

Subject: MCC Sydney Pastor Connect 3rd September 2009

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Conversation: MCC Sydney Pastor Connect 3rd September 2009

Pastor Connect **3rd September, 2009**

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

It's that wonderful time of year again when the weather starts to warm up and I start to wonder if I need to take a jacket with me when leaving the house. Sydney has some amazing weather and I always love this time of year when there are those wonderfully warm spring afternoons on a clear sunny day when the sky is bright blue and you think that it can't get any better. And as the weather warms up we start to look forward to the warmer weather and many do this by spring cleaning. It's a bit of a strange phenomenon, but I can understand it. There is newness and new life around and getting the home in order is part of this feeling of renewal. I think sometimes we take a hint from nature. We look at the trees that lose their leaves at the end of autumn, which are swept away, and watch as they grow new flowers and new leaves in spring. Out with the old, and in with the new!

There's a yearly cycle in place here, and I believe that we can benefit from following it ourselves. This is not just about physical cleaning of course. Although that is always useful! But we can also think of cleaning in relation to our spiritual lives.

Now as you read this, I want to get you to think about what

is involved in cleaning? What has to happen every day to keep the living environment ok to live in? Well, it helps to wipe the table every day, wash the dishes, take out the garbage. None of these things take a long time to do, but combined they make a big difference. There are similar things that we can do in our spiritual life that really add up to help in our spiritual walk.

No matter how many times we've heard it, it really does help to pray. Whether it is 30 seconds or 30 minutes, for yourself, a friend, the world, giving thanks to God and asking God for help invites God deeper into our lives and our hearts.

Reading the bible daily is also a helping way of spring cleaning for our Christian faith. It is through scripture that we get to know Jesus personally. It really is a daily discipline, just like washing the dishes. Just reading a few verses a night of a gospel can help encourage and strengthen.

The truth is of course that the daily upkeep of our spiritual life is not very glamorous. Just like washing up isn't that much fun. (Although I do recommend putting on some loud music while doing it. Makes a huge difference!) It doesn't have the emotional high that we can get when meeting in community worship. But what it does do is make our hearts a place where God lives and makes us be better disciples of Christ.

Cleaning. Have you ever noticed that if you don't do a small bit daily, then you're left with a huge mess at the end of the week? It is the same with our spiritual lives. A small bit every day helps to encourage us and make us better

equipped to deal with what happens in day to day life.

God has given us seasons that influence our lives. So as the weather here warms up (although ironically I'm writing this on a cold and rainy day) and the buds appear on the trees, take a moment to thank God for the renewal of creation and to pray and to read the bible, to reconnect daily with God and Christ. This is the perfect time of year to give the spiritual side of life a little bit more loving and tender care.

Blessings

Rev Gavin Ward

Announcements:
Christmas Eve Service

I am delighted to announce that this year's service will be held at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, with the Homotones, the Gay and Lesbian Choir and other special guests performing. The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby has also graciously agreed to be our speaker.

This is a magnificent world-class performance venue that seats 1200 people and it has a wonderful atmosphere. This is a big step for us as a Church to take! I know however that it is the right decision so to be able to bring the message of love, acceptance and freedom to our community at this special but also often difficult time of year.

Please pray for the service preparation and planning and that people will feel welcome to come and share with us. Please also start spreading the words to friends,

workmates, social groups and networks about how great these services are! I am very excited about Christmas Eve and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to come and see me or the board.

Sleaze Ball

Sleaze Ball is happening again this year on the 3rd October. MCC Sydney is again doing the cloakroom for this party and we are looking for volunteers. It's a great way to meet other people in the church while helping to raise money and the awareness of MCC in the community. Each shift is 3 hours long and you get a free pass into the party! If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at pastor@mccsydney.org.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service. This week we are looking at how as Christians we are to be welcoming and accepting of all people.

6:30pm Service - Crave

This week at Crave is worship night. So come along to take part in a dynamic and special worship experience. All are welcome.