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Rediscovering Prayer: The day that prayer began

Praying has always been hard for Christians. I once heard John Stott say that it was his greatest struggle in the Christian life. I suspect that most Christians today would add a heartfelt Amen to that! I know I have never found prayer easy.

Add to that the fact that right now, at this point in history of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer is not front and centre. Let's take a fresh look at what the Bible actually says about prayer.

Where is the first in the Bible? You might have read over this in Genesis 4:25-26 : "And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, ... To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord." This is the day that prayer began.

But why did people start to 'call on the name of Yahweh'? At first glance it isn't all that obvious. Not much happens in the verses, or the chapter leading up to this announcement. But there really can be only one reason – people start to pray because of the birth of Enosh.

Enosh doesn't get much airplay in the Old Testament – in fact you may never even give him a second thought – but his birth triggers the start of prayer. Why? The answer is simple but important: it is because people begin to understand the gospel. For the first time, people start to get a glimpse of God's master plan that would ultimately lead to the coming of the Lord Jesus and change the whole universe.

'Where does it say that?' I hear you say. Step back to Gen.3:15, God promises Adam that one of Eve's children will stamp on the head of the serpent. Who is the most likely candidate? At the beginning of Ch.4 it Abel and Cain are the possibilities. But with Abel's death at the hand of Cain, both are ruled out. The next contender has to be Seth, but what are we told about Seth? Nothing, so it can't be him. By this stage people might be getting a little impatient.

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That's when Enosh comes along. This is when it starts to become evident that everything may not get sorted out straight away. It's at this point, it seems, that they realise that they are going to have to wait a while for God to fulfil His promises, and they start to "call on Yahweh". This is when they start to pray.

"To call on God" here surely means to cry to God to come through on his promises, to do what we cannot do for ourselves, and to admit our weaknesses and appeal to His awesome strength. They start to pray because they see both God's commitment to us, and their own helplessness. They pray because they know that God is for them, because He has said so, and they are weak, because He has said so. In other words, prayer starts with the gospel. It always has and always will.

Gary Millar
Principal, Queensland Theological College.

CBMC Australia News

CBMC Asian Board met in Brisbane 8-10 February

Valuable experience was gained by members of the Asian Board as they prepared to travel (Visa Applications / cost of flight) to Brisbane. For most this was their first visit to Australia, a couple having been to Sydney or Melbourne previously.

We Aussies gained insight into logistics of Meet & Greet, and transport to Hotel etc, with many Asian flights arriving early in the morning making it difficult or expensive in getting them into their rooms early. **PRAY** for the planning team and the marketing of the 21st Asian Convention on 25-27 October 2017 – logistics and expectations!

CBMC Au Staff Vacancy.

We are delighted and sad at the same time! Our Ministry Administration and Coordination position is now Vacant with Trent having secured full time employment with another Christian ministry caring for disadvantaged infants in some Asian countries. Our prayers go with Trent for the success of this new career opportunity as Financial Controller. **PRAY** for the Australian Board making decisions about the role, advertising and eventual selection for this important position for our ministry.

CBMC Asian Board 3rdorsement for planning of 21st Asian Convention.

The Asian Board have endorsed that the theme of 'being people of reconciliation' (2Cor.5:17-21). This encompasses these elements: Reconciliation with God; Reconciliation with self and others; Reconciliation of CBMC; and Reconciliation of generations. These elements bring about a transformation in the marketplace. The advice that several speakers had accepted our invitation to present at this Convention was received with thanksgiving. **PRAY** for the replies of other speakers, and the organising team knitting the elements and presenters together for the reverence and honour of Jesus through a 'smooth' integrated program.

CBMC Australia Board looking for Prayer Partners, provision of Scholarships, and Volunteers.

We are seeking your participation in these three areas. We are about to issue regular prayer updates for the progress of



planning and for the people the Lord wants us to have attend this Conference from across Asia as well as from across this land. To help some people to attend we are seeking 'scholarships' to assist them cover the cost of travel to Australia The very reason so many Australians find it economic to holiday overseas works against people coming here! Please plan now to attend the convention (Remember and mark the date now - 25th - 27th October). Can you volunteer to be in Brisbane for a week beforehand to help assemble Convention packs, be on hand to man information booths, etc?? **PRAY** about how you may invest in a new generation of men here and across Asia to be equipped to be Ambassadors for Jesus. **PRAY** about saving so you may come to Brisbane to help as a volunteer. Pray, Look around, Ask and encourage men to attend the convention.

Tony Levick.

Chairman,

CBMC Australia

Please advise CBMC office - admin@cbmcaustralia.com.au .



Coach / Mentor is needed

I have heard of only one other person who has enrolled in one of these Q4 Seminars “Faithful for a Lifetime!” towards the end of February in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Launceston, and Adelaide. I pray this does not mean that as CBMC members we think there is no validity in disciplining / coaching/ mentoring. It has been said "What's needed most isn't textbooks but 'Text-people' - because the teacher's personality (Coach/Mentor/Team Leader) is the 'text' that pupils will read and never forget.”

Christian Ministry Alliance’s (CMA) new ministry focused on Christians in or approaching their fourth-quarter (Q4 for shorthand) and the churches and ministries who wish to engage them effectively is being formally launched in late February. Coaching/ mentoring has been and continues to be part of our CBMC ministry plan in connecting with men in the marketplace.

There is still time to register!

For more information and to register please go to: <http://www.cma.net.au/q4/> and then advise our National Office of your registration (maybe a surprise!).

CMA “Q4” Conventions will be held in:

- Sydney – Feb22;
- Brisbane - Feb24;
- Melbourne – Feb27;
- Launceston 1st March; and
- Adelaide 2nd March.

Can we Achieve Our Vision?

Here we are with 2017 passing by at a rate of knots already. I want to thank all of you who have renewed your membership and made donations to CBMC. Having done that, what do you say CBMC is to someone who may ask you?

Do you mumble some words like those of our Mission Statement, or do you speak with confidence about the impact of the ministry? What I see by faith is not quite the reality around me. Let's rehearse some of the aspects of our faith and the integration in our daily lives so that we connect what our vision of the ministry is with practical elements incorporated under our Vision – 'To impact Australia by saturating the marketplace with the Gospel of Jesus'.

I beg you not to think this Vision for the CBMC ministry is too lofty for us to attain. There is an adage 'eat the elephant one mouthful at a time'. In fact the Bible gives us much more instruction and encouragement. It starts off by telling us that on our own we are destined to fail. But when we remain connected to Jesus, He will envision and empower us to help build His Kingdom. Paul has addressed this in this way: in Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." and to the Ephesians in Ch.2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

I have selected only one of many scriptures to look at what Jesus said:

"1. I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." [John 15:1-7]

Ah! It seems that Prayer is crucial. How do we know if this activity (good though it may be) is actually what God is asking us to do?

Answer: we need to pray. How do we remain connected to 'The Vine'?

Answer: we need to pray.

When we look at the Attributes of a Marketplace Ambassador, we see that they are not things we do in our own strength and wisdom. Their development and exercise are dependent upon us 'remaining connected to the vine.' Paul again instructs us (Rom.12:2) "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will." So we conclude that Bible reading and prayer work together to bring about our obedience - God's purposes, to help bring about God's Kingdom.

Prayer is powerful to bring down strongholds and the things that stand against God Almighty.

Meeting together for prayer, encouragement, training, and accountability is the foundation of our CBMC ministry, so we honour Jesus all day, every day, not just at church.

Join me in praying, encouraging, and forgiving one another, and speak about this vision regularly.

Tony Levick.

Chairman

CBMC Australia

Upcoming Events

Prayer meeting

Regular prayer meetings are held in the following locations

- Victoria
 - Horsham
 - Melbourne CBD
 - Burwood East
 - Warragul
- Queensland
 - Ipswich
 - Brisbane W'gabba (Kor)
- Tasmania
 - Coorparoo
 - Hobart
 - Launceston
 - Scotsdale
 - Ulverstone
-

Outreach events

- New South Wales
- Pennant Hills – Outreach Dinner February 27th
- Tasmania
- Devonport – regular outreach events and forums are held
- Queensland
- Brisbane – Coorparoo prayer meeting - Invitations extended to others
- Camp Hill – group meeting as part of Camp Hill Church of Christ men’s group using Operation Timothy -recommence Feb 26th.
- Woolongabba – Korean group meets weekly for breakfast and reflection, planning events to connect with Community.
- Victoria
- Melbourne CBD Prayer meeting Tuesday Lunchtime -.
- Burwood East Prayer meeting Thursday Mornings

21st CBMC Asian Convention

HELP!.

To ensure we have the best CBMC Asian Convention we can, we need your assistance.

- We need you to pray
- We need you to help with the organising
- We need you in Brisbane for the event



Dear CBMC Members and friends please pray for the organising team for this convention, especially with the loss of Trent’s skills from the National Office.

Pray for insight, wisdom and connections as the organising team and Board deliberate and plan for this event. We see this as a pivotal event for Australia, where we can invite our friends and colleagues for them to hear first-hand the great work CBMC does around the world. **Seek** friends and colleagues to invite and pray for. **Pray** for everyone involved in planning and resourcing this event.

OCTOBER 25-27 <> 21st CBMC Asian Convention. The Australian Board is **seeking your daily prayer** support so that planning & implementation will be achieved, within the required budget, and the work of CBMC throughout Asia (including Australia and New Zealand) will be strengthened bringing honour to our Lord Jesus. Some variation to our proposal will be needed following the Asian Board Meeting. Please join the prayer team : email admin@CBMCAsianConvention.com .

Prayer Points

- Thanks for experience and successful Asian CBMC Board meeting in Brisbane.
- 21st Asian CBMC Convention in Brisbane 25-27 October 2017- Finalising Program, setting marketing plan in action, seeking Scholarships and Sponsorship, '+, +, +, +'
- For the Australian Board as they seek replacement staff for Coordination & Administration.
- For the Australian Board as they plan activity in 2017 and develop and trial new Interest Seminars.
- For members to invite a new generation to be involved in CBMC.
- For Operation Timothy in Australia, that a new group of Paul's and Timothy's is established..
- For good faith related conversations for all our members.
- For CBMC members attending CMA Q4 training seminar end of February (Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide.)

Membership Renewal Reminder

Thanks for renewing your membership. We thank God for your partnership in Gospel ministry through CBMC Australia.

Our Task of demonstrating transformed lives in the Marketplace, helping others to investigate who Jesus is and what he has done is not yet complete. As a member of CBMC Australia our first priority of praying for one another is of great value and truly appreciated.

January Membership renewal forms have been emailed, or posted to you. Please complete the form and return to the office. Or you can go online to <http://www.cbmcaustralia.com.au/donations/> and process your payment via credit card on our PayPal enabled site.

Financial Support

Thank you to the members who regularly contribute to the ministry of CBMC across Australia. Your prayer and support is greatly appreciated in supporting the work we do.

We invite others to consider regularly partnering with CBMC as we look to new initiatives for 2017. By supporting this ministry you are investing in us by

- Supporting our CBMC staff and volunteers
- Assisting in providing resources to members and guests.
- Increasing our reach and effectiveness



These activities cannot be done without the financial support of our members and friends. We invite you to give a once off gift or a monthly contribution towards the work of CBMC Australia.

You can give your support by:

- Credit Card (securely on our website <http://www.cbmcaustralia.com.au/donations/> or over the phone to our office) or Bank Transfer (BSB: 083054 Account number: 24 836 1352)
- Or contact our national office: admin@cbmcaustralia.com.au or call 07 3172 9365