

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PASTORS' PRAYER SUMMIT

No 222

Canberra - August 30th ~ September 2nd - 2000

(36 Pastors present)

Some observations (EKB)

1. **Brian Pickering** – (Australian Prayer Network)

- We are in the midst of a visitation of God but many do not see it.
- We need God to heal us from the curse of early years as a nation.
- We are crying for revival and must be prepared to give up what we need to, to have revival.
- Our cities need healing from God.
- Each church needs to see what God wants it to be in the city.
- The church needs a reforming from God to be effective, focus on God's priorities and see how God views the city.
- **The church cannot take the city on its own, it needs the secular leaders as well, wherever possible, to work with it, in community transformation. The secular leaders are also the "ministers of God", Rom 13:1,2,4,6, 1Tim 2:1-4, for the city, or nation.**
- **As well as church pastors, God is also raising up strategic christian business leaders, prophets, apostles, intercessors and key "lay" people to work together with secular leaders.**

[Before coming into the ministry, Brian was a bank manager at Australian State level, and told us how each bank safe has two combination locks that need to be set right for the safe to be opened. He likened this to the spiritual and secular leaders in the city or the nation.]

2. **John Steele** –(Bendigo Anglican, View Hill Fellowship)

- In Bendigo, churches from fourteen denominations have adopted the "**Bendigo Covenant.**" (attached)
- The church leaders met with the city council, police, judiciary etc, to seek to establish relationships of mutual cooperation, understanding and support for the well-being of the city.
- Representatives of each church went as a group and visited each individual local congregation. As they worshipped, prayed and blessed each local assembly, the Holy Spirit revealed the specific, unique emphasis, ministry and role each church had in Bendigo. This had a strong unifying effect and removed the sense of competition.
- As a result, the individual local churches describe themselves as "**a congregation of the church in Bendigo.**"
- Research teams have uncovered past offences in the Body of Christ that have been repented of, have identified strongholds of darkness that seek to hinder God's purposes, e.g. *Ac 16:17*, and the needy people groups in the city who require practical help.

3. **Brian Medway** – (Grace Christian Fellowship – Canberra)

- The church's main role is in utilising time, effort, resources to sow the seed of the Gospel into the community by every available opportunity. (See further Note 4.)
- Unity of the churches is not the bottom line. The task is the bottom line.

4. **Ian Shelton** (Toowoomba City Church – Toowoomba)
- In Toowoomba there has been effective sowing of the seed of the Gospel out into the community by combined churches' programmes such as **“How to drug proof your kids,” “Carols by Candlelight,” “Christmas the Full Story,” “Australian Music Festival”** held at Easter each year, and the **“Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast.”** These events have been out in the market place, in civic halls and parks rather than in church buildings. Churches have combined and worked together with the Council, Police, Traffic authorities and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - **“Christmas, the Full Story”** is a series of stage sets, dramas and mimes that present the Gospel, and this year 21,000 people passed through the presentation.
 - **“The Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast”** was attended by 1200 business people who heard the Gospel.
 - **“The Australian Music Festival”** runs for 4 days and the whole of Toowoomba’s main thoroughfare becomes a mall for the Festival. This is a Christian Festival.
 - Also, in Toowoomba the churches have combined together to revitalise R.E. in the city. “Religious Education classes have become powerfully effective and alive in their 42 schools. The R.E. workers meet for breakfast and prayer before taking their classes.
5. **Ben Gray** – (City Harvest International, Upper Mt Gravatt, Queensland)
- City reaching **is a process** not an event.
 - It is about building a **house of prayer** in the city to take the whole Gospel to the whole person.
 - What you **start** in prayer you must **maintain** in prayer.
 - Teams of church leaders **are relating to business leaders** and offering to visit businesses and pray. 97% say, “yes!”
 - Unity without purpose lacks power. Unity is not an end in itself. **Task and unity must go together.**
 - **Do not overload the local church** with wider city matters. **Keep a balance.**
 - We need **Revelation**, then, **Interpretation** of the Revelation, then **Application** of what God is saying.
 - What are the **three key revelations of this Prayer Summit?**
 - a. **The spiritual leaders of the city need to relate with the secular leaders** for the healing of the city.
 - b. **Each city is unique** and we need God’s blueprint for the city. Avoid copying others.
 - c. Recognise that **each local church has a special distinctive role** to play in the Body of Christ in the city. Local churches are different.
 - Prayer summits are occurring at different levels.
 - a. **Initial.** Gathering leaders together, bringing them into God’s presence and allowing God to do His powerful work among them, through 4 days of corporate worship.
 - b. Once a unity of relationship is established among the leaders, then God’s presence comes **to reveal strategy and purpose** for the city as they continue in worship, prayer and sharing.
 - c. Inclusion of **intercessors and a wider range of leaders**, such as business leaders.
 - Pastors are not the only authority from God in the city. The civic, secular leaders need to be recognised as well as prophets, intercessors, business leaders, police, judiciary etc.
 - Intercessors need to have an **interpreter** to explain what they are seeing. Their purpose is to reveal rather than interpret. Interpretation is the responsibility of the pastors and team.
 - Intercessors may regard pastors as unspiritual and that they are not being heard.
 - In Scripture the focus is on the city church not on the local assembly of believers. *1Cor 1:1, 1Thes 1:1, 2Thes 1:1, etc.*