



Pastor Connect

3rd June, 2009

Prayer

It has really struck me in the last week just how much we as individuals and as members of the church need to be in prayer. So much happens in our world and in our daily lives that I do sometimes wonder how people who do not pray actually get through the day! I give so much of what happens in my life to God that I just couldn't cope any other way. And I know from personal experience and from reading the bible that prayer does work. God does answer our prayers and God does know what is the right answer, even if we happen to disagree with it. In that sense prayer is a bit of a risk in that we are giving ourselves and our lives over to the will of God and have to have faith and trust. That is not an easy thing to do and I know I still want to worry and stress. But I know that in my own life God's answers and God's will has been so much more insightful than my own, and that without it I would not be where I am today. So believe that prayer is powerful, that prayer works and that we cannot live without it.



Of course *just* praying is only half the story. We also need to be willing to get off our knees and listen and follow where God calls us, and to do the hard work that is needed to grow our church and to spread the Good News of Christ. I once saw a sign that I think illustrates this. It had 2 people in a rowboat with the caption "Pray to God, but row towards shore!" God has given us intelligence and the ability to think and reason. So the challenge is to combine prayer and action in such a way to honour God and the will of God. Again not easy, and yes; we have to pray about this to!

We have so much to pray for this week. Sonia's sister Julie still remains in hospital in a very serious condition. There have been healing miracles but many more are needed. So please pray for her, for her husband John and two young children Jesse and Charlie at this time. Please also pray for Sonia, her partner Annie and her family as they care and support one another.

Please pray for MCC Sydney. A lot has happened over the last couple of months and at this time we need the guidance and wisdom of God to help us all to be able to build up each other in the community of Christ, so we can all be inspired to serve God as we are called to. Pray for the Crave camp this weekend that it will be a time of learning and fellowship and that all shall travel safely.

Please pray for the wider MCC fellowship, for our elder Rev Ken Martin and our Moderator Rev Nancy Wilson. It is also world environment day on Friday so pray that we may be good stewards of our world and that governments and nations will be able to come together to face the challenges that affect all of us.

So prayer. It does work and God is with us when we do pray. I found this little prayer a while back in a book on different cultures and how they worship. I pray this most days and I would like to invite you this week to pray it with me.

Shepherd, I bless you for what you give me.
 If nothing you give me, I also do bless you.
 I follow you laughing, through roses and thorns;
 Through brambles and thistles, I joyously follow.
 With you when there's plenty, with you when I want
 Still always with you.

Amen

Rev Gavin Ward

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