

Pentecost Eve 2018

Compiled by Bjorn and Lilian Schmid, Convenors of Transforming Sydney,
Coordinators of Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

Where were you this Pentecost Eve 2018, the evening before Pentecost in May this year? Were you giving thanks for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit some 2000 years ago in Jerusalem? Perhaps you were attending an evening service or mass and worshipping together with some of your eternal family? In Sydney, and other places, some of your family were.

Pentecost 2018 in Sydney

On Saturday evening the 19th May 2018, some of us gathered together at The Word Christian Fellowship Church in Minto to give thanks and pray for our city. We welcomed everyone who came, some travelling long distances to be there.

*"Keep your eyes on Jesus,
keep your eyes on the Father,
and be open to each other.
Let the Holy Spirit minister to
us because he testifies to
Jesus, and Jesus testifies to
the Father, and we will come
to know the Father better and
become children of God."
Rev. Errol Stevenson*



Rev. Errol Stevenson and the worship band welcoming everyone

We worshiped God with all our hearts and our voices. Some also danced and waved flags.



Dancing and waving banners



People praising and worshipping...

*"TS is not my
vision, it is
God's vision
for the city of
Sydney"*
Lilian Schmid



Bjorn and Lilian Schmid

We heard from Transforming Sydney how it was birthed, and how it is now transitioning to new leadership, and some inspiring words from the newly appointed Chairman of the TS Board, the Rev. Peter Robinson.

*"TS is a ministry of encouragement
to people all over Sydney and NSW
who have a heart for Kingdom
transformation; in the family, in the
church, and in the marketplace."
Rev. Peter Robinson*



Rev. Peter Robinson – Chair of TS Board

(continued...)

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Ron Edwards, SESPN & TS Board

We heard and gave thanks for what God is doing in the South-East of Sydney, where we held the Pentecost Eve celebration last year (June 2017). Ron Edwards shared how the South-East Sydney Prayer Network (SESPN) is thriving as they visit and focus prayer on a different church each month, and then see God's amazing answers to prayer.

"I was involved with the first Pentecost Eve in Newtown. The number of people we had there from all denominations - it was amazing. Nothing happens without prayer, and to see that prayer going on set a fire under me, and I'm 82! You're never too old to serve the Lord: all you need to do is get in step with Him." Ron Edwards



Ron Edwards with Pastors and Prayer Leaders from the South-West

We witnessed the baton of blessing and prayer passed from the South-East to the South-West.

We cried out to God and prayed with local leaders who led us to humble ourselves, and seek God's face and His heart for the South-West of Sydney.

"Lord, let us be a people of a different spirit, like Calebs in our time. Conquering the mountains of impatience, offence, anger and sin that so easily ensnares us. Seeing them dissolve under the outpouring of Your grace" Sue Peacock



Sue Peacock & Maureen O'Brien from Aglow

"It only take a stone to bring down the giant - will you put a stone in your pocket to bring down the giant? Lord with Your help we can do it." Maureen O'Brien

Our host challenged us to re-think what Pentecost means.

"Pentecost brings radical changes - if it doesn't bring radical change it's not Pentecost. A problem the Church faces is we tend to reduce the Holy Spirit to just peace. We need peace, but peace doesn't bring radical change and the Holy Spirit brought radical change. The 120 men and women had no idea they would be leaving that place unafraid to take the message of Jesus Christ to the city - that's the radical change Pentecost is supposed to bring." Rev. Plant



Our host, the Rev. Dr. Denis Plant; Principal of Vision Bible College and the Internet Bible College

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Three local leaders Ann, Michelle and Phil prayed from their hearts for the people in the South-West region



Anne Willott from Macarthur Christian Network, Michelle from 7th Day, and Dr. Phil Greer from Liverpool Pastors Network

"Many pastors and churches in the Macarthur, Wollondilly and Parramatta areas are insular and act as though they and their church are invincible and don't need one another." Anne Willott

"The devil is real and hitting us so hard because we are the future of the Church. We can not win this battle without You God, without Your Holy Spirit." Michelle

"If we're not seeing the things that was talked about at Pentecost then there are things that need to be repented of... God hasn't changed so where does the problem lie?" Dr. Phill Greer

We broke into groups to pray into the challenges presented by the South-West leaders. Lord, hear our prayer.



Attendees split into groups to pray



Marie Nichols

"We need to repent of not being the church we're called to be; the Body. We really need to have a love for this nation at any cost. Lord we pray that the universal Church would be one in this nation." Marie Nichols

Marie Nichols spoke about the recent passing of the Same-Sex marriage laws in Australia and that the sad lack of unity of the church in Australia allowed laws and other things to come in which do not please our Father God.

Rev. Tupou from the Samoan 7th Day Adventist community reminded us of the one-ness of that gathering of the Apostles and disciples in the upper room at Pentecost and he prayed for unity of the Body of Christ.

"They were in that house, in that room, on that night, and they sang to God and they prayed to God, in one manner, in one heart, in one soul. Heaven heard that prayer and the fire came upon them."

Rev. Tupou



Rev. Tupou

(continued...)

Pentecost Eve 2018

Rev. Errol reminded us that Des Higgs was instrumental in gathering thousands of Christians to pray over the opening of the new Parliament House in Canberra in 1988 so that 'like the old parliament it would be grounded in prayer'.

Des asked us if we realised what a miracle was happening on this night? He challenged if we really believe that the armies of the enemy are fleeing and the dark world is shaking in terror because we are praying together and have communicated with the God of all creation.

"What is happening here? This is a miracle! The Holy Spirit is enjoying this. The Godhead is celebrating (so to speak) because they're having fellowship, communing with us. This is what God was feeling when he walked in the Garden with man His creation." Des Higgs

Our thanks to our host Rev. Denis, our MC Rev. Errol and all the wonderful people at the The Word Christian Fellowship who made us welcome and worked to ensure everything flowed smoothly and in the Spirit.

Pentecost 2019 in Sydney

The next celebration for Pentecost Eve will be held in Sydney's North on the 8th June 2019. We continue to pray for renewal in the Body of Christ and for the revival and transformation for our cities. As we move from region to region, we pray that the local leaders continue to celebrate Pentecost with each other, we will witness the power of the Holy Spirit sweeping across our cities, bringing forgiveness, healing, righteousness, holiness and revival through the power of prayer.

From the Chair of TS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As God's people in this great city that we share let us recognise, pray for, support and affirm one another as we discover each other scattered through it. All who trust in Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation through repentance and faith are brothers and sisters in him, and he is our head. We need to recognise each other because we all belong to him by faith, and he wants us to demonstrate his grace and power to the world he came to save. He has given us his Spirit to do this. We don't need big plans though they have their place; we need to be willing to stay close to him and to be ready every day to respond to his leading. Pray for divine appointments and for eyes to see them and hearts to respond to them. We're his body.

Let's ask him to show us who our brothers and sisters are in our work places, local communities, places of learning, culture and sport. Or wherever.

Most of the time we are his scattered body, spread out like salt, and yeast in the dough. We gather as church weekly for spiritual renewal and refreshment so we can leave again and return to the coalface where the Kingdom happens.

There are more of us around than we generally recognise. God has "many people in this city" (Acts 18.10), called to live for Christ, supportive of our message and witness.

Many fellow believers in Sydney have been moved to organise major outreaches this summer. Let us pray that Christ is honoured and that many people come to him through repentance and faith. And that they grow as members of his body.

Society cannot receive the blessings of the Spirit's transforming power without transformed lives being visible and lived out. Jesus is visible in us who follow him – in all the variety of our callings, our gifts and opportunities, our service of neighbour and community, in our work and creativity. As we pray "Come Lord" this Advent let us seek the welfare of the city as we await his return.

Let us call on others to repent and believe while there is time.

In his name,
Rev Peter Robinson
Chairman
28th November 2018




Australian elder Des Higgs (Member of TS Board)

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
uttered or unexpressed;
the motion of a hidden fire
that trembles in the breast.
(from a hymn by James Montgomery 1818)*

"Sydney is a place of so much energy; with the infusion of so many different cultures and people coming from all sorts of different places, plus the original aboriginal population. We have an extraordinary energy in this city, and we want to see that energy going to good things not bad things. Kingdom growth and not the works of satan." Rev. Peter Robinson