A Christian Community Must Reflect the Nature of God

Diagnosing a sick prayer life

Author: Tony Payne

Do you ever wonder whether you really are a Christian? In those moments when you can’t go to sleep at night, and your mind has time to roam over the events of the day and the week, do you ever find yourself thinking, “Am I just kidding myself that all this is true and that it’s really changed my life?”

Am I really different from how I was last year or the year before that? If God’s Spirit is in me, why does my old nature keep showing its ugly head? If other people knew what I was really like, they’d be horrified. I feel like such a phoney sometimes.”

In my experience, both personally and in talking with friends, nothing evokes these sorts of feelings more strongly than our struggles with prayer. We know prayer is good, and a privilege, and a blessing. We know that the Bible calls us and commands us to pray. There is every reason to pray — but we don’t. Or if we do, it tends to be short, perfunctory, irregular.

“Why?” we find ourselves asking in the middle of the night. “I love the Lord, I love being a Christian. I have no desire to be anything else. So why do I find prayer such a struggle? Why is my Christian life blooming in knowledge and in ministry to others, but quietly dying in prayer?”

A DIAGNOSIS — At one level, a diagnosis for our problems in prayer is very easy to arrive at, if rather depressing: we are sinful, stubborn fools. That’s why we fail to pray. In fact, that’s why we fail to love people, tell the truth, be patient, and a thousand other parently good things that we want to do but fail to do.

Sin is a chronic disease that will never be cured this side of glory. And although the constant presence of God’s Spirit in our lives alleviates the symptoms, and may even improve our quality of life (as it were), the disease will always be with us. The treatment is a lifetime of repentance and faith. And because of the death and resurrection of Christ, the outcome is not terminal.

All the same, as true as this simple diagnosis is, we need to probe a little deeper. We need to ask: What form does our sinful, stubborn foolishness take with respect to prayer? What kind of spiritual malady overtakes us such that we fail to pray? Armed with a more detailed diagnosis, we might be in a position to apply the treatment more effectively.
WOOLWORTHS EARN TO LEARN FUNDRAISER

Late in 2013 many families took part in this promotion by Woolworths and collected stamps to donate to our school. Those stamps allowed us to purchase many useful classroom resources - pictured on this page.

THANK YOU for supporting us in this way
**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.

**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

**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.
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.

REMINDER - SWIMMING YEARS 4—7

Swimming lessons begin for all students in years 4—7 on MONDAY 17th February
TERM ONE
THURSDAY  06 MARCH    YEAR 3
THURSDAY  20 MARCH    YEAR 2

TERM 2
THURSDAY  22 MAY       YEAR 6
THURSDAY  05 JUNE      YEAR 1

TERM 3
THURSDAY  31 JULY      YEAR 7
THURSDAY  14 AUGUST    YEAR 5
THURSDAY  28 AUGUST    KINDERGARTEN
THURSDAY  11 SEPTEMBER YEAR 4

TERM 4
THURSDAY  06 NOVEMBER  PRE-PRIMARY

Girrawheen Baptist Church

40 Days
Of Prayer and Fasting

05th 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.
HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE - 2015

We have received approval from the Education Minister, Mr Peter Collier, for our proposed high school.

This is a further positive step in the process of establishing our high school at Emmanuel.

We still await permission to purchase the land in Salcott Road.

It is expected that we will know a final decision before the end of this term.

SCHOOL FEES

Invoices have been sent to all families and FEES are now due. Fees should be paid well in advance so as to avoid reminders. The School requires finances for the upkeep and running costs of the school.

PARENTS paying school fees through CENTRE LINK MUST SPEAK to Mr Johnson ASAP to arrange

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.

J C E (Junior Christian Endeavour)

COMMENCES TOMORROW FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY

A great time and opportunity for your child to be a part of this group on Friday evenings each week, from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Ages 4 years (Kindergarten) to 12 years (Grade 7)

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 : ........................................................................................................................................

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Leisurepark Lazars Swimming Club was established in 2010 at Leisurepark Balga to provide swimmers in local and surrounding suburbs with a local swim club. The club promotes swimming as healthy and enjoyable pastime which they can participate in all year round.

Stacey Scott is the head coach who has had over 10 years’ experience in all levels of Swim coaching as well as personal success in competitive swimming. She is assisted by three other fully qualified and enthusiastic coaches, Sarah Scott, Sharon Smith and Deb Barton.

Membership is open to all children 6 years and over who can comfortably complete 25 metres of Freestyle/Breaststroke/Backstroke and have a basic understanding of Butterfly.

With most school having swimming carnivals in the first and second term, what better way to get your child ready?

For a limited time we are waving join fees and we also offering 2 free passes to anyone wishing to try out with our squad. For further information please contact Sharon Smith on 0406130 713 or via email president@leisureparklazers.com.
# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - 2014

## TERM ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 February - 28 February</td>
<td>Swimming - Years 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>Annual School Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Parents Night - 7:15PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>End of Term</td>
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<td>11 April</td>
<td>Staff PD</td>
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## TER TWO COMMCNESSES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Term Two Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Grandparent Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Photographs - Kindy / Preprimary</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>End of Term</td>
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## TERM TWO

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-23 July</td>
<td>State Christian Schools Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>Term Three Commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 August</td>
<td>Multicultural Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>Swimming - PP - Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Camp - Years 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>Campers Return</td>
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<td>25 September</td>
<td>End of Term</td>
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## TERM THREE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>Term Four Commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 November</td>
<td>Graduation - Years 6 / 7 - 6:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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<td>5 December</td>
<td>End of 2014</td>
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