to suffering sinners; "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions....The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.... as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.... his mercy is over all that he has made" (Ps 51:1; 103:8, 12).

The prophet Micah testifies that God actually likes to show mercy; "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy." (Mic 7:18 cf. Isa 30:18). The Lord delights to show merciful because he is a true Father; speaking of restoration from

It is easy to ask God for help, it is humbling to cry out for mercy ... Our nation desperately needs cries to God for mercy.

Babylonian exile using language that connects mercy with his fatherhood; "With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back...for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn." (Jer 31:9 ESV). The same message is equally pronounced in the New Testament.

Zechariah prophesies that the ministry of his son John the Baptist will be marked by a special sort of mercy; "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God," (Luke 1:76-78).

Jesus directly defines his Father in terms of mercy; "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:35-36 ESV).

These texts linking the mercy of God to his Fatherhood remind me of an incident in the life of Charles Spurgeon. "When I was racked some months ago with pain, to an extreme degree, so that I could no longer bear it without crying out, I asked all to go from the room, and leave me

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Cry Mercy (...continued)

alone; and then I had nothing I could say to God but this, 'Thou art my Father, and I am thy child; and thou, as a Father, art tender and full of mercy. I could not bear to see my child suffer as thou makest me suffer, and if I saw him tormented as I am now, I would do what I could to help him, and put my arms under him to sustain him. Wilt thou hide thy face from me, my Father? Wilt thou still lay on a heavy hand, and not give me a smile from thy countenance?' ... so I pleaded, and I ventured to say, when I was quiet, and they came back who watched me: 'I shall never have such pain again from this moment, for God has heard my prayer.' I bless God that ease came and the racking pain never returned." Such is the mercy of our Father.

Looking for Mercy

The scriptures are punctuated with people looking to him for mercy; "Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us." (Psalm 123:2 ESV). The distressed call out unhesitatingly, "Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.... Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body!" (Pss 6:2; 31:9). This stress on the reality of divine mercy is true in even the most unlikely of situations. In the midst of Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians the writer of Lamentations pronounces; "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23).

Positive as they are, all these scriptural examples share a feature our "tall poppy cutting" (egalitarian) Australian culture detests. To cry to God for mercy means accepting that we are in a radically unequal relationship and are wholly dependent on his power. Of our hatred of submission to a sovereign power only Jesus can deliver us. The deepest mystery of the mercy of God is found in Christ; not only does Jesus act and teaches about mercy in an embodied way, he will become the greatest receiver of the Father's mercy

The Mercy of the Cross

In my introduction I gave multiple examples of how Jesus always responded positively to cries for mercy. He also taught how crying for mercy opens the door to salvation. "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust,

adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified before God, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'" (Luke 18:9-14). To the arrogant religious authorities Christ spoke prophetic words; "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" (Hos 6:6; Matt 9:13; Mark 12:33), and to the self-righteous Pharisees; "you have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness." (Matt 23:23). The self-sufficient shunned Jesus but the desperate flocked around him to receive divine mercy.

Even non-Christians can accept that Jesus was a great religious teacher and miracle worker who relieved human suffering.

Something much deeper must be unlocked if we are to be overcome by the depths of the divine mercy. The mystery of God's mercy is only fully unveiled when we ask why was there no mercy for Jesus when he died so painfully on the cross? Where is the mercy of the Father when Christ cries out in utter misery, "'My God...why have you forsaken me?'" (Mark 15:34).

Martin Luther unforgettably said that on the cross "Christ should become the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, and blasphemer, that ever was or could be in the world.... Christ was charged with the sins of all men". An ancient Christian theological tradition maintains that the root sin behind all other sins is pride; pride drives a sense of self-sufficiency which refuses to call out on God for mercy (1 Tim 3:6). From the time of Adam and Eve suffering human beings have insanely refused to swallow their pride and plead with God for mercy. The proud cannot receive God's mercy.

For us, Jesus must become like such a proud person (2 Cor 5:21). In his substitutionary sacrifice on the cross Jesus occupies the position of the most proud man, a person who cannot receive the mercy of the Lord. To be shut out from the totality of God's mercy is what it meant for Jesus to fully bear God's wrath (Rom 3:25). But Jesus did not remain in this alien situation of absolute misery completely contradictory to the true character of his all merciful Father. He was plunged into this merciless condition so that on our account he might receive the full riches of his Father's mercy by resurrection from the dead (Eph 2:4-5; 1 Pet 1:3).

(continued next page)

Cry Mercy (...continued)

Come to Mercy

The apostles understand that in coming to Christ we come to unbounded mercy (Hos 1:6; 1 Pet 2:10). Paul unapologetically extols the wealth of God's mercy; "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ...following the prince of the power of the air... and were by nature children of wrath...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—" (Eph 2:1-5). God has "saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy" (Tit 3:5); "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope" (1 Pet 1:3). In describing deliverance from a crisis that he thought would kill him Paul uses the strongest language; "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Cor 1:3-4).

The major motivating force of the Christian life is an experience of the mercy of God; "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1). A great deception is holding back the Church of God in Australia from crying out for and receiving mercy; this deception has to do with shame.

Unashamed

I was speaking with someone recently who had just returned from caring for orphans in Cambodia, he was deeply struck by the little children's prayers which were so "unashamed". Then a friend who has done a lot of diving down the South West described several situations where he saw people washed overboard having all their clothes stripped off by the waves, but as they cried out to be rescued from drowning they were totally unselfconscious of their nakedness. It is this attitude of unselfconsciousness that Jesus applauds in his parable of the man who comes to a friend's door at midnight seeking bread for a guest and is initially refused; "But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence." (Luke 11:8). When need conquers shame men and women openly cry to God for mercy. Our culture is spiritually suffocating under the fear of embarrassment; especially young people e.g.

Facebook bullying/shaming. Christ has conquered this fear.

Hebrews tells us, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:2). In the ancient world crucifixion was no ordinary form of punishment, for the Romans it was reserved for the most wretched and miserable of criminals; the statesman Cicero says; "But the executioner, the veiling of heads, and the very word 'cross,' let them all be far removed from not only the bodies of Roman citizens but even from their thoughts, their eyes, and their ears." For the Jew crucifixion meant to be cast out of the covenant community of Israel (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13).

Jesus however utterly despised the shame of public nakedness neediness wretchedness and rejection which crucifixion was designed to bring upon the crucified. He was not ashamed to cry out loudly to his Father for help and he received mercy in the time of his need by resurrection from the dead (Heb 5:7-8 cf. 4:16).

As I was praying this morning I sensed the Lord speaking to me about the dominant spirituality over the Australian Church. Without a doubt, our most numerically successful churches are "Happiness Churches", churches whose ministries are very skilfully designed to get people happy and keep them happy. Such churches

are not like Jesus who came down from heaven to live in the midst of human miseries and embraced all our miseries on the cross so that we might receive the mercy of his Father. Of course not all Australian churches are happiness churches, but nearly all suffer from an independent prideful streak that makes us too ashamed to cry out to God for mercy. But such mercy is not for our personal consumption. As recipients of God's mercy we are called to show others mercy.

Showing Mercy

The so-called "Mother Teresa of Cairo", Mamma Maggie, was a wealthy university professor lecturing the elite in Egypt. One day she visited "garbage city" outside Cairo; somewhere I have been there. "Garbage city" is a place where thousands of Coptic Christians live marginalised existences recycling trash in an environment without clean water, schools, churches or healthcare and a very high infant mortality rate. She found the sights and smells there so overpowering that she spent three days nauseated in bed in a dark room asking God, how if he was a God of mercy and of love

(continued next page)

Cry Mercy (...continued)

how could he let this happen. "I asked him: 'How can you see a human being living in such conditions?' Then later, when I was reading the Bible and waiting for God to talk to me, I felt that he was saying that it was my turn to do something about it." Since then she has started St Stephen's School and charity with 90 centres in Egypt that have assisted tens of thousands of needy people. This is a clear practical example about the outworking of divine mercy. At a deeper spiritual level however we need to recognise that Mamma Maggie's trauma at the miserable condition of the slum dwellers in "garbage city" was a share in the sufferings of the cross, and her actions of mercy to the suffering a manifestation of the power of the resurrection (cf. Phil 3:10). Mercy towards those in physical need is fairly straightforward, but God calls to have an attitude of mercy towards the morally repellent.

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." (Jude 20-23). Who are the polluted people in today's Australia that might be candidates for such fearful mercy? In a merciful Church we might expect to hear earnest prayers for gays, paedophiles, abortionists, unwashed drunken aboriginal people, drug addicts, refugees and ordinary idolatrous Australians. A Christ-like Church will in fact delight in showing mercy. Revival will not come to this

sort of Church; such a Church is already in revival.

Conclusion

Jesus promised; "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matt 5:7). God is faithful, but I am not seeing a tide of mercy flowing over our nation today. James seriously testifies, "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy." then thankfully he presses on, "Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:13). But the triumph of mercy over judgement only comes in the way of Jesus Christ. There can be no great deliverance from the suffering of sin and wickedness in our nation until we identify with the One who identified with the miseries of humanity by becoming a human being and dying on the cross so that he might be raised from the dead to pour out the riches of the mercies of his Father. We should be crying out that God will have mercy, first of all,

on a Church that refuses to cry out to him for mercy.

I started with a reference to revival, so let me finish with a famous Old Testament text loved by revivalists; "O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy." (Hab 3:2). Jesus Christ died for our miserable pride and has risen from the dead to make us unashamed in the face of God and of men. Let us not hold back in crying out to God for mercy, first in the Church and in our homes, then in the parks, schools and streets of our nation. Nothing less than this can save us from the tide evil swamping our land.

A Christ-like Church will in fact delight in showing mercy. Revival will not come to this sort of Church; such a Church is already in revival.

A conference that aims to edify the Church through teaching based on the Bible in response to the current proposals for Same Sex Marriage.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE AND THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 10AM TO 3PM
AT NEW LIFE CITY CHURCH
329 ORRONG RD KEWDALE

cross-connect.net.au

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS:

- REV. DR. JOHN YATES: TRINITY AND EQUALITY
- DR. AUGUSTO ZIMMERMANN: ISSUES AND LAW
- PS. STEVE McALPINE: CULTURE AND CHURCH
- REV. ALISON GILCHRIST: COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

INQUIRIES YATESONE@IPRIMUS.COM.AU



TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL PRAYER NETWORK

Bringing the Regions together

Combining with



GLOBAL PRAYER CONNECTIONS
Bringing the Nations together

Bringing people - Communities and Nations together to

Raise up a 'Kingdom Prayer Army' across the world.

This network aims to:

- Link and support prayer groups as well as individual prayer warriors in Australia.
- Provide teaching and personal support to individuals as well as prayer groups.
- Provide help and training for Intercessors, sharing teachings and prophecies.
- Sharing prayer requests and answers to prayer through confidential prayer chains.
- Linking with and supporting other prayer ministries in Australia and overseas.

Special passion for UNITY AND TRANSFORMATION of people and communities.

Praying for the HARVEST and THE NEXT GENERATION.

Raising prayer support for Schools, RI, Chaplaincy, City Women and Men in the City.

IF YOU WANT TO BE A KINGDOM WARRIOR - PLEASE CONTACT ME

Annie Cathcart anniesprayernet@gmail.com

GOD'S POWER IS UNLEASHED – WHEN GODS PEOPLE PRAY

The dream of this network was born in 1973 - this is my story of how it happened

When the Lord called me to follow Him it was with the words “Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and all his righteousness, and EVERYTHING ELSE will be added unto you“, and that has been so true of my story.

I came to Australia as an 18 year old girl in 1957, and found the Lord through working for the Salvation Army in 1962. In that year my parents went back to Denmark, and I was naturalized as an Australian, gave my heart to the Lord for full time service, and became a “Salvation Army Soldier for life.”

I married a very “Aussie” husband in 1964, and after completing 2 years of training in Sydney we became Officers (pastors) of the “Defenders of the Faith Session” in 1965. For 20 years we ministered in various Corps (Churches)

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Raise up a 'Kingdom Prayer Army' (...continued)

while raising our family of 5 children(4 boys and one girl), and in 1986 we were sent to Toowoomba to look after the Army's home for "Intellectually Challenged Adults" Horton Village in Curtis street. We fell in love with this city, but after nearly 5 years we were appointed to a nursing home in Sydney, which was followed by 4 very special years working with Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation on a farm in Morisset near Newcastle in NSW.

In 1998 we had to retire 10 years early because of my husband's ill health, and we returned to live in Toowoomba for good. My husband suffered with very bad diabetes, and it was predicted that he would be in a wheel chair by the end of the year. Fortunately this did not happen, but he did have a stroke, lost some sight and became an amputee in 2003, and the Lord finally called him home in July 2012.

I have always been a woman of prayer since I became a Christian, but because of my husband's illness, prayer became the most important thing in my life.

I became a member of the Toowoomba City Prayer Network in 2001 and I was also invited to attend the City intercessors meeting. In that same year we started a prayer meeting for the needy people of our City at the SA Crisis Accommodation, and for 4 years I have been a prayer partner for the "All Nations Team." In 2010 I became the leader of our City Intercessors meeting which is now regional as well. Here we pray for our Churches, Schools, the Council, our Region, as well as other important issues of our City and Nation. The aim of this meeting is to bring the Body of Christ together in Unity, so we can support each other more.

This dream was planted in my heart in 1973 while we were stationed in Kingaroy. We had a wonderful working relationship between the different churches, and as the Body of Christ we ministered to the outlying country areas by holding cottage meetings on different farms as far as 50 km away. We had a Radio Sunday school operating, prayer meetings at the public schools, as well as a "Prayer Clock" where intercessors covered the many combined initiatives in the city, and our centre was the Christian Bookshop.

The secret behind the success of this amazing venture was a weekly Intercessors meeting, where we were able to "Bathe each event and need in prayer". People were being transformed, and I saw firsthand the amazing "Power of prayer when The Body of Christ is working together.", and that is what is happening here in Toowoomba as well, because as Max Lucado once said:

GOD'S POWER IS UNLEASHED - WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

Kingdom Prayer Network

The network was born in 2008 as 'Toowoomba Regional Prayer Network' (TRPN) being an extension of the 'Toowoomba City Prayer Network' which commenced in 1998 after 24 years of prayer for unity and transformation in Toowoomba. The aim was 'To rise up a Prayer Army across our Region'. This has happened in the last 7 years by the Lord direction, and it is becoming an ever extending network so the aim is now to rise up a 'Kingdom Prayer Army' across the world.

These are the main areas of prayer, please let me know if you want to go on any of these lists:

- **Kingdom Prayer Warriors.** For people wanting to see God's kingdom established on earth.
- **Teaching on Prayer and intercession.** For people who wants to grow in the knowledge of God.
- **Prayer for the next generation,** Prayer for Youth, Schools and Chaplains.
- **Community prayer groups.** For people who want to link with other believers to pray.
- **Global prayer matters.** Mainly personal requests and special prayer events from different countries.

For National and World issues please look up these networks:

- **Australian prayer network (APN) apn@ausprayernet.org.au Brian Pickering.** Important information about prayer for Australia and a weekly update on world situations.
- **Australian Indigenous prayer network kschlyder1@dodo.com.au Kris Schlyder.** Information about Aborigine and National matters, Politics, Weather, Israeli & NZ & USA prayer matters.
- **Canberra Declaration www.canberradeclaration.org.au Warwick March.** Brisbane Canberra Declaration Rep David & Marilyn Rawsome dmrowsome@bigpond.com. Prayer for Government and National political matters, as well as National prayer events. Also linking people and prayer groups.

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Raise up a 'Kingdom Prayer Army' (...continued)

- **Brisbane Business Matters** businessblessings@yahoo.com.au Wesley Leake. Prayer retreats and special business seminars and other teaching. Linking people in Brisbane.
- **National Alliance of Christian Leaders (NACL)** nacl@netwit.net.au Excellent coverage of Australian and overseas news from an Australian perspective.

Other Australian prayer networks:

- **Ipswich Ruth & Hans Booij Ipswich Awakening** info@ipswichawakening.com.au
- **MacKay Martie Murray- MacKay Prayer network** martiemurray@gmail.com
- **Goondiwindi Goondi Prayer network Petra Cranney** letspraygoondi@gmail.com.
- **Australian House of Prayer for All nations (AHOP) Jenny Hagger** prayaid@picknowl.com.au
- **Melbourne Sue Tinworth Partners in prayer** www.partnersinprayer.org.au
- **Sydney Lillian & Bjorn Schmid -Transforming Sydney** www.transformingsydney.com.au
- **Canberra Jamie Pryor - Canberra House of Prayer for all Nations** www.c-hop.org.au

To My faithful TRPN members.

The Toowoomba Regional Prayer Network is now 7 years old, and it has grown so much I have found it necessary to change the focus a little. I am kept so busy with prayer meetings both in our region and further afield that I feel the Lord is challenging me to keep those as well as the next generation my main focus.

I find it difficult to keep up with the whole world situation, and there is so much information out there that I feel I need to concentrate on bringing people back to basic teaching on the power of prayer as I know that this is I the main key to the world situation. The Bible clearly tells us that we are living in the last days, but also the days of the Harvest, so never mind how dark the world situation looks **GOD IS STILL IN CHARGE, AND HE IS CHALLENGING US TO BRING HIS KINGDOM INTO THIS WORLD.**

Christ has no hands but our hands **BUT OUR HANDS**, to do **HIS** work today.

He has no feet but **OUR** feet to lead men in His way;

He has no tongue but **OUR** tongue to tell me how He died;

He has no help but **OUR HELP** to bring men to His side.

It is amazing that the Creator of the universe has conditioned himself to work through us HIS PEOPLE – BUT THIS IS TRUE, and because we are all so 'Time Poor', I feel I need to challenge people to **TAKE TIME WITH GOD**. Be still and **KNOW** that I am God" (Ps 46: 10) I also feel we need to get together to pray and support each other in a more personal confidential way, and this can be done in person or through emails. That is why I am adamant about small groups and bringing neighbourhoods and cities together in unity so **HIS KINGDOM** can grow in our nation and the world.

From this week on I will send limited information out about national and political situations, but concentrate on **'Raising a Prayer Army for the next Generation'**. We have had many prophecies stating that they are to be the 'Joshua and Caleb Generation' that will see a breakthrough in our nation and the world. They need all the prayer support we can give them and I am finding that they are very glad to have us 'older people' aboard. One student told a year 12 teacher that: "He just wanted to follow Jesus, and that she could come aboard on his surfboard." This is where we need to be, supporting and working with them.

I will still keep people in Toowoomba and our own region informed about special happening and answers to prayer, but please look at the new 'Kingdom Prayer Army information' and tell me what area your passion for prayer lies. You may already be on the Kingdom Warrior list, but I would like to know if you would join in any of the other areas, particularly the youth as I am hoping to set up more prayer support for the schools next year.



(photo by Margaret Santone)

Remember GOD'S POWER IS UNLEASHED – WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

Annie Cathcart - Regional and Global Prayer Coordinator - anniesprayernet@gmail.com

MAKE YOUR OWN TV COMMERCIAL !!!

By Katherine (Katie) Morris, B.Ed, Dip Hosp Mgmt

Some say I follow Apollos, some say I follow Paul, but what is important is we all follow Christ (1 Cor 1:12). Some people seem to replace the word Apollos or Paul with the name of their church, and forget that ultimately we all have the same purpose which is to see Christ glorified, especially in our nation.

It is part of the Great Commission to share the Good News, but we find it difficult to do this singularly because of increasing opposition amongst other reasons. We could do it far more effectively as the Body of Christ. No part can say "I don't need you" (1 Cor 12:21).

No single denomination is available on every street corner available to every passer-by. And how do we reach those in remote communities with no close proximity to church at all?

The mainstream media is arguably the most efficient way to reach the majority of homes in the least amount of time.

And so we developed the concept of a commercial outlining the strengths and history of Christianity which would help to strengthen public support, encourage Christians, and motivate people back to Jesus.

No single church or Christian organisation can afford to do something of this scale on their own. If they can, they haven't done it, with the closest and most recent effort being a united effort by the "Jesus. All about Life" campaign in 2009, which we rejoiced to see on television.

I was informed that the "Jesus. All About Life" Campaign reached millions of dollars, and after speaking to a number of organisations that have a similar focus (to see Australia again acknowledge its Christian basis) everything was beginning to feel a little "Bigger than Ben Hur".

But is that what it really needs to be?

God can do great things with tiny seeds of faith (Matt 17:20, Luke 17:6), and can use the faithful to conquer armies (as He did with David and Goliath, or Gideon). We need to be resourceful and use our gifts and talents collectively. But if you can't, may I encourage you to step out in faith and do it on your own as God provides the means?

And so stepping out in faith in 2013 I discovered *Christian Media Productions*, a wonderful group of people committed to sharing Christianity via Television and the internet. Together with a group of volunteers, we produced our 1st commercial, which was 3 minutes in length (view at [link](#)). It stalled as various stumbling blocks got in the way – it was too long, and the first FreeView channel lost the ad.

But this year, and as I write, the commercial is currently before two television networks, one in Wollongong, the other in Western Australia.

Did we need millions?

No.

In fact you could do this exercise on practically any budget, especially if you have someone in your congregation with professional media experience. But if you don't there is still a way.

Maybe you have a similar vision, to send some Christian messages of faith or advertise some Bible verses on FreeView TV where you aren't "preaching to the converted", but getting in to everyday houses around the country at a grassroots level. Maybe you don't know how to go about it.

Here is what I learnt in the process.

Step 1 Christian Media Productions can help you put an ad together. The shorter the ad, the more likely it is to be screened and the cheaper the campaign. Stick to 15 seconds, 30 seconds, 60 seconds, make sure you have it scripted with a clear vision of what it is you want to achieve. Try something fairly timeless so you can reuse it. This step cost me approximately \$1500 for a 60 second ad, and is totally negotiable, depending on the level of filming, location, how much work needs to be done etc. If you like my ad, you can use it for free provided you are Christian, or sponsor it so it can be aired at my next goal of Queensland God willing.

Step 2 The ad needs to be "cleared" by CAD, (Commercials Advice) an organisation that will classify your commercial as suitable for TV and give you a number that you will need later.

Step 2/3 You will need to find an intermediary who books the slots for you and delivers a "package" of ad spaces depending on your budget. Regional is much cheaper than metropolitan, but with a lesser audience. But if you, like me, have heard that a single ad spot costs \$6000, you may be staggered to know they can start from as little as \$50. In some cases, where your budget may be around \$1000, some places will kindly throw in free spots with your package! You decide if you want to pay for Prime Time (more like \$250 regional) or what shows you enjoy watching. If you choose \$50 slots, you might get 20 slots for \$1000.

Step 4 You will need to ensure the ad will work on the big screen. You will need to join either Dubsat Media Pro or similar to play with the sound, video and a "clapper". Allow about \$200 for CAD clearance, joining Dubsat, smaller corrections with audio (about \$44) and other "unforseens". If you are a larger church and want to do this as an outreach in your local area, this should be affordable.

So what are you waiting for? When you think about the range of different gifts and talents in a church, if someone like me can get this far with no media experience and being fairly technologically illiterate, imagine what you could do by the Grace of God! It's an exciting and rewarding way to reach people at a grassroots level.

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



THE AUSSIE CHRISTIAN SONG COUNTDOWN 2015

Aussie Christian Gigs was proud to present the Aussie Christian Song Countdown 2015, which brought together an amazing array of Christian bands and artists of all genres and ages from across Australia.

Congratulations to the songs and artists that made the Final Top 20 Aussie Christian Song Countdown 2015, Steph Unger, Malachi John, Harmony in Worship, Jake Berry, Animal Throwdown, Belinda Tiggell, Myshon Kyd, Isabella Smith, Kristen Leigh, T.J. Hall, The Updraft Imperative, Dallas Atkins, Nalini Tranquim, The Naddiks, Vee & Josh, Jacob Long, Aperture, The Quick & The Dead, Lisa King, and Noralyn.

Special congratulations to the top 3 songs and artists of Steph Unger, Malachi John and Harmony in Worship. Special thanks must go to our prizes sponsors of Queens Road Studio, PavMusic and Treen Street Designs.

Full details on the Aussie Christian Song Countdown 2015

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/aussie-christian-gigs/aussie-christian-song-countdown-2015/1082037705157172>

THE FINAL TOP 3 AUSSIE CHRISTIAN SONG COUNTDOWN 2015.

1. **Steph Unger** from Brisbane, with her song, *Light it Up*, wins 5+ hours of business/career mentoring with Ian Pav of *PavMusic*. <http://pavmusic.com/music-business-assessment> which Includes an in-depth analysis of your responses to an initial questionnaire covering all aspects of your business and then 2-3 sessions to put into place detailed pathways and give you the extra tools to move forward in your career within the music industry.
2. **Malachi John** from Tasmania, with his song, *The Adoption*, wins *Treen Street Designs* will provide the graphic design for an album Jewel case insert (4 pages – front & back) + CD artwork <https://www.facebook.com/TreenStreetDesigns>
3. **Harmony in Worship** from Sydney, with their song, *For Your Love*, wins next single mixed by *Jake Nauta @ Queens Road Studio*. www.queensroadstudio.com

Thanks to our sponsors of PavMusic, Treen Street Designs and Queens Road Studio for providing these prizes, and their support of the music industry .

THE FINAL AUSSIE CHRISTIAN SONG COUNTDOWN 2015.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Light It Up, Steph Unger Music, Brisbane QLD,
• Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvhjcrww3cE
• Website : www.facebook.com/StephUngerMusic | 6. Chid of promise, Belinda Tiggell
• Listen: https://soundcloud.com/btm-7/child-of-promise-belinda-tiggell
• Website: www.facebook.com/BelindaTigellMinistries |
| 2. The Adoption, Malachi John, Tasmania
• Listen: http://malachijohn.bandcamp.com/track/the-adoption
• Website: www.facebook.com/malachijohnmusic | 7. You been told, Myshon Kyd, Brisbane, Queensland
• Listen: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6bR_sc5W6q4
• Website: Facebook.com/MyshonKyd |
| 3. For Your Love, Harmony in Worship, Sydney
• Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t6uTWdVoiY
• Website: https://www.facebook.com/Harmony-In-Worship-33365526578/ | 8. Benevolent, Isabella Smith, Brisbane
• Listen: https://soundcloud.com/izzy-151/benevolent
• Website: https://www.facebook.com/isabella.smith.5437923 |
| 4. Waiting Room, Jake Berry, Sydney
• Listen: http://jakeberrymusic.net/track/waiting-room
• Website: facebook.com/jakeberrypage | 9. Going to heaven, Kristen Leigh, Newlyn Victoria
• Listen: https://youtu.be/LOIiwkIXSY
• Website: https://www.facebook.com/kristen.leigh.7777i |
| 5. Sovereign, Animal Throwdown, Gladstone/ QLD
• Listen: https://animalthrowdown.bandcamp.com/track/sovereign-2
• Website: https://www.facebook.com/AnimalThrowdown/ | 10. Under Your Wings, T.J. Hall, Sydney, NSW
• Listen: http://www.noisetrade.com/beard.../under-your-wings-psalm-61 |

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THE AUSSIE CHRISTIAN SONG COUNTDOWN 2015 (...continued)

- Website: facebook.com/tjhallmusic
- 11. I Believe, The Updraft Imperative, Brisbane, QLD
 - Listen: <http://youtu.be/1PgvJaGkykc>
 - Website: www.facebook.com/theupdraftimperative
- 12. Would you do it, Dallas Atkins, Canberra
 - Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmRYwfu_Ens&feature=youtu.be
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/dallas.atkins>
- 13. As You Are, Nalini Tranquim
 - Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvEII4W9R2M>
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/nalini.tranquim/>
- 14. Into Your Arms / The Naddiks Music / Canberra /
 - Listen: <https://soundcloud.com/the-naddiks/05-into-your-arms>
 - Website: https://www.facebook.com/thenaddiks/?hc_location=ufi
- 15. RAIN, Vee & Josh, Melb/Vic
 - Listen: <http://youtu.be/6t7eWyH2usw>
 - Website: www.facecook.com/veeandjosh
- 16. Won't Hide It, Jacob Long (Music), Townsville, QLD
 - Listen: www.youtube.com/jacoblongmusic
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/jacoblongmusic/>
- 17. I AM, Aperture, Melbourne
 - Listen: <https://www.facebook.com/276959199006578/videos/vb.276959199006578/689768054392355/?type=2&theater>
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Aperture-276959199006578/>
- 18. War, The Quick & The Dead, Glenrowan, Victoria
 - Listen: <https://soundcloud.com/the-naddiks/05-into-your-arms>
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/theQuickntheDead>
- 19. Risk, Lisa King, Shellharbour, NSW
 - Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_4o4eESUAs
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/LisaKingpage>
- 20. Masquerade, Noralyn, Brisbane Qld
 - Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCXIHTTrXXs>
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/NoralynMusic>

For further information on Aussie Christian Gigs see www.facebook.com/acglive

Radio Interviews and Media Interviews available, which can include artists.

For media enquiries, contact:

John Grinsell, Aussie Christian Gigs
 Email: info@aussiechristiangigs.com.au
www.facebook.com/acglive
 or artists directly



The Christian Refugee Reath Kawang Nyak - One of Them and What this Campaign is all About

Translated from an article in Udfordringen (The Challenge) 4 June 23, 2015

<http://udfordringen.dk/2015/06/den-kristne-flygtning-reath-en-af-dem-valgkampen-handler-om/>

He grew up in three refugee camps and came to Denmark without his family. Now he wants to help Sudan's 64 tribes to live in peace.

When Reath was eight, his village in southern Sudan was attacked by Muslims. He was separated from his mother and did not see her again until 19 years later.

After seven years in various refugee camps, he came in 2001 to Denmark as a UN refugee and today attends Danish Free Church. The now 26-year-old Reath tells his story in the book 'Medmennesker på Menuen' (Neighbours on the Menu) which is soon to be published by Focal. The book about Reath and 19 other refugees freed will be released on June 12, 2015

Reath lived as a small child with his grandparents, where he had to learn to care for the animals. At seven, he moved back to his mother to go to school. His father had been a freedom fighter and died in the war two years earlier. Reath's uncle was head of the family, and he wanted Reath go to school, but then the Muslims came.

UN refugee camp trained child soldiers

"When I was eight, my mother, my younger siblings and I had to flee because our village was attacked by the Muslims where we lived in the Christian part of Sudan. It was dangerous in our city because of war between the government and the rebels.

"My world collapsed because we did not know where we would go to - we were forced to flee. We fled via Ethiopia, but I was separated from my mother and siblings, and I ended up in a refugee camp with my uncle.

"My uncle sent me to another refugee camp, where you could go to school. It turned out that it was a place where Sydsudanere said they "took the children to school", but in reality they took them to a training camp where they trained child soldiers and sent them to war. It was a UN refugee camp, but obviously the UN knew nothing about what going on "undercover" - in secret.

"Sydsudanere from the organization SPLA, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, trained the children and

"Today I feel like 60% Sudanese and 40% Dane - a kind of world figure. I can live in both countries, but I have a home in South Sudan, and I want to help my people" - Reath



talked about war and revenge.

"They brainwashed kids so they came to believe that war was the only solution. If I had stayed there, I also would be taken to the training camp. I went to school and worked in a tea shop to raise money for clothes and books", tells Reath.

Like being in prison

Over seven years Reath lived in three refugee camps. It was like being in prison with the same routine every day, he says. The boys in the camp bought chewing gum packages with pictures of the brightest football player from around the world. One day Reath getting managed to get the last picture he lacked - that of Danish Peter Schmeichel.

"It gave me the same feeling as a boy who has received a lot of confirmation money! So I had the booklet filled, and two years later I found out that I was going to Denmark. At the time, I thought that Denmark was part of England. For when I was told that I was going to Denmark, I only knew of Peter Schmeichel" says Reath. He came to Denmark as a UN refugee, i.e. one of them that the UN determined was in need of the most help.

Is this where Peter Schmeichel lives?

It was a culture shock to come to Denmark. Reath and four other refugee boys arrived in Copenhagen and was then driven to Gram in Jutland. They came from 38-degree heat to frost in Denmark and Reath wondered where all the people were. "The woman who was with us told us that people had to work the next morning and there was snow, which is why people were inside. I had never seen snow before, so I took my shoes off and tried to put my feet in it. From that day I have never taken my socks off - I sleep with socks on whether it's summer or winter" says Reath and he itemises several things he had to learn in Denmark:

"I came from a village to a refugee camp and so on. Some things you have to learn from scratch. How to turn on the light and how to switch it off, because I didn't know how electricity works."

(continued next page)

The Christian Refugee Reath - One of Them (...continued)

I began to forgive

Reath started going to school in Arnum and took several classes twice. On the way he learned Danish. But he had a difficult time and thought a lot about his family and the war. He did not get along well with the others in the school, started fighting, drinking and partying. But then he became ill with tuberculosis and was hospitalized.

“During the flight we drank dirty water, and it was because of that I was sick. I threw up blood and thought I was dying. When I was in the hospital, I told God that he should just let me die. For a whole year I did not go to school because of tuberculosis, but then I started at a new school. There I got a new start in life, for they accepted me as I was.

“At one time my family called me from Sudan and asked me when I’m going to come back. It motivated me that there are some who are waiting for me. I thought that there must be a plan that God had permitted me to live; I survived the war, starvation, wild animals, and disease.

“I came into a church community where there were some elderly people who gave me a little push in the right direction. As a child I thought it was my mother's fault that she did not find me. In 2008 I began to forgive both the Muslims in Sudan, friends from boarding school, my mother and myself. That same year, I spoke on the phone with my mother for the first time since the flight in 1994.”

As the oldest male in the family had Reath responsibility for his mother and six siblings in Sudan. So he took off time from his studies to work for a year so he could send money to the family. He then took social and health care helper education in Esbjerg and was received by good friends that he could share his story with.

Lecturer on Sudan Mark

“One of the boys fled to with said there was one that would help us if we wanted to tell our story to people, so we did. Later we met Svend and Uller, who said that we could be speakers with the aim of collecting money for the village we come from. But we wanted more: peace between the 64 tribes in our homeland.

“Therefore, we formed the organization Sudan Mark (www.sudanmark.dk), so we could work here with development in South Sudan. Sudan Mark is growing and we have produced various articles and given lectures. The money we receive goes to the association, and our partner spend the money on relief work in Sudan. I think there is one that has control of everything. When I get stuck, I go to God. Forgiveness comes from God, and I find out what is also happening with myself when I forgive.



“In April 2013, I visited my mother after being separated for 19 years. I can not describe how great an experience it was. I cried when we met in Jubba, the capital of South Sudan. From there we went together to the refugee camp in Kenya where she lived. I was there for only 18 days, but now we talk on the phone, and we talk about everything we can remember.

“I have a lot of contact with her today. My little sister fled with my uncle, and I have not seen her since we were separated from each other in the refugee camp, but I know she is in Australia, like my uncle.”

Want to make a difference

Reath talks about his joy at being in a free church, where people care for him. It was natural for him to become a part of the church, especially because he comes from a Christian family.

“It was an advantage for me quickly to get into a community. The Christian community does not expect more of you than you are able. There is no stress. We people need role models that we can see ourselves in, young and old alike.

“When I relax and look back, life in Denmark is fine, except that I miss my family. On Christmas Eve, where you need the family; I miss them and something is missing in my life” says Reath.

He stresses that it is hard to be in Denmark, because he is away from his family. This is also true for the other boys, he arrived with.

“All the problems I have been through, come back if I relax. The thoughts come back, so I sleep with music in my ears. I wake up without an alarm clock, and I cannot be alone; I always have to be involved (in something), because when you are in a situation where there is time to think back, then you do not want to. I hope things continue (to improve), I hope I come out of it.

“I want to make a difference. My goal is to make a difference. It does not matter where it is, I just want to see that I have done something for other people. My second goal is to get back to South Sudan, but right now South Sudan is in civil war.

I would like to work in an organization that works with Sudan, for I still know the language. Today I feel like 60% Sudanese and 40% Dane - a kind of world figure. I can live in both countries, but I have at home in South Sudan, and I want to help my people” says Reath.



Always Laboring Fervently, Solomon Islands Report

From Rick Rupp

Hello Everyone! I am very excited to announce that a Australian filming team has committed to arrive here at Fa'arau Solomon Islands to produce a documentary of how prayer has birthed the Fa'arau Well Drilling Business & Block Making Business and this large Orphan/Visitor House. This is a HUGE answer to prayer and will definitely paint a clear picture of our vision and accomplishments and will help us build our much needed support base! This Filming Team leader has a heart for the poor and is a Christian man wanting to see our model reproduced! So he initiated bringing his filming team as a gift to tell this God story. So join me in praying for this filming project!



On Nov 14 I took this photo of the Orphan/Visitor House that is under construction at Fa'arau, Solomon Islands. We are now needing to provide a gutter system to catch the rain water from this massive roof and several water tanks. Plus notice the stairway to the left of the building? With your donation of any size we could buy the materials to finish these unfinished projects! Would you consider sowing towards these much needed projects? If 80 people would each send www.CleanWater4Life.com a \$50.00 contribution the filming crew coming Nov 27 - Dec 2 could capture the Fa'arau construction team working on these projects! Thank you!

Benjamin Troyer and I continue to share the Jesus Film in villages without electricity and preach Jesus here! Friday night November 13 we took the Jesus Film to Ela Bible School and invited the people in a nearby village to join us. I'm guessing 55 -75 people showed up. I made time at the end for anyone to accept Christ as their Saviour but I think everyone already in attendance was a Christian. Although there was no response I know God will use the film because of many little children in attendance! Following the Jesus Film Pastor John stood up and said to everyone gathered....."No one here has any excuse with such a clear presentation of the Gospel Good News of Salvation provided by Jesus Christ."

Benjamin and I have scheduled several more Jesus Film showings in villages without electricity and to preach Jesus here! We are both having the time of our life. Thank you to everyone who is praying and partnering with us in this ministry!

The Fa'HOP Block making team made 600 "quality" concrete blocks this past week. And the Fa'HOP well team has finished installation of a well project for a local school with 700 students in desperate need of clean water. So next week they will install one of the submersible pumps we supplied them and test this new well. When the Australian Filming Team arrives we will capture much of this hard work on video.

To contribute our 2015 Solomon Islands projects make checks payable to **National Christian Foundation** and mail to my home address **11379 Calico Dr, Kansas City, Mo. 64137**. Write in the memo of your check (#1121806). Or use the donate button at www.rickrupp.com "PNG & Solomon Islands Well & Prayer Fund" with National Christian Foundation.

Here is my 2015 Solomon Islands 2 minute video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTo4A-blAQ>

(continued next page)

Always Laboring, PNG Team, Solomon Islands (...continued)

Islands Presentation link: <http://prezi.com/hpoltznztfp4d/faarau-house-of-prayer/>

Block Machine Slide Show link: <http://prezi.com/ivrsxgwxivvf/block-machine/>

Transforming the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea

Is about taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Solomon Islands & Papua New Guinea. Raising up kingdom well drilling businesses to fund the prayer movement. Our vision is to establish more Houses of Prayer, more medical clinics for the poor, more well drilling businesses, more solar light businesses. Let's empower more jobless men and women! Your \$25,000.00 contribution will send a well drill machine and Transform an entire Island! No more fetching water from rivers. Thousands of children can for the first time in their lives have clean drinking water in villages where there is no electricity or running water and be trained up to serve in local Houses of Prayer.

Notice you can give electronically! Anyone desiring to join my personal prayer and financial partnership team you may use IHOPKC eGiving link www.rickrupp.com/giving or please make checks out to **IHOPKC** (a tax deductible gift) otherwise just to Rick Rupp.

To make any size donation for my personal needs, you can mail checks:

Rick Rupp, 11379 Calico Dr, Kansas City, Mo 64137

What a beautiful TRANSFORMATION is taking place here in both Papua New Guinea & Fa'arau, Solomon Islands! First God established His 24/7 HOP back in 2009! Now we have Intercessors/Concrete Block Makers/Lumberjacks/Well Drillers!

Thank you partners! Together we are empowering the poor and oppressed! Wow!

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

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

God Establish Your Topeka House Of Prayer

Meditation: 2 Kings 2:10

In 2 Kings 2:9, Elisha wanted a double portion of the anointing that functioned upon his mentor, Elijah. So Elijah's response to this request: *He said, You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.* (2 Kings 2:10)

What did Elisha do?

He wouldn't let Elijah out of his sight. If the prophet went from Gilgal to Bethel, Elisha was right there. If he traveled to Jericho, or down to the Jordan river, Elisha stood nearby. He was unyielding in pursuit of that double portion mantle on his life.

The result of Elisha's pursuit of that double portion is clear according to 2 kings 2:15. "Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha...."

Because we truly want God's highest and best for our lives, then we should be willing like Elisha to make sacrifice to receive.

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

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

Join us as we stand in the gap for Topeka and surrounding cities in worship and intercession. The Topeka HOP meets at the Open Way Church at 200 NW Gordon St. 66608. THOP meets every Friday night from 5:00pm.- 10:00pm, Also on Friday nights we offer soaking prayer starting at 5pm- 6pm for those needing healing. This is a city wide prayer meeting and all churches are welcome. For information on how you can become trained or involved in participating on a worship team simply email me at rickrupp@ihopkc.org

Rick Rupp | NightWatch Dad

IHOPKC Intercessory Missionary

Director Of Topeka House Of Prayer

RickRupp@ihopkc.org

www.rickrupp.com

www.CleanWater4Life.com

BUSINESS OR BUSY-NESS?

By Rev David Cohen, Moringa Associates - www.moringa.org.au

How many of us are feeling more pressure on our time schedule than three or four years ago? When friends asked that question recently in their travels in Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of participants raise their hands. It seems that today very few families can make it financially without both partners working increasingly at extra jobs. Growing numbers of people also work a 24/7 work week where they are on call every waking minute. People aren't only spending more time at work they really are feeling more pressure on their family life, church involvement and spiritual life.

If you are among the exhausted then can we suggest that you join others who are followers of Jesus by taking your life back, with a new focus.

Christine and Tom Sine wrote a book that came out 3 months before the popular Purpose Driven Life. It was called Living on Purpose: Finding God's Best For Your Life. They wrote the book as a concerned response to the growing exhaustion that people increasingly seem to experience everywhere they go.

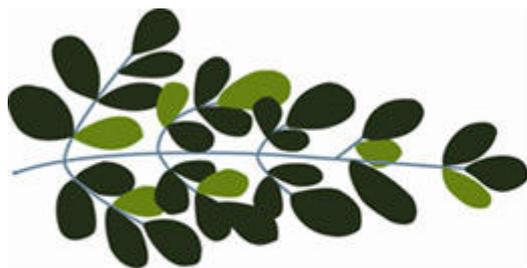
They believe that taking back our lives always begins by rediscovering a clearer sense of God's call on our lives. Everyone seems to recognize that pastors, missionaries and youth workers are called. Taking back our life begins by recognizing that every follower of Jesus is called, including us. If we accept the fact that all Christians are called wouldn't it make sense to begin by taking some time to listen very carefully to how God may be calling us?

Why is it so difficult to make changes we know are good for us? One of the reasons is that often we focus more on the symptoms of our problem rather than on the actual disease. We know we should pray more but don't want to deal with the fact that our lack of prayer is a symptom of a life out of sync with God's priorities. Or perhaps we resolve to spend more time working in Christian ministry, but are just too busy to get involved. How do we escape the growing stresses and distractions of our secular culture? How do we avoid the insidious messages encouraging us to find spiritual fulfillment and life purpose in the goods we buy and consume?

In a 24/7 world, in which the many pressures of life conflict with our commitments to God and God's purposes, we need to purchase our freedom to follow God's ways and make some hard choices. We need to be willing to give up our commitment to over booked and over stressed schedules and take time to listen to God. Because our consumer culture is so forceful in trying to get us to focus our lives on materialistic values, we need to be just as intentional in focusing on God's biblical values in order to stand against these pressures.

For my wife Kathi and me, regular retreats have become an essential part of our yearly rhythm. They have enabled us to adopt a whole new rhythm for every part of our lives. As a result, we are beginning to be able to pace our activities more in sync with the life, death, and resurrection of Christ than with the dictates of secular culture.

What choices could we make that will help us face in a different direction--towards God rather than the mountains that seem to confront us daily?



MORINGA
ASSOCIATES INC.

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Rev.22:2b

Prayerfully Serving the Church in Leadership and Peacemaking

A National Act of Recognition

A Brief Summary

29 September 2015

This is a short summary on plans to hold **A National Act of Recognition** of the First Peoples of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – at Botany Bay. A joint venture developed by first and later Australians working together, it is commonly known as **Recognition at Botany Bay**.

HM Bark Endeavour Journals – Our Earliest Historical Records

This is a people's movement that began through prayer, and answered prayer, in June 1997. Some time later Aboriginal elder Ossie Cruse of Eden NSW, myself and others found important records in the logbook that was on HM Bark Endeavour, the ship mastered by Lieutenant James Cook in 1770.

- **An entry dated 28 April 1770 tells us on that day James Cook made a forced entry on the south headland at Botany Bay. He began shooting at the people who were here after some 15 minutes of their first encounter. After violently forcing their way ashore he and his crew entered their houses in a village near the beach ***

This records day one of forced entry into community life of the people in this country

- **An entry dated 22 August 1770 tells us on that day James Cook took possession of this land near Cape York in the name of King George the Third of England. On that SAME day he recorded he could see certain signs this land was already inhabited ***

This records day one of dispossession of the land

This original forced entry into community life, and taking possession of inhabited lands, was to later lead to a profound injustice for the people who were living here. These two events were the root cause of untold loss of life and property for them, with ongoing consequences to this day. These actions were the SOURCE of the problem in the first place. They remain the HEART of the problem now.

Our Recognition Team has found these logbook entries are proving to be an **ideal teaching tool on this issue – the clearest ever found**. We find they are genuinely helping the Australian people to far more deeply understand exactly how the past caused the present.

The Endeavour Journals give us a very effective breakthrough in our education. To act on this:

- **Our short term objective (in about 3 years) is Recognition** – we will invite every Australian man, woman and child to take part in a Historic Assembly at Botany Bay where we will openly and objectively place these logbook entries under public scrutiny, recognize them as a true record of our history at that time and, as the people of these lands, together we will...
 - Publicly denounce the forced entry into community life of the people in this country
 - Publicly denounce the later dispossession of the lands
 - Hold A National Act of Recognition of the First Peoples of these lands

Taking this step will empower all Australians to address this problem at the source. For the first time in 245 years, together we will deal with “the root and not just the fruit” of this issue

The outcome: We will lay the foundation essential for serious healing

- **Our long term objective (over about 20 years) is Education** – to have these earliest records in existence prominently taught in our national education system in schools and universities, and also made more readily available to every Australian of all ages

The outcome: More accurate education will empower vast numbers of Australians to become part of the solution, instead of often being part of the problem

Recognition Leadership: Pastor Ossie Cruse Mr Tom Hallas Mr Rodney Rivers Reverend Lindsay McDowell

T:02 6253 0300

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E: office@scma.info

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* Source: HM Bark Endeavour Journals: James Cook and Joseph Banks

A National Act of Recognition

Recognition at Botany Bay

Community Views of Australia's First Peoples

The Recognition Story has met with tears of joy at the all important community level. These are views from community members, leaders and elders. Names and dates available on request...

"As Members of the Botany Bay Aboriginal Community, we believe this Recognition proposal will be of benefit to all Australians, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. We give our support to Reverend Lindsay McDowell and the Recognition Team, and encourage them in their efforts to bring A National Act of Recognition to fulfilment." (La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council letter, NSW).

"When the Recognition proposal was brought to us the thing that attracted us to it was that we never felt pressured. We always felt we were given whatever space we needed to come to our own mind on it." (Ivan Simon, former Chairperson La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW)

"If this Recognition vision comes into being, I think it will make a huge difference to all Aboriginal and Islander people." (Aboriginal elder, Gippsland Victoria)

"Just to let you know that the Larrakia Nation's Board of Directors, at their meeting on 20th April 2011, has approved for you to contact, involve, invite and otherwise include people situated on Larrakia lands in the initiative of returning to places of first encounters in a national act of recognition. I wish you every success in achieving what could well be a profoundly useful healing experience as well as a highly symbolic gesture to unite all Australians in working for a better way forward." (CEO Larrakia Nation, Darwin Northern Territory)

"This concept of the Australian people returning to the site of first encounter...no one has ever thought of it before. It has the potential to unite the country like nothing else ever has." (Aboriginal leader, Brisbane Queensland)

"We have got to do this!" (Aboriginal elder, Alice Springs Central Australia)

"This concept of An Act of Recognition is the most powerful message I have ever heard in my life." (Aboriginal elder, Perth West Australia)

"If this Recognition vision is brought to fulfillment the likely outcome is that it will be possible for many of us to become very good friends!" (Aboriginal elder, Lismore NSW)

"Of all the good initiatives to bring reconciliation, the prospect of an Act of Recognition by the people of the nation is the most central. No other initiative is more important." (Cedric Jacobs, Aboriginal elder, Perth West Australia)

"Every person in Australia needs to see these records (the log book)." (Aboriginal Elder, Moree NSW)

"Over the years we have seen so much in resources spent on this or that reconciliation event, all of it intended to bring change to our national situation. In the end it brings little change because a lot of it just plays around at the margins. We really do need to go right back to the beginning, go deep into the causes of what happened between our people, and from there build the foundation for a better future."

"With A National Act of Recognition by the people of Australia perhaps we can now have that deeper approach happen." (Aboriginal community member, Mossman Gorge North Queensland)

"This Council sees this (Recognition) proposal as a very important step in the future of this Nation...We wish you and your team every success in bringing this very important event to fruition and certainly hope all Australians support your proposal." (CEO Cherbourg Shire Council, Queensland)

"As I listened to this Recognition message, I felt a great load began to lift off my shoulders." (Aboriginal elder, Kimberley West Australia)

"I am especially supportive of A National Act of Recognition because of the extensive and nation wide community consultations and negotiations on which it is being founded." (Aboriginal leader, Sydney)

"This Recognition initiative is not the same as the apology to the Stolen Generation. This is different. This is arising from within the people. This is a people's movement." (Aboriginal elder, Queensland)

(continued next page)

A National Act of Recognition - Community Views (...continued)

"I have never before seen these documents. We need to get this record into the school curriculum." (Aboriginal Elder and Education Officer, NSW)

"I have been approached by different organizations asking me to get involved – ATSIC years ago, Constitutional Recognition – and others. But this concept of Recognition at Botany Bay – this is different from anything I have ever seen. This has a different 'feel' about it. This has substance, it is genuine. I will support this." (Elder and Education Officer, Meekatharra WA)

"This (A National Act of Recognition) HAS to happen, and I want to be part of it." (Elder Kalgoorlie WA)

"You have just shown me what I am going to be doing for the rest of my life!" (Elder, Perth WA)

"No one has ever worked with us like this before." (Dean Kelly, Aboriginal leader, La Perouse NSW)

Wider Community Views

The Recognition Story has won acclaim Australia wide and around the world. The following are views from national and international leaders. Names and dates available on request...

"With this concept of Recognition, I think you are right on the mark."

"This proposal is not about a gathering. This is about the direction of the nation"

"The objectives you and the Recognition Team have are very important for this nation."

"This Recognition venture is a truly Christian initiative. It has the makings of the Australian equivalent of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

"Lindsay's work in travelling the reconciliation trail all over Australia is worthy of special honour. He has pioneered in developing a foundational initiative for national healing, the "National Act of Recognition". It is our privilege to commend him to the people of God around the world." (John Dawson, President, International Reconciliation Coalition, USA)

A National Act of Recognition

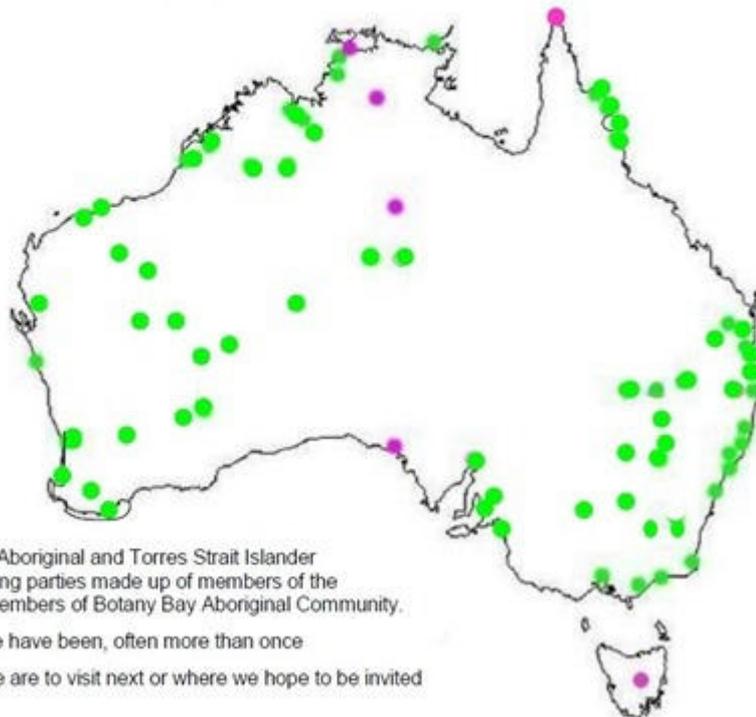
Stage 2

Map of Community Visits

Map Key

This map shows visits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by joint visiting parties made up of members of the Recognition Team and members of Botany Bay Aboriginal Community.

- represents where we have been, often more than once
- represents where we are to visit next or where we hope to be invited



20 May 2015

Personal Testimony

Kathryn Anthony... Personal Testimony 10-Nov-2015, One of our Worldwide prayer warriors. I will share her personal Testimony with you today.

Dale Phillips, Chickasha, Oklahoma U.S.A welcomes each worldwide prayer warrior to email their Personal Testimony to Dale Phillips and I will share your testimony with 90,000 plus worldwide prayer warriors. I have a long list of worldwide prayer warriors Personal Testimonies.

Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us to share our Personal Testimonies with others, our Personal Testimonies may lead others to accept our Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord & Saviour. Wouldn't it be great, if your Personal Testimony led somebody to Christ. All you need to do is email Dale Phillips your personal Testimony and I will send to 90,000 plus worldwide prayer warriors and others will send your Personal Testimony to all on their email contact lists.

The largest number of people who has never accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are living in your families today. Your Mom, Dad, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, uncles & aunts, and grandparents, someone in your precious loving families have not accepted our Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord & Saviour. Also, making a Personal Testimony and sharing your Personal Testimony with other will make your faith stronger.

Many Christians own several Personal Testimonies too. Hey, your Personal Testimonies will not help others, if you just place your Personal Testimonies in a drawer and let your Personal Testimony gather dust, this is not what our Lord Jesus Christ tells you to do with your Personal Testimonies. He tells you to share them with others.

2 Tim. 1:8-9

(8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the affliction of the gospel according to the power of God. (Mark 8:38)

In this time of mounting persecution, Timothy may have been afraid to continue preaching the Good News. His fears were based on fact because believers were being arrested and executed. Paul told Timothy to expect suffering—Timothy, like Paul, would be jailed for preaching the Good News (Heb. 13:23). But Paul promised Timothy that God would give him strength and that he would be ready when it was his turn to suffer. Even when there is no persecution, sharing our faith in Christ can be difficult. Fortunately we, like Paul and Timothy, can rely on the Holy Spirit to give us courage.

Don't be ashamed to testify of your personal faith in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 3:1; 2 Tim. 2-3)

(9) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, nor according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. (Rom. 8:30; Eph. 1:4)

In these verses Paul gives a brief summary of the Good News. God loves us, chose us, and sent Christ to die for us. We can have eternal life through faith in him because he broke the power of death with his resurrection. We do not deserve to be Saved, but God offers us salvation anyway. What we must do is believe in him and accept his offer. (Rom. 8:28; 11:14; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 15:54)

Dale Phillips

Chickasha, Oklahoma U.S.A.

11-Nov-2015

dfpprayerwarriors@suddenlink.net

With God There Are No Coincidences

Our story took place on Hiway 101 North of Port Orford, Oregon at the Garrison Lake Highway 101 dike fill. A large culvert allowed Garrison Lake to flow under the highway eastward.

On of the February of 1958 massive storms had set in turning everything dark. Rain. Wind.

(continued next page)

Personal Testimony (...continued)

Our Cherie was a first grader in Mrs. Greenlee's class. We parents had been called by the school to come and pickup our children because of the battering of the incoming storm.

I had driven to school with five year old Jeff, three year old Gail and two year old Johnny In our International Travelall 'crummy' with two five gallon power saw gas cans behind the last seat. We had picked up Cherie and were driving home in the afternoon's dark storm.

As we were driving northward across the narrow Garrison Lake highway 'fill', approaching us from the north was a dump truck. At that precise moment, one of our tires blew out. I had no place to go but tried to hold the truck straight and stop. The crummy just laid over upside down in a small strip of marsh.

The trucker stopped-came to our rescue. Cherie, Jeff, Johnny were pulled by the trucker through a window. Cherie, Jeff and John were accounted for. In terror we realized Gail was not to be seen. Where was Gail?

Then we heard crying from inside the truck. He couldn't find her. The driver pulled open the back door of the crummy and found the gas cans on top of Gail - The cans had fallen out of their place, Gail fell in. The cans returned - falling back in place on top of Gail. BUT, the Lord had His Way !.. The gas cans had wedged--forming a roof over her. Gail remembers being scared, crying and the man taking her out of the truck. I'll never forget the driver handing Gail to me saying "Here, Mam, is your little girl."

Thank you, Lord God Almighty

The rest of the story:

The highway's large culvert allowed the Garrison Lake water to flow eastward into deep water. Our crummy had fallen on a narrow fringe marsh area.

IF the truck had rolled into the water we would have all drowned- unseen. If the driver of the dump truck had not been coming by precisely at the time of the tire blow out, he could not have known to help us. In the darkening storm no one could have seen us. There are no coincidences with God. Have you ever felt like you'd seen the Face of God? That truck driver showed us God's Loving Face.

Thank You, Kindly God. All of our children still live - Your Gifts to us. Amen.

Kathryn Anthony 11-10-2015

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Daily Prayer Calendar for December - Sports & Recreation

(Prepared by Bjorn Schmid)

Sport and Recreation may appear to be a simple sphere of influence and lack much depth, but it is a complex area with a lot of vested interests competing for the rights and finances to support human wellbeing and (relatively) safe competitive challenges.

“Sport is part of the Australian way of life. It builds communities, teaches life skills such as teamwork and leadership and encourages a healthy and active lifestyle.” (from the Australian Sports Foundation website - <https://asf.org.au/>)

NSW Office of Sport - Sport and Recreation

From <https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about>

At our core, we believe sport and recreation is for everyone and we make this possible through increased opportunities for people with disabilities, women, seniors, youth at risk and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Each year we provide millions in government grants to nurture sporting talent, help build sport facilities and develop the industry as a whole. We also regulate the combat sports (link is external) and motor sport industries.

In every way, Sport and Recreation plays a vital role in supporting and facilitating sport and recreation for the people of NSW. Our continued commitment and vision of making sport and recreation accessible to all is simple: more people, more active, more often.

Department of Health - Sport

From <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/sports-home>

The Australia Government is committed to supporting sport in Australia from grassroots to elite; increasing participation in physical and recreational activities to promote physical and mental health; staging world class major sporting events; and utilising sport as a vehicle to address disadvantage and social inclusion challenges.

National Integrity of Sport Unit

The Australian Government has established the National Integrity of Sport Unit to provide national oversight, monitoring and coordination of efforts to protect the integrity of sport in Australia from threats of doping, match-fixing and other forms of corruption.

Read more at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national-integrity-of-sport-unit>

Daily Prayer in December

- 1 Pray for The Hon Sussan Ley MP - Minister for Health, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport, for the federal Department of Health which has responsibility for Sport, and for the National Integrity of Sport Unit. Pray that the direction and actions of these national government gatekeepers and organisations will be God-led, have integrity, and protect Godly values.
- 2 (Substitute your own state where appropriate) Pray for the NSW Minister for Sport, The Hon. Stuart Laurence Ayres MP - Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport, and for the Office of Sport - Sport and Recreation. Pray that the direction and actions of these will be led using God's wisdom, be free from corruption, and provide funding only for wholesome activities that are a genuine benefit to the wellbeing of all people in NSW.
- 3 Pray for Sport & Recreation facilities, government and private across NSW. Pray for the management and directorships over these locations; where many people gather to participate in and observe. Pray that uses of the locations for wholesome events will be encouraged and have favour, and that unclean uses will be denied.
- 4 Pray for the Sydney Academy of Sport, the Australian Sports Academy and other similar places where young people are encouraged and developed in health lifestyles and sports careers - pray that they are kept clean of drugs and anti-Christ teaching, and pray for the inspiration of staff to see the value of and adopt biblical principles.
- 5 Pray for the National Parks and Places of Interest (including the National Parks and Wildlife Service), Historic towns and localities, that they will be well maintained, safe and healthy places for adults and children to visit and enjoy. Pray for favour for Christian businesses and outreach initiatives (like coffee shops, rest places and prayer rooms).
- 6 Pray for camp and event venues, parks and reserves, particularly those in remote and secluded locations. Pray that these places are kept free from predatory and murderous spirits who seek to influence people to harm or abuse others, and pray for the peace of the Holy Spirit to rest on these places so that visitors and staff can not help themselves from thinking about reconciling with their Creator God - rest and relaxation indeed!
- 7 Pray for organisers, teachers and parents involved with School holiday programs and term time programs, particularly for programs such as “Small Schools Week” that seek to give opportunities to students are less advantaged. Pray for generous funding, wise counsel, and freedom from anti-Christian agendas.
- 8 Pray for existing and an increase in programs and Disability and disadvantaged, for people with disability, people who live in remote areas

(continued next page)

Daily Prayer Calendar for Dec. - *Sports & Recreation (...continued)*

- 9 Pray for swimming programmes - that teach children and adults essential skills to survive in the water. Pray for the life guards and other staff whose job it is to rescue people who get into difficulties.
- 10 Pray for the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games - pray in particular that the huge influence of sponsor funding is blocked from corrupting the OC members into unfair or biased decisions. Pray for a reshaping of the games into something that glorifies God instead of palely reflecting ancient Greek polytheistic attitudes.
- 11 Similarly pray for the Australian Commonwealth Games Association and associated bodies. Pray that the Commonwealth Games builds up relations between Commonwealth member nations and is not used to create unfair advantage or divisions.
- 12 Pray for the participants in international competitions - pray that our Australian competitors will come into a bold relationship with God, be successful in their sport, and acknowledge Him publicly as important in their lives.
- 13 Pray for the participants in school competitions - pray that these events are uplifting occasions and not user to further LGBT and anti-Christ agendas.
- 14 Community group and Corporate programs - pray for integrity and fair sportsmanship in these events, and pray for the gospel of Christ to find its way into every occasion through His people involved.
- 15 Individual Sports Clubs & Associations, e.g. golf, squash, tennis, etc. - pray that sportspeople are humble and do not put themselves or other people on a pedestal above God, but come to know and acknowledge Him to many.
- 16 Team Sports Clubs & Associations, e.g. rugby, soccer, hockey, basketball, etc. - pray for Godly people to become embedded in these teams and support staff as a witness of Christ's love and wisdom to all those around them.
- 17 Vehicle Sports Clubs & Associations; motor, drag racing, motor cycle, glider, aeroplane, power boats, sailing boats, etc. - pray for the defeat of people's tendency to worship man's creations above his own creator, and for God to raise people who worship Him in their words and actions across the industry.
- 18 Martial and Physical Arts Clubs & Associations; karate, Tai Kwan Do, judo, kendo, jujitsu, muscle building - pray for the worship of man's body to be subjected to honouring God above all. Pray that more Christian people in this field will speak out about their faith in Christ from their experiences.
- 19 Animal Racing Clubs & Associations; in particular greyhound and horse racing - pray for integrity and removal of cruel practices across the sector, pray for the defeat of the worship of wealth and for God to shine in His people involved there.
- 20 Pray for Board and Card Games Clubs & Associations; chess, dungeons & dragons, chequers/draughts, bridge and for collectors clubs.
- 21 Shooting clubs, associations, ranges and suppliers (including paintball and archery) - pray for the gatekeepers in these sports to be equipped, empowered and watchful to detect inappropriate uses, and pray for members who have unhealthy intentions to be turn away or removed from participating. Pray for the spirit of power or undue influence over others to be defeated.
- 22 Pray for people who gamble for entertainment; that they will not be sucked into a life of wasteful craving after easy riches, and pray for the release through Christ of those who are already addicted to gambling and those who are reaching out to them. Pray also for the families of gamblers.
- 23 Pray for Cinemas, Theatres, Music Halls and Opera Houses to be rewarded for staging wholesome and pro-Christ events so that they are encouraged to support the organisers of such and not block them.
- 24 Virtual Entertainment (Games and Fantasy Worlds), Internet and gaming cafes - pray that the people who play these games enjoy them just as fun and not become obsessed with them as a replacement for life, particularly life in Christ. Pray for Christians who pay these games to be able to minister to others who need God.
- 25 Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all men as we again celebrate the birth of Christ - pray that people will be drawn to church in record numbers and acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- 26 Pray for the participants in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, their safety and for them to give their trust over to God rather than relying only on men.
- 27 Travelling/Tourism (including foreign visitors and local hosts) - pray for their safety and well-being, and pray that God will use their travels to reveal Himself to them.
- 28 Pray that Accommodation providers are kept honest and refuse to remove from their facility the Gideon bibles given to them freely.
- 29 Pray for the physical and moral safety of visitors and staff at Amusement parks, Hotels, Bars and Clubs. Pray for Christian staff to be promoted into positions to pray for people and influence decisions.
- 30 Pray for Libraries (fixed and mobile) and Book Clubs to not exclude bibles and Christian testimony.
- 31 Pray for the many generous individuals and groups who sponsor people and fund facilities for Sport and Recreation. Pray that the funding is given from a good heart and without string attached, and that the funding is not wasted on things that are anti-Christ.



Pray for the Persecuted Church

“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.” 2 Cor 1:5

ISRAEL: Christian Threatened for Sharing His Faith

After ‘Musa’ told his sister about Jesus, his father threatened to kill him and kicked him out of their home. Musa, who grew up Muslim, came to faith in Christ several years ago without his family’s knowledge. Since then, he has often talked to his sister about Christ’s love, and his parents recently found out. “If you do not leave this home, I will slaughter you,” his father told him. “And if you do not take all your things, I will burn them.”

Musa hopes to continue his evangelistic efforts in his home area. A VOM partner has found an apartment where he can live, and VOM is helping cover the cost. Our partner asks for prayers for his safety.

Source: The Voice of the Martyrs USA

Prayer Points

- ♥ Thank the Lord for Musa’s faithfulness; pray he may not be fearful but may be used mightily by the Lord as a witness for the Gospel.
- ♥ Pray for the Lord’s spiritual protection over Musa.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will honour Musa’s conversations with his sister so that she too may come to know Him. Pray also for Musa’s parents.

UGANDA: Young Woman Beaten and Disowned

The father of a young Muslim woman in east Uganda on Thursday 12 November tried to beat her to death after she became a Christian, but community leaders intervened and limited him to disowning her, sources said.

“As we arrived, the girl was bleeding, and her clothes had blood stains all over,” said a church leader. According to the pastor her father and mother were shouting furiously. “Our daughter must be killed according to Islam, because she has become apostate,” her father told those who came to her aid, “She can never be our daughter again.”

According to the East Africa correspondent, Birye, who is suffering from serious rib pain, was being treated at a local clinic in Kabuna, Budaka District. She also sustained injuries to her right hand and bruises on her forehead.

Source: Assist News Service

Prayer Points

- ♥ Pray for complete physical and emotion healing for Birye; ask the Lord to comfort her after this ordeal and help her to come to terms with the loss of her family.
- ♥ Pray that although she has had to count a great cost of following Christ, she will rejoice in knowing the Lord and willingly follow Him all her life.
- ♥ Ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to her family; pray too for the protection of the other who made a commitment to Christ at the event.

PAKISTAN: Christians Petition Supreme Court

Christians in Pakistan have petitioned the Supreme Court to end discrimination against religious minorities in Pakistan’s educational system. Specifically, the petition calls on the court to remove hate speech riddled through textbooks against Pakistan’s religious minorities. So far, provincial governments have failed to remove the hate speech, which has taught almost a generation of Pakistanis to distrust and hate religious minorities.

If the hate speech is removed and religious minorities are shown to be equal citizens in Pakistan’s educational system, it will be another step towards religious tolerance the country desperately needs.

Source: International Christian Concern, Christian Today

Prayer Points

- ♥ Pray that this petition will be successful in removing hate speech in school textbooks across Pakistan so that there may start to be significant changes in attitude towards religious minorities.
- ♥ Pray that Pakistan will continue to make reforms toward religious tolerance and religious equality for Christians in Pakistan.
- ♥ Pray the Lord will build His church in Pakistan in number and in faithfulness to Him.

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