Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

Third Quarter 2017

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

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From the National Coordinators

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

It is tragic to see how over the last few months that for many Christians and Christian organisations in Australia the 'Same-Sex Marriage' debate has surpassed the message of the gospel of Christ as the most popular topic. It seems that the enemy of God is very astute in using any and every attack on the 'status quo' of comfortable western life and the many luxuries we enjoy to scare us into reacting like frightened turkeys. Even to the point of spending vast sums of precious donations on feeding the enemy of the Church - the post-modern media - to 'defend traditional marriage' before a world that hates God and us His children. The only winner in worldly terms in this debate is the media who fed the debate for years hoping to reap a huge harvest of profit when it all blew up, and win they have thanks to our un-Christ-like panic.

As John explains below, this hate is 'situation normal' for us as the children of God. The world and the enemy of God hates us to death because we are effectively 'God-in-the-flesh' when God's Spirit lives in us. Why do we expect to live 'normal' earthly (and short-term) lives anymore since we now have eternal life in and with Christ? Don't we believe the promises He made to us? Do we really believe? Do we love?

There are some amazing stories of God's work in this newsletter; real love and real hope. Read on!

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

prayerstrategy.org businesswomenhealingministry.org transformingsydney.org

Real Hate

From Dr/ John Yates, 2-Oct-2017

Introduction

"And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." (Rom 1:28-32)

Paul is not describing an especially bad group of people, simply pagan society as he knew it in his day. Few can now deny that after centuries of Christianising these words apply to contemporary Australia where many believers have been shocked by the animosity of the Yes side on the same-sex marriage (SSM) debate. Head buttings, sackings, attempts to de-register Christian doctors, threats to "hate-f..." those who believe in traditional marriage and so on have been astonishing. Anyone who says anything in the least unfavourable about homosexuals is termed "homophobic"; i.e. someone who hates gays and is guilty of hate speech.

Whilst the marriage debate might seem to be a political or moral quarrel it is about something far deeper. It is a manifestation of lost humanity's true heart towards God. Despite surface appearances the average Australian is not simply a "She'll be right mate!" person happy to allow you to have your opinion as long as it doesn't interfere with their hedonistic lifestyle. Rather, the average Aussie "suppresses the truth in unrighteousness....hates the light...children of the devil... curses God" (John 3:20; Rom 1:18; 1 John 3:10; Rev 16:9). In his wisdom the Lord is using the SSM debate that "thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."" (Luke 2:35). His gracious intention is to bring to an end the sheltered middle class spectator religion that has long dominated Australian church going.

Hate is Blind

The hatred of fallen human beings always robs them of spiritual clarity. If "everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light" (John 3:20), and "in your (God's) light do we see light" (Ps 36:9), then the angry devotees of SSM are spiritually blind. In their wrath to destroy whatever

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Real Hate (...continued)

stands in the way of their vision they *cannot* see the light of the gospel (2 Cor 4:4). These are beast like irrational people (Jude 10; 2 Pet 2:12). God is no passive bystander in this conflict, in his wrath has handed people over to this dreadful condition (Isa 44:18; Rom 1:24, 26, 28).

Ordinary Christians are shocked by the vilification they receive on Facebook if they post, "It's Ok to say No.", but the Spirit is helping us to see that we are in a day of moral and spiritual insanity. As ex-gay activist James Parker puts it, the real problem in Western culture is not homophobia but heterophobia. This is why, for example, the Safe Schools programme in schools is agitating against heteronormativity; labelling as dangerous the view that the normal state of human sexuality is to be male or female. It used to be said that "love is blind", but in the case of God's love this is absolutely untrue. Only through the love of God revealed in the cross of Christ can we see good and evil as they really are.

Jesus Loves the Haters

This prophetic word about Jesus, "'They hated me without a cause.'" (Ps 69:4; John 15:25), is a true description at one level but not at another. On the one hand Jesus never said or did anything that was harmful to another person's well being, so that there was no reason to hate him. On the other hand those who hated Jesus held an ultimate intention in their hearts, they hated him because he was *God*-in-the-flesh (John 10:31-33). All human anger against God was projected on to Christ; ""The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."" (Rom 15:3).

The reality of humanity's fury against the Creator became perfectly evident at the cross. Here Jesus bears the rage of the nations against the Lord and the fierce hostility of men who behave like mad wild beasts (Ps 2:1; 22:12ff.). The dying Jesus receives no mercy at human hands because he has become the focus of all of humanity's resentments against God. Immersed in the darkness of our hate there is no divine light for the sinless Son of God; hence his cry, ""My God, my God, *why* have you forsaken me?"" (Mark 15:34). The cross is the one place in history where *human beings openly treat God as they think he deserves*! But when Jesus prays, ""Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."" (Luke 23:34) it is clear that however God hates sin (Ps 11:5; Mal 1:3; Rev 2:6) he in no way hates as we do. His intent is never to destroy, but only to heal; "Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:13).

You are Important

Jesus promised us, ""If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you"" (John 15:18). His assurance that the disciples would ""be *hated by all nations* for my name's sake."" (Matt 24:9) has powerful implications long been forgotten in the Western Church. Those who are ignored as irrelevant cannot experience the "weight of glory" that belongs to those who commune with the sufferings of Christ (2 Cor 4:17; Phil 3:10). To be hated for faith is a sign of spiritual significance and imparts a deep sense of worth in the image of Christ. The bad temper of the SSM debate is a God-given opportunity for us to live out the unconditional forgiveness of the gospel. Where this is practiced in love we can anticipate a visitation bringing tremendous illumination of spiritual reality. This is how the Lord is using the bizarre attitudes and values of our time to purify us his Church.

Conclusion

When a believer recently prayed, "the path is narrowing" (Geoff Morris), I could hear what the Spirit was saying to the churches (Matt 7:13-14; Rev 2:7 etc.). The King is moving us off the comfortable broad way of church services where mood music anaesthetises "worshippers" against the oppressive power of the wickedness daily surrounding them. He is shifting us away from motivational addresses that hypnotise against the depth of depravity into which our nation has fallen. For decades many have prayed that the Lord shake out of his people everything other than his kingdom presence; but now it is happening few can see how the Spirit is moving (Heb 12:25-29).

Good does not depend on evil to exist, but only against the darkness of the terror of hate can we ever know just how good God was in sending his Son into the world to save us. If we would be more like Christ and his Father we must suffer more from the anger of a world in wild rebellion against its Lord. Only through this path of enlightenment can we appreciate that the wrath released by the SSM debate is a great gift to the Church. A gift to be received with praise and thanksgiving for the all surpassing wisdom in the gospel of a crucified Saviour (1 Cor 1:18-25). May we all embrace such a mindset to the glory of God.

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From *Conversations* to *Community*

By Huang Zhi-Wei aka Reg Wong, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Forestville NSW Australia

We wanted to rename her Sheila. It has a catchy ring, and it's as true blue as lamingtons and two-up, we reasoned. In the end we compromised on Shelly, not for her convenience but ours. We Aussies aren't pretentious and we prefer names that roll off the tongue, easily. Jack and Bill, Liz and Em are all kosher, and we are even prepared to make some concessions to accommodate Svetlana. But Vlaquiria or Guilhermina? Er, no thanks.

(And then it dawned on me! Wasn't that, in my second week at boarding school, why I was summonsed to Brother Leo's office? "You're in Australia now. You need a name we can say and spell," he stated, authority underlying every word. Unable to argue against such cold logic, I remained mute. With a practised sweep of his right arm, he passed me a post-it note; on it was written two monosyllabic names. "Just pick one", he said matter-of-factly and then left me to ponder my future identity as either Rex or Reg. And that's how Huang Zhi-Wei – "aspiring to prestige" – was brought down to earth as plain Reg Wong. Now you know!)

Shelly is Brazilian, her mother tongue Portuguese. Never having gone out of Brazil, she had no need to learn another language. For her first six months in Dee Why, she never ventured outside the rented unit she shares with her husband and their son. In fractured English, she confessed, "I felt trapped and really regretted coming here." Our class of 14 similarly linguistically challenged migrant students nodded our empathy. "I had no friends and I was afraid to go anywhere. How could I when I knew no English?" Such was the cloistered existence she imposed on herself. Today, the Shelly of old has been transformed. Now, she takes the bus to Manly and sometimes, impulsively, to the city; she shops at Woolworths and Coles; she goes to the Medical Centre in Brookvale by herself; she has coffee with a new-found Australian friend every Saturday morning at Starbucks; and she strolls on the beaches of the Peninsula whenever the sun shines and the wind abates.

Nestled in our comfort zone, we are oblivious to the plight of many adult migrants like Shelly

What brought about Shelly's success story? "I attend classes to learn *Conversations in Life Style English*," she explains.

Nestled in our comfort zone, we are oblivious to the plight of many adult migrants like Shelly. Yet, especially in the suburbs of nearly affordable rental accommodation, there are new arrivals who are isolated from the community by their lack of verbal skills. Way past their school age, these migrants find learning English a high hurdle. They are habituated to a life-time of speaking – and thinking – only in their mother tongue. Consequently their vocal chords lack the flexibility to imitate the sounds of new words, their minds make little sense of the English syntax, and their tympanic membranes are not tuned to detect the differences between homophones.

Luckily, such a community problem has been recognised and identified by practically every Protestant church. Thus the Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Uniting churches offer ESL (English as a Second Language) classes as an integral part of their mission of evangelisation, especially in those suburbs with high populations of temporary and permanent immigrants.

Those churches in Chatswood, Eastwood, Ryde, Carlingford and Epping, to name just a few, are particularly active and they are on the lookout for every opportunity to enrol students. This was borne out for me just last week as I walked past the Presbyterian Church on Anderson Street Chatswood. I merely tarried to peer at the notice "English Lessons" displayed at the front when the off-duty pastor approached me. "Do you want to learn English?" he solicited. "Thank you for

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From Conversations to Community (...continued)

asking but I am coping," I replied.

Every week in nearby Dee Why, for example, the Grace City Church offers two classes of *Life Style Conversation English* to new arrivals from Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Spain, Poland and Russia. Shelly's Tuesday evening class attracts 16-18 eager adults; the Thursday morning class is attended by 14-16 enthusiastic regulars. Can we expect more demand for such classes? "Yes, but we can't accept any more students – unless we enlist more volunteers like you and get bigger premises," said David Howitt, Grace City Church's elder and coordinator of language classes.

As a Vinnies volunteer, I freely partner with our separated brothers to bring some rays of sunshine and snippets of hope to the many new arrivals in our

That's the Master's gift of one talent to me – and I am not keeping it under the mattress. That's one side of the coin. What's on the other side?

Northern Beaches. In teaching *Life Style Conversation English* to adult immigrants, I think I may have stumbled on my calling – if satisfaction is a reliable guide. As a multi-lingual ex-foreigner, I am a ready-made bridge between the English teacher and the foreign student. Having been in the student's shoe, I anticipate the difficulties experienced by a non -English speaker before she even starts to vent her frustrations. That's the Master's gift of one talent to me – and I am not keeping it under the mattress. That's one side of the coin. What's on the other side?

In learning to communicate with locals, Shelly is empowering herself to break free from her verbal shackles. Our mission is to help coax her out of her confinement by teaching her *Life Style Conversation English*, giving her the competence and confidence to emerge from her cocoon, and integrating her into the community which may very well be the church. Making converts without proselytising, one might say, but doing it overtly.

Does this volunteering work resonate with you? All you need is patience complemented by a desire to help those who are yet to get a grip on *Life Style Conversation English*. If you are bi- or multi-lingual, you'd be admirably suited for this service. What you can expect is immeasurable satisfaction, especially when you see your *Good Intentions* and Vinnies' *Good Works* coalescing to produce *Good Fruit*. Another thing: be prepared to be embarrassed by the profuse gratitude of your students.

Inspired? You may care to leave me a message at the Parish Office.

Fellow Teachers

Student thanks Reg

Polish, Russian & Chilean Students

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Marked by Mercy

From Annette Spurr, Creative Manager, Blue Box Media www.blueboxmedia.com.au

Just over 3 million Australians use illicit drugs each year*.

These statistics are disturbing and so is the reality of living with drug addiction.

Mark Johnston used to be one of these statistics. A childhood marred by physical and sexual abuse left him feeling hopeless and desperate for a panacea to dull the pain. Drugs became his escape from reality but only succeeded in making his reality so much more unbearable.

By 19, Mark had attempted suicide numerous times and was put into seven drug-induced comas. He was self-harming and prone to violent fits of rage. Helpless and afraid, Mark's mother kicked him out of home and a family took him in.

As he slowly recovered from addiction, they invited him to church but he refused again and again. Until his uncle also come to live with Mark's adopted family to overcome his own addition, and he started sharing the gospel with Mark.

One day, Mark decided to open up a bible and as he read Psalm 72:14, he watched in amazement as the face of God looked up at him through the pages and said "I'm going to rescue you from oppression, violence and fraud because your blood is precious in my sight." From that moment, Mark picked up that bible like no other drug before, reading it with the same urgency and desire with which is used to inject drugs. It was the first book he had ever read in his entire life.

...the face of God looked up at him through the pages and said "I'm going to rescue you from oppression, violence and fraud because your blood is precious in my sight.".

Soon after his encounter with God, Mark entered The Transformations Discipleship Program on the Gold Coast of Australia, which really turned his life around. He completed the program in a little over a year, becoming a staff member of the program in south-east Queensland, where he helped pioneer a new campus.

Today, Mark has a deep passion for discipleship, mentoring and recovery. He's sober and clean from drugs. He has a Diploma in Ministry and he regularly shares his testimony in churches, prisons and schools. He's also written a book, Marked by Mercy, to provide encouragement and hope to drug addicts like himself and their families.

He is a living testimony to God's mercy and restoration power.

You can find out more about Mark at **www.markcjohnston.com**

*2016 NDSHS Key Findings - http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/data-sources/ndshs-2016/illicit-drug-use/

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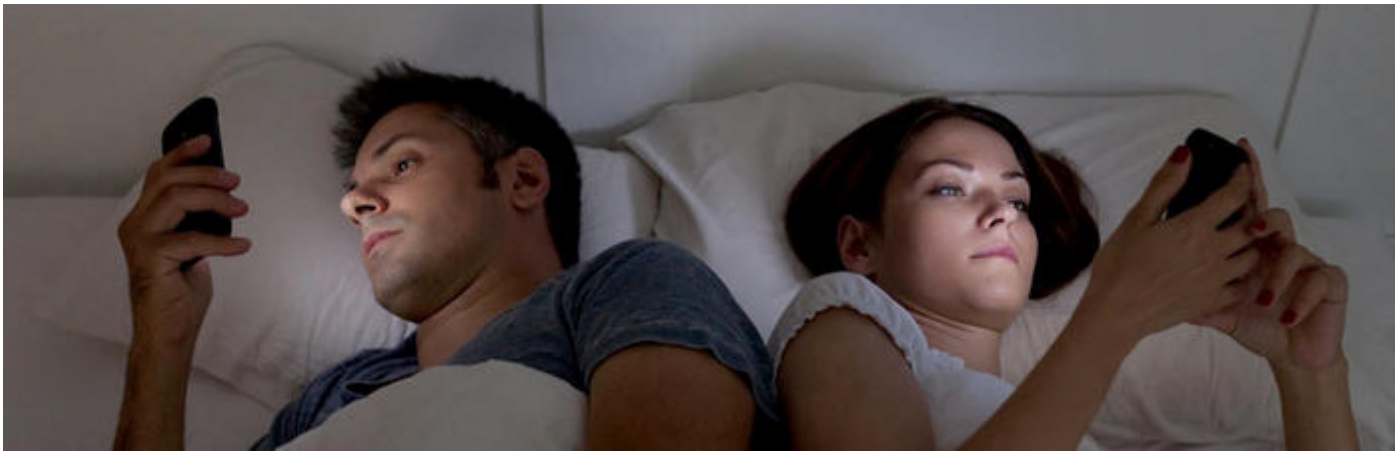
Communication

Proverbs 20 :12 tells us that "Ears to hear and eyes to see—both are gifts from the LORD."

The quality of our relationships, depend on the quality of our communication skills remembering that the base communication is 'talking' and 'listening'. The quality of our communication rests on how we do both. We should seek to have the same quality of communications whether with our spouse, our family, our work colleagues or with a stranger. With communication, relationships can thrive, can be transformed. Without communication, relationships can wither and die.

Some junior high school students in the USA gave this insightful statement on what communication is: *"Communication is talking without a wall building up. It's hearing what was said, and knowing what was meant. Sometimes it involves a look, or a touch, with no words at all. Its sharing in such a way that the other person really understands what you are saying. Listening is the hardest part of communication"*. Communication professionals tell us that only 7% of our communication is through the words we use; 38% is through the tone of voice and 55% is nonverbal (body language) and is more important than what we say.

Our communication in marriage and family is vitally important, and whilst we should apply the same quality as elsewhere, our methods of communication will be different e.g. it will involve touch. Communication in marriage and family is under threat –



The mobile phone seems to be taking over the lives of many, and whilst 'mobile technology' has many advantages not all are used for good. It is almost that we are be ruled by such technology rather than using it. Not long ago you could go to a movie, a work meeting, or to church and not be distracted by ringing phones or by the white glow of someone texting a friend! Now you might see in a café or restaurant, a married couple not really enjoying this opportunity to be together, because one is patiently waiting for the other to stop talking or texting on the phone.

There were 48517 divorces in 2015, but regrettably there are potentially many others that are on life support. A study was undertaken in the US recently by James A. Roberts of Baylor University, with his colleague Meridith David, to explore how detrimental smartphones can be to a relationship. Smartphones can become attention seeking devices. Evidently a typical American checks their smartphone an average every 6.5 minutes, that is 150 times a day! The bottom line of the study is that smartphones can undermine relationships – we need to change our habit in using these phones, breaking their 'rule' over us!

Hmm, what about the calls from work? A new French law establishing workers' "right to disconnect" went into effect at the beginning of 2017. The law requires companies with more than 50 employees to establish hours when staff should not send or answer emails. The goals of the law include making sure employees are fairly paid for work, and preventing burnout by protecting private time. French legislator Benoit Hamon, speaking to the BBC, described the law as an answer to the travails of employees who "leave the office, but they do not leave their work. They remain attached by a kind of electronic leash—like a dog."(International news sources). Before this legislation was made earlier in 2016 there were a number of French and other European companies who took their own action to curb this increasing habit – if we are an employer, no matter the size of our workforce, should we look at our own habits, and along the way improve our relationships not just with our employees but within our marriage and or family!

There is one area of communication that probably many should increase, and it uses the most powerful, wifi network - *our prayer life*, and that is something that we can and should do with our spouse and family – then transformations can occur.

Dennis & Ann Outred, Marriage Week Australia

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Triumphant Mercy Lebanon

September 2017

The Lord has performed for us all our works (Isaiah 26:12)

In a world of exploding headlines, there's a braver world of us who are waging hope.

A world of us who say: The greatest risk to our security happens when fear is our main currency.

Who refuses to become prisoners of hate but dares to be champions of hope?

Who believes that Greater is He who lives in us than he who is in the world, and if God be for us than who can be against us. But if we're against children made by God, then what does it matter who is for us? (Ann Voskamp)

Back to School

Schools in the camps:

Summer went by fast!

Back in July, We had a wonderful celebration where we gave children their end of year diplomas and grading. We are very proud of our children with their accomplishment and most of them moved to a higher level.

We also celebrated our 9th graders for the first time! It seems we are growing with our children accompanying them in every step of their education. What a joy to see the children flourishing.

Now September is here and the schools started again. Both teachers and children are excited and looking forward to the new scholastic year. Many new faces especially in the preparatory classes and grade 1.

What's new?

We are looking into starting vocational/ financial training for some older children/ young women in the camp alongside our graduates from 9th grade such as sewing classes, art craft, English training, and computer literacy… We might even start small exhibitions of the artwork creation and sell the products made.

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Triumphant Mercy Lebanon - September 2017 (...continued)

Events at the camp

One of the events conducted at the camps was a movie night where children, teachers and parents gathered to watch “Finding Nemo”.

This was, for many of the children, the first time to watch a movie and though some didn’t understand anything, yet they enjoyed every moment of it.

Another event was conducted in a neighboring camp where we distributed coloring pens and coloring books and children got to sit around and just enjoy discovering colors.

Community center

At the community center we have just ended a cycle of psychosocial support and parenting support, and a cycle of education courses.

We are now preparing for the new cycle that will start in October and are busy doing outreaches to the community, identifying children in need and enrolling a big number of children in our projects.

New cycles of English classes, French classes and computer literacy will also start in October and we have just finished furnishing the computer room that is ready to receive groups of students.

We also keep adding to our clothes distribution and many are waiting for us to switch to our “winter collection“ to come and “shop“ for their families.

We are becoming well known in our neighborhood and clothes are dropped into our location on regular basis.

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Triumphant Mercy Lebanon - September 2017 (...continued)

Bible studies for children and adults are also continuing and we look forward to the new cycle with more people and more of the spreading of the gospel.

We also took the kids out to the movies as an end of year outing.

Most of the kids hadn't been to the movies ever, so they were super excited about it.

We offered them pop corn and they watched the movie with a huge smile on their faces and kept talking about it days after.

What's happening in Syria ?

The most important felt need in Syria is for education and we look forward to help 100 kids to enter school this year. These children are from Christian families who are internally displaced families, who lost all their possessions and have tasted the horrors of war. Despite all the lack they have, parents want to secure a future for their children and want to educate them.

Many are asking how they can help. To sponsor one child for a full year is $350.

So far we have secured funds for 30 children. And looking to secure more funds for these brothers

and sisters in Christ.

Discipleship and seminars in Syria:

Trainings, bible studies, seminars, youth meetings are going on in Syria in partnership with another Lebanese NGO and we are excited to see an emerging church that is strong and in love with Jesus.

How you can help:

Jesus did say that we need to pray for the laborers. The local laborers have little to no support from local churches because of the scarcity of funding availability, thus making things hard for them to invest time and energy. In addition to that the economic pressures of living is putting a large burden on the local servants.

Many international missionaries are rising to answer the call but a barrier of language and culture is always facing them. Many years of preparation are needed, the cost is high and the results not sustainable as people need to eventually go back home.

Added to the problem of the international missionaries are the visa restrictions, the uncertainty of the residency permit and the impossibility to enter Syria. Releasing the local Arabic speaking ministers and creating platforms for the proclamation of the gospel would make a huge impact on the whole population, and eventually prepare a new generation of leaders who would change not only Lebanon but Syria too when the time for people to return to their land comes.

Considering we are teaching more than 500 children and doing extra curricular projects involving 1000 children and 300 adults, we are needing more help than ever.

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Triumphant Mercy Lebanon - September 2017 (...continued)

The cost of education for a child in lebanon is about $50/ month and in Syria about $30/ month.

Supporting one worker is $700/month.

Please consider sowing seeds into this work specially that the scholastic year just started

For large amounts please use the bank details below:

Account name: Association al rahma almountassira

ID: 968 424

IBAN LB 68 0056 0009 6842 4461 0020 5301

Address Bank Audi

Lodge center – Main road

Brumana branch Metn Lebanon

Phone + 961 4 860163

Swift AUDBLBBXXXX

For smaller amounts please use Western Union as bank charges are really high

Send your donation to:

Janane Matar

Brummana, Mar Chaaya,

Toufic El Hajj building, ground floor.

+961 3 142020

How you can pray:

- Please pray for wisdom for the planning of the next season. We don't know how things are developing and when people will go back to Syria or leave to another country
- Pray for wisdom to develop leaders who would take the gospel back to Syria with them
- Pray for the raising up of leaders and the church planting in Syria
- Pray for more laborers in the field as the harvest is white

Thank you for your prayers and support,

We look forward to seeing you among us.

Blessings,

on behalf of the TM team,

Michel and Nuna Matar

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An introduction to African Enterprise

African Enterprise (AE) was established by Michael Cassidy in 1961 to evangelise the cities of Africa in word and deed in partnership with the church. Fast forward 56 years, and AE is the largest evangelistic partnership in Africa, bringing over 50,000 people to Christ per annum and reaching over a million with the Gospel every year.

I believe that our effectiveness in Christ is that we are an indigenous ministry of Africans, promoting the Gospel for Africa on a very large, city wide scale involving hundreds of churches and evangelists in any African nation. Right now we are about to undertake a Pan-African mission in Kampala Uganda, and you can read more about it on our webpage **africanenterprise.com.au**

AE Founder Michael Cassidy and the late Nelson Mandela in Pietermritzburg 1992

HIV AIDS Education Tanzania

Korogocho Sanitation Kenya

From our social action projects

Mathare Tailoring Kenya

GRASP (Girls' Room) Rwanda

We desperately need church communities to be praying for the lost in Africa and staying in touch with the incredible, transformative love of Jesus for his people. We want to open up opportunities for our African team leaders to be partnering with churches across Africa, and to be raising up supporters in Australia, NZ and Hong Kong to provide regular support for this ministry.

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An introduction to African Enterprise (...continued)

Martha from the Malawi tailoring project

Evangelists from the Rwanda Mission

From our mission projects

Preparing for Zambia Leadership Missions (Tapalo)

Foxfires (Kenya) with a new van

Rev Dr Stephen Mbogo and Ben Campbell together in Egypt earlier this year

On occasion we bring out evangelists to speak about mission (and even bring people to Christ here in Australia/NZ), such as Stephen Mbogo our international CEO, Stephen Lungu, whom you may know from his incredible testimony in '*Out of the Black Shadows*' and our youth leaders. You can find out when they are coming out and mission details by subscribing on the AE Australia website **africanenterprise.com.au**

God bless you and you can get in touch anytime via the AE email **ae@aeint.org**

Ben Campbell
African Enterprise.

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Always Laboring Fervently, CW4L Well Photos, Samarae Clinic

From Rick Rupp, 4-Oct-2017

Dear friends, This week I will receive my first (proof) copy of "Walk With God" by Rick Rupp! So the next step is that I must carefully review it to see if it is ready to be printed. Once it becomes available you can purchase directly from myself or go online at Amazon.com to order your copy! "Walk With God" is about my journey into a meaningful prayer life, a deeper faith, and experiencing miracles! The price is $12.99 plus S&H. Let me know if your Church Book Store would carry my new book.

Our Clean Water 4 Life ministry has completed 121 water wells since June of 2016 through Sept 30, 2017. Jesus said that if we give them a cup of cold water in His name that we will not lose our reward! I never get tired of sharing these amazing testimonies and photo's! Remember there are no roads nor electricity on Small Ngella! Our two tractor well drilling rigs are the perfect answer to bringing these isolated poor people clean drinking water for the first time in their lives! Now we get to pioneer a new thing at a rural clinic in the Solomon Islands desperate for clean drinking water in partnership with Martin & Barbara Brezger owners of Mork Water Solutions based in Perth, Australia!

I have another fantastic testimony! On a remote Island in the Western Province our Clean Water 4 Life ministry drilled a well for a medical clinic but the water contained salt and is what we call brackish. The nurse at Samarae Clinic explained how she delivers hundreds of babies every year at this clinic but must send the mothers home the same day of delivery due to a lack of having enough clean drinking water. So in partnership with Moerk Water the Samarae Clinic will soon receive a solar powered desalination unit to filter the well and provide hospital grade drinking water! We contacted the Christian owners of Mork Water who then applied for a large grant from the German Embassy in Australia which produced funding needed for this remote clinic in the Solomon Islands! This solar powered unit will arrive and be installed later this month! With clean drinking water at this clinic the mothers and newborn babies will soon be able to stay for several days before paddling home in their canoes! WOW! Check out their web site **http://www.moerkwater.com.au/news/**

Photo #1 is another successful drinking water well for Siarana which is an Anglican community of about 300 people and is located at the west side of the Island called Small Ngella. There are no rivers nearby and attempts to pipe water from small streams up some of the hills was not successful because those streams run dry much of the time. The village leaders of Siarana convey their heartfelt thanks for the sponsors of their new well.

Photo #2 is Vuranimala Community School has a population of 500 students. This school serves communities on the south side of Small Ngella island. Their new well serves the students and teaching staff at the school and supplies water for drinking and bathing. Again this water well now resolves the problem of reliance on rain water to run the school. The Board and Management of Vuranimala Community School send their sincere thanks for the assistance in sponsoring their well.

After 5 long years of hard work our Orphan/Visitor House will be dedicated at Fa'arau, Solomon Islands on December 8. Grace and I along with a small team consisting of Nick Rima, Elijah Packard, Benjamin Troyer, and Rev Daniel Kwon will spend two weeks Nov 30 - Dec 16 to celebrate the occasion!

See photo of Barnabas and me. This 16 year old boy oppressed by drugs and alcohol consumption visited Fa'arau Prayer House and got saved! Barnabas is an orphan and while living in Auki he was told by a person involved in witchcraft that he had 4 days to live. Our vision for the Orphan/Visitor House is that it would be a place of refuge so youth and young adults could come live in an godly environment of continuous worship and prayer and find freedom through the love of Jesus Christ. Barnabas is a first fruits of this vision. He is already playing one of the hand drums on a Fa'HOP worship team. The curse put on his life is broken. It was all nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ and Barnabas now has a hope and a future serving as a king and priest in the house of the Lord! Another fruit of partnering with **www.CleanWater4Life.com**

You are invited to come and attend our Grand Opening service for the Fa'arau, Solomon Islands Orphan/Visitor house this December 8. Please let me know and I will assist you with travel information. I expect international

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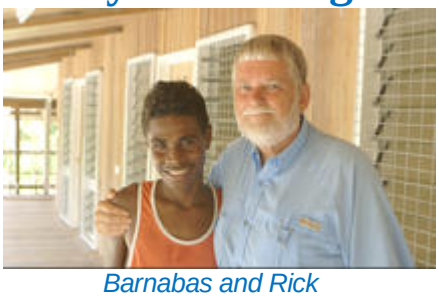
Always Laboring Fervently (...continued)



Barnabas and Rick

guests from Australia, Canada, USA, and many local Solomon Islanders to come celebrate what God has done! Since 2011 when we started building this Orphan/Visitor House we have witnessed God's miraculous provision over and over. Those of you who attend this Grand Opening service are in for a real surprise. When empowered the men in Fa'arau have proven that they are both smart and hard workers!

Clean Water 4 Life can offer you a tax deductible receipt for donations if from Canada, USA, and Australia. Contact me if you have any questions and I will direct you with the information you need.

Please keep praying for $100,000.00 in order to provide 50 more water well projects in the Solomon Islands to be installed in the next three months. Plus our expansion to rescue the poor in Vanuatu who need clean drinking water will require an additional $50,000.00 I'm praying for a third tractor well drilling rig!

With all my heart I believe together we can bring hope to the thirsty ones in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. Contact me via email if you have any questions at rickrupp@ihopkc.org

USA tax deductible donations
just go online here **https://mygiving.secure.force.com/GXDonateNow?id=a0Ui000000LvZpNEAV**

Here is the complete information and video: **http://www.cleanwater4life.com/25wells/us**

Australian tax deductible gifts use can be made via **Mission World Aid**: Each donation of $2500 AU will sponsor one well. **BSB: 105079 Account # 040615340** "marked": **Clean Water 4 Life** or here is the online link: **www.cleanwater4life.com.au/25wells**

If you would like to become a monthly partner, you may do so online at IHOPKC giving e-link eGiving Code **RR587249**
https://www.ihopkc.org/give/staffsupport/form/?cid=701d0000000OMOnAAO&sname=Richard%20Rupp or with PayPal using my email **rickrupp@ihopkc.org**

USA residents to help fund a well project by mail:

Make check payable to National Christian Foundation, **in the memo write Acct # 1121806**

Mail checks to: **National Christian Foundation, 11625 Rainwater Drive Suite 500, Alpharetta, GA 30009**

Thank you partners for praying and sowing!

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 revival is birthed in Jesus name. Amen

God Establish Your Topeka House Of Prayer

Meditation: Zechariah 4:6 *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts."*

There is no substitute in the whole universe for the person of the Holy Spirit. He the Holy Spirit can do what no other person and no other power can do. He is the only One who can do in us what God wants to be done! All the wonderful exploits that I've listed above are because the Holy Spirit through fervent prayer has orchestrated everything! If you and I want to enter into the calling that God has prepared for us in Christ, than you and I must fervently pray and become totally dependent on the Holy Spirit. Apart for the Spirit of God I cannot do anything. No prayer no exploits! There is no substitute. Education won't do it. Talent won't do it. Money certainly will not do it. Nothing and no one but the Spirit of God....the Holy Spirit ....He can do it! If we will pray and partner with what is on His heart!

If you want to succeed in your calling, if you want to take up the Kingdom of God assignment for which you were made, if you want to conquer adversity and evil forces of the enemy, the lesson here is crystal clear. You and I must pray and we must be led by the Holy Spirit.

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."

Rick Rupp | NightWatch Dad **RickRupp@ihopkc.org**
IHOPKC Intercessory Missionary **www.rickrupp.com**
Director Of Topeka House Of Prayer **www.CleanWater4Life.com**

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Marriage at Work – 3. Jesus and the Church

By John Yates - posted 29 May 2013 - http://cross-connect.net.au/marriage-at-work-3-jesus-and-the-church/

Review

In God's original design work existed primarily as a site where the excellencies of marriage could be revealed. Thus the first couple had a holy vocation to tend and guard the Garden of Eden for the glory of God. They sinned, and the intimate connection between a relationship with God, marriage and work was severed (Gen 3:15-19; Rom 3:23). Employment became a means of survival stripped of the presence of God.

The divine plan moved ahead with Israel, called as the covenant wife of Yahweh to illuminate the spheres of work and culture as places of divine wisdom (Ex 19:4-6). The nation however turned away from the LORD became adulterous and failed her marriage calling (Deut 31:6). The glory of God departed once more.

Prophetic hope for a consummated revelation of the husbandly gifts and graces of God in the realm of life and work turned to the coming of Messiah (Ps 72). His maturity would impart to the people of God as a renewed Bride the glorious radiance of the divine presence (Isa 62:1-5). This is the story of Jesus.

Jesus Restores the Presence

John the Baptist was the first to proclaim Jesus as the Bridegroom who had come to claim his Bride; "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete." (John 3:29 cf. Matt 9:14-15). Christ alone was able to secure the marital fidelity of the covenant people by intimately and indestructibly binding them to God through his own flesh. The declaration ""This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."" (Luke 22:20) proclaims that the marriage between Jesus and the Church is sealed with the blood of the cross.

It is the Bride of God who kills her Bridegroom on the cross. In this way the ever faithful God takes away in himself all the curses of covenantal betrayal and adultery

The death of Jesus is not an impersonal legal transaction; the crucifixion is a Husband taking into himself all the sins of his Wife; for it is the Bride of God who kills her Bridegroom on the cross. In this way the ever faithful God takes away in himself all the curses of covenantal betrayal and adultery (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13). The partnership of those in the new covenant with the LORD is now as indissoluble as marriage was always intended to be. The divine presence in Christ is here to stay; ""I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13:5). This is a marriage promise from God whose presence is not limited to our inner world.

Jesus spoke of his ministry as a divine *work*, ""My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."" (John 4:34 cf. 17:4), and at death proclaimed this *work* achieved, ""It's done . . . complete." (John 19:30). In marital language so familiar to us the consummated work of Christ has secured reconciliation. "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them" (2 Cor 5:19 ESV); "through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross." (Col 1:20).

The sphere of work has become a place where the reality of reconciliation with God is to be revealed. Work is no longer merely a means of physical survival or personal enjoyment; it is a realm where the glory of the Bridegroom can be revealed through his Bride, the Church

Like all else, the sphere of work has become a place where the reality of reconciliation with God is to be revealed. Work is no longer merely a means of physical survival or personal enjoyment; it is a realm where the glory of the Bridegroom can be revealed through his Bride, the Church.

Working for the Man

Whether you are a housewife, pastor or executive, you do not work for "the family / boss / church / company"; your call is to work for Jesus. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," (Colossians 3:23 ESV). Christ is working in you and through you (2 Cor 6:1; Col 1:29). To work "for the Man" is to work for your lovely Husband (2 Cor 11:2). This vocational call is

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Marriage at Work – 3. Jesus and the Church (…continued)

intensely intimate. Let me use an illustration to explain.

Paul says to the Corinthians about their gatherings, "For though absent in body…my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:3-4 ESV). As a husband who prays for his wife, I believe that when Donna is in the classroom my spirit is present in the Spirit of Jesus working with God's grace to impart to her life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). In the workplace she is enclosed in a marital relationship of love and unity with Christ and in a secondary way by me. Ultimately work is all about the manifestation of the love of the Bridegroom for the world.

The call of the Christian at work is to bring to light the various dimensions of what a reconciled home, factory, art studio, office, shop, farm, school etc. is meant to look like in the purposes of God. Work is a place where Jesus wills to reveals himself, not only as Saviour and Lord but as our eternal loving Husband

The call of the Christian at work is to bring to light the various dimensions of what a reconciled home, factory, art studio, office, shop, farm, school etc. is meant to look like in the purposes of God (Eph 3:9 - 10). Work is a place where Jesus wills to reveals himself, not only as Saviour and Lord but as our eternal loving Husband. Through the faithfulness of the saints in the workplace a revelation comes to blinded humanity of what an earth fully reconciled earth to God will look like; this is heaven. Our eternal destiny is to reign with Christ in the city of God as a loving married couple outworking the ageless purposes of God (Rev 19-22). In the End it will be revealed that God's plan was always to have the universe as one vast bridal chamber. This is a tremendous vision, but it has terrible enemies.

The Other Woman

The incessant catch cry of modern life, "busy, busy, busy", points to enslavement by a hostile spiritual power (cf. Gal 4:3, 9 Col 2:8, 20). This power is *the other woman*, ""Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."… drunk with the blood of the saints" (Rev 17). Babylon is a world economic system who makes endless promises of material prosperity and saps the spiritual energy of the people of God through ceaseless compromise.

It is possible to be joined to the prostitute of the world economic system and the Lord at the same time. The result however is always the loss of the intimate sense of the presence of Christ as Husband in all the affairs of life

It is possible to be joined to the prostitute of the world economic system and the Lord at the same time (cf. 1 Cor 6:16-17). The result however is always the loss of the intimate sense of the presence of Christ as Husband in all the affairs of life. "You cannot serve God and money"" (Luke 16:3) are words familiar to us, but the Spirit speaks more intimately in charging us to be "pure virgins" for Christ alone (2 Cor 11:2, Rev 14:4). Such a level of holy fidelity comes to pass only as we sense our beloved Husband with us in the workplace more really than our spouse is with us in the bedroom. This is the depths of the reality of matrimonial union with God/reconciliation for which Christ died and rose again.

Conclusion

As reconciled people of God we "belong to another", to Jesus as not merely Saviour and Lord but as our betrothed (Rom 7:1-4). Our vocation as people joined to the Lord is to manifest the reconciling power of this spiritual union in all the realms of life, and particularly in the workplace.

That the ultimate purpose of work is a medium for the sharing of marital wisdom and fellowship is a notion that has become foreign to the Church. The time is coming soon when God's Spirit will be poured out to reveal such truths

Work is far far more than a means of survival and personal prosperity; it is all about the sweetest presence of Bridegroom Jesus. That the ultimate purpose of work is a medium for the sharing of marital wisdom and fellowship is a notion that has become foreign to the Church. The time is coming soon when God's Spirit will be poured out in the marketplace to reveal such truths, this will be nothing less than a new reformation. May this be something for which we all long and pray.

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Name Your Price!

By Bjorn Schmid

Before we continue with Matthew 6, I'd like to follow up on Ego Buster #7 by quoting from a blog by my friend and brother, the Rev. Dr. Denis Plant:

> *There are times and places for public fasts, Israel was called upon as a nation to fast, the church should be called upon from time to time to fast. I think the issue misses the point of a fast and indeed the point Jesus makes. Firstly when Jesus is speaking about fasting in Matthew he is speaking to and about the Pharisee who fasts for show, to gain credit and recognition for being pious while being a hypocrite. Secondly a fast needs to be, as stated on Isaiah, a fast HE HAS CALLED..*
>
> *'Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?' (Isa 58:5)*
>
> *While at an individual level we can and should fast if we see a need but even then it is much more Holy Spirit called than man "called for". A public or church wide or community or state wide fast needs to be called by the Holy Spirit if it is to be effective, the "Fast I have called" with boundaries and purpose.*
>
> *The problem is not the fast, the problem is the motive behind the fast, that was true in the Old Testament, true in the New Testament, and remains so today.*

So what's your motive? Is it fear or is it love? Is your sacrifice acceptable to God or to men?

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

> *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." [verses 19-21]*

It is possible to purchase an insurance policy for almost anything, yet the most grand-sounding policy of all - Life Insurance - won't stop you from dying. Similarly collecting funds in various financial instruments are not 'iron clad' either as many who have seen their life savings drain away in these troubled times can testify. Jesus goes a step further to speak of thieves, and whether wearing a balaclava and wilding a crow bar, or wearing a suit and tie and waving an iPad, thieves are among us to stay and Jesus makes the point that nothing is really 'safe' on this earth. Perhaps if he turned up in a sports car wearing a flashy suit and announced "**Invest in Heaven NOW!**" with fireworks and a line of dancing girls behind him, people would take more notice? Perhaps not.

Mary the mother of Jesus shows us where she kept her treasure:

> *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. [Luke 2:19]*
> *But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. [Luke 2:51b]*

Jesus is reminding us that what we treasure determines our will and motivation; "*where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" If our treasure is earthly then we are focused on things temporal, if our treasure is heavenly then we are focussed on things eternal. You can have both treasures of course, as many do, but then you live a divided life and some of your treasure will eventually vanish.

The two things I treasure most are God's word to me and God's people. When I say 'God's word' I don't mean the Bible as such - you can't take that to heaven either as it is a human written and translated testament of God's word and works - but I take the *revealed word* or 'rhema' that the Holy Spirit gives me as I read and meditate on the Bible or as I wait in Christ's presence. Christ is Himself of course the ultimate Word who became flesh (John 1) and He is my ultimate treasure.

God's people are also living treasures and I value every person; made unique in the image of God. I look forward to spending eternity celebrating with each and every one of you and discovering what incredible beauty God has crafted in you. Hallelujah!

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

> *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" [verses 22-23]*

Apparently the words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' in the original Greek text of this gospel also means

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Name Your Price! (...continued)

'generous' and 'stingy' respectively. We know that God is generous, continually giving from his unending grace to us the undeserving. His pure light illuminates our soul if we look to Him with eyes wide open rather than to the world for wisdom and sustenance. Eve sought wisdom, but she and her husband Adam were not trusting in God to give them the wisdom they needed (Genesis 3) and thus they fell.

> *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." [verse 24]*

Judas Iscariot compromised his position as one of the twelve chosen disciples of Jesus because he 'loved the purse' and subsequently he slid down to the point where satan entered his heart (John 12:6,13:26-30). What a tragedy that Judas, trusted with the group's money, could not stop himself from stealing from God. He probably didn't intend to live a life of luxury but wanted to ensure that he had enough 'just in case', which of course is a lack of faith in God's provision.

The recent Australian Government survey on same sex marriage has brought out some of the worst behaviour in people, and I'm not talking about the 'Yes' campaign. There is a worldly attitude that money buys votes and the more money you spend, the more votes you get. This has been the driving trend in modern elections and caused the massive spending campaigns of political parties in Australia and around the world with every group trying to out-spend each other. The only winners in this sort of game are the media and the publicists. The community receives no benefit, the donators lose vast sums of money trying to compete against an obscured and unclear enemy, and the candidates lose their independence and any personal principles they may have had in the great sacrifice offering on the altar of popularity.

Why are we as Christians competing in this game for earthly power when we're supposed to be children of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Jesus was offered the same temptation - "all the kingdoms of the world" (Matthew 4:1-11) - and he rebutted satan's false offer, so why are many accepting it? Jesus is quite explicit about who rules our actions; either God or worldly power, eternal or temporal. You can't have both.

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

> *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? [verses 25-27]*

In the Garden of Eden the fragility of earthly life was sustained by God himself and they were totally reliant on Him; there was no need to 'earn a living'. Because Adam and Eve failed to believe God would give them everything the needed, or more probably they wanted more than He gave them (i.e. impatient), they fell into satan's trap and God cursed them to have to 'earn a living' since they didn't want to rely on His provision alone any more. We are still afraid to be totally dependant on God and to trust in in His promise "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 12:5, Deuteronomy 31:6)

> *"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? [verses 28-30]*

Jesus gets right down to the point here: God himself provides not only the bare necessities, but visual riches today for plants and animals which are gone tomorrow. So why would he not do the same for you and me for whom He died and rose from the dead to save? Why can't we trust Him more?

> *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [verses 31-34]*

How wonderful is our King! What a provider extraordinaire; all we need do is "seek first his kingdom **and** his righteousness" and He promises that "all these things will be given to you as well". I believe Him and take Him at His word. Since I no longer own anything and everything I have is His, He takes care of us. He provided work to earn an income when we needed it, he helped us to find a way to restore our finances, he ensures that we are never without daily bread - spiritual and physical. We don't live in luxury but we are content with what he provides us (Hebrews 12:5 again). He has never put us to shame or forsaken us.

Read and meditate on 1 Peter 1 for inspiration on the above.

More next edition wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)! Grace and peace, Bjorn.

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From No Peace to Know Peace

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

Since the attacks on Temple Mount, July 14th, the Lord has had my heart gripped and focused on one word, "Peace." The ramifications of the political decisions and escalation of violence and threats have put Israel in the middle of the "Dire straits," heading towards the 9th of Av. In the face of such upheaval and manipulation by high level spiritual religious and political warfare, what are we as Christians to do? What is God saying through this?

A few days after the incident, while in the prayer room, the Lord took me into a vision. The ramifications of it have gripped my heart and kept it surrounded by the "fear of the Lord,"

VISION: In the vision, I saw Temple Mount enshrouded in rolling dark clouds like a thunderstorm. In the midst of the vision, suddenly the Lord's hand smacked down on Temple Mount open handedly, not with a fist, but took hold of it in a firm grip.. The dark clouds dissipated (did not disappear, but dissipated). There was a sense of an earthquake when this happened.

Since that vision, I have continued to hear the "smack" of His hand hitting Temple Mount. It is a sound like a hammer hitting the gavel similar to what one hears in court when the judge makes a decision. Underneath the violence of July 14th, it is as if the Lord hit the gavel saying, "The Court is in order…and a judgment has been made! Attention! My plans and purposes will stand."

As the event has supernaturally slid under the table away from the view of mainstream media, in God's powerful quiet way, an order in heaven has been called forth to earth. Under the cover of the protective hand of God, a "Set time," has come into place as the violence of Temple Mount announced it. Truly, Matthew 11:12 expresses the moment, "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." This act has ramifications that have released a purpose in God that is now setting its course. How it manifests, is yet to be seen, but surely the line was crossed, but God has set the order.

The Watch is Key to the end-time harvest and fullness of the Gentile Church, Romans 11:25

In 2 Kings 11, in the story of Israel during Athaliah's reign, the children of Israel were suffering much violence. Athaliah the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel killed the children of inheritance. It was a violent reign, much like we are experiencing today as violence strikes various communities, and rules in nations of the earth. But there came a time when the priests responded to the violence. They set the "**Watch**" at key gates, to prepare the way for the true King to be revealed and provided a way for him to rule and reign, 2 Kings 11;5-7. In a similar fashion today, God is preparing the way for the true Peace of Jerusalem, Jesus, to come to rule and reign.

Underneath the political and religious manipulation working its way towards a solution to the violence on Temple Mount, the vision speaks to a shift and underlying plan of God unfolding. Daniel 7:21 prophecies:

"I was **watching** and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the Kingdom."

Without messing with people's eschatological views, these scriptures point to the fact that the "Watch" is very key for the Kingdom to manifest (Daniel 7:21), and for the government of God to be established (2 Kings 11).

Furthermore, Jesus told His disciples to "Watch." This exhortation happened primarily on His last three days on earth. In fact, His last exhortation to His disciples was, "Could you not **watch** with Me one hour?" Mark 14:37, before the greatest event since creation would take place.

Watchmen are now being called to take their place. The gavel of heaven has hit earth. Why? Because the Lord is preparing the way for the 2nd greatest event on earth to take place, His return to rule and reign. Watchmen must be in place for His government to come forth and be established! God is preparing the way for the true Peace of Jerusalem to come into place. The enemy has crossed the line. Enough is enough. The court has been seated and judgment is being released for favor of the saints to

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possess the Kingdom.

How is the Kingdom expressed?

- Luke 17:21 says, “The kingdom of God is within you.”
- Matthew 6:33 It is the first thing we are to do, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.
- Romans 14:17 manifests as “Righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

The Kingdom of God abides in us and manifests itself in right standing with God, and results in peace and joy.

Peace is a major sign and power source

In fact, Peace is a major manifestation of His Kingdom. Jesus in His last days promised, “Peace I leave with you,” John 14:27. But it was also the first word recorded out of His mouth when He showed Himself to the disciples after the resurrection in John 20:26. When we are in a place of peace, the Kingdom of God is manifesting. We can be still and “Know that He is God,” Psalm 46:10. When abiding in peace, it is a sign we have entered the courts of heaven. The resources of heaven are accessible. Peace is the absence of the schemes of the enemy that would kill search and destroy our promises, purposes, and potential in God. That is why scriptures say:

- Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it, Psalms 34:14
- But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven Matthew 5:44-45
- Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Romans 14:16-19
- Flee also from youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart., 2 Timothy 2:22
- Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

Peace is a major a sign we have entered the courts of heaven. In the absence of evil, the favor of God is upon us. It is in this place of peace that, even in the face of adversity, we can access the courts of heaven for His answer, deliverance, resources or whatever is the need. It does not mean we don’t have to war for it. It may very well be the hardest place to find peace is in the very place where God wants to bring His Kingdom. When we enter His rest and peace, we have broken through to His resources, and reward, and breakthrough

Why pursue peace? It can be summed up simply through His promises, “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God,” Matthew 5:9. It is where God is taking the body of Christ. All creation is groaning for the sons of God to emerge, Romans 8:19. The fulfillment of the fullness of the Gentile church is at hand. Why? So that Israel might be saved (Romans 11:25), and the true Peace of Jerusalem be established. Peace is the passageway to the resources of heaven.

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God, Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:2-4

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