Diagnosing a sick prayer life

Author: Tony Payne

Continuing from last week

This is a grave danger for modern Christians, especially those living in the prosperous West. We live in a technological society, where most diseases seem easily curable and where life is, for the most part, secure, comfortable and healthy. If we don’t take active steps to the contrary, our default way of thinking about the world will be that life goes on very normally without God - that he doesn’t really do anything in the world any more, and that his activity is limited to making us feel a bit better. At most, we might be driven to prayer in desperation when things fall apart. But our implicit, daily belief - reinforced by the media, the education system and our interaction with others - is that God is impotent to intervene and actually do anything of any significance in our world. He may have set the world going, but he doesn’t bother with it much these days.

If we are wondering why our prayer lives might be ailing, perhaps it is because we are infected with this unbiblical way of thinking. Perhaps we have ceased to believe that God is supremely able to work in his world, through both normal everyday means and extraordinary inexplicable means. Perhaps we have developed a subtle skepticism about the limits of his power.

Type B: Misunderstanding God’s sovereign will

The second form of our doubt that God is really able to act and intervene in response to our prayers has to do with God’s unchangeable sovereign will. This view states that if God is completely in control and has his plans for the world and for each one of us, then whatever else prayer might achieve, it cannot alter God’s plans. God will do, whether we pray or not. Prayer may have beneficial effects on us (in increasing our daily trust in him, for example), but it has no effect on God himself. Otherwise, how can God be sovereign?

In this view, god remains supremely powerful, but his hands are completely tied (as it were) by his preordained plans.

There’s no point asking him for anything because he is not able to change his plans to grant us our request - unless he was going to give it to us anyway, in which case he would have done so whether we prayed or not, so what’s the point of praying?!

Again, this is a distortion of the Bible’s view of God’s sovereignty. It has to be a distortion because the bible contradicts this view on so many occasions!

To be continued . . . . . . .
On Friday the 21st of February, the MAG students went to visit some Australian animals at the Caversham Wildlife Park. Have a look and see what we got up to!
Careful there girls! Did you know that some Australian snakes are deadly?

Take a photo of me please!
**ABSENTEE DETAILS**
If students have been away from school on any day of the week, a note from the parent or the doctor must be given to the class teacher upon return to school. Please remember to note the date and day and also the cause (eg sick, holidays) for the absenteeism.

Children who arrive at school LATE or LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY should do so VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE, where attendance records will be updated. Class Rolls are submitted electronically at 9.00am and 1.00pm daily.

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**AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP**
Parents are reminded of the importance of informing staff if a person, other than yourself, will collect your child.
This includes families who are picked up for after-school centres. Forms are with class teacher.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL IN THIS MATTER

**CAR PARK SAFETY !**
Parents are reminded NOT TO DROP THEIR CHILDREN OFF OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS and allow them to walk across the car park.
Reversing cars do not see small children and it is very dangerous.
Thank you for - - - RESPECTING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

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**TRAFFIC FLOW FOR PICK UP AT 3:15PM**
Please observe the traffic rules and routes at pick up time for 2 reasons :-

*** The safety of our children!
*** To ensure good relationships with our local residents.

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*Map showing traffic flow and directions for picking up children at 3:15 PM.*
ASTHMA, EPIPENS etc

All parents are reminded of their responsibility to check medications kept at school are UP TO DATE

This is a matter of importance and should be attended to immediately.

Help us to support you in the good care of your child whilst at school.

ASThma - Anaphylaxis - Allergies

The school must be well informed so that your child will receive the correct, timely treatment prescribed by the doctor. There are many school families with children suffering either Asthma or Anaphylaxis, therefore URGENT ATTENTION IS REQUIRED ON THIS MATTER.

Both Asthma and Anaphylaxis require medication and an Action Plan - SIGNED BY YOUR DOCTOR.

Anaphylaxis Forms - REQUIRE A VISIT TO YOUR DOCTOR AND SIGNED FORM.

Asthma Forms - REQUIRE VISIT TO YOUR DOCTOR AND SIGNED FORM.

MEDICATION / SICKNESS

It is the parents responsibility to ensure that information provided is current and to inform the school whenever there is a change.

School staff will not administer ANY ORAL medicines (eg Panadol) to students. This is a parent responsibility. However, teaching staff may assist primary students taking medication.

A child who is unwell should not attend school. Naturally, the best possible care will be given to sick or injured children. HOWEVER, if your child is unable to continue with the normal school routine after care and rest, you will be required to collect the child or have a friend or relative do so. The School is not able to nurse or supervise an unwell child for an extended period of time.

If parents require a primary student to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, they must advise the School Office of all relevant details by completing the Student Medication Advice form (available from the office). All medication is to be kept in the admin area.

School staff are not expected to administer prescribed medication or treatments which require specialist training, such as giving injections. However, school staff will assist with the straightforward administration of prescribed medication. Parents must provide written authorization for school staff to administer the prescribed medication by completing a Student Medication Advice Form.

Posting of photographs or other images on Facebook and other social media outlets

The School has become aware that photographs of students involved in activities at the School are appearing on social networking sites such as Facebook. The School recognises that parents often take photographs of their own child at various school events and display these photographs as they see fit. However, the School requests that parents do not publish photographs of other students in any media or on any form of social networking sites without the express written permission of the other child’s / children’s parents.
BANKING AT SCHOOL

Is on Fridays : 8 - 8.30am in the library
Families are encouraged to have their children do school banking each Friday.
Forms can be picked up from the school office.
Accounts can be set up on-line, and by phone OR
We can arrange for Bank officers to come to school and help you set up your child’s account.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS

Children can bank as little as 50c per week - banking each week is the key to good savings habits.

THANK YOU Mrs Eddy for volunteering your time to help with SCHOOL BANKING on Fridays
We really appreciate your time!

SPANISH CLASSES

Spanish lessons will commence on Monday 5th May. Classes are conducted from 3.30pm to 4.15pm.

If you would like your child to learn Spanish, please complete the form below and return it to the office.

NAME OF STUDENT / STUDENTS : .................................................................................................................................
...............................................................................................................................................................................

.................................................................
EMMANUEL PARENT GROUP

Parents and extended families are very important to our Christian Community School. Many good, helpful and fun things cannot be done without you.
Will you pray about this matter of taking a role in our Emmanuel Parent Group (EPG)?
Perhaps you see a position for which you are gifted?
Perhaps you would like to know more about a role?
You will not have to work alone, others will support you.
THANKYOU FOR TAKING TIME TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT HOW YOU MIGHT HELP!

The members of the ministry team will be elected by vote at the first Parents Night Meeting on 7th April 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NOMINATION FOR 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAIR</td>
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<td>VICE –CHAIR</td>
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<td>PRAYER CONVENOR</td>
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<td>SECRETARY</td>
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<td>TREASURER</td>
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<td>CRISIS SUPPORT PERSON</td>
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<td>FUND RAISING TEAM LEADER</td>
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<td>HOSPITALITY</td>
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<td>SPORT SUPPORT</td>
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If you wish to nominate for any of the positions listed below, please complete and leave your nomination form in the office - Thank You

.................................................................

NOMINATION FOR EMMANUEL PARENT GROUP MINISTRY TEAM

I ................................................................. Nominate ........................................
(Name of Person making Nomination)

For the position of ................................................................. For 2014

NOMINATION ACCEPTED BY : .................................................................
(Name in Capitals)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON NOMINATED : .................................................................

DATE : .................................................................
Girrawheen Baptist Church

40 Days
Of Prayer and Fasting

5th March - 13th April 2014

We invite you to join us in prayer and fasting over the 40 days leading to Palm Sunday and Easter. We pray for a miraculous breakthrough of God’s LIFE in our nation and revival and transformation for Australia (2nd Chronicles 7:14).

Five Point Prayer Plan - LIFE

1. Call for you to renew your love and life for God.
2. Call for you to make a list of friends you will pray for on each of these 40 days, praying they will find new life in Jesus Christ. Write to each one of them a short note as a sign of God’s love.
3. Commit to prayer for a release of God’s LIFE in our nation.
4. Pray that we will see a culture of life replace a culture of death and that respect for life, from conception to natural death will be enshrined in law and public policy.
5. Pray each day for an outpouring of love, revival and transformation for Australia.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SERVICE - SUNDAY 6th April
Our Annual School Service and Staff dedication will be held in the Girrawheen Baptist Church on the 6th April, commencing at 10.30am. All students are expected to attend this service. Any absences should be covered by a parental note in advance of the service.

PARENT NIGHT - MONDAY 7th APRIL
Commences at 7.15pm in the Church.
Nominations for the EPG (Emmanuel Parent Group) - all positions
Information regarding Grade 7 in 2015 and beyond - High School

ANZAC DAY SERVICE - TUESDAY 8th APRIL
The service will be held on Tuesday 8th April commencing at 9.00am for 30 minutes.
It would be appreciated if students could be at school by 8.30am to remember our ANZACS and learn more of the service they gave. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend this remembrance service.

EASTER SERVICE - THURSDAY 10th APRIL
We plan to have 2 short Easter Services at school. The First will be ‘Tennebrae’ service at 9.00am for 20 minutes. The second at 2.30pm will be Easter Celebration for 20 minutes. All parents will be welcome at our services.
### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - 2014

#### TERM ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>ANNUAL SCHOOL SERVICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>PARENTS NIGHT - 7:15PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>STAFF PD</td>
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#### TERM TWO

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>TERM TWO COMMENCES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>GRANDPARENT DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>PHOTOGRAPHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>PHOTOGRAPHS - KINDY / PREPRIMARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>03 July</td>
<td>END OF TERM</td>
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### CLASS ASSEMBLIES - 2014

#### TERM ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20 March</td>
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#### TERM 2

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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>05 June</td>
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#### TERM 3

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 August</td>
<td>KINDERGARTEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11 September</td>
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#### TERM 4

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>06 November</td>
<td>PRE-PRIMARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>GRADUATION - YEARS 6 AND 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DESKS FOR SALE

Grade 7’s old desks are for sale.
Interested?
$20 each
Information from the school office.
Each week there will be 5 questions for you to answer.

In this way you will be able to learn even more from the Word of God. Note your answers and check them the following week - in your school newsletter.

**BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK -**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>ANSWERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What was the name of Jesus’ mother?</td>
<td>Mary (Matthew 1:18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was the name of the garden where Adam and Eve lived?</td>
<td>Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With what food did Jesus feed 5,000 people?</td>
<td>Loaves of bread and fishes (Matt 14:19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What method did the Romans use to kill Jesus?</td>
<td>Crucifixion (Mark 15:25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From which part of Adam’s body did God create Eve?</td>
<td>Rib (Genesis 2:21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTIONS - WEEK 2**

Who, when accused of being with Jesus, lied and said that he did not know him, three times? 
__________________________________________________________________________

Which creature tricked Eve into eating of the forbidden fruit? 
__________________________________________________________________________

At Christ’s crucifixion what did the soldiers place on his head? 
__________________________________________________________________________

What is the first line of the Lord’s Prayer? 
__________________________________________________________________________

What relationship was Ruth to Naomi? 
__________________________________________________________________________
Girrawheen Baptist Church has chosen to support the Middle Eastern Christian Outreach MECO as its Christmas Fundraiser for 2014.

The final fundraising event was a delicious sausage sizzle lunch at school on Tuesday.

Thank you to all the parents, students and church members who supported, set up, served and ate on the day!!